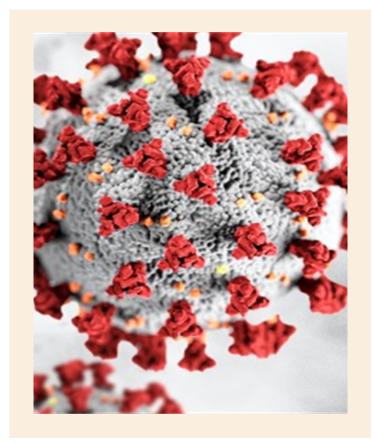
Supporting Families in Recovery: Global Approaches in the Context of COVID-19 The Jamaican Experience







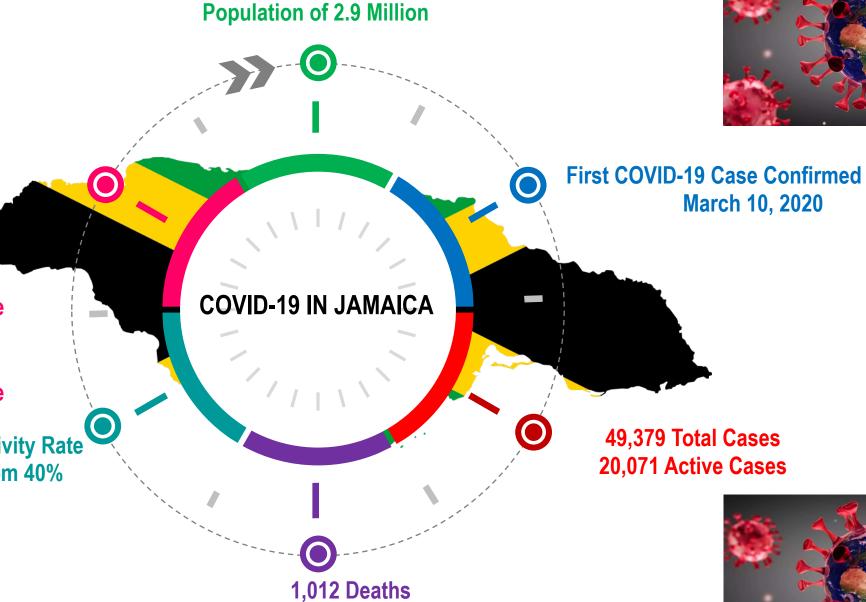
Uki Atkinson
Global Dialogue Webinar
June 16, 2021



Disaster Risk Management Act

- National Lockdowns
 - Social Distancing
 - Mandatory Masks
 - Curfews
- Work From Home/Stay at Home Orders
 - Border Closure
- Community and self quarantine

4.1% Positivity Rate down from 40%





Social isolationDisproportionate burden on

 Disproportionate burden of vulnerable groups: Elderly,
 People with Disabilities,
 Problematic Drug Users Double-digit decline in revenue (tourism-dependent)
 Wholesale and retail, manufacturing, and construction

Economy

Education

affected by restrictions
Increased unemployment and

poverty

- Schools closed March 2020

Over 300,000 without access to online learning

Falling through the cracks:
 Increases in teenage
 pregnancy, involvement in crime

Increased conflict

- Increased domestic violence

- Increased sexual abuse

Communities

i Min

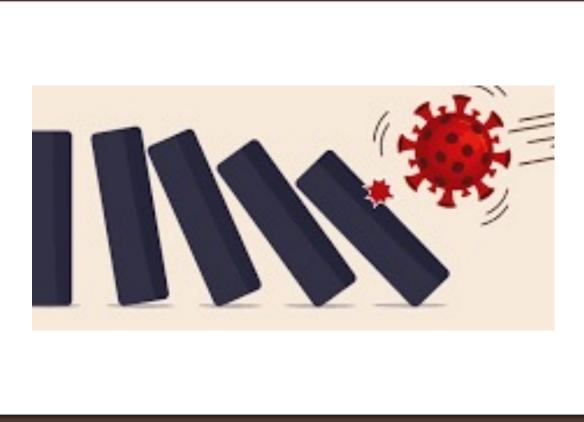
Households

National Impact

- 47% Loss of Income

45% Food Shortages





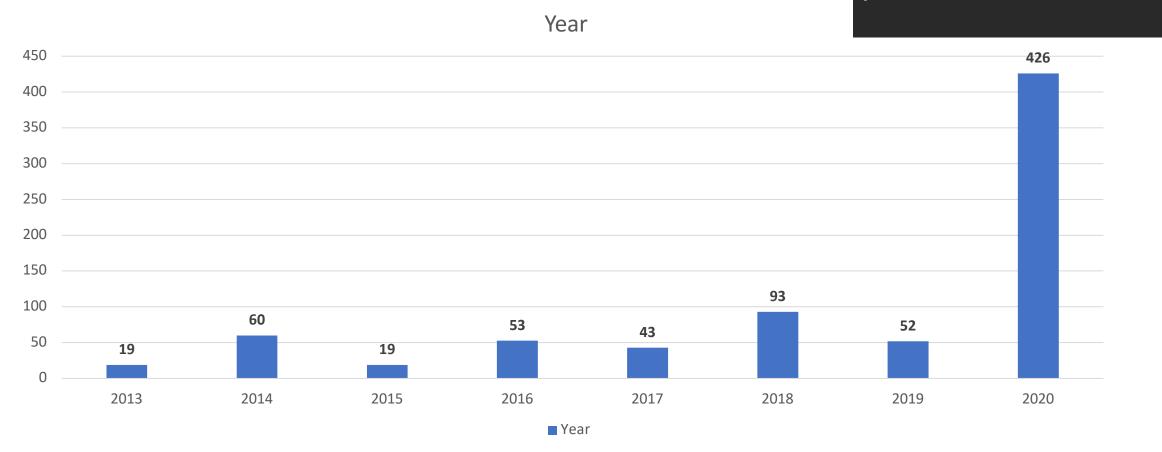
Evidence of Impact on Substance Users & Families



National Helpline Data 2013 – 2020

876-564-HELP(4357)

4 in 10 were relatives calling on problematic users' behalf



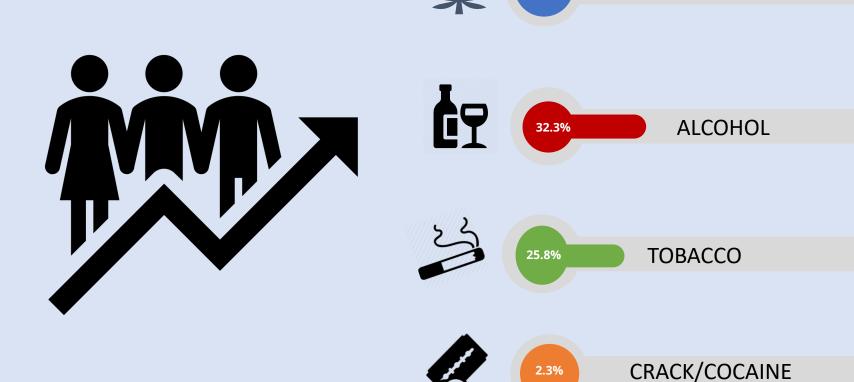
CICAD Online Survey: Increase in Psychoactive Substance Use

800 Participants

(Among Participants Who Used in Past Year – 36%)

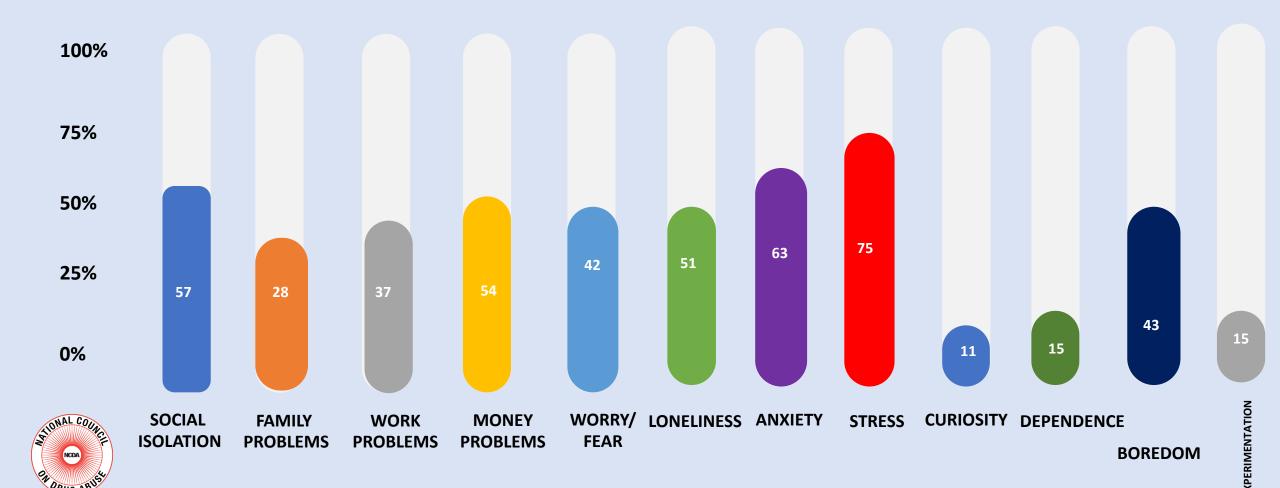
CANNABIS

Not Nationally Representative





REASONS FOR INCREASED USE



Family Dynamics

- Anxiety
- Conflict
- Frustration
- Poor Coping
- Decreased support

Disruption in Treatment

- Reduced access to residential treatment
- Decreased frequency of out-patient treatment
- Difficult transition to telephone/virtual counselling





Substance Use

- Relapse
- Decline in motivation to sustain therapeutic alliance

Qualitative Data (Treatment Providers)



Adolescents

Significant concern for adolescent clients



Mental Health

 Evidence of decline in clients/patients with cooccurring disorders (particularly mood and anxiety disorders)

Supporting Families in Recovery

