



DIN-TT ANNUAL REPORT 2024

This annual report presents a comprehensive overview of policy developments, prevention strategies, and enforcement efforts, all aligned to strengthen national responses through shared knowledge and collaborative action in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.



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List of Acronyms

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
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
COPOLAD	Cooperation Programme on Drug Policies
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CTU	Counter Terrorism Unit
DIN-TT	Dru Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
AD	Eastern Division
EWS	Early Warning System
FIUTT	Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
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
SAPTC	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Centre
SAR	Suspicious Activity Report
SD	Southern Division
SIU	Special Investigations Unit
STR	Suspicious Transaction Report
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
SWD	South Western Division
TD	Tobago Division
TTCG	Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard
TTDF	Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force
TTFSC	Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
TPPS	Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
TTPrS	Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations office on Drugs and Crime
USC	University of the Southern Caribbean
UTC	Universal Treatment Curriculum
UWI	University of the West Indies
WD	Western Division
WINAD	Women's Institute for Alternative Development
WHO	World Health Organization
YTRC	Youth Transformation and Rehabilitation Centre

Introduction

The 2024 Annual Report of the Drug Information Network Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) provides a comprehensive analysis of drug-related trends, challenges, and interventions across

the nation of Trinidad and Tobago. This report serves as a critical resource for policymakers, law enforcement, public health professionals and other stakeholders, offering data-driven insights to inform effective strategies in combating substance use, abuse, and trafficking.

Recommendations

- **Strengthen Multi-Sector Collaboration:** Expand partnerships between public health, law enforcement, and civil society to address the multifaceted nature of substance-related issues.
- **Leverage Technology:** Invest in digital tools and training for law enforcement to counter the rise of online drug markets.
- **Enhance Rehabilitation Accessibility:** Allocate additional resources to treatment facilities to meet the rising demand for services.
- **Focus on Data-Driven Strategies:** Continue investing in robust data collection and analysis to ensure policies are evidence-based and responsive to emerging trends.

The 2024 Annual Report highlights the evolving nature of the drug landscape in Trinidad and Tobago. Drawing on data from 2021 to 2024, aligned with the National Drug Operational Plan 2021-2025, the report reflects significant progress in enforcement and public health. However, emerging challenges require innovative, collaborative, and sustained efforts from all stakeholders. As a central hub for actionable intelligence, the Drug Information Network remains committed to fostering a collective approach toward a safer, healthier society.

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 multidisciplinary 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 that are aligned with the Hemispheric Drug Plan and 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 countermeasures 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 multidisciplinary 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.

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 understand 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 Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) continues to serve as the nation's leading platform for monitoring, analysing, and disseminating critical data on drug-related trends and issues. Established with the goal of fostering evidence-based decision-making, DIN-TT plays a pivotal role in shaping national strategies to address the complex challenges of substance use, misuse, and trafficking.

The year 2024 has been a period of both progress and introspection. This report delves into the evolving landscape of drug use in Trinidad and Tobago, highlighting emerging concerns such as the rise of synthetic drugs and the increasing intersection between drug-related activities and technology. At the same time, it reaffirms the enduring impact of traditional substances and their associated public health and societal burdens.

Through extensive collaboration with law enforcement, public health agencies, educational institutions, and international partners, DIN-TT has expanded its capacity to collect, analyse, and interpret drug-related data. This year's report reflects the strength of these partnerships, featuring a wealth of information ranging from national seizure statistics and patterns of drug consumption to the outcomes of preventative programs and rehabilitation initiatives.

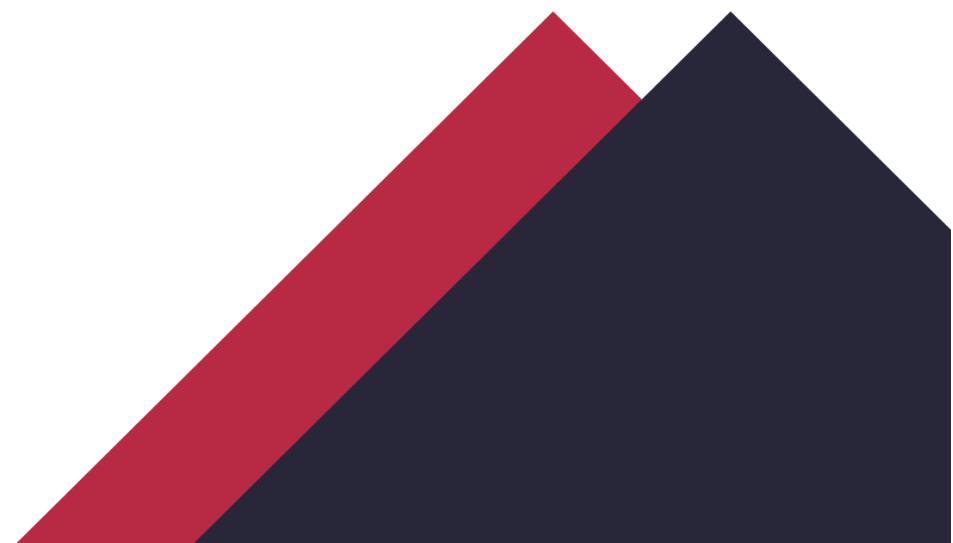
Key highlights from 2024 include an in-depth analysis of youth engagement in substance use, the socioeconomic impacts of drug trafficking on local communities, and the effectiveness of national campaigns aimed at reducing demand. These insights underscore the urgent need for a multi-sectoral approach to combat the pervasive influence of drugs while also illuminating areas of progress and resilience.

As we strategize for the future, DIN-TT remains unwavering in its commitment to being a trusted resource and advocate for solutions that address the multifaceted challenges of drugs in society.

This report not only captures the realities of 2021–2024 but also highlights the evolving challenges and progress in addressing drug-related issues. It serves as a call to action for stakeholders at all levels, government agencies, community organizations, and the private sector, to strengthen collaboration and implement sustainable strategies toward a healthier, drug-free Trinidad and Tobago.

Chapter 1: Supply Reduction

This section of the Drug Information Network focuses on monitoring and addressing the availability and distribution of illicit drugs. This section provides an overview of efforts aimed at limiting the production, trafficking, and supply of illegal substances through law enforcement actions, border control, and related strategies. By analyzing trends and data on drug seizures, arrests, and interdiction activities, this section supports informed decision-making and contributes to the broader goal of reducing drug-related harm in society.



INTRODUCTION

Efforts to reduce the supply of illicit drugs typically focus on disrupting manufacturing and distribution chains through the coordinated actions of civilian law enforcement and military agencies. In Trinidad and Tobago, cannabis is the only illicit drug known to be locally produced. Cultivation occurs on small farms, primarily located in the country's mountainous and heavily forested areas. Local cannabis producers face competition from imports originating in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Guyana, and Venezuela.

Other illicit substances, predominantly cocaine, are trafficked through Trinidad and Tobago by transnational organized crime groups. These groups exploit the nation's proximity to Venezuela and vulnerabilities at ports of entry to facilitate their operations. The primary destination for these trafficked drugs is the European market.

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.
- 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.

Between 2021 and 2024, a total of **8,967.77 kg** of marijuana was seized across Trinidad and Tobago. Seizures were particularly high in **2021 (3,341.7 kg)** and **2024 (3,781.26 kg)**, pointing to a strong law enforcement presence within that period. However, 2022 saw a drastic decline in marijuana seizures, with only **582.30 kg** confiscated. This reduction is primarily attributed to a decrease in eradication exercises by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), which significantly impacted the volume of intercepted marijuana. In 2023, an 87% increase in eradication operations resulted in a substantial rise in marijuana seizures, reinforcing the correlation between law enforcement activities and interdiction success. The fluctuations observed over the four-year period suggest that seizure volumes are largely influenced by the intensity of anti-drug operations rather than a consistent trend in trafficking levels. Thereby underscoring the need for sustained and strategic enforcement efforts to curb the illicit drug trade effectively. This trend is illustrated in figure 1.1 which presents a line graph depicting marijuana seizures from 2021 to 2024.

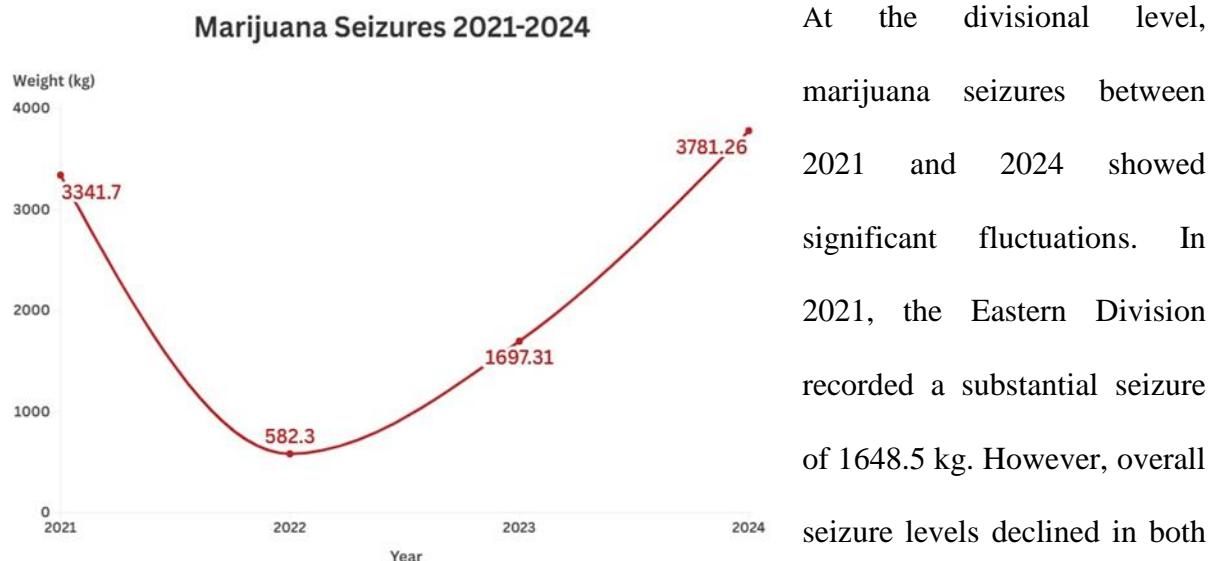


Figure 1.1: Marijuana Seizures 2021-2024
Source: CAPA

At the divisional level, marijuana seizures between 2021 and 2024 showed significant fluctuations. In 2021, the Eastern Division recorded a substantial seizure of 1648.5 kg. However, overall seizure levels declined in both 2022 and 2023. In contrast,

2024 saw a sharp increase, particularly in the South Western Division, which reported the highest seizure volume at 2056.7 kg. While some divisions recorded minimal activity, the data highlights notable variations in drug interdictions over time. These fluctuations may be partly attributed to the operational challenges faced by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, whose vessels were out of commission for significant period.¹ Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago's Strategic location as a transhipment hub for illicit drugs contributes to high seizure levels in the South Western Division, which is situated along key maritime trafficking routes, underscoring its role as a primary entry and transit zone for narcotics. Figure 1.2 visually summarises these divisional disparities, highlighting the areas with the highest marijuana seizures over the four-year period.

¹ Chan Tack, Clint. 'Hinds: Coast Guard Vessels Back in Service'. *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*, 22 January 2025. <https://newsday.co.tt/2025/01/22/hinds-coast-guard-vessels-back-in-service/>.

Divisions with the highest Marijuana Seizures 2021-2024



Figure 1.2: Map of Marijuana Seizures by Divisions with the highest seizure rates
Source: CAPA

Cocaine seizures in Trinidad and Tobago have varied over the past four years, reflecting fluctuations in law enforcement efforts and possible changes in drug trafficking trends. In 2021, authorities intercepted 174 kg of cocaine, but seizures fell sharply to 17 kg in 2022. However, 2023 witnessed a significant spike, with 666.96 kg confiscated, the highest amount recorded in this period, suggesting that cooperation with regional and international partners was effective.² By 2024, seizures declined again to 79.62 kg, though this remained substantially higher than the 2022 figure. As shown in Figure 1.3, this pattern is reflected in the line graph depicting cocaine seizures in Trinidad and Tobago from 2021 to 2024

² Reporter, Newsday. '\$234 Million Cocaine Bust in Chaguanas, 3 Held'. *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*, 20 May 2023. <https://newsday.co.tt/2023/05/20/234-million-cocaine-bust-in-chaguanas-3-held/>.

Between 2021 and 2024, the quantity of cocaine seized varied across police divisions in

Cocaine Seizures 2021-2024

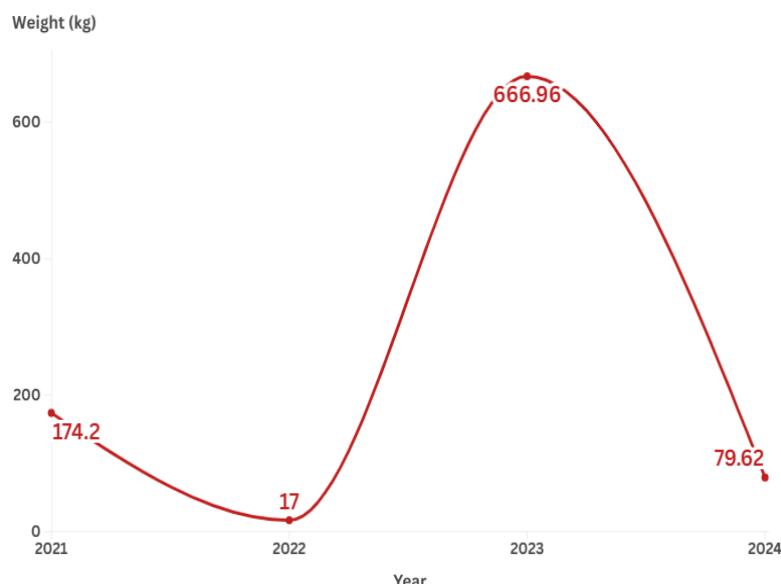


Figure 1.3 Cocaine Seizures 2021-2024

Source: CAPA

Trinidad and Tobago. In 2021, the Southern Division reported the highest seizure, with 86.4 kg confiscated, while the Eastern Division recorded a significant decline to 10.3 kg in 2022. The South Western Division saw a sharp increase in 2023, reaching a peak of 430.3 kg.

However, by 2024, seizures in this division dropped substantially to just 18.1 kg.

New Psychoactive Substances

Trinidad and Tobago's Early Warning System (EWS) has been instrumental in detecting and monitoring the rise of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). The majority of drug seizures have been carried out by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) and the Customs and Excise Division, demonstrating their frontline role in combating illicit substances. A key milestone in the country's fight against synthetic drugs was the dismantling of its first methamphetamine laboratory, an achievement resulting from a high-level, intelligence-led operation conducted by the Special Branch Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Trends in Synthetic Drug Seizures (2022–2024)

An analysis of synthetic drug seizures from 2021 to 2024 reveals key patterns and emerging threats:

- **Ecstasy (MDMA):** Seizures skyrocketed from just **2.64 units** in 2023 to **7,240.5 units in 2024**, indicating a rapid expansion in the drug's market presence in the country.
- **Methamphetamine:** After peaking at **351 units** in 2023, seizures plummeted to zero in 2024, likely due to low detection, which requires the need for additional easily accessible testing devices by first responders.
- **Ketamine:** Seizures fluctuated over the period, from **62.4 units** in 2022, none in 2023, and a rebound to **93.53 units in 2024**.
- **Synthetic Cathinone (MDPV):** No seizures were recorded during the entire period.
- Notably, there were not any documented NPS seizures in 2021.

New Psychoactive Substances Seizures 2021-2024

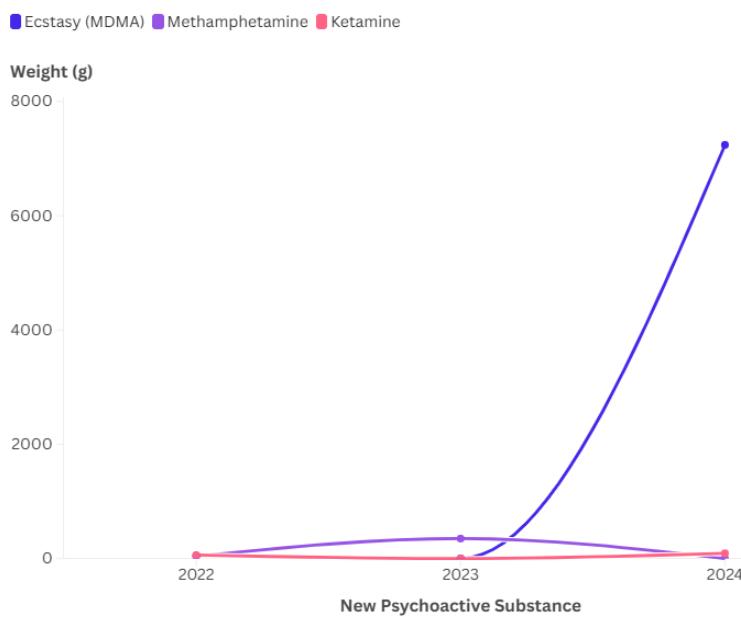


Figure 1.4: New Psychoactive Substances 2021-2024

Source: EWS

These trends reveal critical gaps in Trinidad and Tobago's drug enforcement capabilities, particularly insufficient resources and inadequate specialized training for law enforcement to identify emerging NPS. This underscores the urgent need for enhanced officer training programs and investment in

advanced detection technologies, such as Raman Spectroscopy devices, to strengthen the

country's capacity to combat synthetic drugs. Figure 1.4 displays the seizures of New Psychoactive Substances between 2021 and 2024.

Firearms and ammunition seizures with drugs

The four-year seizure data demonstrates contrasting trajectories for firearms and ammunition recoveries. Firearm confiscations peaked dramatically in 2022 at 51 units, representing half again as many as 2021's total, only to plummet by nearly equivalent margins to 26 units by 2024. More strikingly, ammunition seizures displayed exponential growth, with 2024's unprecedented 1,183-unit haul exceeding the cumulative total of the three preceding years. These trends are depicted in figure 1.5. The diametric opposition between 2022's high firearms/low ammunition and 2024's inverse profile suggests:

- Possible shift in criminal operational paradigms
- Fundamental changes in detection protocols or enforcement targeting

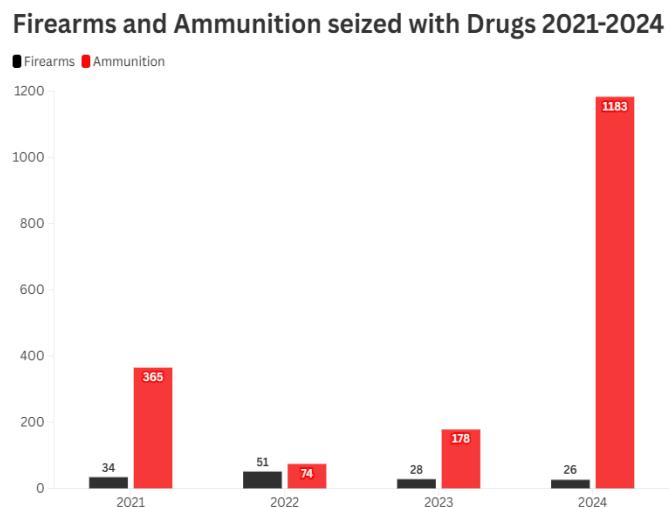


Figure 1.5: Firearms and Ammunition seized with Drugs 2021-2024
Source: CAPA

Trends in Drug Possession Arrest

The analysis of drug trafficking data from 2021 to 2024 reveals distinct trends in marijuana and cocaine distribution across various age groups and genders. Marijuana trafficking consistently peaks among young adults aged 20-34, though there has been a shift over time, from a concentration in the 25-29 age group in 2021 to 20-24 by 2024. Male offenders continue to dominate both marijuana (95 % of cases) and cocaine trafficking (91%). However, female participation is notably higher in cocaine trafficking (17%) compared to marijuana (13%). While marijuana offenses are concentrated in the younger adult demographic, cocaine distribution spans a wider age range. Additionally, no heroin trafficking cases have been recorded for the period 2021-2024, which may indicate effective control measures or potential underreporting. Although youth involvement remains relatively low, it persists primarily among males.

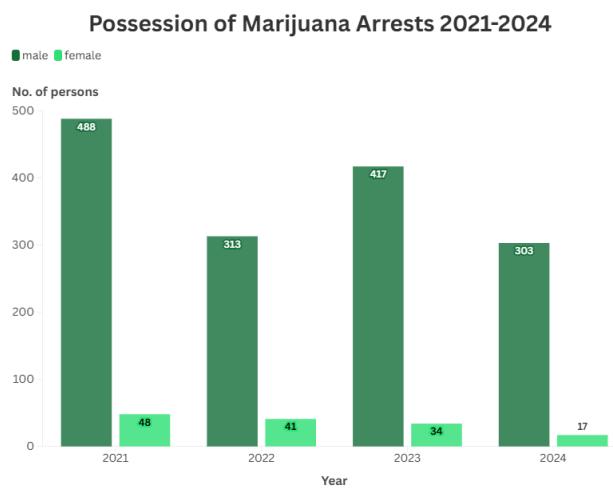


Figure 1.6: Marijuana Arrest between 2021-2024

Source: CAPA

These evolving trends highlight key policy considerations. The gradual shift in marijuana trafficking toward younger adults suggests the need for targeted prevention efforts focusing on individuals aged 20-24, while cocaine's broader age distribution requires a more comprehensive enforcement approach. The

pronounced gender gap, particularly in marijuana trafficking, where female involvement declined from 11% in 2021 to 4 % in 2023 before rising slightly in 2024, suggests a need for gender-specific intervention strategies. The complete absence of heroin trafficking cases calls for verification to determine whether this reflects successful interdiction efforts or gaps in

reporting. These findings emphasize the importance of adapting enforcement and prevention strategies to align with the distinct demographic patterns associated with different substances. Figure 1.6 and 1.7 respectively displays the marijuana and cocaine arrests for the period 2021- 2024.

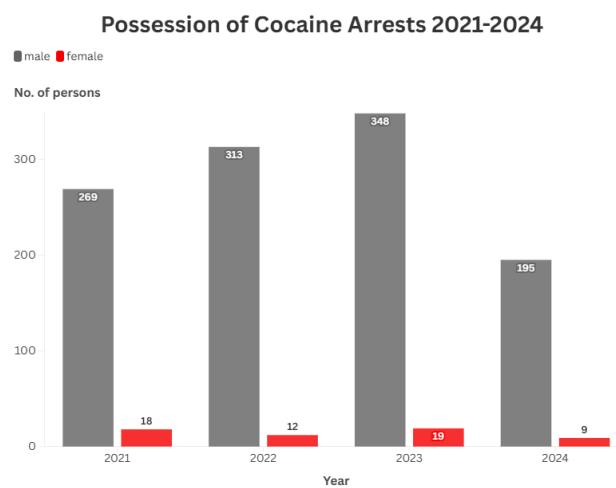


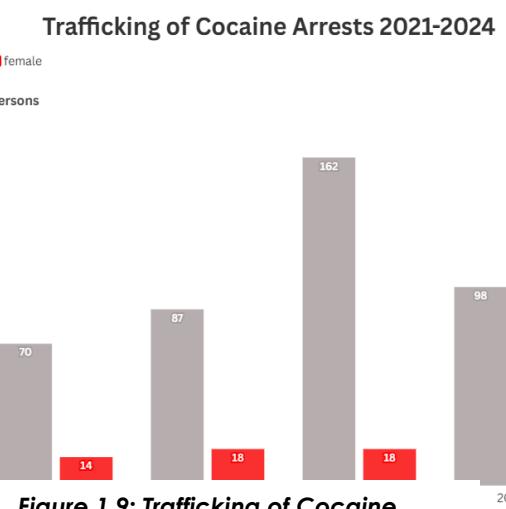
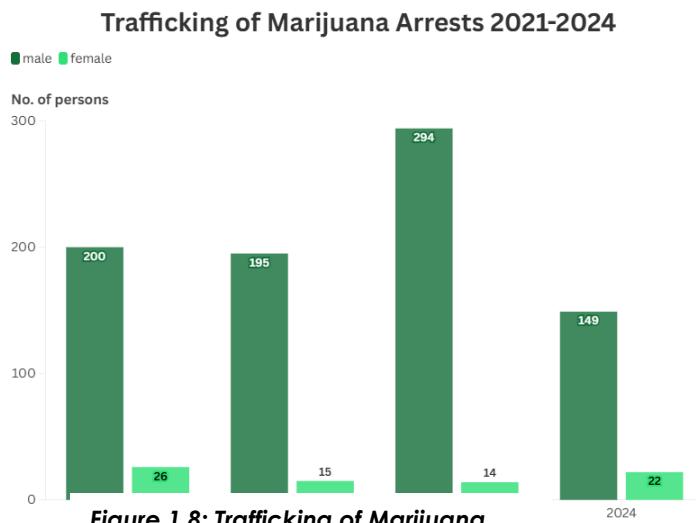
Figure 1.7: Cocaine Arrests 2021-2025
Source: CAPA

Trends in Drug Trafficking Arrests

The analysis of drug trafficking data from 2021 to 2024 highlights distinct trends in the distribution of marijuana and cocaine across different age groups and genders. Marijuana trafficking exhibits a consistent peak among young adults within the age range of 20-34. However, there has been a notable shift in the specific age concentration over time, transitioning from individuals aged 25-29 in 2021 to those aged 20-24 by 2024. Male offenders dominate both marijuana (95% of cases) and cocaine trafficking (91%), though cocaine shows notably higher female participation (17.1%) compared to marijuana (13%). While marijuana cases concentrate in the 20-34 age range, cocaine distribution maintains a broader spread across adulthood. Notably, the data shows no heroin trafficking cases in any year, suggesting either effective control measures or potential underreporting. Youth involvement remains relatively low but persistent, primarily among males.

The evolving trends highlight several key policy considerations. The gradual shift in marijuana trafficking toward younger adults suggests a need for targeted prevention efforts among 20-24-year-olds, while cocaine's more consistent age distribution requires a broader enforcement

approach. The significant gender gap, particularly in marijuana cases where female participation dropped from 11% in 2021 to 4% in 2023 before rebounding slightly in 2024, warrants gender-specific intervention strategies. The complete absence of heroin trafficking cases merits verification to confirm whether it reflects successful interdiction or reporting gaps. These findings underscore the importance of adapting enforcement and prevention strategies to address the distinct demographic patterns of different substances. These trends are illustrated in Figures 1.8 and 1.9 respectively.



Trends in Narcotic Related Arrests

The analysis of narcotics-related arrests from 2021 to 2024 reveals two distinct demographic patterns. Firearms offenses remain heavily concentrated among young males aged 15-34, accounting for 65% of cases, with a particularly alarming peak among 20-24-year olds. This trend became even more male-dominated by 2024, when 97% of firearms offenders were men. In stark contrast, drug paraphernalia cases predominantly involve older adults aged 55+, representing 40% of such arrests in 2021. These findings suggest fundamentally different criminal ecosystems, one centred around youth firearm possession potentially linked to gang activity or drug trade, and another reflecting personal drug use among older adults. The widening gender gap in firearms offenses and persistent age polarization highlight the need for targeted interventions. Law enforcement should prioritize firearm prevention between the ages of 15-34 while exploring harm reduction approaches for older adults' (55+) drug apparatus possession.

Possession of Narcotics Arrests 2021-2024

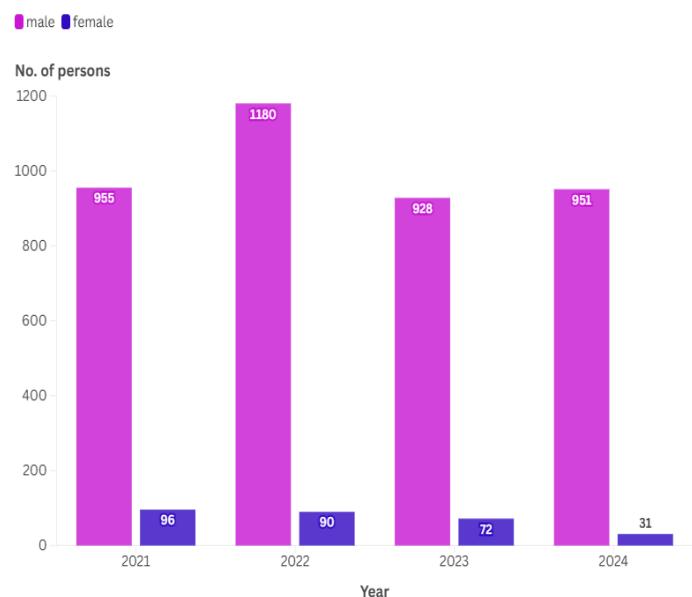


Figure 2.0: Possession of Narcotics Arrests 2021-2024

Source: CAPA

Trends in Narcotic Convictions

Between 2021 and 2024, convictions for possession of narcotics consistently outnumbered those for trafficking. This trend indicates that possession offenses are more widespread. In contrast, trafficking offense the data reveals a consistent pattern where possession convictions significantly exceeded trafficking cases annually. This disparity suggests that possession offenses often involving individual users or small-scale violations occur more frequently and are more visible to law enforcement. In contrast, trafficking offenses, typically associated with organized criminal networks, demonstrate lower conviction rates. This likely reflects the inherent challenges in detecting and prosecuting such clandestine operations, which require substantial investigative resources and evidence. The stability in conviction numbers for both categories over four years indicates neither offense type is increasing or decreasing markedly. This persistence highlights two distinct enforcement landscapes: one focused on high-volume, low-level offenses (possession), and another grappling with the complexities of dismantling trafficking operations. These trends are displayed on figure 2.1.

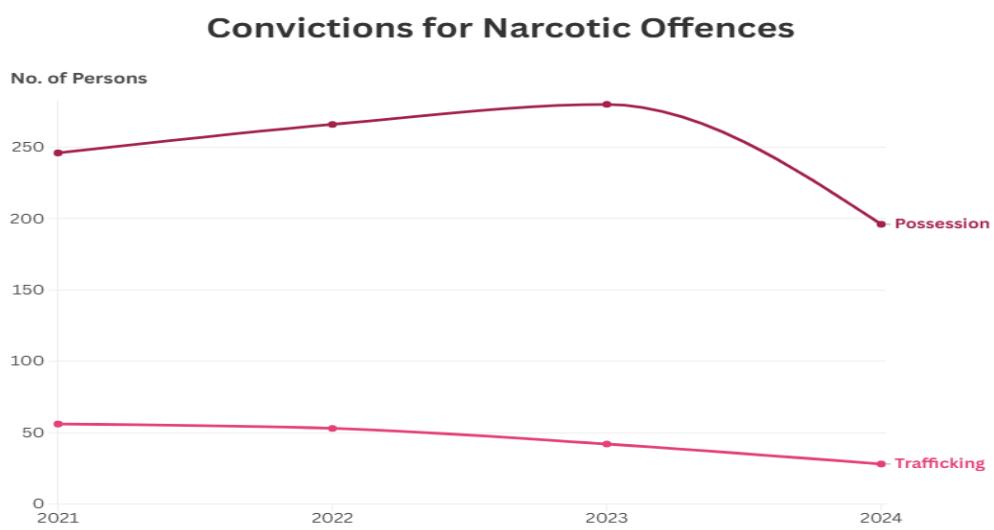


Figure 2.1: Convictions for Narcotic Offences 2021-2024
Source: TTPrS

From 2021 to 2024, possession of narcotics convictions steadily declined, with males accounting for the majority of offenders. After a relatively high number of cases in 2021, there was a sharp drop by 2024. Female convictions remained low throughout, with a slight increase in 2023 but no sustained rise as illustrated in figure 2.2 below. A notable decline in total convictions began in 2023, which could be attributed to several key factors. First, shifts in drug enforcement strategies might have led to fewer arrests or prosecutions, possibly due to a greater focus on intelligence-driven operations or the reallocation of resources within law enforcement agencies. The decriminalization of Marijuana would have seen less arrests for possession. Second, the introduction of alternative sentencing measures, such as the Drug Treatment Court Process, Probation Services, and the Electronic Monitoring Program, may have offered offenders rehabilitative options instead of custodial sentences, resulting in fewer convictions. The combination of these factors highlights the complex nature of drug-related convictions and underscores the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of enforcement policies, judicial approaches, and rehabilitation programs to better understand the long-term effects of these trends. Overall, the data suggests a gradual decrease in narcotics-related convictions, possibly

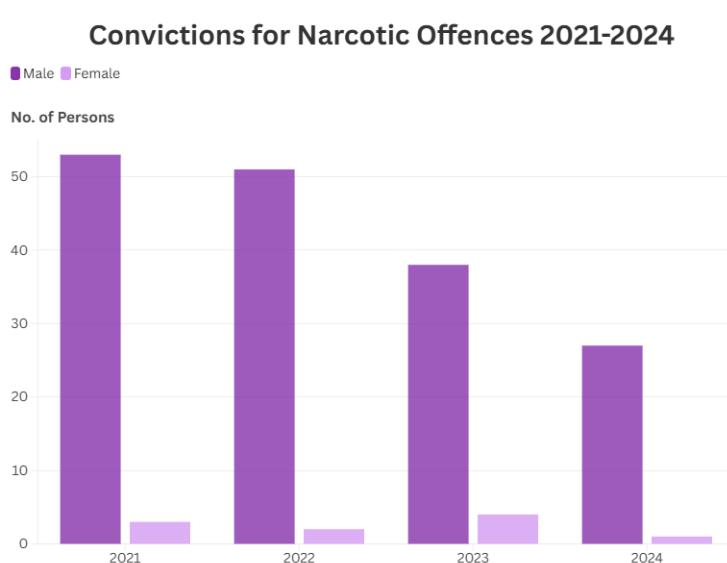


Figure 2.2: Conviction for Narcotic Offences 2021-2024.

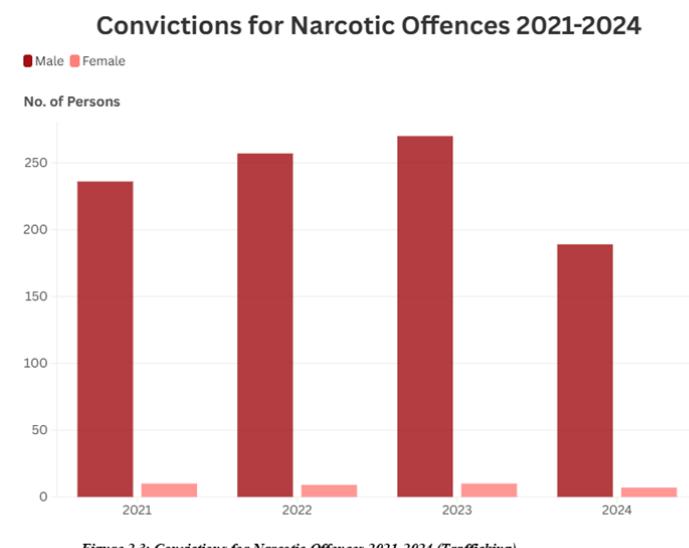
Source: TTPrS

system's handling of narcotics offences.

influenced by policy reforms, shifting law enforcement priorities, and broader socio-economic factors affecting drug-related crime. Further analysis is needed to determine whether this decline represents a sustained trend or a temporary fluctuation in the criminal justice

Figure 2.3, Convictions for Narcotic Offences (2021–2024) highlights a consistent and pronounced gender disparity in drug-related trafficking convictions, with male offenders significantly outnumbering female offenders throughout the four-year period. The data suggests that, on average, 200 to 250 males were convicted annually, whereas female convictions remained comparatively low, fluctuating between 50 and 100 per year. This disproportionate representation of males persisted across all observed years, indicating systemic differences in offending patterns. While minor year-to-year variations were recorded, the overall trend does not suggest a substantial increase or decline in total convictions, implying that judicial approaches and societal factors influencing narcotics-related offenses have remained relatively stable over time.

The persistent gender imbalance in convictions is consistent with broader criminological and sociological findings, which indicate that men are disproportionately involved in drug-related



offences, particularly in trafficking and distribution networks. Several factors could contribute to this pattern, including higher rates of male involvement in organized crime and targeted law enforcement efforts that may focus more on male offenders.

From a policy and justice standpoint, these findings emphasize the need for gender-sensitive approaches to drug-related offences, ensuring that prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation strategies adequately address the unique circumstances of both male and female offenders. For

instance, rehabilitation programs, diversionary sentencing, and social support mechanisms could be designed to tackle the underlying economic, psychological, and social drivers that lead individuals into drug-related crime. Furthermore, a closer examination of female offenders' experiences within the criminal justice system could provide valuable insights into the specific challenges they face, such as pathways into drug-related activities, access to legal support, and rehabilitation opportunities.

Ultimately, the data underscores the importance of continuously evaluating law enforcement practices, sentencing policies, and social interventions to ensure a balanced and equitable approach to narcotics-related convictions. Understanding the root causes behind the gender disparity in drug offences can inform more effective policy responses, reduce recidivism, and contribute to a more holistic criminal justice system.

The Central Authority Unit within the Office of the Attorney General was founded under the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, 1997. This legislation operationalizes the Commonwealth Scheme on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, commonly referred to as the Harare Scheme. As a non-treaty framework, it obliges member states to enact relevant domestic legislation to enable efficient international cooperation in criminal matters.

The Central Authority Unit is the designated authority for executing Mutual Legal Assistance requests. Its primary responsibility is to rigorously assess the feasibility of incoming and outgoing requests and ensure the provision of all requisite information to comply with the stipulations of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act.

Additionally, the Central Authority oversees the execution of extradition requests, whether these originate from foreign jurisdictions or are directed to them. In executing extradition requests, the Unit evaluates their viability in accordance with the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, Chap. 12:04. Upon determining that a request can be fulfilled, the Central Authority prepares all mandatory documentation and represents the case in court as instructing counsel.

In the year 2024, the Central Authority Unit (CAU) documented the following activities concerning mutual legal assistance and extradition requests related specifically to drug-related issues:

Mutual Legal Assistance

The CAU received two incoming requests for mutual legal assistance, which are being reviewed and processed. In terms of outgoing requests, the CAU has received and executed none related to drugs, drug control matters, or other associated legal inquiries during this timeframe.

Extradition

Moreover, the CAU has not received any incoming or outgoing extradition requests in 2024 related to individuals implicated in drug offences or other drug control issues. The following table (Table 1) delivers a more straightforward breakdown of the statistics as explained above for easy analysis:

2024 (Drug related offences)	Incoming	Outgoing
Mutual Legal Assistance	2	0
Extradition	0	0

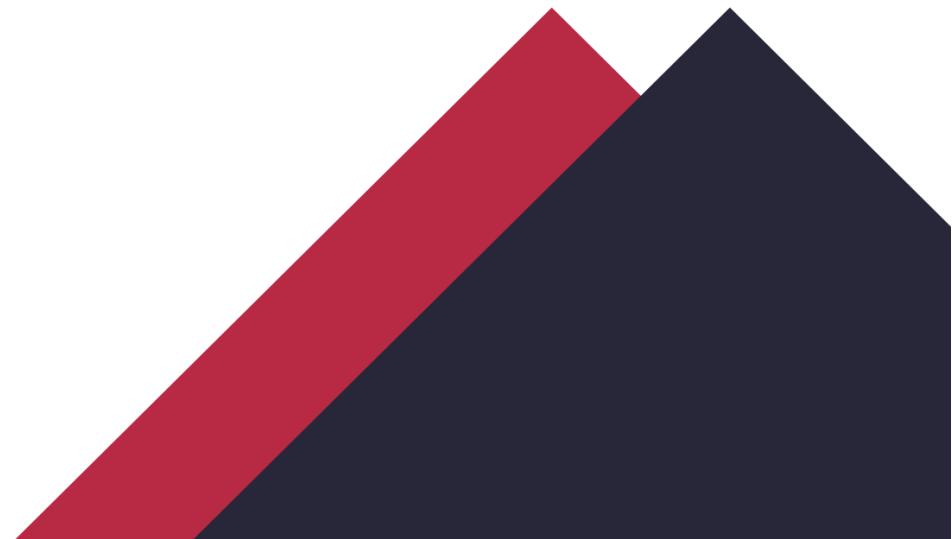
Table 1: Table showing requests received by Central Authority, AGLA)

Source: AGLA

It is essential to mention that in 2023, one incoming extradition request was received related to drug offences, and this matter remained ongoing in 2024 and continues to this day.

Chapter 2 – Demand Reduction

The demand reduction component of the Drug Information Network focuses on strategies and initiatives aimed at decreasing the desire and need for illicit drugs. This section highlights prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and education efforts designed to reduce drug use and support individuals in achieving recovery. By analyzing data on drug use patterns, treatment admissions, and outreach programs, this section helps inform policies that promote healthier communities and reduce the impact of substance abuse.



National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) Summary for Calendar Year 2024

Whereas the preceding chapter provided a comprehensive overview of the period 2021–2024, the current chapter is limited in scope to the analysis of data and developments specific to the calendar year of 2024. The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) coordinates drug prevention and demand reduction initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago and supports the efforts of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in the struggle to rid the nation of the scourge of substance. NADAPP's mandate includes; Public Education and Information; School Drug Prevention; Community Drug Prevention; Workplace Prevention and Treatment; and Rehabilitation and Research. A capacity building approach is adopted to fulfil this mandate.

Section 1: Drug Prevention Services for Calendar Year 2024

Train the Trainer/ Capacity-Building Initiatives

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 allows for greater impact over time and better leveraging of resources across the sector. Some of these initiatives conducted during calendar year 2024 include the following

A. Initiative: Capacity-Building Training for Secondary School Principals and Deans of the North Eastern School District



In response to a request from the North Eastern School District, NADAPP conducted a capacity building training for twenty (**20**) secondary school principals and deans on March 14th, 2024. This training was facilitated in collaboration with the Special Investigations Unit of the TTPS, and covered the following areas:

- i. Drugs in the school environment; policies and legal ramifications
- ii. Types of drugs and associated risks
- iii. Signs and symptoms of drug use in the student population

B. Initiative: Trinity S.M.A.R.T. Training for Librarians at National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS)

Following the delivery of Trinity S.M.A.R.T. materials to children's libraries, NADAPP conducted a training session for twenty-four (**24**) librarians on April 23rd, 2024. This training aimed to equip these librarians with relevant information, tools, and resources to aid in educating children about the potential dangers associated with engaging in substance use. The following areas were covered in the training:

- i. Risk and protective factors, and the importance of early drug prevention
- ii. Types of drugs young people are most often exposed to, and their risks
- iii. Introduction to the Trinity S.M.A.R.T. project (history and implementation) and use of books, videos and lesson plans





C. Initiative: The Art of Prevention

As part of community engagement activities associated with the implementation of community prevention project “The Art of Prevention”, NADAPP facilitated a drug education workshop for students in Morne Diablo, Penal in January 2024. This session served the dual purpose of providing essential drug education, and conducting needs assessments by offering a platform for participants to express themselves through a preliminary art activity. This initial engagement was crucial for building rapport, getting to know the participants, and gaining insights into the challenges existing in their environment.

In May 2024, NADAPP hosted a visit from two representatives of the Cooperation Programme Between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD). During this visit, a community workshop was facilitated in Penal, which covered



the importance of building community and social networks as a tool for effective community prevention initiatives.

D. Initiative: Drug Prevention Programme Development Training for Guidance Officers and Guidance Counsellors

This two-day workshop was successfully conducted for school guidance officers and guidance counsellors of the Student Support Services Division (Ministry of Education) in June 2024. The workshop provided an intensive, hands-on experience aimed at equipping guidance officers and counsellors with the skills and knowledge required to develop and implement drug prevention programmes. By focusing on practical application, the training offered participants direct guidance on designing, delivering, and evaluating prevention interventions.



Beneficiaries

- i. Two hundred and thirty- six (**236**) Guidance Officers and Guidance Counsellors of the Student Support Services Division (SSSD) at the Primary and Secondary School levels across all seven educational districts;
- ii. Students of four hundred and seventy- seven (**477**) public primary schools and one hundred and thirty- four (**134**) secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago, who will benefit from drug prevention programmes developed and implemented in the school setting. This amounts to seventy- three thousand, three hundred and twenty (**73,320**) secondary school students and one hundred and eighteen thousand, five

hundred and fifty-one (**118,551**) primary school students;

iii. Staff, parents and community members via the implementation of comprehensive drug prevention programmes in the school setting.

E. Initiative: CCC Training



Through partnership with the Health Education Division and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), NADAPP collaboratively designed a training programme tailored to equip CCC staff with the skills

and knowledge necessary for drug prevention education. This resulted in a three- day workshop held on September 17th to 19th 2024, with two days of instruction and a final day for participants to teach back the content to demonstrate their understanding. This hands-on, intensive experience aimed to empower staff to develop and implement effective drug prevention programmes. Moving forward, NADAPP will provide technical support during the upcoming induction period, while trained CCC teachers will take on greater responsibility in presenting drug prevention information.

Beneficiaries

- i. Forty (40) staff members of the Civilian Conservation Corps from all regions across both Trinidad and Tobago
- ii. Approximately nine hundred (900) trainees at the various CCC centres, will benefit indirectly via drug prevention programmes developed and implemented by CCC staff members.
- iii. Community members and other interested stakeholders will benefit indirectly via the implementation of comprehensive drug prevention programmes in the CCC setting.

F. Initiative: Police Officer Training for a Marijuana Eradication Task Force

NADAPP conducted a Training session for the course Cannabis Supply and Demand Management, which targeted eighteen (18) police officers who are part of a Marijuana Eradication Task Force on September 16, 2024.

The following areas were covered in this training further to consultation with the Advanced Programmes and Services Unit Faculty of Advanced Law Enforcement Education and Training of the Police Academy:

- i. Rationale for Marijuana Suppression: this includes Social ills, Crime and Health implications;
- ii. Identify the negative outcomes of marijuana use for individuals and society and this includes sessions for the impairment of short-term memory and cognition, lung damage and increased risk of lung cancer, potential for abuse/addiction and

accidents and decriminalization; and

iii. Interventions available and how they can impact demand reduction: this includes Prevention Programmes from NADAPP to the Police Youth Clubs and treatment interventions such as cognitive behavioural therapy, rehabilitation centres and social methods that contribute to demand reduction for marijuana.

G. Initiative: Parenting Pathways: Equipping Families for Substance Abuse Prevention Success

In collaboration with the Ministry of Sport & Community Development's Community Mediation Division, NADAPP successfully facilitated the Parenting Pathways webinar series. This initiative aimed to equip parents with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognise the signs of substance use in their children and foster a supportive environment that reduces the likelihood of their involvement in substance use.

The series comprised three webinars held between November 6th and 20th, 2024, covering the following key topics:

- i. New and Emerging Drugs: Recognising signs and symptoms of drug use
- ii. Substance Use and Sexual Health
- iii. Substance Use and Sports
- iv. Peer and Family Dynamics in Adolescent Substance Use

These sessions were led by NADAPP, with valuable contributions from the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit (HACU) of the Ministry of Health, the Special Investigations Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee, and Families in Action. The series attracted approximately sixty-four (**64**) participants over its duration (according to participant feedback forms).

H. Initiative: Substance Use Prevention Working Group

This stakeholder group, led by NADAPP and supported by the NDC, continues to bring together key NGOs in the field of Drug Demand Reduction on a quarterly basis in order to share experiences, best practices and build capacity in the field. Capacity building session in 2024 covered the following topics:

i. Adult Drug Treatment Court Process;

ii. **Outreach Activities Conducted in Schools, Communities and Workplaces**

Drug education activities includes interactive presentations and information dissemination booths and were conducted in schools, communities and workplaces, and addressed in the following areas:

i. Concepts of drug use, misuse, and abuse;

ii. Physical and Psychological effects of licit and Illicit substances;

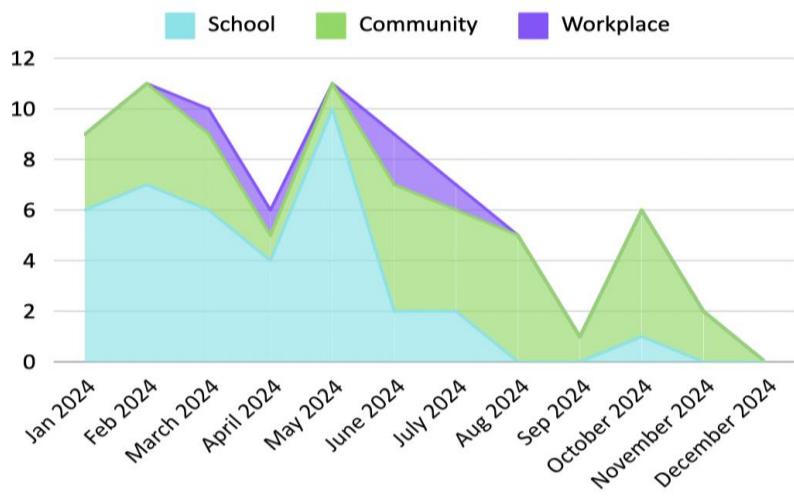
iii. Prevention Strategies/Coping Mechanisms; and

iv. Resources for Treatment and Rehabilitation.

A total of seventy-seven (77) outreach activities was conducted during the fiscal year 2024, which targeted a total of five thousand six hundred and two (5,602) beneficiaries.

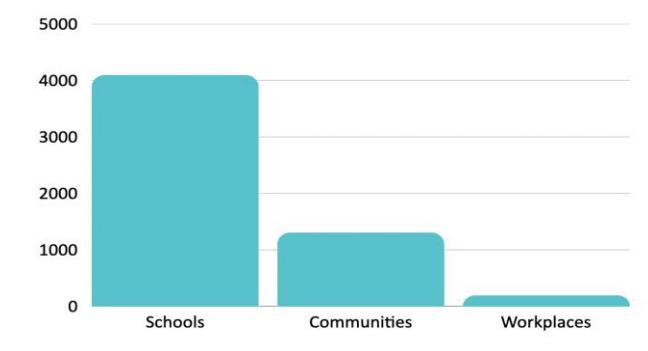
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Number of Outreach Activities





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Number of Beneficiaries of Drug Prevention Activities



Schools (Primary and Secondary): Fifty (50) drug prevention activities were conducted in Primary and Secondary Schools, targeting a total of six thousand, six hundred and ninety-one (6,691) students.

Community/Public Education: Thirty-three (33) drug prevention activities were undertaken in various communities where a total of one thousand five hundred and nineteen (1,519) citizens accessed drug sensitization/ information.

Workplace: Six (6) drug prevention sessions were held in workplaces where two hundred and twelve (212) employees benefited from these sessions.



Webinars:

The following webinars conducted by NADAPP continue to be circulated to stakeholders and report an increased number of views. The webinar series topics include the following:

- NADAPP 2022 Webinar Series (YouTube & Facebook): Substance Use, Health & Psychosocial Issues Webinar Series - New and Emerging Drugs: New Psychoactive Substances, Exploring Linkages Between Mental Health and Substance Use Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders and Accessing Treatment Services Locally,

Exploring Linkages Between NCDs and Substance Use and Exploring Linkages Between HIV and Substance Use; and

- The 2023 Youth and Substance Use Webinar Series (YouTube): Parenting, Drugs & Adolescent Development, Alcohol & its Effects on the Developing Brain, Vaping and its Myths, Marijuana & Adolescent Development and New & Emerging Drugs.

These webinars continue to be useful resources for stakeholders in the field of drug demand reduction.

Summary of Drug Prevention Activities

Category	Total Activities	Total Beneficiaries	Key Demographics	Key Areas Covered
School Outreach (Primary & Secondary)	38 Activities	4,098 Students	Primary & secondary school students	Drug Use, Misuse, And Abuse; Physical and Psychological Effects; Prevention Strategies; Coping Mechanisms; Resources for Treatment and Rehabilitation.
Community Outreach	34 Activities	1,310 Citizens	Community members, adults, and parents, with engagement in areas like Morne Diablo and Penal.	Drug Sensitization and Information on Drug Prevention, Building Social Networks for Effective Prevention, And Early Intervention Strategies.
Workplace Outreach	5 Activities	194 Employees	Employees	Drug Prevention, Physical and Psychological Effects of Substances, Coping Mechanisms, And Resources for Treatment.
Total Outreach Activities	77 activities	5,602 Beneficiaries		

Specialized Outreach Initiatives (COPOLAD Pilot Project)	1 (Art of Prevention)	25 Beneficiaries	Students in Morne Diablo, Penal; community members from Penal.	Drug Education Workshop, Needs Assessment, Community Engagement Through Art, And Building Rapport.
Capacity Building Workshops	5 Specialized Workshops	236 Guidance Officers 24 Librarians 20 Principals and Deans 18 Police Officers 40 CCC Staff	Guidance officers, librarians, CCC staff, police officers, community members, and children.	Drug Prevention Programme Development, Early Drug Prevention, Marijuana Supply and Demand Management, Drug Prevention Tools and Resources, Community-Based Prevention Networks.
Public Webinars	1 Webinar Series	64 parents and/or guardians	Community members, adults, parents, caretakers, teachers	New and emerging drugs, signs and symptoms of drug use, substance use and sexual health, substance use and sports, exploring peer and family dynamics in adolescent substance use
Total Drug Prevention Activities	84 Activities	6,029 Beneficiaries	Schools, communities, and workplaces.	Drug Use Prevention, Coping Strategies, Treatment Resources, And Drug Awareness.

Section 2: Coordination of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

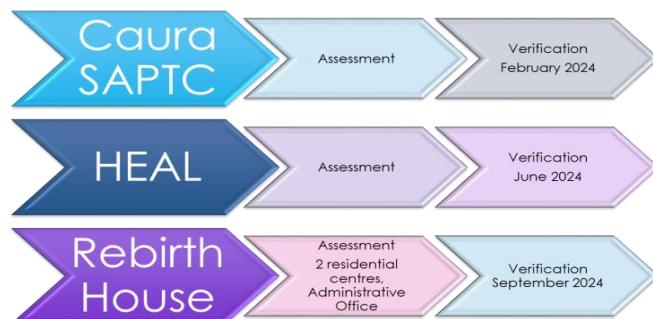
a. Standards of Care for Drug Treatment Centres

Site visits were conducted with the purpose of carrying out Assessment and Verification Exercises. The assessments, and verification exercises were administered to establish baseline data regarding the status of treatment centres. The data collected will inform a comprehensive plan for addressing identified gaps. These assessment and verification

exercises are an integral part of a long-term initiative aimed at developing National Standards in Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation. By evaluating the current operations and identifying areas for improvement, the assessments will help guide the establishment towards standardized practices across treatment centres to ensure more effective and consistent care for those seeking rehabilitation.

Site Visits were conducted at three (3) treatment Centres in 2024.

- (i) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Centre (Caura Hospital)
- (ii) Helping Every Addict Live (HEAL)
- (iii) Rebirth House



b. Directory of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Providers

Directory of Substance Use Treatment Services

The Directory of Substance Use Treatment Services was last revised in September 2024. Updates to the directory are ongoing as new information and changes to various centres and their service delivery are recorded. Regular quarterly reviews and revisions will be conducted to ensure that the directory remains current and accurate, reflecting the latest developments in

treatment services. The Directory of Substance Use Treatment Services contains information on;

- Residential Care Services
- Outpatient Care Services
- Support Groups for persons with Substance Use Disorder
- Support Groups for relatives of persons with Substance Use Disorder

c. Drug Treatment Centres Standardized Data Collection

The NADAPP Secretariat is tasked by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) to be the repository for treatment centre intake data for the Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DINTT), which was launched in 2016. During the year 2024, efforts were made to improve the data collection process by implementing strategies to address gaps in the process.

Data was collected from six (6) Substance Use Treatment Centres and inputted into CICAD's database by NADAPP. The following chart is a representation of the number of clients enrolled at the specified Treatment Centres for the year 2024.

Drug Treatment Centre	Ja	Fe	Mc	Ap	Ma	Jn	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct.	No	De	Tot
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
Caura SAPTC	7	14	9	6	9	13	9	12	14	2	0	0	95
Serenity Place Empowerment Centre	1	2	0	3	1	3	2	1	2	2	4	2	23
HEAL	0	5	4	1	1	6	0	3	5	2	2	5	34
New Life Ministries	4	1	0	3	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	15
Teen Challenge	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Rebirth House	0	0	0	5	6	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	19
Total	12	23	13	20	20	25	12	21	24	8	6	7	191

Arrangements are ongoing to collect data for the next fiscal from the following centres:

- South West Regional Health Authority
- Families in Action
- Therapeutic Community Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
- New Life Ministries / Women Centre Palo Seco
- Centre for Addiction Prevention and Healthy Living

- Sakinah Drug Recovery Centre
- Substance Use Disorder Counselor

d. Drug Treatment Requests

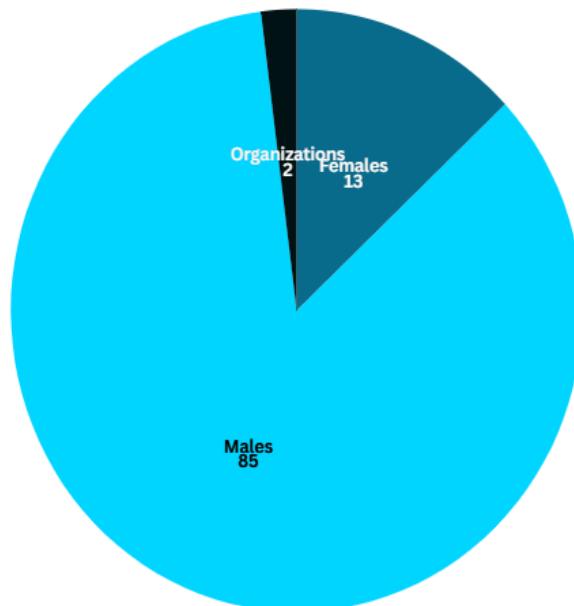
Through our online [Drug Treatment Request Data Collection Form](#), requests were made by the following persons;

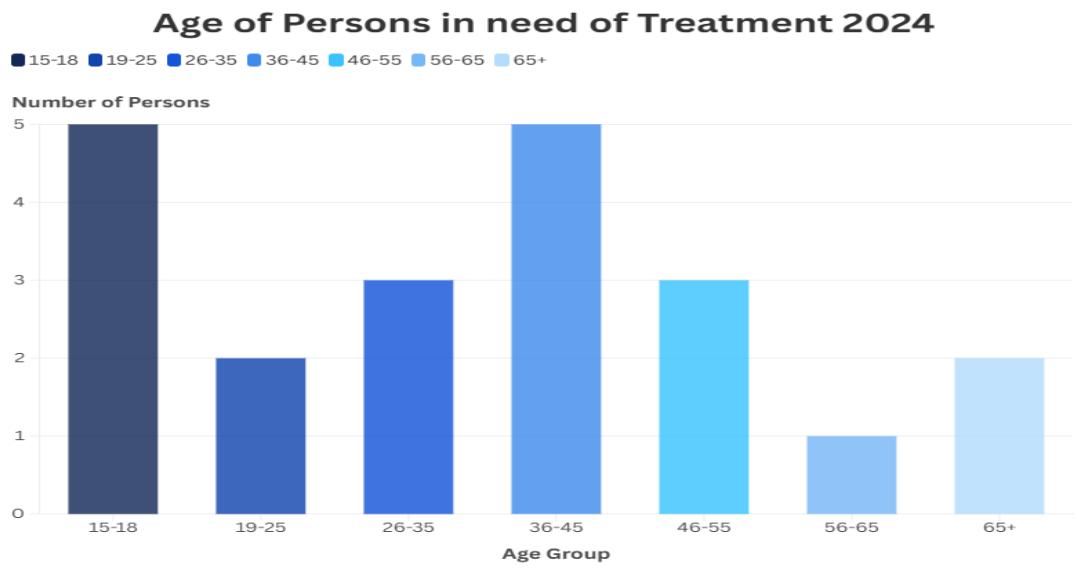
82 Males  12 Females  0 Other  2 Organisation 

Total Amount of Treatment Information Requests 2024= **Ninety-Six (96)**

Summary of Data from Drug Treatment Requests

Drug Treatment Requests 2024



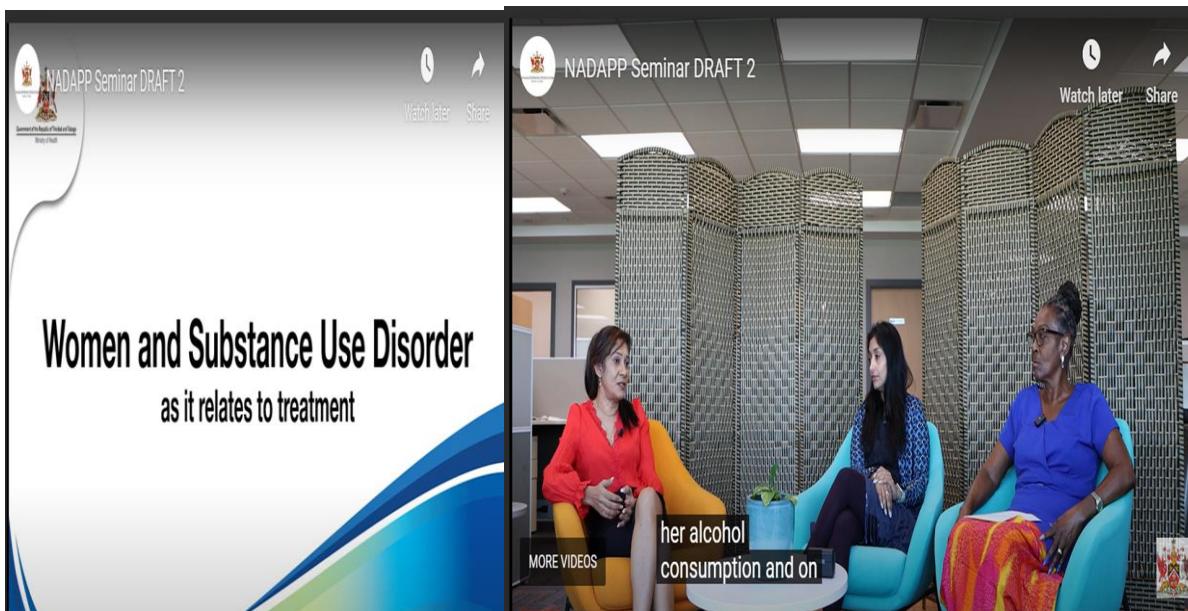


e. Webinar Recording – Breaking the Stigma: Women, Substance Use and the Path to Recovery

A webinar entitled "Breaking the Stigma: Women, Substance Use, and the Path to Recovery" was recorded in September 2024 and is now published on the Ministry of Health Social media platforms. This webinar addresses the unique challenges women face with substance use disorders. It highlights how stigma affects women seeking treatment, often leading to social alienation, delayed recovery, and difficulties in their personal and professional lives.

The webinar can be accessed via the following link; Views thus far = 151

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=breaking+the+stigma+%2C+women+on+substances+ministy+of+health+trinidad



f. NADAPP Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting (Treatment)

NADAPP recognizes the importance of engaging with stakeholders who are invested in the field of Substance Use Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Reinsertion. To foster collaboration and ensure alignment of efforts, NADAPP conducted a Stakeholder Meeting on November 26th, 2024. One of the primary goals of this meeting was to enhance the working relationship between NADAPP and drug treatment Establishments. At this meeting NADAPP was able to gather valuable insights and feedback from those involved in the process. A total of twenty-five (25) persons participated in the meeting.

Objectives

- Fostering Positive Working Relationships: Promote the collaboration between NADAPP and treatment centres, ensuring open communication and mutual support that will strengthen the overall impact of addiction treatment and support. Regular meetings

will provide the opportunity to discuss goals, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

- Update on NADAPP Activities: Share recent developments and initiatives within NADAPP, particularly those relevant to treatment services, and provide insight into both regional and international commitments. Sharing resources such as research, tools and strategies that can assist in making the treatment process more effective.
- Highlight Relevant Services: Act as a catalyst for identifying and linking treatment centres to services, with particular emphasis on social reintegration services, that align with the evolving needs of their centres, ensuring they have access to the resources and support they require.
- Celebrate Successes Together: Whether it is a joint community outreach event or a treatment program's success, celebrating these wins reinforces the collaboration and helps maintain a positive, cooperative atmosphere



The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programme (ADAPP) continues to play a vital role in providing comprehensive support services aimed at drug intervention and prevention. ADAPP is responsible for Demand Reduction programmes in Tobago. Through its initiatives, ADAPP strives to foster the development of healthier households, strengthen community well-being, and contribute to the overall health and safety of Tobago.

As part of its core mandate, ADAPP is dedicated to raising awareness about substance abuse prevention at both the school and community levels. This is achieved through a range of targeted programs that emphasize education, training, and public engagement. By equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and resources, ADAPP seeks to empower communities to make informed decisions and adopt healthier lifestyles.

The table below provides a detailed overview of the various activities undertaken by ADAPP in 2024, highlighting the number of sessions conducted and the total number of individuals who benefited from these critical initiatives.

Activity	Description	Number of sessions/events	Number of beneficiaries
Health centre initiative	Disseminate information on substance use and misuse to persons accessing services at the health centres on the island	10	200+
Learning and enrichment centre	Disseminate information to students on substance use and misuse	9	150-200
School Drug Awareness Day	Disseminate information to students on substance use and misuse	2	50-100

Drug awareness Caravan	Disseminate information to members of the public on substance use and misuse	1	100-150
Substance Misuse symposium	Disseminate information to participants on marijuana use and synthetic drugs.	1	50
TPS Women's Day Symposium - Request	Disseminate information to participants on drug use and misuse	1	50
Mason Hall Secondary- Request	Disseminate information to students on substance use and misuse	1	200+
Civilian Conservation Corps - Request	Disseminate information to participants on drug use and misuse	1	100
TRHA Salt Awareness Week – Request	Disseminate information to members of the public on substance use and misuse	1	150
Women's Village – Women's entrepreneurial development and product expo – Request	Disseminate information to members of the public on substance use and misuse	1	150
TRHA Community Nutrition Heal Children's Camp	Disseminate information to children on substance use and misuse	1	150
TPS Children's Camp	Disseminate information to children on substance use and misuse	1	50
Litter Eradication Programme	Disseminate information to members of the	4	100
Workplace Drug			

Prevention Initiative	public on substance use and misuse		
Speyside High School	Disseminate information to children on substance use and misuse	1	200+
Roxborough SDA Church Health Fair	Disseminate information to members of the public on substance use and misuse	1	100
Gender and Child Affairs Division National Inclusion and Wellness Fair	Disseminate information to members of the public on substance use and misuse	1	100
TPS Men's Wellness Retreat	Disseminate information to participants on drug use and misuse	1	50

Conclusion

The 2024 Annual Report from the Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) presents a nuanced view of the nation's drug challenges. While intensified enforcement has led to significant seizures, the emergence of synthetic drugs and the increasing sophistication of trafficking networks, including digital platforms, pose growing threats.

Conversely, agencies focused on demand reduction have expanded prevention and rehabilitation efforts, engaging schools, workplaces, and vulnerable communities. These agencies have strengthened training for educators, librarians, and law enforcement in early intervention strategies. Community outreach initiatives, including art-based interventions and parenting webinars, have further bolstered public engagement in drug awareness.

Treatment services continue to evolve, with efforts to standardize care, improve data collection, and address the specific needs of families, adolescents, and women. However, accessibility gaps and persistent stigma hinder help-seeking behaviours, underscoring the need for targeted interventions. The report stresses that while enforcement remains crucial, long-term success requires sustained investment in prevention, evidence-based treatment, and destigmatization efforts.

The following are key highlights arising from the report. In response to the continually evolving global drug landscape, policy frameworks are being regularly updated to address emerging challenges, such as the increased use of precursor chemicals in the production of synthetic drugs. Efforts are also being made to strengthen alternatives to incarceration, with initiatives like the Drug Treatment Court Programme (DTCP) and the establishment of a Dissuasion Commission, which aim to provide more rehabilitative responses to drug-related offenses. These measures are complemented by a broader focus on addressing the underlying social,

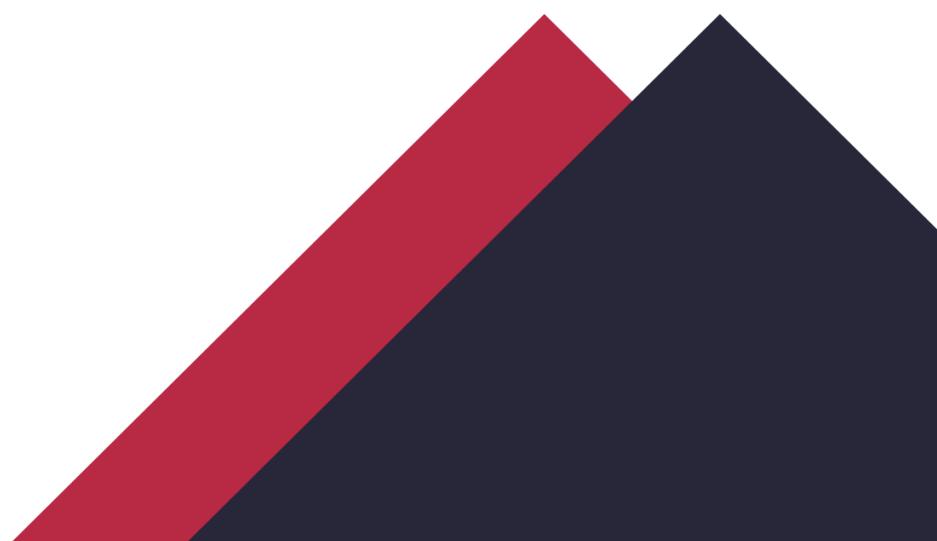
economic, and psychological drivers of criminal behaviour. In the area of law enforcement, ongoing training is essential to equip personnel with the skills needed to respond effectively to shifting patterns of drug possession and trafficking. This includes ensuring that law enforcement agencies are adequately resourced and that border security measures are reinforced, given Trinidad and Tobago's strategic position as a trans-shipment point. Additionally, gender- and age-specific approaches are being prioritized in both prevention and rehabilitation strategies. This involves examining women's pathways into drug-related crime to inform targeted interventions and implementing harm reduction measures tailored to older adults.

By maintaining a balanced approach that integrates enforcement with social support systems, Trinidad and Tobago can build on its progress, fostering a comprehensive drug policy that prioritizes both public safety and public health. The DIN-TT remains at the forefront of this effort, providing critical insights to guide national strategies toward a more resilient future.

Appendices

The appendices provide supplementary information that supports the data and analysis presented in this report in addition to the membership of the Din-TT the stakeholders and the organizational chart.

This section includes detailed tables, charts, and other reference materials that offer additional context and clarity. These resources are intended to enhance understanding of the findings and allow for more in-depth review of the information covered in the main sections.



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

Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

- Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA)

Universities

- University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)

Stakeholders of the DIN-TT

Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service

Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

- Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA)

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 Unit
- 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

DIN-TT Organizational Structure

