

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers the period of 2020-2021

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GUYANA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (GUYDIN)

The GUYDIN is an inter-agency body comprising key stakeholders from various ministries, agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in drug supply and demand reduction. The Network is made up of treatment facilities, psychiatric facilities, youth and education agencies, and law enforcement agencies.

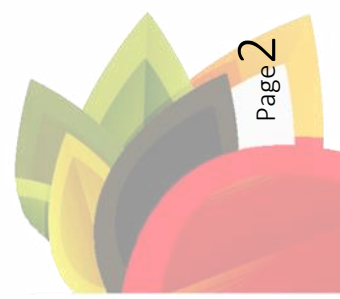
The first operations of the GUYDIN dated back to 2002, when the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/Global Assessment Programme (GAP) supported the first Network Meeting in Guyana, which was held under the umbrella of the Drug Epidemiology and Surveillance System Project (DAESSP) and the Ministry of Health.

The Network was then known as the “Guyana Drug Information System (Guyana DIN)” this collaborative effort led to the publication of the Annual National Report 2002 and Network Meeting. The completion of this report was made possible by the cooperation and input of staff from the National Council for Drug Education, Rehabilitation, and Treatment (NACDER) and members of the Fledgling Network who took the time to complete the National Drug Network's Data Collection form. Drug related activities in Guyana come under the umbrella of the National Anti-Narcotic Commission, which is chaired by the President of the Country and managed by a Secretariat, which was located in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It was recommended in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism 2006 that the Ministry of Home Affairs develop and implement an integrated system for collecting, analysing, maintaining, and disseminating drug-related statistics.

The Drug Information Needs and Resources Analysis (INRA) for Guyana was completed to aid in the development of a Drug Information Network in Guyana, with the goal of establishing Guyana's capacity to collect information on drug abuse. The INRA was used to generate a list of potential drug information network data sources.

The Guyana Drug Information Network held its first meeting on August 21, 2009, at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Network included treatment facilities, psychiatric facilities, youth and education agencies, and law enforcement agencies.

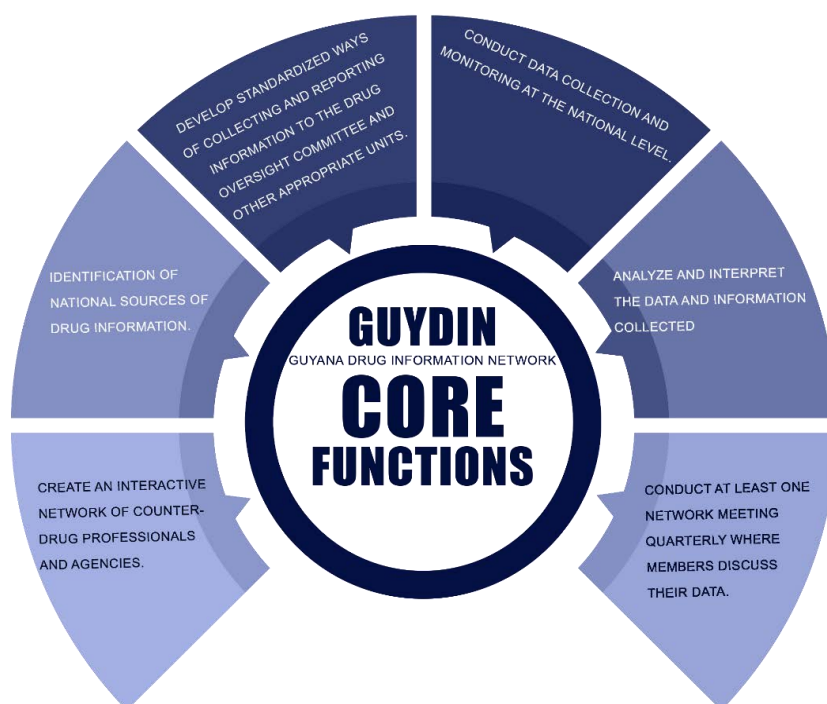


In 2017, the Guyana Drug Information Network became an integral part of the National Anti-Narcotics Agency (NANA) and published three (3) annual reports highlighting the country's drug situation holistically for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Guyana's Drug Information Network is now fully integrated into the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, which also serves as the country's National Drug Authority. The GUYDIN has been operational within the Unit since 2020.

WHAT IS GUYDIN

The Guyana Drug Information Network is made up of a group of experts who work collaboratively to provide Guyana with factual, objective, and comparable information about all aspects of the country's drug situation so that it can monitor trends, develop policy, and implement appropriate programmes and responses.



GUYDIN's MISSION

FIGURE 1

In order to increase understanding of the country's complex, dynamic, and evolving drug problem, the GUYDIN is committed to providing evidence that allows discussions and decisions on a wide range of issues to be informed by accurate, centrally available, local data.

GOALS OF GUYDIN



FIGURE 2

IMPORTANCE OF GUYDIN

The monitoring specific aspects of the drug situation has historically been a difficult and complex phenomenon. The Guyana Drug Information Network provides holistic insight into the various aspects of the drug situation for a comprehensive understanding of the current drug situation in Guyana. It serves as a central hub for the exchange of drug-related information among institutions working in the areas of drug demand reduction and supply

reduction. This multi-stakeholder initiative, in which all parties seek to collaborate and support each other's national drug control efforts, provides a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Drug Strategy Master Plan over the specified years instituted.

To guide the development and implementation of supply reduction, demand reduction, risk and protective factors, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation strategies, reliable, accurate, and up-to-date data on the country's current drug situation are required.

THE LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
CANU	Customs Anti Narcotic Unit
COPOLAD	Cooperation programme between Latin America, Caribbean, and the European Union on Drug Policies
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
FDD	Food and Drug Department
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
GPF	Guyana Police Force
GDF	Guyana Defence Force
GPHC	Guyana Public Hospital Corporation
GPS	Guyana Prison Service
GRA	Guyana Revenue Authority
GUYDIN	Guyana Drug Information Network
GFSL	Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory
LSD	Lysergic Acid Diethylamide
LEID	Law Enforcement and Investigation Division
MEM	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
OAS	Organisation of American States
SOCU	Special Organised Crime Unit
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

FOREWORD

It is a fact that drugs affect all sectors of society in every country, thus Guyana is not exempt from implications of drug problems that seek to stymie growth in critical sectors, especially preying on the youth. The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) is the National Drug Oversight Body and as Head of CANU I am tasked not only to seize illegal drugs and apprehend traffickers, but to ensure a holistic approach to addressing the issue, engaging and encompassing all relevant stakeholders. The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) is a critical arm within CANU tasked with collecting and analysing drug related data. GUYDIN networks locally, regionally and internationally towards best policies and practices being formulated and implemented in Guyana.

This report is a valuable tool that is informative and geared towards addressing complex health and social policy issues by statistically highlighting the drug situation in Guyana for the period 2020 - 2021. Reporting is done not only by the presentation of data from various agencies engaged directly with the monitoring, control and seizure of licit and illicit drugs, but also addresses agencies dealing with the physical and mental effects that derive from the current drug situation.

The Legal Framework is highlighted along with the Drug Demand and Supply aspects inclusive of Reduction; the interconnectivity of drug abuse and the many other issues affecting the society such as the trafficking of arms, trafficking in persons, and other serious crimes is underscored. The report further expounds on Health facilities offering treatment and institutions dealing with prevention, and reintegration.

The introduction of new synthetic drugs attractively packaged to entice and attract pre-teens and teens, should not go unnoticed. This report also addresses efforts made toward institutional strengthening and International Cooperation. The gaps and



challenges in the system have also been identified, with recommendations towards rectification and improvement.

The professionalism and diligence of the GUYDIN staff, is to be commended as they worked tirelessly to ensure the production of this report. Mentioned must also be made of that support and input from our fellow law enforcement agencies and other partners, without which, the report would simply not be possible.

In closing, the overarching deduction drawn from this report is that Guyana now borders on a more complex drug situation, thus the data and information contained therein provides a conduit to facilitate further discussion towards formulating policies with clarity, indicating the direction Guyana as a country should proceed to effectively address the drug situation holistically. The report also allows for greater participation with counterparts regionally and internationally, as Guyana remains committed to efforts to realize a world that is free from drug trafficking and its related crime.



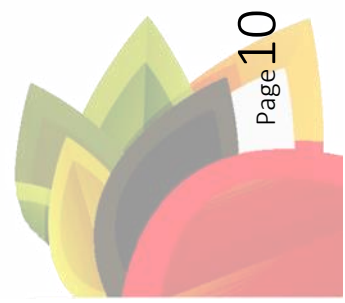
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUYANA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (GUYDIN)	2
WHAT IS GUYDIN	3
GUYDIN's MISSION	3
THE LIST OF ACRONYMS	5
FOREWORD	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	11
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	13
INTRODUCTION	15
LEGAL FRAMEWORK	16
THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT: CHAPTER 35:11:	16
THE WITNESS PROTECTION BILL 2018:	16
THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISMS ACT CHAPTER 10:11:	16
THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT CHAPTER 10:10:	17
THE MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING (SUPPRESSION) ACT CHAPTER 10:07:	17
THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT CHAPTER 34:03:	17
THE INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATION ACT CHAPTER 47:03:	17
THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (PLEA BARGAINING AND PLEA AGREEMENT) ACT CHAPTER 10:09:	17
THE FUGITIVE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT ACT) CHAPTER 10:04:	18
THE TOBACCO CONTROL ACT 2017:	18
THE COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT CHAPTER 10:06:	18
THE HIJACKING AND PIRACY ACT CHAPTER 10:08:	18
THE GUYANA DRUG SITUATION	19
DRUG DEMAND	23
DRUG DEMAND: PREVENTION	24
DRUG DEMAND: TREATMENT	25
2020 TREATMENT STATISTICS	26
MALES IN TREATMENT	27
FEMALES IN TREATMENT	28
2021 TREATMENT STATISTICS	29

DRUG TREATMENT COURT	31
YOUNG OFFENDERS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME	31
DEMAND REDUCTION: DRUG SUPPLY	32
WORLD DRUG MARKET	33
DRUG SUPPLY: SEIZURES	34
SEIZURES BY CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021	34
CANNABIS ERADICATION MADE BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021	35
SEIZURES MADE BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2020-2021	35
QUANTITIES OF DRUG SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT	36
CANNABIS ERADICATION MADE BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2020-2021	36
ERADICATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT	37
ILLEGAL FIREARMS SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT	40
CANU SEIZURE 2020.....	44
CANU SEIZURE 2021	45
GPF SEIZURE 2020	46
GPF SEIZURE 2021	47
DRUG SUPPLY: CRIMES	47
ARREST AND CONVICTION RATE BY CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021	48
ARREST AND CONVICTION RATE BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2020-2021	49
TREND ANALYSIS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DRUG SEIZURE DATA	54
ESTIMATED RETAIL COST OF MARIJUANA & COCAINE SEIZED BY THE GPF IN 2020-2021	56
NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED BY GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, 2020	59
NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED BY GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, 2021 ...	59
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DEPARTMENT	61
THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY- LAW ENFORCEMENT & INVESTIGATION DIVISION (LEID)	63
GOVERNMENT ANALYST FOOD AND DRUG DEPARTMENT	64
PRECURSOR CHEMICALS HANDLED FOR 2020 AND 2021.....	64
IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES	65
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT	65
SPECIAL ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT	66
THE GUYANA PRISON SERVICE	66
GUYANA PRISON SERVICE ADDMISSION 2020-2021	67
FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT 2020-2021	70
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.....	72
INTER- AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)	72

COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION ON DRUGS POLICIES (COPOLAD)	72
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)	72
MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES	74
DRUG DEMAND: PREVENTION PROGRAMS	74
YOUTH AND PARENT ENCOUNTER FOR DRUGS AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION IN REGION FIVE (5).....	74
DRUG MISUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, MEDIA STRATEGY IN REGION 7.....	74
LEADERSHIP WITH YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, DRUG MISUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND LIFE SKILL EDUCATION IN REGION 10	75
DRUG DEMAND: TREATMENT PROGRAMS	76
TREATMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT AND SALVATION ARMY	76
TREATMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT AND SALVATION ARMY	77
DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION PROGRAMS	78
TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT (CANU) AND GUYANA POLICE FORCE (GPF).....	78
CONTROL MEASURES PROGRAMS	79
GOVERNMENT ANALYST FOOD & DRUG DEPARTMENT PRECURSOR CHEMICALS HANDLED FOR 2020 & 2021	79
GOVERNMENT ANALYST FOOD & DRUG DEPARTMENT IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FOR 2020 & 2021.....	80
DRUG POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION	81
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND POLICY COORDINATION	82
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS	83
CONCLUSION	84
CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	86
APPENDIX	89



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

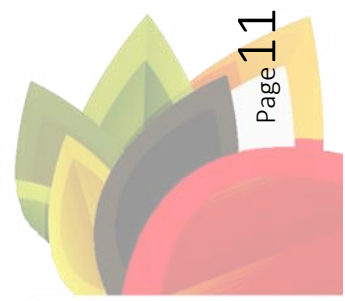
The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) presents the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) Report 2020-2021, based on the best available data in the numerous facets of drugs in Guyana.

The international drug scenario evolves year after year. Regardless, the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) is tasked with collecting and disseminating data based on an ever-changing reality.

The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN), under the umbrella of Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU), is a comprehensive interactive network of counter-drug specialists and organisations primarily responsible for the submission of data on the country's drug situation based on their specific areas of expertise.

This 2020-2021 National Report on the Drug Situation in Guyana is the result of the tireless and collaborative efforts of several stakeholders who reported on activities and negative events related to Guyana's drug problem during the years 2020-2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organisations for their valuable contributions to this report on the drug situation in Guyana.

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Health
- Drug Demand Reduction Unit
- Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department
- The Mental Health Unit
- Chronic Disease Unit
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit



- Guyana Revenue Authority
- Guyana Prison Service
- Guyana Police Force
- Public Prosecution
- Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Guyana
- Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory
- Food and Drugs Department, Ministry of Health
- Georgetown Public Hospital
- New Amsterdam Psychiatric Hospital
- Phoenix Recovery Project
- Salvation Army Men's Social Service
- Social Life Issues

Finally, the commendable efforts of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit and the Guyana Drug Information Network in committing to continuous monitoring of Guyana's drug situation to generate reliable data for this report were critical. This National Report for 2020-2021 is aimed to support policymakers' development of evidence-based policies and programmes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Drug Information Network report for 2020-2021 outlines the national effort to address the drug problem by agencies involved in both supply and demand reduction measures. Drug demand reduction is a proactive approach to drug management that focuses on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The period 2020-2021, accounted for a total of 2,830.40kg of narcotics being seized by Law Enforcement which included: marijuana, cannabis seed, cocaine, ecstasy, hashish, meth, and methamphetamine. This resulted in 587 persons being charged and 184 persons convicted for crimes that occurred in the same year.

For the 2020-2021 period, 61 cannabis cultivation eradication exercises were carried out. Law enforcement discovered 113 fields totalling 421.5 acres where 2,353,330 cannabis plants were discovered and destroyed during these eradication exercises. In addition, 51,660 seedlings and approximately 2,296,363.40 kg of dried marijuana were discovered on the farms.

The Guyana Prison Service seized 3201.5 kg of marijuana across six locations: Georgetown 'A,' Georgetown 'B,' New Amsterdam, Mazaruni, Lusignan, and Timehri. A total of 71 operations were carried out. Cannabis was found in the possession of prisoners on 48 separate occasions, resulting in the prosecution of 24 inmates.

The Guyana Revenue Authority, Law Enforcement and Investigation Division seized a large quantity of alcohol and tobacco at various locations throughout Guyana during 2020- 2021. A total of 1,437 cases and 32,733 bottles of 12 different types of alcoholic beverages were seized, in addition, 8 bales, 382 cartons and 119858 packs of cigarette were seized.

For the year 2020, the Guyana Forensic Science Lab received approximately 387 pieces of drug evidence for testing. These fragments were found in 327 cannabis cases, 44 cocaine cases, and 16 ecstasy cases.

For the fiscal year 2021, the lab tested approximately 428 pieces of drug evidence. These fragments were found in 354 cannabis cases, 60 cocaine cases, and 14 ecstasy cases.

GUYDIN



Due to the pandemic, the Ministries of Education and Health, and the Social Life Issues Guidance & Counselling Service did not conduct any drug awareness activities during the period 2020-2021; however, the Social Life Issues Guidance & Counselling Service did conduct counselling sessions.

Treatment data for 2020- 2021 from the Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army Men's Social Centre found that a total of 184 persons sought treatment as reported by the facilities. Of 184 the persons, 6 were females who sought treatment cannabis addiction; 4 crack-cocaine addiction, 4 alcohol addiction and 1 anorexigenics (¹An anorectic or anorexic is a drug which reduces appetite, resulting in lower food consumption, leading to weight loss. By contrast, an appetite stimulant is referred to as orexigenic). For the said period 169 males sought treatment for alcohol addiction (28), tobacco addiction (13), cannabis addiction (46), cocaine addiction (24), crack cocaine addiction (43), ecstasy addiction (2), Methadone addiction (1), opioids addiction (5), Inhalants addiction (1), LSD addiction (1), Benzodiazepines addiction (1), Mushrooms addiction (3) and Amphetamines addiction (1). The Phoenix Recovery Project stated in 2020, 75% of Clients admitted were Poly Users and 70% had other medical conditions (including Drug Induced Psychosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Diabetes mellitus and in 2021 80% of Clients admitted were Poly Users and 65% had other medical conditions (including Drug Induced Psychosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Diabetes mellitus).

Between 2020 and 2021, only four fatal road accidents were attributed to people driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, out of a total of 215 fatal accidents for the two years combined. However, between 2020 and 2021, a total of 2697 people were arrested and charged with driving under the influence.

1

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anorectic#:~:text=An%20anorectic%20or%20anorexic%20is,is%20referred%20to%20as%20orexigenic.>



INTRODUCTION

The period 2020 to 2021 has proven to be quite challenging, as the difficulties facing Guyana are increasingly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting priorities posed a challenge in obtaining timely data. COVID-19 has, however, triggered innovation in the implementation of drug prevention and treatment services.

This report provides a deeper look into the drug situation in Guyana as reported to the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN). This report demonstrates the vastness and expansion of the data collection system that is available to the GUYDIN and, at the same time, serves to gather continued support in the areas of overall integration of research and data gathering into the everyday processes of Network members.

As new information becomes available, the GUYDIN Report is updated. In Guyana, alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco have traditionally been the most commonly used and abused substances, particularly among young people. This situation is rapidly changing, with more reports of new drug trends ranging from vaping to the growing popularity of marijuana edibles, the abuse of opioid base medicines, and the availability of a relatively new psychotropic substance in Guyana's drug market.

This report is intended to cover a wide range of topics, highlighting all aspects of Guyana's drug situation. It aims to provide policymakers with the information they need to best tailor programmes that are in line with our country's culture, targeting all areas that can bring about a positive change in both demand and supply reduction.

The report is also intended to encourage collaboration among institutions in order to see more collaborative effort toward reducing the country's drug situation, as well as focusing on institutional capacity building through international cooperation.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As drug trafficking intermingles in Guyana, a host of rules and regulations are in place to combat the drug problem on a national level. These includes:

The Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances Control Act: Chapter 35:11:

This Act make provision with respect to the control of the possession of, and trafficking in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and cultivation of certain plants and addressing the issue of rehabilitation and procedure to the restriction on imposing lesser sentences, power to search premises and disposal of seizure.

The Witness Protection Bill 2018:

This Act is an established program for the purpose of providing to participants subject to this Act protection or assistance or both. It provides information on the agencies, that is the administrative center, investigative agency and protective agency including their functions and their interdependence on each other for the effective and proper administration of the program. The basis on which a prospective participant is to be included in the Witness Protection Program, details of the protection or assistance that is provided, terms and conditions upon which protection or assistance shall be provided to the participants and compliance of the participants.

The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorisms Act Chapter 10:11:

This Act provides for the establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit, to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and forfeited. It provides for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes and the forfeiture of proceeds of crime and terrorist property.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control Act Chapter 10:10:

This Act amends to the possession of, and trafficking of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances offences including the narcotics in transit, additional powers of the Commissioner General, licenses', enhanced penalty in certain cases and penalty for certain offences, forfeiture of narcotics, procedures, offences on the high seas, that is enforcement powers on ships.

The Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression) Act Chapter 10:07:

This Act provides for co-operation in the suppression of illicit maritime drug trafficking and for connected matters including requests by Guyana, requests by treaty states and waiver of jurisdiction, extensions of laws of Guyana to offences committed on vessels outside Guyana waters and regulations.

The Food and Drugs Act Chapter 34:03:

This Act relates to foods, drugs, cosmetics, devices, administration, and enforcement in regard to the diseases and aliments, drug standards and distribution of drugs. It also requires that persons importing these items should be licensed and includes the penalties for breaching the laws governing this act.

The Interception of Communication Act Chapter 47:03:

This Act makes provision for the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of data relating to communications and the acquisition of the means by which protected communications may be accessed and placed in an intelligence form, and for connected purposes.

The Criminal Procedure (Plea Bargaining and Plea Agreement) Act Chapter 10:09:

This Act provides for the establishment of a system of plea bargaining and plea agreements in criminal procedures and for matters connected.

The Fugitive Offenders (Amendment Act) Chapter 10:04:

This Act makes provision with respect to the extradition of fugitive offenders from and to Guyana and for matters connected therewith including general provisions, extradition from Guyana, extradition to Guyana, extradition in special cases and miscellaneous, such as jurisdiction regarding offence on an aircraft.

The Tobacco Control Act 2017:

This Act provides for the support and implementation of tobacco control policies in accordance with WHO (World Health Organization) framework and convention on tobacco, to prevent the exposure of the public, especially minors. It includes advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, to enhance public awareness of the hazards of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke; to ensure that every person is provided with effective health warnings.

The Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06:

This Act states the comprehensive measures to combat trafficking in persons which includes, criminal offences and related provisions, assistance and protection for victims, misuse of transportation, preventing trafficking, security, and control of documents.

The Hijacking and Piracy Act Chapter 10:08:

This Act makes special provisions for punishment for the offences of armed robbery, hijacking and piracy and for matters connected therewith, including the punishment for armed robbery, hijacking, piracy, accessories, and punishment for armed robbery, hijacking and piracy when murder is involved.



THE GUYANA DRUG SITUATION

Evidently, drug trafficking is inextricably linked to other transnational organised crimes such as human trafficking and arms smuggling. The issue of drugs, crime, and violence is a constantly evolving, multifaceted issue that necessitates prompt and informed interventions by governments and key agencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on many people's lives, ranging from the loss of lives to a slew of social, health, and economic consequences such as job loss, reduced operating hours, and the COVID 19 rules, which forced many businesses to remain closed, preventing income accumulation to sustain operations.

These negative effects increased frustration and depression, both of which are factors in mental health problems. This unusual situation prompted many people to engage in deviant behaviour related to the use of licit or illicit substances, and it provided an excellent opportunity for drug traffickers to acquire new customers.

To address health concerns, many restrictions were imposed in the first months of 2020. Due to border restrictions and disruptions in the drug distribution route from country to country, traditional street narcotics were in short supply. During the COVID 19 pandemic many Recreational facilities remained closed.

Moreover, the resulting social isolation and presumably limited access to rehabilitation facilities exacerbated drug users' psychological pain, encouraging them to seek out other psychotropic drugs.

The aftermath of the COVID 19 epidemic, has seen an increase in problems relating to substance abuse as well as illicit drug trafficking.

Evidently, the Government of Guyana and other stakeholders are continually assessing measures to protect societies from these effects.

The usage of illicit substances is dangerous, and despite the efforts to highlight its proven dangers, drug use persists and, in some contexts, proliferates. According to the United

GUYDIN



Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's 2021 World Drug Report, almost 275 million individuals took drugs in the previous year, with over 36 million suffering from drug use disorders (UNODC World Drug Report, June 2021). If we are to minimize drug demand and supply, we must communicate the facts about drugs and promote science-based interventions.

Substance use and abuse have negative consequences. It affects not only those who use it, but also their families, communities, and government resources. The most visible effects of substance abuse and use are the negative effects on a person's health.

Marijuana is often recognized as the most used illicit substance in Guyana, yet warnings about its harmful consequences, are frequently dismissed, and evidence deemed untrue. "Despite the evidence tying frequent use to health concerns, particularly in young people, and despite the linkage between potency and danger," according to the UNDOC World Drug Report, "the percentage of adolescents who consider cannabis as harmful has declined by as much as 40%."

Marijuana is the most frequently confiscated drug by Guyana's law enforcement. Data received for the 2019 and 2020 periods highlighted law enforcement cannabis seizures totalling 1,077,197.87 kg of cannabis, as well as the eradication of 1,323,433 cannabis plants and 2, 65,600.53 kg of dried cannabis that occurred during the 2019 period.

The illegal drug trade continues to stymie Guyana's economic and social growth, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable and marginalised people, and it poses a serious threat to the country's security and stability despite the efforts of the Government and Law Enforcement.

Drug traffickers and illicit crop producers are thought to have recovered quickly from the initial setback caused by lockdown restrictions and are now operating at pre-pandemic levels.

There's also an issue with the proliferation of new psychoactive substances like ecstasy, LSD, and methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs. Some measures have been made

in the form of legislation and law, but more needs to be done to address this growing problem.

Communicating facts about drugs and promoting science-based interventions is an absolute necessity if we are to reduce demand and supply of drugs.

To address this expanding phenomena, more modernized approaches are required from all sectors, including drug demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, risk and protective factors, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation.

Alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco have long been the most used and abused substances in Guyana, particularly among young people. However, with increased reports of amphetamine and methamphetamine type drug availability on the market, the popularity of Psychoactive Substances such as ecstasy, and the misuse of prescription opiate-based medications such as codeine, the situation is rapidly changing.

Misuse of alcohol, a chemical that is widely manufactured and consumed in Guyana, has a huge impact on our societies: it is one of the main substances driving treatment demand, causes road fatalities, and contributes to occurrences of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Previous studies, such as the 2016 Household Drug Prevalence Survey, highlighted the particularly dangerous Guyanese drinking habits. This type of alcohol consumption is known as "binge drinking," and it is practised by both men and women. Regional research conducted in 2015 emphasised young people's participation in binge drinking behaviours.

Even though laws prohibit minors from consuming or purchasing alcohol, this is still a common practise especially in the mining regions.

Government is making every effort to improve treatment for drug dependency at general and specialised care levels in the health system, with particular emphasis on early diagnosis and brief primary care intervention.

Within the 2020-2021 period several persons were treated at the Georgetown Public Hospital outpatient centre, as well as at NGO's that provide treatment for substance abuse.

GUYDIN



The Phoenix Recovery Project and the Salvation Army Men's Centre are both residential and are involved in treating and rehabilitating drug users. The Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army during 2020 had sixty-five (65) Residential patients and treated seventy (79) cases of substance abuse during the said period.

Law enforcement data indicated that five hundred and twelve (512) persons were arrested, and eighty-one (81) persons were charged for drug possession for the period under review.



DRUG DEMAND

The damage that drug addiction causes to society's health, welfare, and economic growth is unimaginable; this disease affects people of all ages, genders, educational levels, socioeconomic statuses, and ethnic and national backgrounds. Drug demand reduction is based on efforts made in treatment and prevention, according to studies conducted both locally and globally. Treatment success rates are comparable to other chronic and relapsing diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

Demand reduction is directed at prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. It is aimed at reducing the overall demand for drugs.

Institutions in the Demand Reduction Sector have a dual responsibility: to implement drug prevention programmes and activities aimed at preventing vulnerable members of the population from engaging in drug use and reducing their proclivity to do so, as well as to treat and rehabilitate such drug-dependent members of the population.

Effective prevention strategies can reduce mortality and morbidity by delaying the onset of use, reducing problematic use, and minimising the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs. Drug prevention strategies range from those that target society focusing on the population at-risk, especially on the younger generation.

Prevention strategies in Guyana have placed major emphasis on substance use in general, as well as the associated issues such as violence and crime.

Matching various strategies—from general education to targeted groups—while taking into account contexts and treatment goals to lessen reliance on psychoactive substances and the detrimental effects drug use has on one's health and the society—is one of the most challenging aspects of drug use prevention.



In Guyana, both inpatient and outpatient services are available for treatment and rehabilitation. They are provided by the government as well as non-governmental organisations such as the Salvation Army and the Phoenix Recovery Project.

DRUG DEMAND: PREVENTION

In 2020, the Ministry of Health Demand Reduction Department conducted four (04) outreach programmes to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse in communities. These programmes took the form of lectures and interactive feedback sessions and were conducted at three (03) administrative Regions in Guyana benefitting a total of one hundred twenty (120) participants.

2020 PREVENTION PROGRAMMES BY THE DEMAND REDUCTION UNIT MINISTRY OF HEALTH



FIGURE 3

In 2021, Ministry of Health Demand Reduction Department conducted seven (07) outreach programmes to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse in communities. These programmes took the form of lectures and interactive feedback

sessions and were conducted at five (05) administrative Regions in Guyana benefitting a total of one hundred seventy-five (175) participants.

For the period 2020 - 2021, the Social Life Issues Guidance and Counselling Services reported that they were no programmes conducted due to COVID-19.

DRUG DEMAND: TREATMENT

The COVID 19 pandemic, created great challenges in the health sector, as it relates to Drug treatment. Physical distancing, quarantine, and other public health measures have disrupted access to support services for many people

Guyana, like the rest of the world, was impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, which resulted in the imposition of "lock-downs," curfews, restrictions on social activities and travel. The pandemic had a variety of negative consequences on the lives of the country's inhabitants, some of which related to substance abuse. Despite the effects of COVID 19, drug treatment facilities remained steady and committed to assisting people in recovering from addiction and resuming their lives.



2020 TREATMENT STATISTICS

The treatment facilities: the Phoenix Recovery Project and the Salvation Army had a total intake of eighty-six (86) persons seeking treatment for addiction for the year 2020, with eighty (80) males and six (6) females. Seventy-one (71) of the total persons in treatment were in residential treatment. The age ranges of the persons in treatment for the

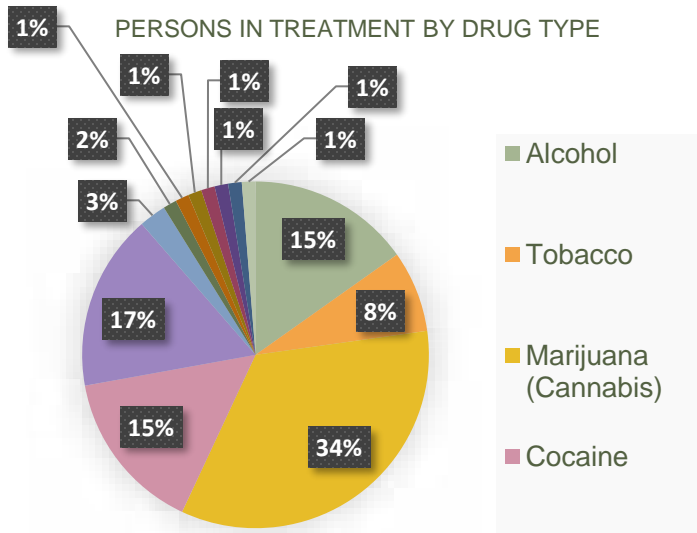
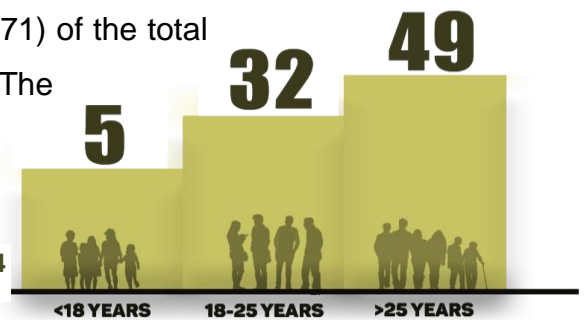


FIGURE 4



AGE RANGES OF THE PERSONS IN TREATMENT IN THE YEAR 2020

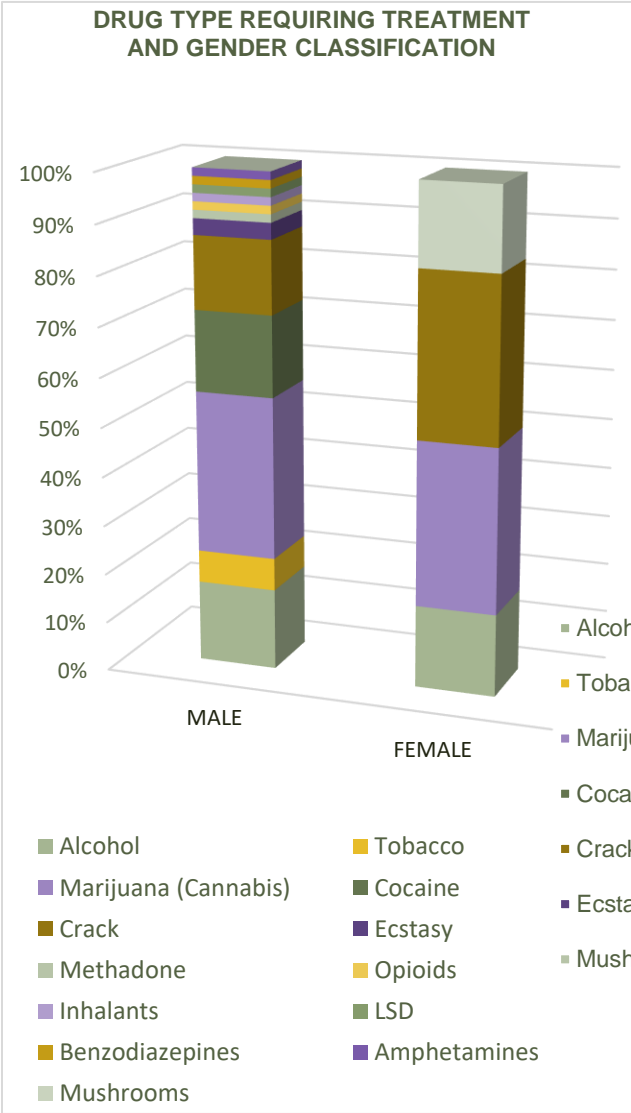
period varied; 24% were below the age of 18, 33% were between the ages of 18-25 years and 42% were above the age of 25 years.

These persons in treatment relating to addiction to several types of licit and illicit substances.

DRUG TYPE	PERSONS IN TREATMENT
Alcohol	12
Tobacco	6
Marijuana (Cannabis)	27
Cocaine	12
Crack	13
Ecstasy	2
Methadone	1
Opioids	1
Inhalants	1
LSD	1

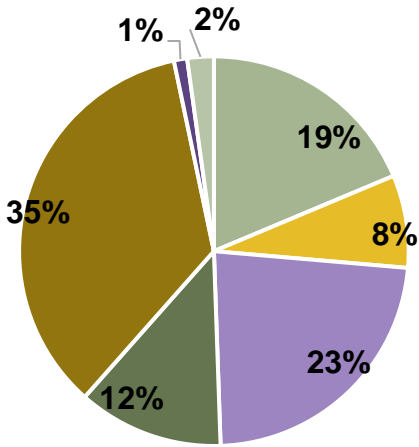
Persons treated for cannabis addiction represented the largest proportion of 34% of the total persons in treatment. 17% for Crack cocaine addiction, Cocaine and alcohol addiction accounted for 15% respectively for the total persons in treatment, 8% were persons being treated for tobacco addiction, 3% for ecstasy addiction. Additionally, 8% of persons sought treatment for various substances that are relatively new and untraditional to Guyana; Methadone, Opioids, Inhalants, LSD, Benzodiazepines, Amphetamines, and Mushrooms.

Benzodiazepines	1
Amphetamines	1
Mushrooms	1



MALES IN TREATMENT

NO. MALES IN TREATMENT BY DRUG TYPE



More males sought treatment for addiction during the 2020 period, amounting to 83%. Males over the age of 25 represented the

largest contingent seeking treatment for substance addiction. There were 30 males within the age range of 18 to 25, representing approximately 38% of the total males in treatment, males whose age ranged from 25 years and older amounted to a total of 45, representing approximately 62% of males in treatment. For the said period, data revealed only small percentage of women, making up approximately 8% of the total persons being treated for drug addictions.

FEMALES IN TREATMENT

Majority of the females required treatment for mostly traditionally drugs familiar to Guyana; alcohol, cannabis, and crack, except one female who was treated for addiction to mushrooms. In addition, the 6 females seeking treatment represented approximately 3% of the total persons in the treatment facilities. Two (2) were between the ages of 18 to 25 years while four (4) were 25 years and older.

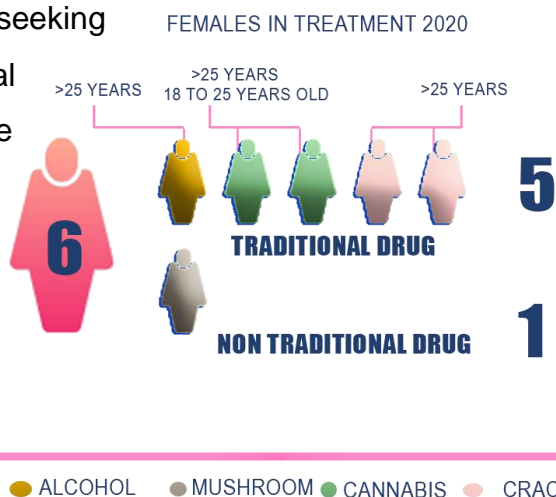


FIGURE 5

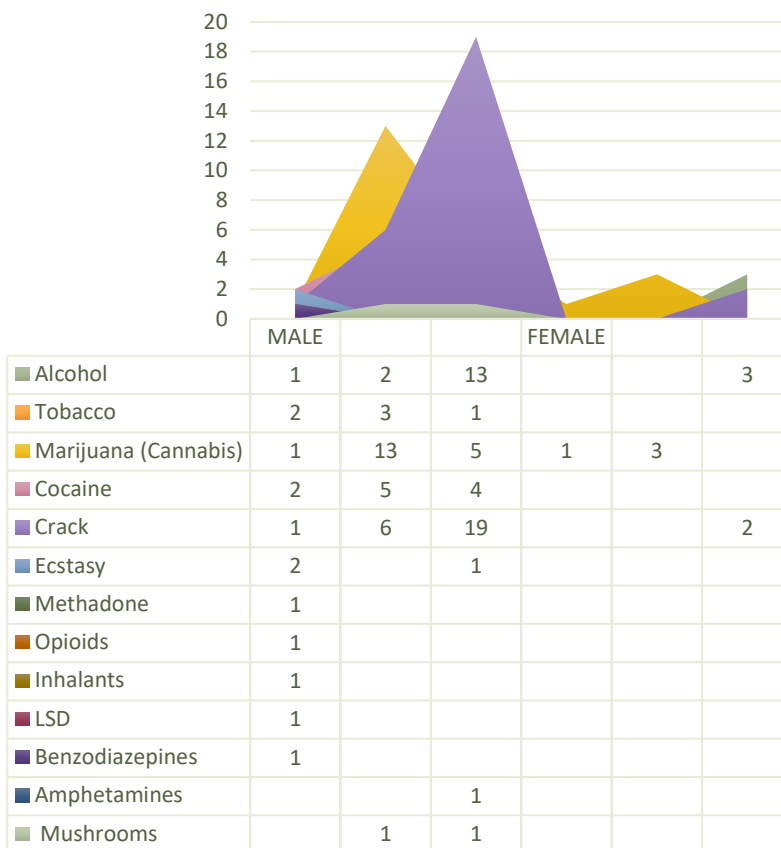
2021 TREATMENT STATISTICS

In 2021, Treatment facilities (Salvation Army and the Phoenix Recovery Project) had a total intake of ninety-eight and (98) persons, consisting of eighty-nine (89) males and nine (9) females. These persons sought treatment for various substance use disorders relating to substances: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, crack, and mushrooms.

For the reporting period, the highest number of persons were seeking treatment relating to crack cocaine addiction, a total of 28 persons, represented

29% of the total persons in treatment, followed by 23 for cannabis addiction, 19 for alcohol addiction, 11 for cocaine addiction, 6 for tobacco addiction, 3 for ecstasy, 2 for ²mushrooms and 1 person for ³methadone, opioids, inhalants, ⁴ LSD, ⁵ benzodiazepines and amphetamines addiction respectively.

No. PERSONS IN TREATMENT FOR 2021; BY GENDER AND DRUG ADDICTION CLASSIFICATION



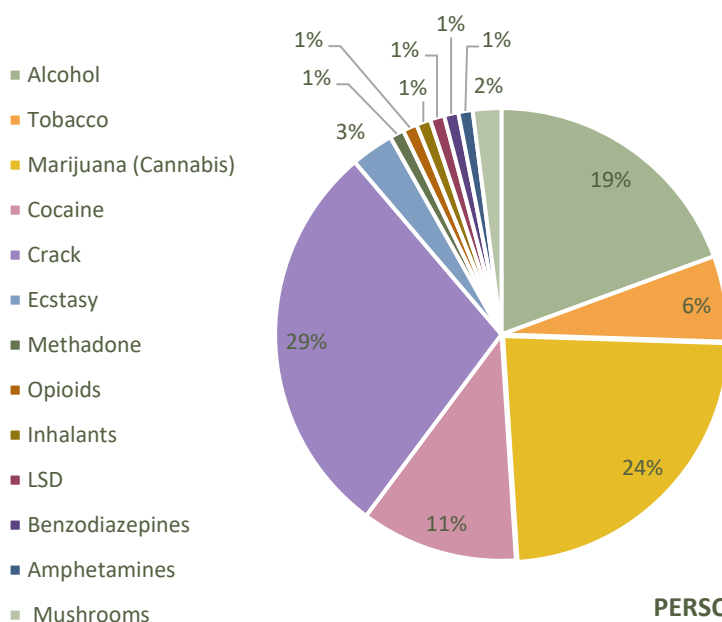
² <https://adf.org.au/drug-facts/psilocybin/>

³ <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/what-is-methadone#1>

⁴ <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/lsd>

⁵ [https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/drugs-and-treatments/sleeping-pills-and-minor-tranquillisers/about-benzodiazepines/#:~:text=Benzodiazepines%20are%20a%20type%20of,to%20sleep%20or%20staying%20asleep\).](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/drugs-and-treatments/sleeping-pills-and-minor-tranquillisers/about-benzodiazepines/#:~:text=Benzodiazepines%20are%20a%20type%20of,to%20sleep%20or%20staying%20asleep).)

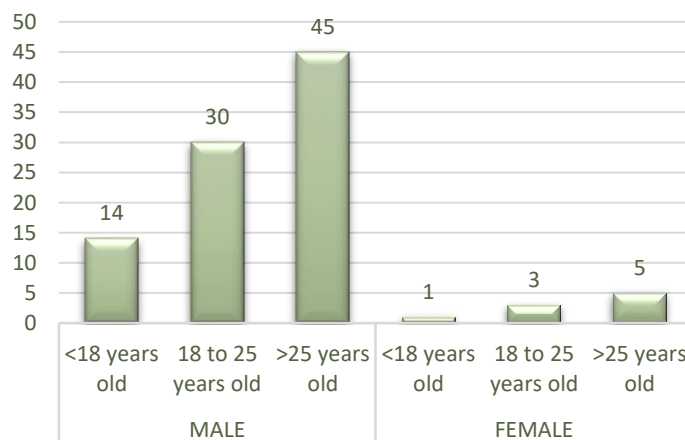
NO. PERSONS IN TREATMENT



It can be noted that several persons in treatment, are being treated for untraditional drugs as it relates to Guyana, and though the data only represents a small number of persons, it depicts the availability of new psychotropic substance in the drug market.

For the period of 2021, males represented the largest number of persons in treatment requiring treatment for various types of drugs, both licit and non-illicit. Males over the age of 25 represented the largest contingent seeking treatment for substance addiction, followed by males between the ages of 18 to 25 years.

PERSONS IN TREATMENT BY GENDER CLASSIFICATION



In addition, a total of nine (9) females sought treatment from the Phoenix Recovery Project for the 2021 period, a difference of approximately 165%. One (1) female was under the age of 18 years, while three (3) was between the ages of 18 to 25 years, and five above 25 years are being treated for alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine addiction.

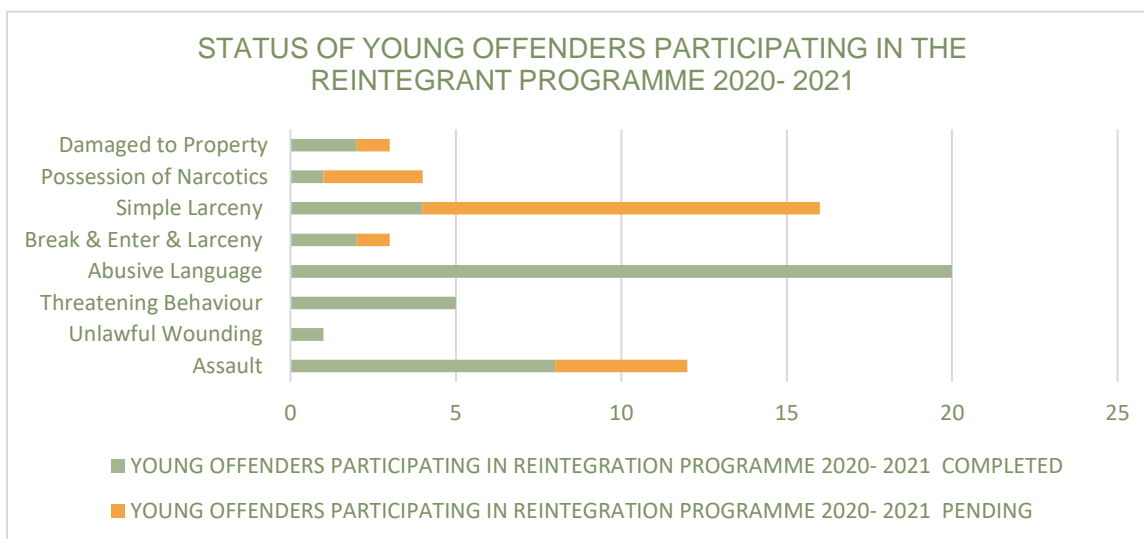
DRUG TREATMENT COURT

For the year 2020, The Drug Treatment Court had four (04) candidates who applied to participate in programmes offered, two (2) of the applicants were found eligible to participate in the programme.

In 2021, The Drug Treatment Court had eight (08) applicants consisting of only males; these applicants ages ranged from 19 - 60 years. Their illicit substances of choice were marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy. Three (3) of the applicants were determined to be eligible to participate in the programme. There were also two (2) female referrals, however they had no pending court matters.

YOUNG OFFENDERS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME

During the 2020-2021 period, The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security responsible for conducting enquires and submit written reports to the court, on the social and means circumstances of persons as requested and advise the courts on the most



appropriate forms of treatment for juvenile offenders. As a result, the ministry facilitates a programmed aimed at reforming young offenders, whose ages range from 15 to 30 years old. There was a total of sixty-four (64) participants with a total of forty-three (43) participants completing the programme at the end of 2021, and a total of twenty-one (21) participants who are still inside the programme.

DEMAND REDUCTION: DRUG SUPPLY

Supply reduction comprises both local and multinational dimensions. On a national scale, supply reduction includes regulation, enforcement of drug laws, eradication of cannabis cultivation and reduction of cocaine trafficking. It also includes the illegal supply of legally available substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, and the precursors used in illicit drug manufacture.

Cannabis continues to be the most seized drug by law enforcement in Guyana. The period 2020-2021 law enforcement has had an increase in Cannabis seizures, outnumbering all other types of narcotics seized in quantity.

The availability of illicit drugs like cannabis during the pandemic has allowed users to consume it more, this means that drug abuse has become more widespread.

The best approach to decrease the drug supply in Guyana is preventing, stopping, disrupting and reducing the supply of illicit drugs.

Supply reduction is a powerful strategy for reducing demand because when drugs become more expensive and difficult to obtain, there are fewer drug users and less demand for illegal drugs, and vice versa.

By combining these complimentary measures, the national drug policy is maximized by tackling the drug economy from both sides: a winning policy combination is demand reduction and supply reduction.

The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit is responsible for developing strategies and coordinating efforts to remove Guyana's drug problem with the collaboration among several stakeholders and law enforcement agencies such as Guyana Revenue Authority, Drug Enforcement Unit (GRA-DEU), Guyana Police Force, Narcotic Branch and Traffic Department (GPF), Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL), Guyana Prison Service (GPS) and **Food and Drug Department (FDD). While there may be some overlap in operations, each agency has distinct responsibilities.

GUYDIN



⁶According to the World Drug Report 2021, Cocaine manufacture was disrupted during the initial stages of the pandemic but returned to its typical level shortly afterwards with an estimated illicit manufacture of 20 million persons who reportedly used cocaine in 2019, corresponding to 0.4 per cent of the global population. The prevalence rate of use was the highest in Oceania (2.7 per cent), mainly reflecting the situation in the sub-region Australia and New Zealand, and the lowest in Asia (0.07 per cent). Global manufacture doubled in output between 2014 and 2019 to reach an estimated 1,784 tons, the highest level ever recorded. The quantity seized more than doubled in the same period, with the Americas accounting for close to 83 per cent of the global quantity intercepted in 2019. Following an upward trend over the period 2013–2017, illicit coca cultivation stabilised in 2018 and then declined for the first time in years by 5 percent in 2019. Global prevalence rates have remained stable over the past decade, while the number of people using the drug increased by 22 percent largely owing to population growth. The pandemic has caused blockages that have disrupted the drug market and led to street drug shortages and possibly rising prices. Producers of the drug markets were forced to seek out new ways to manufacture drugs as restrictions on movement constrict access to precursors and essential chemicals. Following the pandemic crisis of 2020, a rapid increase in unemployment and lack of opportunities allowed the vulnerable to engage in harmful patterns of drug use, suffer drug use disorders and turn to illicit activities linked to drug, either production or transport.

In Guyana the quantity of cocaine and cannabis seized has increased thus far which is a result of the strengthen capacity in law enforcement activities, covert operations and inter-agencies collaboration throughout Guyana that mainly contribute combatting the of drug situation. Additionally, Guyana has seen an increase in ecstasy and LSD on the market.

⁶ https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2021/field/WDR21_Booklet_1.pdf



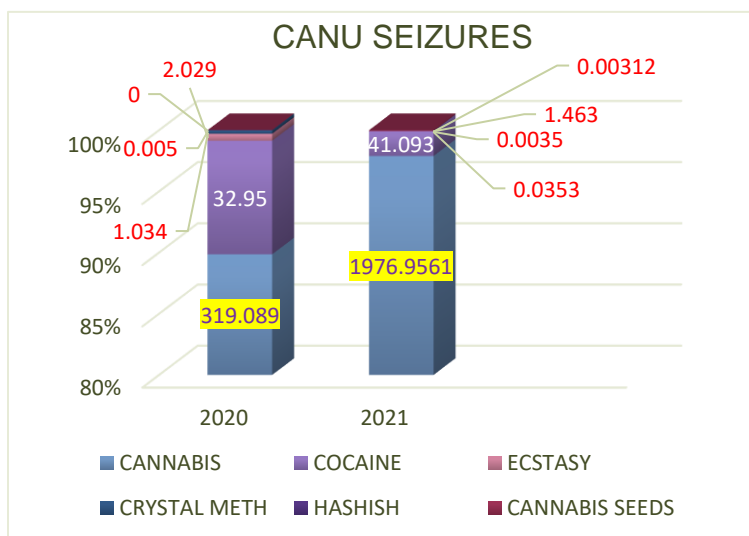
DRUG SUPPLY: SEIZURES

SEIZURES BY CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021

During 2020, The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit, despite the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic, made a significant number of seizures amounting to approximately 353.49kg. of narcotics, comprising 319.089 kg for cannabis, 32.95kg cocaine, Ecstasy 2.029 kg, Crystal Meth 1.034kg and Hashish 5 g.

During the 2021 period, The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit had an increase in number of seizures in comparison to the previous year. The total seizures made for the 2021 period amounted to approximately 2022.83kg. of narcotics, comprising 1,976.9561

kg for cannabis, 1.463.kgs cannabis seeds, 41.093kg cocaine, 3.12grams ecstasy, 35.3grams crystal meth and 3.5grams hashish.



SEIZURES AND TYPE OF DRUG

DRUG TYPE	QUANTITY OF DRUGS SEIZED (KG)	NO. SEIZURES
Cannabis	1,976.9561	64
Cannabis Seeds	1.4633	1
Hashish	0.0035	4
Cocaine	41.00930	26
Methamphetamine	0.154	1
Ecstasy	3.127	2
Crystal Meth	0.0353	2
TOTAL	2022.8322	100

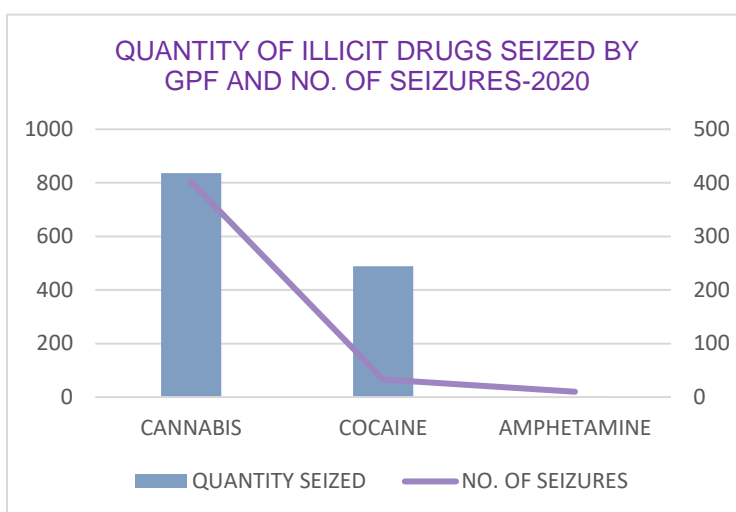
CANNABIS ERADICATION MADE BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021

The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit in 2020, eradication exercise was conducted in Region 10; this operation resulted in the eradication of 1500 plants of an estimated height of 3ft. and weighing approximately 125 kgs. Overall, one (1) person was arrested and charged.

The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit in 2021, eradication exercises were conducted in Regions 4, 5 and 10; these operations resulted in the eradication of 8000 plants of an estimated height of 3ft – 6ft., 500kg of processed cannabis were also identified. Overall, two (2) person was arrested and charged.

SEIZURES MADE BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2020-2021

For 2020, The Guyana Police Force-Narcotics Branch made 445 seizures. The seizures included 402 seizures for marijuana, amounting to approximately 835.8 kg, there were 33 seizures of cocaine, totalling approximately 488.94 kg and 10 seizures of ecstasy yielding approximately 1.19 kg.



For 2021, The Guyana Police Force-Narcotics Branch seizures included marijuana, amounting to approximately 378.42 kg, cocaine approximately 540.18 kg and ecstasy 119.1 grams

QUANTITIES OF DRUG SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

The data presented represents the total seizures made the Guyana Police Force, Narcotics Branch and Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) for the 2020-2021 period.

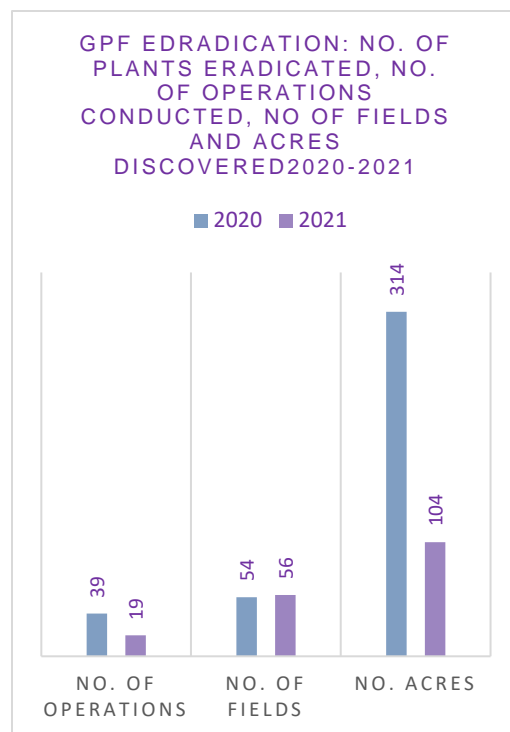
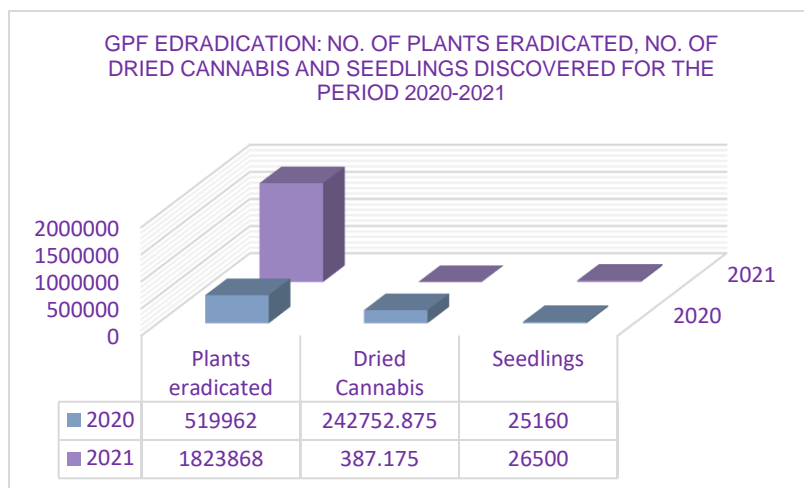
Law enforcement authorities seized approximately 1,681.03 KG of narcotics, which included substances such cannabis (1,154.89 KG), Hashish (0.005KG), cocaine (521.89 KG), Crystal Meth (1.034) and Ecstasy (3.22 KG). In 2021, law enforcement authorities seized approximately 2938.28 KG. of narcotics, which included cannabis (2355.38 KG), Hashish (3.5 Grams), cocaine (581. 27 KG), Crystal Meth (35.5 Grams), Ecstasy (3.1318 KG), Cannabis (1.463 KG) and Methamphetamine (154 Grams).

CANNABIS ERADICATION MADE BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2020-2021

The Guyana Police Force - Narcotics Branch in 2020 had a large percentage of cannabis eradication, which was conducted in Region 6 along the Berbice River. A total of 39 operations were conducted, discovering 54 fields measuring 314 acres. These operations resulted in the eradication of 519,962 plants and 242,753 kgs of dried cannabis being eradicated with a total weight of 1,107,638 kg, which was taken off the market. Overall, 7 person was arrested and charged for this crime.

YEAR	NO. OF OPERATIONS	NO. OF FIELDS	NO. ACRES	PLANTS ERADICATED	DRIED CANNABIS	SEEDLINGS	TOTAL WEIGHT (KG)
2020	39	54	314	519,962	242,752.88	25,160	1107638
2021	19	56	104	1,823,868	387	26,500	2053095
	58	110	418	2,343,830	243,140.05	51,660	3160733





The Guyana Police Force - Narcotics Branch in 2021, these eradication operations occurred in Region 6 and Region 10 mainly. A total of 19 operations were conducted, discovering 56 fields measuring 104 acres. These operations resulted in the eradication of 1,823,868 plants and 387kg of dried cannabis being eradicated with a total weight of 2,053,095 kg and taken off the market. Overall, 1 person was arrested and charged for this crime.

ERADICATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2020-2021 Law Enforcement conducted 62 operations, discovering 109.5 fields measuring 421.25 acres and eradication of 2,353,330 plants. In 2020, Law Enforcement conducted 42 operations, discovering 57 fields measuring 318.5 acres, these operations resulted in the eradication of 553122 plants. While in the year 2021 there were 22 operations, discovering 59 fields measuring 107.56 acres, these operations resulted in the eradication of 1,831,868 plants. These eradication exercises led to the arrest and prosecution of eleven (11) persons.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ERADICATION EXERCISE LOCATION

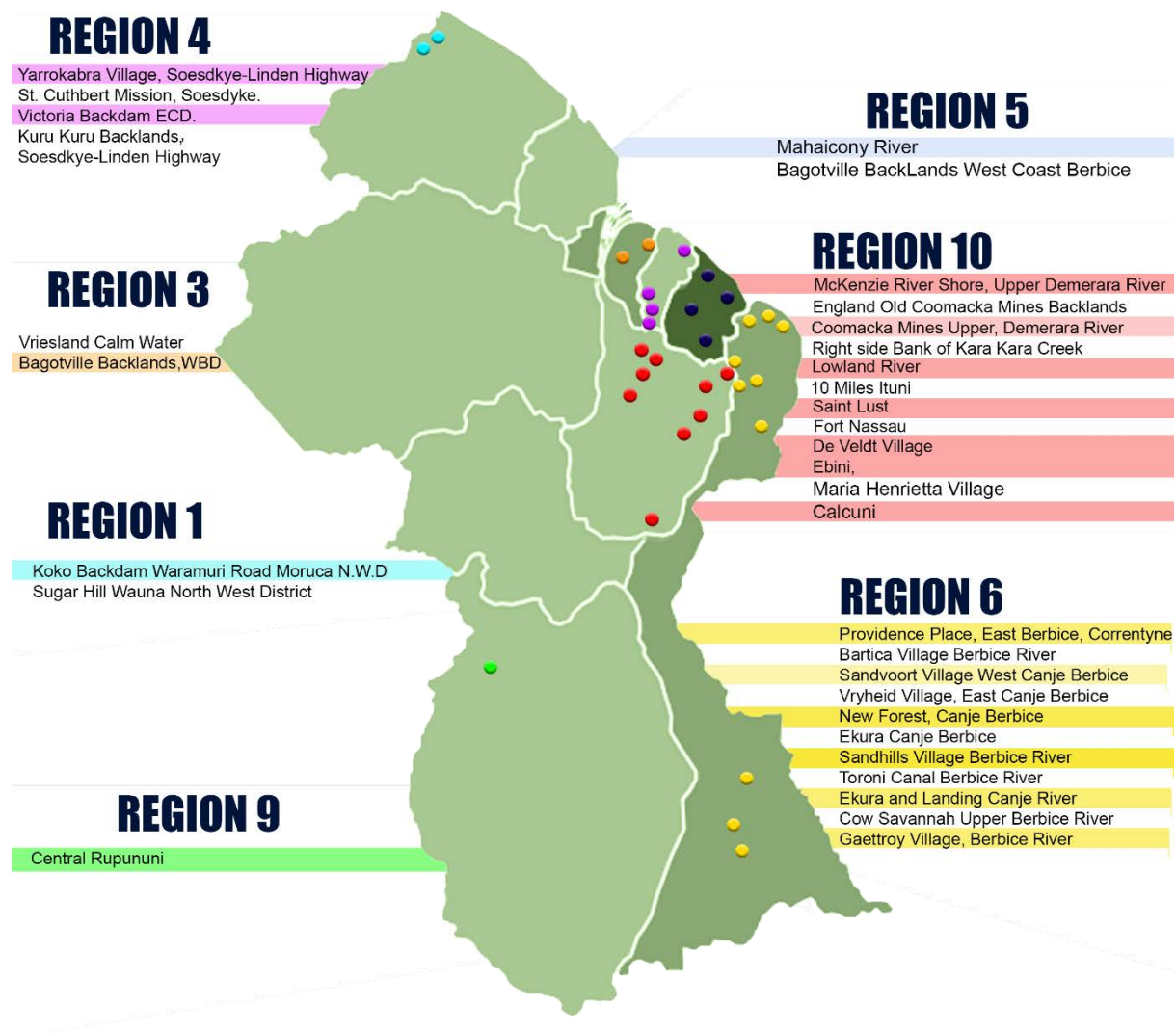
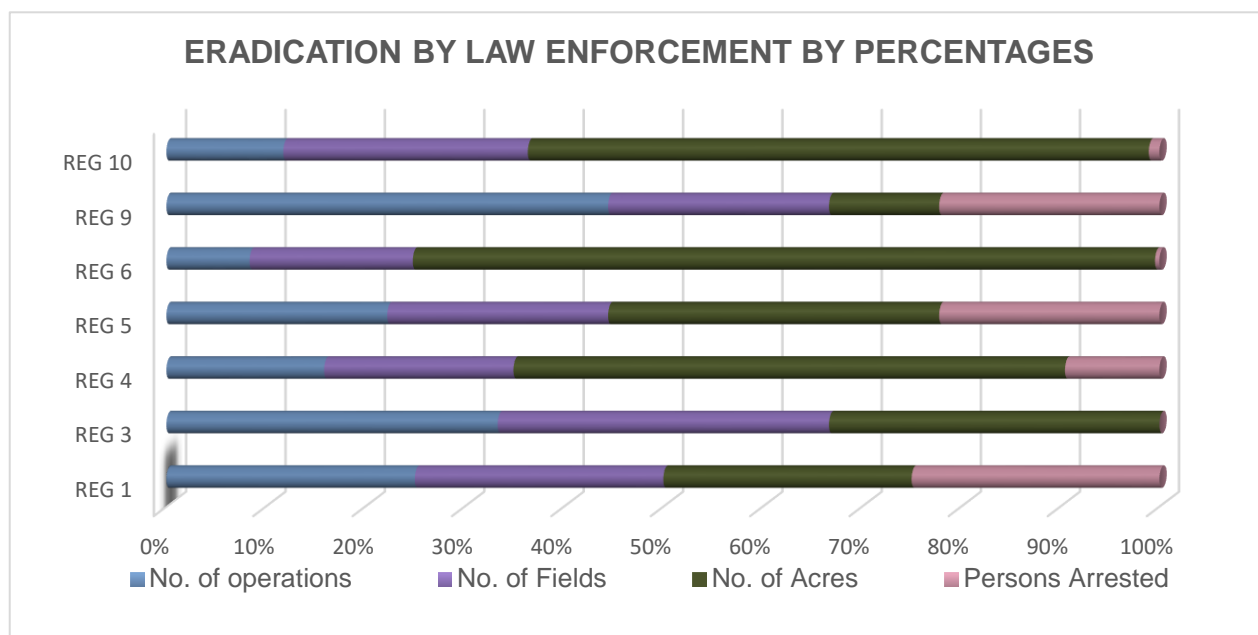


FIGURE 6

ERADICATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA 2020-2021	No. of operations	No. of Fields	No. of Acres	No. of Plants	Total Weight (kg)	Dried Cannabis (kg)	Seedlings	Region	Persons Arrested	Persons Charged
	3	3	3	2285	4714		1500	1	3	3
	1	1	1	200	220	0	0	3	0	0
	5	6	17.5	34539	55086	542.616		4	3	3
	1	1	1.5	250	550		200	5	1	1
	38	74.5	339.25	1309577	2184610	42857.915	42980	6	2	2
	2	1	0.5	34	75	0	0	9	1	1
	11	23	58.5	1006445	915480	200254.921	6980	10	1	1
TOTAL	61	109.5	421.25	2353330	3160735	243655.452	51660		11	11

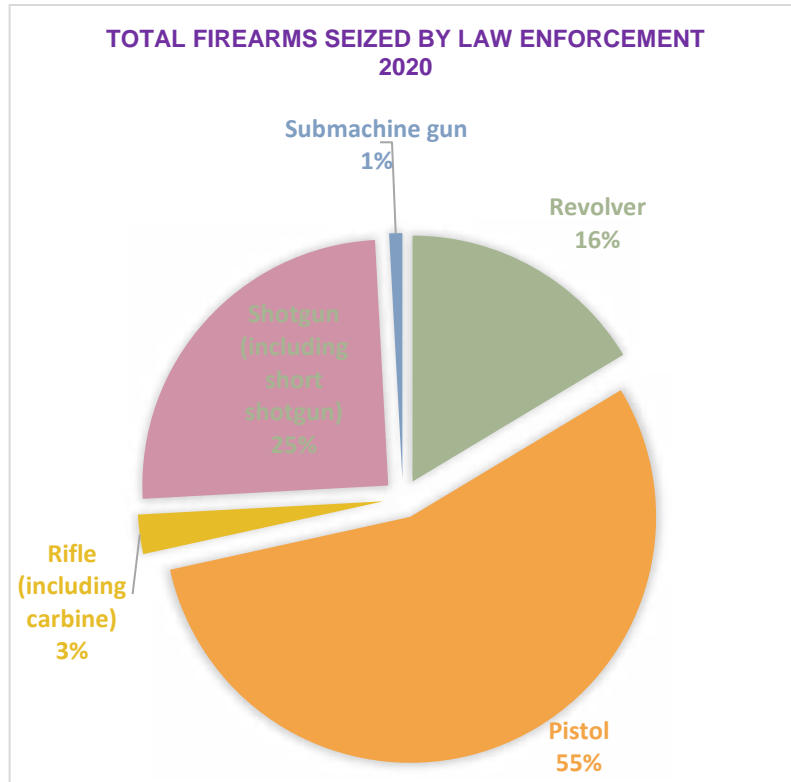
Region 6 had the most eradication exercises, accounting for 68% of the fields and 81% of the total acres of land where cannabis cultivation was discovered. Region 10 had 14% of the total acres, 21% of the total number of fields, and Region 4 had 4% of the total acres and 5% of the total fields discovered. Other Regions account for 1% of total acres and 6% of total fields discovered by law enforcement.



GUYDIN

ILLEGAL FIREARMS SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement have made significant seizures of illegal firearms across Guyana confiscating a total of 117 illegal firearms, consisting of Revolvers, Pistols, Rifles



(including carbine), Shotgun (including short shotgun), Machine guns, and Submachine guns along with a significant amount of ammunition during 2020 – 2021. These seizures support the Government's initiative to create safer communities and reiterate Law Enforcement's effort to reduce/prevent gun violence. Both the Guyana Police Force and the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit have been

working tirelessly to ensure the safety of all citizens.

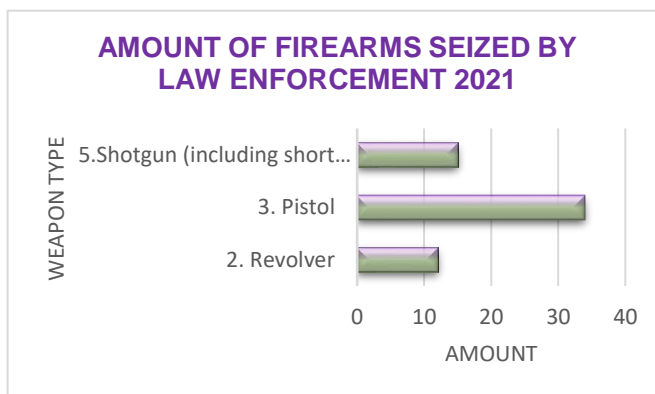
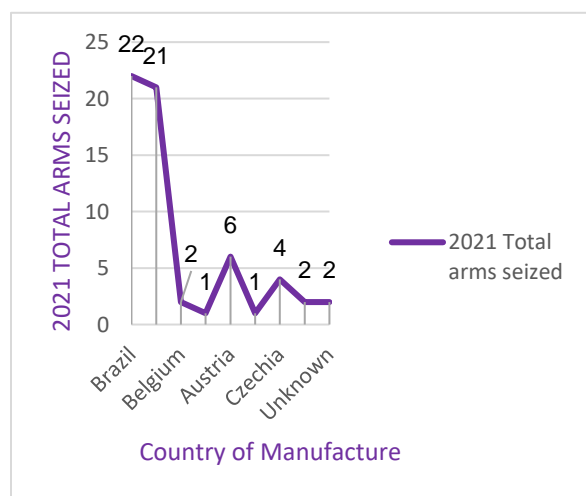
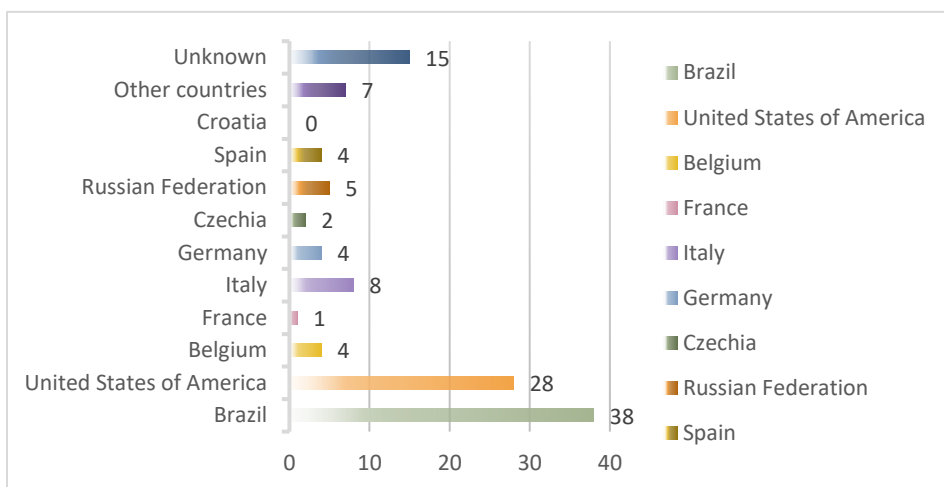
FIREARMS SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2020

WEAPON TYPE	AMOUNT
Revolver	19
Pistol	64
Rifle (including carbine)	3
Shotgun (including short shotgun)	29
Submachine gun	1

In 2020, Law Enforcement seized a total of 116 illegal firearms ranging from pistols to submachine guns. Several firearms ranging from revolvers, pistols and shotguns were seized during narcotic exercises during the period. Six (6) of the total arms seized for the period were categorised as modified arms, with seventy-one (71) being uniquely marked and forty-five (45) having no markings. The firearms seized for the period was manufactured in several countries. Most of the total firearms seized were manufactured in Brazil and the USA. The country of manufacture for fifteen (15) of the seized firearms was unknown. The

2021 period reflected a reduction in the total illegal firearm seized, being a total of sixty-one (61), consisting of Revolvers, Pistols

and Shotguns (including short shotgun). Pistols represented highest seized weapon for the period. All 61 of the weapons seized were industrially manufactured arms with no signs of alteration or



deactivation.

Thirty-five (35) of the firearms seized for the period were uniquely marked, while twenty-six (26), had no markings. For the 2021 period,

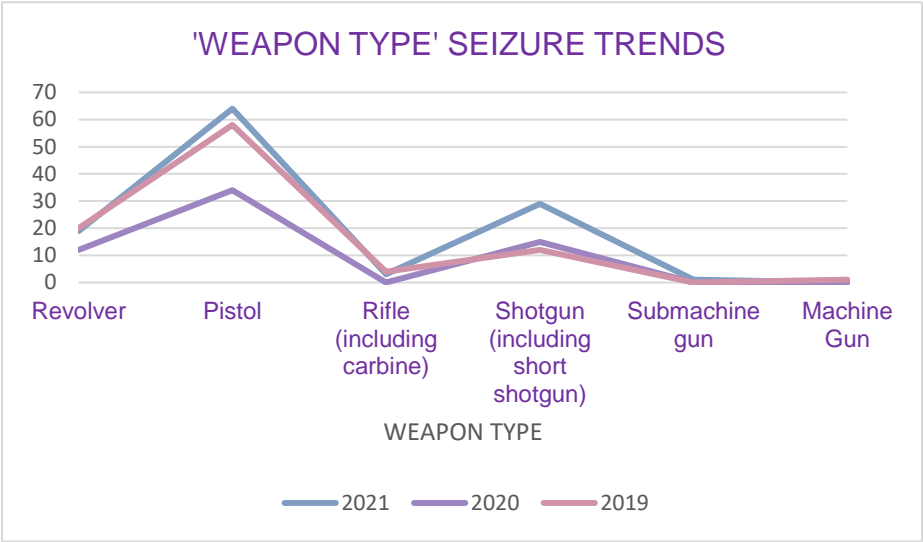
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most of the weapons seized were manufactured in Brazil and the USA. Several of the firearms were seized during narcotics operation for the period.

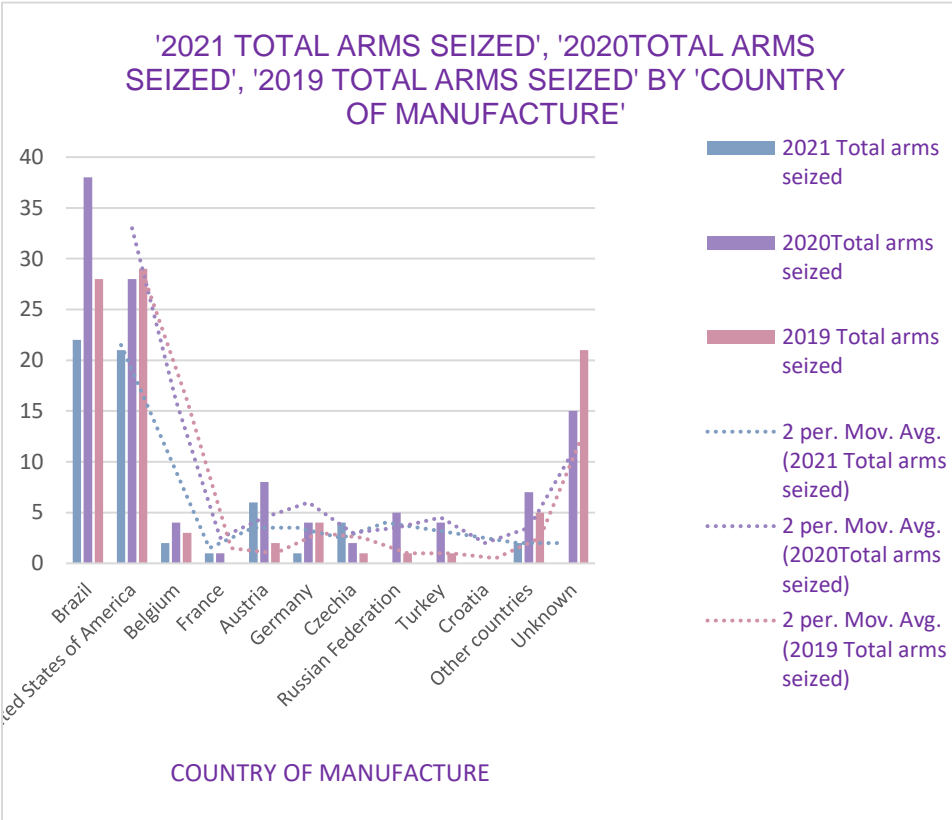
During the 2019-2021 period, law enforcement seized a total of 272 illegal firearms and various types of ammunition. The most firearms were seized in 2021, with a drop in seizures in 2019 preceding 2019 firearms seizures, which accounted for 95 total seizures

WEAPON TYPE	2021	2020	2019	TOTAL AMOUNT
Revolver	19	12	20	51
Pistol	64	34	58	156
Rifle (including carbine)	3	0	4	7
Shotgun (including short shotgun)	29	15	12	56
Submachine gun	1	0	0	1
Machine Gun	0	0	1	1
TOTAL WEAPONS SEIZED	116	61	95	272

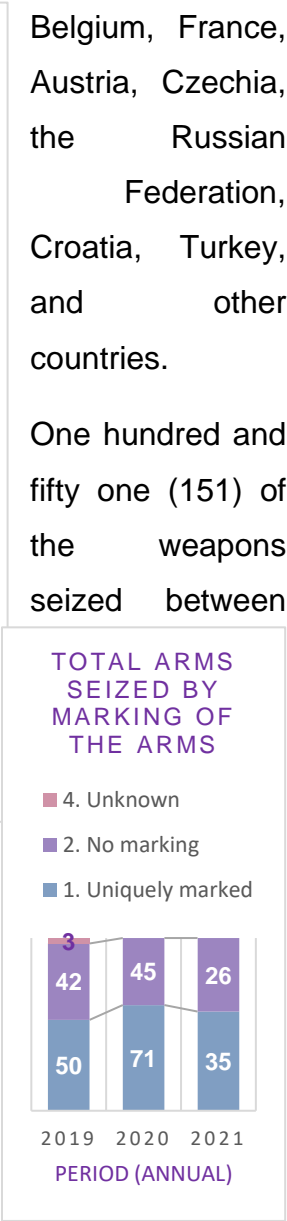
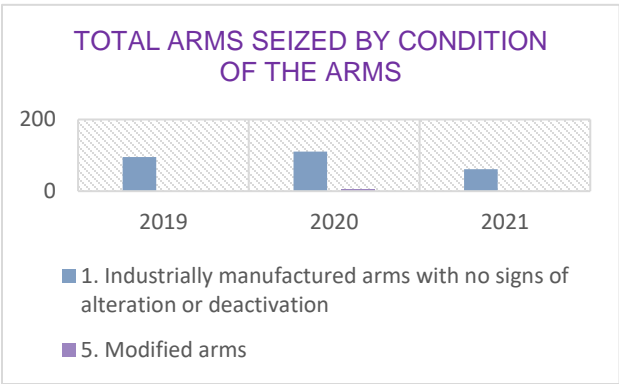
of various types of firearms. Pistols were the most common firearm seized during the period and have been the most common weapon seized throughout the period under review, followed by shotguns (21% of total arms seized) and revolvers (19% of total arms seized). Other weapons, including rifles, submachine guns, and machine guns, accounted for about 3% of total seizures.



The largest number of firearms seized were manufactured in Brazil (33%), USA (29%), and (13%) of unknown origins, with the remaining (25%) being manufactured in Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Czechia, the Russian Federation, Croatia, Turkey, and other countries.



2019 and 2021 were uniquely marked, 42% of the 272 seized firearms were unmarked, and 1% of the total firearms seized had unknown markings. Most of the arms seized between 2019 and 2021 were industrially manufactured with no signs of modification or deactivation, with only 2% being modified arms.



CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT SEIZURES 2020



1.948 kg Cocaine seized at Cheddi Jagan International Airport



150 lbs Cocaine seized at Dartmouth on the Essequibo Coast



69.246 kg Cannabis seized at GNIC Wharf, Lombard Street, Georgetown



50.664 kg Cannabis seized at Moleson Creek public road



2.070 kg Cannabis seized at Air Service Limited, Eugene F. Correia International Airport, Ogle



CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT SEIZURES 2021



6.232 kg Cocaine seized at CJIA



210 kg Cannabis seized in Georgetown



3.304 kg Cocaine seized at the Cargo Shed, Cheddi Jagan International Airport



1.262 kg Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine seized in georgetown



17.4 kg Cannabis seized at Tuschen-Parika area, East Bank Essequibo



1.692kg Cocaine seized at DHL Express 50e 5th St. Alberrtown, Georgetown



453 kg or 998.6 pounds of cocaine on board a foreign aircraft that made an emergency landing in Orealla



166 kilos CANNABIS found, boat seized by members of the GPF in the Berbice river



2,018 grams of the cannabis concealed in dried coconuts



Nine bulky parcels, one small parcel and 114 packets of marijuana discovered in West Ruimveldt



2000 grams of cannabis discovered at Bartica Stelling



2,609 grams of cocaine found on a speed boat from Parika, East Bank Essequibo

GUYANA POLICE FORCE SEIZURES 2021



1000 lbs of cocaine seized in Orealla, Region Six



672lbs of cannabis seized at Plegtanker Village and Light Town, Berbice River



44 lbs of cannabis seized in Linden



6113 kg 636 grams of cannabis seized on Weldaad Public Road, WCB



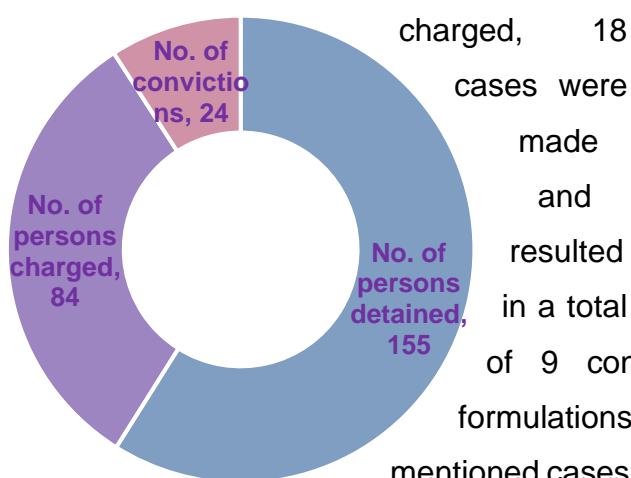
four (4) bulky parcels of cannabis seized at Palmyra



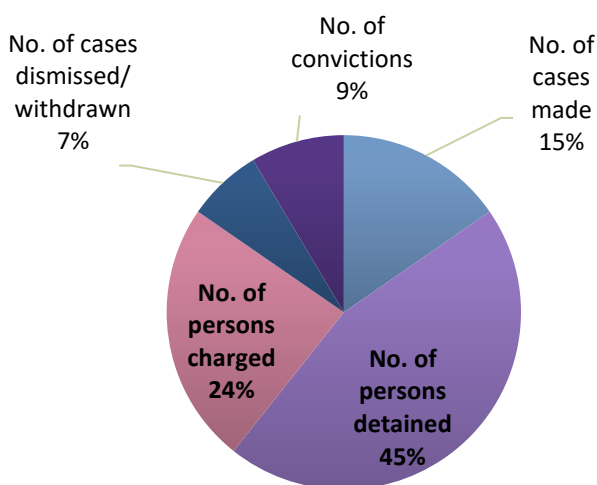
However, between 2020-2021 there was an increase in the number of persons arrested for cocaine related offences and a decline in the persons arrested for cannabis offences.

ARREST AND CONVICTION RATE BY CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2020-2021

For the year 2020, CANU's operations, based on thorough Intelligence gathering, and the continual support of the Government of Guyana, led to the arrest of 53 persons; 28 of the arrested were



CANU'S ARREST CONVICTIONS



charged, 18 cases were made and resulted in a total of 9 convictions. The seizures made led to the formulations of 18 cases, out of which 27% of the mentioned cases were either dismissed or withdrawn. According to CANU's data for 2020, more than half of those arrested for drug possession, trafficking, or cultivation were charged, and 11% of those charged were convicted. Males made up 87% of the people detained for 2020, while females made up 13% of the total number of detainees.

The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit in 2021 detained a total 155 person resulting in 84 persons being charged, 75 cases being made, and 24 persons convicted for various crimes related to narcotics. A review of the data recorded by the Unit for 2021 revealed 155 people were arrested for drug offences ranging from possession of narcotics, trafficking in narcotics and cultivation of cannabis, with 24 of the 84 people charged being convicted of the crime. There were 84 people charged with drug crimes, 14 of whom were

females, with charges ranging from Trafficking in Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics for Purpose of Trafficking, Aiding Trafficking in Narcotics, and Possession of Narcotics.

64 persons were charged with Narcotic Trafficking, 11 with Possession of Narcotics for Trafficking, 8 with Possession of Narcotics, and 1 with Aiding Narcotic Trafficking. The Unit's arrests and seizures resulted in the formation of 155 cases, with over 5% of the cases mentioned being dismissed or withdrawn.

ARREST AND CONVICTION RATE BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2020-2021

The Guyana Police Force in 2020 arrested a total of 440 persons with 393 being males and 47 being females for various types of drugs, 393 persons for cannabis, 38 persons for cocaine and 9 persons for Amphetamine type stimulants. The number of persons convicted were 53 persons, 49 being males and 4 being females for various types of drugs with 45 persons for cannabis, 4 persons for cocaine and 4 persons for Amphetamine type stimulants.

The Guyana Police Force in 2021 arrested a total of 390 persons with 328 being males and 62 being females for various types of drugs, 334 persons for cannabis, 52 persons for cocaine and 4 persons for Amphetamine type stimulants. The number of persons convicted were 25 persons, 24 being males and 1 being females for various drugs with 20 persons for cannabis, 4 persons for cocaine and 1 person for Amphetamine type stimulants.



GUYANA POLICE FORCE ERADICATIONS 2020



Eradication Exercise at Ekura, Canje Creek, Berbice



Eradication Exercise at Bartica Village, Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at Ebeni, Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at Wiruni, Upper Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at Vryheid, West Canje, Berbice



Eradication Exercise at Kimbia, Berbice River



GUYANA POLICE FORCE ERADICATIONS 2021



Eradication Exercise at De Veldt savannah,
Upper Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at Fort Nassau, Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at at Cow Savannah,
Canje River, Berbice



Eradication Exercise at Ebini, Upper Berbice River



Eradication Exercise at at Maria Henrietta Village,
Upper Berbice River.



Eradication Exercise at Kimbia, Berbice River



CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT ERADICATIONS 2020 - 2021



Eradication Exercise at St Cuthbert's Mission (Pakuri)
Linden Soesdyke Highway



Eradication Exercise at at St Cuthbert's Mission



Eradication Exercise along the Mahaicony River area



Eradication Exercise at St Cuthbert's Mission
(Pakuri), off the Linden Soesdyke Highway.



2021 - Eradication Exercise at at Victoria
Village Backdam, East Coast Demerara



CANU - GPF DESTRUCTION 2021

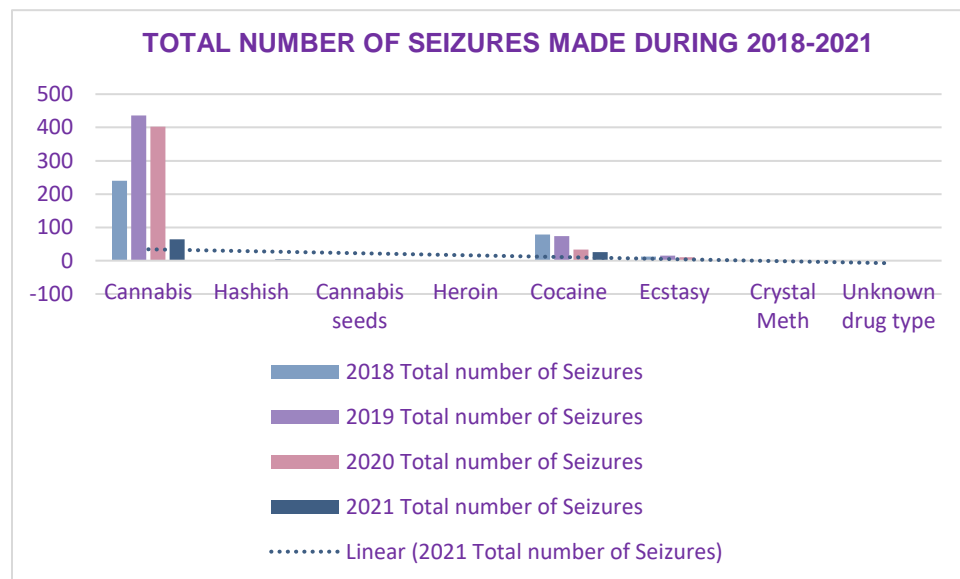


For the year 2021, both the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the Guyana Police Force destroyed illicit drugs confiscated over the previous two to three years, valued at US \$129,000,000 and weighing more than 400 lbs.



TREND ANALYSIS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DRUG SEIZURE DATA

The data collected from the law enforcement agencies, the GPF and CANU indicated that there was a decrease in the seizures made in 2021 in comparison to the drug seizures

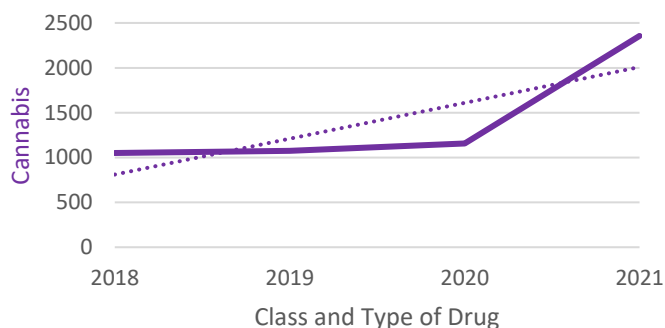


made in the reporting previous years 2018-2020. However, the data indicated that cannabis recorded the highest number of seizures for the period, having a total of 1142 seizures. 2021 had the least

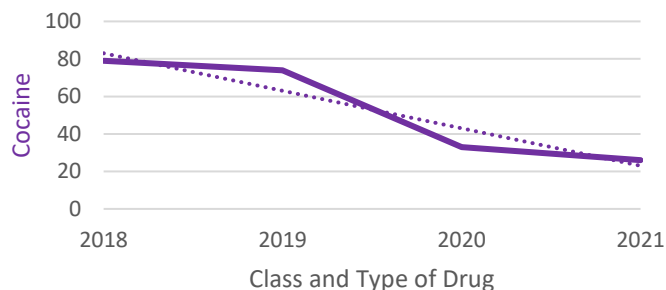
amount of cannabis seizures accounting for 6% of the total seizures for the 4 years period, 2019 recorded the highest number of seizures accounting for 38%, followed by 2020 with 35% and 2018, 21%.

Despite, there was a decrease in cannabis seizures, there has been an increase in the quantity of the drugs

Cannabis increases over time.



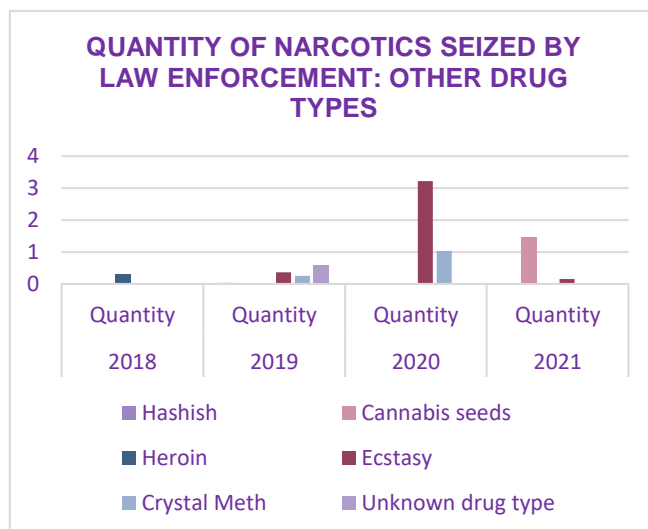
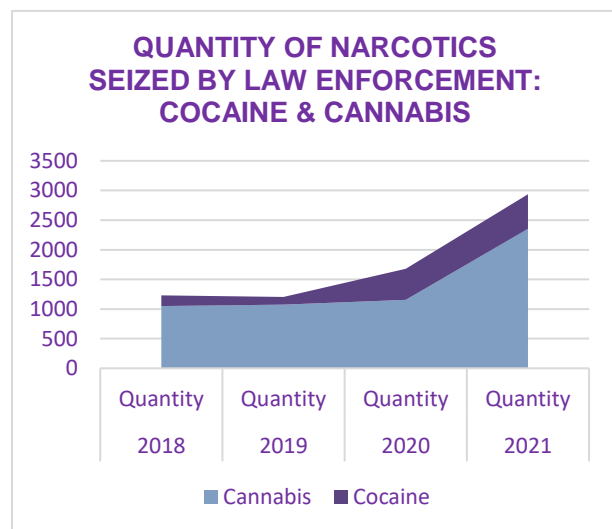
Cocaine decreases over time.



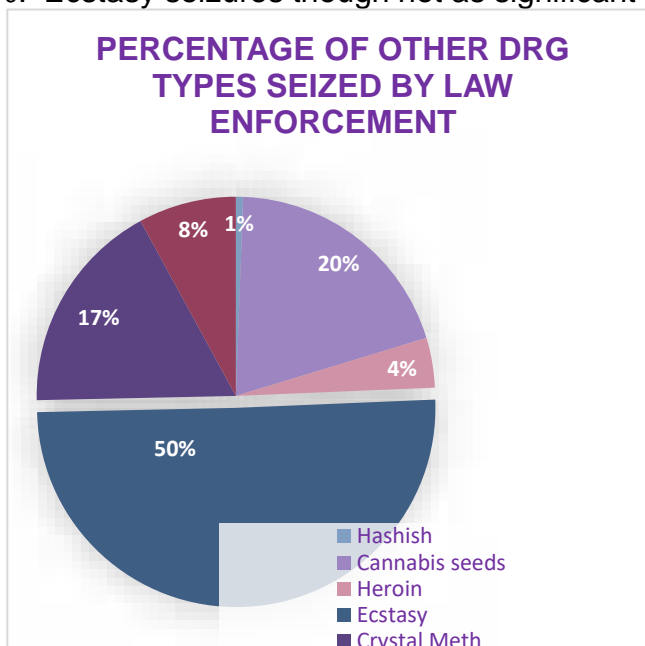
seized for the year 2021, which was the highest quantity of cannabis seized over the 4-year period, approximately 5636.64 kg. There was also a decrease in the number of cocaine seizures over the years, but

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data also revealed an increase in the quantity of cocaine seized over the 4-year period, where it amounted to approximately 1416.36 kg. 2018, accounting for 13% of the overall seizure for the 4-year period, 2019, 9%, 2020, 37% and 2021, 41%.



The 2018-2021 data revealed a total of approximately 7060.43 kg of narcotics being seized by Law Enforcement, with the quantity of cannabis seized accounting for 80% of the total narcotics seized and cocaine accounting for approximately 19% of the total and the other types of narcotics seized approximately 1%. Ecstasy seizures though not as significant as the seizures of cannabis and cocaine, represents the third largest quantity of narcotics seized. Its seizure has been evident from 2019-2021 for the 4-year period, and the largest seizure being recorded in 2020, approximately 3.22 kg being seized by law enforcement. In 2020 ecstasy seizures increased by approximately 52%, then in 2021 ecstasy seizures decreased by approximately 92%. It must be noted that this psychotropic substance is relatively new to Guyana.



ESTIMATED RETAIL COST OF MARIJUANA & COCAINE SEIZED BY THE GPF IN 2020-2021

The table below highlights the estimated cost of the total amount of Narcotics seized and recorded by GPF over the period 2020

2020	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY
TOTAL IN KG	835.8	488.94	1.19
COST PER KG	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$ 250,740,000.00	\$ 244,470,000.00	\$ 595,000.00
MARKET VALUE	\$ 752,220,000.00	\$ 733,410,000.00	\$ 1,785,000.00

The table below highlights the estimated cost of the total amount of Narcotics seized and recorded by GPF over the period 2021

2021	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY
TOTAL IN KG	378.42	540.18	0.1191 GRAMS
COST PER KG	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$ 113,526,000.0000	\$ 270,090,000.0000	\$ 59,550.00
MARKET VALUE	\$ 340,578,000.0000	\$ 810,270,000.0000	\$ 178,650.00

During the 2020-2021 period the Guyana police force seized approximately 1,214.22kgs of cannabis, 1,214.22kgs of cocaine, and 1.30kgs of ecstasy within Guyana as shown in the table below. For the two-year period, the estimated total retail cost of the cannabis was approximately \$364 million, cocaine seized was \$514 million, and ecstasy \$654,000.

The table below highlights the estimated cost of the total amount of Narcotics seized and recorded by CANU over the period 2020

2020	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY	CRYSTAL METH	HASHISH
TOTAL IN KG	319.089	32.948	2.029	1.0341	0.005
COST PER KG	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
VALUE	\$ 95,726,700.00	\$ 16,474,000.00	\$ 1,014,500.00	-	-
MARKET VALUE	\$ 287,180,100.00	\$ 49,422,000.00	\$ 3,043,500.00	\$ -	\$ -

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The tables below highlight the estimated cost of the total amount of Narcotics seized and recorded by CANU over the period 2021

2021	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY
TOTAL IN KG	1,976.96	41.0093	3.127
COST PER KG	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$ 593,086,830.0000	\$ 20,504,650.0000	\$ 1,563,500.00
MARKET VALUE	\$ 1,779,260,490.0000	\$ 61,513,950.0000	\$ 4,690,500.00

2021	HASHISH	CANNABIS SEEDS	METHAMPHETAMINE
TOTAL IN KG	0.0035 GRAMS	1.4633	0.154 GRAMS
COST PER KG	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MARKET VALUE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

During the 2020-2021 period the Customs Anti Narcotics Unit seized approximately 2,296.05kgs of cannabis, 73.95kgs of cocaine, 5.15kgs of ecstasy, 1.46kgs cannabis seeds, 3.5 grams of hashish, and 154 grams of methamphetamine within Guyana as shown in the table below. For the two-year period, the estimated total retail cost of the cannabis was approximately \$689 million, cocaine seized was \$37 million, and ecstasy \$2.5 million.

Additionally, the Unit made seizures of hashish, methamphetamine, and cannabis seeds. For the period the narcotic seizures at Guyana's ports of entry, the majority of seizures reported by the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit occurred at the international airports, and other seizures though in smaller quantities occurred at courier and mail offices. However, compared with maritime shipments the quantity transported by this means was generally smaller. The main drug of choice for concealment and export though mail and courier services was cocaine, which accounted approximately 78% of the seizure made by CANU. The majority of narcotics seized were destined for countries outside of Guyana, and

cannabis of high potency inbound to Guyana. Other port seizures made were destined for Guyana's interior territories.

For the reporting period law enforcement reported several methods of concealment which included:

- Lining of Cardboard Boxes
- within bones of salted fish.
- Frozen foods
- Narcotics disguised as food
- Bottles with false walls
- Makeup kits, deodorant bottles, nail polish bottles and mascara caps

The packages seized by the CANU at mail and courier services were destined to the following

countries:

- United States of America
- United Kingdom

It is noteworthy that for the seizures recorded by CANU at the mail and courier services, United States of America was the most prevalent country to which packages were being shipped from Guyana, each accounting for 96% of all the cases.



NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED BY GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, 2020

The Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory data for 2020, recorded a total of 380 cases of drug evidence being submitted for drug testing by Guyana Police Force Division and Customs Anti Narcotic Unit.

For the period 380 cases were processed, 377 returned positive and 3 returned negative. Positive Cannabis results were 316 with 1 negative result, 45 positives for cocaine with 1 negative, 16 positives for Ecstasy and 1 negative for Amphetamine.

Year 2020

GPF Divisions and CANU	No. of Cases	Cannabis		Cocaine		Ecstasy (MDMA)	Amphetamine	
		+	-	+	-	+	+	-
1	11	9	0	2	0	0	0	0
2	11	9	0	1	0	1	0	0
3	44	32	0	10	0	2	0	0
4	158	133	1	14	1	9	0	0
5	22	19	0	2	0	1	0	0
6	58	49	0	9	0	0	0	0
7	35	29	0	2	0	3	0	1
8	7	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
9	22	19	0	3	0	0	0	0
10	12	11	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	380	316	1	45	1	16	0	1

During 2020, most requests made for drug analysis came from the division 4 (158) followed by division 6 (58), division 3 (44), division 7 (35), division 5 (22), division, 10 (12), division 2 (11), division 1 (11) and division 8 (7).

NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED BY GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, 2021

Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory for the 2021 period, analysed 425 cases of drug evidence submitted by Guyana Police Force Division and Customs Anti Narcotic Unit.



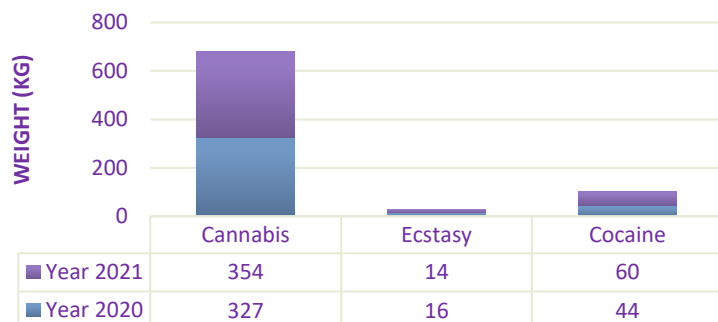
Regional Division	Name of Region
1	Barima - Waini
2	Pomeroon - Supernaam
3	Essequibo Islands - West Demerara
4	Demerara - Mahaica
5	Mahaica - Berbice
6	East Berbice - Corentyne
7	Cuyuni- Mazaruni
8	Potaro - Siparuni
9	Upper Takatu - Upper Essequibo
10	Upper Demerara - Berbice

The data from the 425 cases revealed that 421 were positive and 4 were negative. There were 347 positive cannabis results, 60 positive cocaine with 3 negatives, 14 positive Ecstasy and 1 negative Amphetamine. In 2021, the division 4 (205) received the most requests for drug analysis, followed by the division 3 (63), division 7 (46), division 6 (40), division 10 (20), division 8 (18), division 5 (14), division 9(11), division 2 (6), and division 1 (6). (2).

Year 2021

GPF Divisions and CANU	No. of Cases	Cannabis		Cocaine		Ecstasy (MDMA)	Amphetamine	
		+	-	+	-	+	+	-
1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	63	54	0	8	0	1	0	0
4	205	159	0	34	2	9	0	1
5	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	40	35	0	5	0	0	0	0
7	46	37	0	6	1	2	0	0
8	18	15	0	3	0	0	0	0
9	11	9	0	2	0	0	0	0
10	20	18	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	425	347	0	60	3	14	0	1

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NARCOTICS ANALYSED BY THE GFSL BY WEIGHT



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DEPARTMENT

Human trafficking, which includes both sex and labour trafficking, is a form of slavery that causes unimaginable pain and degradation through exploitation and degradation. It is a violation of an individual's dignity as well as a serious threat to public safety and health. Human trafficking affects people of all races, genders, ages, immigration status, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is frequently committed against the most vulnerable among us. Guyana is one of two Caribbean countries ranked at Tier 1, the other being The Bahamas, with Barbados, Jamaica, St Vincent, and Suriname ranked at Tier 2 and Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago on the Tier 2 Watch List. Great efforts have been made by the Government of Guyana to reduce this issue, through efforts of identifying victims and referring them to services, increasing investigations and prosecutions, drafting, and funding a National Action Plan (NAP) for 2021-2025 with input from survivors, training diplomats, and conducting a campaign to inform migrants of the Spanish-language hotline. The Department in charge of human trafficking has recorded 455 incidents involving 455 victims, 93 males and 362 females. These victims were of various nationalities, including Venezuelans, Haitians, Cubans, Dominicans, Indians, and Guyanese.

GENDER OF ALLEGED TIP VICTIMS	2020	2021
Male	65	28
Female	160	202
Total	225	230

For the year 2020, The Trafficking in Persons Department recorded 225 persons being trafficked comprising 65 males and 160 females of various

nationalities consisting of 131 Venezuelans, 14 Guyanese, 53 Haitians, 3 Jamaicans, 1 Cuban and 23 Dominicans.

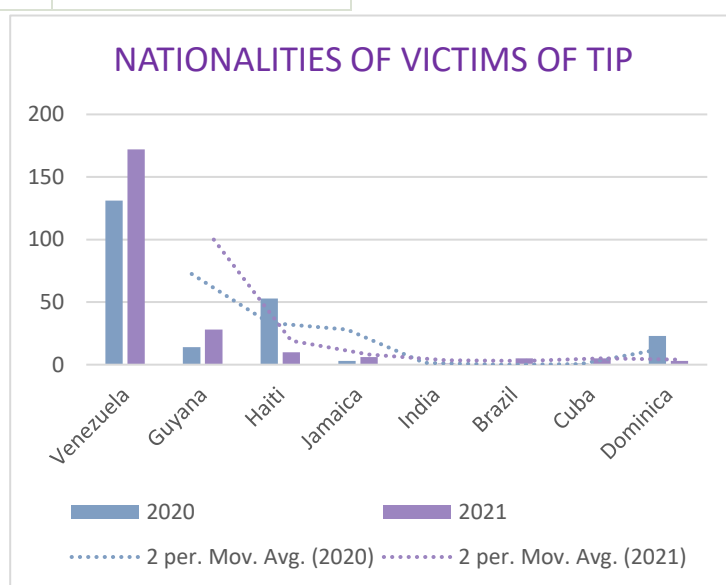
During 2021, The Trafficking in Persons Department recorded 230 persons being trafficked comprising 28 males and 202 females of various nationality consisting of 172 Venezuelans,

NATIONALITY	2020	2021
Venezuela	131	172
Guyana	14	28
Haiti	53	10
Jamaica	3	6
India	-	1
Brazil	-	5
Cuba	1	5
Dominica	23	3
TOTAL	225	230

28 Guyanese, 10 Haitians, 6 Jamaicans, 1 Indian, 5 Brazilians, 5 Cuban and 3 Dominicans.

According to the data submitted for the period, the incidence of trafficking in persons increased by

approximately 2.1%, with Venezuelans accounting for 67% of total victims. In 2021, the number of Venezuelans with TIP incidence increased by approximately 27%. In 2020, Haitian TIP victims were the second most common nationality of victims of human trafficking, accounting for 24% of all victims; however, the incidence of Haitian and Dominican victims decreased by more than 100%. In 2021, the number of Guyanese and Jamaican victims increased by approximately 66.6%, Cubans by over 100%, and Brazilians and Indians were identified as new victims.



THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY- LAW ENFORCEMENT & INVESTIGATION DIVISION (LEID)

For the period under review alcohol, mosquito coils, and cigarettes were among the uncustomed products that LEID confiscated. The GRA Law Enforcement & Investigation Division (LEID) confiscated 32,733 bottles and 1429 cases of several types of alcoholic beverages in the year 2020–2021. Additionally, 13 bales and 166433 packs of mosquito coils were seized, along with 8 bales and 382 cartons of cigarettes.

GRA SEIZURES	2020			
	CASES/BALE	BOTTLE	CARTONS	PACKS
Beer	626	440		
Wine	79	435		
Vodka	168	998		
GIN	2	9		
Whiskey	314	355		
Rum	19	1008		
Tequila	70	83		
Brandy	87	346		
Liqueur	31	58		
Cider	8	24		
Stout	16	175		
Cocktail	9			
Cigarette	8		382	9
Coil	13			108

For the year 2020, The Law Enforcement & Investigation Division (LEID) made seizures of various alcohol beverages, comprising 626 cases of beer, 440 bottles of beer, 79 cases of wine, 684 bottles of wine, 168 cases of vodka, 998 bottles of vodka, 2 cases of GIN, 9 bottles of GIN, 314 cases of whiskey, 355 bottles of whiskey, 19 cases of rum, 1008 bottles of rum, 70 cases of tequila,

83 bottles of tequila, 87 cases of brandy, 346 bottles of brandy, 31 cases of liquor, 58 bottles of liquor, 8 cases of cider, 24 bottles of cider, 16 cases of stout, 175 bottles of stout and 9 cases of cocktail. There were also seizures of 8 cases/bales of cigarettes, 382 cartons of cigarettes and 9 packs of cigarettes; In addition, there were also 13 bales and 108 packs of mosquito coils seized.



GRA SEIZURES		2021
	BOTTLE	PACKS
Beer	25837	
Wine	249	
Vodka	893	
GIN		
Whiskey	1601	
Rum	34	
Tequila	130	
Brandy	17	
Liqueur	41	
Cider		
Stout		
Cocktail		
Cigarette		119849
Coil		46467

In 2021 the LEID made seizures of various alcohol beverages, comprising 25837 bottles of beer, 249 bottles of wine, 893 bottles of vodka, 1601 bottles of whiskeys, 34 bottles of rum, 130 bottles of tequila, 17 bottles of brandy and 41 bottles of liquor. There were also seizures of 119849 packs of cigarettes and 46467 packs of mosquito coils seized.

GOVERNMENT ANALYST FOOD AND DRUG DEPARTMENT PRECURSOR CHEMICALS HANDLED FOR 2020 AND 2021

Controlled Chemical Substances	Unit of measure		
		2020	2021
Ephedrine	Grams	64.149	82,628.94
Pseudoephedrine	Grams	407.377	62,378.517

For the year 2020, The Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department handled 471.526 grams of precursor chemicals, comprising 64.149 grams Ephedrine and 407.377 grams of Pseudoephedrine.

In 2021, The Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department handled 145,007.457 grams precursor chemicals, comprising 82,628.94 grams of Ephedrine and 62,378.517 grams of Pseudoephedrine.

IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

Controlled Chemical Substances	Unit of measure **		
		2020	2021
Ephedrine	Grams	64.149	82,628.94
Pseudoephedrine	Grams	418.002	62,378.517

During 2020, The Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department approved import of 482.151 grams controlled chemical substances, compromising 64.149 grams of Ephedrine and 418.002 grams pf Pseudoephedrine.

And in 2021, The Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department approved import of 145,007.457 grams of controlled substances, compromising 82,628.94 grams of Ephedrine and 62,378.517 grams of Pseudoephedrine.

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

⁷The Financial Intelligence Unit, mission is to provide critical and effective intelligence aimed at protecting the integrity of Guyana's financial system by the detection, deterrence and suppression of Money Laundering (ML) & the Financing of Terrorism (FT), through collaboration with law enforcement agencies, regulators and international counterparts.

The operations of the FIU are governed by the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLCFT) Act Cap 10:11, its Regulations and all subsequent amendments¹ made thereunder. As a statutory agency the Unit carries out its core mandates and functions within the remit of the applicable laws.

The Financial Intelligence Unit stated that there were more Suspicious Transaction Reports for the period. There were reports of Delivery Fraud Schemes which was prevalent during the pandemic, which was due to the increase in use of the internet for work and leisure. These fraud schemes were the main drivers for the increase in suspicious activity reporting in this category.

⁷ [https://fiu.gov.gy/Docs/FIU Annual Report Final 2020.pdf](https://fiu.gov.gy/Docs/FIU%20Annual%20Report%20Final%202020.pdf)



SPECIAL ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT

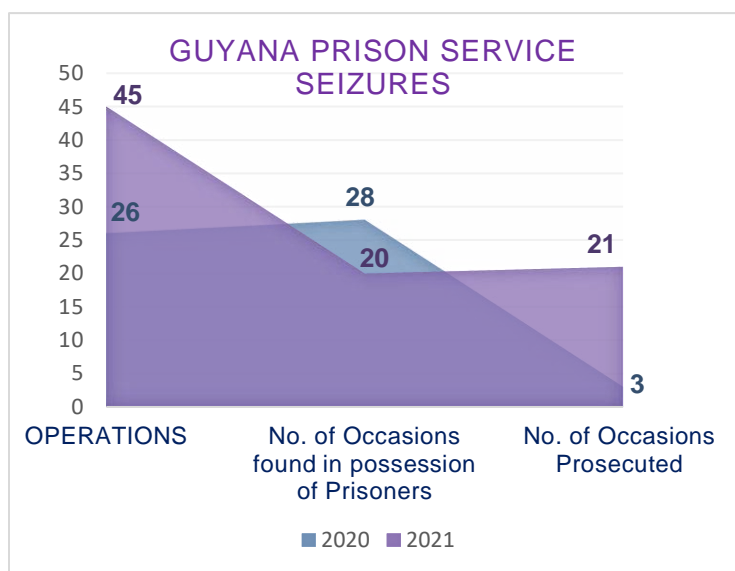
The Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) is a law enforcement agency that investigates, exclusively, allegations and reports relating to money laundering and terrorism.

The Unit is department within The Guyana Police Force, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police.

For 2020 -2021, The Special Organized Crime Unit indicated that there were no recorded cases for the period that was related to drug trafficking offences, however, the Unit stated that for the reporting period they were engaged in ongoing investigations regarding drug related offences which rolled over from 2019.

THE GUYANA PRISON SERVICE

The Guyana Prison Service falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Prison System comprises six (06) prison locations: Georgetown Prison 'A', Georgetown Prison 'B', New Amsterdam Prison, Mazaruni Prison, Lusignan Prison and Timehri Prison. For the year 2020 – 2021, the Guyana Prison Service had 119 occasions where narcotics were seized in the prison confiscating a



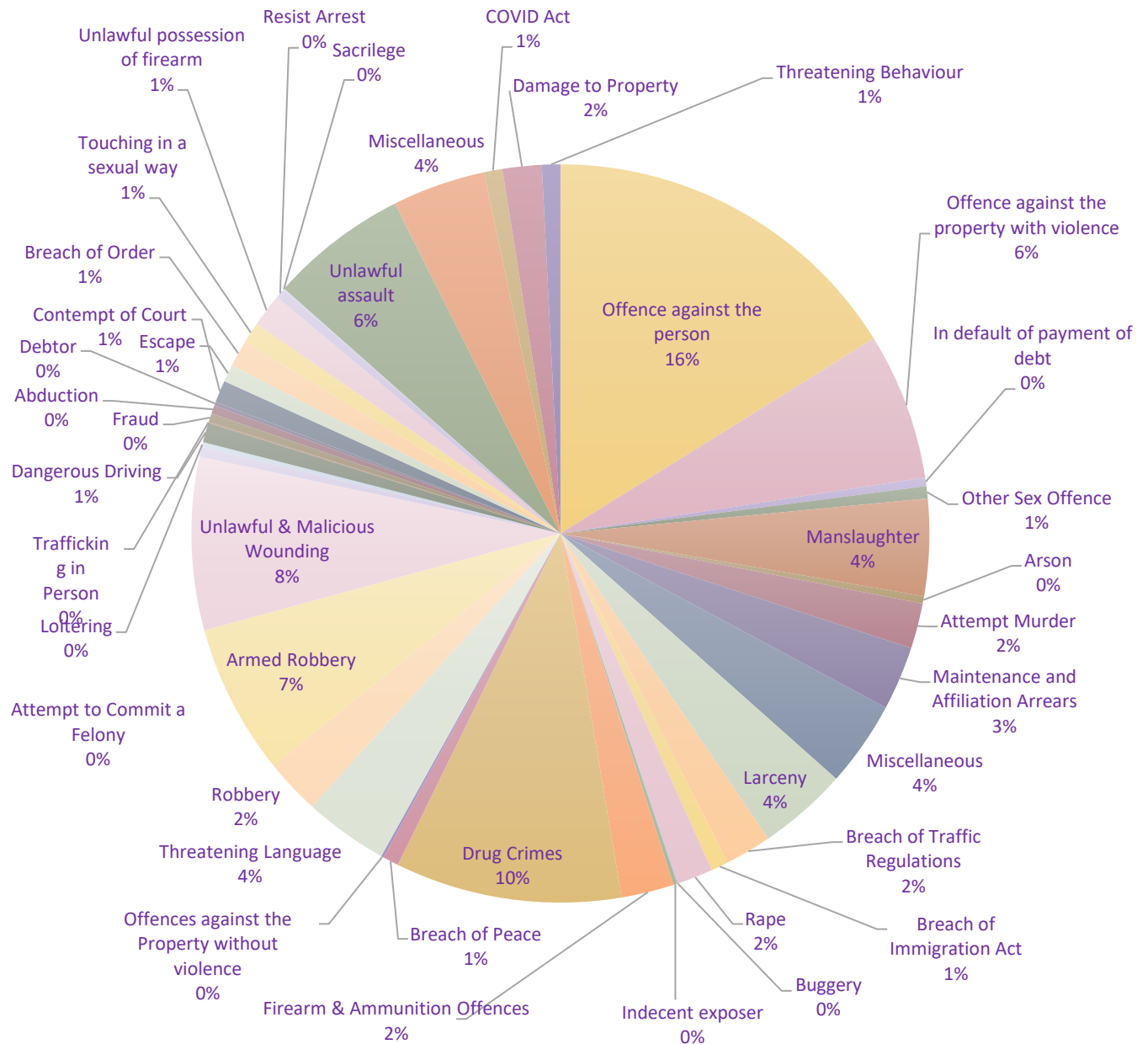
total of 3201.5 grams narcotics, 71 occasions where narcotics were found in the prison and 48 occasions where narcotics were found on the possessions of prisoners resulting in the prosecution of 24 inmates.

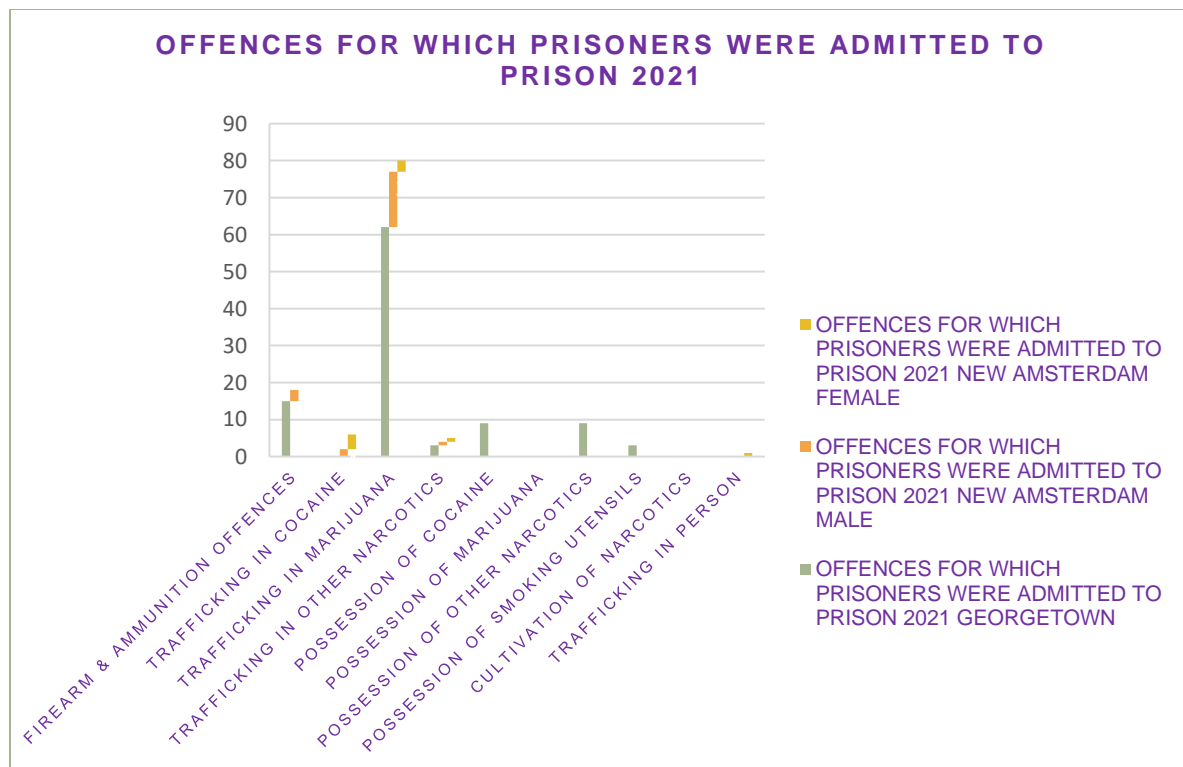
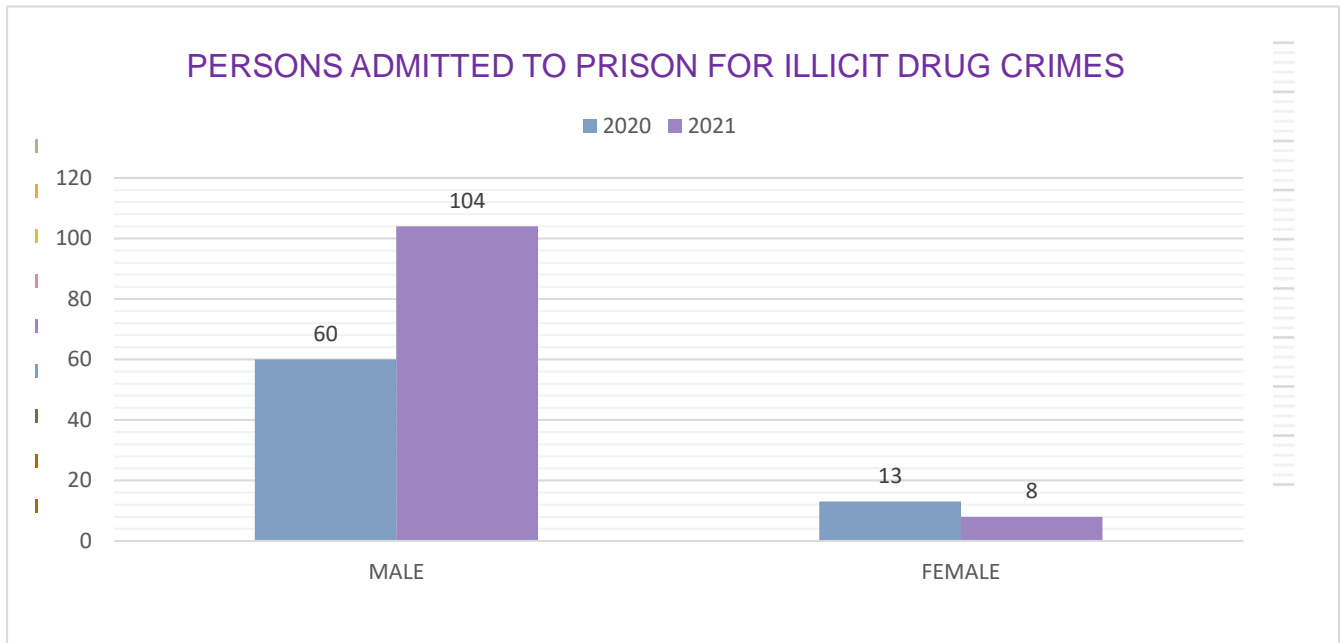
CATEGORIES	G/Town		New Amsterdam			
	2020	2021	2020		2021	
	MALE		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Trafficking in Cocaine	3				2	4
Trafficking in Marijuana	42	62			15	3
Trafficking in other Narcotics	2	3	2	8	1	1
Possession of Cocaine	3	9		5		
Possession of Marijuana	5					
Possession of other Narcotics	1	9				
Possession of Smoking Utensils	1	3				
Cultivation of Narcotics	1					
Trafficking in Person						1
TOTAL	58	86	2	13	18	9

GUYANA PRISON SERVICE ADDMISSION 2020-2021

The Guyana Prison Service admission data for 2020-2021 indicated 1865 persons were admitted for various offences, from which 185 persons were admitted for drug crimes and firearms and ammunition offences. Persons admitted for drug crimes made up 10% of the total persons admitted to prison.

PERSONS ADMITTED TO PRISON IN 2020-2021





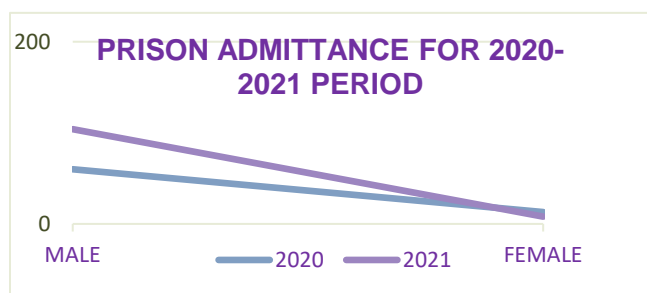
For

The reporting period, 2020 data revealed that 82% of those admitted to prison for illicit drug crimes were men, while 18% were women. Males made up 93% of those admitted to prison

GUYDIN

for illicit drug crimes in 2021, while females made up 7% of those admitted for drug crimes overall. For the year 2020, the admission to prison data for drug crimes revealed a ration of 10:2 in comparison to the categories by gender, while the ratio for prison admission by gender in 2021 was 10:1.

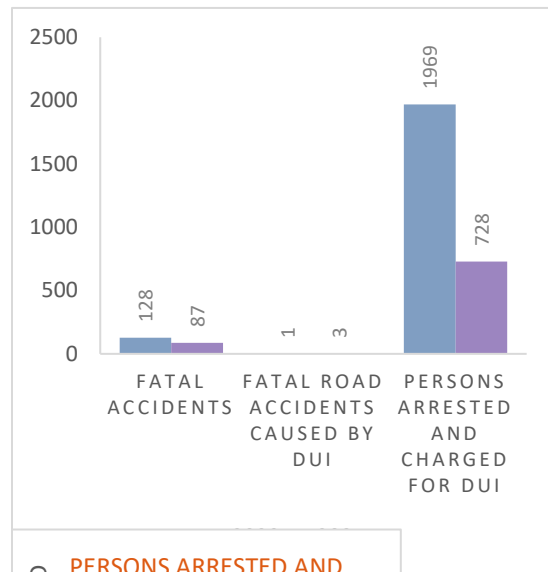
YEAR	FATAL ACCIDENTS	FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY DUI	PERSONS ARRESTED AND CHARGED FOR DUI
2020	128	1	1969
2021	87	3	728



FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT 2020-2021

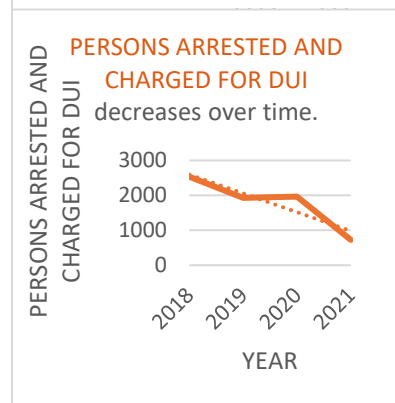
During 2020 -2021, The Guyana Police Traffic department recorded 215 fatal accidents, 4 fatal road accidents caused by driving under the influence, and 2697 persons arrested and charged for driving under the influence.

In 2020, The Guyana Police Traffic department recorded 128 fatal accidents, there was one fatal road accident for the period. A total of 1969 persons arrested and charged for DUI during the said year.

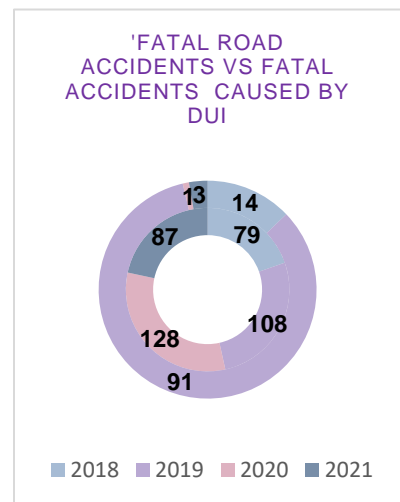


For 2021, The Guyana Police Traffic department recorded a total of 87 fatal road accidents 3% of fatal road accidents were caused by DUI. 728 persons arrested and charged for driving under the influence the said year.

There was an increase of approximately 92% of persons who were charged for driving under the influence in 2021 proceeding the previous year's total.



The period 2020-2021, recorded the lowest amounts of fatal accidents caused by DUI, as well as a reduction of persons arrested and charged for DUI.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Inter- American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) is the Western Hemisphere's policy forum for dealing with the drug problem. The CICAD Executive Secretariat supports the Commission by strengthening its human and institutional capabilities and channelling the collective efforts of its member states to reduce the production, trafficking, and use of illegal drugs.

Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD)

⁸ COPOLAD is a delegated cooperation programme funded by the European Union. COPOLAD III promotes technical dialogue on drug policies, creating a privileged space for interaction between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe to analyse and discuss all the challenges related to their design and implementation, with the possibility of initiating transformative processes and of innovation aimed at improving the effectiveness of the interventions and, at the same time, avoiding negative impacts on results for sustainable development.⁹

Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organization of American States is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890¹⁰.

⁸ <https://copolad.eu/en/what-is-copolad/>

⁹ <https://copolad.eu/en/objectives/>

¹⁰ https://www.oas.org/en/about/who_we_are.asp



CariSECURE Crime Observation Task Force Meeting; this meeting was held on the 11th of February 2020 to discuss all activities that occurred during the period under review and all upcoming activities, which included CariSECURE Workplan 2020, updates on the International Classification Crime Statistics- Technical Working Group (ICCS TWG) and on the implementation of Police Record Management Information System (PRMIS).

International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes Technical Coding meeting, this meeting was held in November 2019 and on the 23rd of January 2020 to extract the offences from the laws of Guyana for coding into the ICCS Correspondence Table. The second meeting was held to code the offences extracted from various Acts in Guyana Laws.

PANCAP-PAHO Webinar, to discuss the effects of Covid-19 on gender-based violence.

Meeting of the National Drug Abuse Control Unit; this meeting was held on the 1th of September 2020.

Tobacco and Public Health: From Theory to Practice (2016 Version) - June 2021

Training for primary care providers: brief tobacco interventions (WHO e-Learning course)
- June 2021

Virtual Course: Developing Tobacco Control Legislation in the Caribbean – 2021 Edition -
November 2021

Virtual Course: Online Training on Tobacco Cessation for Caribbean Countries – 2021
Edition - November 2021



MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES

DRUG DEMAND: PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Youth and Parent encounter for drugs and alcohol prevention in Region five (5)

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Training of parents to counsel their children not to engage in substance abuse.	To sensitise parents about the need for them to counsel their children not to use drugs.	The Ministry of Health, Demand Reduction Department Conducted exercises to educate the younger people as well as parents about the risks of substance abuse.	There were 30 Participants during the 2020-2021 period

Drug Misuse, Mental Health, Media Strategy in Region 7

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Media Strategy: Promote messages that will portray drugs as harmful and destructive to individuals and family life.	To dissuade persons from starting or using illicit and licit drugs.	The Ministry of Health, Demand Reduction Department Conducted programs to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse.	Several programmes as well as advertisement were aired through mass communication medium (Television and Radio)
Media Strategy: Develop a national communication media strategy to help prevent and stop persons from engaging in substance abuse.	To discourage people from starting or using illicit or legal drugs.	The Ministry of Health, Demand Reduction Department Conducted programs to help prevent persons from engaging in substance abuse.	Several programmes as well as advertisements were aired through mass communication medium (Television and Radio)



Leadership with Youth Organisations, Drug Misuse, Mental Health, and Life Skill Education in Region 10

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Training of community leaders to counsel the children in their community not to engage in substance abuse.	To develop the skills of community leaders to counsel children not to use drugs.	The Ministry of Health, Demand Reduction Department Conducted this program educating community leaders about the risks of substance abuse.	There were 30 Participants
Strengthen civil society involvement in the prevention of young people from engaging in substance abuse.	To develop the skills of civil society leaders to prevent young people from using drugs.	The Ministry of Health, Demand Reduction Department Conducted this program for civil society leaders and youths preventing the use and misuse of substances.	There were 30 Participants

Note: *These programmes were undertaken during the 2020-2021 period.*



DRUG DEMAND: TREATMENT PROGRAMS

2020 TREATMENT PROGRAMS:

Treatment Programs offered by Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Strengthening the rehabilitation centers operated by the Phoenix Recovery Project & Salvation Army: Increase treatment capacity.	To treat current and additional substance users and increase the number of beds.	The Ministry of Health through the support of the Government of Guyana supported the GPHC and NGOs: treatment facilities that provided treatment for persons suffering with drug addiction.	In 2020, Eighty-Six (86) person's sought treatment for various substance use disorders relating to substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, ecstasy, methadone, opioids, inhalants, LSD, benzodiazepines, amphetamines, cocaine, crack and mushrooms Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army, inclusive of Eighty (80) males and Six (6) females.



Treatment Programs offered by Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Strengthening the rehabilitation center operated by the Phoenix Recovery Project & Salvation Army: Increase treatment capacity.	To treat current and additional substance users and increase the number of beds.	The Ministry of Health through the support of the Government of Guyana supported the GPHC and NGOs: treatment facilities that provided treatment for persons suffering with drug addiction.	In 2021, Ninety-Eight (98) person's sought treatment for various substance use disorders relating to substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, crack and mushrooms from Phoenix Recovery Project and Salvation Army inclusive of Eighty-Nine (89) males and Nine (9) females.



DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION PROGRAMS

2020 & 2021 SUPPLY REDUCTION PROGRAMS:

Total Narcotics Seized by Law Enforcement Agencies: Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) and Guyana Police Force (GPF)

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Reduction in Supply: (Domestic) Increasing the number of undercover operations	To arrest drug traffickers, reduce the sale of drugs on the domestic market.	The Government of Guyana supported law enforcement agencies task to reduce the availability of drugs in the domestic market and decrease resulting crimes.	During 2020, CANU and GPF seized a total of 1,680.85 KG of illegal substances. In 2021, CANU and GPF seized a total of 2938. 28 KG of illegal substances.

CONTROL MEASURES PROGRAMS

2020 & 2021 CONTROL MEASURES PROGRAMS:

Government Analyst Food & Drug Department Precursor Chemicals handled for 2020 & 2021

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Control the distribution of pharmaceutical products: monitoring of activities to prevent diversion	To control the distribution of pharmaceutical products.	The Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department tracked the distribution of pharmaceutical products.	For the period 2020, the Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department handled 471.526 grams of precursor chemicals. In 2021, the Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department handled 145,007.457 grams of precursor chemicals

Government Analyst Food & Drug Department Imports of Controlled Chemical Substances
for 2020 & 2021

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Control of the diversion of controlled substances: Implement controls in the distribution, transportation, and final commercialization of controlled substances.	To control the diversion of controlled substances.	The Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department conducted exercise to prevent the diversion of controlled substances.	<p>During 2020, the Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department approved the importation of 482.151 grams of controlled chemical substances.</p> <p>In 2021, the Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department approved the importation of 145,007.457 grams of controlled chemical substances</p>



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS:

2020 & 2021 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS:

Drug Policy Formulation and Implementation

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Institutional Strengthening: Strengthen the National Drug Information Network (DIN) to develop drug information systems.	To generate, collect, analyse, produce studies, update drug related statistics and other related information products and its dissemination.	The Guyana Drug Information Network has been liaising with various institutions, through various consultation, as well as gathering and analysing data, geared towards the construction of The National Drug Strategy Master Plan 2022-2026	During 2020 & 2021, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, through the Government of Guyana, has supported the GUYDIN's efforts in the creation of a National Drug Strategy Masterplan which is in final stages of review.



Institutional Strengthening and Policy Coordination

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Establishing The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit as the National Drug Authority	To integrate all national sectors tasked with countering the drug problem as well as the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies. It will also guide and coordinate cross-sectoral monitoring and evaluation and promote training.	The Unit consolidates the national counter drug structures Facilitating the counter drug strategy that has been effectively handling the drug situation in Guyana including a reduction in the transshipment of drugs, the conviction of traffickers and the reduction of drug addicts.	Several local institutions and international organisations have been engaged with during the 2020 and 2021 period, with the support of the Government of Guyana and the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit. These engagements have aided in the training of professionals in the various drug structures, resulting in narcotics seizures, a reduction in drug transshipment, trafficker convictions, and the capacity of Drug Demand Reduction institutions to deal with substance use misuse, prevention, and reintegration, as highlighted in this report.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS

2020 & 2021 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS:

PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
International Cooperation	To Seek agreements concerning "Controlled Deliveries" with key countries from which and to which drugs are transshipped. To exchange information concerning "all aspects of illicit drug trafficking."	The various law enforcement entities inclusive of the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit has been working with various countries, regionally and internationally as well as organisations to facilitate the reduction in the transshipment of drugs and the conviction of traffickers	<p>In 2021, A cross-border cooperation between CANU and the Brazilian Federal Police resulted in the arrest of 27 illegal immigrants at Bon Fim during the month of February.</p> <p>Through information sharing 902 kilograms of cocaine was discovered at Tafelberg, Suriname. This was made possible by close cooperation between the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit and their Surinamese counterparts.</p> <p>Law Enforcement entities engaged with several countries Internationally resulting in trainings, Seminars, and Exchange programmes for Law Enforcement officials.</p>



CONCLUSION

Since tobacco, alcohol, and illicit substance, are inextricably detrimental global phenomenon, there is a need to understand all surrounding aspects. Collecting and examining past data as well as analysing same is important to providing stakeholders representing various sectors with the relevant information to create policies that will contribute towards reducing the current drug situation and all other aspects that may derive from it.

This report has covered a wide spectrum of the drug situation in Guyana for the 2020-2021 period and has highlighted data received from various agencies that engages directly with aspects of the drug situation, and some dealing with the effects that derives from it. We have examined data relating to areas of Drug Supply Reduction, focusing on institutions that deal with drug trafficking and its effects such as trafficking of arms, trafficking in persons, serious crimes among a few, Control Measures, focusing on control and monitoring of pharmaceuticals, precursors, and hazardous chemicals. The report further expounded on data received on Demand Reduction, focusing on Health facilities offering treatment, institutions dealing with prevention, and reintegration. The report highlighted efforts made toward institutional strengthening and International Cooperation.

The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) under the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, serving as the Guyana Drug Observatory, has holistically presented data that tracks the achievements made in all areas surrounding the drug situation.

For the fiscal years 2020-2021, marijuana was the most prevalent narcotic on the drug market, as evidenced by cultivation, trafficking, and treatment data; however, other narcotics, such as cocaine, remained popular among traffickers and substance abusers. Other drugs, such as heroin, crystal meth, and methamphetamine, were discovered in small quantities, as was new psychotropic drugs, such as ecstasy and LSD.

The data collected revealed the significant impact that both licit and illicit substances have on the lives of people living in high-risk situations. As a result, prevention, treatment,



rehabilitation, and reintegration services in these populations must be heavily targeted. Many people who needed substance abuse treatment also needed treatment for other addictions, most notably alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine, according to treatment data. The fact that men, women, and children are all affected or impacted by substance use, specific interventions that are culture, age, and gender sensitive must be developed for communities in the Hinterland Regions.

More drug identification strategies, followed by effective interventions, are needed to help prevent further illicit drug use and delinquency. Most importantly, marijuana and ecstasy appeared to be the most accessible illicit drugs for secondary school students, indicating that the trend of substance abuse among adolescents and young adults needs to be addressed immediately.

The development of evidence-based public health approach can prevent substance initiation or escalation from use to a disorder, and thus reduce the number of people suffering with addiction; it can shorten the duration of illness for sufferers; and it can reduce the number of substance-related deaths. A public health approach will also reduce collateral damage created by substance misuse, such as infectious disease transmission and motor vehicle crashes. Thus, promoting much wider adoption of appropriate evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies need to be a top public health priority.

The GUYDIN recognises the need for greater involvement, collaborative engagements, and programmes among agencies to develop and initiate appropriate strategies to reduce the country's current drug situation. As such, we recognise the importance and roles played by other agencies and seek to incorporate these agencies into the Guyana Drug Information Network to work towards reducing the effects of illicit substances. The inclusion of agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Guyana Wildlife, and Child Protection Agencies will greatly aid in further examining the country's drug situation through the sharing of ideas, and creating the opportunity for tangible results. These additions will assist stakeholders in developing accurate and appropriate policies to protect the environment while also protecting the well-being of minors and all citizens of Guyana.



CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

National policymakers are continually broadening their assessment of the drug problem as they become more conscious of the role, they can play in modifying the circumstances that drive the drug trade and consumption due to the intricate relationships between drugs, development, and criminality. Therefore, it is now necessary for our drug control organizations to look beyond the straightforward realities of drug manufacture and transshipment. We must therefore fully comprehend the social and economic drivers of production, consumption, and trafficking.

The creation of this document had several challenges, some of which affected the comprehensive analysis to capture in detail the country's drug situation. Some of these challenges included.

- Untimely delivery of requested information.
- Data received which lacked critical information to capture a broad spectrum of the effects of the drug situation, such as age range, sex, and individuals' residence location, time frame
- In some sectors no data was provided; the reported reason being disruption of data collection during the COVID-19 period, change of Administration, rotation, or transfer of relevant personnel
- Absence of critical personnel to facilitate and disseminate data
- Lack of structured record keeping

Despite the difficulties, GUYDIN was able to make the best of the information provided to create a document that comprehensively assessed the country's current drug situation. This data will provide stakeholders with the information they need to assess the situation and develop policies that will improve all aspects of supply reduction, control measures, demand reduction: treatment and prevention, risk and protective factors, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation.

The Data submitted and analysed in this document highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used to reduce the effects of illicit drug trafficking, substance use/misuse, and the monitoring of controlled substances, providing improved treatment, and structuring and developing better mechanisms.



Additionally, the following recommendations are made based on the information gathered by the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) and in the 2020-2021 Report:

- The need for more scientific-based research to gather relevant information relating to the drug situation in regard to youths and school students.
- There needs to be increased agency cooperation in putting drug prevention programmes into action. As drug abuse is a serious and complex community problem, which requires community response, the government can no longer be the sole agency responsible for solving the problem. Thus, prevention requires sharing resources and developing partnerships with both NGOs and community-based organizations.
- The establishment of public treatment centers in all Regions in Guyana, paying special attention to hinterland areas and areas with a high prevalence of drug use. Research has shown that there is high drug usage in hinterland areas and little or no exposure to rehabilitation or treatment centres. The implementation of free treatment would be very impactful to the hinterland population.
- We need to increase prevention programmes within schools and other academic institutions. It has been observed that youths are more influenced in recent years to experiment with new drugs and drug trends. A program of such magnitude, with the correct resources, would make a great impact among school-aged teenagers.
- We need to provide ongoing, specialized training for those working in the field of drug misuse prevention. As continuing education supports lifelong learning, it helps ensure counsellors remain curious and critical thinkers, who are well-equipped to provide quality care for their clients.
- Intensified implementation of the Drug Demand Reduction Strategies outlined in the Drug Strategy Master Plan 2021-2026. This drug plan includes the areas of

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institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation. The strategies outlined bring about awareness of drug use and decrease the number of persons admitted into treatment centres.

- We need to provide increased technical support to all treatment centres, this aids in creating better record keeping of treatment data for patients which can be easily accessed.
- Increase the manpower of the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the Guyana Police Force - Narcotic Branch and strengthen their capacity to analyse trends in the drug trade to target their interventions.
- Increased budget of the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the Guyana Police Force- Narcotic Branch to carry out daily operations. This increases productivity levels and provides the tools necessary to establish our presence at more ports of entry and exits to strengthen our position in the fight against narcotics and illicit drugs.
- Investments should be made in areas including interviewing and interrogation tactics, investigative skills, land mapping, documentation, and professional execution of SOPs for seizures and arrests.
- To reduce the transshipment of drugs through Guyana, make training opportunities available to all law enforcement organizations in the areas of capacity building and intelligence gathering.



APPENDIX

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