



# **Public Policy & The Illegal Market for Internet Drug Sales**

**Second COPOLAD Annual Conference**

**Buenos Aires**

**May 16-17, 2017**


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# ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE LANDSCAPE IN THE CARIBBEAN





# INTERNET DRUG TRADE – MULTI-FACETED

- ❑ The Dark Net – offers secrecy, anonymity, elaborate buyer protection systems, higher purity substances
  
  - ❑ The Surface Web – increasingly popular
    - New Psychoactive Substances: some more easily accessible through search engines, others more concealed
  
    - Online pharmacies – illicit supply of psychopharmaceuticals, prescription opioids and stimulants
  
    - Social Media Apps – facilitate supply and build awareness through advertising, sharing of experiences (good and bad)
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# CARIBBEAN POLICIES WILL REQUIRE UPDATING

- ❑ Significant changes in the global environment – recognition that drug trade methodologies using information technology will eventually affect member states on a broader scale
- ❑ The need to analyze probabilities and impacts - Some threats more likely or have potential for greater harm. Give priority to each potential threat to determine allocation of time, people, equipment, money and other resources
- ❑ Caribbean governments tend to respond to urgent problems with isolated initiatives, little continuity and sustained attention and commitment of resources needed to make them work.



# DEMAND REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

*Tackle the Problem where it Exists & Think Outside the Box*

- ❑ New drug trade and drug use dynamics require new approaches to tackle the problem within its domain
- ❑ If the internet is increasingly being used by individuals for the purchase of drugs, the internet should be increasingly used for drug education to increase awareness on substances and their health risks
- ❑ Development of user-friendly social media content, websites and e-health applications ( forums, web-chats etc)



# TEENS AT RISK

- 2011 National Teen Survey finds:

Teens regularly using social networking sites are more likely to smoke, drink and use drugs

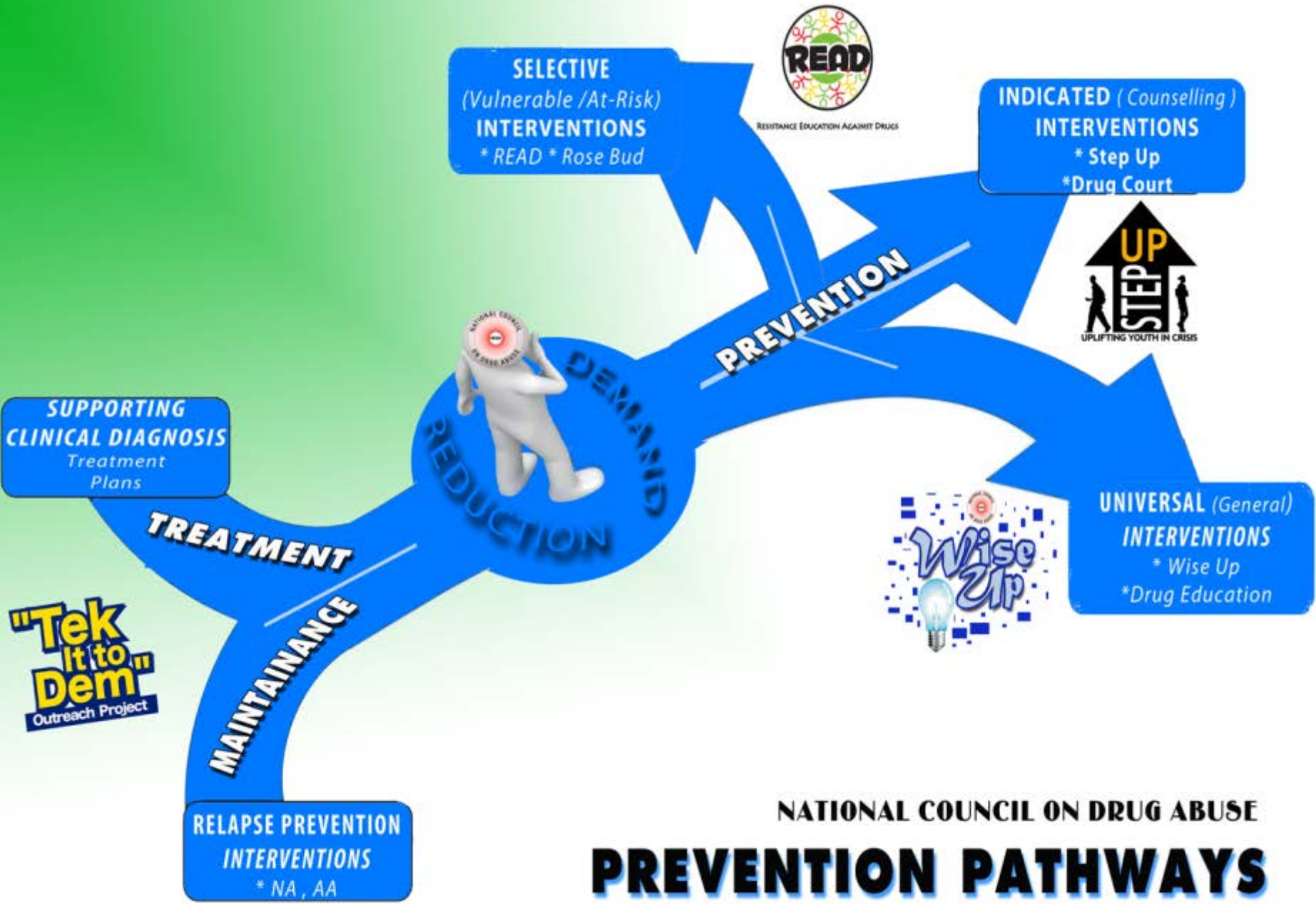
- 5 times more likely to use tobacco
- 3 times more likely to use alcohol
- 2 times more likely to use cannabis
  - National Centre on Addiction and Substance Abuse [2011]



# NCDA'S SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSES

- **Maintaining a presence on the web**
  - Website
  - Facebook
  - Instagram account
  - Snap Chat account
  - Twitter feed
  - YouTube Channel
- **Using social influencers to generate relevant content**
- **Youth advisory body to target areas of youth concern**
- **Youth led programmes and competitions**





NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE

# PREVENTION PATHWAYS




# SUPPLY REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

- ❑ Strengthen law enforcement capacity to address internet drug sales through training and resource provision
- ❑ Update National Security and Public Health Policies to include internet drug sales as threats to national security and public health
- ❑ Expand international and regional cooperation channels to specifically address this phenomenon before it escalates in the region – proactive versus reactive approach



# NEXT STEPS

- 
- Raise awareness on the issue
  - Determine the magnitude of internet drug sales in the region
  - Strengthen partnerships and build capacity
  - Develop policy to address internet drug sales

