

A B S T R A C T

This study outlined the History of Drug use, tracing this from early civilizations to the 20th Century, and high-lighting available data from the West Indies.

Then followed the survey of 1,585 students in secondary schools in Kingston and St. Andrew. This was conducted by questionnaires and such factors as the students' personal experience and knowledge of drugs and their attitudes to drug use were elicited.

The results indicated that students' knowledge of drugs was limited, particularly about drugs such as LSD, heroin and amphetamine, which are relatively well-known or publicized in the United States.

Curiosity was the commonest reason for drug use in the student population. This was supported by the finding that after the initial experience, less than half of the sample continued to use the drug.

A review of Drug Education programmes and some recommendations for the Jamaican population completed the study.