ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago

Information ... connecting people through action.



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ADAPP	Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combatting the Financing of Terrorism
CAPA	Crime and Problem Analysis Branch
CD	Central Division
CGIU	Criminal Gang Intelligence Unit
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CSO	Central Statistical Office
COPOLAD	Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies
DIN-TT	Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
ED	Eastern Division
EWS	Early Warning System
FIUTT	Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago
FSC	Forensic Science Centre

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GET	Gang Enforcement Team
HTU	Human Trafficking Unit
ITAC	Integrated Threat Assessment Centre
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MDMA	Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine
NADAPP	National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme
NDC	National Drug Council
NDIS	National Drug Information System
NED	North Eastern Division
ND	Northern Division
NPS	New Psychoactive Substances
OAS	Organization of American States

POS	Port of Spain
PROCCER	The Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation
STR	Suspicious Transaction Report
SAPTC	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Centre
SAR	Suspicious Activity Report
SD	Southern Division
SIU	Special Investigations Unit
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
SWD	South Western Division
TD	Tobago Division
TIU	Terrorism Investigation Unit
TTCG	Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard
TTDF	Trinidad and Trinidad Defence Force
TTPS	Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) has remained the primary information portal for national drug related data, and is managed by the Ministry of National Security through the National Drug Council. This Annual Report provides an analysis of 2022 with a five year trend analysis in some of the sections. Chapter one provides an overview of the drug supply reduction data, while Chapter two provides an overview of drug demand reduction data for the year 2022.

The drug trade in Trinidad and Tobago presents a formidable challenge to the authorities and although some gains were made in the areas of drug seizures and the eradication of cannabis, the dismantling of large scale drug trafficking networks remains an immense undertaking. The period under review highlights that cannabis seizures surpassed that of other illicit drug seizures. Cannabis remains one of the most readily available and widely used drugs. The drug is cultivated in the majority of the world's countries, since it does not require a high degree of technical expertise nor elaborate processes. In 2022, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) recorded a total seizure of 582 kgs and 17 kgs of cannabis and cocaine respectively. This however, represented an 83% decrease in the seizure of cannabis from 2021, and a corresponding 90% decrease in the seizure of cocaine.

The eradication of illicit crops remains an important tool for decreasing the production of illegal drugs and preventing them from entering Trinidad and Tobago and other drug markets. In 2022, the Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) recorded the eradication of seventeen (17) fields and the destruction of six thousand, nine hundred and fifteen (6,915) cannabis plants, one thousand, two hundred and eighty four (1,284 kgs) of seedlings and 4.5kg of cured cannabis.

Between 2018 and 2022 a total of eleven thousand, one hundred and ninety (11,190) arrests were made for narcotic offences, most of whom committed crimes with respect to the possession of cannabis. For each narcotic offence, a higher number of males were arrested as compared to females. In addition, the most prevalent narcotic was cannabis as it relates to arrests amongst males and females for both possession and trafficking.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Though, the largest proportion of arrests for the period 2018 to 2022 was recorded for the possession of cannabis, there continues to be a reduction, in the number of arrests for the possession of cannabis from 2020 to 2022 as compared to the previous years.

In 2022, there were more convictions for the possession and trafficking of cannabis as opposed to cocaine. Convictions for the trafficking and possession of cannabis accounted for a total of one hundred and sixty-four (164), while there was a total one hundred and forty-four (144) convictions for the trafficking and possession of cocaine.

In a special report drafted by the Judiciary in February 2022, it noted that since the proclamation of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, the Judiciary observed a 78% drop in the average number of drug related matters filed annually at the Magistracy (from 6,618 to 1,450) or a drop in monthly average from 551 to 114.

The Immigration Division, Ministry of National Security, recorded a total of one hundred and seventeen (117) persons deported to Trinidad and Tobago for drug related offences over the period 2018 to 2022. The majority of deportees to Trinidad and Tobago during the period under review, originated from the USA, accounting for 69% of the total number of deportees for the period 2018 to 2022.

As it relates to Anti Money Laundering and Financial Intelligence, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) reported that for the period October 2021 to September 2022, drug trafficking was suspected in 35 Suspicious Transaction Reports/Suspicious Activity Reports (STRs/SARs), 3.7 % of the total number of reports. The total dollar value of the STRs/SARs for drug trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars for the reporting period October 2021 to September 2022 was three million, five hundred and sixty two thousand, and fifty (\$3,562,050). This reflects a 12% decrease in the dollar value from the period October 2020 to September 2021 which was a reported four million, forty eight thousand, six hundred and thirty three (\$4,048,633).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP), the lead for the Demand Reduction Sector, during 2022, continued its strategic focus on capacity building in the drug demand reduction sector and focused on strengthening collaboration with key stakeholders through targeted training sessions. This approach allows for greater impact over time and better leveraging of resources across the sector. In addition to capacity building, in 2022, both NADAPP and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (ADAPP) continued to conduct outreach activities in schools, communities and workplaces. These activities included drug education sessions and information dissemination booths.

The collection of accurate, relevant and valid data from agencies involved in drug control in Trinidad and Tobago is critical in assessing the country's drug landscape. The quality of drug information produced in this report, and the level of cross-analysis are the result of a strategic focus on improving the data collection, collation and analysis mechanisms inherent to the DIN-TT. Therefore, the importance of continued collaboration with stakeholders is essential to ensure the production of reliable, quality and timely drug data.

ABOUT THE DIN-TT

OVERVIEW OF THE DIN-TT

The DIN-TT is a component of the National Drug Observatory (NDO), which is a national drug monitoring system. "A NDO is an organization that aims to provide for its home country factual, objective, reliable and comparable information concerning drugs and drug addiction, and their consequences. Thus, an NDO is part of a broader system that combines a concerted and balanced national drug coordination mechanism, which oversees the various actors implementing a national drugs strategy with a national drug information system that integrates specialized and more general sources of information and of expertise, as well as routine surveillance programmes and ad hoc surveys on targeted groups."

The DIN-TT is the mechanism through which data on the extent, distribution and volume of the national drug problem is collected from drug control stakeholders and analysed. In addition to providing insight to the different aspects of the national drug problem, the DIN-TT brings together institutions and individuals working in the areas of drug prevention, education, control, and law enforcement to exchange drug-related information, collaborate and support each other's efforts. It forms part of the ongoing efforts to promote a better understanding of the nation's drug problem and develop workable and sustainable policies and programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DIN-TT

The objectives of the DIN-TT include:

- To harmonize the exchange of drug-related statistical information sourced from stakeholders;
- To guide and inform the development of primary prevention, public education, and treatment programmes and policies; and
- To stimulate further discussions on drug demand reduction or drug supply reduction policies and challenges.

^[1] Clarke, Pernell. 2009. What is a National Observatory on Drugs? Presentation given at the 3rd Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs, hosted by the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, CICAD, Organization of American States, held in Roseau, Dominica, August 4- 6, 2009.

ABOUT THE DIN-TT

THE DIN-TT ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022 Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) Annual Report provides an overview of the drug situation in the country, as it relates to both demand and supply reduction activities. It reflects a compilation of data gathered from several agencies involved in the prevention and control of drug use and trafficking and aims to improve our understanding of the drug situation in Trinidad and Tobago.

This annual report highlights a number of interlinked elements which assists in the analysis of the drug situation in Trinidad and Tobago. The DIN-TT remains the primary source of statistical information on the use of illegal drugs, and drug-related activities. This Report provides analysis and describes general changes over a five year period (2018 to 2022) where the data was available to do so. More specifically however, it focuses on calendar 2022, based on what was provided by reporting agencies.

Country Profile

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is a sovereign twin-island nation located in the Lesser Antilles Archipelago in the south eastern Caribbean Sea. The nation lies northeast of the South American nation of Venezuela and south of the island nation of Grenada. It shares maritime boundaries with Barbados to the northeast and Guyana to the southeast. The country covers an area of 5,127 square kilometres (1,980 sq. miles) and consists of two main islands, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as numerous smaller landforms. Trinidad is the larger and more populous of the two islands.

According to the last Population and Housing Census, conducted by the Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago (CSO) in 2011, the population of Trinidad and Tobago was 1,328,019, with 1,267,145 persons residing in Trinidad and 60,874 in Tobago.² At that time, the life expectancy in Trinidad and Tobago ranged from a low of 67.7 years in Port of Spain, to a high of 76.8 years in Tobago.³ The CSO indicated that the average household size is 3.3 persons.

The Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Atlas (CSO and UNDP, 2012) indicated that in 2010, nationally, the labour force participation rate, that is, the proportion of the population aged between 15 to 64 years who are employed and/or who are seeking employment, fluctuated across municipalities. Overall, the labour force participation rate was higher for males than females across the country, recorded at 72.4% and 51.5% respectively.

Educational achievements also seemed to be positively influenced by geographic location and gender. In 2010, the proportion of the population attaining at least a secondary school education ranged from 22.6% in Sangre Grande to 57.4% in San Fernando. Nationally, the percentage of females with at least a secondary school education was higher than that for males with a similar level of education; 43.1% of the female population had at least a secondary education, as compared with 36.4% of males.

^[2] Trinidad and Tobago 2011 Population and Housing Census Demographic Report

^[3] Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Atlas, CSO/UNDP, 2012

The percentage of children between the ages of six (6) to sixteen (16) years with at least a primary or secondary education was high across all administrative areas, with the country recording a primary and secondary education attainment rate of 91.4%. The lowest primary and secondary education attainment rate was recorded for Rio Claro/Mayaro (with a rate of 57.6% for males and 72.9% for females).

Trinidad and Tobago is an industrialized country, whose economy is largely dependent on revenues from the exportation of oil and natural gas. It has a small but rapidly growing tourism industry concentrated predominantly in Tobago, and a relatively competitive manufacturing and service industry which operates largely from Trinidad. In 2021, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Trinidad and Tobago was 24.46 billion US dollars, which represents only 0.01 percent of the world's economy. Trinidad and Tobago has a multi-sectoral approach to drugs, which encapsulates legislative, policy and economic initiatives that sustain varied drug-related agendas. Thus legally, there are a number of existing laws to control the supply and demand of drugs, such as the Dangerous Drugs Act (Chapter 11:25) as amended, 2019 and the Tobacco Control Act (Chapter 30:40), 2009, which are the foremost pieces of legislation. The country also has a National Drug Policy that articulates the official position of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago National Drug Policy

The National Drug Policy of Trinidad and Tobago 2021 and Operational Plan for Drug Control 2021 to 2025 was approved by Cabinet in February, 2021. The Trinidad and Tobago National Drug Policy 2021 outlines the official position of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to address the challenges of drug trafficking as well as the use and misuse of licit and illicit substances. The Policy, firmly anchored within the national sustainable development pillars, provides a balanced, comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to this complex issue. It establishes a robust framework within which the institutions charged with the responsibility for drug control continue to be engaged in robust, collaborative national and international cooperation efforts to reduce illicit drug trafficking and associated criminal activities, as well as licit and illicit substance use and misuse.

The Policy includes initiatives which are in line with the United Nations Conventions on the subject. The National Drug Policy of Trinidad and Tobago 2021 and the accompanying Operational Plan for Drug Control in Trinidad and Tobago 2021-2025 reflect a coordinated approach that is aligned to regional, hemispheric and international drug policies. The Policy document and Operational Plan comprise five main areas of strategic focus which have the following stated goals:

Control Measures:

To establish and execute appropriate strategies that empower relevant authorities to apply counter measures that reduce the occurrence of drug trafficking and its related illicit activities.

Supply Reduction:

To facilitate and improve law enforcement activities while advancing strategies geared toward ensuring sustainable, efficient interdiction and reduction in the supply of illegal drugs.

Demand Reduction:

To improve the physical, mental, social, spiritual and economic health and well-being of citizens through systemic multi-disciplinary approaches to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Research:

To facilitate the availability of timely, accurate and relevant information that would enable evidence based decision making.

Institutional Strengthening and International Cooperation:

To develop, strengthen and maintain appropriate institutional mechanisms that facilitate the effective and efficient coordination, planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of the National Drug Policy and its associated interventions.

Legal Framework

In Trinidad and Tobago the legislative framework for drug control includes the following:

Dangerous Drugs Act

The Dangerous Drugs Act (Chapter 11:25), 1991 (as amended by Act 24 of 2019) defines dangerous drugs as narcotics or anything containing such a drug or psychotropic substance and prohibits the cultivation, manufacture, possession and trafficking of these substances, unless appropriately authorized. The Dangerous Drugs Act also addresses the issue of precursor chemicals and it bans pharmacists from supplying dangerous drugs, unless appropriately instructed.

In December 2019, the Government amended the Dangerous Drugs Act to decriminalize the cultivation and possession of small quantities of cannabis and also included MDMA and other New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs). The Bill was proclaimed as law on December 23, 2019.

The Bill decriminalizes the possession of not more than thirty grammes of cannabis or not more than five grammes of cannabis resin and to create offences, which restricts the use of cannabis in specific instances. It also enables a person who has been convicted for the possession of not more than thirty grammes of cannabis or not more than five grammes of cannabis resin to apply through his Attorney-at-law to the Commissioner of Police to have that offence expunged from his criminal record and to apply for a pardon. It increases the penalties for the possession of and trafficking in dangerous drugs. It also includes new dangerous drugs, including, MDMA (ecstasy), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and ketamine, where the possession of more than the specified amount would be deemed for the purpose of trafficking.

Tobacco Control Act

The Tobacco Control Act (Chapter 30:40) 2009 was introduced to regulate, monitor and control tobacco use, as well as to promote public awareness of the hazards of this substance. Under this Act, the violation of non-smoking areas is a criminal offence and offenders are liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of \$10,000 and up to six months in prison. Additionally, the Act criminalizes the importation, manufacture, sale, distribution and supply of non-tobacco items or objects which imitate tobacco products, as well as the improper labelling of tobacco products. Upon conviction, persons sentenced under this Act could face up to \$500,000 in fines. Moreover, it provided for the establishment of a Unit in the Ministry of Health, to spearhead tobacco control and sensitization initiatives. In addition, the Unit would act on behalf of the Minister to consider and evaluate license applications.

Proceeds of Crime Act

The Proceeds of Crime Act (Chapter 11:27) 2000 (as amended by Act 10 of 2009), authorizes the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking along with the assessment of the proceeds of drug trafficking. This Act also instructs that material be made available to assist with the investigation of the benefit from drug trafficking.

Financial Intelligence Unit Act

The Financial Intelligence Unit Act (Chapter 72:01) 2009 (as amended by the Miscellaneous Provisions Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Proceeds of Crime, Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago, Customs and Exchange Control Act, 2018), provides for the creation and staffing of the Financial Intelligence Unit. It also stipulates the functions and powers of this Unit. In addition, it offers a legislative framework for the implementation of the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering and the financing of terrorism and for related matters.⁵

Strategic Services Agency Act

The Strategic Services Agency Act 24 (Chapter 15:06) 1995 (as amended by Act 4 of 2016) facilitates the establishment of the Strategic Services Agency. It also specifies its function as a key Agency in combating serious crime which includes but is not limited to terrorist acts, terrorist financing, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals, dangerous drugs, corruption, money laundering, smuggling, and transnational crime.

Pharmacy Board Act

Section 23(1) of the Pharmacy Board Act 1960 (as amended), criminalizes the retail of any glandular product, toxoid, serum, vaccine or bacteria for human use by any person other than a pharmacist or authorized person. This Act also stipulates that any person, other than a pharmacist or an authorized individual, who dispenses a prescription, prepares or compounds drugs for retail shall be guilty of an offence.

Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Act

The Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Act, No.42; 1974 (as amended) forbids the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, use and storage in marketable quantities; or transportation of a controlled product, unless the product is registered.

Economic Analysis

It is necessary to have an understanding of the economic costs of the drug situation in Trinidad and Tobago in order to develop policies that reduce same. However, attempts to calculate the financial cost of drug prevention, education, control and law enforcement initiatives are hindered by data limitations in many areas. Nevertheless, DIN-TT stakeholders contend that an analysis of the economic consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking is inextricably linked to policy choices and associated expenditure. While accounting for the real dollar cost of the drug-situation in Trinidad and Tobago is challenging, it is clear that it affects the spheres of health, public safety, crime, productivity and governance.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of National Security are the two main stakeholder Ministries with responsibility for drug-related matters in Trinidad and Tobago. In the 2022/2023 Trinidad and Tobago National Budget allocation, the Ministry of Health was allocated 6.892 billion dollars (TT), whilst the Ministry of National Security obtained 5.798 billion dollars (TT). Of these allocations, agencies and departments under these Ministries that are responsible for drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction receive allocations for the financial year to implement their respective work plans.

CHAPTER 1:

SUPPLY REDUCTION

This Chapter will highlight the following sections:

DRUG MARKET

- 1 Drug Seizures
- **2** Eradication Exercises
- Retail Cost
- Other Property Seized in Direct Relation to Drugs
- Purity of Cocaine
 Products for the
 Purpose of Trafficking

DRUG CRIME

- 1 Narcotic Related Arrests
- Convictions for Narcotic Offences
- 3 Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Intelligence
- Deportees Related to Drug Related Offences
- Persons Arrested for Driving Under the Influence

CHAPTER 1:

SUPPLY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

In the case of illegal drugs, supply reduction efforts generally involve attempts to disrupt the manufacturing and distribution chains, through civilian law enforcement and military agencies. In Trinidad and Tobago cannabis is the only known locally-produced illicit drug. Production is concentrated on small farms in the heavily forested and mountainous regions. Local producers compete with imports from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Guyana, and Venezuela. Other illicit drugs (primarily cocaine) are trafficked through the country by transnational organized crime groups operating in Trinidad and Tobago, exploiting the country's close proximity to Venezuela and vulnerabilities at ports of entry. The main destination for these substances is the European market.

In 2022, Trinidad and Tobago's Police Service seized 582.3 kg of Cannabis, a decrease of 83% from 2021. While a total of 17 kgs of Cocaine was seized, a 90% decrease from 2021.

POLICIES AND COORDINATION

The most fundamental drug enforcement agency is the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) which is mandated to enforce all laws and regulations.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU), a branch of the TTPS, is a key stakeholder in the national drug supply reduction effort and it is responsible for the detection and disruption of drug trafficking networks. In addition to the TTPS, there are other crucial agencies that have a significant role in drug supply reduction in Trinidad and Tobago. These include:

- The Customs and Excise Division, of the Ministry of Finance, which has responsibility for protecting the ports of entry, society and the environment;
- The FIUTT of the Ministry of Finance, which has regulatory responsibility for, inter alia, anti-money laundering, which often implicate drug dealers and criminal narcotics cartels;
- The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, which assists in the prevention of trafficking of narcotics and other illegal goods, including our territorial waters;
- The Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) of the Ministry of National Security, which engages in real time intelligence sharing amongst law enforcement agencies; and
- The Strategic Services Agency (SSA) of the Ministry of National Security whose primary purpose is to guide the formulation and implementation of national policies on illicit trafficking of dangerous drugs and related criminal activities.

CANNABIS **SEIZURES**

COCAINE **SEIZURES**

582.3 Kgs

17 Kqs

In 2022, the largest seizure of cannabis was recorded in the Western Division, while the largest cocaine seizure was recorded in the Eastern Division. The month of July accounted for the largest amount of cannabis seized, while December recorded the largest cocaine seizure in 2022.

Snapshot of Supply Reduction Activities 2022

For each offence, a higher number of males were arrested as compared to females. In addition, the most prevalent narcotic was cannabis as it relates to arrests amongst males and females for both possession and trafficking.

Records show that the largest proportion of arrests for the five year period (2018-2022) under review was for the possession of cannabis.

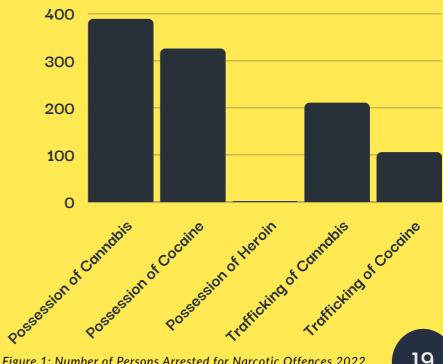


Figure 1: Number of Persons Arrested for Narcotic Offences 2022 Source: CAPA

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NARCOTIC SEIZURES

According to the data reported by the Crime and Problem Analysis (CAPA) Branch of the TTPS for the period 2018 to 2022, and as shown in the diagram below, there were fluctuations in cannabis seizures. 2022 recorded a total of 582kg of seized cannabis, accounting for the smallest amount of cannabis seized for the period.

Though there was minimal decrease in the total amount of cannabis seized from 2018 to 2020, 2021 recorded a 42% increase in cannabis seized. However, though this notable increase was identified in 2021, 2022 recorded an 83% decrease in the total amount of cannabis seized.

Similar trends were identified for cocaine seizures as there were fluctuations over the five year period. From 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020, there was a 12% and 61% decrease respectively in the total amount of cocaine seized. Despite the decrease from 2019 to 2020. 2021 recorded a 35% increase in the total amount of cocaine seized. In 2022 however, there was a 90% reduction in the total amount of cocaine seized. The TTPS recorded zero heroin seizures in 2022.

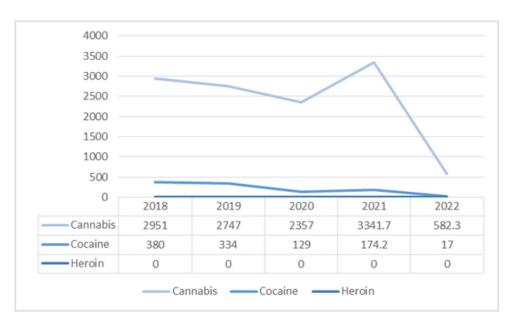


Figure 2: Trends in Narcotic Seizure 2018 to 2022

Source: CAPA

CANNABIS SEIZURES

Division	2018 (kgs)	2019 (kgs)	2020 (kgs)	2021 (kgs)	2022 (kgs)
POS	43.1	24.3	44	12	9.9
SD	200.8	259.7	174	421.3	23.1
WD	397.2	123.9	149.1	30.1	139.3
ND	1087.5	148.9	1015.5	136.5	119
CD	111.7	59.2	134.9	252.9	24.8
SWD	618.8	896.1	263.2	493.6	8.2
ED	430.9	904.4	471.5	1648.5	131
NED	39	228.7	46.6	245.4	41.2
TD	21.6	101.7	58.4	101.4	85.8
TOTAL	2951	2747	2357	3341.7	582.3

Table 1: Cannabis Seizure Reported by Division

Source: CAPA

Month	2018 (kgs)	2019 (kgs)	2020 (kgs)	2021 (kgs)	2022 (kgs)
January	46.96	78.3	108.8	70.6	31.5
February	472.66	433.3	12.4	671.7	106.7
March	89.57	135.2	86.1	93.6	10.2
April	268.91	180.3	261.8	127.5	29
May	163.58	271.4	77	201.3	20.5
June	104.02	127.6	179.5	119.3	30.9
July	43.9	99.9	20.8	263.4	120.7
August	46.67	871.7	1067.9	432.8	7.2
September	99.84	75.5	120.8	155.5	21.2
October	108.59	292.5	171.4	18.3	38.2
November	881.86	11.3	33.4	23.2	66.8
December	624.04	169.9	217.3	1164.5	99.4
TOTAL	2951	2747	2357.2	3341.7	582.3

Table 2: Cannabis Seizure Reported by Month

Source: CAPA

The seizures recorded by different Police the Divisions reflect variations over the five years under review. The largest seizures were recorded in the ND in 2018 and 2020. ED in 2019 and 2021 and the WD in 2022; while the seizures lowest were recorded in the NED for 2018, the POS Division in 2019 to 2021 and the SWD in 2022.

The largest seizures were recorded in November for 2018, while August recorded the largest amount of narcotics seized for the years 2019 and 2020. However, in 2021 and 2022, the largest seizures were recorded in December and July respectively. The smallest seizures were recorded in July, November, February, October and August in 2018 to 2022 respectively.

COCAINE SEIZURES

Division	2018 (kgs)	2019 (kgs)	2020 (kgs)	2021 (kgs)	2022 (kgs)
POS	177.06	1	0.5	0	0.2
SD	4.5	0.8	4	86.8	0.4
WD	13.4	10.4	83.4	0.6	0.4
ND	129.7	28.6	2.1	0.1	2.9
CD	20.3	26.7	0.4	0.9	2
SWD	17	201.2	6.1	75.1	0.2
ED	1.6	0.6	24.7	10	10.3
NED	15	0.3	4.8	0.4	0
TD	1.1	63.9	2.8	0.3	0.6
TOTAL	380	334	129	174.2	17

Table 3: Cocaine Seizure Reported by Division

Source: CAPA

Month	2018 (kgs)	2019 (kgs)	2020 (kgs)	2021 (kgs)	2022 (kgs)
Jan	122.23	1.3	26.8	0.6	0.3
Feb	1.07	45.5	0.3	10	1
March	25.8	2.2	0.6	0.1	0.2
April	88.92	206	87.7	0.5	0.6
May	57.72	0	2.5	0.1	0
June	12.03	0.2	0.8	0	1.9
July	10.62	64.4	0.1	0.5	0.1
Aug	2.84	1.1	0.1	122.9	0
Sep	4.2	0.2	0.1	39.3	0.1
Oct	21.3	10.9	3.1	0.1	10
Nov	31.8	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Dec	1.1	0.2	6.6	0	2.7
TOTAL	380	334	129	174.2	17

Table 4: Cocaine Seizure Reported by Month

Source: CAPA

The seizures recorded by the different Police Divisions reflect variations over the five year period. The Divisions that recorded the largest total seizures were the POS, SWD, WD, SD and ED in 2018 to 2022 respectively. However, the lowest amount of total cocaine seized were recorded in the TD, NED, CD, POS Division and NED over the period 2018 to 2022.

During the period 2018 to the highest 2022 seizures were recorded in the months of January, April, August and October. While the lowest amount of total seizures were recorded in February for 2018, May for 2019. However, in 2020 July, September August, November all recorded 0.1 kgs was which the lowest recorded total amount in that year. In addition, in 2021, June and December recorded zero seizures and in 2022, May and August recorded zero seizures, accounting for the lowest records in those years respectively.

RETAIL COST

Year	Cocaine Total (Kgs)	Estimated Retail Cost TT\$	Cannabis Total (Kgs)	Estimated Retail Cost TT\$
2018	380	176,561,496.46	2951	117,510,979.25
2019	333.5	154,955,944.92	2747	109,387,549.98
2020	129	59,937,981.60	2357	93,857,464.50
2021	174.2	80,939,506.40	3341.7	133,068,939
2022	17	884,000	582.3	17,448,037.20

Table 5: Retail Cost of Cannabis and Cocaine Seizures

Source: CAPA

The table highlights the estimated cost of the total amount of cocaine and cannabis seized and recorded by CAPA over the period 2018 to 2022 based on the street value (See tables 1 to 4).

ERADICATION EXERCISES

Type of Seizure/Eradication	Total Amount Eradicated 2019	Total Amount Eradicated 2020	Total Amount Eradicated 2021	Total Amount Eradicated 2022
Cured Cannabis	4371.2 kg	2kg	582 kg	4.5 kg
Fully Grown Cannabis Plants	398,425 Plants	73,685 Plants	17,303 Plants	6,915 Plants
Cannabis Fields	68 Fields	33 Fields	Data Unavailable	17 Fields
Cannabis Seedlings	83, 140 kg	191,643 kg	4,612 kg	1,284 kg

Table 6: Eradication Exercises Conducted

Source: CAPA

The eradication of illicit crops remains an important tool for decreasing the production of illegal drugs in Trinidad and Tobago and entering other drug markets. One of the key strategies used for conducting eradication exercises in Trinidad and Tobago is inter-agency collaboration and intelligence sharing. The table shows a comparison of the amount and type of cannabis eradicated in 2019 to 2022.

Of the total number of eradication exercises conducted in 2022, the Eastern Division recorded the largest number of fully grown cannabis plants destroyed accounting for five thousand, one hundred (5,100). However, the largest amount of cannabis seedlings eradicated was recorded in the Southern Division, accounting for 500 kg.

PURITY OF COCAINE

In Trinidad and Tobago, a net weight of more than 10.0 grams of cocaine constitutes trafficking of the drug. At the TTFSC, purity data is generated for trafficking of cocaine cases only- that is, a net weight of 10.0 grams or more of the drug. Therefore, it is noteworthy that the data presented in this section of the Report, is not representative of all cocaine cases submitted to the TTFSC. Drug purity can be defined as a measure of the amount of an illicit substance present in a sample compared to other substances in the same sample (such as adulterants, diluents, or solvents). On average in Trinidad and Tobago, cocaine seized by law enforcement agencies for the purposes of trafficking and submitted for testing by the TTFSC was 49.9%, 47.7% and 58.7% pure for 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

As shown in the table below, there was a reduction in the maximum, mean and mode purity recorded from 2018 to 2019, while the minimum purity recorded was larger in 2019 than in 2018. However, for the period 2019 to 2020, there was an increase in the minimum, maximum, mean and mode purity levels recorded. The table highlights that the sample size from 2018 to 2019 increased by 35%, while from 2019 to 2020, the sample size decreased by 67%.

Year	Cocaine Sample Size	Min	Max	Mean	Mode
2018	109	5%	95.3%	49.9%	31%
2019	147	15.2%	83.6%	47.7%	23%
2020	49	19.97%	88.72%	58.7%	74%

Table 7: Purity of Cocaine Products

Source: TTFSC

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

SEIZED WITH DRUGS

The nexus between firearms and illicit drugs is well recognized both locally and abroad, and is of significant concern to policy makers, law enforcement and those who work within the drug-control field. Drugs and firearms are linked in many discernible ways, including:

- The illegal drug trade is customarily controlled through firearms violence;
- Firearms are used to safeguard shipments, intimidate rivals, amass or enforce debts, preserve territory, resolve disagreements, silence informants and reward underlings;
- Illegal drug procurers use firearms as protection during drug transactions;
- Consumers of illegal drugs commit crimes, often facilitated by firearms, to obtain funds to buy drugs;
- Illegal drug users commit crimes facilitated by firearms while under the influence of drugs;
- Illegal drugs and firearms are often bartered firearms for drugs and drugs for firearms; and
- Illegal drugs and firearms are commonly trafficked along the same routes and by the same persons.⁶

This makes data with respect to firearm and drug seizures all the more significant. According to data received by CAPA, during the period under review, it appears that the most prevalent drug found with firearms and ammunition was cannabis.

A summary of the figures highlights a 67% decrease in the number of firearms seized from 2018 to 2019. While the number of firearms seized from 2019 to 2021 remained constant, from 2021 to 2022 there was a 33% increase. Of the five years under review, 2018 recorded the highest number of firearms seized with drugs.

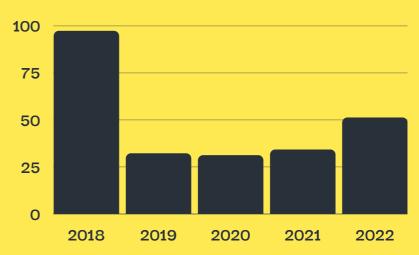


Figure 3: Number of Firearms Seized with Drugs Source: CAPA

FIREARMS SEIZED WITH DRUGS

Division	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
POS	3	0	0	4	1
SD	16	3	6	3	4
WD	2	7	0	3	0
ND	14	2	9	5	3
CD	15	10	5	7	27
SWD	14	3	0	2	6
ED	18	1	3	3	3
NED	10	5	8	6	5
TD	5	1	0	1	2
Total	97	32	31	34	51

Table 8: Number of Firearms Seized with Drugs by Division Source: CAPA

Division	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
POS	3	0	0	4	1
SD	16	3	6	3	4
WD	2	7	0	3	0
ND	14	2	9	5	3
CD	15	10	5	7	27
SWD	14	3	0	2	6
ED	18	1	3	3	3
NED	10	5	8	6	5
TD	5	1	0	1	2
Total	97	32	31	34	51

Table 9: Number of Firearms Seized with Drugs by Month

Source: CAPA

In 2018, the highest number of firearms seized with drugs was recorded in the ED. However, in 2019, 2021 and 2022, the CD recorded the highest number. While in 2020, the NED recorded the highest number of firearms seized with drugs.

There was an average of eight (8) firearms seized with drugs every month for the year 2018 and three (3) in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. However, in 2022 there was an average of four (4) firearms seized with drugs every month. It is noteworthy, that October 2022 recorded the highest number of firearms seized, accounting for 45% of the total amount recorded for the year.

AMMUNITION SEIZED WITH DRUGS

2018 recorded the highest quantity of ammunition seized, while 2022 recorded the lowest quantity seized over the five year period under review. 2019 recorded a 90% decrease and 2020 recorded a 28% increase in the total number of rounds of ammunition seized with drugs. In 2021, the number of ammunition seized with drugs remained consistent to 2020. However, in 2022, there was an 80% decrease in the total rounds of ammunition seized when compared to 2021.

Division	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
POS	61	0	0	32	0
SD	234	10	211	41	24
WD	2	24	0	10	0
ND	324	11	3	263	19
CD	84	227	3	10	0
SWD	1897	10	0	0	8
ED	275	4	0	0	3
NED	86	1	150	0	20
TD	34	0	0	9	0
Total	2997	287	367	365	74

Table 10: Number of Rounds of Ammunition Seized with Drugs by Division

Source: CAPA

There was variation in the seizures recorded in the different Police Divisions, with the SWD, CD, SD, ND and SD recording the largest of rounds of ammunition seized during the period 2018 to 2022 respectively. It is notable that for 2019, 2020 and 2022 there were no ammunition seizures in the TD, however for the years 2018 and 2021, there was a cumulative total of forty three (43) rounds of ammunition seized with drugs in the TD.

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	560	0	7	33	3
Feb	33	0	0	0	0
March	380	1	0	14	0
April	14	144	0	0	19
May	108	0	353	0	0
June	185	0	0	0	20
July	69	2	4	0	0
Aug	1479	105	0	8	15
Sep	67	20	3	5	0
Oct	40	14	0	0	4
Nov	61	0	0	300	5
Dec	1	1	0	5	8
Total	2997	287	367	365	74

Table 11: Number of Rounds of Ammunition Seized with Drugs by Month Source: CAPA

Months which represented the largest quantity of seized ammunition for the period 2018 to 2022:

August 2018 recorded the highest with a total of one thousand four hundred and seventy nine (1479) rounds, April 2019 recorded a total of one hundred and forty four (144) rounds. In May 2020, a total of three hundred and fifty three (353) rounds of ammunition was seized accounting for 97% of the ammunition seizures in 2020. Similarly, in November 2021, a total of three hundred (300) rounds of ammunition was seized. accounting for 82% of ammunition seizures in 2021. However, in 2022 June recorded 27% of the total number of ammunition seized in that year, accounting for the month with the largest number.

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AN OVERVIEW OF DRUG CRIMES

Both drug possession and drug trafficking charges begin with someone arrested for having drugs in their possession. However, the similarities end there. A drug possession charge means that illegal drugs were found on one's person, in his/her car, or anywhere to which he/she had reasonable access. Being charged with drug possession could also mean that a person was caught using drugs during the time of his/her arrest. Drug trafficking however, means possession with intent to sell or distribute these illicit substances. It includes the manufacture, transport, sale or distribution of illegal substances, but it is also a crime defined by weight and measurement. This means that if a person is found to have drugs in their possession and the amount exceeds the legal limit, he/she can be found guilty of drug trafficking.

According to a 2014 United Nations Policy Brief, there are gender dimensions to the global drug problem, with males being the majority of those using and/or trafficking drugs.⁷ The prevalence of males in drugs and drug-related crime is reflected locally when one examines the trends in drug arrests as highlighted hereafter. A breakdown of drug arrests and convictions by gender is also provided to underscore the gendered reality.

It is noteworthy that there is no simple linear relationship between the data on arrests and convictions. This is because a criminal conviction is a judicial ruling that the accused has committed a crime. Judicial rulings may not necessarily occur in the same year in which the accused was arrested.



Between 2018 and 2022 a total of eleven thousand, one hundred and ninety (11,190) arrests were made for narcotic offences, most of whom committed crimes with respect to possession of cannabis. This was followed by arrests for the possession of cocaine, with less arrests being made with respect to trafficking of cannabis and lastly, trafficking of cocaine. One may deduce from the data that drug possession may be more prevalent than drug trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago.

For each offence, a higher number of males were arrested as compared to females. In addition, the most prevalent narcotic was cannabis as it relates to arrests amongst males and females for both possession and trafficking. Records show that the largest proportion of arrests for the five year period under review was for the possession of cannabis. Nonetheless, there was a significant decrease in the number of arrests for the possession of cannabis from 2020 to 2022 as compared to the previous years. This could be due in part to the fact that in December 2019, the Government amended the Dangerous Drugs Act to decriminalize the cultivation and possession of small quantities of cannabis. The Bill was proclaimed as law on December 23, 2019.

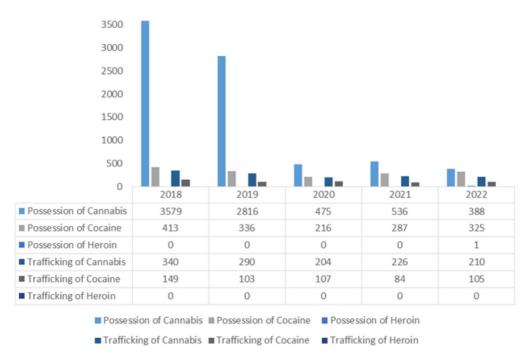


Figure 4: Number of Arrests for Narcotic Offences

Source: CAPA

Cont'd

Notable Trends in Drug Arrests Observed Over the Period 2018 to 2022:

For the period 2018 to 2022, there was a continuous reduction in the number of arrests for the possession of cannabis. There was a 21% decrease in the total number of arrests for the possession of cannabis from 2018 to 2019, 83% decrease from 2019 to 2020, a 13% increase from 2020 to 2021 and a 28% decrease from 2021 to 2022.

There was a 15% decrease in the total number of arrests for the trafficking of cannabis from 2018 to 2019, a 30% decrease from 2019 to 2020, an 11% increase from 2020 to 2021 and a 7% decrease from 2021 to 2022.

There was a 19% decrease in the total number of arrests for the possession of cocaine from 2018 to 2019, a 36% decrease from 2019 to 2020, a 33% increase from 2020 to 2021 and a 13% increase from 2021 to 2022.

There was a 31% decrease in the total number of arrests for cocaine trafficking from 2018 to 2019, a 4% increase from 2019 to 2020, a 21% decrease from 2020 to 2021 and a 25% increase from 2021 to 2022.

As it relates to Heroin, for the period 2018 to 2021, there were no recorded arrests for the possession and trafficking of Heroin. However, in 2022 one (1) arrest for the possession of Heroin.

Drug Possession

As regards possession, the highest number of males and females arrested for cannabis possession was recorded in 2018. In addition, 2018 recorded the highest number of males arrested for the possession of cocaine, while 2018 and 2021 accounted for the largest number of arrests amongst females. Over the five year period one (1) person, a female was arrested for the possession of Heroin, which was recorded in 2022.

The ratio of males to females arrested for the possession of cannabis in 2018 was sixteen to one (16:1), seventeen to one (17:1) in 2019, nine to one (9:1) in 2020, ten to one (10:1) in 2021 and eight to 1 (8:1) in 2022.

The ratio of males to females arrested for the possession of cocaine in 2018 was twenty two to one (22:1), in 2019 the ratio was twenty seven to one (27:1), in 2020 the ratio was thirty five to one (35:1), fifteen to one (15:1) in 2021 and twenty six to one (26:1) in 2022.

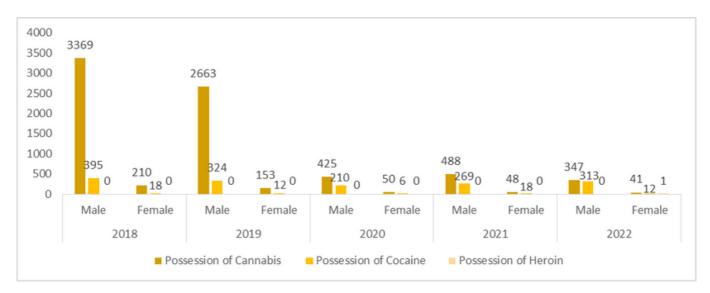


Figure 5: Number of Males and Females Arrested for the Possession of Narcotics Source: CAPA

Drug Trafficking

As regards trafficking, the highest number of males and females arrested for cannabis trafficking was recorded in 2018. In addition, 2018 recorded the highest number of males arrested for the trafficking of cocaine.

The ratio of males to females arrested for the trafficking of cannabis in 2018 was eleven to one (11:1), twelve to one (12:1) in 2019, fifteen to one (15:1) in 2020, seven to one (7:1) in 2021 and thirteen to one (13:1) in 2022.

The ratio of males to females arrested for trafficking cocaine in 2018, 2021 and 2022 was five to one (5:1), in 2019, the ratio was six to one (6:1), and in 2020 eight to one (8:1).

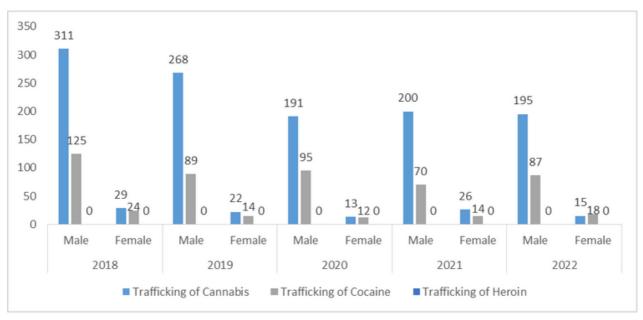


Figure 6: Number of Males and Females Arrested for the Trafficking of Narcotics Source: CAPA

CONVICTIONS AT A GLANCE

CONVICTION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Possession of Cannabis	502	464	205	144	132
Possession of Cocaine	202	206	102	115	124
Trafficking of Cannabis	61	65	40	32	32
Trafficking of Cocaine	59	64	35	42	20
TOTAL	864	799	382	333	308

Table 12: Total Number of Drug Related Convictions 2018 to 2022

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

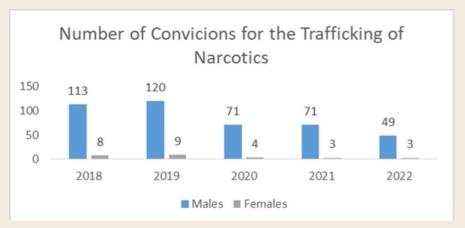


Figure 7: Number of Males and Females Convicted for the Trafficking of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

Of the total number of convictions recorded for the period 2018 to 2022, the total number of males convicted for the trafficking of narcotics accounted for 94% of the total number of convictions; while females accounted for 6% of the total. 2019 recorded the highest number of convictions for males and females for trafficking of narcotics.

The total number of convictions for the possession of narcotics for the five year period under review was two thousand, two hundred and six (2206). Of this, male convictions accounted for two thousand, one hundred and sixty-five (2165) or 98%, and female convictions accounted for forty-one (41) or 2%. 2018 recorded the highest number of convictions for the possession of narcotics for males whilst 2019 recorded the highest number of convictions for females.

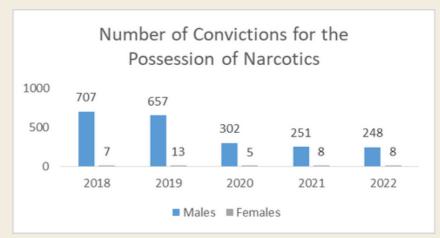


Figure 8: Number of Males and Females Convicted for the Possession of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

MALE CONVICTIONS

Possession of Narcotics

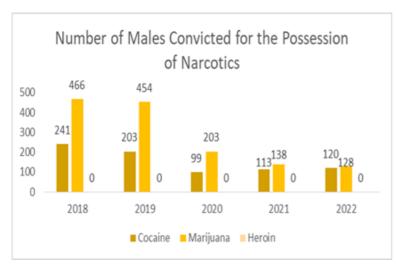


Figure 9: Number of Males Convicted for the Possession of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

For the period under review the number of males convicted for possession of the narcotics totaled two thousand. hundred and sixty five (2165). Of this, one thousand, three hundred and eighty nine (1389) males or 64% were convictions for the possession of cannabis: while 36% of the total, accounted for convictions as it relates to the possession of cocaine.

Throughout the period under review the convictions for the possession of cannabis continued to exceed the convictions for possession of cocaine. Also noteworthy is the continued decline in convictions of males for the possession of cannabis, while Cannabis remained the prevalent narcotic among males. This was evidenced by a decrease of 3% from 2018 to 2019, followed by a 55% decrease from 2019 to 2020 the largest decline recorded for the period under review. From 2020 to 2021 there was recorded a 32% decrease and a 7% decrease from 2021 to 2022.

As it pertains to convictions related to the possession of cocaine between the periods 2018 to 2022 there was observed a 16% decrease in convictions between 2018 and 2019, 51% decrease in convictions between 2019 and 2020, and 6% decrease in convictions between 2021 and 2022. However, for the period 2020 to 2021, there was observed a 14% increase in convictions for the possession of cocaine.

It should be noted the there was no reported convictions for the possession of heroin for the period under review.

MALE CONVICTIONS

Trafficking of Narcotic & Narcotic Related Offences

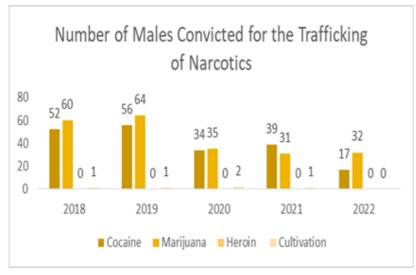


Figure 10: Number of Males Convicted for the Trafficking of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

As it relates to the trafficking of cannabis, a total of four hundred and twenty-five (425) males were convicted during the period under review. For the periods 2018 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022 a 7% and 3% increase in convictions were noted respectively. While for 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 decreases of 45% and 11% were recorded respectively.

In relation to convictions for

apparatus for the periods 2018 to 2019, 2019 to 2020 and

of

device

possession

the

A review of the data for the trafficking of cocaine, reveals fluctuations in the convictions over the period under review. For 2018 to 2019, an 8% increase was observed, for 2019 to 2020 there was a decrease of 39%, for 2020 to 2021 a 15% increase and for 2021 to 2022, there was a 54% decrease in the total number of males convicted for the trafficking of cocaine.

It is noteworthy however that convictions for the cultivation of cannabis remain minimal over the five year period. In addition, there were no convictions for the trafficking of heroin documented for the period 2018 to 2022.

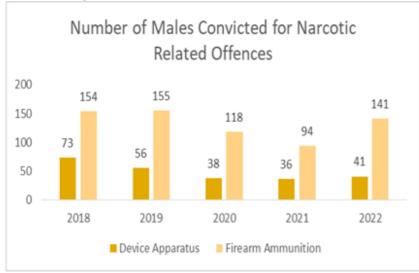


Figure 11: Number of Males Convicted for Narcotic Related Offences Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

2020 to 2021 the data revealed a 23%, 32% and 5% decrease respectively in the conviction of males for these offences. However, for the period 2021-2022 there was a recorded increase in convictions of 14% for this offence.

Regarding convictions for the possession of ammunition and firearms, there was an average of one hundred and thirty (130) males convicted each year over the period 2018 to 2022 for this offence.

FEMALE CONVICTIONS

Possession & Trafficking of Narcotics

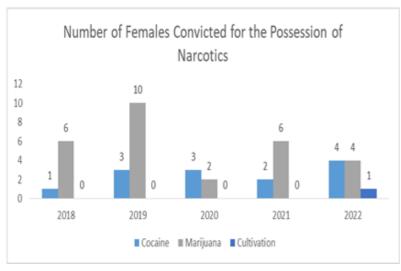


Figure 12: Number of Females Convicted for the Possession of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

Of the forty-one females (41) convicted over the five year period, for the possession of narcotics, 32% were for the possession of cocaine and 68% for the possession of cannabis. For cannabis related convictions, 2018 to 2019 recorded an increase of 66%, 2019 to 2020 recorded an 80% decrease and 2021 to 2022 recorded a decrease of 33% in convictions.

The highest recorded percentage increase in convictions was recorded during 2020 to 2021 of 200%.

As it pertains to convictions for the possession of cocaine, thirteen (13) females were convicted during the period under review. While, 2020 to 2021 recorded a decrease of 33%, 2021 to 2022 recorded a 100% increase. The highest percentage increased in convictions was recorded during the period 2018-2019 at 200%. While there was no change recorded for the period 2019 to 2020 in the possession of cocaine.

Of the twenty-seven (27) females convicted for the trafficking of narcotics over the five-year period, convictions for the trafficking of cocaine accounted for 78%. trafficking cannabis of accounted for 19% and convictions regarding cultivation accounted for 3%.

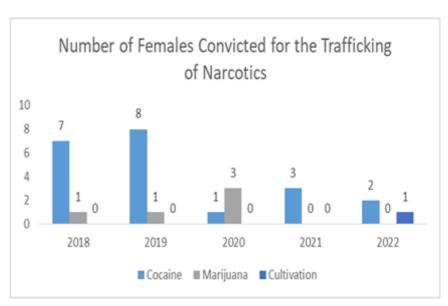


Figure 13: Number of Females Convicted for the Trafficking of Narcotics Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

FEMALE CONVICTIONS

Narcotic Related Offences

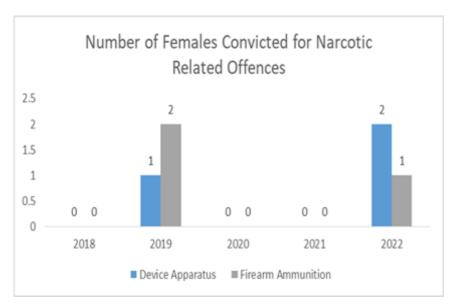


Figure 14: Number of Females Convicted for Narcotic Related Offences Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

A total of six (6) females were convicted for the period under review. 2022 recorded the highest number females convicted for device possession of apparatus while for firearms ammunitions recorded the highest number of convictions.

CONVICTIONS BY AGE GROUP

Of the three thousand six hundred and fifty (3650) persons convicted for narcotic and narcotic-related offences for the period under review, male convictions accounted for 98% and female convictions accounted for the remaining 2%. When taken as a whole, 2018 accounted for 30% of the total convictions, the most over the period under review for convictions for male and female narcotic and narcotic-related offences. The age group that accounted for the majority of convictions during 2017-2021 was the 25-29 group for males and females.

An examination of the data for male convictions shows that for the period 2018-2022, male convictions were most prevalent amongst the 30-34 age group in 2018, whilst during the period 2019-2021, male convictions were most prevalent amongst the 20-25 age group. For 2022, 35-39 was the most prevalent age group for male convictions.

For the period 2018 to 2020, the age group 65 and over remained constant as the group with the least number of convictions for males. Interestingly however a change was noted in 2021 and 2022 with the 15-19 age group being the age group with the least number of convictions.

A look at the data for female convictions reveals a difference from that of the data for the males. For the year 2018, the age group 25-29 recorded the largest amount of females convicted. For 2019, the age group 50-54 accounted for the largest number of females convicted. For 2020, three age groups namely, 35-39, 40-45, and 44-49 all accounted for the largest recorded number of convictions. In 2021, the 30-34 and 40-44 age group accounted for the most convictions and for 2022 the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups accounted for the most convictions.

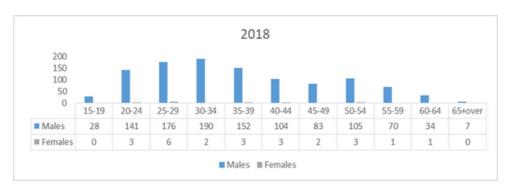


Figure 15: Number of Males and Females Convicted by Age Group 2018 Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

CONVICTIONS BY AGE GROUP



Figure 16: Number of Males and Females Convicted by Age Group 2019 Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

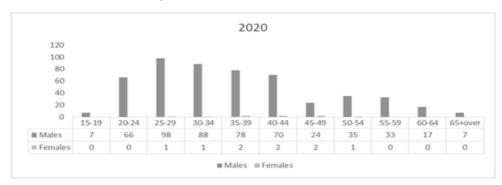


Figure 17: Number of Males and Females Convicted by Age Group 2020 Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

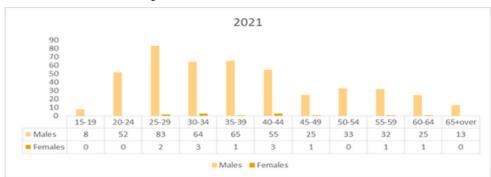


Figure 18: Number of Males and Females Convicted by Age Group 2021 Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

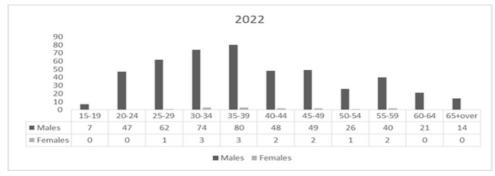


Figure 19: Number of Males and Females Convicted by Age Group 2022 Source: Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

YOUNG OFFENDERS REMANDED

The primary source of data for this section was derived from the 2018 re-branded Youth Transformation and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC) (formerly the Youth Training Centre (YTC)). It is an institution under the ambit of the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service, and has as its philosophy "the process of reform and training which would enable those committed to its custody to return to, and function beneficially, in the society from which, by due process of law, they have been temporarily set apart."

According to the Women's Institute for Alternative Development WINAD (2006), in Trinidad and Tobago, young men, especially those just out of prison and those with little prospect of employment, are targeted by drug suppliers who control the communities⁸. Recruits are enticed with a measure of drugs and the necessary weapons to protect their turf. Despite the risk of death, injury or detection, the sale and distribution of narcotics within the country has proven lucrative for those persons engaged in drug trafficking as there are established and structured networks with suppliers, distributors, couriers, retailers, and enforcers.

For the five year period under review, 2018 recorded the highest number of lads remanded for narcotic and narcotic related offences. It accounted for 45% of the total number of lads remanded for narcotic offences over the five year period. There was a continuous reduction in the number of lads remanded for narcotic and narcotic related offences. This may also, in some part, be due to the decriminalization of cannabis in 2019. But it may also be related to the pandemic or possible changes in the availability of drugs, or drug habits

From 2018 to 2019, there was a 33% decrease, from 2019 to 2020 there was an 88% decrease and from 2020 to 2021 there was a 50% decrease in the number of lads remanded for narcotic offences. 2021 and 2022 remained constant, with only one (1) lad remanded for narcotic offences in each year.

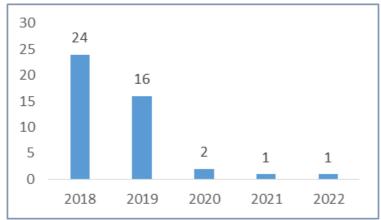


Figure 20: Total Number of Young Offenders Remanded for Drug Offences Source: YTRC

YOUNG OFFENDERS REMANDED

Cont'd

The total intake at YTRC for the period 2018 to 2022, including both male and female was forty four (44). However similar to 2021, 2022 recorded only one (1) male lad, remanded for the possession of cocaine. It is noteworthy that no females were remanded in 2022 for narcotic and narcotic related offences.

Year	Possession of Cannabis	Possession of Cocaine	Possession of Cannabis for the Purpose of Trafficking	Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking
2018	22	1	1	0
2019	16	0	0	0
2020	1	1	0	0
2021	0	0	1	0
2022	0	1	0	0

Table 13: Number of Young Offenders Remanded for Possession and Trafficking Offences Source: YTRC

DEPORTEES FOR DRUG RELATED OFFENCES

The Immigration Division, Ministry of National Security, recorded a total of one hundred and seventeen (117) persons deported to Trinidad and Tobago for drug related offences over the period 2018 to 2022. 2018 recorded the highest number of deportees on drug related offences, accounting for 32% of the total number of deportees for the five year period. The table below shows that there was a continuous reduction in the total number of deportees recorded from 2018 to 2022. An overview of the data provided by the Immigration Division, highlights that the majority of persons were deported for offences as it relates to the possession of narcotics.

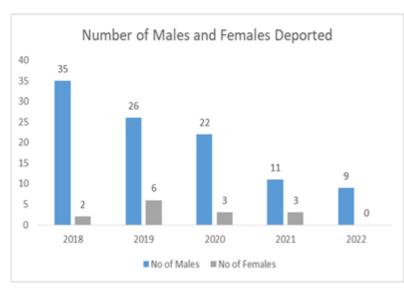


Figure 21: Number of Males and Females Deported 2018 to 2022 Source: Immigration Division

With the exception of 2020, in each of the other four (4) years under review, recorded over 50% of persons deported were as a result of possession of narcotics. In 2020, the majority of persons were deported for the trafficking of narcotics.

For the five year period under review, the number of females deported for drug related offences was minimal in comparison to that of their male counterparts, accounting for 88% of the total number of deportees.

As shown in the table, the majority of deportees to Trinidad and Tobago during the period under review, originated from the USA, accounting for 69% of the total number of deportees for the period 2018 to 2022.

Deporting Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Barbados	1	1	3	2	0	7
Canada	2	1	0	3	2	8
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	9	0	0	0	0	9
UK	5	4	2	0	1	12
USA	20	26	20	9	6	81
Venezuela	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	37	32	25	14	9	117

Table 14: List of Deporting Countries Source: Immigration Division

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) is the only organization legally mandated to receive information on suspicious transactions and suspicious activities from Reporting Entities required under the law to report these transactions and activities. The FIUTT contributes to Trinidad and Tobago's Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) efforts by providing useful intelligence and information to support the operations of local and foreign authorities in their investigation and prosecution of Money laundering, Financing of Terrorism and related criminal activity. To this end, the FIUTT requests and collates information, conducts analyses on same and disseminates the results to authorized local and foreign authorities. From the analyses conducted during the period under review, the FIUTT identified the following indicators, trends and patterns of drug trafficking:

- Large cash transactions conducted over short periods of time;
- Multiple funds transfers involving a high risk drug countries;
- Multiple funds transfer to common beneficiaries and/or to persons located within the same geographical area;
- Individuals working together to break up one transaction into two or more transactions and
- Transactions accompanied by information which appear false or contradictory

For the reporting period October 2017 to September 2018, drug trafficking was suspected in 118 STRs/SARs, 11% of the total number of reports. For the reporting period October 2018 to September 2019, drug trafficking was suspected in 71 STRs/SARs, 7% of the total number of reports and for the reporting period October 2019 to September 2020, drug trafficking was suspected in 92 STRs/SARs, 5% of the total number of reports. For the reporting period October 2020 to September 2021, drug trafficking was suspected in 26 STRs/SARs, 1.6% of the total number of reports. For the period October 2021 to September 2022, drug trafficking was suspected in 35 STRs/SARs, 3.7 % of the total number of reports.

It is noteworthy, that over the five year period there has been a continuous reduction in the number of STRs/SARs reported for suspected drug trafficking; the one exception being that for last reporting period there was a minimal increase of nine (9) STRs/SARs. The reporting period October 2020 to September 2021 recorded the least number of STRs/SARs for the five year period under review. These cases were identified through analysing known patterns, trends and transactions to and from jurisdictions and scrutinizing persons of interest.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE

The total dollar value of the STRs/SARs for drug trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago Dollars for the reporting period October 2021 to September 2022 was three million, five hundred and sixty two thousand, and fifty (\$3,562,050). This reflects a 12% decrease in the dollar value from the period October 2020 to September 2021 which was a reported four million, forty eight thousand, six hundred and thirty three (\$4,048,633).

For the reporting period October 2021 to September 2022, Drug Trafficking featured among the top five most common categories for STRs/SARs submissions.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

For the period 2018 to 2019 the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service recorded a 32% increase in the number of DUI offences while a 45%, 9% and 27% reduction was recorded over the period 2019 to 2020, 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 respectively.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
615	810	448	408	297

Table 15: Number of DUIs recorded for the period 2018 to 2022 Source: CAPA

CHAPTER 2: DEMAND REDUCTION

This Chapter will highlight the following sections:

DRUG PREVENTION

Drug Prevention
Activities Conducted in
Trinidad and Tobago in
2022

DRUG TREATMENT

Data on PersonsAdmitted for Treatmentin Trinidad and Tobagoin 2022

CHAPTER 2:

DEMAND REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Demand Reduction Sector has a dual responsibility to:

- 1. Undertake drug prevention programmes and activities aimed at preventing susceptible members of the population from engaging in drug use, reduce their inclination to engage in such actions; and
- 2. Treat and rehabilitate such drug dependent members of the population.

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (ADAPP) coordinate drug abuse prevention and demand reduction initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago respectively and supports the efforts of non-governmental and other organizations involved in substance use prevention.

DRUG PREVENTION

Effective prevention strategies can minimize the disease burden by delaying the start of use, reducing problematic use and reducing the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs. Drug prevention approaches are very varied, ranging from those that target society as a whole to interventions focusing on at-risk individuals.

In Trinidad and Tobago, most prevention strategies focus on substance use in general; while some also consider associated problems, such as violence, crime and sexual risk behaviour. One of the main challenges in drug use prevention is aligning different strategies that range from providing contextual and evidenced-based information to specific target groups, while also ensuring sufficient population coverage.

DRUG TREATMENT

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, the term "treatment" refers to "the process that begins when psychoactive substance abusers come into contact with a health provider or any other community service, and may continue through a succession of specific interventions until the highest attainable level of health and well-being is reached." Therefore, treatment aims at reducing the dependence on psychoactive substances, as well as reducing the negative health and social consequences caused by, or associated with, the use of such substances.

In Trinidad and Tobago, treatment and rehabilitation is undertaken using both inpatient and outpatient services. They are offered by both Government and civil society organizations, which include those affiliated with religious organizations and other secular bodies.

DRUG PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

During 2022, NADAPP continued its strategic focus on capacity building in the drug demand reduction sector and focused on strengthening collaboration with key stakeholders through targeted training sessions. This approach provides greater impact over time and better leveraging of resources across the sector. Therefore, in 2022 NADAPP conducted the following:

- 1. Webinar Series:
- 2. Drug Prevention Programme Planning Training for Student Support Services Division, Ministry of Education;
- 3. School Health Safety and Security Officer Training Workshop; and
- 4. Coordination of the Substance Use Prevention Working Group.

1. Webinar Series, "Substance Use, Health and Psychosocial Issues"

The Webinar Series, "Substance Use, Health and Psychosocial Issues" was held in 2022. This Substance Use, Health & Psychosocial Issues Webinar Series was viewed by six thousand two hundred (6200) persons on Facebook and eight hundred and twenty two (822) persons on YouTube.

The Webinar was developed and implemented in order to achieve the following objectives: -

To help viewers:

- Acquire information on new and emerging drugs in Trinidad & Tobago;
- Learn of the impact of substance abuse on individuals and communities;
- Be equipped with information to detect signs of substance use;
- Learn of the linkages between substance use and other health and psychosocial issues including HIV, mental illness, and non-communicable diseases;
- Learn how to access treatment facilities and resources in Trinidad & Tobago; and
- Learn techniques for helping individuals cope with the challenges associated with COVID-19 as it relates to substance use.

The webinar series covered the following topics:

- 1. New and Emerging Drugs: New Psychoactive Substances.
- 2. Exploring Linkages between Mental Health and Substance Use.
- 3. Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders and Accessing Treatment Services Locally.
- 4. Exploring Linkages between Non Communicable Diseases and Substance Use.
- 5. Exploring Linkages between HIV and Substance Use.

DRUG PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Cont'd

2. Drug Prevention Programme Planning Training for Student Support Services **Division, Ministry of Education**

This training was conducted in September 2022 and was intended to equip Guidance Officers/Counsellors from Primary and Secondary Schools attached to the Student Support Services Division, Ministry of Education with the skills and tools to develop and implement drug prevention programmes in the school setting. This training sought to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reduce incidences of drug use in the home, school, and community amongst students; and
- Increase protective factors/behaviours and mitigate risk factors amongst students.

One hundred and sixty-three (163) Officers from Primary and Secondary Schools across Trinidad and Tobago participated in the training. The figures below highlights the percentage of officers attached to primary and secondary schools and the breakdown of the officers by educational districts.

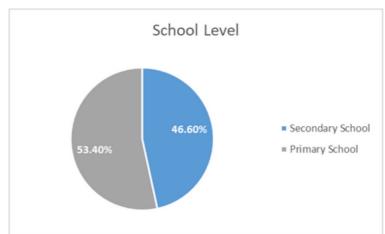


Figure 22: Percentage of Primary and Secondary Schools Participated in Training

Source: NADAPP

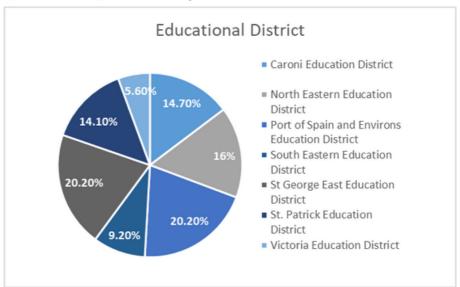


Figure 23: Percentage of Educational Districts Participated in Training

Source: NADAPP

3. School Health Safety and Security Officer Training Workshop

A workshop entitled Capacity Building Workshop for the Health Safety Security Services Unit, Ministry of Education was conducted for officers of the St. George Education district on Wednesday August 24th, 2022, at the Barataria South Secondary school. Officers attached to thirty (30) secondary schools participated in this workshop.

This session was geared towards equipping members of the unit with relevant information, tools and resources to aid in their work against drug use and trafficking amongst students in the school system. The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the National Drug Council (NDC) supported the implementation of this initiative.

4. Substance Use Prevention Working Group

This stakeholder group, led by NADAPP and supported by the NDC, continues to bring together key governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of Drug Demand Reduction on a quarterly basis in order to share lessons and build capacity in the field. During the year 2022, capacity building sessions covered the following topics:

- New Psychoactive Substances
- Universal Prevention Curriculum
- Blue Prints Programme Registry
- Cannabis Control Bill
- Dangerous Drugs Act (Amendment) 2019

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

During the year 2022, NADAPP and ADAPP continued to conduct outreach activities in schools, communities and workplaces. These activities included drug education sessions and information dissemination booths. The table below provides a summary overview of the target audience and the requisite number of beneficiaries, that is, the number of persons that benefitted from the activities held.

Target Audience	NADAPP	ADAPP	
	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	
Primary and Secondary	One thousand, three hundred	Twenty Six (26)	
Schools	and nine (1309)		
Technical Vocation		Forty eight (48)	
Schools			
Workplace	Six hundred and forty four (644)		
Community	Seven hundred and forty (740)	Three hundred and fifty one	
		(351)	
Church Groups		Fifty Seven (57)	
General Population	One hundred and ninety eight	Seventy (70)**	
	(198)**	**Symposium	
	** Number of additional persons		
	that viewed NADAPP's 2020		
	webinar during 2022.		

Table 16: Number of who Persons Benefitted from Outreach Activities 2022

Source: NADAPP & ADAPP

Snapshots of Participation in Outreach Activities Conducted by NADAPP and ADAPP in 2022









DRUG TREATMENT

Coordination of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation:

1. Standards of Care for Drug Treatment Centres:

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of Quality Standards in Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation continued to make significant strides in the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system for drug treatment and rehabilitation centres. Assessment exercises and site visits have begun with several centres to establish baseline data regarding the status of treatment centres, in order to inform a comprehensive plan for addressing gaps.

2.NADAPP Public Facing Initiative

In 2022, NADAPP launched an online platform through the Ministry of Health's Public E-Services Platform for receiving requests about treatment for substance use disorders.

Through the online form, NADAPP Drug Treatment Information Request Form, NADAPP was able to provide an opportunity for persons to anonymously seek information 24/7. Forty two (42) requests for information were received through this medium. Additionally, requests continued to be received through walk-ins and phone calls.

TREATMENT DATA

The following figures represent data from one hundred and thirty one (131) clients captured in the electronic Drug Treatment information system managed by CICAD-OAS in 2022.

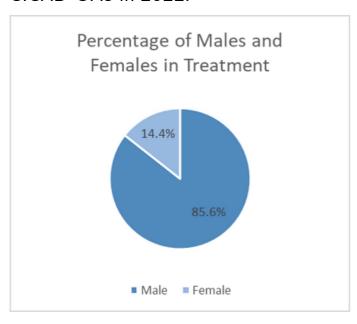


Figure 24: Percentage of Males and Females in Treatment Source: NADAPP

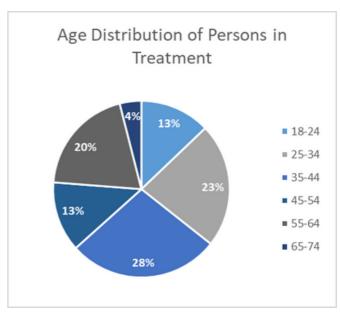
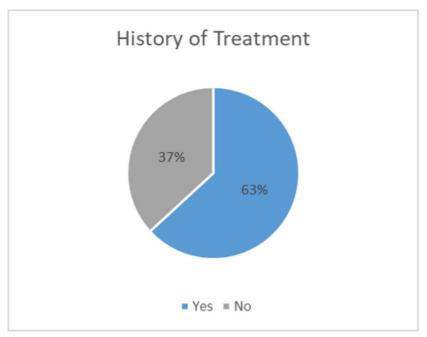


Figure 25: Percentage of Age Groups of Persons in Treatment Source: NADAPP

Summary Highlights of the Demographics of the Treatment Population in 2022:

- Of the data captured in 2022, 86% of the clients presented for treatment were male and 14% were female.
- The three (3) most prevalent age groups reporting for treatment included:
 - 35-44
 - 25-34
 - 55-64



63% of the recorded treatment population had previously been treated for drugs or alcohol misuse.

Figure 26: Treatment History identified by the Client Source: NADAPP

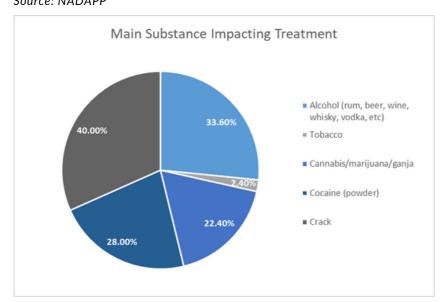


Figure 27: Main Substance Impacting Treatment

Source: NADAPP

The main substance impacting the demand for treatment in 2022 was crack cocaine, accounting for 40% of the total number of persons in treatment. Alcohol was the second most prevalent substance followed by Cannabis, accounting for 33.6% and 22.4% respectively.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE JUDICIARY

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

In support of the attempts to monitor and evaluate the effect of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, statistics were provided by the Judiciary's Department of Court Administration, and the following report was produced in February 2022.

The following considerations were noted and approach taken in the production of this report:

- 1.1 Type of Drug: The current data collection system at the Magistracy does not focus consistently on the quantity nor the type of drug and so this data is not available for the period under review, this is being amended.
- 1.2 Courts considered: Although matters relating to dangerous drugs come before the High Court and the Magistracy, since only the serious ones go before the High Court (at this time, prior to the proclamation of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) Act, 2020) and only after first being heard at the summary courts, there is no need to duplicate the count and thus only matters coming before the Magistracy are counted. While the Children Court also addresses drug related matters, the total number of summary criminal matters filed at the Children Court in any given year is on average, under 200, while the number of summary criminal matters, over the last 10 years, at the Magistracy is well over 14,000. It is therefore statistically acceptable, at this time, to exclude the contribution of the Children Court to the count of dangerous drugs matter, though it is recommended that an update to this report be done.
- 1.3 Definition of Case Type: The determination of case type (or sub-type in this case) has been derived from the leading leading[9] charge to the exclusion of other (secondary[10]) charges. The assumption made is therefore that there exists a one-to-one mapping between leading charge and indictment so that each indictment has only one leading charge. This is important to the approach as any attempt to derive case sub-type from an indictment with multiple charges, without relying only on leading charge, will result in double, triple or multi-counting thus skewing the data and causing a count of indictments reflect more indictments than there actually are.
- 1.4 Research question: Is there any observable change in the number of dangerous drugs matters filed at the Magistracy since the introduction of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019?

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE JUDICIARY

- 1.5 Approach and Assumptions: The total number of drug related matters filed for each month starting in August 2019 until December 2021 was established, with no attempt to distinguish the type of drug, the amount of drugs in the possession of accused persons nor the purpose for which the drugs were in the possession of accused persons. This was done for the entire period as it is difficult to distinguish as stated in 1.1 above. Changes in the quantity of matters filed therefore can be due to a number of possible causes:
 - 1. The habits of drug users changed significantly over the period in question
 - 2. The availability of drugs for possessing, trafficking or using decreased significantly over the period
 - 3. A significant fraction of the type of drug and quantity of drug, was no longer represented in the matters filed

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE JUDICIARY

MATTERS RELATED TO DANGEROUS DRUGS FILED AT THE MAGISTRACY

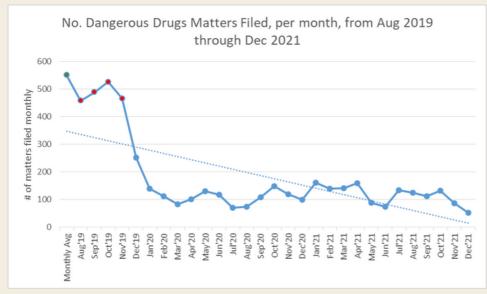
Since the proclamation of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, the Judiciary observed a 78% drop in the average number of drug related matters filed annually at the Magistracy (from 6,618 to 1,450) or a drop in monthly average from 551 to 114. The following figures provide an overview of the monthly filings at the Magistracy on matters related to dangerous drugs.

COMPARISON OF PERIODS					
Comparator	From the start of the 2014/2015 Law Term (Aug 2014) to the end of 2018/2019 Law Term (July 2019)	From Jan 2020 through December 2021			
Possession of no more than 30g of marijuana	INCLUDED	EXCLUDED			
Monthly Average	551	114			
Yearly Average	6,618	1,450			
Std. Dev. Of monthly filings	52.3	29.5			
Highest monthly filing	606	161			

The Table shows a clear decline in the number of filings.

Table 17: Number of Dangerous Drugs Matters Filed

Source: Judiciary



The red points show monthly filings before the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, was proclaimed while the blue points show monthly filings after the Act was proclaimed.

Figure 28: Number of Dangerous Drugs Matters Filed Source: Judiciary

While it cannot be stated with certainty that the only cause is the proclamation of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, as the change could be due to:

- The pandemic,
- Possible changes in availability of drugs for trading or
- Possible changes in habits of drug users and traffickers,

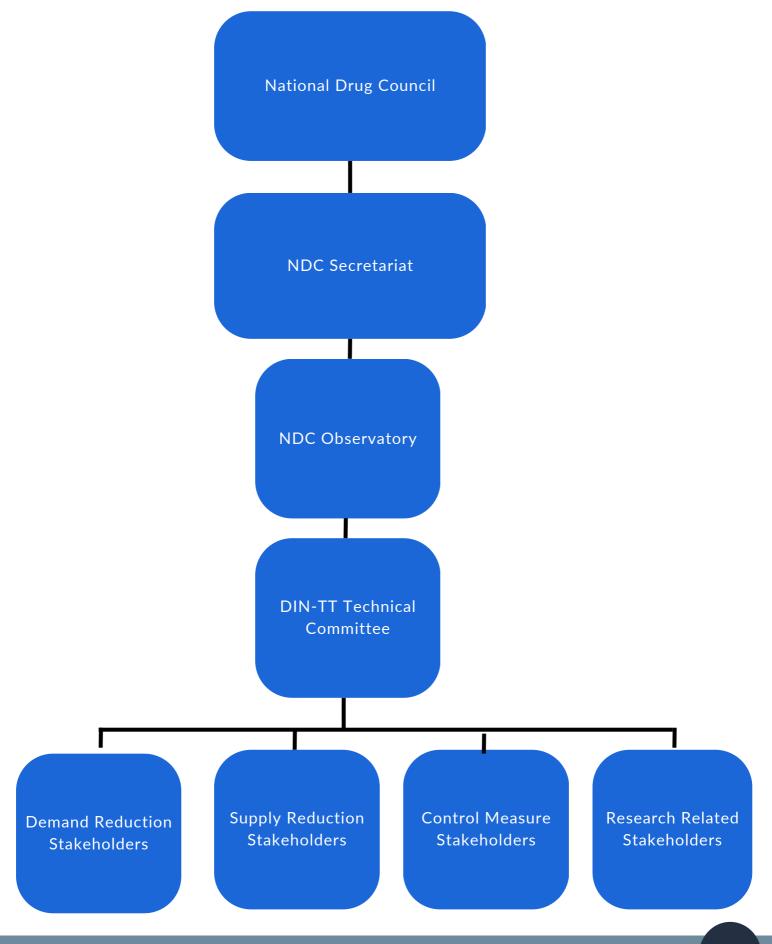
The fact that the drop coincided with the month of proclamation of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019 and there was no significant rise to previous levels, suggest that the decriminalization of the possession of no more than 30 grams of marijuana was likely the main contributor to the decrease in matters filed.

CONCLUSION

Drug Information Systems provide a multi-disciplinary platform for the sharing and discussion of drug supply and drug control data and generally enhance the capacity to develop data collection and the accurate interpretation of trends. It also provides a bridge to guide policy and the implementation of demand reduction activities.

Supporting better policies and actions to reduce the harm that drugs cause to individuals, their families and the communities in which they live is of fundamental importance. Either directly or indirectly, everyone is in some way impacted by the use of drugs. Directly, we see this in those who develop problems and need treatment or other services. The indirect consequences may be more hidden but are equally important. They include vulnerable young people being recruited into criminality, increased strain on health budgets, and the costs to society of communities that feel unsafe or where institutions are undermined by corruption and criminality. Therefore, it is envisaged that in 2023 the DIN-TT system of information collection, management and data exchange will continue to facilitate the continuous process of collaboration between key stakeholder agencies to be able to produce the best outputs.

In the year ahead, considerable effort is needed to sustain progress where it has been achieved and to work towards filling the data gaps to be able to better understand the drug situation in Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, the National Drug Council, in collaboration with key stakeholders, will continue to pursue the objectives of the National Drug Operational Plan for Drug Control 2021 to 2025. To this end, particular focus will be placed on advancing the critical work of the Research Pillar of the Operational Plan. It is hoped that with continued data collection, analysis and reporting that relevant legislative changes in the field will be strengthened, research in the field of drugs will be sustained, and that appropriate treatment and prevention activities will be enhanced.



APPENDIX II

Membership of the DIN-TT Technical Committee

Ministry of National Security:

- Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit
- National Drug Council (NDC) Secretariat
- Research Unit

Ministry of Health:

• National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services:

• Inter-Ministerial Research Council (IMRC)

Trinidad and Tobago Police Service:

• Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA)

APPENDIX III

Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs:

- Central Authority
- Anti-Money Laundering/ Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)
 Compliance Unit

Ministry of Health:

- Health, Policy, Research and Planning Unit
- National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)

Ministry of Finance:

- Financial Intelligence Unit
- Customs and Excise Division

Ministry of National Security:

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit
- Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
- Research Unit
- Immigration Division
- Trans National Organised Crime Unit (TOCU)

Treatment Centres:

- Helping Every Addict Live (H.E.A.L.)
- New Life Ministries Rehabilitation Centre
- Rebirth House
- Serenity Place
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Centre, Caura

Tobago House of Assembly:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (ADAPP)

Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force:

- Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard
- Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard
- Trinidad and Tobago Regiment

Trinidad and Tobago Police Service:

- Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA)
- Special Investigations Unit (SIU)
- Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch
- Court and Process Branch

Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service:

Youth Training & Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC)

Universities:

- University of the West Indies (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies)
- University of the Southern Caribbean

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