

**THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2000**



**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL**

*for period ending 30 June, 2000*

**LETTER TO THE MINISTER FROM NDC CHAIRMAN**

**DEAR MR. MINISTER:**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL LAW,( 2001 REVISION), IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NDC FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000.**

**SINCERELY,**

**PATRICK SCHMID ESQ.  
CHAIRMAN**

## **REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DRUGS CO-ORDINATOR**

*By*  
*Ms. Catherine Delapenha*

As the new co-ordinator of the National Drug Council, it gives me great pleasure to present this review of operations. Though the activities referred to in this report cover the period during which I was Deputy Co-ordinator, I must take this opportunity to thank the staff who contributed mightily to both the success of the NDC's activities and my transition to Co-ordinator. This report, covering the operations of the National Drug Council for the year ended June 30 2000, reflects what can best be described as a year of change.

The initial vision and determination of the Council under the steady hand of Mrs. Tessa Bodden forged a unifying force with the mandate to co-ordinate all of our anti drug efforts. Mrs. Bodden gave the impetus that brought the NDC into being and was instrumental in helping to put together the group of dedicated individuals to whom the problems of substance abuse are paramount. Her support and her tireless efforts in dealing with all of the substance abuse issues are greatly appreciated, as is her continued commitment to help.

We welcomed our new Chairman Mr. Patrick Schmid in March 2000 and have already seen the effects of the enthusiasm, energy and unique perspective that he brings to the position. The changes in the Council were also reflected in changes in staff with a complete restructuring taking place over the course of the year (see appendix A).

The year 2000 saw a major increase in NDC activities in a variety of areas. We built on the success of last years Drug Awareness Week increasing this important public awareness campaign from one week to one month. Participation was increased dramatically in spite of impediments both natural and man made. This in concert with an aggressive speaking campaign by Mr. Shoniker, the previous co-ordinator, ensured that issues concerning substance abuse and misuse were never far from the public eye.

The first of what is hoped to be five Community intervention programmes was started this year. We acquired a site on Elgin Ave. as a temporary home for a comprehensive slate of after- school and weekend activities targeted towards youth at risk. It is hoped that with the co-operation of other stakeholder agencies both public and private we can establish a community-based response to the concerns regarding delinquent youth.

Our research mandate has created, not just a wealth of quality data surrounding the issues related to substance abuse and misuse but also, a world class research capability here in Cayman. This capability was once again put to the test in developing and initiating the first ever Cayman Island Drug and Alcohol Survey (CIDAS). The results of which were published in October 2000.

Over the next twelve months, it is critical that we use the momentum established to continue expanding the efforts of all agencies in these important initiatives. Central to these efforts will be a strict emphasis on the National Strategic Plan for Drug Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation, maintaining and developing the activities laid out under the plan and rigorously evaluating the results. On an operations level we are committed to implementing the succession plan unveiled by my predecessor in the Legislative Assembly in October 1999. The plan calls for increasing the compliment of Caymanian staff members without in any way sacrificing the quality of our outputs. Ensuring an aggressive training programme for professional development of these new staff members is a critical, albeit costly, component of this plan.

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## ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL

### MISSION STATEMENT

The National Drug Council (NDC) is dedicated to the eradication of substance abuse in the Cayman Islands and to co-operating with Foreign Governments and Agencies in order to facilitate a more effective address to global trafficking of illicit drugs. The goals and objectives of the NDC are realised through a fully integrated address to substance misuse and abuse, which brings the community of thought to bear on its planning, operations, research and programmes as mandated by the Cayman Islands National Strategic Plan for Drug Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation.

### FUNCTIONS

The specific functions of the National Drug Council as prescribed by section 4 of the National Drug Council Law, 1997 are as follows:

- In consultation with such persons or bodies it deems appropriate, to formulate policies and develop programmes intended to prevent or reduce drug abuse and to promote and encourage the implementation of such policies and programmes;
- To promote and encourage the establishment of a system to co-ordinate the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and the care of persons associated with drug abusers;
- To give advice on the licensing and operation of premises used in connection with the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users;
- To advise the Minister and such persons, groups and organisations or bodies which request it to do so, on policies and programmes related to the prevention of drug abuse, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and the care of connected persons;
- To educate the public, and in particular the young, on the dangers of drug abuse, and to publicise these dangers;
- To promote and encourage the award of scholarships, and to award scholarships or other financial assistance to persons wishing to pursue courses in basic or advanced training in matters related to drug abuse;
- To initiate, sponsor and support conferences, seminars and meetings related to drug abuse;
- To initiate, support and publish studies, reports and other documentation on drug abuse;
- To establish, maintain and operate information systems and facilities, and to encourage and support the exchange of information of all kinds in respect of policies, programmes and research related to drug abuse;
- To establish and operate treatment centres;
- To keep under review the situation of the Islands with respect to drugs which are being, or appear to the Council likely to be, abused and of which the abuse is having or appears to the Council to be capable of having, harmful effects, and to give to the

Minister, where either the Minister so requests or the Council considers it expedient to do so, advice on measures which in the opinion of the Council ought to be taken for restricting the availability of such drugs or supervising the arrangements for their supply;

- To conduct research into, and develop and maintain a database of information on, drug abuse in the Islands; and
- To advise the Minister on matters of law reform relating to the misuse of drugs.

## MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL

**As at 30 June, 2000**

The Council membership is made up as follows:

Lawyer .....	Patrick G. Schmid Esq., Chairman
Director, Department of Substance Abuse Services.....	Mrs. Karen Ferruccio Deputy Chairman
CEO/Co-ordinator NDC.....	Mr. Peter Shoniker
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare..... Drug Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation	Ms. Andrea T. Bryan, J.P.
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Aviation ..... and Planning	Mrs. Joy Basdeo, J.P.
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Community Affairs, ..... Sports, Women, Youth, & Culture	Mr. Carson Ebanks, J.P.
Director, Department of Social Services .....	Mrs. Deanna Look Loy
Director, Her Majesty's Prison Northward .....	Mr. John Forster
Deputy Collector, Customs Department – Enforcement .....	Mr. Dale Ramoon
Head of Drugs Task Force .....	Det. Chief Supt. Derek Haines
Head of Royal Cayman Islands Police.....	Commissioner David Thursfield
Chief Pharmacist, Health Services Authority .....	Mr. Kevin Gipple
Representative, C.I. Ministers Association .....	Rev. Collin Cowan
Representative, Judiciary .....	Mrs. Margaret Ramsay-Hale
Representative, Office of the Financial Secretary .....	Mrs. Letitia Solomon
Head of Psychiatry, Health Services Authority.....	Dr. Franklyn LaHee
Private Businessman.....	Mr. Billy Adam
Accountant .....	Mr. Naul Bodden
Lawyer .....	Mrs. Sherrie Bodden-Cowans

## **PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL**

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Restructuring of Organisation

In June 2000 the NDC approved a new Organisational Structure (see Appendix A). The approved structure was created to fulfill the dual requirements of a perceived need for dedicated Liaison Officer to improve communications between the Council and stakeholder agencies and the addition of two Project Officers reflecting increased programme activity anticipated in the future. As of 30 June 2000, one of the Project Officer and the Liaison Officer positions were vacant.

In order to determine compensation the Council took advice from Personnel Department of the Cayman Islands (see Appendix B). The salary structure reflects those recommendations.

### RESEARCH & STATISTICS

#### Cayman Islands Drug and Alcohol Survey

Planning for the inaugural cycle of the Cayman Islands Drug and Alcohol Survey (CIDAS 2000) started in the second half of 1999. By February 2000, the collaborative process by which the questionnaire was developed had begun and the survey was administered, as scheduled, in April 2000.

The survey covered the six principal districts of the Cayman Islands: George Town, West Bay, Bodden Town, East End, North Side, and Cayman Brac. As is customary in the case of nationwide surveys, a sample was selected to represent the adult population, as the inclusion of the entire population was not economically feasible.

The NDC received considerable assistance from the Economics and Statistics Division of the Cayman Islands (CI) government to generate a sample that represented all residents of the six districts being included in the survey. In all six districts a systematic sample was drawn, meaning that one randomly selects one household as a starting point and then selects every few (e.g. 1 in 5 or 10 or 15) households depending on the sample size desired. This method of sampling provides each household with an equal chance of being selected and ensures that all pockets within each district are represented.

A total of 985 households were selected for inclusion in the six districts and 927 households actually agreed to participate. This yielded an impressive participation rate (including replacement cases) of 94%. Most surveys, especially those dealing with sensitive topics, yield far lower participation rates. The type of high response rate achieved in this survey lends confidence to the findings, because the sample is more likely to be representative of the population as a whole.

An Interim Report was delivered on June 30, 2000 and the final report will be released later this year.

#### National Statistics

The NDC continued to routinely collect data related to substance abuse from local sources. This information has been captured on a database and republished as national statistics on substance abuse in the Cayman Islands. (See Appendix C)

### PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION

#### Drug Awareness Month

The month of October was designated as Drug Awareness Month and signaled the expansion of drug awareness activities in both the schools and the community. The overall objective is to increase the awareness of all primary, middle and high school students in the Cayman Islands of the ill effects of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and other harmful substances. This year's theme was **“ez2b drug free”**.

The NDC plays a co-ordinating role in achieving this objective by bringing together relevant agencies to plan and implement the month's activities. Some 20 or more departments, agencies and/or organizations played their part in making the month a success. Notable achievements were as follows:

1. Newspaper Supplement

A 28-page supplement featuring articles, photographs, poems and stories submitted by more than 25 middle and high school students was published in the Caymanian Compass. It included Mission statements and contact information for twelve agencies providing a range of services relating to substance abuse. Cayman Free Press produced an extra run of 2,500 copies that was distributed to all middle and high school students.

2. Stamp Competition

The stamp competition was launched at the start of Drug Awareness Month in anticipation of the winning stamps being issued during Drug Awareness Month next year.

### 3. Dare to be Different

The RCIP Community Relations Department had planned to incorporate their "Dare to be Different" campaign into this year's school programme. However, due to unforeseen circumstances associated with HMP Northward, they were unable to honour their commitment.

### 4. Beach Bash

The RCIP Community Relations Department also planned to host two beach parties during Drug Awareness Month, which for reasons stated above they could not participate.

### 5. Y2Y National Conference

Cayman Against Substance Abuse (CASA) held their national conference during Drug Awareness Month. The 2-day event held at the George Town Primary School Hall, attracted over a hundred teens and challenged them to become advocates for the prevention of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use in their schools and their communities. The conference was rated highly by those in attendance.

### 6. School Presentations

The NDC co-ordinated special assemblies in local schools at which one of the two age appropriate presentations, primary or high school students, was presented. The programmes consisted of a motivational speaker, local MCs, energizer activity, skits/short drama.

The motivational speaker, Mr. JeVon Thompson, addressed approximately 5,500 students over 5 days spreading his messages "Self Esteem is Elementary" and "Free Your Mind and Your Power Will Follow" to elementary and high school students respectively. Most of his presentations were made during specially arranged assemblies at local schools. His messages were delivered with a humour, which focussed on engaging the audience in the presentations. A review of his performance by students and educators confirmed that his message was received and enjoyed by all in attendance.

The stars of the high school presentations were undoubtedly the two well-known athletes Lee Ramoon and Bernie Bush. These two personalities have a special 'chemistry' with students that they use to impart their special message, "No excuse for drug use". Many students could therefore relate local experiences to messages presented by the motivational speaker.

#### 7. Neighbourhood chats

The concept behind the chats was to bring the events of Drug Awareness Month to the various districts. The chats consisted of a showing of the video “Exposed”, followed by informal discussions, along with light refreshments. A panel of local experts from the various agencies was invited to support and participate in these events. The events had excellent support from the agencies but poor support from the public. An evaluation of the event has shed some light on how these types of activities can be improved.

#### 8. National Garage Sale

This was a pilot project developed as a combined public information and recreational event. Held at the Lions Centre the event combined approximately 16 social service agencies, both Government and NGO, with over 100 private and commercial vendors. The event featured music, sport demonstrations, food, amusements and a variety of both new and used items for sale. By all accounts the event was a huge success with gate receipts indicating attendance in excess of 2,500 people.

#### 9. Savannah-Newlands Heritage Day

This was a new initiative this year as the NDC does not generally participate in Pirates Week events. However, with the slight overlap between Drug Awareness Month and Pirates Week we felt that there was a need to “bridge” the two events. This was successfully accomplished by the participation of the NDC at the Savannah Heritage Day. The NDC set up an information booth with Drug Awareness promotional materials, which was staffed by NDC staff. Information about substance abuse and promotional items were distributed and the NDC presented a special award to the Savannah/Newlands Heritage Group in recognition of their tradition of holding alcohol-free Heritage Days. The event was very well attended.

#### 10. Educational Materials

Copies of videos and other training materials on tobacco, alcohol and marijuana were distributed to all schools in the Cayman Islands. In addition, special activity booklets were designed and distributed to primary school students and a special folder with resource information was designed and distributed to all middle and high school students. These materials were well received by both students and educators who put them to good use during the Drug Awareness Month.

In summary, the feedback from all involved confirmed the success of the month’s activities. Our overall objectives were met and in addition partnerships were formed between the stakeholder agencies and the public.

### Designated Driver Programme

The programme consisted of posters, table cards and wristbands, which were given free to participating restaurants and taverns. The wristbands were used to identify designated drivers. Participating establishments agreed to provide free non-alcoholic beverages to the designated drivers. The programme was supported by an extensive television and print campaign concentrated around the Christmas and New Year season. Although actual usage of bracelets was limited, the majority of programme participants agreed that the programme did raise awareness levels in general and a significant number of patrons did take advantage of the free beverages.

### Speaking Engagements

An extensive schedule of speaking engagements by Mr. Shoniker, NDC Co-ordinator, was undertaken throughout the year. The programme covered all service clubs in the Cayman Islands as well as a large number of school groups, parent groups, etc. These engagements not only served to raise awareness in and of themselves, but also provided media coverage. As a result, public support for NDC initiatives was noticeably improved.

## Community Intervention

### Scranton Youth Centre

Addressing a growing community concern vis a vis juvenile delinquency and its link with drug use, Council decided to pilot a community intervention programme. The Cayman Islands Government agreed to provide, as a temporary home for the programme, a derelict building on Elgin Avenue (commonly known as the Racquet Club). Plans are underway to restore the facility and initiate programming for high-risk youth.

## Conferences & Seminars

### Caribbean Co-ordinating Mechanism (CCM) Regional Meeting

The NDC was represented by both a Council member and the Deputy National Co-ordinator at the regional meeting of member states to update donor agencies on the progress made in implementing the Barbados Plan of Action.

### Law Enforcement Technology Conference

Three members of NDC staff and two members of the Drugs Task Force were invited to attend this 5-day conference/workshop. The conference attracted delegates from Canada (including Toronto Police Chief and member of the Canadian Senate), the United States and the Bahamas. NDC Co-ordinator, Mr. Peter Shoniker, was a keynote speaker and panelist at many of the events.

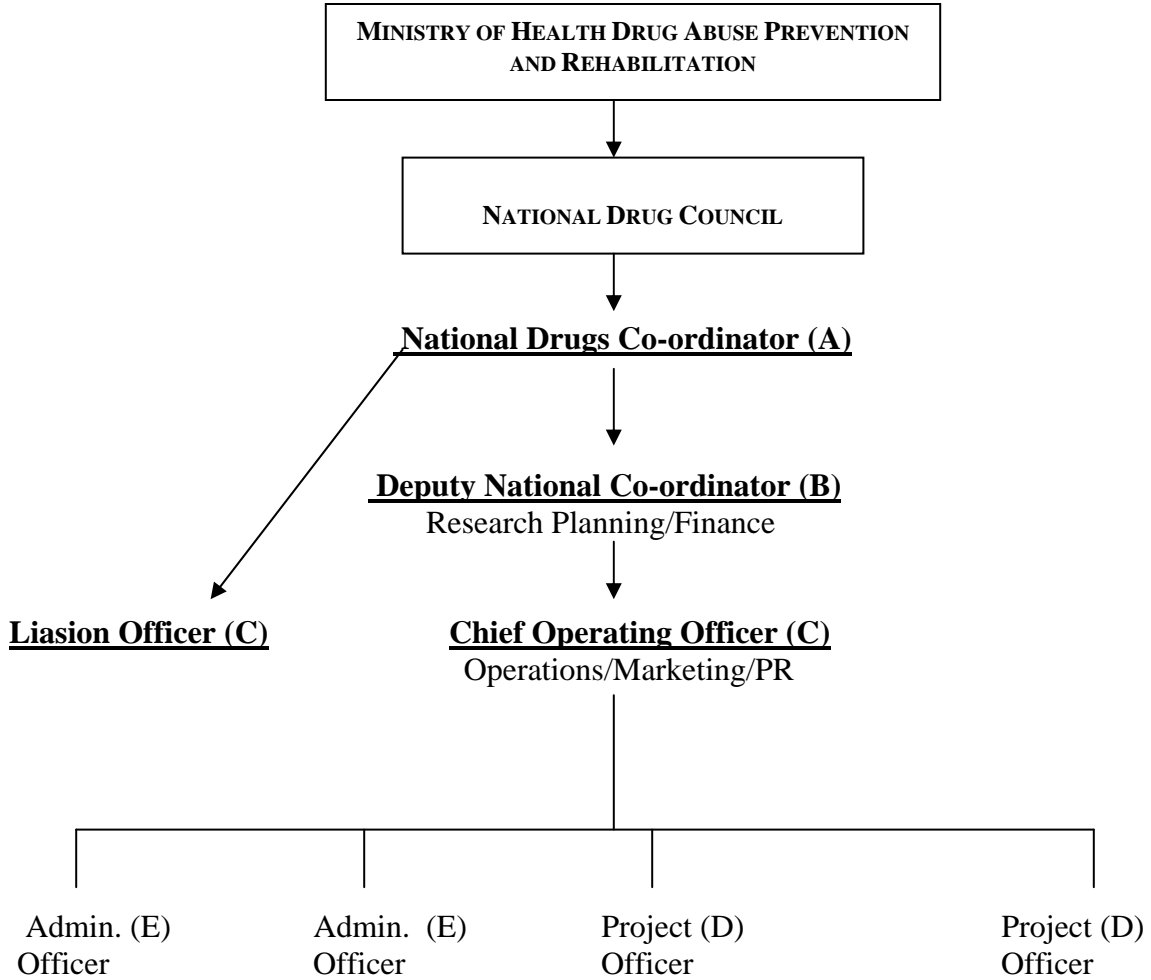
## Professional Development

### Strategic Action

The Deputy Co-ordinator attended a course on Strategic Action conducted by the Cambridge Group. The course is a prerequisite for facilitating strategic planning sessions.

**APPENDIX A**

NDC Organisational Chart



**APPENDIX B**

## Salary Scale

ALPHA CODE	INCREMENTAL DIFFERENTIAL 2.50%	ANNUAL SALARY INCLUDING 5% PENSION	MONTHLY SALARY INCLUDING 5% PENSION	MONTHLY BASIC SALARY	MONTHLY PENSION
<b>A</b>	1	72,000	6,000	5,700	300
	2	73,800	6,150	5,843	308
	3	75,648	6,304	5,989	315
	4	77,544	6,462	6,139	323
	5	79,488	6,624	6,293	331
	6	81,480	6,790	6,451	340
	7	84,000	7,000	6,650	350
<b>B</b>	1	57,600	4,800	4,560	240
	2	59,040	4,920	4,674	246
	3	60,516	5,043	4,791	252
	4	62,028	5,169	4,911	258
	5	63,576	5,298	5,033	265
	6	65,160	5,430	5,159	272
	7	66,792	5,566	5,288	278
	8	68,460	5,705	5,420	285
	9	72,000	6,000	5,700	300
<b>C</b>	1	50,400	4,200	3,990	210
	2	51,660	4,305	4,090	215
	3	52,956	4,413	4,192	221
	4	54,276	4,523	4,297	226
	5	55,632	4,636	4,404	232
	6	57,024	4,752	4,514	238
	7	58,452	4,871	4,627	244
	8	60,000	5,000	4,750	250
<b>D</b>	1	42,000	3,500	3,325	175
	2	43,056	3,588	3,409	179
	3	44,136	3,678	3,494	184
	4	45,240	3,770	3,582	189
	5	46,371	3,864	3,671	193
	6	47,532	3,961	3,763	198
	7	48,720	4,060	3,857	203
	8	50,400	4,200	3,990	210
<b>E</b>	1	36,000	3,000	2,850	150
	2	36,900	3,075	2,921	154
	3	37,824	3,152	2,994	158
	4	38,772	3,231	3,069	162
	5	39,744	3,312	3,146	166
	6	40,740	3,395	3,225	170
	7	41,760	3,480	3,306	174
<b>F</b>	1	27,600	2,300	2,185	115
	2	28,296	2,358	2,240	118
	3	29,004	2,417	2,296	121
	4	29,724	2,477	2,353	124
	5	30,468	2,539	2,412	127
	6	31,224	2,602	2,472	130
	7	32,004	2,667	2,534	133
	8	32,808	2,734	2,597	137
	9	33,624	2,802	2,662	140
	10	34,464	2,872	2,728	144
	11	36,000	3,000	2,850	150

## APPENDIX C

### Substance Abuse in the Cayman Islands

## *Cayman's Drug Use Profile*

### Introduction

The following report presents general statistics on alcohol, tobacco and other psychoactive substance use in the Cayman Islands. It is intended for use by planning team members interested in obtaining the most reliable, up-to-date information available on drug use in the Cayman Islands. This profile of drug use draws on a variety of sources to describe rates of drug use and consequences. Sources include surveys and law enforcement statistics.

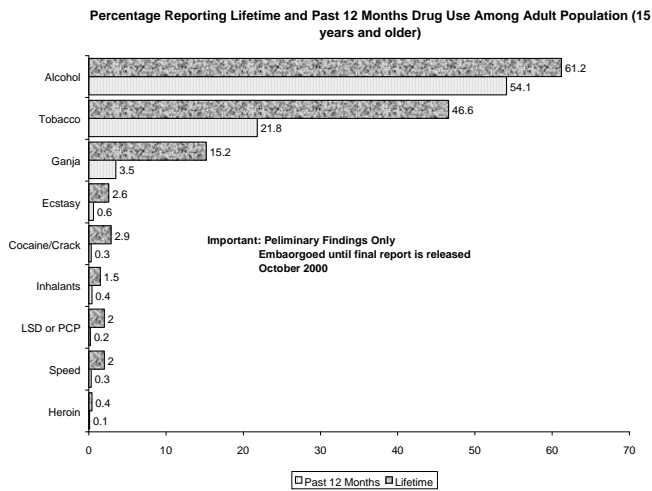
The reader is reminded that the data presented are subject to a number of caveats. First, the data is limited to statistics routinely reported by treatment, law enforcement and government agencies, supplemented by available surveys and special studies. Different sources of data have various strengths and weaknesses and, for most topics, there is no single source of data that gives a complete picture of the situation. For example, law enforcement data may represent the number of drug-related crimes detected and cleared up rather than the true number of drug related crimes committed. Similarly for treatment data, the data may represent availability of services rather than the true incidence or prevalence of drug use.

Social Indicators – Cayman Islands 1995-1999

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Population</b>					
Cayman Islands, (000's)	33,642	35,200	36,600	38,400	40,000
Growth rate (%)	5.4	4.6	4.0	4.9	4.2
Caymanians	20,976	21,415	22,050	23,040	23,600
Non-Caymanians	12,666	13,785	14,550	15,360	16,400
<b>Family</b>					
Birth Rate (per 1,000)	14.8	16.3	15.9	14.2	15.4
Death Rate (per 1,000)	3.4	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.2
Marriages	289	300	310	300	375
Divorces filed	156	144	151	168	156
<b>Labour force/Population active</b>					
Total Employment	18,845	19,370	20,725	21,820	---
Caymanians	10,490	10,705	10,848	11,525	---
Non-Caymanians	8,355	8,665	9,877	10,295	---
Total Unemployment	980	1,040	895	---	---
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.1	4.1	3.9	---
Women's participation (%)	81.1	---	77.4	---	---
Work Permits granted (000's)	10,017	10,042	12,259	12,885	14,004
<b>Education</b>					
Elementary & secondary enrollment (000's)	5,084	5,399	5,692	5,957	6,153
Recurrent Expenditure in Education	17,828,782	---	---	---	22,127,542
<b>Crimes Reported</b>					
Drugs	1,081	832	937	1,154	973
Offences against persons	197	256	278	244	282
Offences against property	341	496	392	257	963
<b>Court Cases</b>					
Criminal	5,853	5,098	5,285	5,138	5,182
Civil	947	1,571	2,162	2,323	2,153
Family	226	332	226	238	259
Juvenile	185	145	197	243	176
Crime rate (per '000 year end pop.)	---	81.1	90.9	---	---
<b>Economic Indicators</b>					
GDP per Capita	24,400	25,400	26,600	---	----
Real GDP Growth	4.8	5.0	5.5	---	---
Inflation rate CPI	2.8	2.1	2.7	3.0	5.1
<b>Government</b>					
Education, Aviation & Planning	---	---	30,839	33,993	38,960
Comm. Affairs, Sports, Women, Youth &					
Culture	---	---	15,302	10,489	12,912
Health, Social Welfare, Drug Abuse Prevention & Rehabilitation	---	---	25,658	40,177	52,742

## Overall Rates of Drug Use

Drug use affects everyone in the community. It is a problem that exacts an enormous toll in human suffering, in terms of public monies, and waste of human potential. The



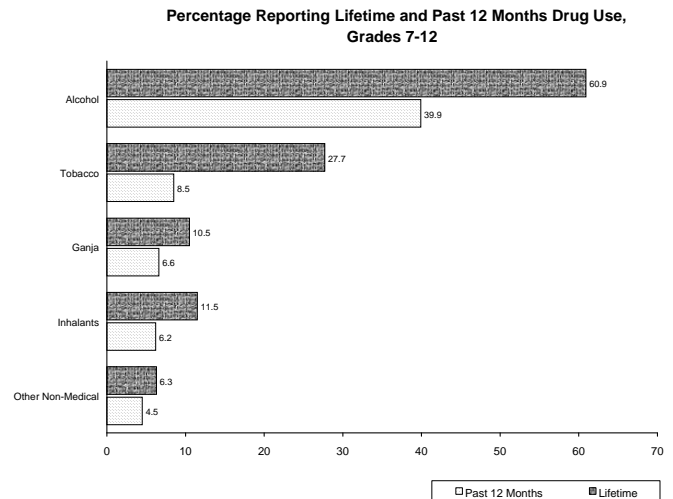
prevalence rate or percentage of population using drugs provides us with useful information about the nature and extent of the drug problem in the general population. Two surveys were conducted to capture this information, the Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Survey (CISDUS 1998) and the Cayman Islands Drug and Alcohol Survey (CIDAS 2000).

## CIDAS 2000

(Information embargoed until official release)

The principal substances consumed, by far, have been alcohol, tobacco and ganja, significantly more men than women.

- Approximately 5% of alcohol drinkers are daily consumers.
- One in five beer drinkers are heavy drinkers.
- Almost one quarter of those using ganja report doing so several times a week.
- About one in three persons report using prescription drugs without physician's advice.
- Drug use is more prevalent among persons between 15 and 29 years old.



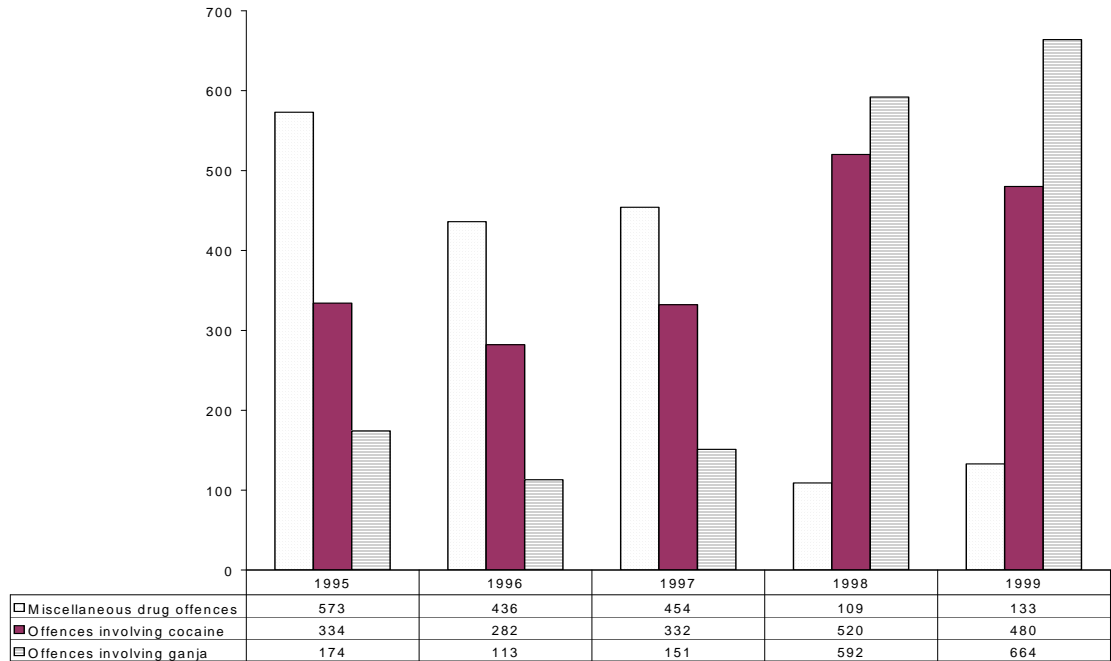
## CISDUS 1998

- The survey indicated that a majority of students (54.9%) did not use any drug (including alcohol and tobacco) during the 12 months before the survey.
- Alcohol was the most common drug used in the past 12 months (39.9%), followed by tobacco (8.5%), ganja (6.6%) and then inhalants (6.2%).
- Overall, 4.5% of students reported using at least one of the ten other drugs (sedatives, stimulants, tranquilizers, cocaine, LSD, ice, hallucinogens, speed, heroin and ecstasy) during the 12 months before the survey.

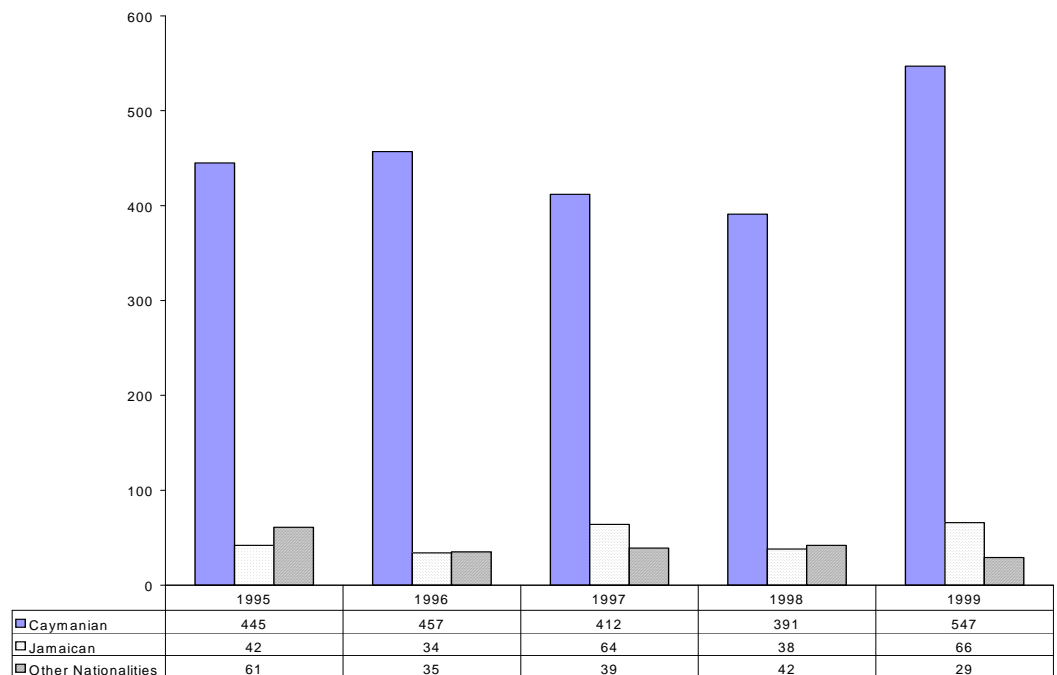
## Law Enforcement Statistics

The following charts were prepared using statistics provided by the Royal Cayman Islands Police (RCIP), in particular the Drugs task Force Unit.

### Offences by Type of Drugs (1995-1999)



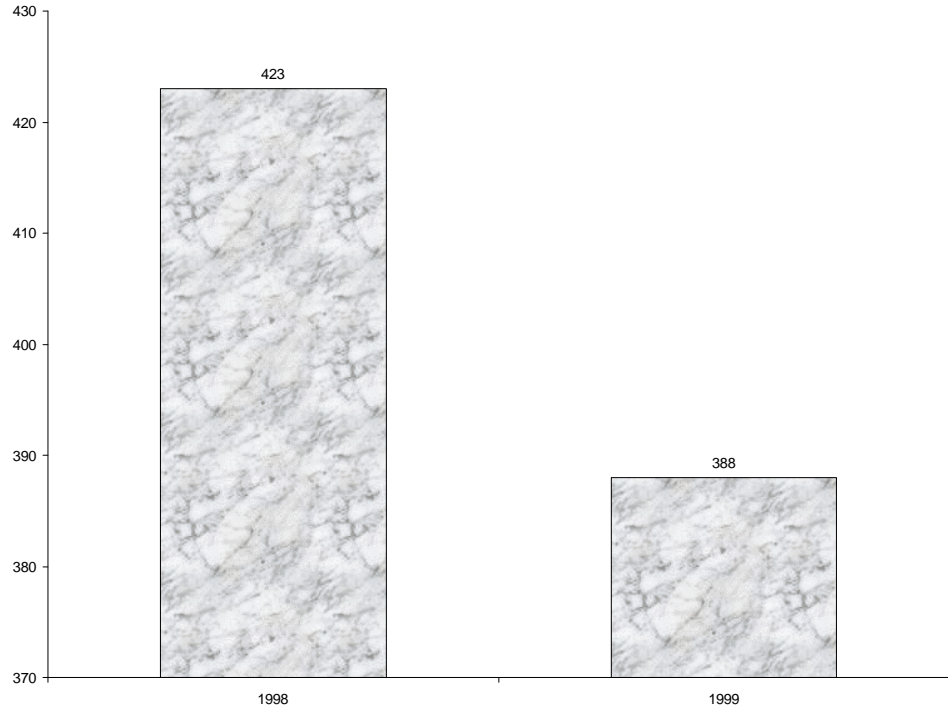
### Offences by Country of Origin (1995-1999)



## Treatment & Rehabilitation Statistics

Information provided by Caribbean Outpatient Services (formerly Cayman Counselling Centre) and Employee Assistance Programme.

### Total Number of Clients Seen (1998-1999)



**APPENDIX D**

**Financial Statements**