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cicad

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DRUG USE IN THE HEMISPHERE: THE CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

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CICAD/OAS

XLIV Regular Session



Drug Use in the Hemisphere: The Current Situation and Future Challenges

Santiago, Chile
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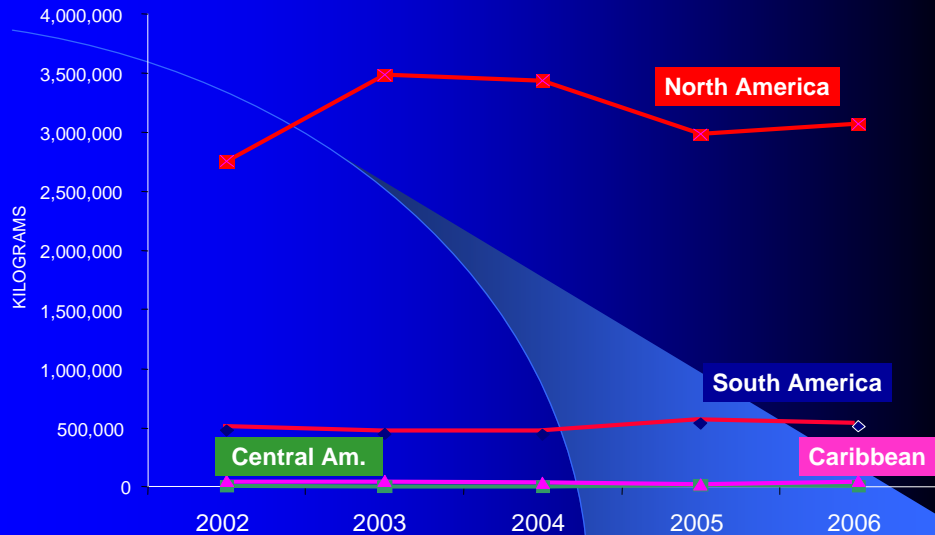
MARIJUANA

- | Primary drug of use worldwide.
- | 160 million people between (15 and 64 years) reported consumption during the past year (3.8%).
- | Difficult to establish the precise level of production of this drug.
- | Cultivated in more than 170 countries.

MARIJUANA

- | The production of the cannabis herb is estimated to be 42,000 metric tons.
- | 46% is produced in the Americas, (North America 23%, South America, 23%), and 26% in Africa.
- | Continues to be the most widely trafficked drug worldwide.
- | Is also responsible for the greatest number of drug seizures, over 4,000 metric tons. Over 70% in our hemisphere.

Cannabis seizures in the Americas (Source: MEM)



MARIJUANA

- | Consumed in nearly every part of the world.
- | Largest market in the Americas.
- | **Trends: Increase in the level of consumption in the majority of countries that report data on use.**

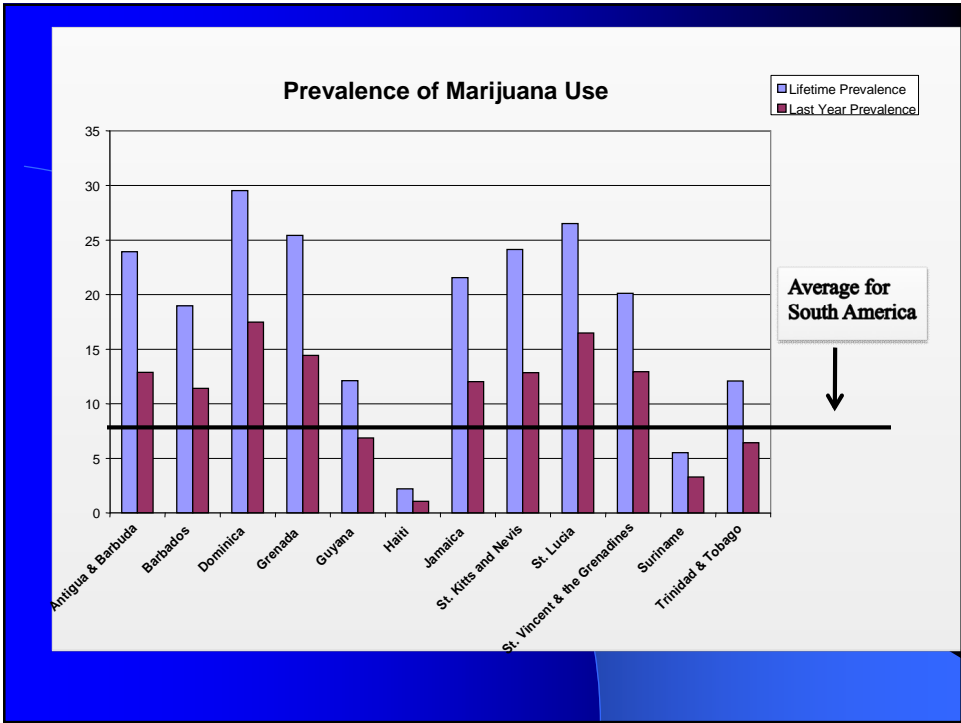
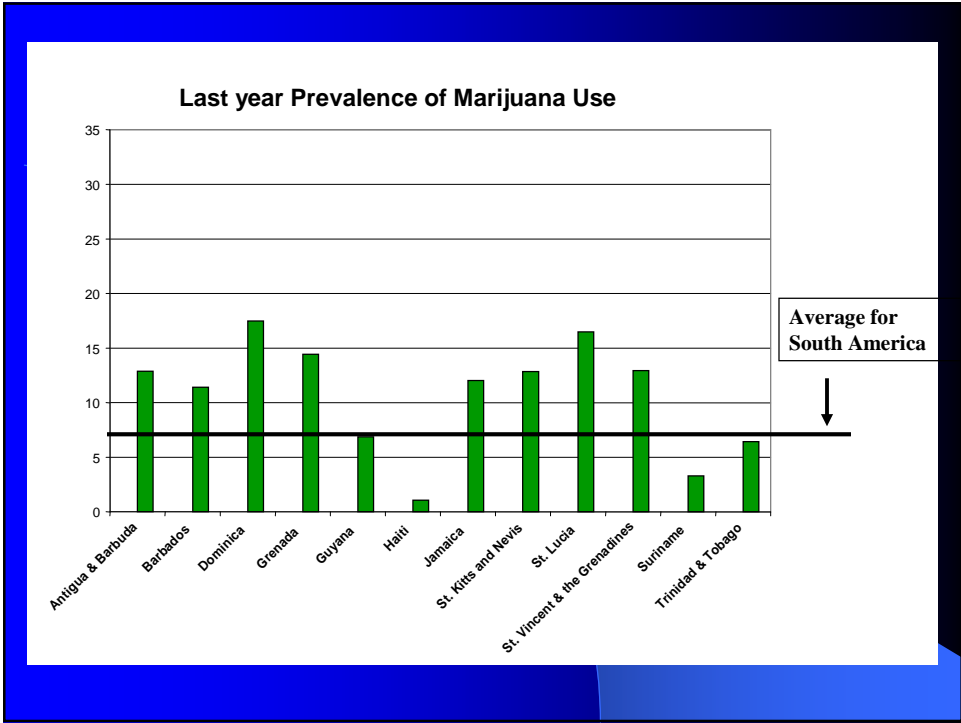
MARIJUANA (15-64 years): past year prevalence

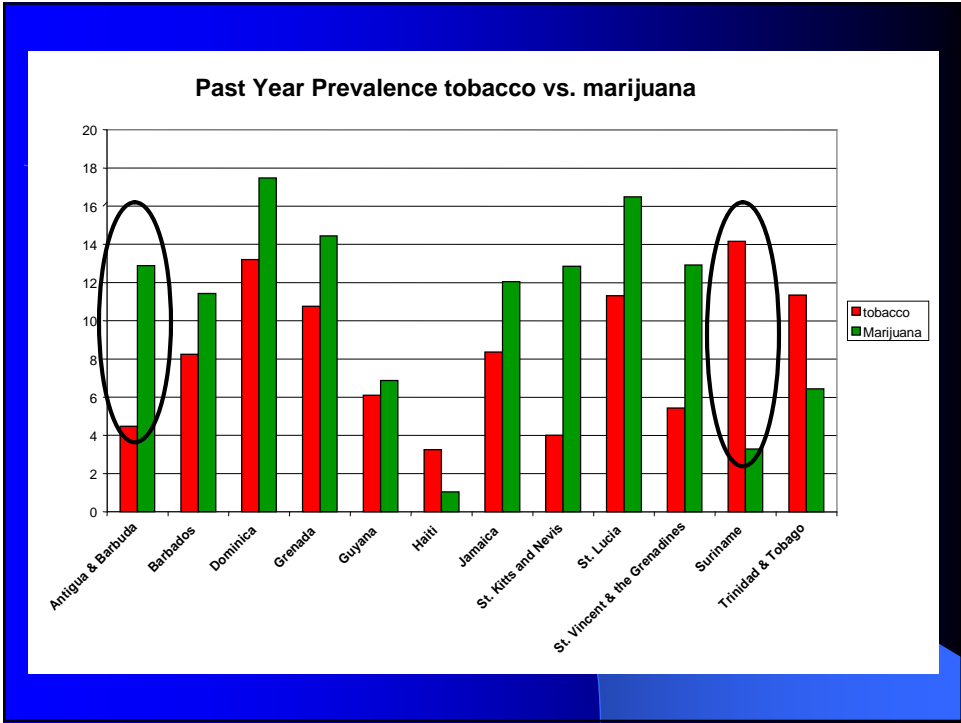
Worldwide	3.8%	Range
Americas	6.5%	1%-17%
North America	10.7%	3%-17%
South America	2.3%	1%-7%
6 South Am countries.	4.8%	1%-7%
Central America		1.3%-4.8%
Caribbean		2%-11%
Europe	7%	1%-11%

The Caribbean: Students 13 to 17 years



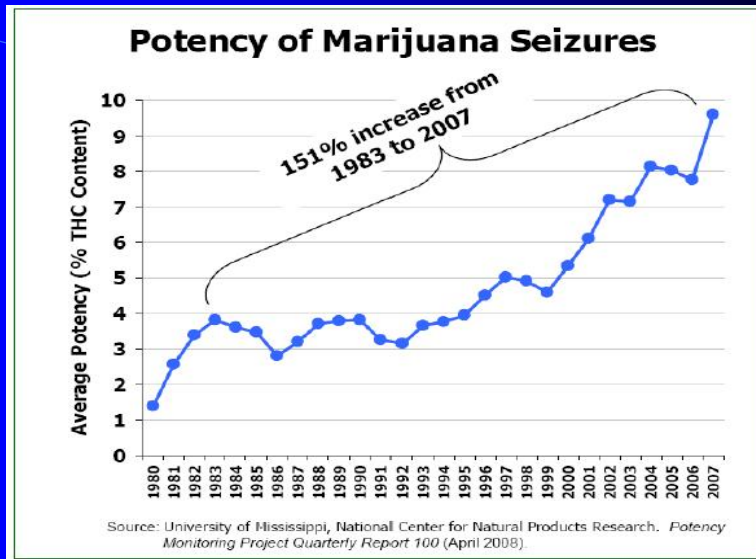
Antigua & Barbuda
 Barbados
 Dominica
 Grenada
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Jamaica
 St. Kitts & Nevis
 St. Lucia
 St. Vincent & the Grenadines
 Suriname
 Trinidad & Tobago





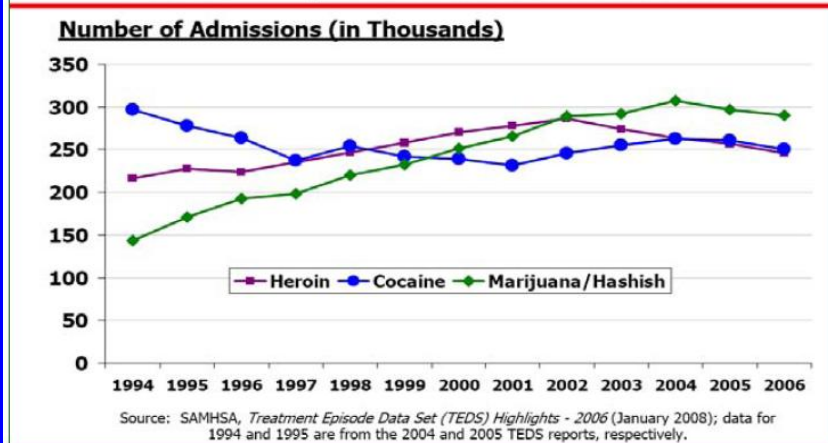
CONSEQUENCES

Concentration of THC (%)



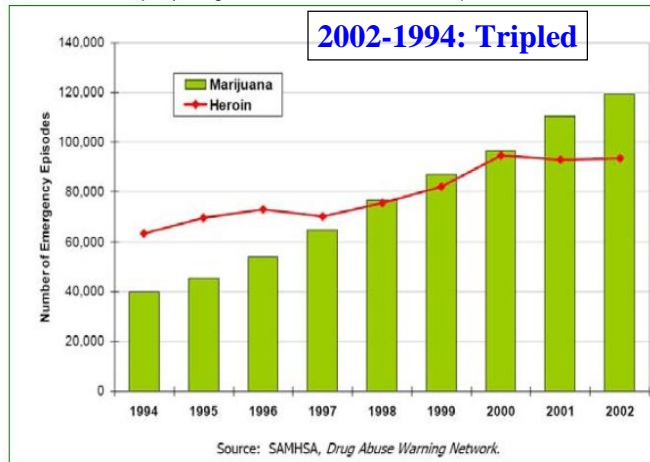
Admission to Treatment Centers, USA

Steady Increase in Treatment Admissions with Marijuana as the Primary Substance of Abuse Since 1994



Emergency Room Episodes, USA

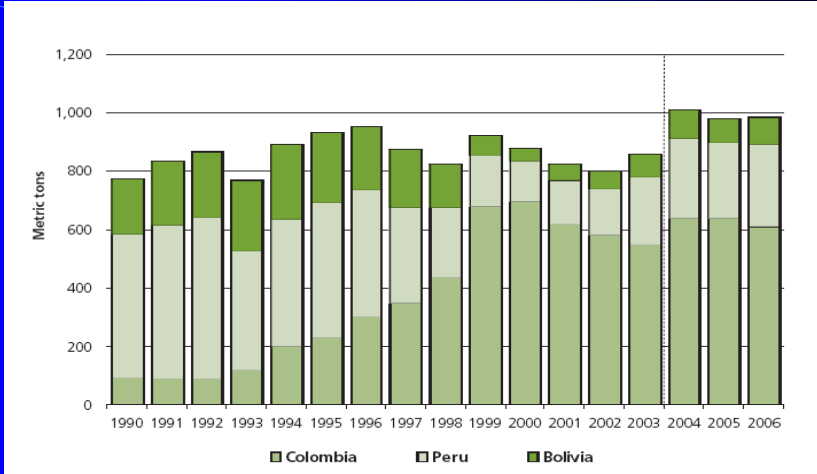
Emergency department episodes involving marijuana almost tripled from 1994 to 2002. Marijuana steadily increased over that decade, surpassing heroin — which remained relatively flat — in 1998.



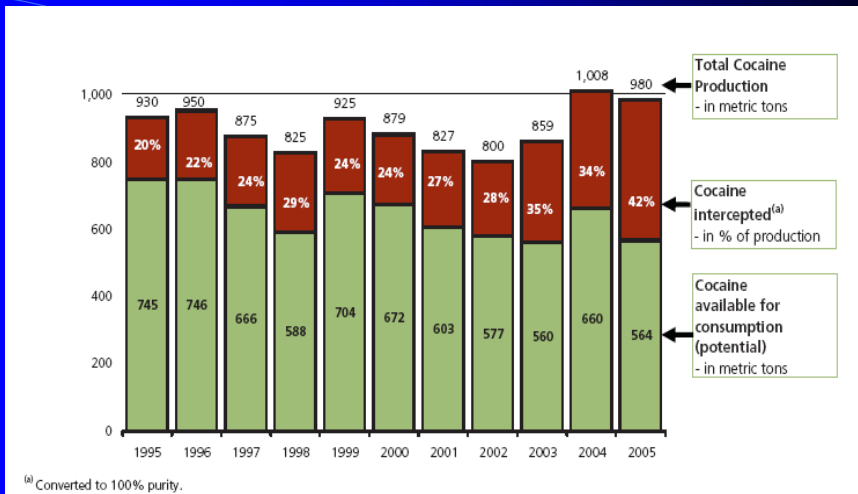
COCAINE

- | 14 Million people worldwide, between 15 and 64 years of age, report consuming cocaine in the past year (0.3%).
- | The source is well established.
- | It is cultivated in three countries.

Cocaine: Potential Production

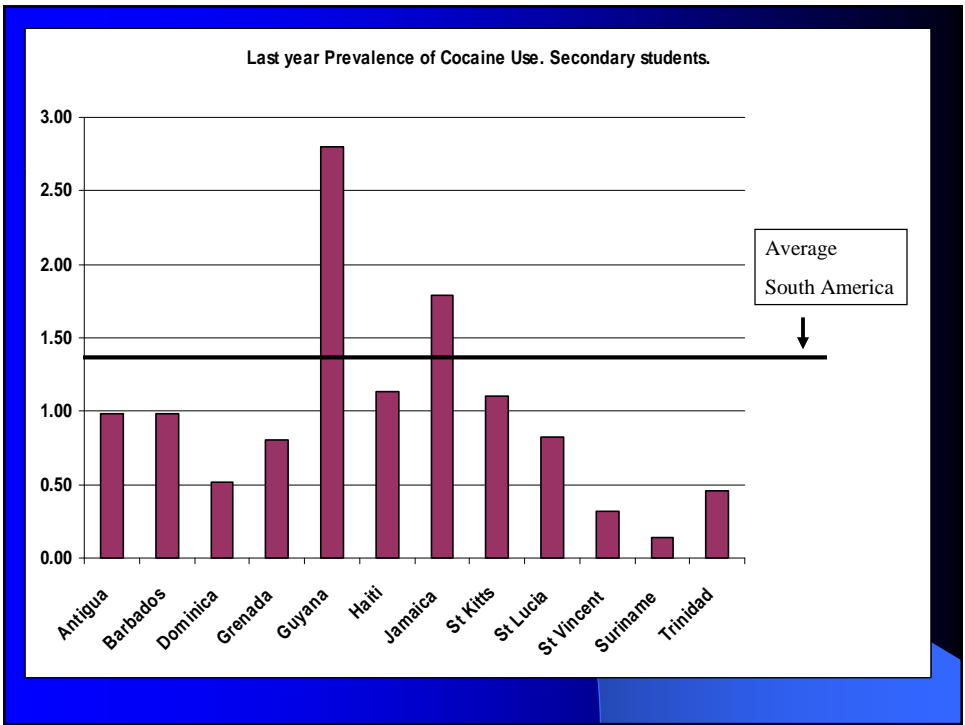


Cocaine: Production vs. Seizure



Cocaine (15-64 years): past year prevalence

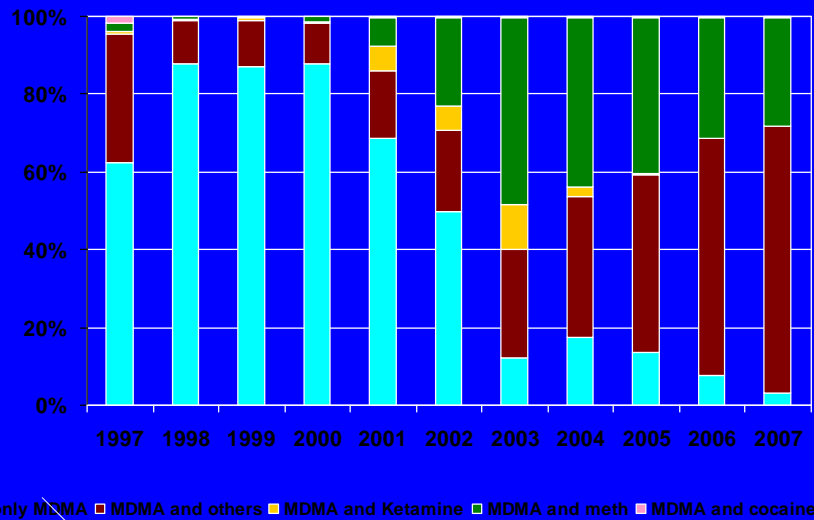
Worldwide	14.3 mill	0.3%
North America	6.5 mill.	0.8%-3.0%
South America	1 mill.	0.1%-2.6%
Central America		0.2%-1.2%
Caribbean		0.1%-1.3%
Europe	4.5 mill (1.3%)	0.1%-3.0%



Ecstasy and Methamphetamine

- | Low consumption rates in the majority of member states.
- | Nevertheless, there is concern that use is increasing, especially for ecstasy.
- | 8 out of 15 countries show increases in use.
- | Project EU-CAN.

Canada: Ecstasy (MDMA) Adulteration



Source: Office of Research and Surveillance, Health Canada, 2008.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

How Much Do We Know?

- ∅ A Constantly Changing Problem
 1. “same drug”, active ingredient increasing
 2. Synthetic Drugs: How can they be addressed?
 3. Greater polydrug use
 4. Problems related to modes of alcohol use: alcohol mixed with illicit drugs
 5. Drugs and crime

How Much Do We Know?

- ∅ Do we have all the tools we need to confront the problem?
- ∅ Do we have enough information?
- ∅ How much do we need?
 - ✓ The quantity is not the most important. Quality is of the essence.

How Much Do We Know?

An Information Crisis?

Information Systems

“Cartagena Declaration of August 2008, Regional Summit on the World Drug Problem, Security and Cooperation attended by the Heads of State, Government, Heads of Delegation of the Caribbean, Central American countries, and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela...

Information Systems

“they undertake to encourage the creation or strengthening of National Drug Observatories in the countries of the region and to work, as appropriate, with the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of CICAD or other instances of bilateral or multilateral cooperation...

Information Systems

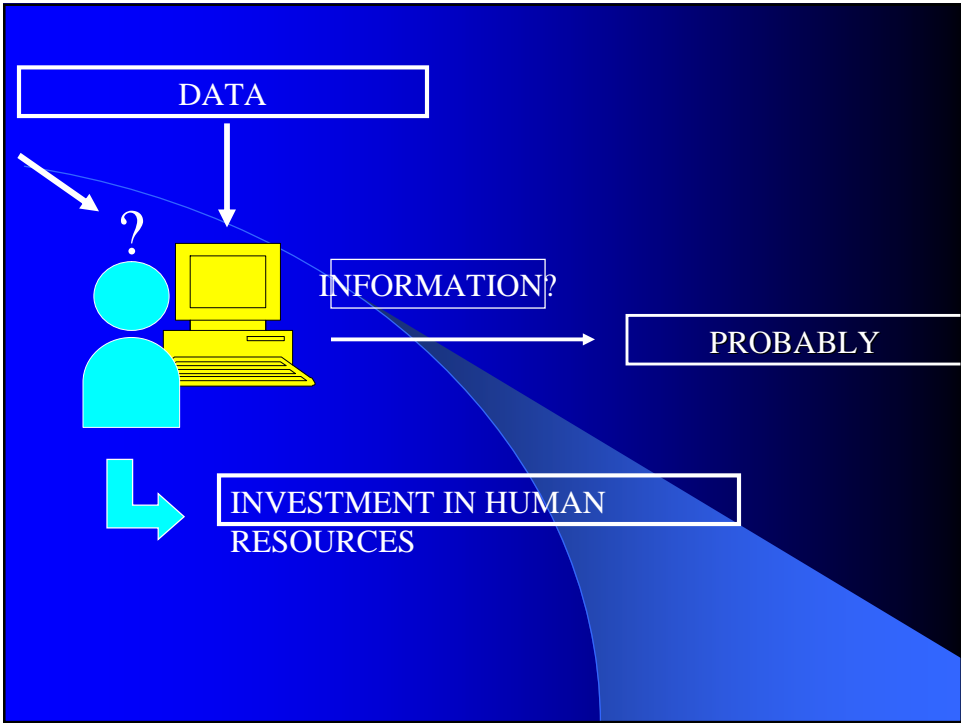
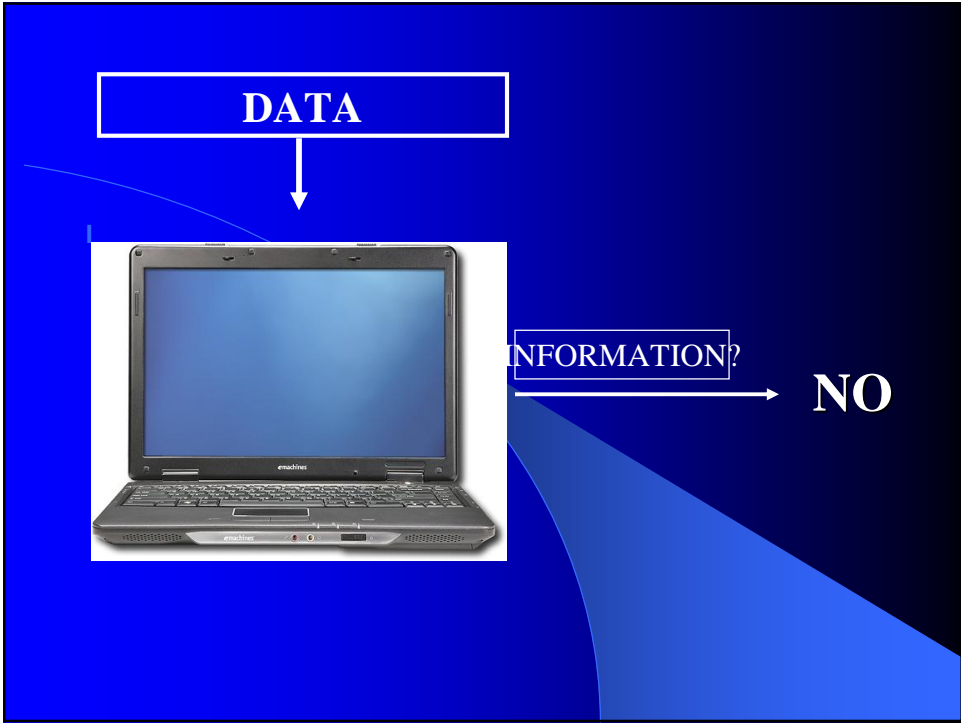
...to facilitate the participation of the states concerned for the purpose of developing information systems or statistics to support decision making and definition of national policies to counter the world drug problem and related crimes”.

Information Systems

THE CHALLENGES MUST BE:

- Improve the quality of information (opportunity)
- Increase the quantity of information
- The capacity to analyze
- Integrated EARLY ALERT SYSTEM :
 - Supply Side Data
 - Drug Demand Data

INFORMATION



THANK YOU!

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DRUGS
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