



RESEARCH POWER IN THE TIME OF COVID AND BEYOND

THE LEGACY & RESEARCH

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The **power** of Research

WHAT IS RESEARCH?

- Systematic investigation
- Utilises various sources
- Establish facts and conclusions (hypotheses)
- Particular importance during crisis

The **power** of Research

COVID-19

- Epidemiology – distribution, incidence , prevalence
- Transmission – trends
- Susceptibility and Vulnerability of populations
- Implications
- Control measures / Definitive therapy

General Research Findings

BARBADOS

- ▶ Responses: 4527 , 2318 completed (age; gender)
- ▶ Demographics : 74.2% females, mean age- 38.8 years (95% C.I. [38.2 – 39.3])
- ▶ Non-Pharmaceutical intervention uptake : 75 – 98% (e.g. masks, hygiene, distancing)
- ▶ Concerns: 77.8% generally worried, 10.2% thought they were likely to be infected
- ▶ COVID implications:
 - 35.1% lost job / business , 33.5% with jobs wasn't equipped to work from home
 - 96.4% & 86.7% reported clinically sig. depression and anxiety symptoms

Presented at : International AIDS Society, Virtual COVID 19 Conference. July 10th, 11th

Implication for youths

COVID 19 Implications for youth

Variables	Percentage (%)	Variables	Percentage (%)
Age (n=2,318)		Alcohol consumption (n=121)	
<20	5.7	18 - 35	49.6
20-30	28.4	36 - 55	33.1
31-35	11.7	56+	17.3
36-45	22.6	Employment (n=705)	
46-55	17.7	18 - 35	50.4
56+	14.0	36 - 55	40.6
Students (n=186)		56+	9.0
18 - 35	97.3	Depression	
36 - 55	2.2	18 - 35	75.8
56+	0.5	36 - 55	60.1
		56+	43.0

*Almost 1/5 was unable to study from home

** Those under 30 were the highest (reported not being able to pay bills within 1, 2, 3 months)

***Sexual abuse was highest among those under 30 | Drug (cocaine, heroin) and marijuana use highest increase among those under 30

Implications for People Living With Non-Communicable Diseases (WHO)



Health systems- Inaccessibility to essential services, drugs and healthcare items.

Physical Activity- Lessened due to closing of beaches, gyms, schools, churches.
(Curfews / lockdowns)

Food and Nutrition- Increase consumption of calorie dense foods (canned / dried). Shopping restrictions.

Economic- Directly /dependents. Many persons have lost jobs.

Targeted solution - Backyard / home gardening

Research Successes

- ▶ *1. Importance of Support* : External organizations and bodies
- ▶ *2. Importance of collaboration* : Internal and external

Research is more impactful with multi-sectoral collaboration

Need for methods of collaboration to be used



Research Challenges

- ▶ *1. Communication*

 - Internal

 - External

- ▶ *2. Funding*

 - Human resources

 - Software, equipment, miscellaneous



“Building Back better”

▶ Research

Allows us to address and examine issues

Lead to interventions and policies

▶ National COVID response

Policies were related to research

Public labs - testing

UWI Cave Hill COVID-19 Task Force – daily surveillance, 3 publications (Evidentiary Review)

COVID-19 Barbados KABP study –MOHW report (may inform future interventions / policies)

Thank You & Honourable Mentions

- ▶ Healthy Caribbean Coalition
- ▶ Ethics Committee, The University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados.
- ▶ UWI Cave Hill COVID-19 Task Force (led by Prof Landis)
- ▶ COVID-19 KABP Research Team (led by Dr. George)
- ▶ The George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, UWI.
- ▶ Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill.
- ▶ Participants