



**Antigua & Barbuda Drug Information
System**

Annual National Report 2002



For further information contact:

Clarence Pilgrim
Office of the National Drug Control
Dir. Information & Research
Tel.: 268-460-7391
Fax: 268-460-8818
Email: spolicy@email.com

For access to further information and resources on drug information systems, visit the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse (GAP) website at www.unodc.org, email gap@undcp.org, or contact the Demand Reduction Section, UNDCP, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

This is not an official document of the United Nations. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers and boundaries.

This document has not been formally edited. It is meant for discussion and is not an official document of the United Nations. The designations employed and presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime or of the United Nations Secretariat.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables and Figures.....	iv
List of Acronyms	v
Acknowledgments.....	vi
Executive Summary	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
OVERVIEW OF DEMAND AND PREVENTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS.....	3
<i>Surveys</i>	3
<i>Treatment and Rehabilitation</i>	3
<i>Critical Evaluation of treatment and rehabilitation</i>	4
<i>Prevention</i>	7
<i>Critical evaluation of prevention</i>	7
ILLICIT SUPPLY AND CONTROL OF DRUGS.....	9
<i>Illicit Drug Trafficking</i>	9
<i>Control and Law Enforcement</i>	10
<i>Drug Policy in Antigua and Barbuda</i>	11
<i>Legal framework</i>	13
<i>Conventions and Treaties</i>	13
<i>Legislation</i>	14
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	16
Appendices.....	17

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1	Drug Seizures and Arrests, 1995 – 2001	13
Figure 1	Current prevalence rates among students by type of drug	12

List of Acronyms

CICAD	Commission Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas (<i>Spanish</i>), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control commission (<i>English</i>)
GAP	Global Assessment Programme
NGO's	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECS States	Organization of Eastern Caribbean
ONDCP	Office of the National Drug Control
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Acknowledgements

The information contained in the national report was provided by dedicated men and women working in various governmental and non-governmental institutions. Special mention must be given to the steady efforts of the Office of National Drug Control and Money Laundering Policy and the National Drug Council. The Multi-sectoral committee which produced the National Anti Drug strategy report for 2001-2005 was the main source of information

Executive Summary

Abuse, trans-shipment and trafficking of drugs continue to be problems affecting Antigua-Barbuda, and these activities are linked with wider social phenomena such as rising crime and violence, unemployment, poverty etc. The Government of Antigua & Barbuda is increasingly aware of the social, economic and security problems related to drugs and has signalled an increasingly strong response to tackle problems related the problem. A National Drug Council (NDC) was established in 1989 within the Ministry of Health and Social Improvement. NDC's remit is to monitor the extent of drugs and alcohol abuse in Antigua-Barbuda, formulate policies for governmental action, implement programmes to tackle the problem, and to co-ordinate approaches with other government and non-governmental agencies. NDC has produced a Drugs Plan and is implementing a Prevention and Demand Reduction Programme. NDC operates through three sub-committees focused on:

- (a) Providing advice to school and communities;
- (b) Surveys, monitoring and evaluation;
- (c) Rehabilitation and policy formulation.

Until the mid-1980's marijuana use in Antigua-Barbuda increased dramatically, peaking in 1985 when the local police seized some 17,703 lbs and arrested over 200 persons for possession of marijuana. More recently, use of cocaine and its highly addictive derivative, crack, has increased. There is evidence that, although the majority of those arrested for drugs offences are hard-core adult users, an increasing number of children of school age are also involved in drugs. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is increasingly concerned about the easy availability of these drugs, the significant increase in the number of individuals seeking treatment for drug and alcohol dependency, the continuous increases in the number of arrests for illicit drug-related offences and, lastly, the knock-on effect in terms of anti-social behaviour and violence.

There is an urgent need for new services primarily in the area of developing a national drug rehabilitation facility, which is affordable to financially strapped clients. There is also the need for the development of a primary substance abuse education program to aggressively combat it's influence in the youngest school age-range. This would partly involve the training of suitable professionals.

The main NGO's operating in this field are essentially, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and (NA) Narcotics Anonymous. Statistical data is unavailable.

The government has established a National Drug Information Centre. The centre is over-run with requests for assistance and does not have the necessary infrastructure to service the community. The Government is actively seeking international funding to upgrade the facility and improve its services through technical cooperation.

Introduction

Background Information on Antigua & Barbuda

Antigua has a population of approximately 83,000 people of whom 30,000 reside in the capital city, St. John's. The population of Barbuda is estimated at 2,000, all of whom live in the village of Codrington. The majority of the population is of African descent, with the remainder of British, American, Portuguese, Lebanese, and Syrian origin. There is a substantial percentage of retired Europeans and North Americans who have made Antigua their permanent home. Annual population growth is estimated at 1.3 percent. Antigua and Barbuda has a constitutional monarchy with UK-style parliament. In 1981, Antigua and Barbuda gained independence from the UK.

Language

The language of the country is English.

Religion

Although there is complete freedom of religion, the main religion is Christianity. Most Christians are Anglicans. However, Moravian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Seven Day Adventist, and Pentecostal churches are also active.

Education

In Antigua and Barbuda, a child's education begins formally at the age of five. At this point, the student enters the primary school system and thence to the secondary stage, mainly through success in the common entrance examination at the age of eleven.

There is a full five-year secondary education provided by the state and by the religious denominations. The students are generally prepared for the Cambridge or C.X.C. (Caribbean Examination Council) examinations. These examinations largely evaluate academic work.

A small percentage of students from this group take the Advanced Level examinations offered by the London and Cambridge syndicates in order to qualify for entry to the regional university - The University of the West Indies (U.W.I.) - or to foreign universities.

There is a concerted attempt made in the Antigua State College to provide a technical vocational education to students who are not academically inclined, as well as tuition for those preparing for Advanced level examinations of the previously mentioned examination bodies. This program consists of the teaching of skills in home management, office practice, motor mechanics, refrigeration and electronics, and agriculture, as well as academic subjects.

Every level education in Antigua and Barbuda is funded by the state and is offered to all without discrimination.

The University of the West Indies campuses are located in Trinidad, Antigua, Barbados, and Jamaica, and consist of faculties of natural sciences, arts and general studies, social sciences, engineering, tropical agriculture, law, and medicine.

Living Standards

The literacy rate is one of the highest in the Eastern Caribbean. Eighty-nine percent of adults know how to read and write. Although Antigua has a minimum wage law, in practice most employers pay more than the minimum requirement, There is a high rate of home and car ownership. The labour shortage situation that prevailed in the mid-1980's has eased, given the softening of the economy over the last two years and the addition to the labour force of immigrant workers. In 2000, the unemployment rate was estimated at 7%.

Cultural and Social Life

There are various societies promoting arts, drama, music, and horticulture. There are also athletics, cricket and football clubs. Antigua's main recreation ground is avenue for cricket test matches and Antigua has produced several top international cricketers.

Sailing is very important. Antigua is a major yachting centre and each year hosts the Antigua Sailing Week, which is internationally recognized.

Economy

Antigua is a largely free enterprise, small, open economy that was based on sugar cultivation until the 1960's. Since then, tourism has been the mainstay of the economy. There is some light industries and off shore financial institutions which play a significant part.

Overview of Demand and Prevention of Illicit Drugs

Surveys

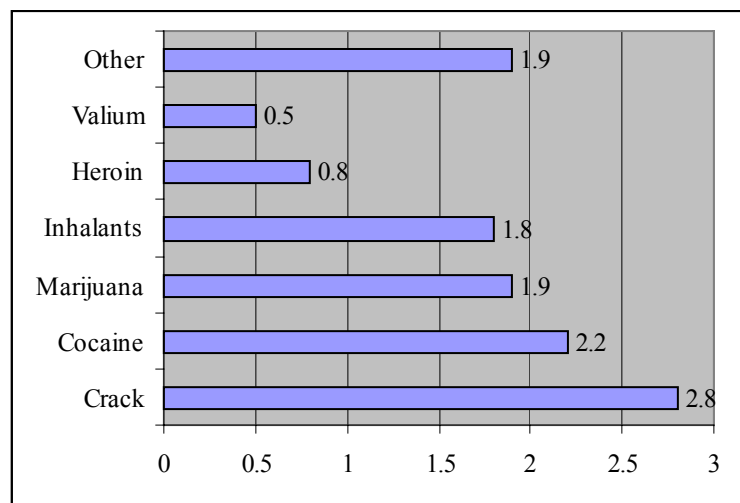
A National Drug Prevalence Survey was conducted among students attending the Government Post Primary Schools, Government and Private Secondary Schools, the Youth Skills Training Project, and Antigua State College. A total of 23 governmental schools participated in the survey, of which 14 were primary and 9 secondary.

A total of 1714 students participated in the survey with a gender distribution of 43.7% males and 54.8% females. The non-response rate was 1.5%. The age group varied from under 11 years to over 17 years.

A total of 222 (12.9%) students reported that they have ever tried an illicit drug in their lifetime. There were varying ages at which 155 students reported that they first experimented with illicit drugs. Most of them (25.2%) reported at twelve years; 13% reported at eleven years and 9.5% reported at thirteen years.

The following figure displays the percentage of students who were currently using various types of drugs:

Figure 1: Current prevalence rates among students by type of drug



The Office of the National Drug Control is currently implementing a National School Survey on Drug Use among all secondary school students in Antigua and Barbuda. The findings are expected to be published in the second half of 2003.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

The only treatment and rehabilitation centre in Antigua is the Crossroads Centre, which was founded in 1997 and first opened its doors on October 13, 1998. The motivation for its establishment came from the Members of the Hourglass Foundation who, along with musician Eric Clapton were aware of a growing problem of alcohol and drug abuse in Antigua. Mr. Clapton has visited Antigua for several years and, as a person in recovery from substance abuse, wanted to help provide Antiguanians with the option of rehabilitation and support.

Crossroads Centre provides services to men and women over the age of 18 years who are experiencing problems related to alcohol and/or drug use. The Mission of Crossroads Centre is to provide treatment and education to the chemically dependent person, their families and significant others. The treatment is provided through residential care, family programme, aftercare programme, and halfway house services. In addition, Crossroads provides a prevention programme entitled “Breaking the Cycle” aimed at all 3rd grade public and private school students.

The goal of primary treatment is to:

- Assist each client in achieving abstinence and recovery from all mood-altering drugs.
- Educate and treat each client on the disease of addiction within a safe, confidential and medically supervised therapeutic milieu.
- Assist each client in improving the quality of his or her relationships, careers, social, emotional, physical and spiritual well being.
- Assist family members and significant others in understanding the disease of addiction, and the steps necessary to achieve ongoing recovery.

Statistics from our most recent annual report (July 2001-June 2002)

- Total Admissions = 231
- 34% female; 66% male
- 13% of clients from Antigua
- 73% of clients from USA
- 6% of clients from the Caribbean (outside of Antigua)
- Average age 40 years
- 67% of clients had alcohol as their primary drug of choice
- 16% of clients had cocaine as their primary drug of choice
- 12% of clients had opiates as their primary drug of choice

Critical Evaluation of treatment and rehabilitation

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	CHALLENGES
Minimum Treatment Standards Limited counselling capability	No minimum treatment standards have been established at national level Insufficient trained personnel No policy or programmes to train counsellors	Establishing policies and protocols and standards for treatment centres. Increasing the number of persons trained to provide counselling in anti-drug abuse, family counselling and associated disciplines Establishing standards of minimum qualifications and experience required for specific jobs

<p>Minimum Treatment Standards for Treatment Centres Some have personnel trained to recognize drug abuse.</p> <p>Plans are in place to start rehabilitation programmes at the mental hospital and other centres.</p>	<p>Lack of treatment and rehabilitation at the prison Not enough trained personnel and support staff at hospitals/ centres</p>	<p>Providing additional training and assigning competent persons to treatment centres.</p> <p>Ensuring that necessary facilities are available to achieve high levels of performance.</p>
<p>Institutional Population Recognition that there is a problem.</p> <p>Trained personnel have been identified to implement programmes at the prison and the boys training school.</p>	<p>Lack of adequate information on the number and type of substance abusers in institutions.</p>	<p>Assigning competent, trained personnel with resources to implement programmes successfully on a sustained basis.</p>
<p>Emergency Treatment Counseling and detoxification are available.</p>	<p>Not enough counselors.</p> <p>No family counseling presently available.</p>	<p>Training and assigning adequate numbers of counselors.</p> <p>Promoting high levels of professionalism and confidentiality.</p>
<p>National and International Support For The Strengthening and Creation of Centers Nationals who are able to access Crossroads (private) facilities benefit from the international support to Crossroads.</p>	<p>Crossroads is dependent on the efforts of one individual for resources.</p> <p>The proprietor can decide at any stage to close the facility, such action would create a void.</p> <p>If the Patron/Owner of Crossroads leaves, the country would lose an important facility.</p>	<p>Establishing a national facility to complement existing private facilities and to ensure continuity of service.</p>
<p>Funding There is some funding from public and private sectors</p>	<p>Funding is inadequate.</p> <p>No funds available for research.</p>	<p>Accessing funds to implement programs.</p> <p>Designing and implementing appropriate research projects.</p>
<p>Awareness Campaigns Good access to media, capability to produce leaflets.</p>	<p>Inadequate funding for production of videos, radio scripts and printed material.</p>	<p>Availability and dissemination of updated information more widely to anti-drug personnel and to the general public.</p> <p>Establishing well manned hotline service(s).</p>

<p>Accreditation of the Rehabilitation Centers</p> <p>Information Network Awareness of need.</p> <p>Limited, informal network between individuals.</p> <p>Strong, professional links between Holberton and Mental Hospital.</p> <p>Evaluation of Pro-grammes, Performance and Effectiveness In place at Crossroads.</p> <p>Inter-Institutional Coordination Between Holberton and Mental Hospital. Efforts being made to establish links between hospitals and Crossroads Being developed between public sector anti-drug counseling agencies and also some community groups.</p> <p>Reintegration Efforts Importance is recognized.</p> <p>Efforts are being made to strengthen existing programmes.</p>	<p>No national accreditation board or affiliation with other board(s).</p> <p>Networking based on informal functional co-operation between individuals.</p> <p>No existing criteria or performance evaluation procedures for public sector activities</p> <p>In the formative stages only.</p> <p>Programmes are limited and inadequate in terms of type, number of placements, extent and continuity</p>	<p>Establishing a national accreditation board.</p> <p>Establishing links with a recognized accreditation body.</p> <p>Establishing formal information network(s) between treatment and rehabilitation institutions, anti-drug agencies, counseling services, information and media agencies; inclusion of all persons/agencies.</p> <p>Establishing and implementing performance evaluation policies and systems with provision for post – evaluation and remedial measures.</p> <p>Establishing formal links for consultation, co-ordination and co-operation between all anti-drug agencies/ groups.</p> <p>Establishing half way houses to support persons who are in recovery phase.</p> <p>Establishing partnerships with business sectors, NGO’s, service groups, etc for placement, (re) training, and reintegration of persons in recovery phase.</p>
--	---	--

Prevention

Critical evaluation of prevention

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	CHALLENGES
<p>Formal Education Health and Family Life Education to be included in the school curriculum from 2002.</p> <p>Some teachers have been trained.</p> <p>Health Education Unit is in place</p> <p>Drug Information Unit has been established; public is aware of its operation.</p> <p>Anti-Drug Abuse Officer trained and is about to undergo further training.</p> <p>Training Police DARE Program</p> <p>Barbuda has trained personnel</p> <p>Awareness Campaign AIDS Secretariat implements anti-drug campaigns, including links between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Public is aware of the Aids Secretariat's programme.</p> <p>Availability of funding to carry out programs.</p> <p>Availability of statistical data.</p> <p>Civil Society Willingness to participate with existing programs</p>	<p>Limited human resources and funds to provide necessary staff and materials.</p> <p>Insufficient trained personnel, inadequate material resources.</p> <p>Weak counseling capability.</p> <p>Lack of current information.</p> <p>Weak communication capability.</p> <p>Limited scope in terms of reaching entire population.</p> <p>Insufficient trained personnel.</p> <p>Inadequate anti-aids social programmes or linkages with other social programmes.</p> <p>No outreach programme.</p>	<p>Need for more trained personnel .</p> <p>Funding to recruit and retrain personnel as needed</p> <p>Improve facilities and working environment.</p> <p>Maintain high levels of drug prevention counseling as a component of the Health and Family Life Education programme.</p> <p>Recruiting and retraining of qualified personnel.</p> <p>Securing the services of a competent communications officer, constant use of radio, TV, newspaper and internet to communicate anti-drug information.</p> <p>Producing timely and relevant information.</p> <p>Ensure that support personnel visit Barbuda on a regular basis.</p> <p>Coordinate public awareness programmes carried out by various anti-drug agencies.</p> <p>Ensure collaboration on a continuing basis.</p> <p>Fund the production of effective programmes for publication on a continuous basis.</p> <p>Harnesting and efficient use of</p>

<p>High Risk Groups Programs are usually targeted to these groups.</p> <p>Crossroads Center has a support program for families.</p> <p>A psychologist is attached to the prison .</p> <p>Work Place Programs Programs are carried out on request</p>	<p>Lack of inter-school collaboration.</p> <p>Duplication of efforts between some stakeholders.</p> <p>Inadequate professional surveillance and monitoring of high risk groups.</p> <p>No programs in place to help children or families of drug/substance abusers, (except limited programme at Crossroads)</p> <p>Very limited capability to implement work place programmes.</p> <p>No support networks.</p>	<p>available resources within the society.</p> <p>To achieve high levels of cooperation between all stakeholders in particular community participation.</p> <p>Establish and maintain effective surveillance, monitoring and support networks.</p> <p>Training of support network personnel</p> <p>Implementation of specific preventative measures geared towards high risk groups</p> <p>Establishing partnerships between anti-drug agencies and employers.</p> <p>Funding personnel to carry out work place programmes.</p>
---	---	---

Illicit Supply and Control of Drugs

Illicit Drug Trafficking

The islands of Antigua and Barbuda have relatively extensive coastlines with many beaches and coves; the territorial waters are extensive in relation to the size of the islands.

Because of high levels of surveillance on traditional routes, the Caribbean has become an alternate route used by illicit drug traffickers. Antigua and Barbuda is strategically located between the major producers of illicit drugs in South America and the major consumers in North America and Europe.

International sea routes to and from the Americas and Europe pass through or are in close proximity to Antigua waters. During the past decade many Colombian vessels have been seized in the territorial waters of Antigua and Barbuda with large amounts of cannabis and cocaine. Vessels from St Vincent and the Grenadines have also been seized with cannabis. A large number of tourist ships visit Antigua each year and the island is well served by international airlines and a large number of small aircraft to and from regional and international destinations.

By virtue of its geographical location and significant sea and air traffic, Antigua and its territorial waters are perceived as conduits and trans-shipment sites for the international drug trade, which in turn facilitates a local supply of illegal drugs.

Antigua and Barbuda are dry islands and consequently are not a source of cocaine or cannabis. The coca plant is not known on these islands. Small quantities of cannabis are occasionally cultivated in the hilly areas of Antigua for local use, however the small size of the island and high levels of accessibility to all areas rule out extensive cultivation.

The small economy and limited financial resources place constraints on the governments' capability to maintain effective patrol and interdiction of illicit traffic through its territorial waters. Consequently there is some reliance on assistance from larger, friendly nations, which have the capability to assist.

There are six ports of entry in Antigua and Barbuda; one airport and five sea ports viz:

V C Bird International Airport

The airport handles all classes and sizes of aircraft with scheduled flights from Europe, North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

St John's Deepwater Harbour and Heritage Quay

These seaports handle all classes of vessels including cargo vessels, cruise ships, yachts and small inter-island boats.

Nelson's Dockyard and Jolly Harbour

These seaports handle yachts from worldwide destinations and small cruise ships.

Crabbs Marina

This port handles yachts and cargo vessels on an occasional basis.

Barbuda

Handles domestic air and small boat traffic, and occasionally small cruise ships which anchor off-shore.

In addition to the ports of entry, the highly indented coastline with many bays and coves on Antigua, the extensive coastline of Barbuda much of which is not inhabited, as well as a number of offshore islets can provide easy access for unauthorized entry and must be patrolled constantly for effective control of illegal activities.

Control and Law Enforcement

A number of agencies are involved with the control of persons, cargo, aircraft and sea-going vessels moving through the ports of entry and territorial waters.

1. The Immigration Department is responsible for enforcement of the Immigration and Passport Act. Until recently, members of the Royal Antigua Police Force performed immigration duties with the Chief of Police being the Chief Immigration Officer. Immigration duties are now performed by civilian personnel with assistance from a small number of experienced police officers on secondment.
2. The Customs Department enforces the Customs and Excise Act and is responsible for the control of all goods, materials and personal baggage moving through the ports.
3. The Coast Guard patrols territorial waters, in particular for the protection of the exclusive economic zone, to prevent illegal activities and to carry out search and rescue missions.
4. There are also Bilateral Agreements and Conventions which authorize other governments, for example the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France to assist with the patrol of territorial waters and to pursue and interdict illicit drugs, firearms and ammunition traffickers in territorial waters.
5. Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) which co-ordinates and implements the government's policies and programmes on the control of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.

All national agencies share information. There are also arrangements for co-operation with regional and international law enforcement agencies through appropriate channels.

Table 1: Drug Seizures and Arrests, 1995 – 2001

Substances		YEARS							
		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cannabis		204 kg	1485 kg	628 kg	105 kg	75.25 kg	66.7 kg	756 kg	1257 kg
Cannabis Plants		294	2464	3556	2107	23384	8416	69498	4540
Hashish		2kg	32 kg	Nil	Nil	1000 kg	Nil	N/a	N/a
Cocaine		88 kg	6 kg	126 kg	1 kg	21.5 kg	24.36 kg	6 kg	59.8 kg
Crack Cocaine		132 pieces + 8 ozs	290 pieces	149 pieces + 21 g	81 pieces	Nil	Nil	N/a	N/a
Persons Arrested		82	79	222	207	147	85	N/a	N/a
Gender	Males	63	66	185	185	122	75	N/a	N/a
	Female	19	13	37	22	25	10	N/a	N/a
Fire-Arms	Male	12	8	3	11	6	N/a	N/a	N/a
	Female	5	7	1	2	2	N/a	N/a	N/a

Drug Policy in Antigua and Barbuda

In order to reduce and control the problem of drug abuse, a National Anti-Drug Policy must be defined clearly, specific goals must be set and all stakeholders become involved in a co-ordinated programme.

Goals

1. The long term: To remove the abuse of both licit and illicit drugs
2. The medium term: To focus the collective efforts of anti-drug agencies to reduce the demand, supply and use of illicit drugs by at least 50% over the next five years.

To attain these goals the National Drug Information system seeks to implement the following:

Prevention

- Educate all stakeholders to the issues of abuse of licit and illicit drugs and afford them the opportunity to participate in activities against the demand and use of illicit drugs and also the abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs.
- Provide continuing opportunities to enhance the capabilities of all persons involved in Drug Prevention Education including Training of Trainers and Counselors.
- Strengthen research capability to ensure timely collection, analysis and dissemination of information.
- Ensure that research findings are used in prevention programmes.
- Develop and strengthen community support networks in parenting and vocational skills training.
- Include drug abuse prevention in the formal education system.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

- Ensure that all persons who need treatment and rehabilitation have equal access to such services.
- Support and strengthen treatment and rehabilitation programmes for persons suffering from the abuse of addictive substances, both licit and illicit, including alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs.
- Strengthen and increase the effectiveness of institutions that provide treatment and rehabilitation programmes.
- Maintain appropriate numbers of trained persons at all levels of relevant disciplines in the treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Introduce procedures to monitor of treatment provided to drug abusers in efforts to ensure desired standards.

Supply Reduction

- Maintain the highest level of security at the various ports of entry in Antigua and Barbuda.

- Improve intelligence capability, interdiction operations, specialized personnel, communication equipment and other material resources available to agencies concerned with the control of the illicit drug trade.
- Implement desirable selection and continuing evaluation criteria as well as a code of conduct for staff of law enforcement agencies, ports of entry and associated establishments.
- Promote inter-agency co-operation between law enforcement agencies to enhance the efficiency of counter narcotics operations.

Legal framework

Conventions and Treaties

The following international treaties and conventional have been signed, ratified or acceded to by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda pursuant to section 3(1) of the Ratification of Treaties Act Cap 364 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition.

- The United Nation Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)
- The Protocol to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
- The United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs (1988)
- The United Nations Conventions on Psychotropic Substances (1971).

The following bilateral conventions have been signed or ratified by Antigua and Barbuda to facilitate its efforts in the fight against illicit drugs.

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaty between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the United States of America

Agreement between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Government of the United States of America on Maritime Counter-Drug Operations

Legislation

The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, No 2 of 1993

Originally enacted to make provisions for Mutual Assistance in Criminal matters within the Commonwealth and to facilitate its operation in Antigua and Barbuda this Act now extends to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between Antigua and Barbuda and designated non-Commonwealth Countries.

The Caribbean Regional Drug Testing Laboratory Act Cap 75

This Act puts into force the Agreement signed at Kingston Jamaica on 16th June 1975 to ensure that the official drug control agencies have adequate access to laboratories for testing of substances.

The Excise Act Cap 158

This Act was first enacted on 17th December 1903. Since then, several amendments have been made by Statutory Instruments in SI 13/1903; SI 3/1933; SI 3/1955; SI 15/1961; SI 18/1989; SI 39/1989. The Act and the amendments seek to regulate and control the production and importation of spirits into Antigua and Barbuda.

The Firearms Act Cap 171

First enacted on 1st May 1973, this legislation governs the possession, use and storage of firearms and ammunitions of any kind in Antigua and Barbuda. This Act regulates the persons who are licensed to carry and own firearms and imposes penalties for non-compliance with its provisions. It was amended by Act No 8 of 1999 to include persons found guilty of purchasing, acquiring or possessing firearms or ammunition without a valid Firearm User's License.

The Firearms Regulations 1973

The Act outlines the conditions under which Firearm User's Licences are issued under the Firearms Act Cap 171 and specifics administrative procedures related to the application and lawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

The Forfeiture Act, Cap 180

This Act provides the Courts with the authority to make persons found guilty of certain offences to pay for the Court's expenses.

The Misuse of Drugs Act, Cap 283

This Act was first enacted on 24th January 1974 and defines and classifies controlled drugs and restricts their production, supply and possession in Antigua and Barbuda.

The most recent amendment in 1999 significantly increased the penalties for the illegal possession of controlled drugs.

The Money Laundering (Prevention) Act No 9 of 1996

This legislation was enacted on 20th February, 1997 for the prevention of money laundering and associated activities. It was amended by the Money Laundering (Prevention) Amendment Act No 18 of 1998 and again in 1999 to strengthen its provisions and extend the activities included within its scope.

The Proceeds of Crime Act No 13 of 1993

This Act facilitates the confiscation of proceeds, benefits and property derived either directly or indirectly from the commission of certain scheduled offences including money laundering and illicit drug trafficking.

The Police Act Cap 330

This Act confers on the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda the power of arrest to maintain law and order in the society.

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

A nationally coordinated Drug Information System will provide the sound bases for conducting a scientific research into the multi-faceted problem of the drug trade.

It will give policy makers, the valuable tool required to make informed, timely and relevant decisions.

Because of the vulnerability of Antigua and Barbuda, because of its strategic location, there is the need to put strategies and systems in place, to make a coordinated inter-agency effort in the fight against this problem.

Recommendations

- The creation of a permanent website, where information can be placed for public awareness, education and research.
- The development and improvement of an integrated system for the collection, analysis and research of data.
- Collaboration with bi-lateral and multilateral initiatives in Demand Reduction in the Caribbean.
- Apply a methodology for the Evaluation of Treatment, rehabilitation and prevention programs.
- Improve Research Capabilities within the relevant agencies.
- Identify training needs and create appropriate training “packages” for professionals involved in drug abuse prevention.

Appendices

Members of the National Drug Information System

This National Drug Information system consists of inputs from various agencies and organizations involved with the interdiction, prevention, rehabilitation and control of drug use and trafficking in Antigua and Barbuda. They include:

1. Office of National Drug Control Policy
2. Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
3. The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda
4. Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force
5. Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard
6. Office of the Ombudsman
7. Immigration Department
8. Customs and Excise
9. National Drug Information Centre

Chamber of Commerce

Department of Chemistry and Food Technology

Ministry of Planning

Ministry of Health – Mental Hospital

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Youth and Empowerment

Barbuda Council

Social Improvement Committee

Gender Affairs

Crossroads Centre

Methodist Church

Anglican Church

Department of Tourism

Antigua Airlines Association

Health Education Unit

Health Information Division