



GUYDIN

GUYANA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

THE REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD
2022-2023



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GUYDIN'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to improve public health and safety by offering accurate, current, and evidence-based information. We are committed to empowering stakeholders and policymakers to make well-informed decisions on various issues, enabling them to grasp the intricacies and fluidity of the country's drug situation.

To achieve this, we commit to:

Excellence in Information: Delivering reliable and comprehensive drug supply and demand reduction through a robust and continuously updated database.

Educational Outreach: Offering educational resources and training programs to promote understanding of drug-related issues.

Collaboration and Support: Working in partnership with Law Enforcement Agencies, Healthcare organisations, Academic Institutions, and Regulatory Bodies to advance the quality and accessibility of drug information.

Research and Development: Conducting and supporting research initiatives that contribute to the knowledge of the country's drug situation.

Advocacy and Awareness: Promoting awareness of drug use as well as affiliation with drug trafficking and efficacy to foster a well-informed public to deter drug use and reduce drug trafficking.

Through these efforts, we strive to be a trusted resource in drug information, contributing to the security, health, and well-being of our country.

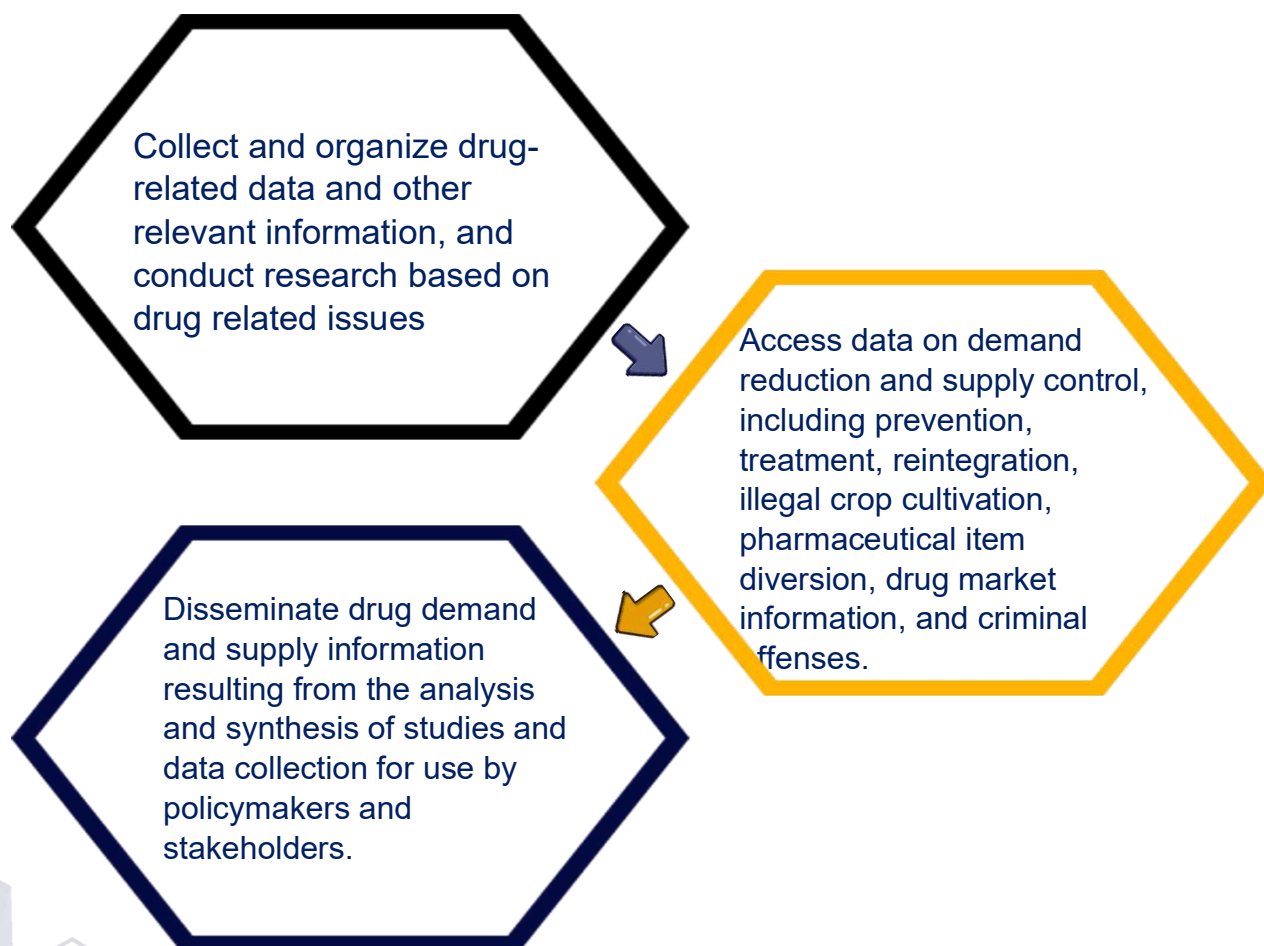




THE GUYANA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (GUYDIN)

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

GUYDIN, the National Drug Observatory, is essential in collecting and analysing data on drug use and trafficking in Guyana. This data helps to provide valuable insights into various areas depicting the country's drug situation, including trends in drug use and drug-related crime, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of implemented drug control measures. This data is essential since it helps enhance drug enforcement strategies, public health initiatives, and other related policy initiatives.





Welcome to the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) Report 2022-2023, as presented by the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit. This report provides a thorough and up-to-date analysis of drug-related matters and initiatives in Guyana based on reliable, research-based data.

The primary objective of GUYDIN is to strengthen the country's efforts in combating drug trafficking and related crimes. This includes improving policies to decrease the consumption of illicit drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. The network also aims to enhance all treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration aspects by providing up-to-date and accurate drug information to stakeholders, healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers. Our dedication to providing high-quality information is the central focus of all our activities. It is crucial to provide accurate drug information to support educated decision-making by policymakers participating in initiatives to decrease drug demand and supply, both within and outside the government.

The provided data aids in the development of strategies and policies for drug control, with a specific emphasis on interventions for preventing and treating substance addiction, as well as addressing the detrimental use of tobacco and alcohol.

Cooperation is essential for achieving our objective. We collaborate closely with agencies involved in reducing supply and demand to guarantee the precision and relevance of our information. By cultivating these collaborations, we contribute to a unified strategy for mitigating the nation's drug problem and improving effectiveness, benefiting the country.



GUYDIN strongly advocates for and values the influence of advocacy and awareness. Our goal is to increase the public's, stakeholders', and policymakers' comprehension of drug-related matters to improve the country's capacity to decrease drug use and trafficking. This will result in a safer Guyana for all citizens.

We appreciate your participation in the Drug Information Network. Together, we have the ability to substantially influence diminishing demand and supply, impeding the influx of narcotics into our nation, and decreasing the use of illegal substances, tobacco, and alcohol. This may be achieved by implementing well-informed policies, one decision at a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Singh', is written over a horizontal line.

James Singh



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
CANU	Customs Anti Narcotic Unit
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCP	Container Control Programme
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CJIA	Cheddi Jagan International Airport
COPOLAD	Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
DSL	Distribution Service Limited
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
EFCIA	Eugene F. Correia International Airport
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ES-CICAD	International American Drug Abuse Control Commission
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EU	European Union
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FIIAPP	International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies
FOCIS	Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies

GAFDD	Government Analyst Food and Drug Department
GDF	Guyana Defence Force
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GENLEA	Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies
GFDA	Government Analyst Food and Drug Department
GFSL	Government Forensic Science Laboratory
GPOC	Guyana Post Office Corporation
GPF	Guyana Police Force
GPHC	Guyana Public Hospital Corporation
GPS	Guyana Prison Service
GRA	Guyana Revenue Authority
GUYDIN	Guyana Drug Information Network
GWCMC	Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme
JMCU	Joint Maritime Control Units
LEID	Law Enforcement and Investigation Division
MDMA	Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine
MEM	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism
MIU	Maritime Intelligence Units
NDSMP	National Drug Strategy Master Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSC	National Security Committee
OAS	Organisation of American States

OID	Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
SEACOP	Seaport Cooperation Project
SOCU	Special Organised Crime Unit
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
THC	Tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Drug Information Network report, dated 2022-2023, was prepared collaboratively, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to its successful completion.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the dedicated team members of the CANU/ GUYDIN, whose expertise and hard work have been instrumental in compiling and validating the comprehensive drug information in this report. Your commitment to accuracy and detail is deeply appreciated.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the multiple agencies and stakeholders involved in drug demand and supply reduction for their invaluable support and collaboration. Your contributions, whether through shared research, data access, or expert consultation, have significantly enriched the quality and scope of this report.

Special acknowledgement goes to the regulatory bodies and government agencies that provided critical insights and guidance throughout the development of this report. Your ongoing efforts to curb the flow of drugs and prevent drug use are vital to our mission.

We are grateful to the Administration of the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit. Your vision, leadership and support have been essential in shaping the objectives and execution of this report.

To everyone who has contributed to this report, your dedication to advancing the Drug Information Network is commendable. We look forward to continuing our work together to provide reliable, evidence-based drug information that supports informed decision-making in both the Drug Demand and Drug Supply sectors.



LIST OF GUYDIN's STAKEHOLDERS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Drug Demand Reduction Unit
Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department
The Mental Health Unit
Chronic Disease Unit
Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation
New Amsterdam Psychiatric Hospital

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Customs Anti Narcotic Unit
Guyana Police Force (Narcotics Department)
Guyana Prison Service
Guyana Defence Force
Guyana Forensics Science Laboratory

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & CULTURE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
Guyana Revenue Authority

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Phoenix Recovery Project
Salvation Army Men's Social Service



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) has remained the primary information portal for national drug-related data. The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit manages it through the Ministry of Home Affairs. This report integrates national drug-related data to develop and refine drug policies aimed at addressing the complexities of drug use, prevention, treatment, and enforcement. Effective drug policies are essential not only for combating the immediate effects of substance abuse but also for promoting long-term well-being, resilience, and harm reduction within communities. It evaluates trends, challenges, and progress in addressing drug supply and demand while emphasising stakeholder collaboration and international cooperation.

Chapter One provides an overview of the drug supply reduction data, while Chapter Two provides an overview of drug demand reduction data for 2022-2023. The drug trade from 2022-2023 presents a formidable challenge to the authorities. Although some gains were made in drug seizures and the eradication of cannabis, the dismantling of large-scale drug trafficking networks remains an immense undertaking.

During the period under review, Cannabis remains the most widely cultivated and used drug, with significant seizures reported. In 2022, a total of 4,485.11 kg of narcotics, including 4,066.92 kg of cannabis and 415.81 kg of cocaine, were seized by law enforcement. However, seizures in 2023 decreased to 2,910.99 kg, underscoring the ongoing challenge of combating drug trafficking.

The eradication of illicit crops is a crucial strategy for reducing the prevalence of illegal crops in the local drug market. It also helps prevent the transshipment of drugs to other

regions and their entry into different drug markets. During the 2022-2023 period, joint eradication efforts by the Guyana Police Force and the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit included 34 operations, resulting in 38 eradication exercises across regional districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10. These efforts led to the discovery of 30 fields covering approximately 211.5 acres and the seizure of 1,036,589 cannabis plants, along with 1062072.1 kg of dried cannabis.

The report examines serious crimes in the country, focusing on transnational issues such as firearm possession and trafficking, as well as human trafficking and its connections to the illicit supply. It also highlights the discovery and seizure of narcotics within prisons.

This initiative emphasizes the role of the Guyana Revenue Authority in seizing contraband items, primarily alcohol and cigarettes. Additionally, the report outlines the monitoring of imported controlled substances that could be used in the production of illicit drugs.

The report further highlights the efforts of agencies such as the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Special Organized Crime Unit (SOCU) to investigate financial crimes, many of which are related to drug trafficking during this period.

Demand reduction initiatives included preventative and treatment methods undertaken by the country. The Salvation Army Rehabilitation Centre and the Phoenix Recovery Project provided care and treatment to 280 individuals, primarily for cannabis and alcohol addiction. The data indicated that most treatment seekers were aged 18 to 25, with a significant number seeking help for synthetic drugs like ecstasy and unconventional substances such as mushrooms and inhalants. Notably, men made up the majority of those seeking treatment, with a marked increase in cases of substance-induced psychosis.

The country's preventative initiatives, including school drug awareness programs, community outreach, media campaigns, and seminars targeting public servants in health, military/law enforcement, and educational sectors, reached over 78,000 individuals across Guyana during 2022-2023. These efforts aimed to share insights, raise awareness, and promote healthy behaviours.

The report also emphasizes a range of drug treatment programs, such as the Drug Treatment Court, which offers rehabilitation and long-term solutions for substance abuse challenges. During 2022-2023, six individuals were admitted to the drug treatment court, with two completing the program. These courts track recovery efforts to address substance use, providing tailored solutions that prioritize personal growth, accountability, and reintegration into society. This initiative is crucial in combating drug-related issues, fostering healthier individuals, and promoting safer communities.

Additionally, the report places significant emphasis on investigating road accidents, particularly fatal accidents involving individuals operating vehicles under the influence of drugs, specifically alcohol. This examination is vital for addressing risk and protective factors (Harm Reduction) and for guiding appropriate policy actions based on the evidence provided by this report.

The report details the country's integrated approach to supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation. This reflects a committed strategy to address drug-related issues. By enhancing law enforcement capabilities, leveraging technology, and fostering international partnerships, the nation aims to disrupt drug supply chains, reduce demand, and promote sustainable solutions for affected communities. This comprehensive framework ensures national security and contributes to global efforts to combat the drug problem.



Welcome to the Annual Report of The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN)), which serves as the national drug observatory for the country. This report thoroughly analyses the most recent trends, advancements, and difficulties in Guyana's drug use, distribution, and regulation. It encompasses two (2) years, namely from 2022 to 2023 and is essential for policymakers, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and the general public. It offers evidence-based insights to guide strategic decision-making and enhance awareness of the drug landscape in Guyana.

Our purpose remains unchanged. We diligently observe and assess drug-related behaviours to help create effective prevention, treatment, and enforcement methods. Our work aims to reduce the negative effects of drug use on individuals and communities, promote public health, and enhance safety and security.

To achieve our mission, GUYDIN has focused on several important goals. These include gathering reliable data on drug use, trafficking, and related criminal activities. We also identify and analyse emerging drug consumption and distribution patterns, evaluate the effectiveness of current drug policies, and suggest evidence-based improvements. Additionally, we raise awareness about the dangers of drug use and promote healthy behaviours through educational initiatives. We actively engage in international partnerships to share knowledge and develop coordinated approaches to address drug-related issues.

Legal Framework

Guyana has enacted several laws and guidelines to address the country's drug problems. These are:

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

This Act makes provisions for the control of the possession and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the cultivation of certain plants, as well as addressing the issue of rehabilitation and the procedure for imposing lesser sentences, the power to search premises, and the disposal of seizures.

Witness Protection Bill 2018:

An Act establishing a program to offer protection, assistance, or both to participants subject to this Act and to address related issues. It gives details about the administrative centre, the investigative agency, and the protective agency as well as their roles and interdependence for the proper and efficient administration of the program. The rationale behind adding a potential participant to the Witness Protection Program, the specifics of the protection or assistance offered, the terms and conditions under which participants will receive protection or assistance, and the adherence of participants.

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 identify, trace, freeze, seize, and forfeit the unlawful proceeds of all serious offenses. It establishes broad powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes, as well as the forfeiture of criminal proceeds and terrorist property; it also requires reporting entities to take preventive measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. To provide for the civil forfeiture of assets and related matters.

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

This Act makes provisions for the control of the possession and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the cultivation of certain plants, and for matters related thereto.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Bill 2021:

This Bill amends the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, Cap.10:10, to reduce recidivism, prison overcrowdings and the burden on the criminal justice system, save State funds, and ultimately rebuild lives, families and communities affected and disadvantaged by the fining and incarceration of persons, especially youths, for the possession and use of small amounts of cannabis is punishable by mandatory counselling for a period determined by the counsellor and or punishable by community service which includes employment in a public work under the Extra-Mural Act, Cap.11:02, for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

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

An Act to provide for cooperation in the suppression of illicit maritime drug trafficking, as well as other related matters. It also "provides for the treatment of foreign vessels of a Treaty State engaging in illicit traffic within Guyana's territorial sea, requests from treaty states, and waiver of jurisdiction, as well as extensions of Guyana laws to offenses committed on vessels outside Guyana waters and regulations.

Food and Drugs Act Chapter 34:03:

This Act relating to foods, drugs, cosmetics, and therapeutic devices states that those importing these items must be licensed and includes penalties for violating the laws governing this act.

Interception of Communication Act Chapter 47:03:

An Act to provide for the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of communications data, and the acquisition of means by which protected communications may be accessed and placed in an intelligible form, among other things.

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

This Act provides the establishment of a system of plea bargaining and plea agreements in criminal procedure, as well as other related matters.

Fugitive Offenders (Amendment Act) Chapter 10:04:

This Act covers the extradition of fugitive criminals from and to Guyana and related matters. These matters include general provisions, extradition from Guyana, extradition to Guyana, extradition in special cases, and miscellaneous, such as jurisdiction regarding offences committed on aircraft.

Tobacco Control Act 2017:

To protect the public, especially children, from tobacco exposure, this Act supports and implements tobacco control policies under the framework and tobacco convention of the WHO (World Health Organization). It entails sponsorship, promotion, and advertising to increase public awareness of the risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke and to make sure that everyone is given reliable health warnings.

Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06:

This Act outlines the extensive measures to combat human trafficking, including criminal offenses and related laws, victim assistance and protection, transportation misuse, trafficking prevention, security, and document control.

Hijacking and Piracy Act Chapter 10:08:

This Act includes specific provisions for the penalties for armed robbery, hijacking, and piracy offenses as well as matters related to those offenses, such as the penalties for armed robbery, hijacking, and piracy accessories as well as the penalties for armed robbery, hijacking, and piracy when murder is involved.

Extra-Mural Work Chapter 11:02

This Act established a system whereby minor offenders may be ordered to perform extra-mural work in lieu of serving jail time. These services are provided at or on state or government property, as well as any other land that the state owns, rents, or leases, or with the consent of a local government authority on any land or other property that the local government authority owns, rents, or leases.

Guyana's Drug Situation

The data from 2022-2023 highlights the significant challenges relating to drug trafficking as well as issues relating to drug use/ misuse. The country's porous borders, extensive river systems, dense forests and poorly inhabited areas make it easy for drugs to be smuggled into the country from drug-producing countries in South America. This has made it a common hub for the transportation of illicit substances, particularly cocaine. Guyana is a major transit point for the international cocaine trade, being transhipped to North America, Europe, the Caribbean and other international locations. This makes the illicit trade of cocaine a major issue.

In Guyana, the consumption of cannabis is prevalent; this is evident by its presence on the drug market. Law enforcement authorities continue making large cannabis seizures in three primary Regions. Cannabis seizures continue to be prevalent despite numerous discoveries of cannabis farms and eradication exercises conducted by law enforcement, sometimes jointly among the Counter Drug Authorities. Cannabis cultivated in Guyana is also trafficked to nearby countries.

Cannabis is one of the most popular narcotics being abused/ misused in the country, according to data received for the reporting period. Treatment facilities data indicates that



the largest group of persons who sought treatment for substance use for the two years were persons who were addicted to cannabis.

Law enforcement has made discoveries of additional illegal substances such as Heroin, Hashish, Methylenedioxy/MDMA (also called Ecstasy), and Methamphetamine (also known as Crystal Meth). Although these substances are found in smaller amounts compared to Cannabis and Cocaine, non-traditional drugs, including New Psychotropic Substances (NPS), are becoming increasingly popular in our communities, especially among young individuals, particularly MDMA (Ecstasy). This drug is often viewed as harmless during community interactions and school awareness seminars, portraying it as a pleasurable and enjoyable substance. These types of drugs are believed to have derived from Europe and are trafficked into Guyana for countries in South America that have deep ties with European countries.

The Government has been supporting law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat drug trafficking in different areas. The improvement of infrastructure, technological advancements, training, and partnerships with international organizations and countries has greatly boosted law enforcement capabilities. As a result, there has been enhanced border security, improved intelligence sharing, and stronger coordination with national and international law enforcement organizations.

The utilisation of lawful pharmaceutical substances is a noteworthy cause for concern in Guyana. Alcohol is the predominant substance that is frequently misused¹, resulting in addiction and reliance problems for several persons. Excessive alcohol use is a significant factor in the development of several alcohol-related issues. Alcohol use is a prominent factor contributing to traffic deaths in Guyana.

Tobacco consumption is a significant problem in Guyana, as reported by the Tobacco Atlas. Approximately 525 individuals in Guyana perish annually due to tobacco usage². Tobacco is the primary cause of non-communicable illnesses such as cardiovascular problems,

¹ <https://guyanatimesgy.com/a-culture-of-drinking/>

² <https://tobaccoatlas.org/factsheets/guyana/>



stroke, and cancer. Law enforcement plays a vital role in dealing with public smoking and overseeing the sale and use of tobacco products in compliance with the laws of Guyana.

Although the Government is committed to supporting institutions within the Ministry of Health, including the Demand Reduction Agency and the Tobacco Control Department, as well as non-governmental organisations like Treatment Providers, the Salvation Army, and The Phoenix Recovery Project, these problems persist in Guyana.

This biennial report highlights the intricate and ever-changing nature of drug-related issues in the country. The research aims to assist stakeholders in formulating well-informed and efficient plans to alleviate the consequences of drug use, by offering comprehensive insights and analysis. By consistently monitoring, conducting research, and collaborating with others, we strive to be at the forefront of efforts to tackle and solve the complex problems related to drugs. Our goal is to create a healthier and safer society for everyone.

DEMAND REDUCTION



TREATMENT

GUYDIN ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT



Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre



TREATMENT

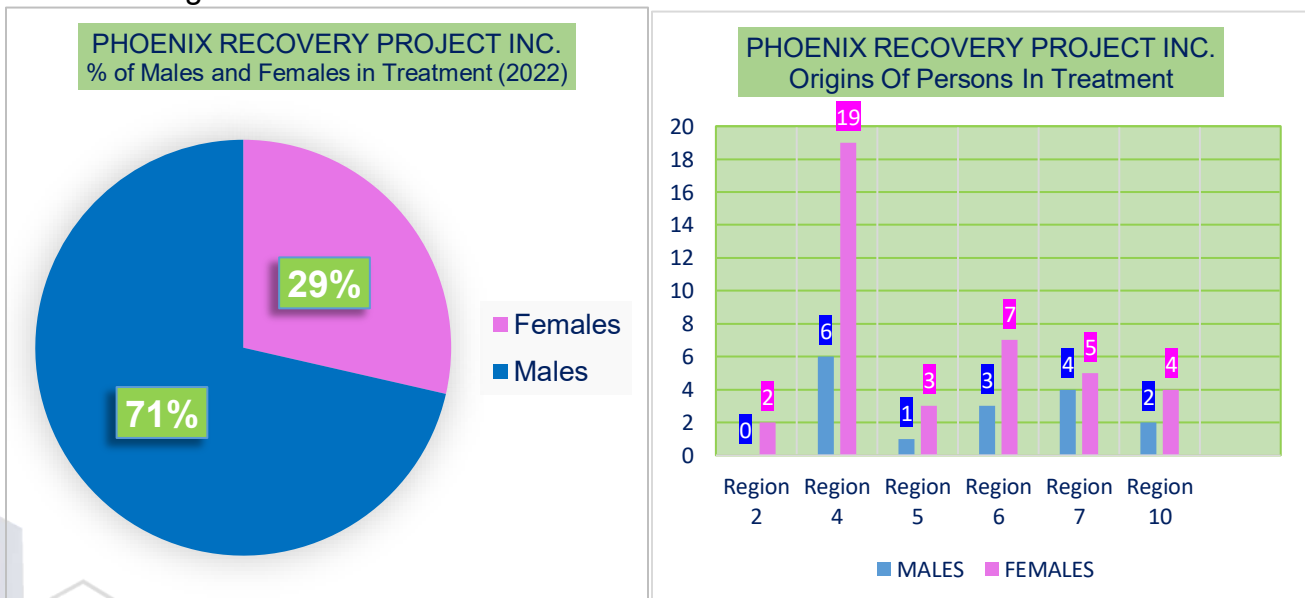
The Ministry of Health in Guyana is substantially improving drug treatment services. The primary treatment facilities in Guyana are the Phoenix Recovery Project and the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Centre, both of which are non-governmental organizations. With government funding, these facilities have effectively provided treatment and rehabilitation services to numerous individuals throughout 2022-2023.

TREATMENT 2022

In 2022, the treatment facilities in Guyana provided care for a total of 152 individuals with substance abuse issues. Of these, 136 were males and 16 were females.

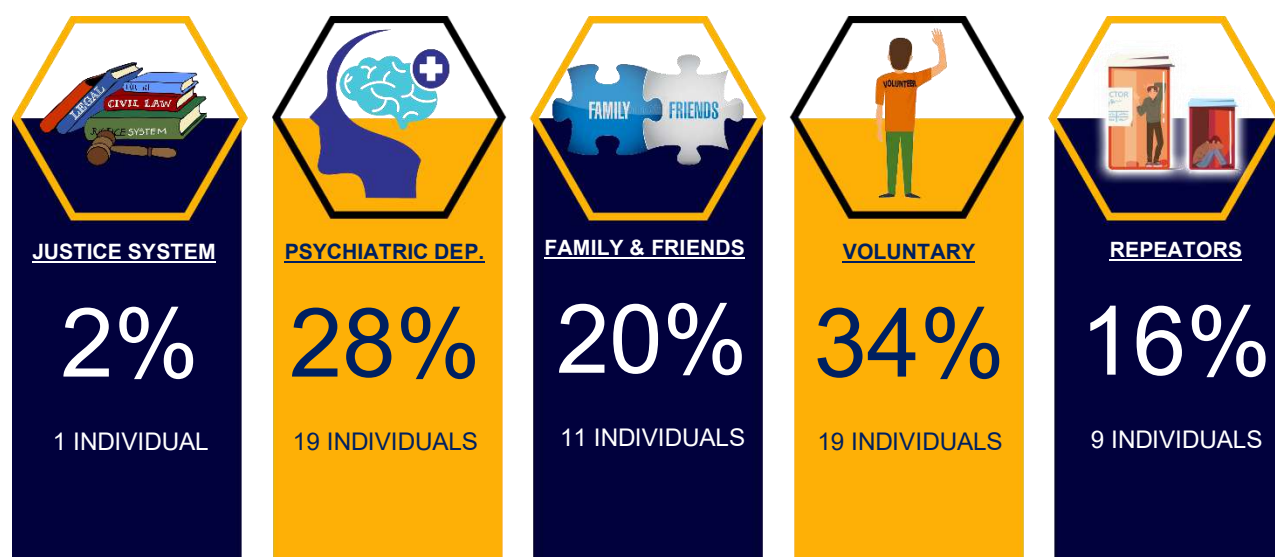
Treatment Statistics (Phoenix Recovery Project – 2022)

In 2022, the Phoenix Recovery Project treated a total of 56 patients, with 40 being male and 16 being female.

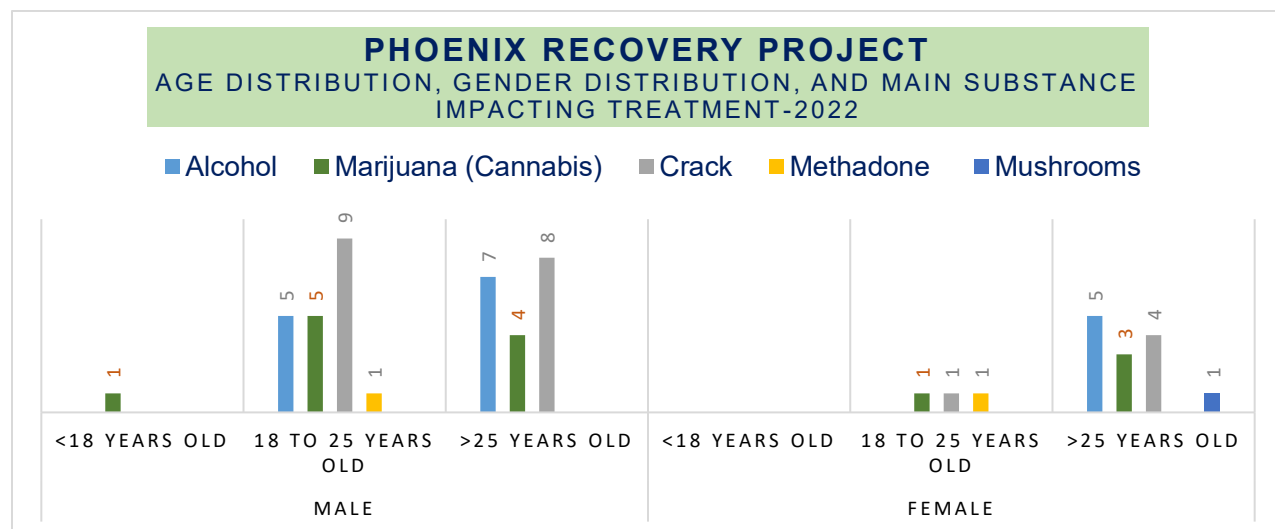


The persons were admitted into treatment originated from primarily Region 2,4,5,6,7,10 districts. A total of 45% of the persons who were accessing residential treatment at the PHOENIX Recovery Project, originated from the Region 4 district.

During the specified time frame, most individuals receiving treatment did so willingly, were referred by the Psychiatric Department, by family and friends, or had experienced a relapse, or were in treatment previously.



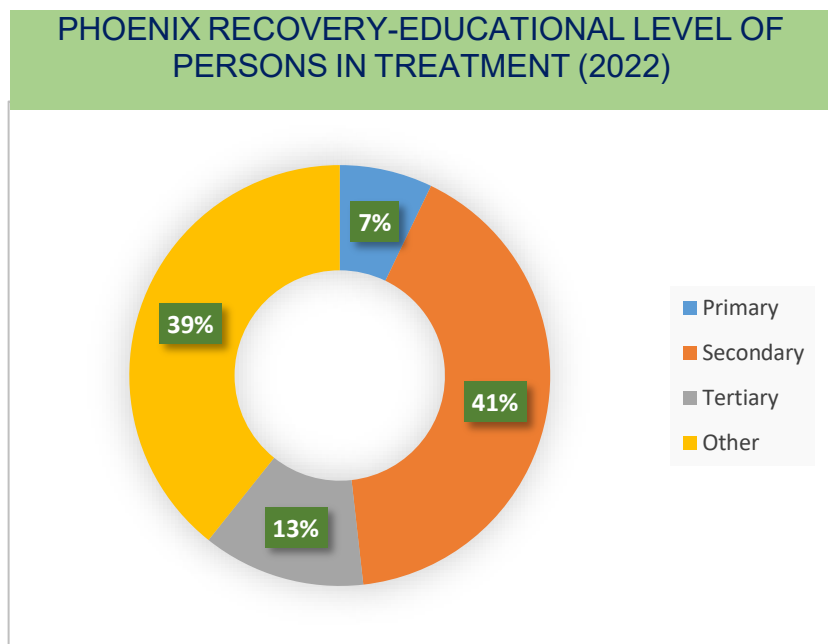
PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT: REFERRALS FOR TREATMENT - 2022



The age range distribution of the persons in treatment for the 2022-2023 period were ≥ 18 years, 18- 25 years, and ≤ 25 years old. Persons between the ages of 18-25 years



represented the highest population in treatment at the Phoenix Recovery for the 2022 period.



The individuals receiving treatment at Phoenix Recovery during the 2022 period, had diverse educational backgrounds. Among them, there were one female and three males with primary education, four females and nineteen males with secondary education, two females and five males with tertiary education, and

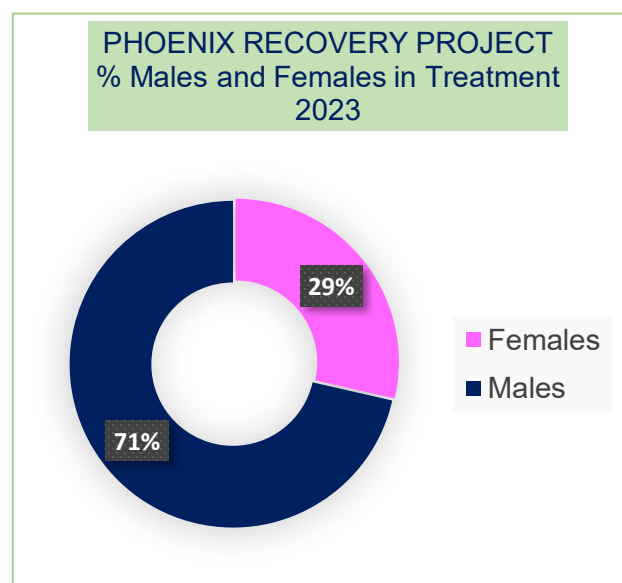
nine females and thirteen males who had completed education at other institutions.

The employment situation of individuals undergoing treatment in 2022 varied, with 14% being employed and 86% being unemployed.

3 females and 5 males were employed, while 13 females and 35 males were jobless. Nine (09) of the individuals receiving treatment had a record of being arrested for small crimes; 2 girls and 7 males were part of this group. Additionally, 4 of the males had been arrested for a serious crime. On the other hand, 14 females and 9 males had no history of being arrested. Phoenix recovery consisted of a group of 2 girls and 7 males who had committed minor offenses, as well as 4 males who had committed capital offenses. A total of 14 males and 29 females are classified as non-offenders.

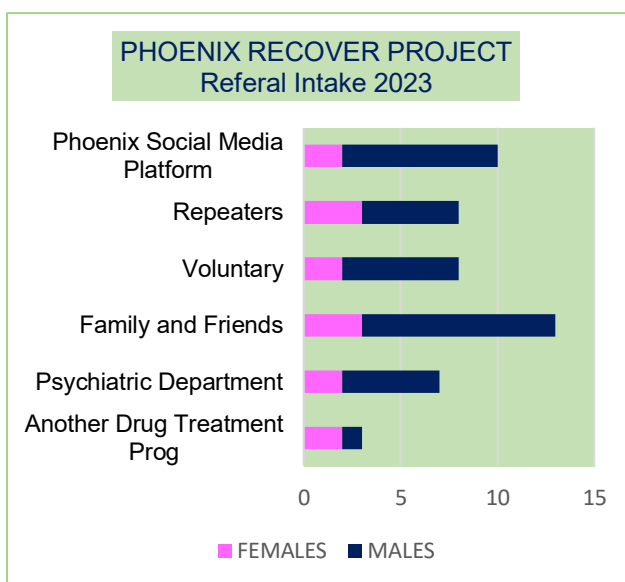
TREATMENT STATISTICS (PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT – 2023)

In 2023, the Phoenix Recovery Project treated 49 patients, 35 of whom were male and 14 females.

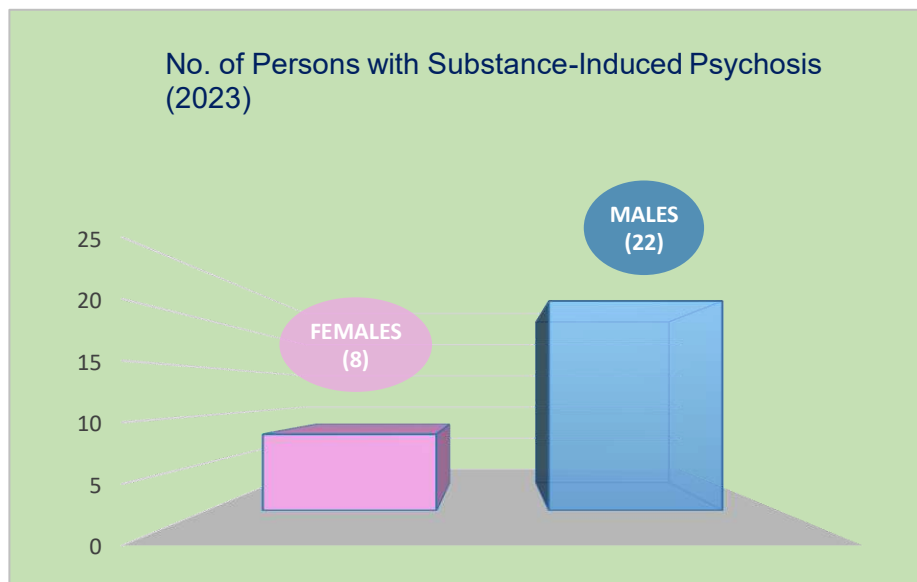


friends, making up 27% of all people seeking treatment. 21% of those seeking treatment were referred through the NGO's social media platform, 16% had previously relapsed or were in treatment, 16% sought

During the specified period, most individuals seeking therapy were referred by family and

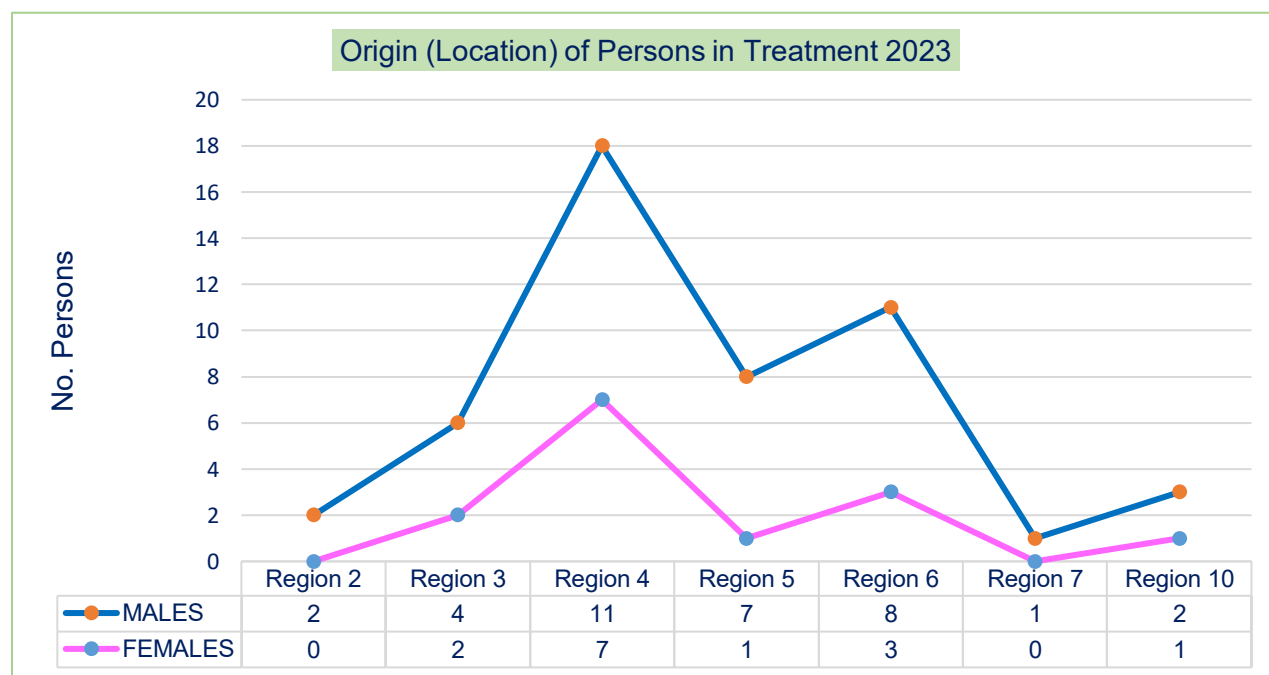


treatment willingly, 14% were referred by the Psychiatric Department, and 6% were referred by another drug treatment program.



Out of the individuals receiving treatment at the time, thirty (30) were diagnosed with substance-induced psychosis. This is referred to as a type of psychosis caused by alcohol or other drug use. It can also occur during withdrawal from alcohol or other substances. The

most frequent symptoms include visual hallucinations, disorientation, and memory



problems³. Males comprised 73% of those affected, while females accounted for 27%.

³ Psychosis + Substance Use - © National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre 2011

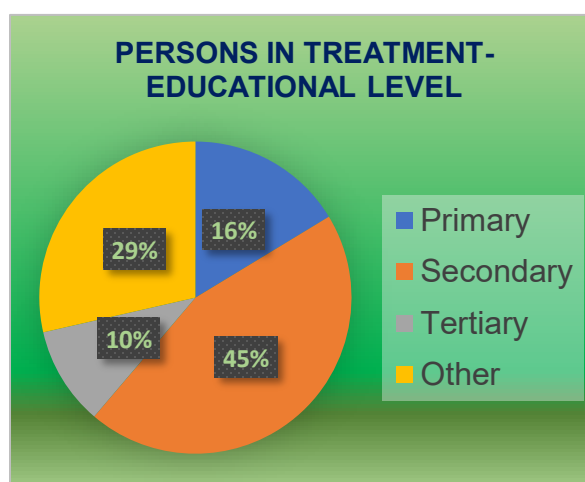
Geographical location of the individuals receiving treatment 2023.cde

During 2023, the persons in treatment at the Phoenix Recovery Project originated from Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10.

In 2023, the highest number of people seeking treatment came from Regions 4, 5, and 6. Region 4 accounted for 37% of the total, Region 6 accounted for 23%, and Region 5 accounted for 16%. Conversely, the lowest number of patients undergoing therapy during this period, originated from Region 7.

Educational Attainment of Individuals in Treatment 2023

The educational attainment of individuals undergoing therapy can vary significantly depending on the type of treatment received. As a result, treatment programs are often customized to the patient's educational level. They offer educational interventions and assess educational needs in order to improve health outcomes and develop effective treatment strategies. In 2023, the patients of



the Phoenix Recovery Project had diverse educational backgrounds. During this period, 45% of the individuals receiving treatment had a Secondary Education. This group consisted of 9 females and 13 males. The next largest group was individuals with other educational backgrounds, including technical skills, accounting for 14 individuals, 3 females, and 11 males. The proportion of individuals receiving treatment in 2023 was lowest among those with tertiary education.

Employment Status of individuals in treatment 2023

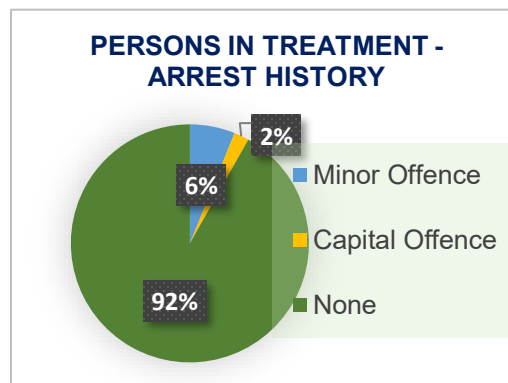
PERSONS IN TREATMENT-EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
2	6	8
12	29	41
14	35	49

During the reporting period, 84% of the patients receiving treatment at the institute were unemployed, comprising 12 females and 29 males. 16% of

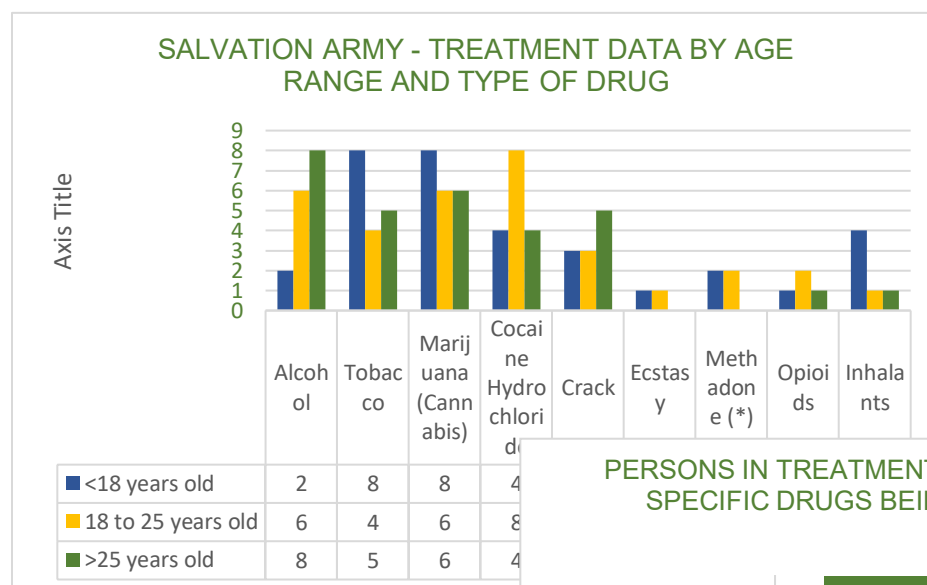
the persons in treatment at the institute during the period were employed. This consisted of 2 females and 6 males.

Persons in treatment with arrest history

In 2023, most individuals receiving treatment had no prior record of arrests. 92% of the individuals undergoing therapy have no prior arrest record. Out of the individuals receiving therapy, 6% consisted of one female and two males who committed minor offences, while a single man under treatment committed a serious crime.

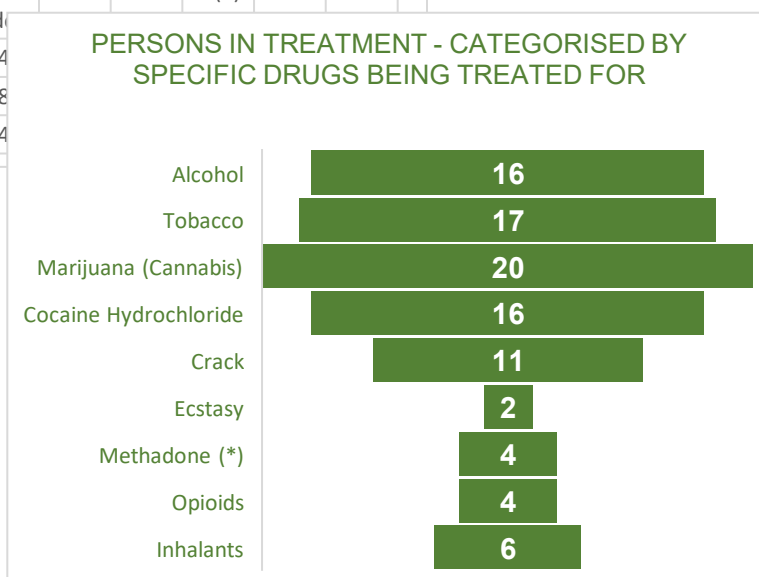


TREATMENT STATISTICS (SALVATION ARMY – 2022)



In 2022, The Salvation Army documented a total of 96 individuals all of whom were Guyanese males, receiving treatment for

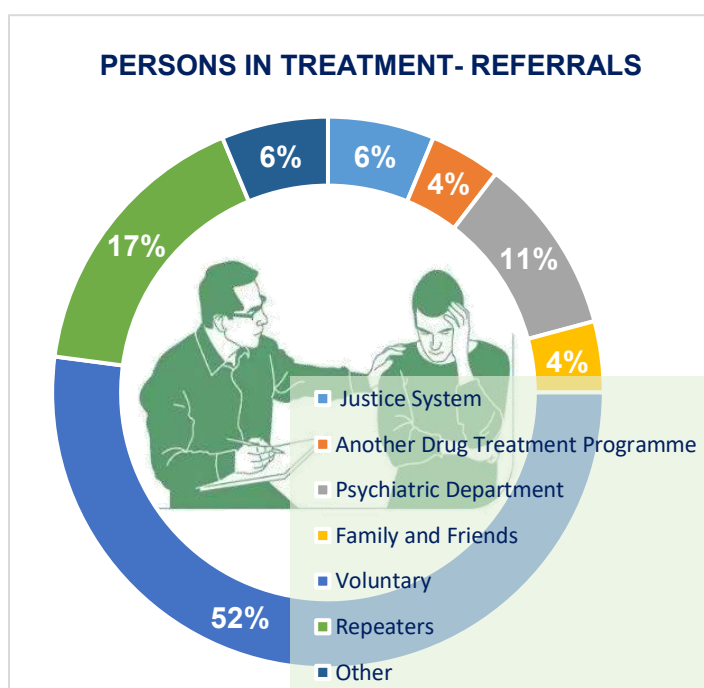
drug use disorders. In 2022, the majority of individuals in treatment were primarily seeking help for cannabis addiction, which made up 21% of the total. Tobacco addiction accounted for 18% of



those in treatment, while alcohol and cocaine addiction each represented 17%. Additionally, 11% of individuals sought treatment for substance use disorders related to crack cocaine. The fewest number of individuals were receiving treatment for ecstasy addiction. The participants undergoing therapy were divided into three groups based on their age. During the specified time frame, there were a total of 33 males under the age of 18, 33 males between the ages of 18 and 25, and 30 males above the age of 25.

In 2022, data provided by the Salvation Army shows that a significant number of individuals under the age of 18 received treatment for tobacco and cannabis use. Additionally, there was a higher number of males between the ages of 18 and 25 seeking treatment for cocaine addiction. A greater proportion of males aged 25 and older sought treatment for drug use disorders specifically related to alcohol and crack cocaine addictions. Treatment for drugs such as ecstasy and methadone were more prevalent among those aged under 18 and between 18 and 25 years. Individuals aged 18-25 were also more likely to seek treatment for opioid use disorder, while treatment for illnesses related to inhalant addiction was less common.

During the reporting period, The Salvation Army received referrals from various sources: six (6) from the judicial system, four (4) from the Drug Treatment Programme, ten (10) from the Psychiatric Department, and four (4) from Family and Friends. Additionally, fifty (50) individuals voluntarily sought treatment, while sixteen (16) either experienced a



relapse or were unable to complete earlier programs. Furthermore, six (6) individuals were referred through other channels.

Geographical location of the individuals receiving treatment 2023

PERSONS IN TREATMENT - ORIGIN	
Region 4	75
Region 5	5
Region 6	8
Region 10	8

During the 2022 period, the individuals receiving treatment at the institution came from Regions 4, 5, 6, and 10. 73% of the individuals receiving treatment during this time were from Region 4, while 9% were

from Region 6, 8% were from Region 10, and 5% were from Region 5.

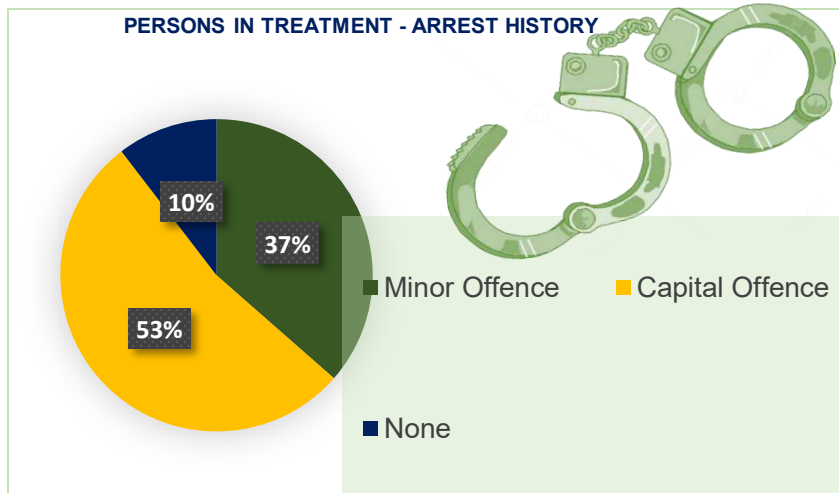
Educational Attainment of Individuals Undergoing Treatment 2023

The individuals receiving therapy at the Salvation Army have diverse educational backgrounds. Among them, there are 30 individuals with a primary school education, 40 with secondary education, 6 with tertiary education, and 20 who have acquired other skill sets from different institutions.

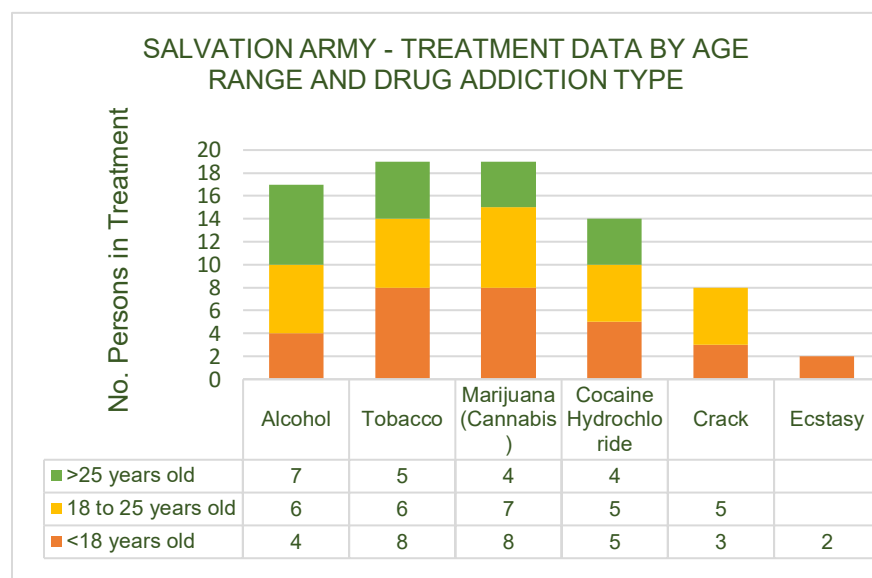
During the specified time frame, out of the 49 individuals receiving therapy, four (4) were employed males, while ninety-two (92) were unemployed.

Persons in treatment with an arrest history

In 2022, several individuals undergoing treatment had a history of arrests. Of these individuals, 35 were men who had committed minor offenses, while 51 had committed serious offenses. Additionally, ten of the individuals receiving therapy had no prior criminal record.



TREATMENT STATISTICS (SALVATION ARMY – 2023)



The Salvation Army recorded a total of 79 males receiving treatment for drug use disorders in 2023. The main substances for which individuals sought treatment were Tobacco

and Cannabis, with both drugs accounting for 24% each. 21% of individuals were undergoing treatment for addiction to Alcohol, 18% for cocaine, 10% for crack, and 3% for ecstasy.

The treatment distribution for males during the specified time included 30 individuals under 18 years, 29 individuals aged 18-25, and 20 individuals over 25. Based on the facility's data, a larger number of boys under 18 were being treated for addiction to tobacco, cannabis, and ecstasy compared to other age groups. There was a higher percentage of adult males over 25 receiving treatments for alcohol addiction. The distribution of age for those seeking treatment for cocaine addiction was fairly even, except for individuals under 18 and those aged 18-25 specifically seeking treatment for crack cocaine addiction.



During the specified period, various channels were utilised to refer individuals to the facility for treatment. Specifically, five (5) individuals were referred by the justice system, four (4) by the Drug Treatment Programme, fifteen (15) by the Psychiatric Department, ten (10) by family and friends, thirty (30) by individuals seeking treatment voluntarily, and fifteen (15) were repeat referrals.

People seeking treatment came from Regions 4, 5, 6, and 10 during the designated time frame. The largest group, 54% of the total individuals in treatment, came from Region 4. Region 5 accounted for 19% of the total, Region 6 for 14%, and Region 10 for 13%.

COMBINED ANALYSIS OF TREATMENT DATA 2022 – 2023

Statistical data collected from treatment facilities in Guyana, specifically the Phoenix Recovery Project and the Salvation Army, for the years 2022-2023 reveals that 280 individuals received treatment for substance use or misuse during this period. The group comprised 250 men and 30 women, with a gender distribution difference of 33.3%. The ratio of males to females for the period was 25:3.

The age distributions among individuals in treatment were evaluated using three age range categories: under 18, 18-25, and over 25. Over two years, individuals over 25 made up the most significant portion of those receiving treatment for substance use issues, representing 39% of the total. Those aged 18-25 accounted for 36%, while those under 18 made up 25%.

From 2022 to 2023, the most significant proportion of individuals receiving treatment was for cannabis addiction, making up 26% of the total treatment population. The second largest group sought treatment for alcohol addiction, accounting for 24%, followed by individuals

seeking treatment for crack cocaine addiction at 19%. Treatment for tobacco addiction was sought by 13% of individuals, while 11% sought help for addiction to Cocaine Hydrochloride. The percentage of individuals receiving treatment for drug abuse problems related to methadone and inhalants was 2% each. The percentage of those receiving treatment for substance use issues related to ecstasy, opioids, and mushrooms (SOMA) was 1% each. The fewest number of individuals receiving treatment had difficulties specifically related to Mushrooms (In-House).

Individuals receiving treatment for Cannabis Addiction 2022-2023

- 32% of the patients in cannabis/marijuana addiction therapy were males aged 18-25.
- Males under 18 and over 25 accounted for 28% of the total.
- Among females in treatment for cannabis addiction, those above 25 years constituted the largest group at 7% of the total.

Individuals receiving treatment for Alcohol Addiction 2022-2023

- 45% of patients with alcohol addiction were males over 25 years old.
- 31% were males aged 18-25.
- 8% were females over 25 years old.

Individuals receiving treatment for Alcohol Addiction 2022-2023

Crack addiction treatment was most prevalent among males aged 18-25, accounting for 38% of the total. 33% were males over 25. 13% of crack cocaine addiction treatment patients were females over 25 years old.

Individuals receiving treatment for substances classified as Opioids 2022-2023

During the specified period, the main demographic receiving opioid addiction therapy was males aged 18-25, totaling 5 individuals. Methadone was used in the treatment program for those addicted to heroin or narcotic painkillers. However, without proper medical



supervision, its use may lead to addiction or misuse⁴. Among the individuals with drug use disorders related to methadone, most were either under 18 years old or between 18 and 25. Specifically, 65% of individuals in this treatment group were addicted to methadone.

Individuals receiving treatment for Ecstasy Addiction 2022-2023

The majority of individuals undergoing treatment for ecstasy addiction were males, mostly under 18 years old, with some falling into the 18-25 age range.

Individuals receiving treatment for Addiction to Inhalants 2022-2023

2% of the individuals receiving treatment underwent addiction therapy specifically for inhalants; Inhalants are things that are breathed in (inhaled) to give the user an immediate rush, or high, this includes glues, paint thinners, gasoline, spray paint⁵... This group exclusively included males across all age categories, with males under 18 years constituting 67% of the total.

Individuals receiving treatment for Mushroom Addiction 2022-2023

During the specified period, three individuals sought treatment for addiction to mushrooms, commonly referred to as shrooms or magic mushrooms. Psilocybin is a psychoactive substance found in various types of fungi, known for its hallucinogenic properties.⁶ This natural chemical causes changes in perception, cognition, and emotion. Throughout the treatment period, three individuals received treatment for this particular addiction: one male under the age of 18, one adult male over the age of 25, and one adult female over the age of 25.

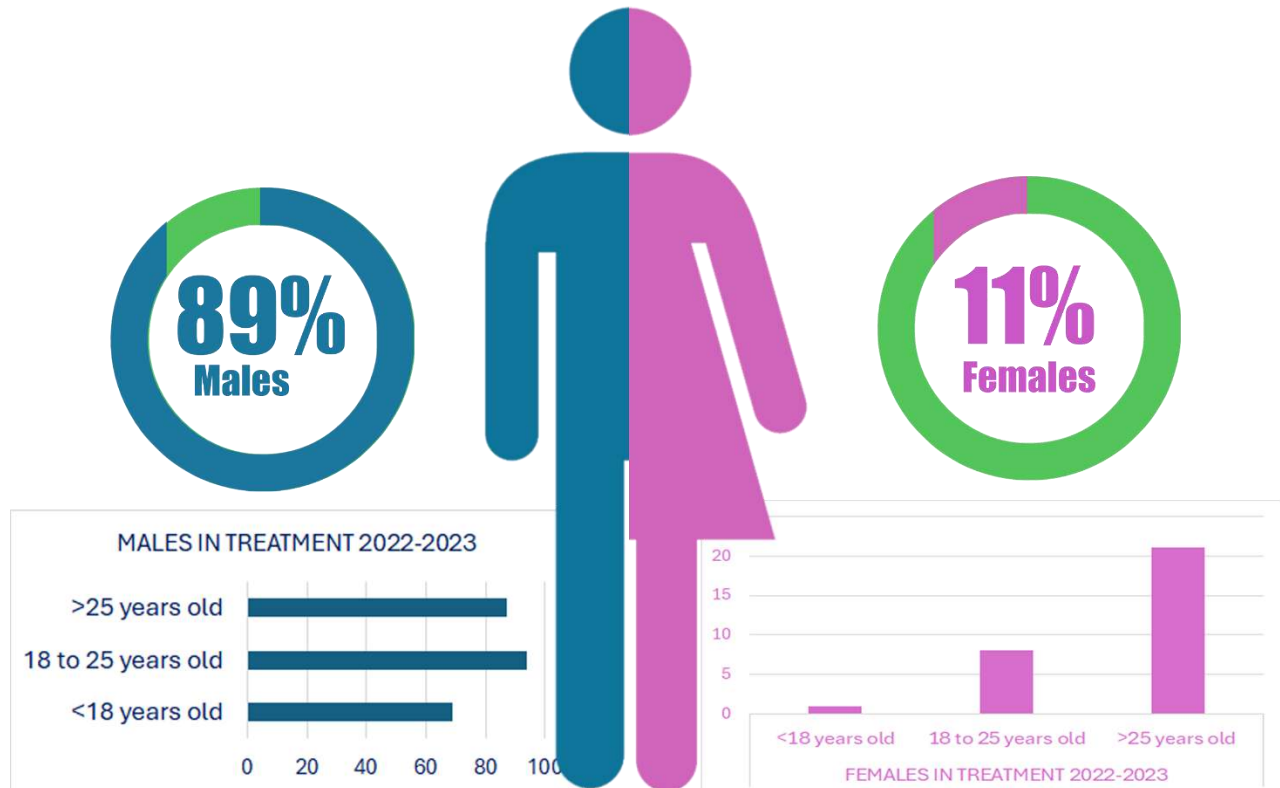
⁴ <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/what-is-methadone>

⁵ [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/drugs-inhalants.html#:~:text=Inhalants%20are%20things%20that%20are,whipped%20cream%20dispensers%20\(whippets\).](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/drugs-inhalants.html#:~:text=Inhalants%20are%20things%20that%20are,whipped%20cream%20dispensers%20(whippets).)

⁶ <https://www.addictioncenter.com/drugs/hallucinogens/psilocybin-mushrooms/>



TREATMENT DATA 2022-2023 (MALES - FEMALES)



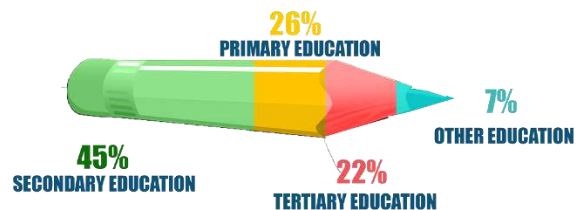
PRIMARY FACTORS INFLUENCING THE NEED FOR TREATMENT AMONG MALES

CANNABIS: 26%
ALCOHOL: 23%
CRACK: 18%
TOBACCO: 15%
COCAINE: 12%

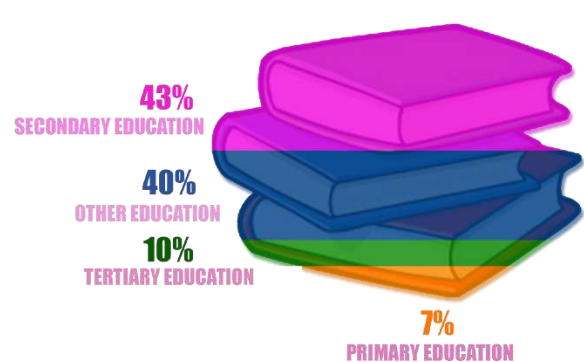
PRIMARY FACTORS INFLUENCING THE NEED FOR TREATMENT AMONG FEMALES

ALCOHOL: 34%
CANNABIS: 30%
CRACK: 27%

EDUCATION LEVEL (MALES)



EDUCATION LEVEL (FEMALES)





DEMAND REDUCTION PREVENTION





PREVENTION

Drug Demand Reduction is a comprehensive strategy designed to tackle the issue of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use and addiction. It involves therapeutic interventions, rehabilitation efforts, and the reintegration of individuals into society. Additionally, it includes proactive measures such as informative campaigns and media promotions. The goal is to reach those who have not yet started using drugs or misusing them, with the aim of delaying or preventing their use. Prevention programs aim to provide drug education, build resilience, promote healthy behaviors, and reinforce socially acceptable norms.

Between 2022 and 2023, several measures were implemented to prevent the initial use of substances and decrease overall drug abuse. These initiatives targeted vulnerable groups, including children, teenagers, and young adults, and emphasized the negative consequences of drug use. Professionals such as teachers, police officers, and healthcare workers received training, counseling, and engaged in community outreach. Additionally, community leaders and individuals who had left school early were specifically targeted. These efforts were vital in creating environments that discouraged the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit substances while promoting healthier behaviors. Throughout the year, various programs such as educational sessions, counseling, and community engagement were implemented to create safer environments for individuals, families, communities, and the global population.

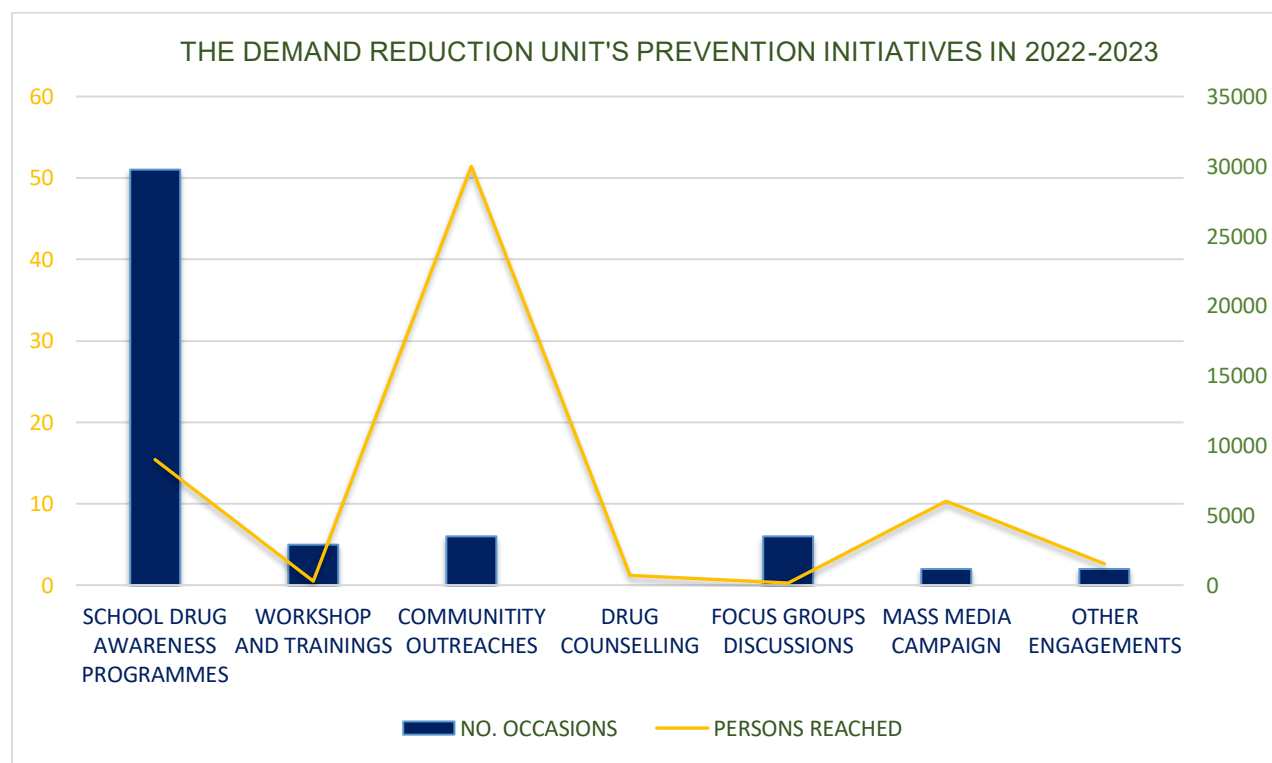
The Ministry of Health, during the period in review, has placed major emphasis on implementing and executing drug prevention initiatives, which encompassed a range of strategies aimed at reducing drug abuse and its associated health risks. These initiatives were undertaken by two major units of the Ministry: the Drug Demand Reduction Unit and the Chronic Diseases Unit (CDU). These Units engaged in a variety of prevention initiatives that included:

- ✓ **Education and Awareness Campaigns:** These campaigns aimed to disseminate information to the general public, particularly young individuals, on the hazards associated with drug use. They included interventions at educational institutions, community centres, and media platforms to effectively communicate the message.
- ✓ **Community-Based Programs:** The units also prioritized initiating and supporting local initiatives that specifically target drug use in particular areas, taking into account their distinct needs and problems.
- ✓ **Treatment and Support Programs:** The Demand Reduction Unit provided assistance and guidance to individuals struggling with addiction, offering counselling services during the specified period.
- ✓ **Prevention Training:** Multiple training sessions were conducted over a specific period of time to provide participants from various fields, such as law enforcement, public health, and social services, with the necessary information and skills to improve the treatment and care of individuals dealing with drug misuse and their families.

- ✓ **Collaboration with Other Agencies:** Both units within the Ministry actively collaborated with law enforcement, education agencies, and other relevant organizations to establish a framework promoting a holistic approach to drug prevention in Guyana.

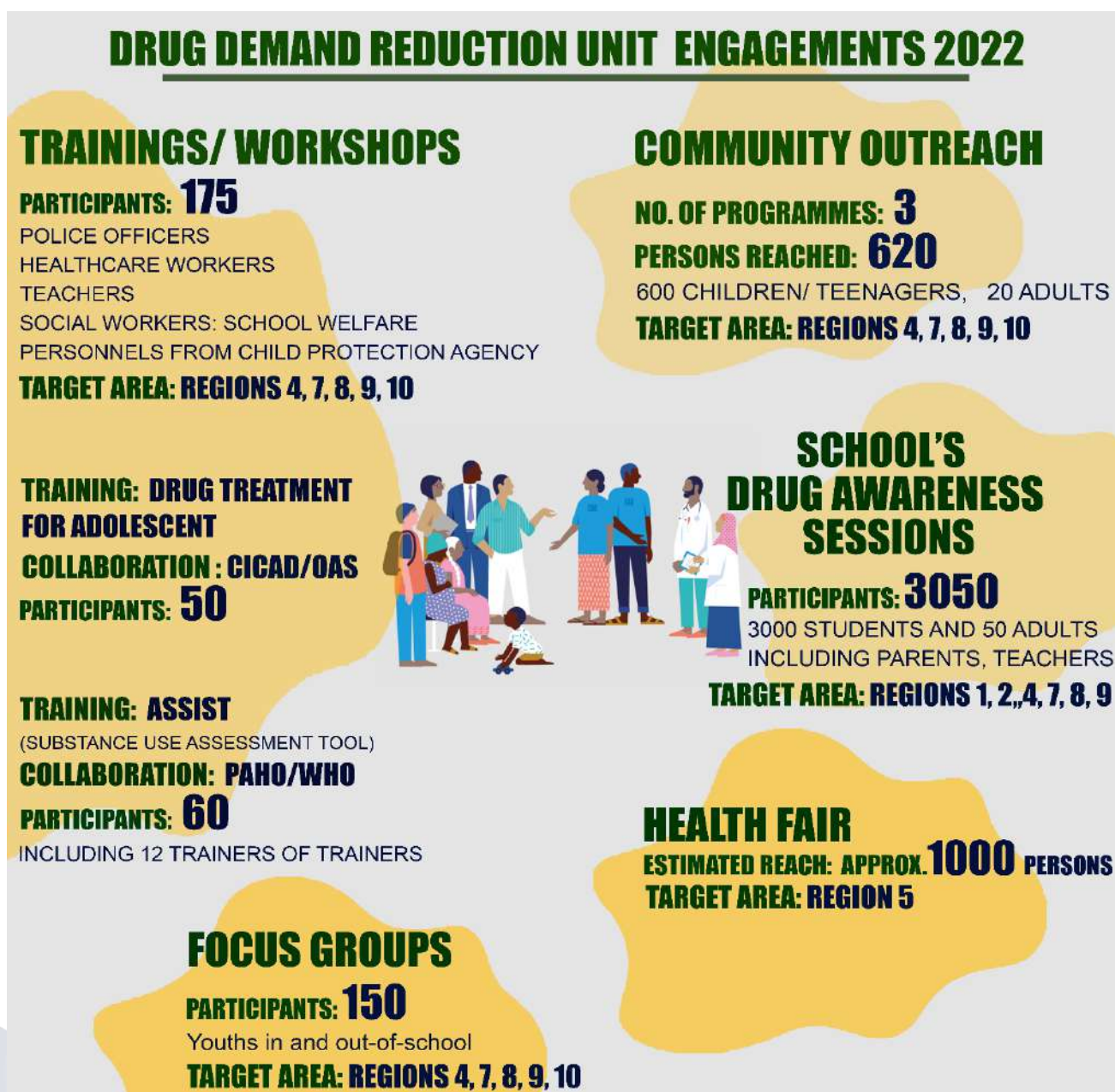
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION UNIT

During the review period, the Demand Reduction Unit implemented various prevention efforts targeting nearly 48,000 individuals across all 10 regions of Guyana. The initiatives included programs to prevent substance use and misuse in schools, focusing on seven specific regions: Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. This effort involved 48 secondary schools and 3 primary schools, benefiting approximately 9,000 students.



Throughout the reporting period, the Demand Reduction Unit implemented various initiatives, including Focus Group Discussions involving approximately 150 young individuals both enrolled and not enrolled in educational institutions. Additionally, the Unit

organized Training and Workshops for healthcare professionals and other stakeholders in Regions 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 districts, resulting in the training of 295 individuals. The Unit also facilitated drug counseling sessions benefiting a total of 682 individuals. Community Outreach initiatives were conducted in villages around Guyana, benefiting around 30,000 individuals. Moreover, over 6,000 individuals were reached through robust media campaigns in the Region 9 district.



Additionally in 2022, the Drug Demand Reduction Unit established five (5) new rehabilitation locations. These locations offered drug counselling to a total of 315 people and provided rehabilitation services to 150 individuals.

In 2023, the Ministry of Health's Demand Reduction Unit carried out numerous drug prevention activities, reaching approximately 30,000 individuals. The Unit conducted School Drug Awareness Sessions, visiting a total of 30 secondary schools and reaching an estimated 5000 young people. The sessions included a new drug prevention program called ⁷"Kick Drugs Out of School" and "After-School Drug Prevention and Zumba," which combined physical exercise with educational content. The program prioritized the acquisition of values and life skills through active engagement in Zumba, an aerobic exercise program incorporating movements from various Latin American dance traditions, accompanied by Latin American dance music. This initiative has shown its effectiveness in reducing risk factors such as low self-esteem, irregular school attendance, anxiety, despair, and disassociation from peers engaging in substance abuse. There was a significant decline in the percentage of young persons using cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and alcohol. The study also found a clear link between improved physical fitness, reduced risk factors, and patterns of drug consumption in young people.

Drug awareness sessions were also carried out in public sector workplaces. This initiative, part of the National Drug Strategy Masterplan and implemented by The Ministry of Health, involved educational sessions for employees. The sessions focused on raising awareness about the risks and consequences of drug use, promoting healthy lifestyles, identifying and supporting individuals with drug use issues, reducing stigma, ensuring policy awareness,

⁷ <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/active-future-programme-week-4-zumba-impact-alcohol-shane-o-donnell>

and providing strategies for managing stress. The sessions also aimed to educate workers on the detrimental effects of drug use on health, job performance, and personal life. Additionally, they sought to encourage healthier lifestyles, diminish stigma, and establish workplace standards pertaining to drug use.

The Unit organized five (5) training sessions with a strong emphasis on enhancing the abilities of healthcare workers and stakeholders. These workshops specifically targeted 120 professionals and focused on implementing modernized and innovative prevention methods.

The Unit provided counseling services to 367 individuals and rehabilitation to 203 individuals through both residential and non-residential drug treatment programs. Out of the total number, 10% were individuals referred by the magistrate court due to charges related to marijuana possession.

PHOTO GALLERY - DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION UNIT PROGRAMMES 2022 -2023



Capacity building workshop on drug prevention and treatment in Region 2- 2022



Capacity building workshop for community workers in Region 4



Capacity building workshop on drug prevention and treatment in Region 3. - 2022



School outreach and drug sensitization in Region 7, Waramdong primary - 2023



School outreach and drug sensitisation in Region 10 Kwakwani Secondary School and
Juma 2022



World Drug Day observance 2022

CHRONIC DISEASE UNIT

Chronic illnesses encompass conditions such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, respiratory disorders, and arthritis. These illnesses have historically been the leading causes of death and disability in developed nations. The Chronic Disease Unit plays a vital role in implementing tobacco control laws, offering tobacco awareness programs in schools, and providing tobacco cessation training. These efforts aim to reduce tobacco use in Guyana, improve public health, and lower the incidence of noncommunicable diseases linked to tobacco use.

For the period under review, the Unit has conducted tobacco sensitization at 37 schools within 7 administrative regions, primarily Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10, reaching approximately 5,535 students. Additionally, tobacco sensitization sessions were conducted at 33 health centers. In the Regional District 6 (East Berbice-Corentyne), tobacco awareness sessions benefitted a total of 140 healthcare workers.

The Ministry of Health's Chronic Disease Unit organized multiple training sessions in 2023, specifically focusing on the Tobacco Act and TAPS (Tobacco Advertising Promotion). These sessions benefitted around 310 individuals, including healthcare workers at the Lethem Regional Hospital in Region 9, law enforcement officers from the Customs Anti

Narcotic Unit (CANU) and the Guyana Police Force (GPF), as well as staff members from the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS).

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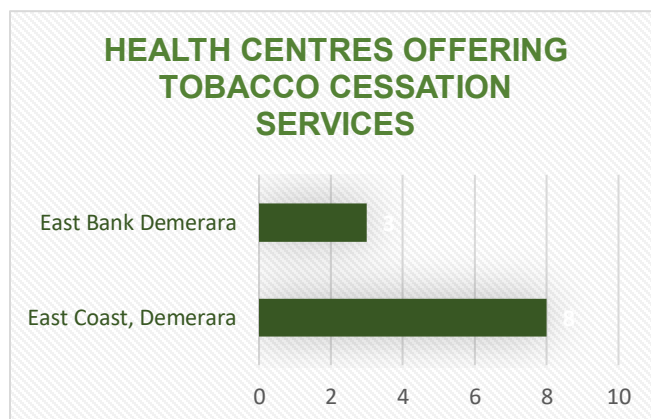
persons benefitted from trainings conducted by

THE CHRONIC DISEASES UNIT

**278 persons received training on the Tobacco Control Act
30 staff at Lethem Regional Hospital benefiting from the TAPS training**

A series of two-day training courses were conducted in six districts of Guyana, benefiting a total of 140 health personnel. The training covered topics such as the hazards of tobacco smoking, the Tobacco Control Act, and tobacco cessation.

The first Tobacco Cessation Clinic was established in 2023 at the Industry Health Centre, located on the East Coast of Demerara in Region 4. This clinic is part of the efforts by the Chronic Diseases Unit to significantly enhance the capacity of health centers. As a result, by the end of the reporting period, 11 health centers had



increased their ability to provide cessation treatments. Region 4 has a total of 11 health centers, with 8 situated on the East Coast of Demerara and 3 located on the East Bank of Demerara. Half of the health centers in Region 4 are in the capital city, Georgetown.

PHOTO GALLERY - CHRONIC DISEASE UNIT PROGRAMME 2022-2023



Guyana Smoke-Free and Taps Policies

PHOENIX RECOVERY PROJECT



PHOENIX Recovery Project, which is a non-governmental organisation is the only drug treatment facility in Guyana that has been offering services to female addicts. During 2022-2023, the treatment facility actively engaged in several Drug Prevention initiatives. In 2022, the NGO hosted a Drug Addiction and Rehabilitation Awareness Seminar, which was held with the congregation of a religious organisation.

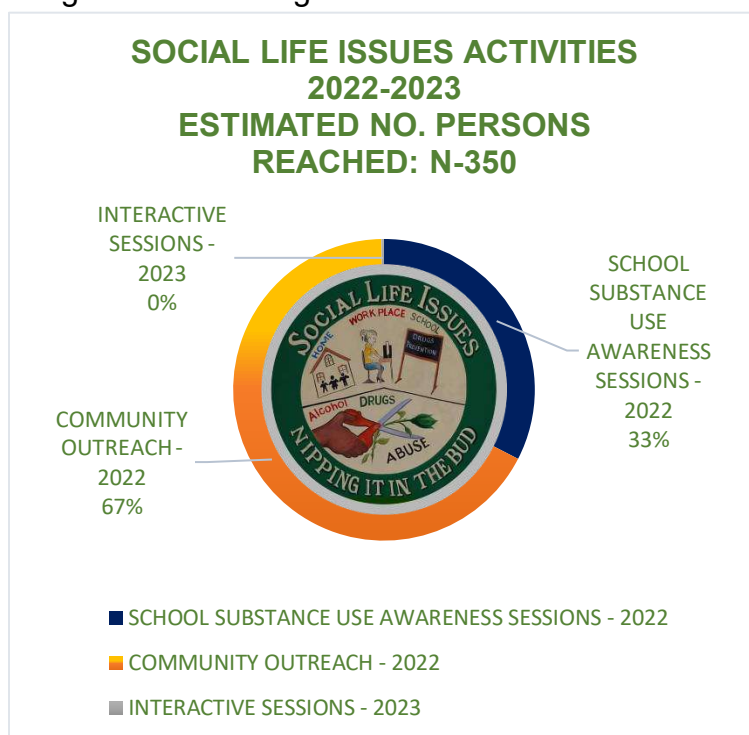
SOCIAL LIFE ISSUES (SLI)

Social Life Issues is a non-governmental agency that provides guidance and counseling services to individuals and families dealing with drug use/abuse and other related social issues. The organization's main objective is to promote drug awareness by emphasizing:

- The negative consequences and risks associated with substance use.
- Methods for managing stress and reducing substance abuse.
- Engage in discussions with individuals in the process of recovering from drug addiction.
- Provide guidance to parents on managing and addressing issues that impact adolescents.

For the period under review, the non-governmental organization carried out numerous initiatives in the Region 4 area.

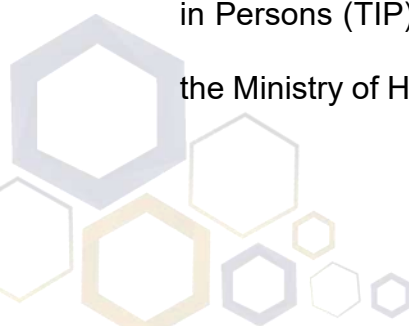
Activities included raising awareness about substance use at schools located on the West Coast Demerara and the East Bank Demerara, as well as a community outreach program in Kuru Kururu or Newtown Settlement on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. They also



conducted interactive sessions known as "one-on-one in-person talks". These activities benefitted an estimated total of 350 individuals including 114 students, consisting of 58 males, 56 females ranging from 10-14 years.

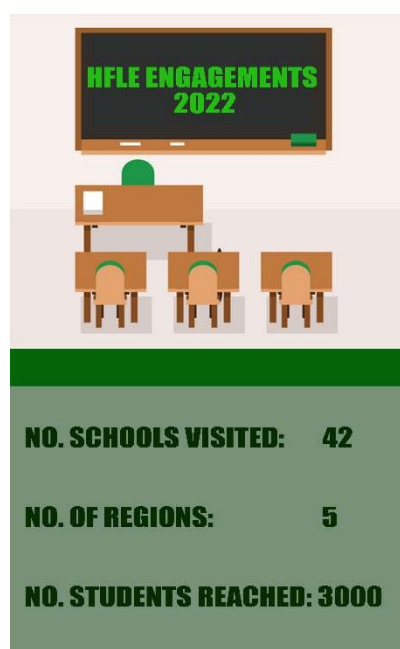
INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, which also serves as the country's National Drug Authority, has partnered with the Ministry of Education, Health, and Family Life Education Department (HFLE) to conduct Drug Use Awareness Sessions at schools throughout Guyana. These sessions involve the participation of both students and teachers. The CANU also collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), which involved the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Fire Service, and the Ministry of Human Services. These collaborations focused on raising awareness about



drug trafficking, drug use, and the consequences of these activities, as well as trafficking in persons and arms, among other topics. The workshops included the participation of students, teachers, professionals from many public sectors, and were conducted via awareness sessions held at schools and community outreach programs.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (HFLE) AND CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT



In 2022, the Ministry of Education, Health, and Family Life Education Department organized educational sessions at a total of forty-two (42) schools located in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10. These sessions focused on topics such as social awareness skills, sexuality and sexual health, proper nutrition and physical fitness, drug trafficking, and the consequences of drug use and abuse, among other themes. The sessions impacted a total of 2000 students in grades 7-10, as well as 800 students in grade 11.

During the same time frame, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit

(CANU) and the Health and Family Life Education

Department collaborated to organize drug

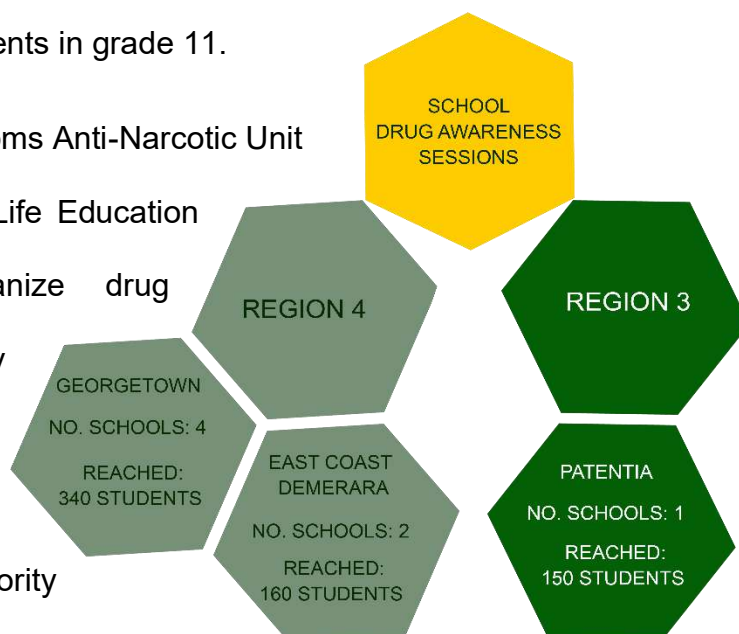
awareness programs at secondary

schools. These sessions reached

approximately 650 students in grades

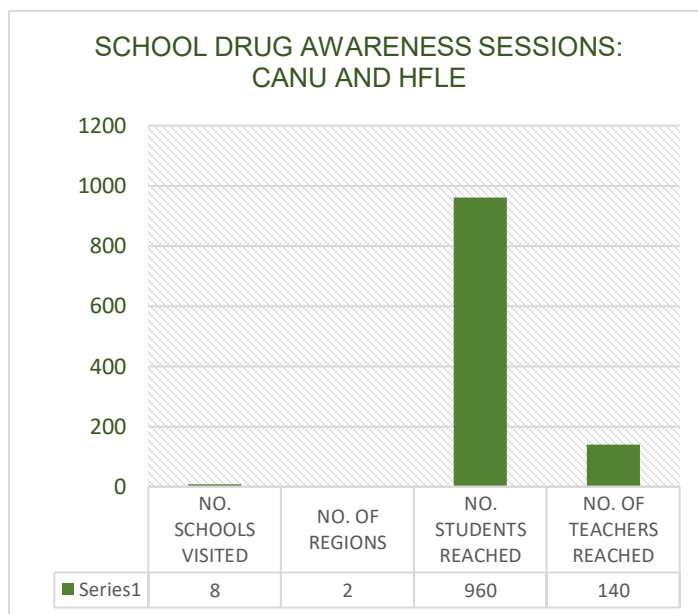
7-9 located in Regions 4 and 3. A majority

of 57% of the schools visited were situated in

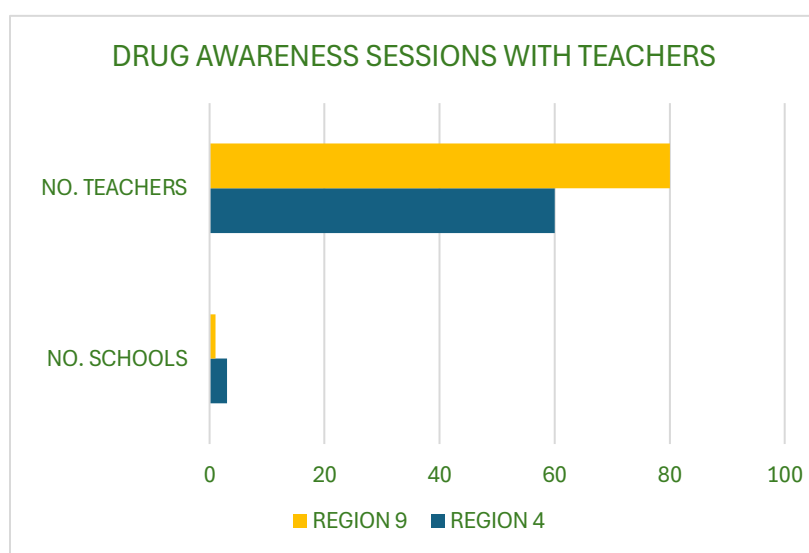


Georgetown. Additionally, CANU conducted additional school interventions at the Ministry's request.

In 2023, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the HFLE department of the Ministry of Education conducted multiple drug awareness sessions at eight (8) schools, mostly located in the capital city of Georgetown in Region 4, as well as in Region 9. The purpose of these sessions was to provide benefits for both students and Teachers.



During the specified period, three (3) drug awareness sessions were held, specifically aimed at teachers. These sessions aimed to increase teachers' awareness of various types of drugs, educate them about identifying different drugs, inform them about current drug trends among young people, and highlight common methods of concealing drugs for



smuggling into schools. The training also provided instructors with the expertise to manage a student who is suspected to be under the influence of drugs or who may have lost consciousness due to suspected drug usage.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (HFLE) AND CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT



School-Based Intervention at North Georgetown Secondary



School-Based Intervention at Richard Ishmael Secondary School.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (TIP) AND CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT

In 2022, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit Participated in School Awareness Sessions organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons (TIP). During the period under review, several schools located within 6 villages in the Region 9 district were visited.

2023

In the year 2023, a total of fifteen (15) secondary schools from the Regions 3, 4, 5 and 6 areas were privy to drug awareness sessions. These were conducted with students mostly from grades 9 to 11. Schools visited during the sensitisation were: West Minster Secondary, La Venture Secondary, Endeavour and the Commons Secondary, Bygevel Secondary, Mahaicony Secondary, Novar Secondary, Woodley Park Secondary, No.8

Secondary, Belladrum Secondary, Fort Wellington Secondary Berbice High School, Vryman Erven Secondary, Rosignol Secondary, and Bushlot Secondary. These exercises benefitted some 2500 students from grades 9 to 11 specifically.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (TIP) AND CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT



Sensitization Outreach in Lethem About Drug Use in Schools and the community.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Seven (7) male applicants for the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) Programme submitted applications for the year 2022; their ages ranged from between 18-42 years old. The applicants underwent the necessary prerequisite evaluations; an initial drug test, a social inquiry report by a Probation and Social Service Officer, substance misuse evaluation, and Psychiatric and Psychological evaluations. Four (4) of the applicants were deemed eligible and were allowed to participate in the programme. The participants' illicit substances of choice were Marijuana and Cocaine. Treatment was conducted utilising an outpatient modality via substance misuse counselling at the Ministry of Health's Drug Demand Reduction Unit.



For the year 2023, the Drug Treatment Court recorded having a total of six (6) applicants for the programmes offered, all of whom were males; the ages of the applicants ranged from 18 – 56 years old. The illicit substances of choice were marijuana, cocaine, benzodiazepines, amphetamines, and ecstasy. Two (2) out of the total number of applicants, were deemed eligible and allowed to participate in the DTC programme. One (1) applicant has a pending matter before the court with two (2) participants completing the programme and graduating during the said period.

Treatment options included substance misuse counselling at the Ministry of Health's Drug Demand Reduction Unit, court supervision through frequent status hearings and twice-weekly drug testing, and monitoring visits to the home and or workplace by a Probation Officer accompanied by a police officer.

NEW OPPORTUNITY CORPS

The New Opportunity Corps operates in compliance with the Juvenile Justice Act of 2018. The purpose of this legislation is to provide young people with technical, vocational, entrepreneurial, and life skills to foster personal and national growth within a structured framework. Additionally, it emphasizes social reintegration for young offenders who were sentenced to prison and offers a facility that aligns with the detention level determined by the court. The organisation maintains a secure residential facility for the custody, education and rehabilitation of juveniles who are sentenced by the Court.

For the year 2022 under review, the New Opportunity Corps reported an intake of five (5) male students; they were exposed to remedial and vocational skills. In August, thirty-eight (38) youths were registered at the facility as part of Juvenile and Community Skills Training.

2023

The facility reports for the year 2023, five (5) students were enlisted, one (1) of whom was later discharged in October of the said year upon completion of his sentence. Intake ranged from three (3) months to two (2) years and covered offences such as escape from lawful custody, breaking and entering, and robbery under arms. None of the students were sentenced for narcotic-related crimes

THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

GFSL

GUYANA FORENSIC
SCIENCE LABORATORY



SUPPLY REDUCTION



DRUG SUPPLY

Reducing the availability of drugs is crucial in the fight against drug abuse and its harmful effects. It limits access to drugs, thus decreasing the likelihood of individuals starting or continuing drug use. This approach is particularly effective in discouraging young people from experimenting with or using drugs regularly.

The strategy of reducing drug supply aims to dismantle criminal networks involved in drug production, distribution, and sale, thereby undermining organized crime. This also leads to a decrease in drug-related violence, making communities safer.

The public health benefits include a reduction in drug-related health issues such as overdoses, and other health problems associated with drug use. From an economic perspective, reducing drug supply leads to favorable economic outcomes by reducing expenses linked to drug-related criminal activities, healthcare costs, and lost productivity. Additionally, it enhances national security by reducing the financial resources of drug trafficking organizations, thus weakening their operational capacity and posing a threat to domestic and global security.

Efforts to reduce drug supply complement measures to reduce demand by creating an environment where the use of illegal substances is less socially acceptable and more difficult to sustain. By reducing the availability of illegal drugs, it is possible to promote the development of lawful businesses and industries.

DRUG SUPPLY GLOBALLY

To effectively address the growing problems surrounding the trafficking and accessibility of illegal substances, organizations and governments must sustain collaborative efforts to tackle these complex concerns. In the timeframe of 2022-2023, several groups released papers that emphasised concerns over various subjects, including the resurgence of synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyl, to pre-pandemic levels and the expansion of illicit drug markets, creating public health issues.⁸ While there have been some advancements in the management of the global drug supply, issues such as unequal availability of drugs and the complexities of illegal drug markets persist. The efforts of international organisations, as well as collaboration among countries, play a vital role in addressing these concerns and advancing global health and safety.

DRUG SUPPLY REGIONALLY

The drug supply in South America is increasing significantly. Colombia remains a key producer, with the potential for output to increase from 1,120 tonnes in 2018 to 1,738 tonnes in 2022. This may lead to significant financial gains for transnational organized crime. The production and trafficking of cocaine have expanded beyond traditional regions like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. Other areas, such as Venezuela, Guatemala, and Honduras, have recently joined in cocaine manufacturing, using methods similar to those utilized in Colombia. The Caribbean has become a major transit hub for cocaine heading to Europe. Countries like the Dominican Republic, due to their strategically located ports and airports,

⁸ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr-2023-online-segment.html>



have experienced a rise in cocaine seizures. European territories in the Caribbean, including the French, Dutch, and British islands, are used for drug trafficking due to their strategic advantages and direct links to Europe. The increasing cocaine production and trafficking networks have led to significant challenges, including heightened violence, corruption, and political instability in various areas of South America and the Caribbean.

DRUG SUPPLY LOCALLY

Guyana has been working hard to reduce drug supply by implementing a comprehensive strategy. This involves strengthening local institutions, collaborating more with foreign partners, and aligning actions with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy. They have also adhered to the National Drug Strategy Master Plan (NDSMP) 2022-2026, which focuses on areas such as Demand Reduction, Treatment and Prevention, Supply Reduction, Risk and Protective Factors, Institutional Strengthening, and International Cooperation. The plan emphasizes actions to deconstruct drug trafficking networks, enhance border security, and strengthen legal measures to reduce the accessibility of illegal narcotics.

The nation is facing numerous challenges related to illicit drug trafficking. These issues include the smuggling of cocaine from neighboring countries in the Andean Region of South America, using air and sea routes. The drug is then transshipped to North America, Africa, and Europe via airplanes, high-speed boats, and cargo containers. The country is also dealing with the issue of illicit cannabis cultivation and is concerned that some of the narcotic cultivated is trafficked to neighboring countries and the Caribbean. Additionally, psychotropic substances like ecstasy, methamphetamines, and amphetamines, originating in Europe, are trafficked into our nation from countries located on our eastern borders.



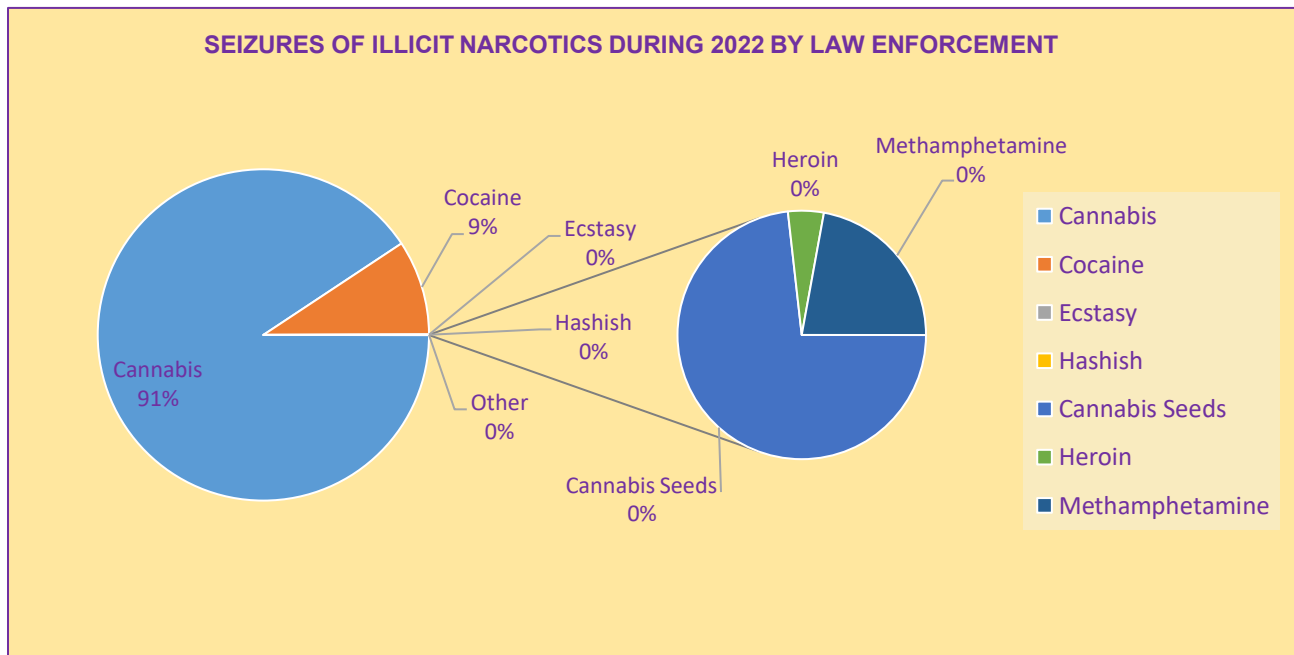
The Government continuously supports the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Revenue Authority, the Guyana Defence Force, and the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) to detect and prevent drug shipments. These agencies work collaboratively, enhancing surveillance, gathering intelligence, and conducting operations aiming to reduce illicit drug trafficking, apprehend and prosecute drug traffickers, and dismantle criminal networks nationwide. Guyana is committed to fighting the illegal drug trade by strengthening counter-drug agencies, making significant drug seizures and prosecutions, and promoting cooperation at local, regional, and global levels. Additionally, the country continuously reviews and enhances its drug policies.



NARCOTIC SEIZURES

NARCOTIC SEIZURE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2022

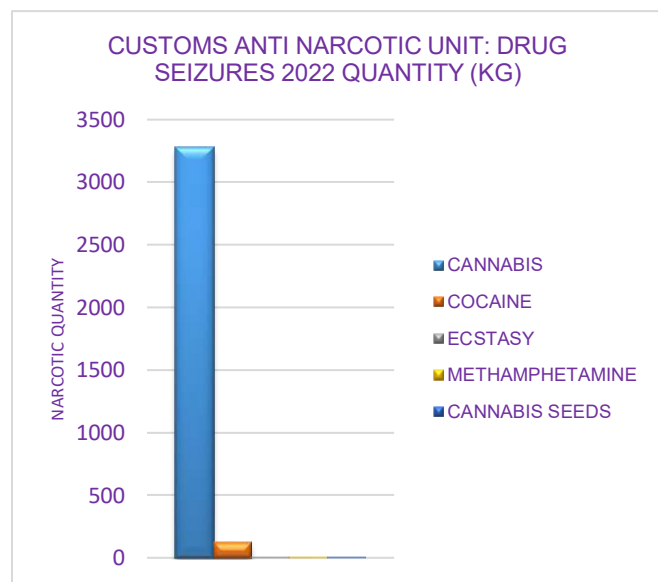
In 2022, law enforcement authorities seized a total of 4,485.11 kg of narcotics. This seizure included approximately 4,066.92 kg of cannabis, 415.81 kg of cocaine, 1.01 kg of ecstasy, 1 kg of cannabis seeds, 63.5 grams of heroin, 5 grams of hashish, and 302.6 grams of methamphetamine.



During the year, Cannabis seized accounted for the most significant quantity of narcotics seized for the period, accounting for 91%, with a percentage difference of 164% of the other narcotic types seized during the same period. Cocaine seizures accounted for 9%. The different types of illicit substances seized by Law Enforcement were small in quantity in comparison to cocaine and cannabis.

SEIZURES BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2022

In 2022, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit conducted several operations that resulted in 127



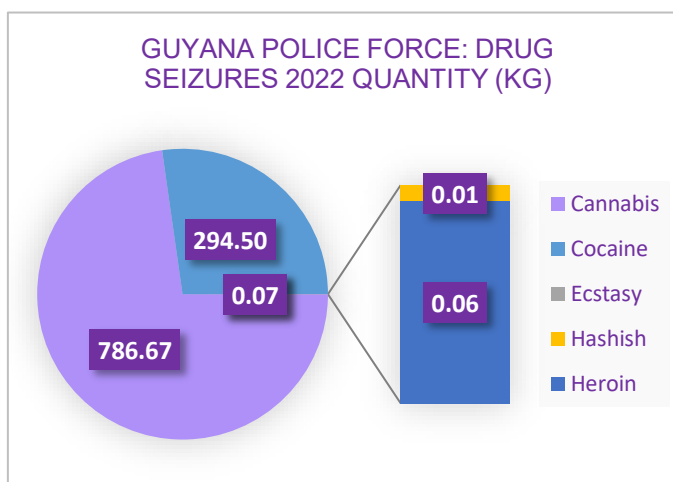
seizures, yielding a total of 3,403.68 kilograms (7,488 lbs.) of narcotics. These seizures included 3,280.25 kilograms of cannabis, 121.31 kilograms of cocaine, 1 kilogram of cannabis seeds, 818.7 grams of ecstasy, and 302.6 grams of methamphetamine. Cannabis was the most frequently targeted drug, accounting

for 96% of the total narcotics seized. Cocaine was the second most confiscated substance, making up 4% of the total with 31 seizures. While additional seizures of cannabis seeds, ecstasy, and methamphetamine occurred, the amounts were still less compared to cannabis and cocaine.

Seizures occurred in several regions of Guyana: Region 3 - Essequibo Islands-West Demerara, Region 4 - Demerara-Mahaica, Region 6 - East Berbice-Corentyne, Region 9 - Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo, and Region 10 - Upper Demerara-Berbice.

SEIZURES BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2022

In 2022, the Narcotics Branch of the Guyana Police Force seized a total of 1,081.43 kilograms of narcotics. This included 786.67 kg of cannabis, 294.50 kg of cocaine, approximately 193.4 grams of ecstasy (MDMA), 63.5 grams of heroin, and 5 grams of hashish. During this period, cannabis represented the most significant quantity of narcotics seized, accounting for 73% of all drugs confiscated. Cocaine followed, making up 24% of the total amount. The amounts of seized heroin, ecstasy, and hashish were significantly lower in comparison.



GUYANA POLICE FORCE: NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2022	
NARCOTIC TYPE	QUANTITY (KG)
Cannabis	786.67 kg
Cocaine	294.50 kg
Ecstasy	193.4 g
Hashish	5 g
Heroin	63.5

PHOTO GALLERY - NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2022 (GPF)



FIGURE 1 - 42KG (92 LBS.) OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT JOHANNA CECELIA, ESSEQUIBO COAST



FIGURE 3 - 52,617 GRAMS OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT TEMPIE VILLAGE, WEST COAST BERBICE



FIGURE 5 - 3761.7 GRAMS OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT WATOOKA MAIN ROAD IN LINDEN.



FIGURE 2 - 30.84 KG OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT A ROAD



FIGURE 4 - 6,764 GRAMS OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT LOVELY LASS VILLAGE, WEST COAST



FIGURE 6 - 18LBS. OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT MEADOW BANK.

PHOTO GALLERY - NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2022 (CANU)



FIGURE 1 - 717 KGS CANNABIS SEIZED AT DE VELDT ALONG THE UPPER BERBICE RIVER.



Figure 2 - 24.63KGS COCAINE SEIZED AT DEMERARA SHIPPING LIMITED, LOMBARD STREET, GEORGETOWN



Figure 3 - 19.593 KGS CANNABIS SEIZED AT YARROWKABRA, ON THE LINDEN SOESDYKE HIGHWAY



Figure 4 - 18.370 KGS CANNABIS SEIZED AT EUGENE F. CORREIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Figure 7 - 5.274 KG. COCAINE SEIZED AT EUGENE F. CORREIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Figure 6 - 11.4 KGS COCAINE SEIZED AT SHANTINIKETAN STREET, PRASHAD NAGAR, GEORGETOWN.

PHOTO GALLERY - NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2023 (GPF)



FIGURE 3 1,361 G CANNABIS SEIZED AT THE WESTERN END OF THE DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE.



FIGURE 2 1,927 G (4.2 LBS.) COCAINE SEIZED AT BAMIA HIGHWAY (CHECK-POINT).



FIGURE 1 48,750 G CANNABIS DISCOVERED IN THE STORAGE AT REPUBLIC PARK, EAST



FIGURE 4 1,362 G CANNABIS SEIZED AT BROTHESON PUMP, CANJE RIVER. THERE WAS ALSO A DISCOVERY OF A BERETTA PISTOL WITH SIX LIVE ROUNDS IN THE MAGAZINE AND 15 LIVE ROUNDS.



FIGURE 5 5 LBS. OF CANNABIS SEIZED AT WELDAAD POLICE STATION (CHECKPOINT)



FIGURE 6 14,900 GRAMMES (32 LBS) CANNABIS SEIZED IN THE VICINITY OF THE ITUNI POLICE STATION.



FIGURE 7 3.186 KGS OF CANNABIS AT ITABALLI LANDING, LOWER MAZARUNI RIVER.

PHOTO GALLERY - NARCOTIC SEIZURES 2023 (CANU)



FIGURE 1- 59 KGS OF CANNABIS HIDDEN IN BARRELS DISCOVERED AT A PREMISES LOCATED AT NORTON STREET AND LOUISA ROW WORTMANVILLE.



FIGURE 2- 13.4 KG OF CANNABIS WAS DISCOVERED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE AT ZEELUGT NEW HOUSING SCHEME, EAST BANK ESSEQUIBO.



FIGURE 3- 24.8 KG OF CANNABIS (CREEPY WEED) WAS DISCOVERED AT TUSCHEN NEW HOUSING SCHEME, EAST BANK ESSEQUIBO.



FIGURE 4- 10.52 KG OF COCAINE WAS DISCOVERED AT THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL HOUSING SCHEME, EAST BANK DEMERARA.



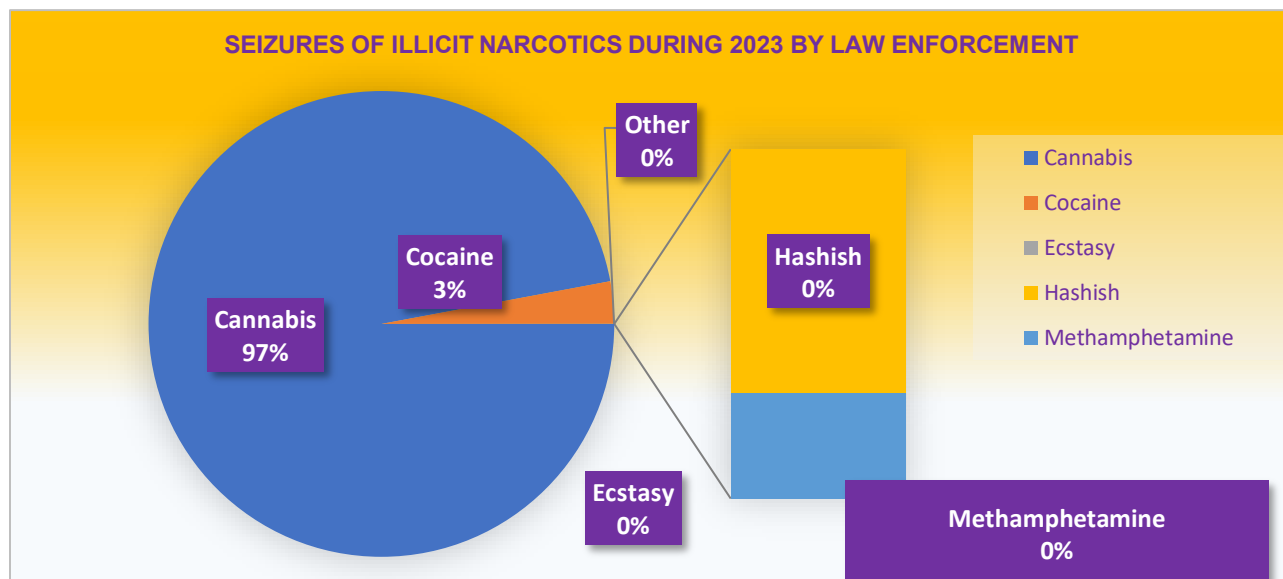
FIGURE 5- SEIZURE OF CANNABIS WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY 180.6 KG IN NUMBER 51 VILLAGE, CORENTYNE BERBICE.



FIGURE 6 - APPROXIMATELY 30 LBS. (13.34 KG) OF IMPORTED CANNABIS SEIZED IN CHARITY, ESSEQUIBO, WHEN A MOTOR VEHICLE WAS INTERCEPTED.

QUANTITY OF DRUG SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2023

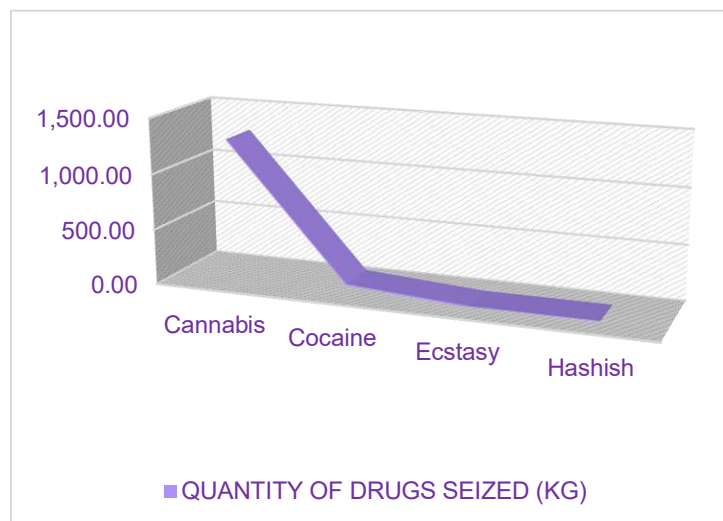
In 2023, law enforcement authorities seized a total of 2,910.99 kilograms of narcotics. This included 2,825.46 kilograms of cannabis, approximately 85.18 kilograms of cocaine, around 205.2 grams of ecstasy, 102 grams of hashish, and approximately 44.06 grams of methamphetamine.



Cannabis accounted for the largest quantity of narcotics seized with a percentage difference of 188% related to the amount of the other types of drugs seized during the period. During the period, cocaine seizures accounted for 3% of the total seizures. During the period, the agencies also made seizures of ecstasy (MDMA) and methamphetamine. Note, that ecstasy was in the form of pills and powder, while methamphetamine was in crystalline forms and pills.



SEIZURES BY CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT FOR 2023



DRUG TYPE	QUANTITY OF DRUGS SEIZED (KG)	NO. SEIZURES
Cannabis	1,287.88	74
Cocaine	75.17	18
Ecstasy	0.124	3
Hashish	0.102	1

In 2023, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit conducted a total of ninety-six (96) operations, leading to the seizure of 1363.28 kilogrammes (3,005 lbs.) of illicit substances. These confiscated narcotics encompassed 75.17 kilogrammes of cocaine, 1,287.88 kilogrammes of cannabis, 123.9 grams of ecstasy, and 102 grams of hashish.

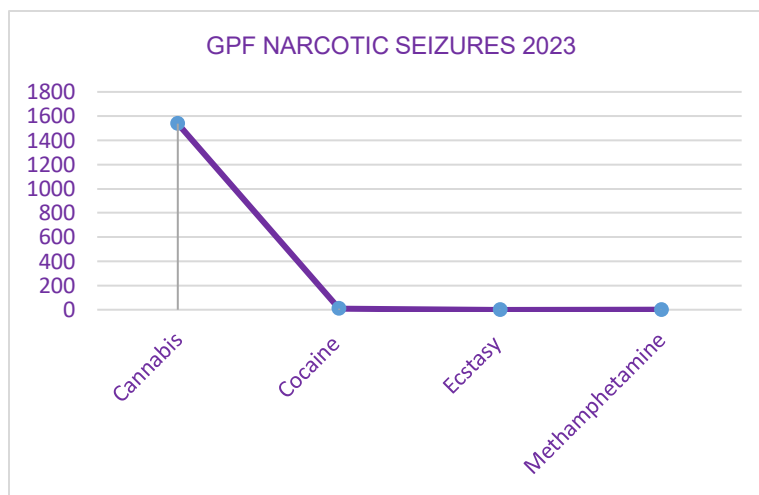
The Unit recorded seizures occurring in regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 during

2023. The Unit seized narcotics, primarily consisting of 94% cannabis and 6% cocaine. The seizures of ecstasy and hashish were relatively lower in percentage throughout the period.



SEIZURES BY GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH FOR 2023

The Guyana Police Force Narcotics Branch for 2023 seized 1,547.71 kilogrammes of narcotics. The seizures included cannabis amounting to approximately 1,537.58 kilogrammes, cocaine amounting to approximately 10.01 kilogrammes, ecstasy amounting to approximately 81.2 grams, and methamphetamine amounting to approximately 44.06 grams. The quantity of cannabis seized was



significantly more significant compared to other forms of seized narcotics by the GPF over time. Cannabis represented 99% of the total drugs seized, with a percentage difference of 196%.

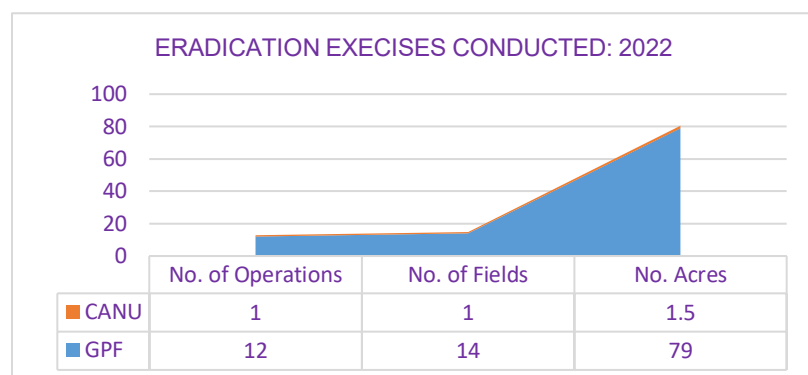




ERADICATION

The eradication of illicit crops is a vital strategy aimed at reducing drug consumption and trafficking. It disrupts supply chains, reduces drug production, weakens the economic power of trafficking organisations, and prevents drug abuse. It also promotes alternative livelihoods, improves public health, and strengthens legal and political institutions. By making drugs less accessible and more expensive, it undermines the financial stability of trafficking organisations. Furthermore, these efforts support the development of alternative sources of income, community growth, and strength. In Guyana, the cultivation of cannabis is the only illegal drug production. Law enforcement, with government assistance, is actively working to reduce cannabis cultivation through eradication operations. Several exercises were carried out during the 2022-2023, with some executed through inter-agency cooperation.

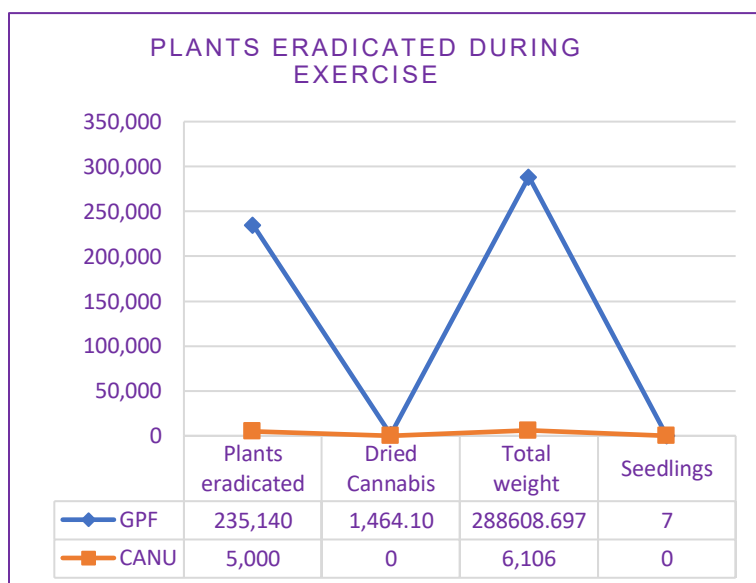
LAW ENFORCEMENT: ERADICATION EXERCISES 2022

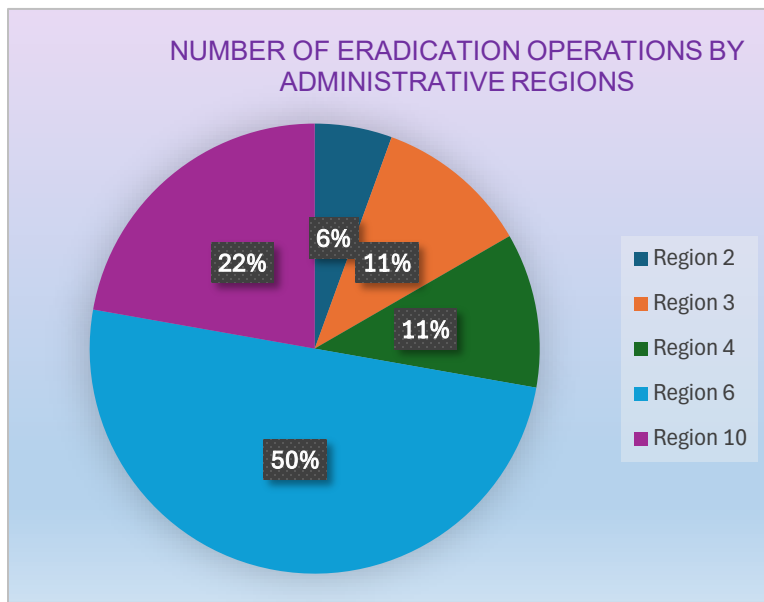


In 2022, law enforcement conducted thirteen (13) operations, including seventeen (17) eradication efforts. These operations resulted in the

discovery of fifteen (15) cannabis fields covering approximately 80.5 acres of land. The Guyana Police Force was responsible for 92% of these activities.

A total of 1,464.10 kg of cannabis and seven seedlings were found, and approximately 249,140 cannabis plants were destroyed. The combined weight of the eradicated plants and the dried cannabis that was discovered was estimated to be 294714.5 kg.





During 2022, Law enforcement's eradication exercises were conducted in Regions 2,3,4,6 and 10. The most significant number of eradication exercises occurred in the Region 6 district, with nine (9) separate exercises spanning 76 acres and covering nine fields. These eradications led to the

discovery and eradication of 208,000 plants and 845,682 kgs of dried cannabis. The eradication operations in the village of Gaetroy, situated in the Upper Berbice River, revealed extensive cultivation of cannabis, covering the largest area of land and the highest number of plants. The eradication efforts in Region 10 led to the removal of over 27,000 plants from a two-acre area, with most of the work taking place at Fort Nassau settlement in the Upper Berbice River. In Region 4, three eradication exercises were carried out during the specified period, eliminating 9,500 plants across 1.5 acres of land.

In 2022, a total of eight individuals were arrested during these exercises.

ERADICATION 2022: CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT

The Unit conducted two eradication exercises in response to the discovery of cannabis cultivation in Nabaclis Village and Victoria on the East Coast of Demerara. The Unit uncovered approximately 9000 cannabis plants and seedlings on a one-and-a-half-acre plot of land. In addition, officers discovered 1 kilogram of assorted seeds and desiccated cannabis. A single individual was arrested and charged.

ERADICATION 2022: GUYANA POLICE FORCE NARCOTICS BRANCH

The GPF conducted 13 operations, leading to the discovery of 15 fields spanning 80.5 acres combined. The operations removed 235,140 plants and 1,464.10 kilograms of dried cannabis for a total weight of 288608.697 kilograms. Additionally, eight individuals were apprehended.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: ERADICATION EXERCISES 2023

The Guyana Police Force Narcotics Branch was the only agency to conduct eradication exercises in 2023. During this period, the organisation carried out twenty-one (21) operations, identifying fifteen (15) fields covering a total of one hundred thirty-one (131) acres across Regions 2, 6, 9, and 10. These operations led to the destruction of 787,449 plants and the seizure of 1,060,608 kilogrammes of dried cannabis, weighing a total of 1,665,212 kilograms. Additionally, one individual was arrested and prosecuted during this period.

MONTH	NO. OF OPERATIONS	NO. OF FIELDS	NO. OF ACRES	NO. OF PLANTS	TOTAL WEIGHT (KG)	DRIED CANNABIS (KG)
SEP	1		2	500	550	
NOV	1	7	14	10,500	23,100	1587.573
AUG	2	2	2	1,005	1,106	0.088
JAN	4	3	10 1/2	13,525	14,877	226.484
APR	3	2	14	197000	398200.2	1020283.634
MAY	1		7	2000	2200	226.86
MAY	1		2	300	660	36401
NOV	4		48	149700	285670	277
OCT	1		0.25	51.7		
MAR	1	1	3	4,995	11,052.2	17.634
JUL	1		27	406,000	886,600	1588
APR	1		1	1,872	41,197	
TOTAL	21	15	131	787,449	1,665,212	1,060,608

The majority of the eradication operations took place in the Region 6 district, with a total of 16 exercises. This represents a significant difference of over 137% compared to the other regions. Following that, Region 10 conducted three exercises, while Regions 2 and 9 conducted one exercise each.

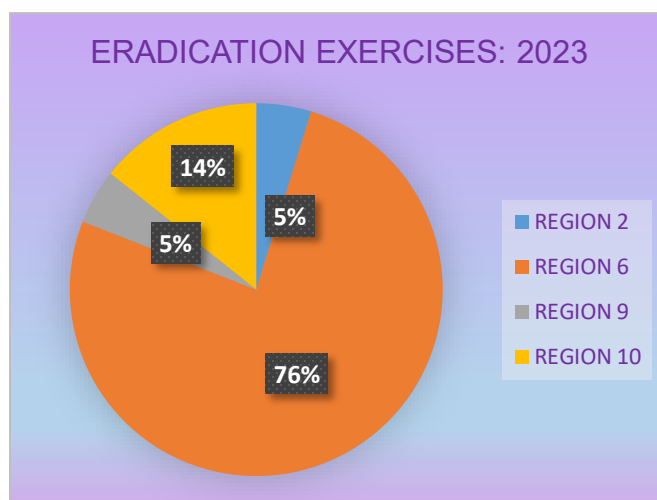




FIGURE 9 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT CALABASH CREEK, CANJE RIVER, BERBICE



FIGURE 8 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT EBINI TRAIL, UPPER BERBICE RIVER



FIGURE 10 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT DE VELDT, UPPER BERBICE RIVER



FIGURE 4 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT NABACLIS VILLAGE, EAST COAST, DEMERARA

PHOTO GALLERY - LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ERADICATION EXERCISES 2023



FIGURE 11 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT UPPER BERBICE RIVER



FIGURE 6 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT ONDERNEEMING BACKLANDS ON THE ESSEQUIBO COAST.



FIGURE 12 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT IKURUWA CREEK LOCATED IN THE CANJE RIVER, BERBICE.



FIGURE 7 ERADICATION EXERCISE AT ONDERNEEMING SAND PIT, ESSEQUIBO COAST.

DESTRUCTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2022

During the reporting period, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) destroyed over 1500 kg (almost 3400 lbs.) of cannabis valued at over US\$2 million. The exercise was conducted at the old Ministry of Housing compound, Homestretch Avenue, Georgetown. The narcotics destroyed, were seized by CANU in 2021. The narcotic destruction exercise was observed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Robeson Benn, the Permanent Secretary, Ms. Mae Toussaint Jr. Thomas, Mr. James Singh, Head of CANU, and other senior members of the Unit.

PHOTO GALLERY DESTRUCTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2022



DESTRUCTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2023

During the reporting period, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) destroyed 1,604.46 kgs of narcotics consisting of 140.69 kgs of cocaine and 1468.78 kgs of local and foreign marijuana. The street value of cocaine was approximately 140 million GYD, equivalent to USD 680,000 and Cannabis was approximately GYD 440 million, equivalent to 2 million USD. The exercise was conducted at the old Ministry of Housing compound, Homestretch Avenue, Georgetown.

PHOTO GALLERY - DESTRUCTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2023





DRUG SUPPLY: CRIMES

The production, distribution, and sale of controlled substances are classified as drug supply crimes and are illegal activities. These offences can be categorised into five main areas: manufacturing, trafficking, marketing, possession with intent to supply, and conspiracy to supply.

- **Manufacturing** involves creating chemical substances or cultivating plants for sale.
- **Trafficking** refers to the transportation, distribution, or importation of illicit drugs across borders, often facilitated by organised criminal networks.
- **Selling** is the act of distributing or selling narcotics to individuals, typically at a local or street level.
- **Possession with intent to supply** occurs when an individual holds a quantity of drugs intending to sell or distribute them.
- **Conspiracy to supply** involves two or more individuals planning or agreeing to supply narcotics.

These offences contribute to the spread of illicit substances, which can lead to heightened addiction rates, increased crime, and various social issues. Penalties for drug supply offences can be severe, often including asset forfeiture, substantial fines, and lengthy prison sentences.

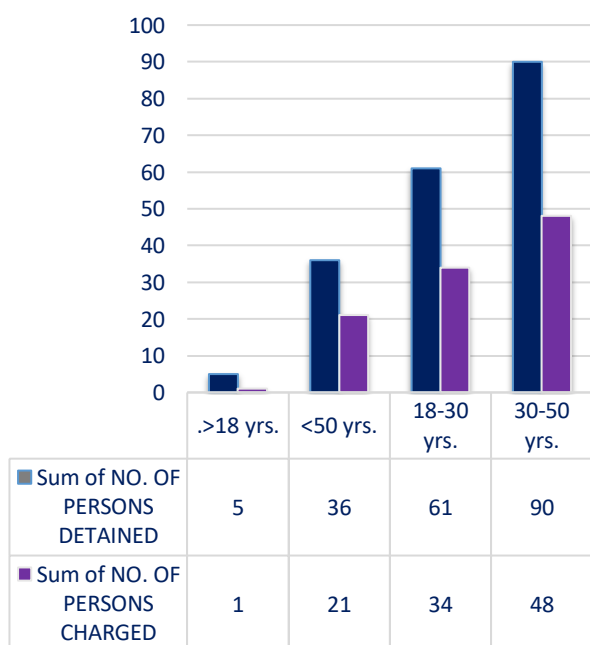
GUYANA DRUG SUPPLY CRIMES: 2022-2023

During 2022-2023, Law Enforcement in Guyana, specifically the Drug Enforcement entities, with the Government's support, worked diligently to curb the flow of drugs in the country, with a collective aim of creating safer communities for all of Guyana. During the reporting period, Law Enforcement was responsible for the arrested a total of seven hundred ninety-two (792) persons for various types of drugs, six hundred sixty-two (662) persons for cannabis, one hundred seventeen (117) persons for cocaine, eleven (11) persons for ecstasy, one (1) person for heroin and one (1) person for hashish. The number of persons convicted was three hundred nine (309) persons.

ARREST AND CONVICTION - CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT 2022

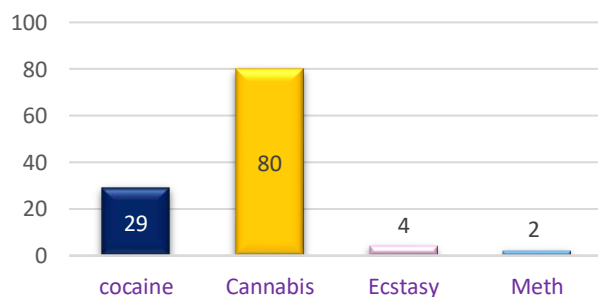
In 2022, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit charged 98 individuals, filed 115 charges, and made 186 arrests for drug offences. At the end of the reporting period, 43 people were

AGE RANGE OF PRESONS
ARRESTED AND CHARGED BY
CANU IN 2022



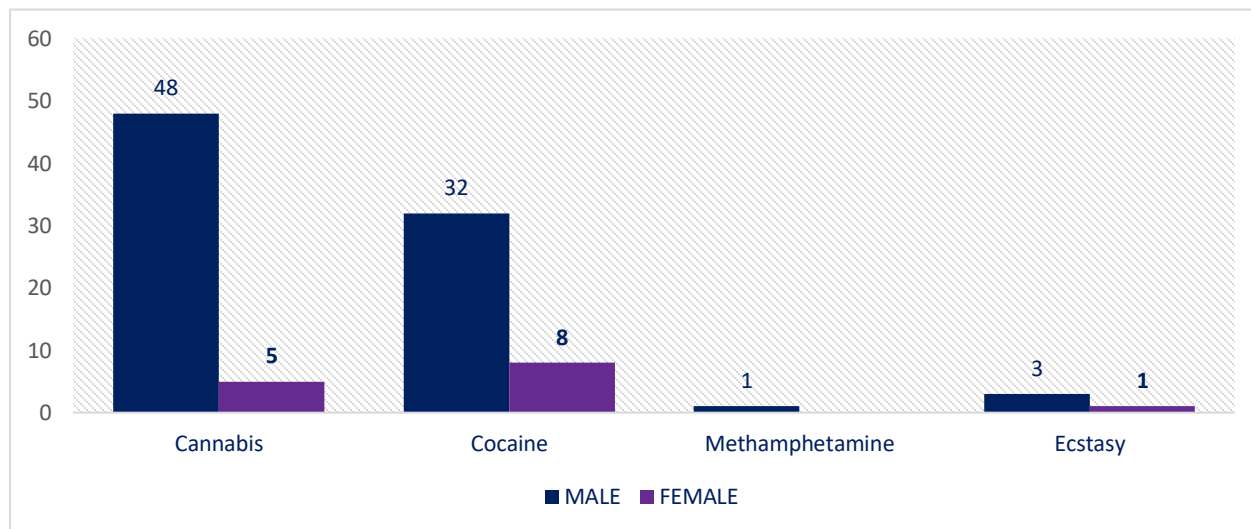
found guilty of their offences, while the Unit had 106 active cases and 42 convictions.

CASES MADE BY NARCOTIC TYPE 2022



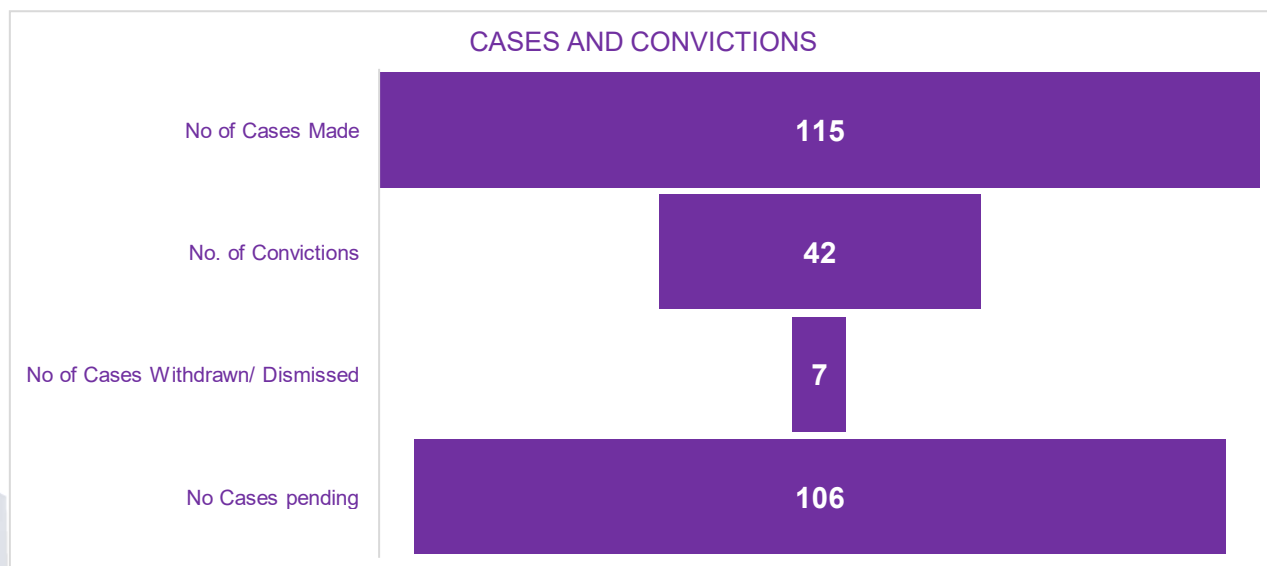
Four different categories of narcotic drugs were included in the cases that the Unit filed throughout the reporting period. Cannabis

accounted for 70% of the instances before it was followed by cocaine (25%), ecstasy (3%), methamphetamine (4%), and cannabis (7%).



It was noted that most of those in the Unit's custody were between 18 and 30 years and 30 to 50 years. Similarly, most of the accused fell into the same age bracket. The individuals prosecuted were not all male; during the same reporting period, the Unit charged 14 females compared to 84 males.

The majority of females faced charges linked to cocaine, whereas the vast majority of males faced charges relating to cannabis. With 62 cases still pending from the previous year, the



Unit began 2022 with a total of 115 cases filed as a result of seizures, arrests, and charges during the reporting period. Even while the 42 convictions were satisfying, issues must still be addressed. Seven (7) cases during the reporting period may have been withdrawn or dismissed due to these challenges. By the end of 2022, there were 106 cases in all.

ARREST AND CONVICTION - CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT 2023

In 2023, the Unit handled a total of forty-five (45) court cases and made eighty (80) arrests, which included seventy (70) males and ten (10) females. A total of fifty-four (54) individuals were charged. Throughout the year, the Unit achieved forty-seven (47) convictions, while seven (7) cases were either withdrawn or dismissed. The Unit began the year with 109 ongoing cases from previous years and ended with 105 cases.

During 2023, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit charged a total of fifty-four (54) people for various drug offences: thirty-four (34) were charged with cannabis-related offences, eighteen (18) with cocaine, and two (2) with ecstasy. The convictions reached a total of forty-seven (47), comprising forty-one (41) males and six (6) females. The sentences varied from four (4) years to eight (8) weeks, with some individuals also receiving community service and counselling. Additionally, they were fined approximately GYD \$533 million.

ARREST AND CONVICTION - GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2022

In 2022, the Guyana Police Force arrested a total of 507 individuals for various drug-related offences. This included 411 arrests for cannabis, 89 for cocaine, 5 for ecstasy, 1 for heroin, and 1 for hashish. Out of those arrested, 195 individuals were subsequently convicted.

ARREST AND CONVICTION - GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2023

Arrest data from the Guyana Police Force Narcotic Branch in 2023 recorded two hundred eighty-five (285) persons being arrested for various types of drugs, two hundred fifty-one (251) persons for cannabis, which included two hundred eighty-eight (288) males and twenty (20) females, twenty-eight (28) persons for cocaine which included twenty-five (25) males and three (3) females, and six (6) males for ecstasy. The number of persons convicted was one hundred fourteen (114) persons for various types of drugs, with one hundred six (106) persons for cannabis, which included ninety-seven (97) males and eight (8) females, six (6) males for cocaine and three (3) males for ecstasy.



ESTIMATED RETAIL COST OF NARCOTICS SEIZED: 2022-2023

RETAIL COST OF NARCOTICS SEIZED - GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2022

In 2022, the Guyana Police Force seized approximately 786.67 kilogrammes of cannabis, 294.5 kilogrammes of cocaine, 193.4 grams of ecstasy, 63.5 grams of heroin and 5 grams of heroin within Guyana. The total retail cost of the cannabis was approximately \$236 million, cocaine seized was two-hundred and ninety-five million dollars (GUY \$295m), and ecstasy seized was approximately ninety-six thousand, seven hundred dollars (GUY \$ 96,700.00)

2022	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY	HEROIN	HASHISH
TOTAL IN KG	786.67	294.5	0.1934	0.0635	0.005
COST PER KG	\$300,000.00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$236,001,000.00	\$294,500,000.00	\$96,700.00	-	-
MARKET VALUE	\$708,003,000.00	\$883,500,000.00	\$290,100.00	-	-

TABLE 1 HIGHLIGHTS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED AND RECORDED BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE (GPF) IN 2022.

RETAIL COST OF NARCOTICS SEIZED - GUYANA POLICE FORCE 2023

2023	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY	HEROIN
TOTAL IN KG	1,537.58	10.01	0.0812	0.04406
COST PER KG	\$300,000.00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	UNKNOWN
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$461,274,000.00	\$10,010,000.00	\$40,600.00	-
MARKET VALUE	\$1,383,822,000.00	\$30,030,000.00	\$121,800.00	-

TABLE 1 THE TABLE HIGHLIGHTS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED AND RECORDED BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE (GPF) IN 2023.

In 2023, the Guyana Police Force seized approximately 1,537.58 kilograms of cannabis, 10.01 kilograms of cocaine, 81.2 grams of ecstasy, and 44.06 grams of heroin in Guyana. The total retail value of the seized cannabis was over four hundred and sixty-one million



dollars (GUY \$461m). At the same time, the cocaine had a value of over ten million (GUY\$10 million), and the ecstasy was valued at \$40,600.

RETAIL COST OF NARCOTICS SEIZED - CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT 2022

In 2022, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit in Guyana seized approximately 3,280.25 kilograms of cannabis, 121.31 kilograms of cocaine, 818.7 grams of ecstasy, 302.6 grams of methamphetamine, and 1 kilogram of cannabis seeds. The estimated retail value of the seized cannabis was around \$984 million, while the cocaine had a value of approximately \$121 million, and the ecstasy was valued at \$409,350. Additionally, the Unit made seizures of methamphetamine and cannabis seeds.

2022	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY	METHAMPHETAMINE	CANNABIS SEEDS
TOTAL IN KG	3280.25	121.31	0.8187	0.3026	1
COST PER KG	\$300,000.00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$984,075,000.00	\$121,310,000.00	\$409,350.00	-	-
MARKET VALUE	\$2,952,225,000.00	\$363,930,000.00	\$1,228,050.00	-	-

TABLE 2 THE TABLE HIGHLIGHTS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED AND RECORDED BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT (CANU) IN 2022.

RETAIL COST OF NARCOTICS SEIZED - CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT 2023

2023	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY	HASHISH
TOTAL IN KG	1,287.88	75.17	0.124	0.102
COST PER KG	\$300,000.00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	UNKNOWN
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$386,364,000.00	\$75,170,000.00	\$62,000.00	-
MARKET VALUE	\$1,159,092,000.00	\$225,510,000.00	\$186,000.00	-

TABLE 3 THE TABLE HIGHLIGHTS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED AND RECORDED BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT (CANU) IN 2023.

In 2023, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit in Guyana seized approximately 1,287.88 kilograms of cannabis, 75.17 kilograms of cocaine, 124 grams of ecstasy, and 102 grams of hashish. The estimated retail value of the seized cannabis was about \$386 million, while the cocaine had a value of \$75 million, and the ecstasy was worth \$62,000. Additionally, the Unit also seized methamphetamine and cannabis seeds.

During the reporting period under review, the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and Guyana Police Force seized approximately 6,892.38 kilogrammes of cannabis, 500.99 kilogrammes of cocaine, 1.217 kilogrammes ecstasy, 346.66 grammes methamphetamine, 1 kg of cannabis seeds, 63.5 grammes of heroin and 107 grams of hashish within Guyana. The total retail cost of the cannabis was approximately \$2 billion, cocaine seized was \$500 million, and ecstasy seized was \$ 608,650.

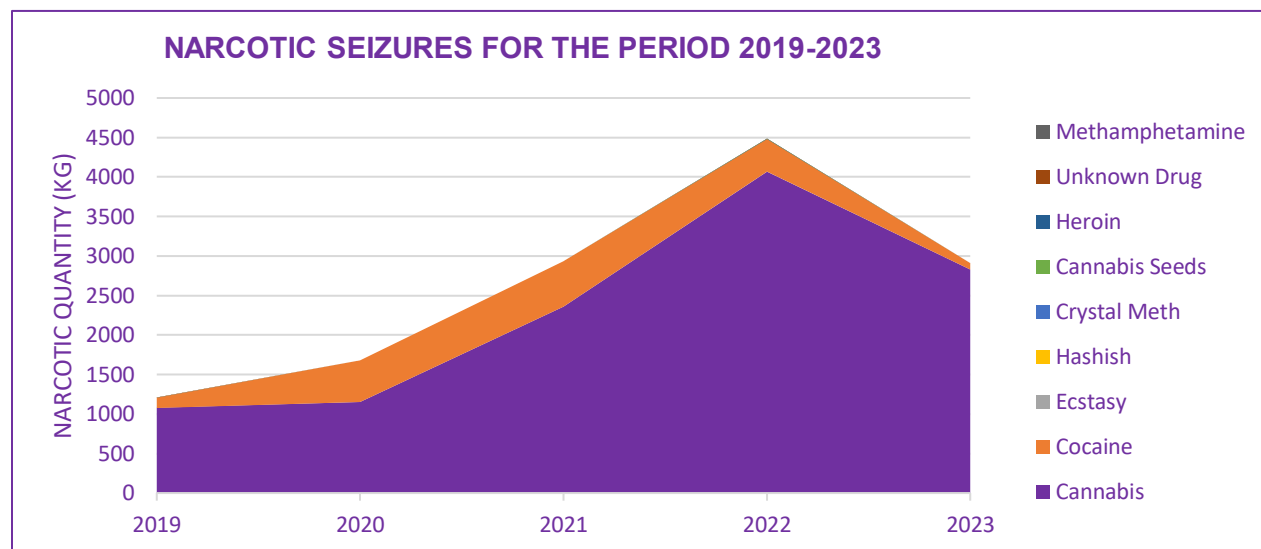
2022-2023	CANNABIS	COCAINE	ECSTASY
TOTAL IN KG	6,892.38	500.99	1.2173
COST PER KG	\$300,000.00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
ESTIMATED VALUE	\$2,067,714,000.00	\$500,990,000.00	\$608,650.00
MARKET VALUE	\$6,203,142,000.00	\$1,502,970,000.00	\$1,825,950.00

TABLE 4: THE TABLE HIGHLIGHTS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE TOTAL NARCOTICS SEIZED AND RECORDED BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT (CANU) AND GUYANA POLICE FORCE (GPF).

2022-2023	METHAMPHETAMINE	CANNABIS SEEDS	HEROIN	HASHISH
TOTAL IN KG	0.34666	1	0.0635	0.107
COST PER KG	UNKOWN	UNKOWN	-	-
ESTIMATED VALUE	-	-	-	-
MARKET VALUE	-	-	-	-



DRUG SEIZURES TREND ANALYSIS



SEIZURES OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE PERIOD 2018-2022

DRUG TYPE	2019 SEIZURES	2020 SEIZURES	2021 SEIZURES	2022 SEIZURES	2023 SEIZURES
Cannabis	1076.043	1154.889	2355.380	4066.920	2825.456
Cocaine	130.526	521.890	581.273	415.810	85.181
Ecstasy	0.363	3.219	0.154	1.010	0.205
Hashish	0.035	0.005	0.004	0.005	0.102
Crystal Meth	0.254	1.034	0.004	-	-
Cannabis Seeds	-	-	1.463	1.000	-
Heroin	-	-	-	0.064	-
Unknown Drug	0.590	-	-	-	-
Methamphetamine	-	-	-	0.303	0.044
YEARS TOTAL SEIZURES	1207.811	1681.037	2938.2769	4,485.11	2,910.99

Total Narcotic Seizures
Over Five Years (2019-
2023)

13223.224

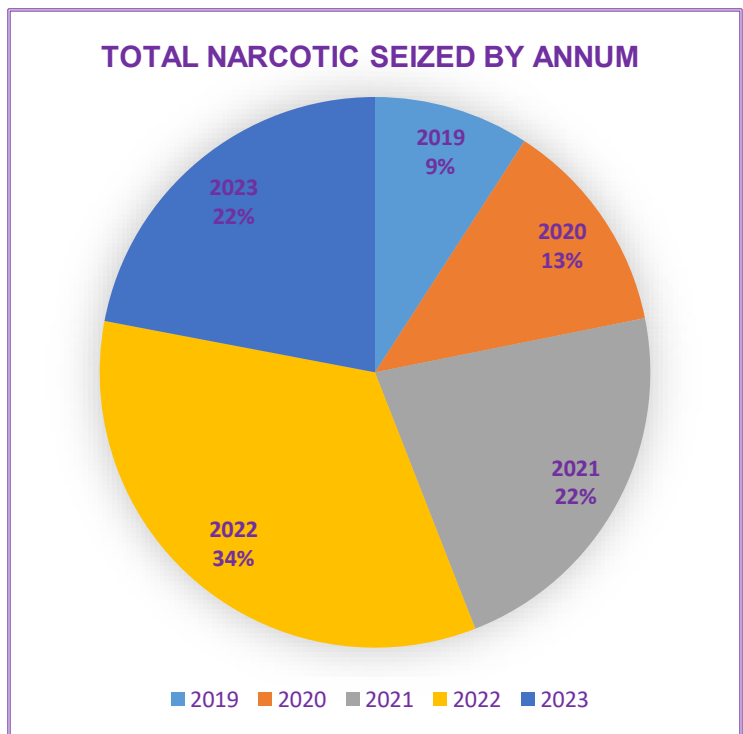


Data from Guyana Drug Enforcement entities, the Guyana POLICE Force, and the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit during 2019 – 2023 were collected and analysed. The analysis revealed several key findings:

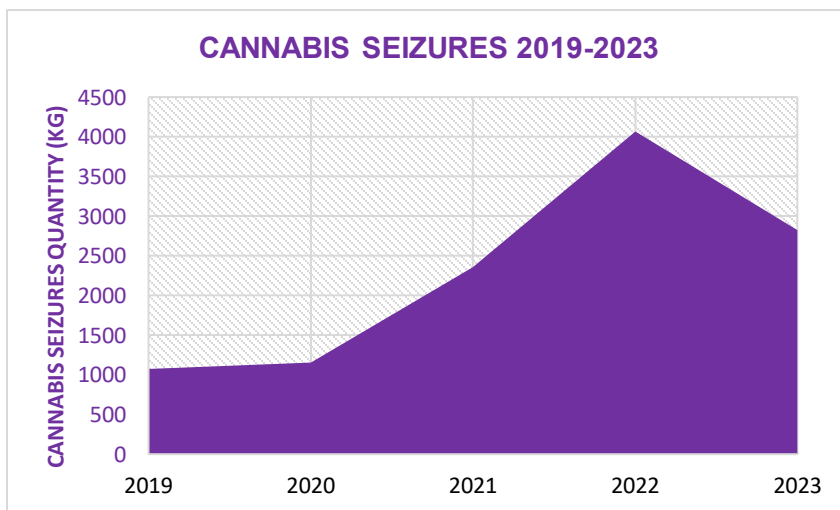
- **General Trends:** The data indicates that cannabis and cocaine were the most dominant drugs over the five years, suggesting that they are the primary focus and the most prevalent substances. The fluctuations in seizures of other substances, such as ecstasy, crystal meth, and methamphetamine, may indicate changing patterns of drug use and shifts in enforcement priorities.
- **Increasing or Emerging Drugs:** The increase in cannabis seizures up until 2022 indicates that it was becoming more readily available or was being targeted more frequently. However, the decrease in seizures in 2023 may suggest that effective control measures have been implemented. Additionally, the data on methamphetamine and cannabis seeds in recent years could reflect new trends in drug production or trafficking.
- **Decreasing Drugs:** Cocaine and ecstasy have shown a downward trend by 2023, possibly due to reduced trafficking post-COVID and/or effective interdiction efforts.
- **Potential Gaps:** The limited seizures of certain drugs, such as crystal meth in 2022-2023 and heroin in 2022, may indicate either limited enforcement focus or a low availability of these substances in the country.



Throughout the five years under review, Cannabis was the most dominant drug on the market, followed by cocaine. The data further indicated that since 2019, both cannabis and cocaine seizures have increased yearly; however, in 2023, there was a decrease in seizures of both drug types. For the period under revision, 2022 recorded the most significant



quantity of narcotics seized compared to the quantity seized during the other years, totalling 4.485.11 kg of narcotics.

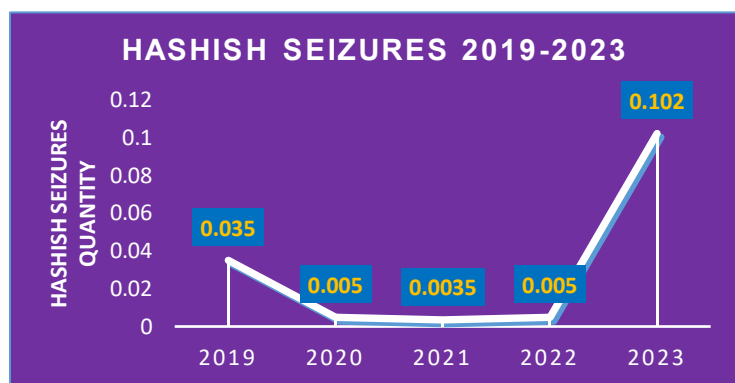
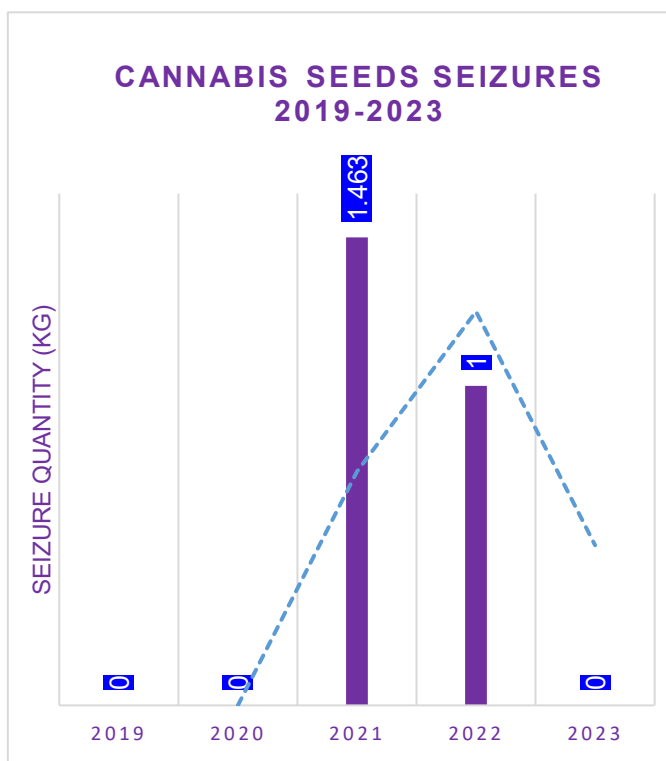


Cannabis seizures increased steadily from 2019 to 2022, reaching a peak of 4,066.92 units in 2022. However, they decreased notably in 2023 to 2,825.46 units.

The sharp increase in 2021 and 2022 may suggest heightened enforcement efforts targeting cannabis or an increase in its cultivation and distribution. The drop in 2023 could indicate effective control measures, reduced availability, and shifting enforcement focus.

Additional cannabis-related seizures included cannabis seeds and hashish. In 2021, cannabis seeds were recorded at 1.463 kilogrammes, continuing into 2022 with a total of 1 kilogramme seized. However, no seizures were recorded in 2023.

The presence of cannabis seeds in 2021 and 2022 indicates a growing focus on cannabis cultivation, with enforcement actions directed at both the plants and their seeds. The lack of such seeds in 2023 suggests a reduction in illegal cultivation efforts and/or enhanced regulation.

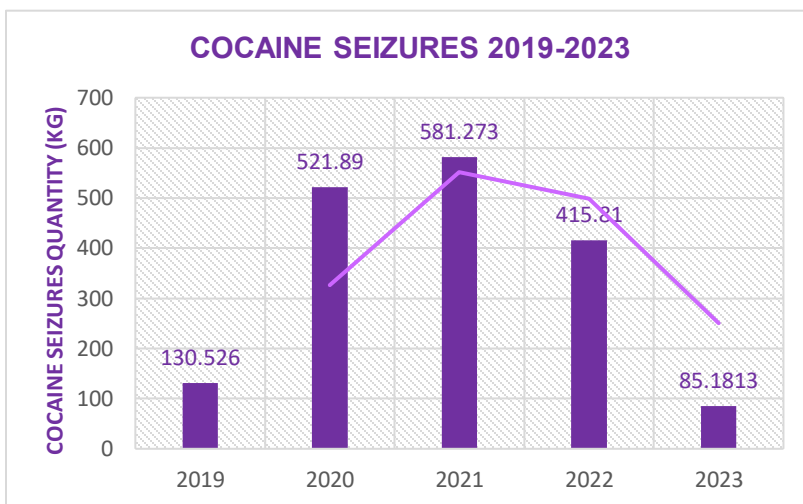


Seizures of hashish remained extremely low, with a minor increase in 2023 to 102 grammes after several years of minimal seizures.

The consistently low levels could suggest that hashish may not be the major target for law enforcement and/ or there is limited availability in the area. The slight increase in 2023 may suggest a minor uptick in usage or trafficking, but it remains relatively insignificant compared to other drugs.

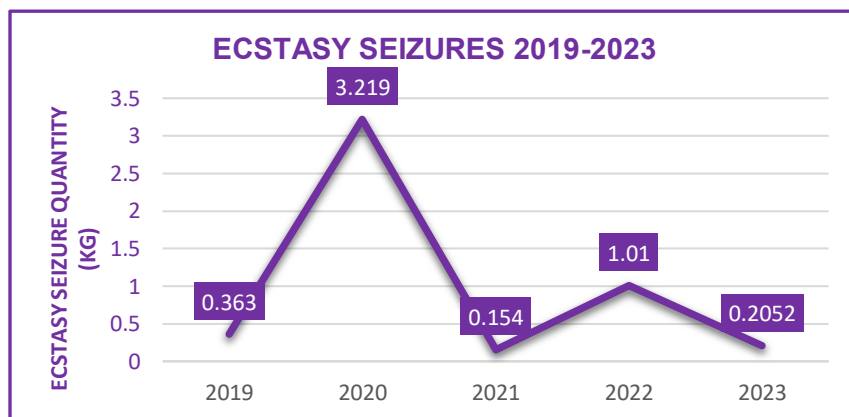


Cocaine seizures saw a dramatic increase from 130.526 kilogrammes in 2019 to 581.273 kilogrammes in 2021, then gradually decreased, reaching a low of 85.181 kilogrammes in 2023.



The peak in 2021 could reflect a surge in cocaine trafficking during that period, followed by a potential disruption in supply lines and/ or enforcement success, as evidenced by the subsequent decrease in 2022 and 2023. The significant drop in 2023 suggests decreased trafficking and/ or strategic drug policies and increased border security measures.

Ecstasy seizures peaked in 2020 at 3.219 kilogrammes, then varied, reaching a low of 154 grammes in 2021. There was a slight rebound in 2022 with 1.01 kilogrammes, followed by a further decrease in 2023 to 205.2 grammes.

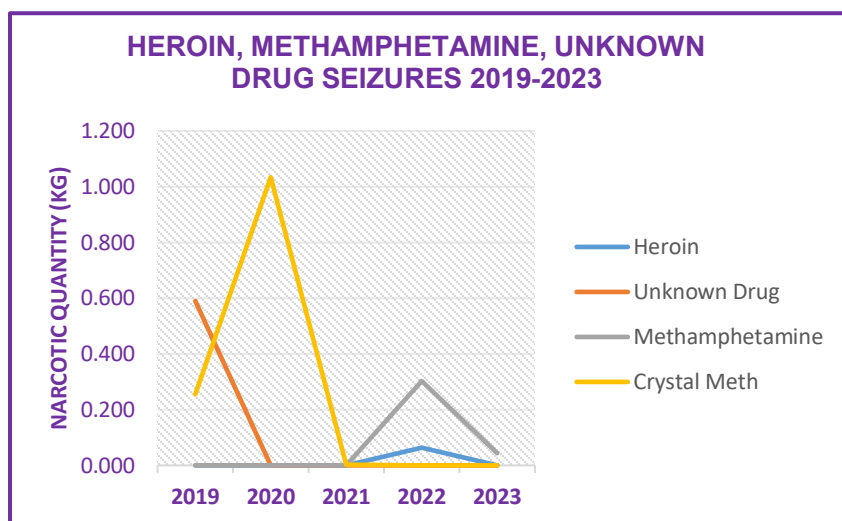


The fluctuations in the popularity of this narcotic suggest that there may be changes in user preferences

and/or targeted law enforcement efforts. The spike observed in 2020 could have been attributed to an increase in the availability of ecstasy or specific interdiction efforts resulting from inter-agency collaborations and enhanced border security measures implemented during that year.



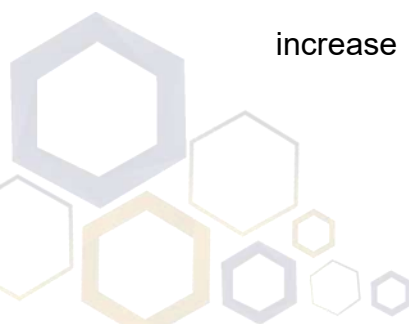
During the reported period, law enforcement authorities seized various illicit substances, including small quantities of heroin, methamphetamine, crystal meth and an unidentified drug. In comparison to cannabis, cocaine, and ecstasy, these amounts were significantly less.



Heroin was seized in 2022, with a total amount of 63.5 grammes. Methamphetamine was seized in both 2022 and 2023 and saw a decrease from 302.6 grammes in 2022 to 44.06 grammes in 2023. Crystal meth seizures were

recorded in 2019 and 2020, with a notable peak in 2020 (1.034). Additionally, an unknown drug type was discovered and seized in 2019, totalling 509 grammes.

- The low quantity of heroin seizures and the single-year record suggest that heroin may not be a significant issue in the country or a primary focus for law enforcement. This low level of activity also reflects effective control measures that have kept heroin trafficking minimal.
- The emergence of methamphetamine in 2022 indicates that it may be becoming a rising concern both in the country and the region. The decline in its presence in 2023 could signify successful efforts to limit its availability.
- The presence of crystal meth in 2019 and its peak in 2020 suggest a temporary increase in trafficking and/or consumption, which may have been followed by



effective suppression efforts in subsequent years. The lack of seizures in later years might indicate reduced availability or a decreased focus from law enforcement.

- Additionally, the unknown classification of some substances may imply that certain drugs could not be identified or categorised at that time. The fact that only a single record indicates it could be either an isolated seizure or a substance rarely encountered by law enforcement.

The data submitted by law enforcement authorities from 2019 to 2023 has provided valuable insights into the patterns of drug availability and enforcement focus over the years. Cannabis and cocaine remain the most prominent drugs, with cannabis seizures peaking dramatically in 2022. However, the decline in seizures in 2023 may suggest the effectiveness of control measures, law enforcement strategies, and shifting priorities. The sporadic presence of drugs like methamphetamine, heroin, and ecstasy in certain years could indicate intermittent or emerging issues. Therefore, drug supply and demand reduction strategies should be reviewed based on this analysis and the socio-economic factors of the country and region. This will help create appropriate policies to address the emerging situations highlighted by this report.



GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

The Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL) is crucial for maintaining law, order, and public safety. This institution supports the justice system by providing scientific evidence that aids criminal investigations and prosecutions. By enhancing public safety and supporting national security, the GFSL provides critical information during investigations. Through its efforts, the GFSL upholds the integrity of the legal system and contributes significantly to the country's overall welfare.

During the reporting period of 2022-2023, the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory tested and analysed drug evidence in 795 cases. The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the Guyana Police Force submitted drug evidence obtained from narcotics seizures, covering cases from all ten regional districts.

The types of drugs analysed during the period included cannabis for both delta 9 THC and delta 8 THC, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), amphetamine, and methamphetamine. For the drug evidence submitted of cases, the institution submitted resulting in 790 positive results and five (5) negative results.

GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY											
NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED											
2022											
Regional District	No. of Cases	Cannabis		Cocaine		Ecstasy (MDMA)		Amphetamine		Methamphetamine	
		+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
1	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	14	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	83	63	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	217	159	1	47	0	9	0	0	0	1	0
5	13	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	54	41	0	9	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
7	27	25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	13	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	21	18	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	449	343	1	88	0	15	0	1	0	1	0

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

In 2022, the institute analysed 449 cases of drug evidence. The institute processed 449 cases for the year, resulting in 448 positive cases and one negative case. Positive Cannabis results were 343, with one negative result. There were 88 positives for cocaine, 15 positives for Ecstasy, one positive for Amphetamine, and one positive for

Methamphetamine.

The Demerara-Mahaica region reported the highest number of analyzed narcotics cases, totaling 217. Other regions with significant volumes of cases include Essequibo Islands-

West Demerara, which recorded 83 cases, and East Berbice-Corentyne, with 54 cases. In contrast, Potaro-Siparuni and Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo reported much lower numbers, with only 3 and 13 cases, respectively.

Cannabis was the most commonly analyzed drug across all regions, with positive cases reported in every area except Demerara, which had one negative result. The Demerara-Mahaica and Essequibo Islands-West Demerara regions recorded the highest numbers of positive cannabis cases, with 159 and 63 cases, respectively.

Cocaine cases were predominantly found in the Demerara-Mahaica district (47 cases) and Essequibo Islands-West Demerara (20 cases). Other regions reported far fewer cases, with East Berbice-Corentyne recording nine positive cases and minimal positive cases in the remaining areas.

During this period, there were a small number of ecstasy cases, primarily in the Demerara-Mahaica district, which recorded nine positive cases, and East Berbice-Corentyne, which had 3 positive cases.

In 2022, cases involving amphetamine and methamphetamine analysed by the laboratory were extremely rare, with only one case of amphetamine detected in East Berbice-Corentyne and one case of methamphetamine identified in Demerara-Mahaica.

Overall, instances in which drug evidence tested negative were low across the regional districts, with Demerara-Mahaica and East Berbice-Corentyne showing a few negative results, particularly for cannabis and ecstasy.

GUYANA FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY
NARCOTICS CASES ANALYSED

2023

Regional District	No. of Cases	Cannabis (Delta 9 THC)		Cannabis Delta 8 THC		Cocaine		Ecstasy (MDMA)		Amphetamine		Methamphetamine	
		+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
1	14	11	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	27	19	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
3	63	52	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	138	109	0	2	0	20	1	3	1	0	0	2	0
5	13	11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	52	45	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
7	19	14	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
8	10	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	10	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	21	20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	367	295	0	2	0	56	1	8	1	1	0	3	0

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 narcotic cases analyzed by the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL) in 2023, categorized by drug type and region, reveal several key insights. During this period, the GFSL examined 367 narcotic cases. The regions with the highest number of cases were Demerara-Mahaica, accounting for 138 cases, and Essequibo Islands-West Demerara, with

63 cases.



Cannabis remained the most frequently analyzed substance, with 295 positive cases identified across the regions. Notably, there were two instances of cannabis containing delta 8 THC, both discovered in the Demerara-Mahaica district. This district led in cannabis cases with 109 positive results, followed by Essequibo Islands-West Demerara, which had 52 positive cases.

Cocaine also showed a significant presence, with 56 positive cases reported. The majority of these were found in Demerara-Mahaica (20 cases), Essequibo Islands-West Demerara (11 cases), and Pomeroon-Supernaam (6 cases). While cocaine cases were present across various regions, their volume was considerably lower compared to cannabis.

Ecstasy cases were relatively few, with only 8 positive cases recorded. The majority of these were identified in Demerara-Mahaica (3 cases) and East Berbice-Corentyne (2 cases). Additionally, there was 1 positive case of amphetamine in Demerara-Mahaica and 3 positive cases of methamphetamine, distributed between Demerara-Mahaica and Cuyuni-Mazaruni.



GOVERNMENT ANALYST FOOD AND DRUG DEPARTMENT

The Government Analyst Food and Drug Department (GA- FDD) falls under the purview of the Ministry of Public Health. This Department was initially established in the late 19th Century to aid in performing analyses of the sugar industry. Later, its role was expanded with the enactment of the Food and Drug Act of 1971 and the Food & Drug Regulation of 1977⁹ to address safety and trade-related issues for food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices. To this end, the Department is mandated to ensure that items to which the Act and Regulations apply are safe and pass quality checks to enter regional and international markets.

IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FOR 2022

IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES	GRAMMES
Ephedrine	966.9
Pseudoephedrine	75

For the period under review, the Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department approved the import of

Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine. Ephedrine is classified as a sympathomimetic class of drug. The FDA-approved primary indication for ephedrine is the treatment of clinically significant hypotension perioperatively. This substance is controlled since it can be separated from other compounds and used as an ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Pseudoephedrine is used to relieve nasal congestion caused by colds,

⁹ https://parliament.gov.gy/documents/acts/11606-act_no_12_of_1971- food_and_drugs.pdf

allergies, and hay fever; this substance is controlled because it is known to be the main ingredient used to make methamphetamine (meth).

IMPORTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FOR 2023

IMPORTED CONTROLLED CHEMICALS		
CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES	UNIT OF MEASURE	2023
Ephedrine	Kilogrammes	75.24
Pseudoephedrine	Kilogrammes	75
Potassium permanganate	Grammes	36,300
Hydrochloric Acid	Millilitres (MLS)	2500
Sulfamic acid	Millilitres	500
Sulphuric acid	Millilitres	800
Sulfuric acid	Millilitres	1000

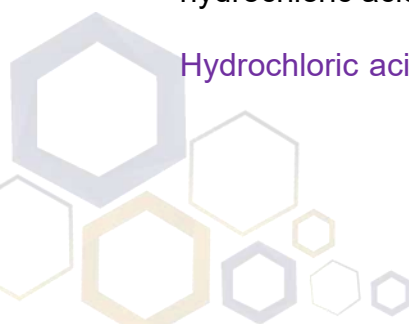
In 2023, the Government Analyst Food and Drugs Department approved the import of 186.54 kilogrammes and 4800 millilitres of controlled chemical substances.

The substances imported during the period were:

Potassium permanganate, which is classified as an oxidizing agent, is known for its bactericidal properties. It is widely used in the chemical industry and laboratories due to its strength as an oxidizing agent. Additionally, it is used as a medication for dermatitis and other skin conditions. However, it is considered a controlled substance because it plays a crucial role in the illicit production of cocaine, primarily utilized to convert coca paste into cocaine base.

Hydrochloric acid is utilized in the processing of steel for the building and construction industry. In the chemical industry, it plays a crucial role in the large-scale production of vinyl chloride, which is essential for making PVC. Additionally, hydrochloric acid is involved in the production of polyurethane foam and calcium chloride. Common applications of hydrochloric acid include household cleaners, pool maintenance, and food manufacturing.

Hydrochloric acid has been listed as a Table II precursor under the 1988 United Nations



Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances because of its use in the production of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

Sulfamic acid is a water-soluble, moderately strong acid. An intermediate between sulfuric acid and sulfamide, it can be used as a precursor to sweet-tasting compounds, a therapeutic drug component, an acidic cleaning agent, and a catalyst for esterification.

Sulfuric acid is the world's most widely used industrial chemical. Its primary application is in the production of phosphate fertilizers, but it is also utilized in the manufacturing of explosives, various acids, dyes, adhesives, wood preservatives, and automobile batteries.

IMPORTED CONTROLLED CHEMICALS		
CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES	UNIT OF MEASURE	2023
Phosphoric acid	Millilitres	1000
Ammonium nitrate	Kilograms	300

Additionally, the GA-FDD approved the import of 1000 millilitres of Phosphoric acid and 300 kilogrammes of Ammonium

nitrate. Chemicals like **Phosphoric Acid** are used to manufacture superphosphate fertilizers, livestock feeds, phosphate salts, polyphosphates, soaps, waxes, polishes, and detergents. This substance is controlled because methamphetamine is often illicitly produced by reducing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine with red phosphorus and hydroiodic acid.

Ammonium nitrate is commonly used in fertilizers, pyrotechnics, herbicides, and insecticides. It also plays a role in the manufacture of nitrous oxide. Additionally, it serves as an absorbent for nitrogen oxides, a component in freezing mixtures, an oxidizer in rocket propellants, and a nutrient for yeast and antibiotics. Ammonium nitrate is a regulated substance subjected to specific health and environmental regulations.





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

The Guyana Revenue Authority & Law Enforcement & Investigation Division (LEID) confiscated 154,935 bottles of alcoholic beverages, 1416 cans of alcoholic beverages, and 173,941 packs of cigarettes during the period under review.

GRA - LEID SEIZURES 2022

GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT & INVESTIGATION DIVISION (LEID) 2022		
CATEGORY	BOTTLE/ CANS	PACK
Beer	67307	-
Energy Drink	1248	-
Stout	959	-
Malt liquor	912	-
Liquor	888	-
Wine	837	-
Vodka	348	-
Whiskey	289	-
Liqueur	222	-
Tequila	139	-
Champagne	96	-
Brandy	88	-
Rum	10	-
Cigarette	-	128861

In 2022, the Guyana Revenue Authority and the Law Enforcement and Investigation Division (LEID) confiscated 72095 bottles of alcoholic beverages, 1248 bottles/cans of energy drinks and 128861 packs of cigarettes.

The data from the Guyana Revenue Authority and the Law Enforcement and Investigation Division (LEID) for 2022 details the quantities of various categories of alcohol, energy drinks, and cigarettes (tobacco) that were seized. From this

data, several key observations were made.

During this period, beer emerged as the most seized alcoholic beverage, with 67307 bottles/cans confiscated. Other categories of alcohol included stout, with 959 bottles seized, and malt liquor, totalling 912 bottles. Traditional spirits such as liquor (888 bottles), wine (837 bottles), and vodka (348 bottles) also showed significant quantities. Smaller amounts were recorded for rum (10 bottles) and champagne (96 bottles).

High-alcohol-content beverages such as whiskey (289 bottles), liqueur (222 bottles), and tequila (139 bottles) were present, but in lower quantities compared to beer and other lighter beverages. Additionally, a total of 128,861 packs of cigarettes were recorded, indicating a substantial presence of tobacco products. This suggests a strong demand for these items and highlights enforcement agencies' focus on tobacco control.

An analysis of the data provides insights into the distribution and prevalence of alcohol and tobacco products in the country. Several key aspects were observed:

- The high number of seized bottles of beer and packs of cigarettes suggests a focus on these two categories, likely due to their popularity and/ or prevalence in contraband activities.
- The range of alcohol types and other beverages, from beer and energy drinks to tequila and champagne, indicates diverse preferences or trends in alcohol consumption or importation within the country.
- The diversity of items indicates that enforcement agencies may need varied strategies to monitor, track, and manage different types of products in the alcohol and tobacco sectors.

GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT & INVESTIGATION DIVISION (LEID) 2023		
CATEGORY	BOTTLE/ CANS	PACK
Beer	72891	-
Stout	72	-
Wine	181	-
Vodka	2317	-
Whiskey	2706	-
Liqueur	269	-
Tequila	155	-
Champagne	289	-
Brandy	2	-
Cognac	166	-
Carbonated Vodka Drink	96	-
Cider	3864	-
Cigarette	-	128861

In 2023, The Guyana Revenue Authority & Law Enforcement & Investigation Division (LEID) confiscated 81592 bottles/cans of alcoholic beverages and 45080 pack of cigarettes.

During the reporting period, the LEID documented the quantities of various categories of seized alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. These seizures highlight several key aspects of consumption trends in 2023.

Beer continues to have the highest number of seized bottles and cans, with a recorded quantity of 72891. Notable quantities of other bottled alcoholic drinks include Whiskey (2,706 bottles), Vodka (2,317 bottles), and Cider (3,864 bottles). Smaller quantities of other types of alcohol, such as Champagne (289 bottles), Cognac (166 bottles), and Tequila (155 bottles), were also seized, indicating a variety of imported or confiscated alcohol.

Cider emerged as a significant addition, with 3,864 bottles seized. Carbonated Vodka Drinks were also recorded, totalling 96 bottles. These figures reflect evolving trends in alcohol consumption and importation patterns. Traditional spirits, like Brandy and Liqueur, appeared in smaller quantities, with Brandy totalling only 2 bottles and Liqueur at 269 bottles. This may suggest lower demand or stricter controls on these types of beverages.



In terms of tobacco, 45,080 packs of cigarettes were recorded, reflecting significant enforcement efforts and control activities in this area.

COMPARISON OF SEIZURES BY THE LEID

- **Increase in Beer seizures:** The number of beers seized increased from 67,307 in 2022 to 71,475 in 2023.
- **Seizures of Whiskey and Vodka:** Both categories experienced growth in 2023, with whiskey rising to 2,706 bottles and vodka to 2,317 bottles. This trend may indicate a growing popularity for these beverages or potentially stricter enforcement measures.
- **Reduction in (tobacco) cigarette seizures:** The number of cigarette packs decreased significantly from 128,861 in 2022 to 45,080 in 2023. This reduction may suggest a successful effort to combat contraband activity or a shift in enforcement priorities.



SUPPLY REDUCTION



FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Guyana began operations in 2004 under the Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2000, which was later replaced by the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Act No. 13 of 2009.

The FIU is responsible for requesting, receiving, and analysing suspicious transaction reports related to money laundering and terrorist financing. It can identify, trace, freeze, seize, and forfeit unlawful proceeds from serious offences.

The FIU is dedicated to protecting the integrity of the financial system by detecting and deterring money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It collaborates with law enforcement agencies, regulators, and international partners and serves as the country's primary source of financial intelligence.

The AML/CFT Act identifies 20 serious offences, including organised crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and the trafficking of illicit arms.

In addition to Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs), the FIU receives monthly threshold transaction reports from various reporting entities as required by Guyana's AML/CFT legislation.

FIU - VALUE OF STR RECEIVED DURING 2022		
SERIOUS OFFENCES	NO. OF REPORTS	VALUE (GYD)
Drug Trafficking	3	\$ 6,746,256
Trafficking In Persons	-	-
Smuggling -Other	2	\$ 2,852,068
		\$ 9,598,324

In 2022, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) submitted several Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) related to

serious offences, providing details of their financial values in Guyanese dollars (GYD). During this period, the Unit received five reports, amounting to G\$9,598,324. Three reports related to drug trafficking, with a total value of G\$6,746,256. Additionally, two reports concerning smuggling and other offences were submitted, valued at G\$2,852,068.

The reports received indicate that:

- Drug trafficking accounted for a significant portion of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) in 2022, highlighting its economic impact and the priority it holds for the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- Other smuggling activities also contributed notably to the total value of STRs, underscoring the necessity for ongoing vigilance against smuggling operations.
- The absence of STRs related to trafficking in persons suggests either limited detection and reporting in this area or a concentration on other types of financial crimes within the FIU's activities for the year.



The number of requests for information received by the FIU from domestic and foreign LEAs - 2022		
SERIOUS OFFENCE	Domestic LEAs	Foreign LEAs
Drug Trafficking	14	-

During the year 2022, the Unit received 14 requests from Domestic LEAs. This could indicate a higher level of domestic engagement and focus on drug trafficking

within the country. The absence of requests from foreign LEAs suggests either limited international interest or that domestic law enforcement handles most cases of drug trafficking independently. Additionally, the number of requests from domestic LEAs points to drug trafficking as a key focus area for local authorities. Increased requests reflect an active pursuit of intelligence to support domestic anti-drug trafficking efforts.

In 2022, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) disseminated information to domestic law enforcement agencies (LEAs) regarding serious offenses such as drug trafficking and smuggling, which reflects a focus on addressing these issues primarily within

The number of disseminations by the FIU to domestic and foreign LEAs - 2022		
SERIOUS OFFENCE	Domestic LEAs	Foreign LEAs
Drug Trafficking	10	-
Smuggling - Other	2	-

national borders, or it could indicate a reliance on domestic resources and capacities for investigating and prosecuting these offences. With 10 disseminations related to drug trafficking, it is clear that this area is a high priority for FIU and domestic LEAs. This aligns with the high number of information requests on drug trafficking received from domestic LEAs in the same year. The presence of 2 disseminations for smuggling activities, although fewer than those for drug trafficking, still indicates an awareness and response to smuggling issues. This suggests a broader approach to handling illicit activities impacting national security and the economy.

The analyzed data clearly shows the following:

- The FIU's focus on domestic dissemination indicates a strong internal network for addressing serious offences such as drug trafficking and smuggling. Improving intelligence-sharing capabilities could enhance the effectiveness of local law enforcement in tackling these issues.
- The lack of foreign dissemination highlights an opportunity to establish or expand collaborative efforts with international partners, especially considering that smuggling and trafficking often have international dimensions.

FIU OPERATIONS - 2023

The 2023 report from the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) presents an analysis of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) associated with serious offenses. The report

identifies a total of 13 STRs,

with an aggregated

financial value of

G\$137,707,671.

Specifically, there were 10

reports related to drug

trafficking, valued at G\$8,402,400, and two reports concerning trafficking in persons, valued

at G\$129,305,271. Additionally, there was one report related to smuggling and other

activities.

FIU - VALUE OF STR RECEIVED DURING 2023		
SERIOUS OFFENCES	NO. OF REPORTS	VALUE (GYD)
Drug Trafficking	10	\$ 8,402,400
Trafficking In Persons	2	\$ 129,305,271
Smuggling -Other	1	-
		\$ 137,707,671

Based on the analyzed data, several observations were made:

- In 2023, there were two Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) related to Trafficking in Persons, with a significant financial impact totaling G\$129.3 million. This indicates high-value transactions associated with this offense, suggesting increased attention or activity in this area that warrants further investigation.
- In contrast, only one STR was filed under smuggling in 2023, with no financial value specified. This may imply that fewer transactions were detected in this category.

The number of requests for information received by the FIU from domestic and foreign LEAs - 2023		
SERIOUS OFFENCE	Domestic LEAs	Foreign LEAs
Drug Trafficking	2	1

In 2023, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) received a total of three information

requests related to drug trafficking from both domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies (LEAs). Specifically, the FIU received two requests from domestic LEAs and one request from a foreign LEA. The inclusion of a foreign request suggests a growing trend of collaboration with international partners, which could lead to shared resources and enhanced cross-border intelligence efforts in combating drug trafficking. Meanwhile, the decline in domestic requests may indicate a shift in domestic strategy or suggest that local agencies are handling drug trafficking cases using alternative intelligence sources or methods.

In 2023, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) provided intelligence to both domestic and foreign law

The number of disseminations by the FIU to domestic and foreign LEAs - 2023		
SERIOUS OFFENCE	Domestic LEAs	Foreign LEAs
Drug Trafficking	6	1
Smuggling - Other	1	-

enforcement agencies (LEAs) regarding serious offences. The FIU's efforts included disseminating reports on drug trafficking and smuggling incidents to support law enforcement in these areas. During this period, the Unit made six disseminations to domestic LEAs related to serious offences involving drug trafficking and one dissemination to foreign LEAs for the same issue. Additionally, there was one dissemination to domestic LEAs concerning smuggling and other related offences.

In 2023, the following key observations were made:

- Drug trafficking was the primary focus of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which issued a total of seven disseminations (six domestic and one foreign). This indicates



that the FIU is prioritizing drug trafficking due to its significant social and economic consequences. The high number of disseminations related to drug trafficking highlights its critical importance and suggests the need for sustained or increased monitoring and reporting in this area.

- Additionally, a foreign law enforcement agency (LEA) received a dissemination related to drug trafficking, underscoring the growing international cooperation in addressing this transnational issue. This dissemination may represent collaboration with global partners to combat the cross-border flow of drugs. The involvement of a foreign LEA implies that the FIU is expanding its cooperation beyond national borders, which could enhance the overall effectiveness of global anti-drug trafficking efforts.

COMPARISON OF OPERATION BY THE FIU DURING THE PERIOD OF 2022 - 2023

A comparative analysis of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)'s activities related to the dissemination of intelligence to domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for 2022 and 2023, focusing on drug trafficking and smuggling, depicts:

- **Domestic Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs):** Disseminations related to drug trafficking cases have decreased from 10 in 2022 to 6 in 2023. This reduction may indicate that fewer domestic cases need Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

dissemination, or it may reflect a shift in the FIU's focus toward greater collaboration on international issues.

- **Foreign Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs):** In 2022, no disseminations regarding drug trafficking were made to foreign LEAs. However, in 2023, one dissemination was sent to a foreign LEA. This increase indicates a new effort by the FIU to engage with international partners in addressing drug trafficking, likely due to the transnational nature of the problem.
- **Domestic Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs):** Disseminations for other smuggling cases decreased from 2 in 2022 to 1 in 2023. This slight decline may suggest a decrease in reported smuggling cases needing FIU intervention, or it might indicate a reduced focus on these types of cases in favour of other priorities.
- **Foreign Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs):** Similar to 2022, no disseminations were made to foreign LEAs for other smuggling cases in 2023. This trend possibly reflects a continued emphasis on domestic responses to smuggling incidents.
- **Overall Trends:** The addition of foreign dissemination for drug trafficking in 2023 shows that the FIU increasingly recognizes the importance of international partnerships to combat this serious issue. This change aligns with global anti-drug trafficking initiatives and may signal the FIU's evolving strategy to target transnational drug trafficking networks.

- Drug trafficking and smuggling dissemination to domestic LEAs decreased in 2023. This decline could be attributed to fewer reported cases, improved case management without the need for FIU dissemination, or a potential shift in the FIU's operational priorities.
- Over the past two years, the FIU's dissemination activities related to smuggling cases have remained limited to domestic LEAs, indicating a reliance on national agencies to address these incidents without external collaboration.
- **Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs):** In 2023, the total value of STRs increased significantly compared to 2022, rising from G\$9.6 million to G\$137.7 million. This substantial increase suggests a rise in the detection of high-value suspicious transactions, particularly linked to trafficking in persons.
- The significant monetary amounts associated with trafficking in persons may justify the implementation of targeted measures and enhanced inter-agency cooperation to disrupt these operations.
- Given the multiple requests from domestic Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), strengthening the Financial Intelligence Unit's (FIU) analytical capacity would be beneficial to efficiently process and respond to these requests.



SUPPLY REDUCTION



SPECIAL ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT (SOCU)

The Special Organized Crime Unit (SOCU) is a division of the Guyana Police Force under the command of the Commissioner of Police. It is a law enforcement agency that exclusively investigates allegations and reports of money laundering and terrorism.

Between 2022 and 2023, the Special Organized Crime Unit (SOCU) did not have any cases related to drug trafficking offences. However, the unit recorded a total of 301 cases, which included 274 cases of money laundering and 27 cases of serious crimes. Of these 301 cases, 16 individuals were charged: five for money laundering and eleven for other serious crimes.

Offence	Year	No. of Cases	Persons Charged
Money Laundering	2022	3	1
	2023	271	4
Serious Crime	2022	27	11
	2023	-	-

In 2022, the Special Organized Crime Unit (SOCU) recorded thirty (30) cases. This included three (03) cases of money laundering and twenty-seven (27) cases of serious crimes. Out of these thirty (30) cases, twelve (12) individuals were charged: one person was charged with money laundering, and eleven (11) individuals were charged with other serious crimes.

In 2023, the Unit recorded 271 money laundering cases related to major offences, with four individuals charged.

Based on the analyzed data, several key findings regarding money laundering and serious crimes have emerged:

- There has been a significant increase in money laundering cases from 2022 to 2023. This rise may indicate that authorities are prioritizing financial crimes. Contributing factors could include enhanced surveillance and intelligence-gathering efforts, increased awareness of illicit financial flows, or shifts in policy aimed at combating economic crimes.
- Despite the sharp increase in cases, the relatively low number of individuals charged suggests two possibilities:
 - ✓ Authorities may still be in the process of building cases and gathering evidence, which can be both resource-intensive and time-consuming.
 - ✓ Many cases could involve the same networks or entities, potentially linked to organized crime or larger money-laundering operations.



The Guyana Prison Service operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It includes six prison locations: Georgetown Prison 'A', Georgetown Prison 'B', New Amsterdam Prison, Mazaruni Prison, Lusignan Prison, and Timehri Prison.

During the 2022-2023 period, the Guyana Prison Service reported one hundred thirteen (113) incidents of narcotics seizures, resulting in the confiscation of 22.847 kilogrammes of narcotics. Additionally, twenty (20) instances of narcotics were found in the possession of inmates, which led to the prosecution of twenty-eight (28) individuals.

The admission data for the 2022-2023 period revealed that a total of 1,231 individuals were admitted for various offences. Among these, 1,372 were related to narcotic offenses. These offences included trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in marijuana, trafficking in other narcotics, possession of marijuana, possession of other narcotics, possession of smoking utensils, and cultivation of narcotics.

GUYANA PRISON SERVICE 2022

In 2022, the Guyana Prison Service admitted a total of 1,213 individuals for various offences. Out of these, 171 were admitted for narcotic-related crimes, including trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in marijuana, trafficking in other narcotics, possession of marijuana, possession of other narcotics, possession of smoking utensils, and cultivation of narcotics.

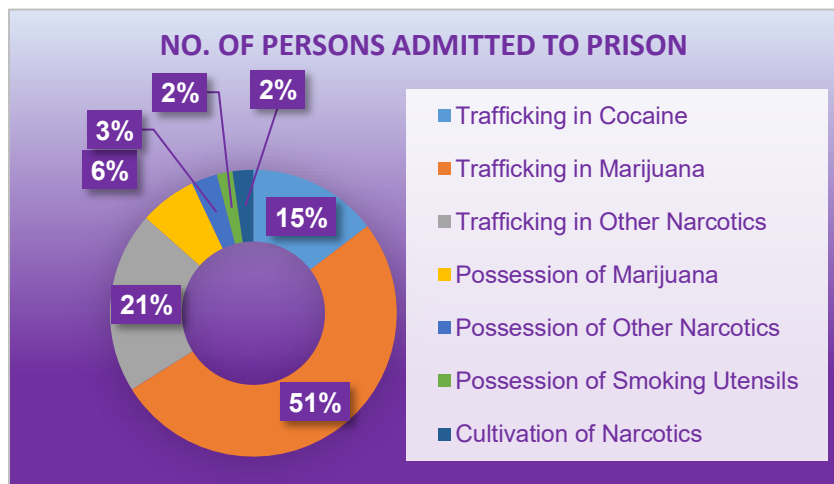
Number of Persons Admitted to Prison for Related Offences in 2022			
Offence	Georgetown Prison (Male)	New Amsterdam Prison (Male)	New Amsterdam Prison (Female)
Trafficking in Cocaine	19	4	2
Trafficking in Marijuana	37	36	15
Trafficking in Other Narcotics	28	5	2
Possession of Marijuana	11	-	-
Possession of Other Narcotics	5	-	-
Possession of Smoking Utensils	3	-	-
Cultivation of Narcotics	4	-	-
	107	45	19

Those admitted for drug offences accounted for 14% of all prison admissions.

Trafficking in marijuana is the most prevalent offence, with 88 individuals admitted to prison. Following this, trafficking in cocaine involves 25 individuals, while trafficking in other narcotics accounts for 35

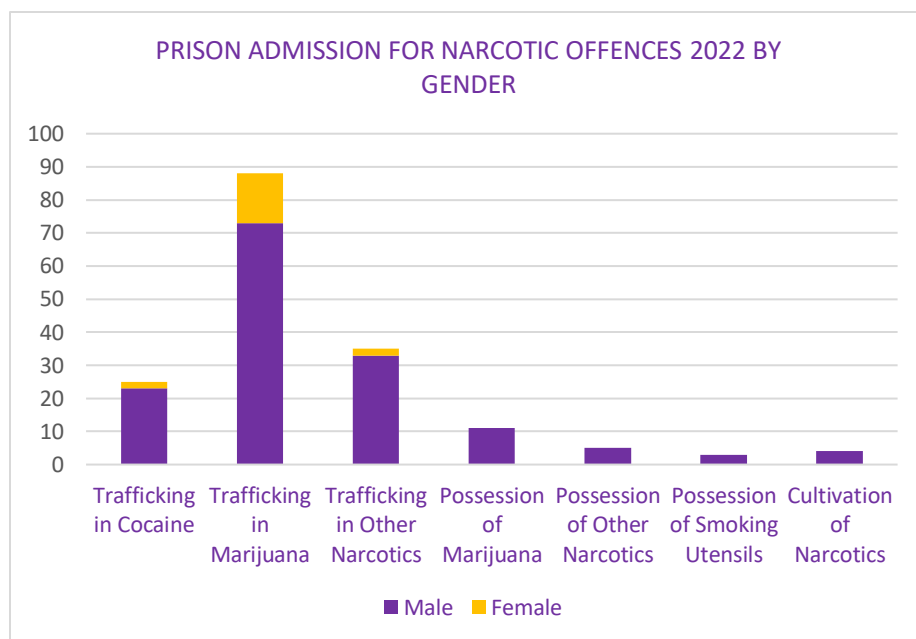
individuals. Possession offences, including marijuana and other narcotics, are relatively

low, with 11 and 5 individuals admitted, respectively. Minor offences like possession of smoking utensils and cultivation of narcotics have the fewest admissions. In 2022, most admissions to prisons for



narcotic crimes were male, primarily for trafficking offences. The offence with the highest number of cases was marijuana trafficking, involving 73 males and 15 females. This indicates that it is a significant issue affecting both genders. During the reporting period, only a small number of females were involved in trafficking: 2 for cocaine trafficking, 2 for trafficking other narcotics, and 15 for marijuana trafficking. This suggests lower female involvement in most offences.

During the reported period, several narcotics-related incidents occurred in various prisons, where narcotics were discovered within

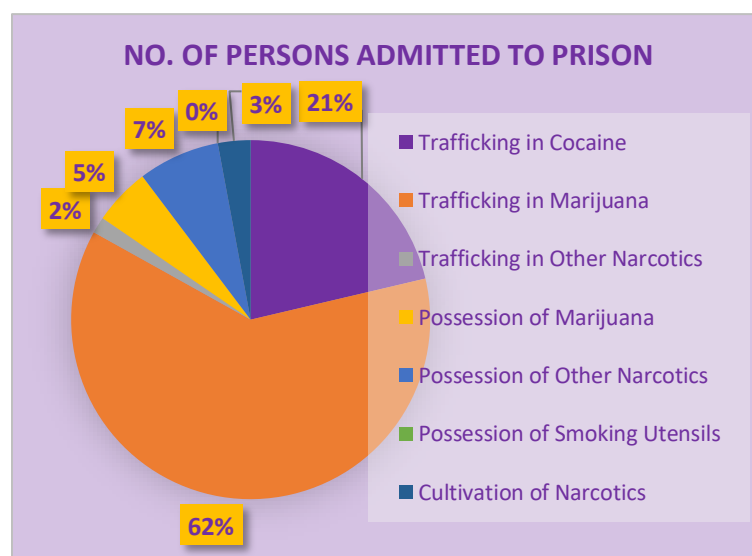


prison premises and in possession of prisoners, some of which led to prosecutions of persons involved. For the reporting period, a total of 23.991 kilogrammes of narcotics was discovered. New Amsterdam prison had the highest number of incidents of narcotic discovery and Prosecution for the period, with a total of 17.857 kilogrammes of drugs and a substantial number of incidents where persons were prosecuted. Georgetown Prisons, both 'A' and 'B' account for 20 cases of narcotics discovered incidents and a total of 16 prosecutions, with a total quantity of approximately 2.074 kg discovered. Minimal incidents occurred at Lusignan and Timehri Prisons in lower quantities than other prisons.

In 2023, the Guyana Prison Service recorded 1,325 prison admissions. Among these, 141 individuals were admitted for narcotic-related crimes, which included charges such as trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in marijuana, trafficking in other narcotics,

Offense	Georgetown Prison	New Amsterdam Prison (Male)	New Amsterdam Prison (Female)
Trafficking in Cocaine	21	1	7
Trafficking in Marijuana	43	30	11
Trafficking in Other Narcotics	2	-	-
Possession of Marijuana	7	-	-
Possession of Other Narcotics	10	-	-
Possession of Smoking Utensils	-	-	-
Cultivation of Narcotics	4	-	-

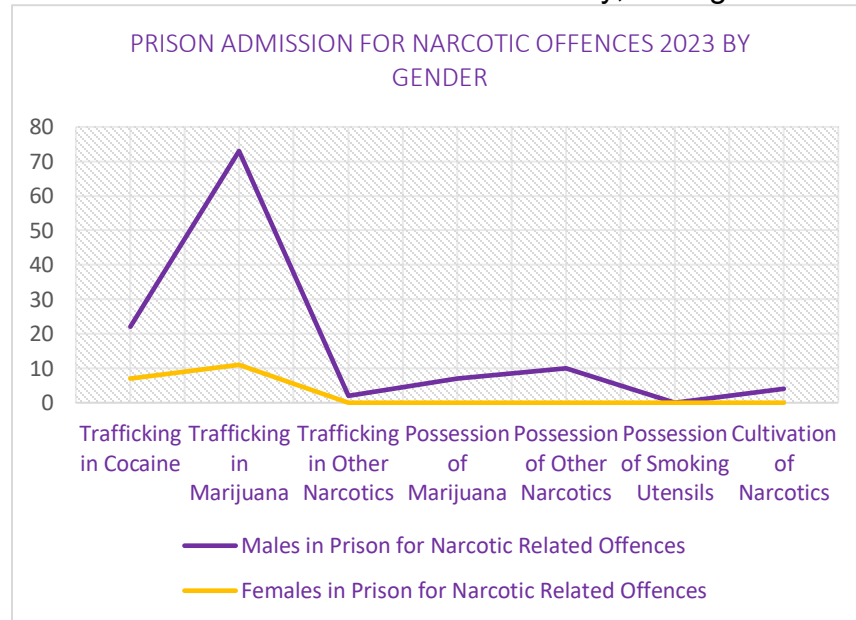
Possession of marijuana, possession of other narcotics, possession of smoking utensils, and the cultivation of narcotics. Narcotic offences accounted for 11% of the total admissions to prison during this reporting period.



During the reporting period, Georgetown Prison saw an increase in narcotics-related offences, particularly involving the trafficking of cocaine and marijuana. New Amsterdam Prison also reported a significant number of marijuana trafficking cases

among both male and female inmates. In 2023, Georgetown Prison recorded a notably higher number of trafficking cases, with 21 incidents, while New Amsterdam reported just one case among male inmates and seven cases among female inmates.

Overall, Georgetown Prison had the highest total of narcotics-related offences, with 107 cases primarily focused on marijuana trafficking. Marijuana trafficking was particularly prevalent, with 43 cases in Georgetown Prison and 41 in New Amsterdam, involving 30 male and 11 female inmates. Additionally, Georgetown Prison reported seven cases of



marijuana possession and ten cases of possession of other narcotics.

New Amsterdam Male Prison had a total of 45 cases overall, primarily due to marijuana trafficking, with only one case related to

cocaine trafficking. For this reporting period, Georgetown Prison was the only correctional facility to report instances of narcotics cultivation, totalling four cases. New Amsterdam Female Prison recorded 19 cases, mainly involving cocaine and marijuana trafficking.

In 2023, there was a notable increase in the discovery of narcotics within prison premises, totalling 59 incidents. This reflects a rise compared to the previous year. The majority of these discoveries occurred at New Amsterdam and Lusignan Prisons, with New Amsterdam reporting 20 incidents involving a total of 14.169 kg of narcotics, while Lusignan had 28 incidents totalling 4.957 kg. Despite this increase, there were no reported cases of inmates being prosecuted for narcotics possession in 2023, suggesting a potential change in enforcement practices. Additionally, Georgetown 'A' Prison reported six discoveries with

a relatively small quantity of 520 grams, indicating that there may be smaller-scale contraband issues.

GUYANA PRISON SERVICE 2022 - 2023: COMPARISON AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of information provided by the Guyana Prison Service regarding individuals admitted to prison for narcotic-related offences revealed several insights:

- The total quantity of narcotics discovered in 2023 (19.646 kg) is slightly lower than 2022's 23.991 kg.
- No prosecutions were reported in 2023, in contrast to the 28 incidents in 2022 when inmates were prosecuted for narcotics possession.
- The data shows significant challenges with narcotics in various prisons, emphasising the need for better monitoring and control measures.
- There is a significant issue with narcotics entering New Amsterdam prison, and implementing stricter checks along with potential intervention programs could help reduce the inflow and possession of these substances.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on marijuana trafficking, as it accounted for the highest number of admissions. Implementing preventive measures and awareness programs may be necessary.
- A higher percentage of individuals are arrested for trafficking instead of possession, indicating that enforcement efforts focus more on distribution.
- Developing specialised rehabilitation programs for drug offences may reduce the prevalence of narcotics-related activities within prisons.
- The creation of gender-specific intervention programs that address the distinct needs of male and female inmates separately may result in more effective outcomes.





MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

According to Act No. 2 of 2005¹⁰, which addresses the issue of trafficking in persons, the term "trafficking in persons" refers to the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving an individual through the use of force, threats, or other means of coercion. This can also include abduction, fraud, deception, exploitation of a position of vulnerability, or offering payments or benefits to gain the consent of a person who has authority over another individual. The primary aim of these actions is exploitation.

The Combating Trafficking in Persons Act of 2023¹¹, which repeated the earlier Combating Trafficking in Persons Act of 2005, criminalised sex trafficking and labour trafficking and prescribed penalties of five years to life imprisonment. These penalties were sufficiently stringent and, concerning sex trafficking, commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, such as rape. The law, which was enacted in June 2023, increased previously prescribed penalties for trafficking crimes, extended criminal liability to corporations, and explicitly included the use of children for the production and distribution of narcotics within the definition of trafficking. The law also defined trafficking broadly to include illegal adoption without the purpose of exploitation.

¹⁰ <http://www.dpp.gy/trafficking-in-persons/>

¹¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/guyana/>

The Ministry of Home Affairs has formed a dedicated Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons¹², designed to combat human trafficking throughout the country effectively. This task force focuses on several key areas to reduce the incidence of human trafficking in Guyana. The following initiatives are central to their strategy:

- A confidential hotline for reporting suspected trafficking cases allows callers to share information safely.
- The Ministry provides comprehensive training for frontline officials on legal frameworks, victim identification, and appropriate responses, with specialised sessions for immigration officers to recognise signs of trafficking and smuggling.
- The task force collaborates with local and international partners, including the Guyana Police Force and various NGOs, to share resources and expertise for a stronger response to human trafficking.
- Outreach activities aim to educate the community about the signs of trafficking, victims' rights, and available resources. Events are planned for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons in 2024 to promote discussions on prevention and support.

¹² <https://moha.gov.gy/guyanas-continued-efforts-and-achievements-in-combating-human-trafficking/>

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2022

In 2022, the Trafficking in Persons Department (TIP) reported a total of 240 individuals who were trafficked. This group included 36 males and 204 females from various nationalities, such as Venezuelans, Guyanese, Cubans, Brazilians, Jamaicans, and Dominicans. The majority of the victims were female, accounting for 204 cases, which represents approximately 85% of the total, while males made up 15%.



The age range of the victims varied widely, from under 12 years to over 60 years. Notably,

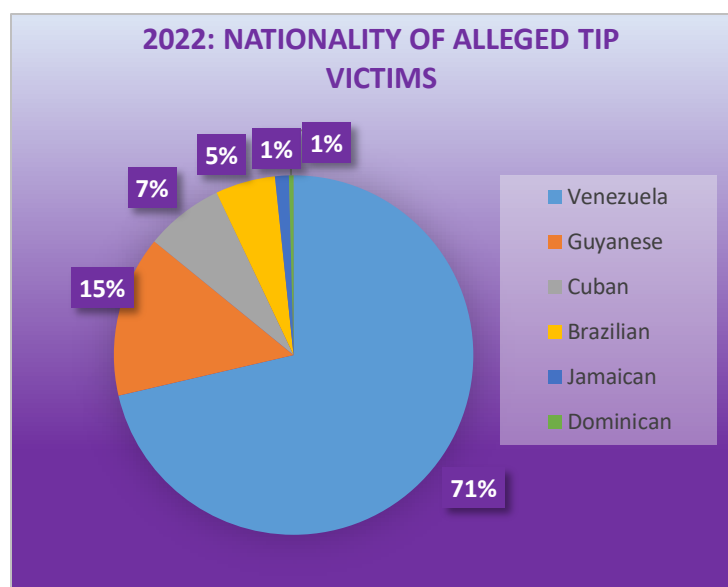
AGE RANGES OF ALLEGED TIP VICTIMS	
AGE RANGES	TOTAL
<12 years	11
12 - 18 years	13
19 - 25 years	98
26 - 32 years	61
33 - 39 years	26
40 - 46 years	15
47 - 53 years	10
54 - 60 years	2
60 & Over years	1
Unknown	3
TOTAL	240

the largest group of victims fell between the ages of 19 and 25 years, with a total of 98 cases. This indicates that young adults are the most affected demographic. The second most affected group included victims aged 26 to 32

years, with 61 cases, which accounts for about 25% of the total. Additionally, there were 13 cases involving minors aged 12 to 18 years, indicating that children are also significantly impacted. The number of alleged trafficking victims declines with age, as only 1 case was recorded for individuals aged 60 and older.



Among the nationalities, Venezuelan nationals represented the majority of alleged trafficking victims, with 172 cases highlighting a significant trend in trafficking involving individuals from Venezuela. Guyanese victims were the second largest group, totalling 35 cases, indicating that



trafficking also affects local citizens. Other nationalities, including Cubans, Brazilians, Jamaicans, and Dominicans, had comparatively lower numbers, with Cubans and Brazilians being the most affected.

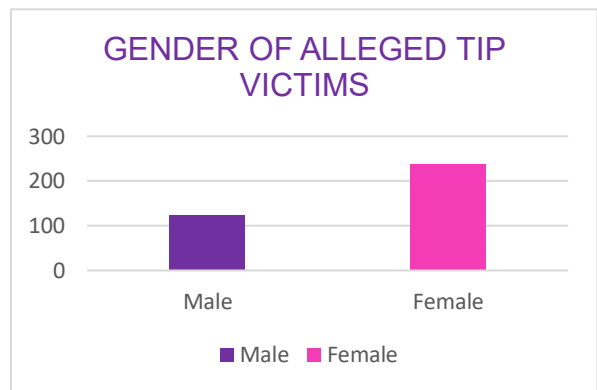
During 2022, several cases were reported involving offences related to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and brothel operations. These cases specifically pertained to exploitation for sexual purposes, including the operation of brothels and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The victims were primarily Venezuelan and Guyanese females, with ages ranging from young adults (22) to middle-aged individuals (35). The defendants included a combination of male and female individuals from diverse backgrounds, consisting of nationals from Venezuela and Guyana.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2023

AGE RANGES OF ALLEGED TIP VICTIMS	
AGE RANGES	TOTAL
<12 years	6
12 - 18 years	23
19 - 25 years	114
26 - 32 years	118
33 - 39 years	60
40 - 46 years	27
47 - 53 years	8
54 - 60 years	3
60 & Over years	2
Unknown	2
TOTAL	240

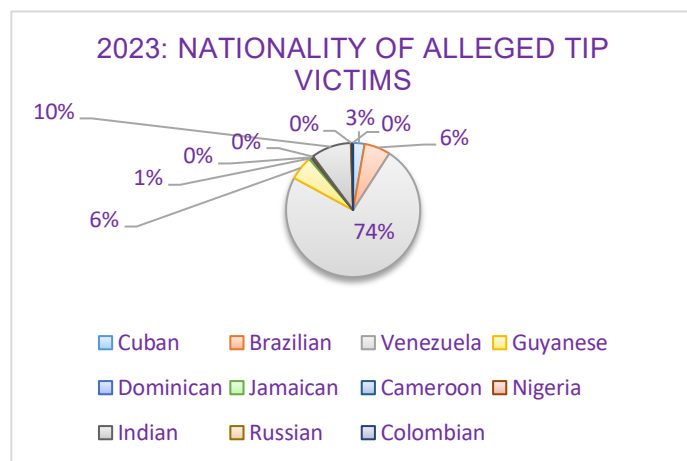
In 2023, the Trafficking in Persons Department (TIP) reported a total of three hundred sixty-three (363) individuals who were trafficked. This group included 36 one hundred twenty-four (124) males and two hundred thirty-nine (239) females from various nationalities, such as

Venezuelans, Indians, Brazilians, Guyanese, Cubans, Jamaicans, Cameroons, Nigerians, Russians and Colombians. The majority of the victims were female, accounting for 239 cases, which represents approximately 66% of the total, while males made up 34%.



The age range of the victims varied widely, from under 12 years to over 60 years and over. Notably, the largest group of victims fell between the ages of 26 and 32 years, with a total of 118 cases. This indicates that young adults are the most affected demographic. The second most affected group included victims aged 26 19 to 25 years, with 114 cases, which accounts for about 31% of the total. Additionally, there were 23 cases involving minors aged 12 to 18 years, indicating that children are also significantly impacted. The number of

alleged trafficking victims declines with age, as only 2 cases were recorded for individuals aged 60 and older.



Among the nationalities, Venezuelan nationals represented the majority of alleged trafficking victims, with 268 cases highlighting a significant trend in trafficking involving individuals from Venezuela. Indian victims were the second largest group, totalling 35 cases,

indicating that trafficking also affects local citizens. Other nationalities, including Guyanese, Cubans, Brazilians, Jamaicans, Cameroons, Nigerians, Russians, and Colombians, had comparatively lower numbers, with Brazilians, Guyanese and Cubans being the most affected.

In 2023, offences related to human trafficking involved charges ranging from trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation to child endangerment and assault. The majority of the victims were Venezuelans and Guyanese, consisting of both adults and minors. Minors were notably exploited for sexual activities or were unlawfully employed in environments that involved alcohol. The defendants in these cases represented a diverse group, including male and female offenders of various ages and professions, such as domestic workers, businessmen, pilots, and gold miners.

COMPARISON, TRENDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The cases in 2022 and 2023 involve trafficking in persons (TIP) for both sexual and labour exploitation, brothel management, and various offences against minors.

IN 2022

- The cases investigated were offences primarily related to brothel management and sexual exploitation.
- Human trafficking cases were limited in scale, with fewer victims compared to 2023.
- Offenders and victims were predominantly adults, with a smaller representation of minors.
- Victims were predominantly females, with a focus on Venezuelan nationals and Guyanese women.
- Ages ranged from young adults (22) to middle-aged (35).
- Smaller-scale operations, with individual victims or limited groups of victims involved.
- A smaller number of charges laid overall.
- Crimes were primarily concentrated in specific regions, such as Georgetown and Corentyne Berbice.
- In 2022, crimes primarily involved adults and brothel management, with fewer minors and a narrower scope of criminal activities.



- There was a significant increase in TIP cases, involving both sexual and labour exploitation.
- The diversity in TIP crimes consisted of:
 1. Labour exploitation involving multiple male victims.
 2. Child endangerment, including sexual activities with minors, assault, and illegal employment of minors in harmful environments.
- Larger groups of victims in a single case (e.g., 16 males and 9 females in separate TIP cases).
- A sharp increase in the number of victims:
 1. Larger groups of victims in cases (e.g., 9 females in one case and 16 males in another).
 2. Continued presence of Venezuelan nationals, including both male and female victims.
 3. Expanded age ranges for victims:
 - Females: 15 to 45 years.
 - Males: 18 to 49 years.
- Large-scale TIP operations involving groups of victims (e.g., 9 females, 16 males).
- More complex crimes, with multiple charges laid against individual defendants (e.g., TIP, assault, sexual activity with minors).
- Cases spread across Regions 7 (Bartica, Essequibo River), Georgetown, and Port Kaituma, highlighting an increase in the geographic spread of trafficking in person operations and exploitation-related crimes.



- During 2023, crimes expanded to include large-scale TIP for labour, exploitation of minors, and assault—indicative of evolving criminal networks and more severe crimes.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

- **Increased exploitation of vulnerable populations:** The rising number of Venezuelan nationals, particularly minors, has created a vulnerable group that traffickers are increasingly targeting.
- **Expanded nature of crimes:** There has been a shift from smaller brothel operations in 2022 to more complex and large-scale human trafficking cases in 2023.
- **Diversified exploitation:** While sexual exploitation remains a prevalent issue, labor exploitation is emerging as a significant concern as well.

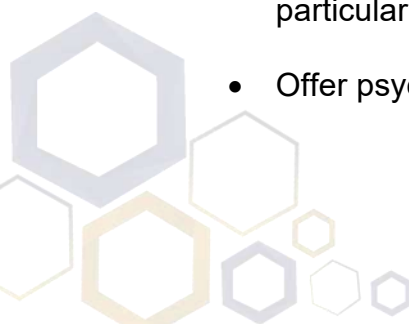
RECCOMENDATIONS

Strengthened Legal Framework:

- Expand laws to impose stricter penalties for TIP and crimes involving minors.
- Increase enforcement of labour laws to address exploitation in industries like gold mining and domestic work.

Victim Support and Rehabilitation:

- Create specialized shelters and rehabilitation programs for trafficking survivors, particularly minors.
- Offer psychological and legal aid to victims of TIP and exploitation.



Targeted Awareness Campaigns:

- Raise awareness about TIP and related crimes in vulnerable communities, especially in regions with high victim prevalence (e.g., Region 7, Port Kaituma).
- Educate businesses and communities about recognizing and reporting exploitation.

Regional and International Collaboration:

- Strengthen cross-border cooperation with Venezuela to address TIP networks exploiting Venezuelan nationals.
- Collaborate with international organizations to provide resources for victim support and capacity building.

Enhanced Monitoring and Enforcement:

- Deploy more resources to monitor industries prone to exploitation, such as mining and hospitality.
- Increase raids and intelligence gathering to dismantle organized TIP networks.

The TIP (Trafficking in Persons) cases from 2022 to 2023 highlight the ongoing and evolving challenges in combating human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and related abuses. These cases stress the urgent need for strong enforcement measures, comprehensive support systems for victims, and increased public awareness to effectively address these crimes.



GUYANA POLICE FORCE **TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT**

Incorporating traffic offences into a drug prevention strategy fosters a comprehensive approach to addressing drug misuse and its effects on society. This integration enhances law enforcement efforts, promotes public safety, and contributes to broader initiatives to reduce drug-related harm.

Drug and alcohol consumption can impair judgment, coordination, and reaction times, increasing the risk of traffic accidents. Incorporating DUI cases into drug prevention strategies can help reduce preventable road deaths and injuries, thereby enhancing public safety. These offences also highlight broader substance abuse issues within the community, which can guide the development of targeted prevention and rehabilitation programs. Enforcing strict penalties for DUI violations and public awareness campaigns can deter potential offenders and promote responsible behaviour, reinforcing the government's commitment to drug prevention and community well-being.

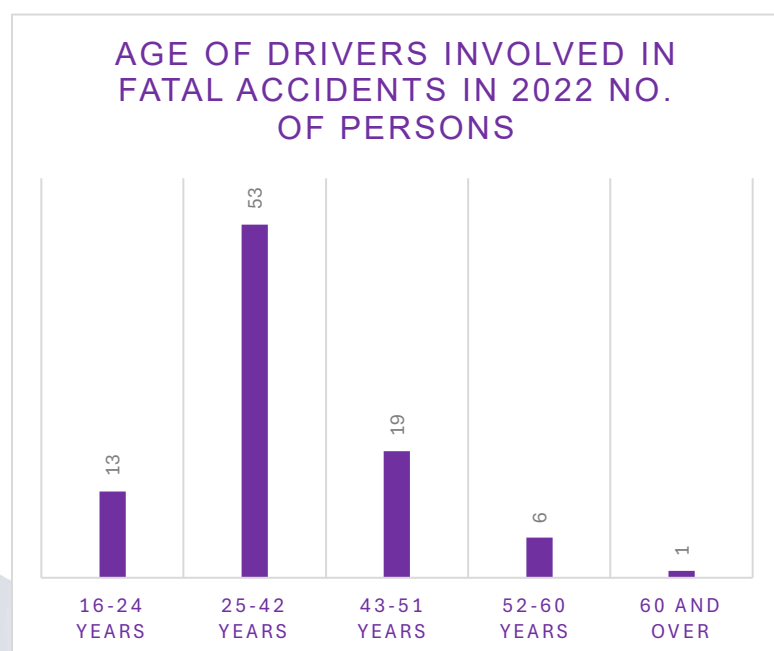
The Traffic Department of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) plays a crucial role in maintaining road safety, enforcing traffic laws, and reducing accidents across Guyana. This department serves as the central authority for managing and educating the public about road traffic, focusing on mitigating traffic-related risks and ensuring compliance with the law.

Additionally, the Traffic Department is instrumental in Guyana's broader drug strategy, particularly in tackling drug-impaired driving and enforcing driving under the influence (DUI) laws. Their efforts contribute to reducing drug-related traffic offences and accidents, gathering data to identify patterns of substance abuse linked to road incidents, and supporting public awareness initiatives about the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

TRAFFIC REPORT 2022

In 2022, the Guyana Police Force's Traffic Department reported 51,781 road accident cases. Among these, 2,590 recorded road accidents, including 92 fatal accidents resulting in 99 fatalities consisting of 82 males and 17 females, six of whom were children. Males represented 83% of the total. Additionally, 357 serious accidents, 610 minor accidents, and 1,531 accidents resulted in only property damage. During the period, 1226 drivers were charged with DUI.

The ages of persons involved in fatal accidents ranged from 16 to over 60 years. The



highest number of fatal accidents occurred among drivers aged 25-42, comprising 53 incidents, representing 67.09% of the total. The second-highest group was persons aged 43-51, accounting for over 24% of the accidents. Drivers aged 16-24 represented 16.46% of those involved in fatal

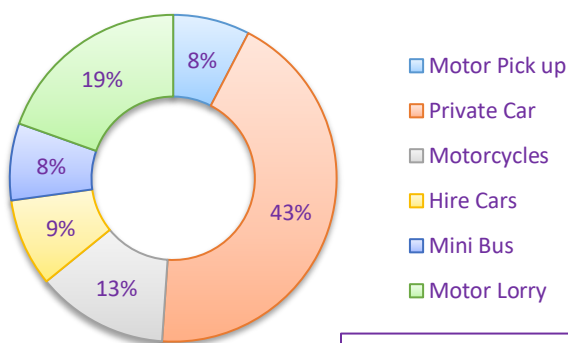
crashes. There is a significant drop in the number and percentage of drivers involved in accidents after age 51, with the lowest representation found in the 60 and over age group, at just 1.27%.

The recorded 61 fatal accidents were caused by 96% speeding, 3% inattentiveness, 1% pedestrians crossing the path of approaching vehicles, and a small proportion caused by

CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS 2022	NO.
Speeding	61
DUI	4
Inattentiveness	14
Pedestrians crossing the path of approaching vehicles	13

individuals driving under the influence.

VEHICLE TYPES INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS 2022

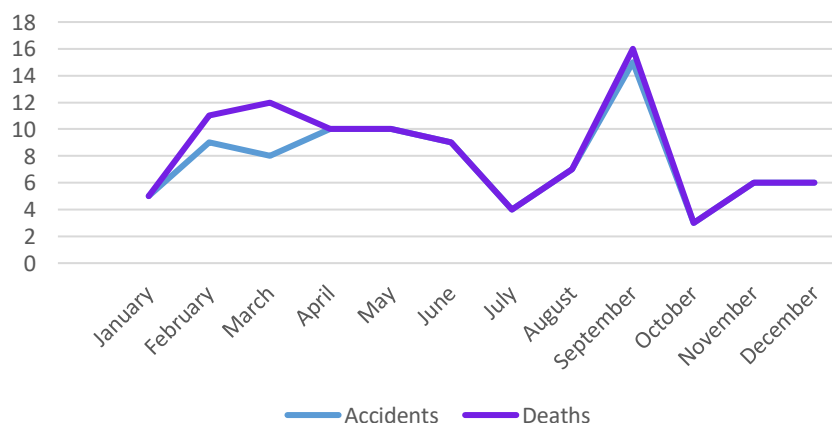


A total of 92 vehicles were involved in fatal accidents, including motor pickups, private cars, motorcycles, hire cars, minibuses, and motor lorries. Private cars account for a significant proportion of these incidents, with 40 involved, followed by motor lorries

at 18 and motorcycles at 12.

The data shared by the Guyana Police Force's Traffic Department highlights the Fatal Road accidents and road

NO. OF FATAL ACCIDENTS AND ROAD FATALITIES BY MONTHS



fatalities by month in 2022. The data shows that September had the highest number of accidents (15) and deaths (16), implying a more dangerous month overall. The months February and March show the number of deaths being higher than the number of accidents, with February (Accidents: 9, Deaths: 11) with an accident-to-death ratio of 9:11 and March (Accidents: 8, Deaths: 12) with an accident to death ratio of 8: 12. Additionally, the data shows October having low numbers for both accidents and deaths, which might indicate a quieter month with fewer incidents. January, April, May, July, August, October, November, and December show a more consistent relationship between accidents and fatalities with ratio equals. According to the data for the year 2022, the average number of fatal road accidents is 6.8 per month, and the average number of road fatalities per month in 2022 was 8.25 deaths per month.

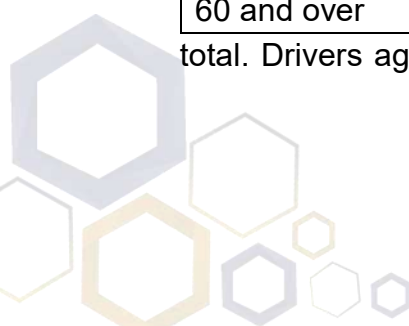
TRAFFIC REPORT 2023

During 2023, The Guyana Police Force Traffic Department recorded a total of 87,436 road accident cases, which included 148 serious accidents. The serious accidents for the year resulted in 175 road fatalities, among the fatalities, consisting of 147 males and 28 females, 6 of whom were children. In 2023 1,301 drivers were charged for DUI.

AGE OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS IN 2023	
AGE	NO. OF PERSONS
16-24 years	33
25-42 years	76
43-51 years	18
52-60 years	13
60 and over	8

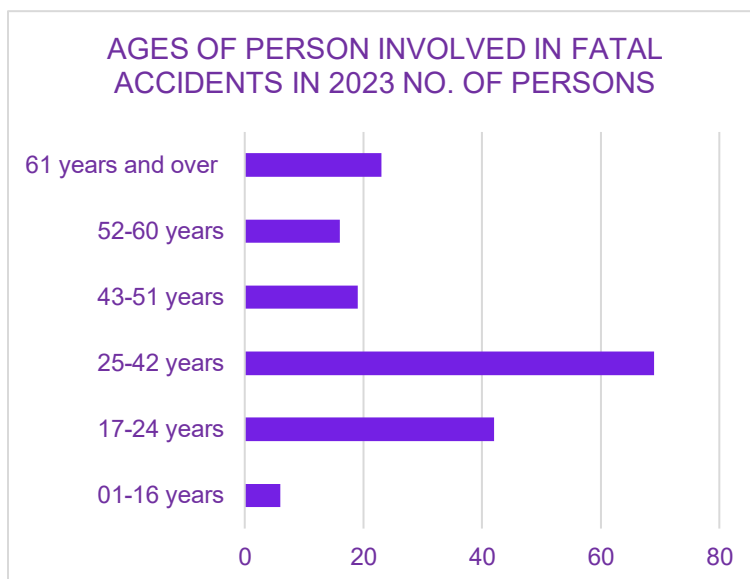
During the reporting period, a breakdown of drivers involved in fatal accidents in 2023 by age group revealed some significant statistics. Drivers aged 25-42 accounted for 51% of fatal accidents, notably more than half the year's

total. Drivers aged 43-51 also represented a substantial portion, making up 22% of fatal



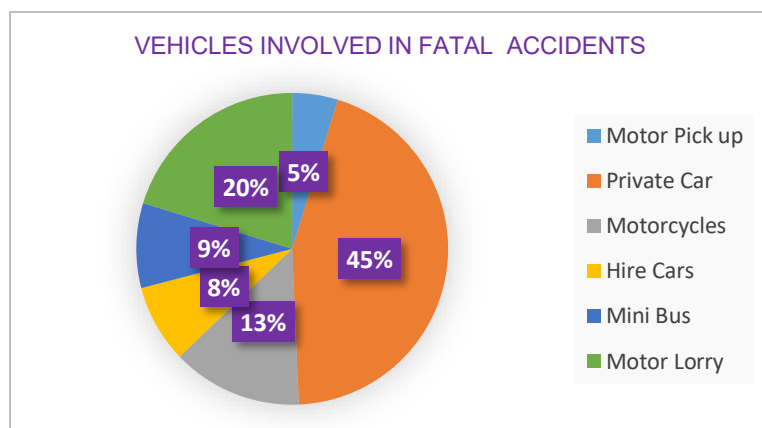
accidents. Those between the ages of 52 and 60 accounted for 12%, while the 16-24 age group represented 9% of drivers involved in fatal accidents. Although drivers aged 60 and over contributed less than the younger groups, they still had a notable presence, accounting for 6% of the fatal accidents.

The data indicates that the age group of 25 to 42 years old represents the largest proportion of individuals involved in fatal accidents, accounting for 40% of all such incidents during the period analyzed. The 17 to 24 years age group also holds a significant



share, making up 24%. The 52 to 60 years age group has a moderate number of individuals involved in fatal accidents, accounting for 16%. In contrast, the 43 to 51 years age group has fewer individuals involved, comprising 19% of the total. Those aged 61 and over contribute to a small percentage of fatal accidents, accounting for 13%. Meanwhile, individuals under 16 years of age represent only 3% of the total.

Throughout the year, 309 serious accidents, 537 minor accidents, and 1,497 accidents resulted in vehicle damage. Among the fatal accidents, 128 were due to speeding, 13 were caused by inattentiveness, and 6 involved pedestrians crossing the path of oncoming vehicles. Additionally, only one fatal accident was attributed to driving under the influence.



148 vehicles were involved in fatal accidents. The breakdown of these incidents includes 7 motor pickups, 66 private cars, 20 motorcycles, 12 hire cars, 13 minibuses, and 30 motor lorries.

GUYANA POLICE FORCE FATAL ACCIDENT FOCUSING ON DUI: COMPARISON AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary cause of fatal accidents in both years is speeding, which saw a sharp increase from 2022 to 2023. Conversely, incidents of driving under the influence (DUI) have significantly decreased, representing a positive trend. However, inattentiveness continues to be a persistent issue. There has also been a decline in pedestrian-related accidents, although this area requires further improvement.

The data indicates that efforts should address speeding, reducing distracted driving, and ensuring pedestrian safety. While the number of DUI-related fatal accidents has fallen, the increase in DUI charges suggests that impaired driving remains a serious concern. This underscores the necessity for continued public awareness campaigns, stricter enforcement, and the exploration of potential technological innovations, such as alcohol detection systems in vehicles, to help prevent impaired driving.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit, which serves as the National Drug Authority, has been actively coordinating efforts with various international organisations and local stakeholders in Guyana during 2022-2023. Their initiatives focus on **Supply Reduction**, which aims to diminish narcotics trafficking and enhance the capacity of drug enforcement agencies.

Additionally, they are working on **Demand Reduction Strategies** that concentrate on treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention efforts and improving and modernising control measures. This includes encouraging **Institutional Strengthening** to facilitate policy development and changes, coordinating collaboration among key stakeholders for various projects, and supporting **International Cooperation** with Guyana and numerous global organisations.

The overarching focus is on issues related to illicit drug trafficking, drug use and abuse, illegal firearms trade, terrorism, human trafficking, and other related challenges.

During the reporting period, Guyana participated in various forums, where numerous government officials and staff from NGOs (Treatment Providers) engaged in essential training sessions. These trainings, which focused on the Supply and Demand Reduction sectors, were coordinated by international organisations and took place virtually and in person.

During 2022-2023, Guyana engaged with several international organisations such as OAS (Organisation of American States), COPOLAD (Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drugs Policies), CARICOM IMPACS (Implementing Agency for Crime and Security), CELAC-EU (The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), (EMCDDA) The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, EU (European Union); SEACOP (Seaport Cooperation Programme), UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO); AIRCOP (Airport Communication Project) among several others.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

As an active Organization of American States (OAS) member, Guyana is part of a group of thirty-five independent countries from the Caribbean, South America, and North America. Since its establishment in Guyana on April 18, 1994, the country has participated in various training activities focused on public security. These activities include aviation security, port security, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, and more. Additionally, Guyana has provided scholarships and awards for professional development courses, as well as undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Guyana is actively involved with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Mr. James Singh, the Director of the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit, currently serves as a Commissioner of CICAD. This commission operates as a consultative and advisory body within the OAS, focusing on issues related to drug abuse and control.

CICAD provides a platform for member nations to gather, discuss, and develop solutions to drug-related challenges. The commission also offers technical support to help these governments tackle the drug problem effectively. It places significant emphasis on drug control and the promotion of regional cooperation and coordination among OAS member states.

CICAD collaborates extensively with various partners, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Pan American Health Organization, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and the Regional Security System. Furthermore, CICAD maintains strong connections with civil society and encourages active participation from civil society representatives in all its regular sessions.

One of the major achievements of the OAS/CICAD is the development of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (2021-2025). This document serves as a comprehensive guide for implementing the strategy, advocating for member states to prioritize drug policies and programs while making significant advancements in addressing the global drug issue. It emphasizes adherence to the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international agreements. These efforts must align with the principles of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

During the 2022-2023 period, various entities involved in the anti-drug and narcotic sectors submitted relevant information, which was processed through the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). This information is then presented to the Organisation of American States (OAS), contributing to the development of the National Hemispheric Plan of Action.

The MEM and the Government Expert Group (GEG) are two platforms dedicated to collecting and assessing this information.

During this period, Guyana was actively involved in several other sectors within the OAS, which sought to develop the capacities of personnel working in areas that address the country's drug situation, such as Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction, Harm Reduction, Control Measures, Institutional Strengthening, and International Cooperation.

Guyana participated in the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) during this period. CICTE is the only regional organization in the Americas dedicated to preventing and combating terrorism. Its primary goal is to promote collaboration and dialogue among member states to effectively address the threat of terrorism. This mission aligns with the principles outlined in the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and it is carried out with respect for national sovereignty, adherence to legal frameworks, and compliance with international law.

CICTE focuses on several key areas that are essential for effectively addressing drug-related issues in the country. These areas include Cybersecurity, Maritime and Port Security, Cargo and Container Security, Aviation Security, Border Controls, Terrorism Financing, the Prevention of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Violent Extremism, among others.

Guyana during this period participated in the GENLEA, this forum focuses on the promotion of gender equality in institutions vital to increase operational effectiveness, strengthen inclusion, enhance oversight, and maintain accountability and compliance with the most relevant international standards on the topic, including the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men. The GENLEA programme aligns with the OAS



Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010 and is centred on implementing the Inter-American Programme for Enhancing Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA). Its primary objective is to enhance gender equality within counterdrug law enforcement agencies of OAS member states, with the ultimate goal of bolstering their ability to combat drug trafficking. The primary objective of the GENLEA Programme is not the establishment of gender-based quotas for women but rather the advancement of equitable opportunities for all officers committed to combatting drug trafficking. Additionally, the programme aims to enhance the recruitment and retention of the most qualified individuals within drug law enforcement organisations.

For the reporting period, the country participated in several virtual engagements with participants from several law/ Drug enforcement entities. The country also hosted a workshop in collaboration with the OAS in Guyana.

- Training Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of National Drug Policies, Strategies, And Plans – Jamaica
- Executive Training on International Law of Cyber Operations –Dominican Republic
- CICAD/OAS Group of Experts on Maritime Narco Trafficking – Peru
- Building Evidence-Based Drug Treatment Courts Through Improved Monitoring and Evaluation-Washington DC USA
- Early Warning Systems and The National Drug Observatories: Updates and New Perspectives” - Santiago, Chile
- Training of Trainers for Universal Curriculum Training for National Drug Strategies - Washington DC



- Inter-American Observatory on Drugs - Informal Discussion with National Drug Observatories (NDOS) From Caribbean Member States
- Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Eighth Evaluation Round Governmental Expert Group (GEG) Virtual Preparatory Meeting (Virtually)
- Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (Mem) Second National Drafting Session of The Governmental Expert Group (GEG)
- Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA)

COPOLAD III PROGRAMME

During the 2022-2023 period Guyana actively participated in the COPOLAD III programme, which places great emphasis on areas relevant to the country's priorities as it relates to the illicit drug trade. COPOLAD (Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies) is an EU-funded programme that helps to forge drug policies supported by objective monitoring instruments and based on reliable and effective strategies. The COPOLAD III focuses on several forums, such as the development and implementation of evidence-based Drug Policies, Sustainable Alternative programmes, as well as interventions focusing on treatment and prevention and other issues such as human rights and gender equality. These events are also attended by members of various institutions in Guyana through the recommendations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Drug Authority.

- 2022 Annual Meeting COPOLAD III - Paraguay
- First Intra-Regional Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development, Bogota, Colombia



- 1st Study Tour on Alternative Development in The Framework of COPOLAD III – Peru
- “Addressing Gender in Alternative Development Projects”- COPOLAD III
- 8TH Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development “Joining International Efforts on Alternative Development”

CARICOM IMPACS

During the reporting period, the heads of security forces in Guyana were the country’s focal points within the CARICOM IMPACS. The CARICOM IMPACS serves as the central hub of the Region's recently established multilateral Crime and Security management framework, which has been specifically developed to effectively address the Crime and Security concerns of Member States through a coordinated approach. In accordance with the mandates of, and with the obligation to report to the Council of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement.

CARICOM IMPACS is responsible for implementing actions agreed upon by the Council regarding crime and security. Its primary objectives include developing and executing projects aligned with the agency’s goals and initiating proposals for Council consideration.

The agency advises the Council on regional crime and security responses based on thorough research. It also carries out regional projects, serves as an information clearinghouse and mobilizes resources to support the crime and security agenda. Additionally, CARICOM IMPACS negotiates technical assistance and contributes to strategies that enhance CARICOM's representation on regional and international security matters. It shares information with member states about current crime trends and collaborates with national and international agencies to analyze strategies for improving

community security. Additionally, it works with the CARICOM Secretariat to establish roles and rules for committees advancing the regional crime and security agenda.

IMPACS organizes meetings for five sub-committees: the Commissioners of Police, Military Heads, Chiefs of Immigration, Heads of Customs, and Heads of Intelligence and Financial Investigative Units. An Executive Director leads IMPACS and reports to the CARICOM Council of Ministers for National Security and Law Enforcement, which oversees its policies and activities.

- **Intelligence Analysis for CARICOM Professionals**

THE JOINT REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (JRCC)

Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) is the central hub for the Advance Passenger Information (API) system and represents CARICOM member states. Its principal duty is pre-screening regional air and marine passengers. It began adopting an Advance Cargo Information System in 2013, and became operational in 2015. The JRCC facilitates Law Enforcement communication, which improves border control. The JRCC helps local law enforcement detect stolen, misplaced, or counterfeit travel papers. It also helps identify and monitor suspects, especially those who pose a major threat to regional security.

- **Guyana has been a part of the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) as a founding member when it was established in 1973 as part of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), which Guyana is a part of; the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which created CARICOM, was signed that year and included Guyana as a signatory. The country continues to participate in initiatives that focuses on the reducing drug trafficking and other transnational crimes.**



THE REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE FUSION CENTRE (RIFC)

The Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC) helps key stakeholders identify, prevent, and manage regional crime. The Centre works closely with the JRCC to provide intelligence to regional security agencies and other relevant parties to analyse Caribbean threat entities.

- Guyana joined the Regional Security System (RSS), which includes the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (IFC), in 2022 following the International Energy Conference and Expo Guyana 2022; formally signing the Instrument of Accession in September of that year.

I. This CARICOM IMPACS sub-agency is based in Trinidad and Tobago and provides support to Member States in intelligence gathering, sharing and analysis

CELAC-EU

The relationship between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean is characterised by historical, cultural, and economic interdependence. The two parties have established a strategic bi-regional partnership, which began in 1999 and has intensified substantially in recent years. The two regions engage in extensive international cooperation on a vast array of issues and engage in robust political discourse on multiple levels. Guyana is an active member of the CELAC-EU, with the engagements of several representatives.

The EU's flexible strategy with Latin America and the Caribbean includes CELAC. This strategy includes regional, sub-regional, and bilateral interactions that complement each other. Strong bilateral partnerships with individual nations and engagement with:

Mercosur came into existence when a treaty was signed in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1991, and the protocol of Ouro Preto in 1994. Mercosur aims to allow the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people between its members. Portuguese and Spanish are



trading bloc languages. Venezuela is a full member of Mercosur, along with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Five more nations are Mercosur associate members. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname are under consideration. Associate members can participate in free-trade agreements but not customs union benefits.

- 22nd High-Level CELAC-EU Meeting - Paraguay

CARICOM/CARIFORUM

A body comprising of fifteen (15) Caribbean ACP States that signed the Georgetown Agreement form the Body. This 1975 Agreement established the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States. The alliance includes 79 African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations. among others. It was established in 1992 and serves as a base for economic dialogue with the European Union. Additionally, the organisation focuses on several other areas, such as illicit drug trade, money laundering, human rights.

EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the leading authority on illicit drugs in the European Union. The Lisbon-based agency provides independent scientific evidence and analysis on all aspects of this constantly changing threat to individual lives and wider society. Its work contributes to EU and national policies to protect Europe's citizens from drug-related harms. Guyana has recently begun engagements with this organisation through a joint initiative between the EMCDDA and COPOLAD II. This engagement focused on building the capacity of National Drug Observatories, establishing early warning signs mechanism among other topics. The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, which houses the Guyana Drug Observatory, known as the GUYDIN, was invited to this forum held in Lisbon, Portugal to make representation. Since

the unit has been actively involved in several online engagements with this organisation along with representatives from the Caribbean and South American countries.

- Early Warning Systems and The National Drug Observatories: Updates and New Perspectives” - Santiago, Chile

SEACOP

The project titled "Seaport Cooperation (SEACOP V)" is being funded by the European Union's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) through the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability. The primary goal of SEACOP V is to provide assistance in combating maritime illegal trafficking and the criminal networks involved in the targeted nations and regions. This is done with the aim of mitigating the adverse effects of illicit trafficking on public health and economic stability. The Country has been actively involved with SEACOP and as a result several personnel from Guyana Revenue Authority, Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit and Guyana Defense Force Coast Guard, Guyana Police Force and Maritime Administrative Department received training in areas beneficial to the country's maritime security during the reporting period.

- SEACOP - V Joint Maritime Control Unit Training Program
- SEACOP PHASE V Course – Barbados
- Guyana And SEACOP National Steering Committee Meeting

AIRCOP

The AIRCOP initiative is a collaborative endeavour led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in conjunction with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation (WCO). The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the capabilities



of international airports in identifying and apprehending individuals, cargo, and mail that pose a high risk. This effort is intended to support the global campaign against illegal drugs and other illicit goods, including counterfeit medical products and wildlife items. It also aims to address security concerns related to terrorism, such as the transportation of weapons or potential foreign terrorist fighters. Additionally, its objective is to enhance communication and cooperation among nations of origin, transit, and destination in order to impede unlawful cross-border activities and criminal networks. Guyana as made representations at this forum and has since had a training that focused on efficient profiling, inspections of luggage, and body checks. The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit as the country's focal point, hopes to engage the organisation for further consultations and trainings in this area.

CNB

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) was established in 1971 as the primary drug enforcement agency with a clear and focused mandate – to keep Singapore safe from the harms of drugs and inhalants.

In 1994, the “Committee to Improve the Drug Situation in Singapore” was set up to look into the drug situation and it recommended a total and integrated approach to revitalise Singapore's strategies against drug abuse at the national level.

The four main strategies are Preventive Drug Education, Rigorous Enforcement, Treatment and Rehabilitation for drug abusers, and finally, Aftercare and Continued Rehabilitation for ex-drug abusers to reintegrate them into society. CNB took on the responsibility of preventive drug education in addition to drug enforcement.

- Singapore's drug control programme Study Tour: Singapore

REDTRAC

The Caribbean's need for improved anti-narcotics law enforcement training was first raised at a CARICOM Ministerial Meeting in 1989 and again in 1990 at a meeting of regional Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA). The HONLEA passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Regional Drug Training Centre (REDTRAC), which was first mooted by the Jamaican Delegation at the 34th Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) in Vienna, Austria, in 1991. The idea received unanimous support from regional leaders at the 12th CARICOM Heads of Government Conference in Basseterre, St. Kitts, in July 1991, and the 15th Heads of Government Meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, in July 1994. A Sub-regional Project was formulated under the auspices of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for the establishment of a regional anti-narcotics, law enforcement training centre in Jamaica to serve the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. Construction of the centre began in November of that year with tripartite funding from the UNDCP, the United States Bureau of International Narcotics Matters (INM), and the Government of Jamaica. The Centre was formally commissioned into service on 27th September, 1996, and is still more popularly known as REDTRAC.

- Cybercrime investigation
- Trafficking in persons

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY (ILEA)

International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs) are international police academies established by the United States Department of State to train local police from participating countries in counterterrorism, narcotics interdiction, fraudulent document detection, and



border control practices. Established in 1995 by President Bill Clinton, ILEAs aim to reduce crime, combat terrorism, and share knowledge and training. Currently, there are four regional ILEAs worldwide: ILEA San Salvador in El Salvador, ILEA Budapest in Hungary, ILEA Bangkok in Thailand, ILEA Gaborone in Botswana, and ILEA Roswell in New Mexico. The program also has an affiliated Regional Training Center in Accra, Ghana. Thirteen federal law enforcement agencies participate in the ILEA program, with select metropolitan police departments sourced for their areas of expertise. Courses cover topics such as physical security, transnational investigations, post-blast investigations, countering wildlife trafficking, anticorruption, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, financial crimes, terrorism, and human trafficking. The ILEA provides a core curriculum for criminal justice managers to develop effective law enforcement cooperation and enhance each country's ability to suppress transnational crime.

Executive law enforcement leadership seminar - El Salvador

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND (SOUTHCOM)

Tradewinds is a SOUTHCOM-sponsored exercise designed to strengthen partnerships and interoperability, promote human rights, as well as increase all participants' training capacity and capability to mitigate, plan for and respond to crises and security threats.

Tradewinds 2023 (TW23), held in Guyana July 15 - 28, 2023, was a Caribbean-focused



training focused on increasing regional cooperation in complex multinational security operations.

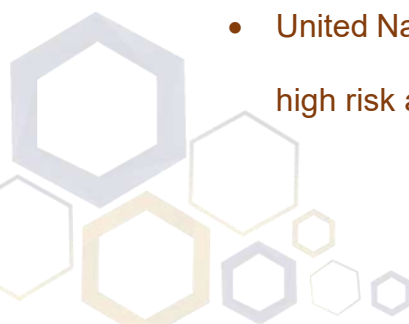
multi-dimensional exercise conducted in the ground, air, sea, and cyber domains. TW23 provided participating nations opportunities to conduct joint, combined, and interagency



UNODC

The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was created by the merger of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the UN Office in Vienna. In 2002, it changed its name to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The United Nations Programme Network for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (PNI)[3] is a global network that includes the UNODC and several crime-related organisations and other centres. Its goal is to improve global collaboration in the fields of criminal justice and crime prevention. The "exchange of information, research, training and public education" is made possible by the network.

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional workshop on targeting high risk air to sea passengers- Bridgetown, Barbados



SHIPRIDER AGREEMENT-2020

¹³Guyana and the United States of America (USA) have signed a bilateral agreement which will foster more cooperation between the two countries, focusing on reducing the illicit trade and narcotics trafficking at sea. The initiative is to facilitate maritime and airspace patrols¹⁴ to interdict drugs. Shiprider agreements help close global maritime law enforcement gaps; improve cooperation, coordination, and interoperability; and build maritime law enforcement capacity to more effectively combat illegal maritime activities.¹⁵ With continued engagements 2021 through 2022.

GUYANA BRAZIL INTERINSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Guyana signed two Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreements with Brazil at the Inaugural Ministerial Meeting against Transnational Organized Crime in South America, held, in Brazil in 2022. The agreements were inked to increase cooperation to combat transnational organised crime; and to fight and enforce additional preventative measures against illegal narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism, trafficking in persons, smuggling of wildlife, gold and minerals, trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and their parts, money laundering, forgery and cybercrimes. Additionally, the agreements will also facilitate the exchange of information on public security, prevention and the fight against organized

¹³ <https://gy.usembassy.gov/guyana-and-the-united-states-more-than-50-years-of-friendship/>

¹⁴ <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/guyana-us-sign-cooperation-agreement/>

¹⁵ <https://www.mdlea.com/international-law/treaties-international-agreements-in-force/guyana-agreement-concerning-cooperation-to-suppress-illicit-traffic-by-sea-and-air-20-918/>



crime. The information-sharing objectives of the agreement will also include the exchange of knowledge, expertise, information, technology, research and scientific development in both countries.

RSS (REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM)

Guyana became member of the RSS in 2022, The RSS functions as a defence system for the Caribbean Sea, conducting many operations by detecting and combating cross-Atlantic and intra-Caribbean drug smuggling, protecting the sovereignty of the nations of the Caribbean, providing assistance to Caribbean countries at the request of governments. The RSS was created in 1982 to counter threats to the stability of the Region in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The body cooperates with the Caricom Regional Task Force on Crime and Security (CRTFCS).

GUYANA, SURINAME AND FRENCH GUIANA SECURITY AGREEMENT

In 2022, Guyana executed a security agreement with French Guiana and Suriname to enhance cooperation and address shared security challenges. The dialogue emphasised the critical importance of a unified approach to understanding the regional strategic defence and security environment. The emphasis was on the collaborative efforts to address challenges that impact the populations, territories, maritime space, and interests of the countries, as well as to combat security threats.



THEMATIC AREAS KEY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

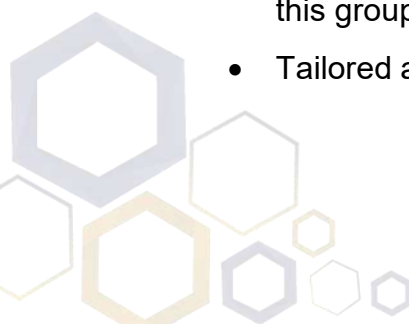
DEMAND REDUCTION

KEY ANALYSIS:

- Males exhibit significantly higher substance use across all categories compared to females, particularly for tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, and crack.
- Age Distribution: Substance use patterns vary with age:
 1. Males under 18 have the highest use of inhalants, tobacco, and ecstasy.
 2. The 18 to 25 group shows peak usage for crack, cocaine, and methadone.
- Alcohol and marijuana usage is consistent across all male age groups, while alcohol use peaks among males over 25.
- Females predominantly use alcohol and marijuana, with limited cases of other substances.
- The majority of individuals in treatment have some sort of education, indicating a need for interventions targeting this group.
- Both facilities show fewer persons in treatment in 2023 than in 2022, reflecting an overall trend of reduced participation or admissions.
- The Salvation Army consistently serves more individuals than the Phoenix Recovery Project, suggesting its role as a primary treatment provider.
- The more significant percentage decrease in the combined figures (40%) compared to individual facilities may indicate reduced demand or resource challenges across the system.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Prevention programs should focus on males, particularly those aged 18 to 25, as this group shows the highest overall substance use.
- Tailored approaches for females may focus on reducing alcohol and marijuana use.



- Youth Programs: Efforts to curb substance use among those under 18 should address inhalants, tobacco, and marijuana, with special attention to early education and community-based interventions.
- Investigate barriers to treatment access or participation for those with higher education and develop targeted outreach strategies.
- Strengthen primary and secondary school programs to reduce the progression of substance-related issues, particularly among younger individuals.
- Investigate barriers to treatment access or participation for those with higher education and develop targeted outreach strategies.
- Determine if the reduction is due to fewer individuals seeking treatment, improved recovery rates, or facility-specific factors (e.g., staffing, funding, or outreach limitations).
- Strengthen awareness campaigns to ensure individuals in need are aware of and have access to these programs.
- Assess whether the reduction in treatment numbers correlates with facility capacity or funding changes, ensuring that both facilities can meet the community's needs.
- Facilitate stronger partnerships between facilities like the Salvation Army and Phoenix Recovery Project to optimise treatment approaches and share resources.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

KEY ANALYSIS:

- Both the total quantities of drugs seized and the number of seizures decreased across most drug types in 2023, mainly for cannabis, cocaine, and ecstasy.
- The inclusion of hashish in 2023 indicates a potential expansion of enforcement efforts or shifts in trafficking patterns.
- Despite reductions, cannabis remains the predominant drug by quantity seized, underscoring its continued prevalence.
- Drugs like methamphetamine, hashish, cannabis seeds, and LSD show sporadic enforcement, reflecting either limited trafficking or targeted operations.



- Large-scale operations and significant seizures occur in April, July, and November, likely aligning with cultivation or harvesting cycles in both years.
- Smaller operations are dispersed across other months, suggesting year-round efforts to disrupt cultivation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Focus on Cannabis and Cocaine:** These drugs constitute the largest quantities and seizure numbers, warranting continued enforcement and prevention strategies.
- **Investigate Declining Trends:** Assess whether the reduction in seizures and quantities reflects reduced trafficking, better enforcement, or other factors.
- **Emerging Substances:** Monitor trends in lesser-seized drugs like hashish and methamphetamine to identify potential shifts in drug trafficking and usage patterns.
- **Strengthen Public Awareness:** Educate communities about the dangers of the most prevalent drugs, particularly cannabis and cocaine, and the emergence of new substances like hashish.
- **Intensify operations during high-cultivation periods** like April and July to maximise eradication efforts.
- **Use the data to predict cultivation cycles** and implement surveillance programs to disrupt operations earlier.
- **Allocate resources strategically** to target larger fields and seize higher quantities during months with peak activity.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Guyana has recognized the importance international cooperation plays as pivotal role in addressing a country's national drug situation. Through constant engagements with several international body the country over the 2022-2023 period was able to gain through the provision of resources, expertise, and guided frameworks for a coordinated global response.



Drug trafficking and abuse are inherently transnational issues, often involving complex networks that transcend national borders. The effectiveness of a country's relations and involvement in international cooperation initiatives significantly enhances a country's capacity to combat these challenges through several key mechanisms highlighted in the following trends:

- Training programs account for the majority of events, indicating a significant focus on capacity building, knowledge sharing, and skill enhancement for stakeholders involved in drug policy, enforcement, and regional security.
- Events like the CELAC-EU meeting, SEACOP courses, and agreements between countries such as Guyana, Brazil, Suriname, and French Guiana emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts and international cooperation in addressing drug-related challenges and broader security issues.
- Workshops like “Addressing Gender in Alternative Development Projects” and programs strengthening gender equality in counterdrug enforcement suggest a growing recognition of inclusivity and alternative approaches in tackling drug issues.
- Several virtual meetings and trainings reflect a shift toward leveraging technology to ensure continuity in discussions and training programs, particularly in response to constraints like those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The range of topics—from cybercrime and trafficking in persons to alternative development and intelligence analysis—shows a multidimensional approach to drug and security issues.

- Events are distributed across various regions, with key activities held in Guyana, Barbados, Peru, and Mexico. This indicates a balanced geographical distribution with a focus on both local and regional challenges.
- These trends underscore a proactive, collaborative, and inclusive approach to addressing the national and regional drug situation. They highlight the importance of building robust frameworks for enforcement, prevention, and alternative development while fostering international cooperation.

DRUG REDUCTION - PREVENTION

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Demand Reduction Coordinating Mechanism	To Coordinate effective multi-sectoral prevention and drug treatment programmes.	<p>strengthening the capacity of health services.</p> <p>Greater public awareness of the risks and harms associated with substance abuse, human trafficking, or other illicit activities.</p> <p>Provide Info to the Drug Oversighting Committee</p>	<p>Rapid declines in drug consumption rates, especially among vulnerable groups such as youths.</p> <p>Community Outreach initiatives were conducted in villages around Guyana, benefiting around 30,250 individuals.</p> <p>In 2022, the Drug Demand Reduction Unit established five (5) new rehabilitation locations. These locations offered drug counselling to 315 people and rehabilitation services to 150 individuals. In 2023, the unit provided counselling services to 367 individuals and rehabilitation to 203 individuals through both residential and non-residential drug treatment programs.</p> <p>Improved collaboration and resource sharing between government agencies, NGOs, and international partners lead to more efficient and impactful programmes.</p>

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Substance Abuse Prevention Programme in Primary and Secondary Schools, Grade 1-10 Government & Non-Governmental.	To Educate primary and secondary school students about substance use and abuse.	<p>Conduct in-school drug prevention outreaches</p> <p>Increase health literacy amongst in-school youths</p> <p>Raise Awareness of the harms and dangers of Substance Use and misuse among students.</p> <p>Conduct in-school drug prevention outreaches</p>	Approximately 6,260 students were engaged in these sessions during the 2022-2023.
Training Primary and Secondary School teachers specialising in Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) (Grades 1- 10) to deliver substance use curricula	To increase the skills of Primary and Secondary school teachers to deliver substance use and misuse curricula.	<p>Increase health literacy amongst in-school youths</p> <p>Raise Awareness of the harms and dangers of Substance Use and misuse among students.</p>	Approximately 140 teachers were engaged in these sessions during the 2023 period.

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Formal training in Prevention to be delivered to staff responsible for prevention programmes	Educate staff on policies, guidelines, and procedures that help achieve the larger public health goals of preventing and reducing drug use and harm to individuals and society.	Staff would gain practical and realistic knowledge on how to best help drug users and thematic principles for providing effective interventions.	There were approximately 120 persons trained during the 2022-2023 period.
To develop a National Communication media strategy for substance, use prevention interventions, creating a media presence that aims to reach various target groups	Create a media presence that aims to reach various target groups as it relates to substance use and misuse.	<p>Increase Information, Education and Communication material through the use of traditional and social media</p> <p>Increase targeted messaging and interventions.</p>	During the 2022-2023 media campaign targeted 3500 persons.
A Workplace Prevention Intervention for the Public and Private Sector	To encourage employers to understand, disseminate and ensure substance use awareness information and intervention services delivery.	Increase drug education and health literacy in the workplace.	5 workplaces in the public sector benefited from this programme.



PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Preventing the use of tobacco products: Media Campaign to discourage the use of traditional and novel tobacco products.	Deter the use of tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery and non-nicotine systems (e.g., vaping devices) designed to deliver an aerosol to users by heating a solution comprised of nicotine, e-liquid solution, and any source of flavourings or other substances.	The reduction of use and increased sensitisation and knowledge of traditional and new tobacco products.	Training on the Tobacco Control Act benefited two hundred and seventy-eight (278) participants, sensitisation programme at thirty-three (33) health centres and 5534 students in schools in 7 administrative regions across Guyana and sensitisation during 2022-2023.

DRUG DEMAND: TREATMENT

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Establishment of new drug treatment and rehabilitation centres: establish new non-residential and residential centres.	Increase accessibility to drug treatment and rehabilitation services.	<p>Increase the number of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities.</p> <p>Youths are provided with appropriate interventions to address their substance use.</p> <p>Reduce the prevalence of substance misuse</p>	13 outpatient/treatment centers were open during the period 2022-2023.



DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Reduce the supply of illegal drugs (both current and emerging)	To prevent the importation of illegal narcotics/ drugs and improve cooperation and collaboration between law-enforcement agencies, particularly in terms of information and intelligence sharing.	Reduction of illegal drug trafficking and the associated crimes.	<p>Law enforcement agencies seized 7,396.1kg of narcotics between 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>Customs Anti Narcotic Unit seized 4,766.96 kg of Narcotics; the Guyana Police Force seized 2,629.14 kg.</p> <p>Institutional strengthening through enhanced cooperation and collaboration improved information sharing, investigations, and arrests.</p> <p>Collaborative efforts aid in identifying and dismantling criminal networks, enhancing community safety.</p>



PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
International Cooperation	Develop closer relationships with international partner agencies and bodies to enhance Guyana's national approach to implementing its obligations under international drug control treaties.	Closer relations with Regional and International bodies through sharing information, technology, and skillsets.	During the period under review, Guyana has benefited from shared knowledge, expertise, and resources. These collaborations enable Guyana to align its national approach with international best practices, ensuring efficient and effective implementation of its obligations under international drug control treaties. Additionally, closer relationships facilitate information sharing and joint initiatives, creating a more coordinated and comprehensive response to the global drug problem.

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Increasing the capacity of personnel dedicated to combating the global drug problem	Develop closer relationships with international partner agencies and bodies to enhance Guyana's national approach to implementing its obligations under international drug control treaties.	Closer relations with Regional and International bodies through sharing information, technology, and skillsets.	<p>2022-2023 Guyana's International Engagements Aligned national approach with international best practices.</p> <p>Ensured efficient implementation of international drug control treaties. Facilitated information sharing and joint initiatives.</p> <p>Created coordinated global drug problem response.</p> <p>Law Enforcement officers received training in investigations, operations, cybercrime, and maritime security, among other training.</p>

CONTROL MEASURES PROGRAMS

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS	REMARKS
Control of the diversion of controlled substances: Implement controls in the distribution, transportation, and final commercialisation of controlled substances.	To control the diversion of controlled substances.	Prevention of the diversion of controlled substances.	In 2022-2023, the Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department approved and monitored the importation of a quantity of Chemicals, some of which could be used for the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs. These include; Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine, Potassium permanganate, Hydrochloric Acid, Sulfamic acid, and Sulphuric acid



CONCLUSION

THE GUYDIN REPORT 2022-2023 has provided a comprehensive and multi-faceted analysis of the current drug situation in the country, focusing on various thematic areas such as public health, law enforcement, prevention, education, treatment, and national policy frameworks. Throughout this report, it has become clear that drug misuse continues to be a major public health and social challenge that requires a unified, long-term response at all levels of society.

Public Health Impact:

The ongoing public health burden associated with drug misuse remains significant. Data indicates that drug use, particularly of cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, cocaine, and ecstasy, has reached concerning levels across various demographic groups. The prevalence of substance use disorders is particularly important since it not only affects health but also contributes to the rise in related illnesses such as mental health disorders, infectious diseases (such as HIV and Hepatitis C), and fatalities due to overdose. Additionally, It is a fact that more emphasis is needed in the prevention sector, particularly with the slow emergence of new psychotropic substances and the fact that persons are being treated for substances that have not been discovered or seized by law enforcement.

Law Enforcement and Crime:

On the enforcement front, drug trafficking continues to fuel organized crime inclusive of the trafficking of arms and human trafficking specifically, posing significant challenges for national security and the safety of communities. The illicit drug trade has become

increasingly sophisticated, with traffickers exploiting new routes and methods to evade law enforcement. Despite significant efforts, the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies has been hampered by resource limitations, geographic limitations, and the dynamic nature of the drug trade. While arrests and seizures of illicit substances have increased, there remains significant drug availability and use within local communities.

Prevention and Education:

Prevention efforts, particularly those targeting young people, remain a cornerstone of the national drug strategy. However, there remains significant challenges in terms of engagement and accessibility to cover the populated demographics of Guyana annually. In many regions, especially in the interior or marginalized communities, prevention initiatives need special collaborations and funding to engage. There is also a need to enhance media campaigns that emphasize the long-term health and social consequences of drug use. Collaboration between schools, community organizations, and public health agencies is essential to ensure that preventive messages reach at-risk populations effectively. The role of parents, teachers, and peer influencers in drug prevention needs to be further emphasized to foster a culture of resilience against drug misuse.

Treatment and Rehabilitation:

With the support of the Government and the establishment of counselling/ treatment facilities, there is increased accessibility. There remains a significant gap in the provision of comprehensive care, particularly in rural and underserved areas. While some progress has been made in expanding treatment options, there is still a pressing need for more drug rehabilitation centers, detoxification facilities, and mental health support services that can address the co-occurring disorders often associated with substance misuse. There is a need for a continued holistic, integrated approach to treatment is necessary, where



medical, psychological, and social services are provided in a coordinated manner to support recovery and reintegration into society.

Policy Development and National Framework:

The country's national drug policies have continued to evolve, with emphasis placed on addressing Risk and Protective factors and emphasis on creating gender-sensitive policies. Nevertheless, there is still a need for policies that are adaptive to changing trends in drug misuse, new psychoactive substances, and the growing challenges posed by the digital drug market. Evidence-based policies, guided by data and research, must continue to drive interventions across all sectors. Legal reforms to decriminalize certain drug-related offenses and emphasize treatment over punishment could help shift the focus from a punitive to a rehabilitative approach. In addition, the adaptation to policies with a focus on Sustainable Alternatives can achieve a positive impact in the reduction of drug use and its societal effects such as homelessness and youths' involvement in micro trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Moving forward, several critical areas require immediate attention and concerted action:

Increased Multi-Sectorial Collaborative Prevention Programs: campaigns should be tailored to target high-risk populations, including youth, individuals in economically disadvantaged communities, and those with a history of trauma. Teachers, community leaders and representatives of workplaces should be trained to serve as focal points for prevention activities and awareness sessions.

Enhancing Treatment Accessibility and Quality: continued development of a more robust and modern treatment infrastructure is essential. The integration of mental health services with addiction treatment programs should be a priority, ensuring that individuals receive the



holistic care they need. Mobile health solutions can also play a role in expanding access to treatment, especially in remote areas.

Strengthening Law Enforcement and Border Control: To combat the growing drug trafficking networks, it is vital that law enforcement agencies are equipped with the necessary resources and technology to effectively disrupt supply chains. Regional cooperation between neighboring countries and international agencies can also enhance the fight against drug trafficking.

Support for Families and Communities: Family-based interventions and community support programs are crucial to preventing the intergenerational transmission of drug misuse. Community-led solutions, including support groups and outreach initiatives, organised sports, and other recreational activities can foster a sense of collective responsibility and action.

Monitoring and Research: Strengthening data collection systems and conducting ongoing research into emerging trends in drug use and effective interventions is necessary to stay ahead of the evolving drug landscape. Research into the impact of new substances, including synthetic drugs, should guide future policy decisions. This can only be achieved through collaborative effort and timely and detailed data sharing.

Risk and Protective Factors (Harm Reduction) Strategies: Placing special attention in this area, supporting and strengthening the enforcement of tobacco laws, as well as placing emphasis on binge drinking and traffic accidents can contribute to illnesses caused by tobacco use and second-hand smoke and deaths caused through driving under the influence of drugs. These measures should be part of a balanced approach to drug policy that also addresses the underlying social factors contributing to drug use.



CONCLUSION:

The country's drug situation is not just a public health issue, but a complex social challenge that demands a comprehensive, coordinated response from all sectors of society. Addressing the root causes of drug misuse, including poverty, lack of education, and mental health issues, is key to reducing demand. At the same time, providing effective treatment, rehabilitation, and support services for those affected, while also strengthening enforcement measures to combat the illegal drug trade, will be essential in curbing the widespread impact of drug misuse.

A national strategy that combines prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and robust policy reforms offers the best chance for creating a healthier, safer, and more resilient society. By continuing to invest in the well-being of individuals and communities, we can build a future where the devastating effects of drug misuse are mitigated and ultimately overcome.



CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT GUYANA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK



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