



BULLETIN

Vol. 2 No. 1
November 2020

Inter-Ministerial Research Council
(IMRC)



“Promoting
Social Justice
& Resilience”

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Message From The Minister

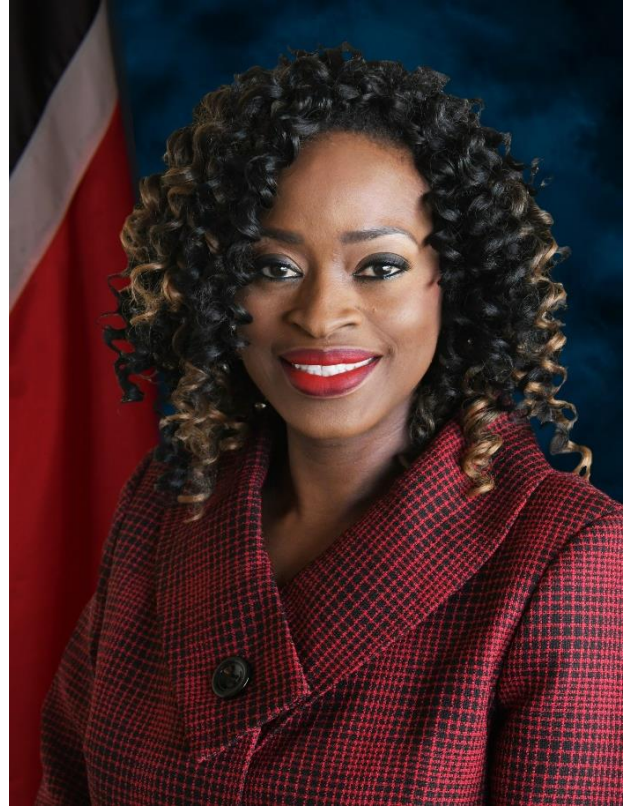
Dear Readers,

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to operate as the lead agency for the coordination of the social sector, as well as the provision of a robust safety net for vulnerable populations in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly during these challenging socioeconomic times following COVID-19.

Given its mandate, the Ministry's role takes centre stage as a key contributor to the country's recovery efforts as attempts are being made to reset our *economy for growth and innovation*. It is indeed an open secret that it will take endurance and resilience, creativity and innovation, strength and determination to chart a course to full recovery. In this regard, the *Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago* remains committed to the pursuit of sustainable development, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and our country's 2030 Development Framework, both of which seek to promote social justice for all and reduce poverty, vulnerability and inequality by 2030.

While the focus continues to be placed on designing programmes and policy initiatives, as well as, the effective delivery of social services to those who are most in need; it is similarly imperative that emphasis also be placed on the acquisition and verification of modern data, which is accessible in real time, so that trends and impact can be measured, evaluated and monitored accordingly. Moreover, the national research agenda has pointed to the fact that in the short term, direct support to the individuals, families and segments of the society which have been hardest hit by COVID-19, will require a multifaceted and responsive mechanism, using an online, and the whole of government approach. This will ensure that no one is left behind, particularly as reaching the vulnerable continues to be threatened by restrictions in our movements and the new normal of limited contact.

It is my fervent hope that the Inter-Ministerial Research Council Bulletin will provide context into how we can collaborate more and work together to address these and many other challenges. I look forward to the upcoming initiatives of the IMRC, which will help us to navigate the new environment and build a more resilient society. I encourage you to pass on a copy of this bulletin to your various networks. May you and your loved ones continue to be blessed!



SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DONNA COX,
Minister of Social Development and Family Services

Message from Permanent Secretaries

Dear Readers,

As Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Social Development, we are pleased to address our readers of this edition of the IMRC Bulletin. It is the view of the *Ministry of Social Development and Family Services*, that relevant social research underpins our efforts to build capacity within the social sector in keeping with the National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, which speaks to sustainable growth and an optimized quality of life of all citizens.

Knowledge remains the basis of economic prosperity and a key driver of social development. In this regard, the IMRC has been working diligently for over the past two years to coordinate the social research agenda among Government Ministries and other agencies within the social sector. This mandate includes oversight of many of our countries research activities, inclusive of the Survey of Living Conditions 2020/2021.

As we continue our efforts towards the construction of a knowledge-based society and sustainable national development, quality research constitutes an integral part of our decision-making, public policy design and effective delivery of social services.

Once again, we urge the Council to continue the excellent work they have been doing thus far as we forge ahead with various research activities on our national development agenda towards full transformation of the social sector.



Jacinta Bailey-Sobers
Permanent Secretary



Sheila Seecharan
Permanent Secretary

Foreword from the IMRC Chairperson

The IMRC represents the Ministry's commitment to an evidence-based approach in designing social programmes and policies that aim to address the social challenges faced by individuals, families and other members of the national community.

The theme of this Bulletin: "Promoting Social Justice and Resilience," presents a valuable opportunity for us to reflect and examine the potential of research methodologies, practices and outputs to empower and sustainably strengthen the coping mechanisms of the vulnerable populations to survive in an ever-changing society.

As the world continues to push forward to recovery, following the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, social research has become even more critical in guiding prioritisation efforts toward addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly during these unprecedented times.

In this regard, I firmly believe that social research may be used as a powerful tool in systematically dismantling oppressive systems and structures, which will potentially result in more just and equitable approaches to the distribution of the State's resources.

As the coordinator of the National Social Research Agenda, the IMRC is well positioned to identify research gaps, facilitate opportunities for the strengthening of research capacities within the public sector; and most importantly, prioritize research activities that will serve to alleviate existing social problems.

In placing continuous research activities at the forefront, on a continuous basis, social researchers will be able to keep their hands on the pulse of the socio economic landscape and will therefore be able to identify and navigate existing and emerging challenges.

The role of the Council, therefore, is to provide a robust social research strategy to inform developmental activities. The degree to which this may be accomplished hinges on the strength of the pro-research culture and our ongoing efforts to ensure that this culture suffuses our society.

Accordingly, our research must meet the criteria of being **RELEVANT**- Responsive, Ethical, Logical, Empowering, Valid, Affordable, Necessary, and Transparent.

Such a call-to-action must be within a collaborative framework, utilising sound creative approaches, based on internally accepted standards and best practices.

Melissa Williams-Campbell, Chairperson

Members of the Inter-Ministerial Research Council

Ms. Melissa Williams-Campbell	Ministry of Social Development & Family Services
Dr. Althea La Foucade	The University of the West Indies
Ms. Roanna Lalmansingh	Office of the Prime Minister
Ms. Ann Belmontes	Ministry of Sport & Community Development
Mr. Lawrence Jaisingh	Ministry of Health
Mr. Andre Blanchard	The Central Statistical Office
Ms. Erica Fortune	Ministry of Planning & Development
Ms. Lisa Madray-Valadere	Ministry of Education
Ms. Nina Antoine	Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
Mr. Makandal Caesar	Ministry of Labour
Ms. Maxine Hunte	Ministry of Social Development & Family Services
Ms. Sasonel Martin	Ministry of Social Development & Family Services
Ms. Nia Nanan	Children's Authority of Trinidad & Tobago
Representative	Tobago House of Assembly

Poetry Puzzle

Find and unscramble the letters in caps on page 6 to spell the word that best describes strength during adversity.

Theme for this Issue

“Promoting Social Justice & Resilience”

Since the nation is still coping with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing austerity measures, citizens can find it difficult to be resilient in the face of challenges. With this in mind, the IMRC’s focus in this bulletin is to show how a “social justice perspective” can help the public sector improve citizens’ resilience. Social injustice refers to inequitable access to resources and allocation of risks, benefits and burdens. This accounts for much of the social displacement in times of crises disasters, recession and other similar occurrences. In such circumstances, the poor and disenfranchised are the ones disproportionately affected. To ensure resilience (recovery), the contributing factors must therefore be addressed.

Social science research is critical in identifying these factors, their impact and ways to mitigate against the effects of these negative events. A sustainability approach is also necessary, as it recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits of planning for downturns and disasters rather than recovering from them. A resilient community and nation will therefore be able to provide citizens with the resources needed to support their ongoing quality of life. This means, reducing barriers to resources, building social capital, networking and improving the physical and social infrastructure to assist citizens in harnessing what is required to sustain their well-being after tragedy.

Featured on the front page is the artwork of children affected by the flooding, who were participants of the Return to Happiness Art therapy workshops held by the Child Affairs Division–Office of the Prime Minister and UNICEF. Participants illustrated what their future should or would look like as they rebuild—their “tree of dreams”. These depictions demonstrate that even children inherently know what essentials are needed when coping with difficult circumstances.

Mandate of the Council

The remit of the IMRC is to enhance social sector research capacity and drive the conduct of relevant research for policy-making. The Terms of Reference of the Council are therefore to:

- ⌘ Prioritise social research as a means of alleviating existing and future social problems;
- ⌘ Enhance research capacity within the public sector, with particular emphasis on the social sector;
- ⌘ Monitor the social research activities of all social sector Ministries, including ancillary social Ministries; and
- ⌘ Enhance evidence-based decision-making within the social sector.

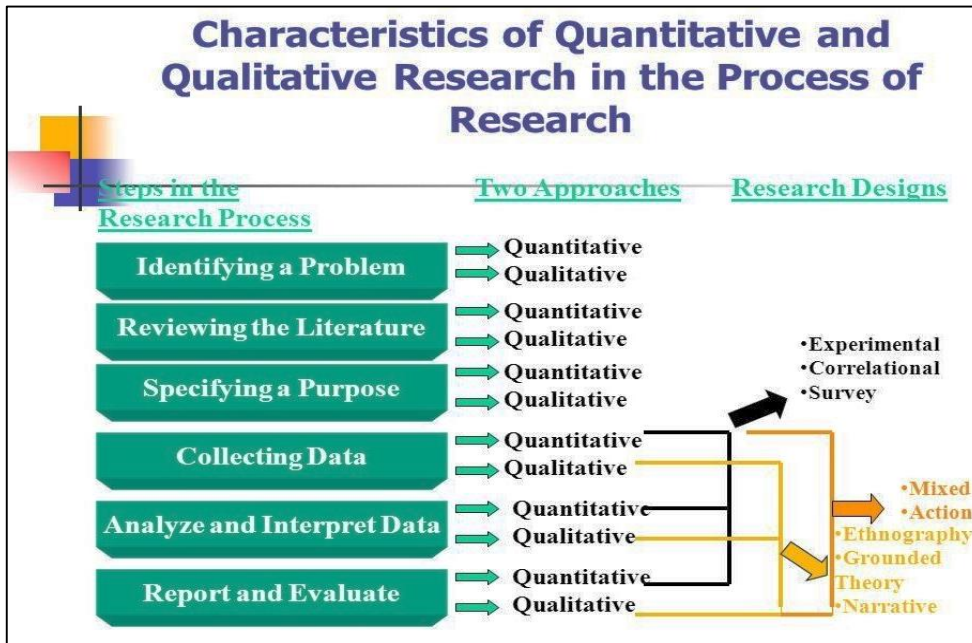
Main Activities & Work Plan

1. The development and oversight of the implementation of the Social Sector Research Agenda.
2. The conduct of an Environmental Scan of the Social Sector to determine critical research gaps.
3. The development of a database of social research.
4. Technical oversight of all National Studies within the purview of the Council, with particular attention to the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).
5. The establishment of a Social Sector Research Information System for sharing of information.
6. The strengthening of the internal capacity of Research Units within the Social Sector.
7. Establishment of an interface for sharing information among Council members and civil society.
8. The production of a Bulletin on the work of the Council and Research being undertaken in the Social Sector.
9. The facilitation of the nexus between Research and Policy.
10. Development of strategic partnerships with public and private sector and civil society for research purposes.
11. Dissemination to the national community relevant national research information developed by the Council.

What is Social Research?

Social science research is multifaceted in nature so understanding its components and approaches is often not a straightforward process. However, to give a general description, it is “...any scientific study of human action and interaction focusing on elements of thought and behaviour that are in some sense social” (Universidade de São Paulo). It is conducted in a wide range of disciplines including, inter alia: sociology, psychology, economics, education, health, political science, and anthropology. It is also important to note that social scientific research is a process and, not limited to reviewing of literature or ‘desk’ research (see Figure 1 below). Social research rather includes key processes such as collecting and analysing data and interpreting the findings of the study based on the literature reviewed.

Figure 1—The Social Science Research Process



There are different schools of thought on what is social science research. Positivists see scientific inquiry as being studied by an objective researcher who observes or measures phenomena directly. Positivists approach research in a manner similar to natural science investigations. Alternatively, social scientists may subscribe to the naturalistic or constructivist perspective, which sees knowledge as context- and time-dependent, with the researcher interacting with the object under study to obtain data. Under this approach, knowledge is obtained through the meanings attached to the phenomena studied.

Despite these different perspectives, it is generally agreed that social science seeks answers by utilising evidence-based, systematic, and rigorous approaches. The questions investigated by social scientists fall within three main categories, namely:

- 1) **Descriptive** - designed primarily to describe what is going on or what exists, e.g. a study to describe resilience in emerging adults (aged 18 to 29) with disabilities (Mannino, JE., 2014), or public opinion polls that investigate the proportion of people who hold various opinions, e.g. The National Survey on Public Perception of Equality and Discrimination in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2) **Relational** - an examination of whether a relationship exists between two or more variables and oftentimes, the direction and strength of the variation, e.g. The Gender Study on the Factors Affecting Male Re-Entry into the Post-secondary and Tertiary Education System (2011). This study, commissioned by the former Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, explored the relationship between two key variables, i.e. gender and re-entry into the education system at the post-secondary and tertiary levels. Studies may be both descriptive and relational, e.g. the National Women’s Health Survey of Trinidad and Tobago, which found that there is a significant relationship between experiencing physical and sexual Intimate Partner Violence and having experienced or witnessed violence in childhood. Additionally, the descriptive findings indicated that 30 percent of ever-partnered women experienced lifetime physical and/or sexual partner violence; with six (6) percent experiencing this in the 12 months prior to data collection (see the Research Highlights section for more).



Happenings: Recent Research Events

Want to know what's been happening in the research sector? Take a look at some of the major events and activities that were held last year.

☼ **University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) Research Day, 14 March 2018.** The Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) hosted its annual Research Day, the theme for which was "Health & Violence at Crossroads" and based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Presentations were delivered based on the following SDGs: Goal #3: "ensuring healthy lives while promoting the well-being for all, at all ages" and Goal #16: "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

☼ **UWI Research Week in collaboration with Bmobile, 17–19 April 2018.** The Department of Management Studies at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, in collaboration with Bmobile hosted the 2018 RESEARCH WEEK from Tuesday April 17 to Thursday April 19, 2018. The annual Research Week included three (3) days of presentations and panel discussions by thought leaders, Economists and representatives from the corporate sector and trade unions, as well as UWI research students and Faculty.

☼ **SALISES 19th Annual Conference, 25-27 April 2018 in Jamaica.** The theme for this conference was "Sustainable Futures for the Caribbean: Critical Interventions and the 2030 Agenda." One of the most important activities of this conference was the establishment of a committee to examine the political and economic need for closer association of the Caribbean territories and to make recommendations in the form of draft resolutions which were later approved by the conference.

☼ **Connecting the Dots Conference, 26-27 April 2018.** This conference was entitled CONNECTING THE DOTS: WORK • LIFE • BALANCE • AGEING, and included project partners such as Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons (TTARP), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), International Labour Organisation, Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean (ILO/DWT) and Women Working for Social Progress (Working Women). Other stakeholders included policymakers, public sector officials, corporate sector representatives, caregivers, civil society, regional and international scholars in the field of ageing and the public.

☼ **Cipriani Labour College: Launch of the Elma Francois Institute for Research and Debate, 11 June 2018.** The featured speaker at this event was Mr. Bukka Rennie who presented on the theme, "The Man called Nello—A Conversation on CLR James". The second event was a panel discussion held on 13 June 2018, with a focus on: "Labour: Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century."

☼ **63rd Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference, 14-16 June 2018 in St. Kitts & Nevis.** The theme for this conference was "Sustainable Health Systems for Economic Growth, Development and Wealth", and aimed to explore the multiple facets that contribute to and influence sustainable health systems. Discussions looked at the intricate relationships of epidemiology, health financing and universal healthcare, with presentations on the various strategies to strengthen regional health systems including systems science, evidence-based interventions and innovative management.

☼ **MSDFS National Symposium on the Family, 27-28 June 2018.** "Supporting Families as the Bedrock of our Society" was theme for this Symposium, which officially launched the "National Values, Attitudes and Behaviours Campaign" for the country. This campaign aims to promote family life and sustainable social development. The Symposium also included valuable networking opportunities, discussion groups, speaker presentations, workshops as well as an exhibition showcasing organisations, groups and agencies that support the family.

☼ **University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT) Inaugural Research Symposium and Research Poster Exhibition, 10-31 August 2018.** The theme for the Symposium was "UTT's Role in Research, New Knowledge and Wealth Creation in Trinidad & Tobago", which was held on 10 August 2018. The Poster Exhibition, held during 10-31 August, showcased a variety of work in the areas of: cultural and creative industries development; healthy citizens; global skills cultivation; 21st century infrastructure; entrepreneurship; food security; green society; and industrial upgrading.

☼ **UWI Department of Economics Conference on the Economy, 10-11 October 2018.**

☼ **13th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference, 15-16 November 2018.** This Conference was hosted under the auspices of UWI, SALISES, in partnership with the Institute of International Relations (IIR), the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network (CCRON) and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS). This event was based on the theme: "Leaving No Child Behind: the 2030 Agenda".

☼ **North West Regional Health Authority Research Day, 30 November 2018.** The theme for the event was "Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases."

In the early 20th century, **positivism** represented the main type of approach to conducting research that focused on observable facts (Teddle & Burke Johnson, 2009). Accordingly, researchers aimed for scientific investigations that were rigorous, employed statistical tests, used experimental controls, and allowed researchers to remain distant (Greenwood & Levin, 1998). By the middle of the 20th century, anthropologists began veering away from the standard scientific approach to incorporating creative methods to understand cultures (Guba & Lincoln, 2005; Teddle & Burke Johnson, 2009).

The earlier empirical/scientific perspective still dominates the social sciences today. However, as research methodologies continued to expand, investigators have explored paradigms that focused more on marginalised populations and emancipatory approaches to research, hence the birth of action research in its various forms (Pyrch, 1998; Smith, Willms, & Johnson, 1997). A major focus of these later approaches has been the accentuating of participants as subjects whose voices are central to the research process (Smith, 2001). This article examines Participatory Action Research (PAR) as a research methodology and looks at the application of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) in studies done locally. Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a member of the action research family that supports the struggle against the positivistic approach to knowledge creation (Pyrch, 1998). Major influencing thought for PAR occurred in the Global South in the 1970s as resistance to the dominant theories and ways of knowing that reinforced North-South inequities, urban-rural oppression within countries, and the crises arising from both economic and spiritual poverty (Smith et al., 1997). Such resistance resonated in work with marginalised groups in Latin America (Freire, 1970), and Africa (Swantz & Vainio-Mattila, 1988). PAR exists in different forms which include Participatory Research in Community Development, Action Research in Organisations, Action Research in Education, Farmer Participatory Research (Pyrch, 1998, p. vi), and Youth Participatory Action Research (Cammarota & Fine, 2008).

Overall, PAR's focus is on research that results in meaningful action (Pyrch, 1998) and thus emphasises knowledge generation through experience. (Reason & Bradbury, 2001). Furthermore, the philosophy of social justice, inquiry linked to learning, critical thinking, and community action that results in worthwhile personal and social change all guide PAR (Reason & Bradbury, 2001). Additionally, three elements (research, participation and action) must be present in a true PAR study, although the degree of participation

would vary within studies and across models (Greenwood & Levin, 1998). One such model is YPAR.

YPAR embraces all the principles of PAR but emphasises the involvement of youth in the process (Cahill, 2007; Cammarota

& Fine, 2008). In so doing, the research provides space for youth to analyse problems and identify solutions that promote well-being. Moreover, the approach recognises youth as critical thinkers and problem solvers (Checkoway & Gutierrez, 2006). Ultimately, YPAR confronts social exclusion and deliberately shifts the power relationships in research, repositioning youth as subjects and architects of research (Cahill, 2007). YPAR has been conducted in many countries and can be used for addressing youth issues in Trinidad and Tobago.

Applying PAR in Trinidad and Tobago - A YPAR perspective

YPAR represents a creative approach for addressing youth problems, which include violence, poverty, use and sale of drugs, to name a few. Though some young persons are resilient due to the presence of protective factors such as committed caring parents, positive peer influences and support from organisations (Berg, Coman & Schensul, 2009), others are not as fortunate. YPAR can assist in identifying underlying causes, developing appropriate programmes and designing meaningful evaluations. Furthermore, the approach can highlight the "voices of youth" in a way that facilitates identification of specific outcomes (Ungar, 2003). In the process, interventions will consider not only outcomes at the individual level, but also at multiple levels in the system. Engaging youth in this way maximises social inclusion, without which, can result in programmes either ignoring the reality of populations or regarding them as problems to be resolved (Mustard & McKain, 2000).

Spotlight on Research Methods: Participatory Action Research

Agency Spotlight: The future of the Central Statistical Office (CSO)

In this section, we highlight agencies that collect and manage data, with a focus on their structure, policies and outreach or other public engagement activities in the research sector. By doing so, we hope to increase awareness of what data exists in the country, by whom it is collected and how it can be accessed by Government, professionals and students. In this issue, we start at home by turning the spotlight on our own Central Statistical Office (CSO).

The Central Statistical Office (CSO), a Division of the Ministry of Planning and Development, is responsible for taking censuses in Trinidad and Tobago and collecting, compiling, analysing and publishing statistical information relating to all social and economic activities of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2018, the process to restructure the CSO to the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (NSITT) was initiated in a formal manner with the approval of the National Institute of Trinidad and Tobago Bill of Trinidad and Tobago via minute No. 929 dated 7th June, 2018.

The proposed NSITT, which is to be governed by a Board including a Director General appointed by the President, was established as the model for managing statistics in Trinidad and Tobago. The NSITT will operate with an enhanced authority to collect data and coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS). The NSS is the set of public bodies that collect and process statistics or disseminate official statistics. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) such as the CSO adhere to the guiding principles of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as well as the

relevant Codes of Good Statistical Practice. The NSITT will continue to abide by these principles with the autonomy and independence that is required for an NSO to enjoy credibility and fulfil its function in providing an unhindered flow of useful, reliable, high-quality information for both the public and policy makers. An update on the activities involved in the establishment of the NSITT is provided below.

⌘ **Establishing the Information Technology Infrastructure**

A tender notice for consulting services to design, procure/build and install an information system for the CSO was advertised in mid-2018. The submissions were however deemed unsatisfactory and the tender has since been revised to include the digitisation of up to five (5) years of CSO Legacy Data. The IT solution will allow: processing and retrieval of large quantities of data, searching and sorting of specific information uniformly, accurately and quickly, and easy generation of reports. The System will also ensure the utilisation of modern workflow capabilities in streamlining interactions among functional processes and timely, secure and transparent storage of data along with easy handling of storage inclusive of an ICT Business Continuity Plan.

⌘ **Stakeholder Engagement**

With the proposed NSITT and its enhanced coordination role in mind, several stakeholder engagements have been held towards discussing opportunities to strengthen the NSS and educate the stakeholders on the role of NSOs. These were as follows:

- A “High Level Forum on the Power of Data to Meet the Challenges of the 2030 National Agenda” which was held on November 9, 2018, and hosted by the Ministry of Planning and Development in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Trinidad and Tobago- May 3rd 2018
- Trade Statistics Stakeholders' Seminar - September 25th 2018
- International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4 (Rev.4).

Sources of Funding for Research Projects



Don't know where to look to fund your research studies or project? Below are some useful links to research funding information for professionals and students.

⌘ **University of the West Indies—Office of Graduate Studies & Research.**

Objectives: To provide financial assistance for members of staff and graduate students to enable them to pursue their research adequately and communicate and publish the results of their research.

Website: <https://sta.uwi.edu/research/funding.asp>.

⌘ **University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT)—The International Office and Grant Funding.**

The objective of this Office is to encourage faculty, staff and students to seek external funding for programs and scholarship that supports UTT's mission and vision.

Contact: grantsupport@utt.edu.tt or internationaloffice@utt.edu.tt.

⌘ **Caribbean Development Bank—Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund.**

Objectives: To provide financial support and stability to the Region's cultural and creative industries; and provide grants for innovative projects within the creative industries sector.

Website: http://www.caribank.org/news/cdb_funding.

⌘ **Ministry of Education—Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP).**

Objectives: To provide financial assistance to citizens pursuing tertiary education, thereby expanding equitable access to tertiary education; provide a low interest loan facility, approved and disbursed effectively and efficiently within a reasonable time frame to students in need; and develop a well-educated, qualified cadre of citizens within identified areas of national development.

Website: <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Higher-Education-Loan-Programme-HELP>.

Research Highlights

In this section, we provide a brief overview of major national studies conducted and their implications for our country's development. In this volume, we focus on the National Women's Health Survey and two presentations from the recent Caribbean Child Research Conference. The topics reflected here—intimate partner and gender-based violence, bullying, and student stress—are social justice issues that are relevant when building resilience in a country.

**Research Findings
from Topical Studies:
National Women's
Health Survey of
Trinidad and Tobago
Pemberton, C and
Joseph, J (2018)**

This brief presents an overview of the 2017 Trinidad and Tobago Women's Health Survey (WHS) which was published in 2018. With a specific focus on intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner sexual violence (NPSV), this national, quantitative, cross-sectional survey was designed to provide a diagnosis of violence against women and girls in Trinidad and Tobago. The 2017 WHS was a joint regional initiative of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and UN Women, who collectively created a CARICOM Model for National Prevalence Surveys of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The WHS fills an important gap in comprehensively understanding and addressing violence against women.

Aim

The survey measured the national prevalence of IPV and NPSV, determined risk factors associated with IPV, and documented the health consequences and coping strategies for female survivors of IPV.

Objectives:

To-

- ⌘ Obtain reliable and comparable estimates of the prevalence of violence against women
- ⌘ Document the health consequences of IPV against women
- ⌘ Identify and compare risk and protective factors for IPV against women
- ⌘ Explore and compare the coping strategies used by women experiencing IPV

Sampling

The 2017 Trinidad and Tobago Women's Health Survey was a national, quantitative, cross-sectional survey of 1,079 women aged 15-64. Sampling was three-stage: (1) proportionate to select micro-communities (Enumeration Districts); (2) systematic to select 15 households per Enumeration District and (3) random selection of an eligible woman from a selected household using a household listing and an electronic version of the Kish Selection grid.

Methodology

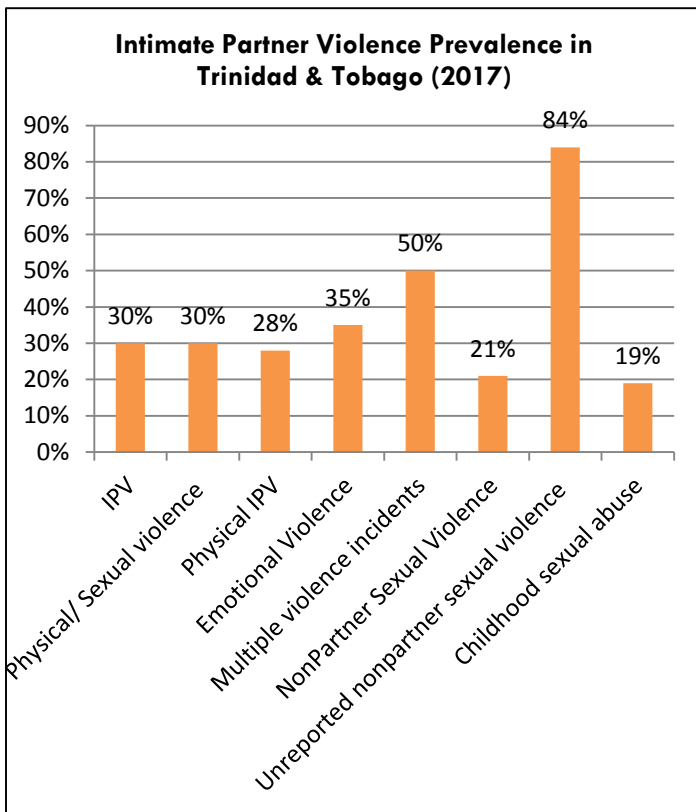
The survey methods were directly taken from the CARICOM methodology, which was developed from the globally-recognised and -tested World Health Organisation (WHO) Model, based on its landmark Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence and subsequent country studies on IPV. The WHO Model was adapted for local use by relevant cultural experts. The survey instrument was a structured questionnaire, pre-programmed on tablets for administration in face-to-face interviews conducted by trained interviewers. The randomly-selected nationally representative sample comprised 1,905 households, of which a single member—a randomly selected woman or girl 15 to 64 years old—was eligible for participation. Of the 1,423 women eligible for interviews, 1,079 women participated in the survey. Data collection took place from April to July 2017.

Analysis and Results

Significant risk factors associated with IPV identified using Chi-square tests included:

- ⌘ Lower education (female and partner),
- ⌘ Cohabitation without marriage,
- ⌘ Rural residency,
- ⌘ Younger age,
- ⌘ Non-consensual marriage,
- ⌘ Having been pregnant,
- ⌘ Having experienced or witnessed violence in childhood,
- ⌘ Partner substance abuse and unemployment, and
- ⌘ Having been in prior relationships. *Cont'd next page.*

Intimate Partner Violence Statistics



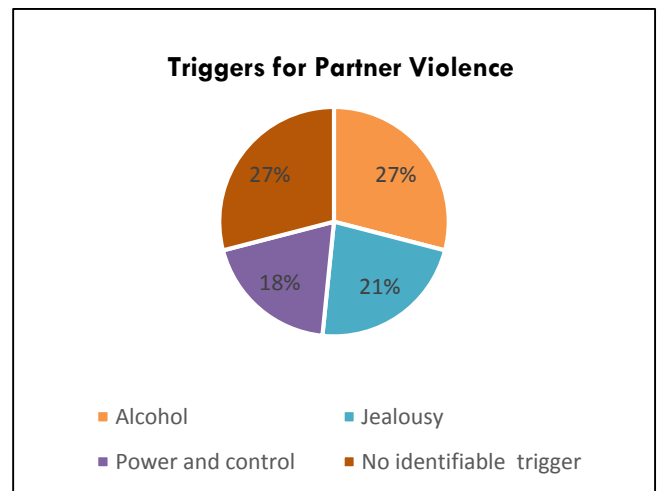
- ⌘ 30% of ever-partnered women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. See bar graph above.
- ⌘ Roughly one third of women (31%) in Trinidad and Tobago have experienced lifetime sexual violence, either from a partner and/or non-partner. See bar graph above.
- ⌘ 7% of all respondents reported having been forced into sexual intercourse by a non-partner.
- ⌘ 30% of ever-partnered women experienced lifetime physical and/or sexual partner violence.
- ⌘ **35% of women experienced emotional violence in their lifetime which was the most common type of violence.**
- ⌘ Roughly one in three (28%) of women experienced physical IPV in their lifetime. See bar graph above.
- ⌘ **Roughly 50% of female survivors of IPV, experience violence “many times”.**

Intimate Partner Violence: Associated Factors and Triggers

- ⌘ Lower educational attainment is associated with higher prevalence of lifetime physical partner violence (primary or less 34%; higher than secondary 23%).
- ⌘ Lifetime sexual IPV prevalence was higher among those who were financially dependent.
- ⌘ Women in non-consensual marriages (15%) were more likely to experience sexual IPV than those who chose their own partners (9%).
- ⌘ **The more severe the lifetime physical IPV experienced by a woman, the greater the likelihood that this woman experienced verbal or physical violence or witnessed violence against her mother in the home during their childhood.**

Associations of Physical and Sexual IPV with Partner Characteristics

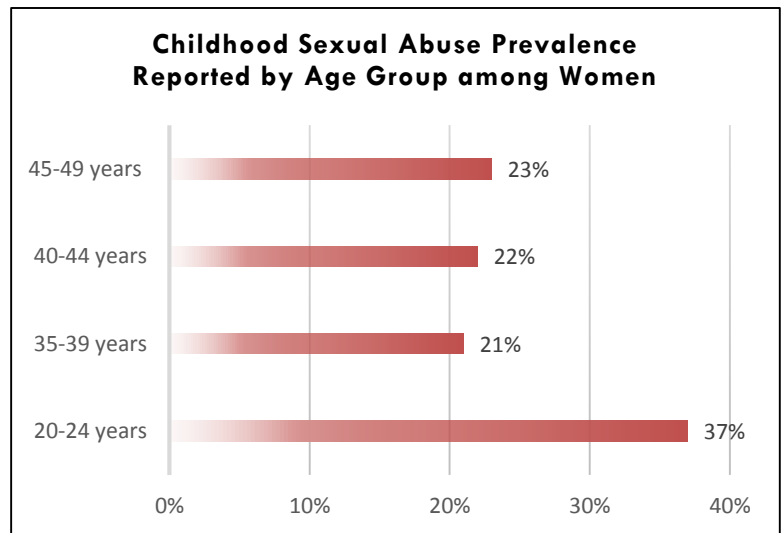
- ⌘ Triggers for violence were indicated as follows alcohol (27%), jealousy (21%), and power and control (18%). Over 27% of women identified no particular trigger for their partner’s behaviour. See pie chart below.



Sexual Violence against Women by Non-Partners

- ⌘ Non-partner sexual violence (NPSV) was estimated based on the experiences of all women interviewed, not simply ever-partnered women. *Cont’d next page.*

- ⌘ 7% percent (lifetime) of all respondents reported having been forced into sexual intercourse by a non-partner (1% current).
- ⌘ NPSV prevalence (21.3%) is almost four times higher than that of sexual IPV (5.0%).
- ⌘ **Sexual harassment (at work, on the job, public transport, and virtual spaces) was experienced by 13 % of women, with the highest prevalence being in the form of electronic messages with sexual content (8%) and being groped in a public space (7%).**
- ⌘ 19% of women indicated that they had experienced childhood sexual abuse.
- ⌘ Women aged 20 to 24 reported the highest rate of childhood sexual abuse (37%). See bar graph above.
- ⌘ High prevalence rates of childhood sexual abuse were also observed among women aged 35 to 39 years (21%), 40 to 44 years (22%) and 45 to 49 years (23%). See bar graph above.
- ⌘ One in four women (25%) who were married or cohabiting with a male partner by the age of 18 or younger, also experienced sexual abuse before they were 18.
- ⌘ 10% of women indicated they were forced into intercourse at least once with a non-partner through the use of physical or verbal force (9%).
- ⌘ **The majority of women reported one perpetrator, often a family member or friend. Most of these experiences (84%) were unreported to police.**
- ⌘ **25% of women who were first married or cohabiting with a male partner by the age of 18 or younger, also experienced sexual abuse before they were 18.**



Recommendations

- ⌘ Expand access to health services for women, especially those in isolated and high-crime areas.
- ⌘ Screening to detect past and current abuse and violence against women and girls, during routine examinations such as prenatal or birth control clinics or Pap smear visits.
- ⌘ Universal access to sexual and reproductive health counselling, birth control, and STI screening.

- ⌘ Public awareness campaigns that engage survivor support networks.
- ⌘ Awareness campaigns should address the gendered perceptions that fuel normalized male violence and domination over women.
- ⌘ Youth - focused life skills training opportunities for anger management, conflict resolution, and violence avoidance and de-escalation.
- ⌘ Investment is needed in violence against women awareness and prevention campaigns.

Title of Study: “Student Stress in Secondary School Students”

Author: Jaliyah Phillips

School: Bishop Anstey High School

This paper is based on research undertaken in part fulfillment of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Sociology Unit 1 syllabus. The purpose of this research was to identify the factors that create stress among secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to discover its effects on the emotional and academic wellbeing of students. Using a case study of a secondary school in Port of Spain, the research was conducted through interviews and questionnaires to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. The results indicated high levels of stress and some related academic and psychological impairment among the population of the selected school. The paper concludes by proposing recommendations for further research and considerations in the area of policymaking to address these issues.

**T&T Students—Child
Research Paper
Competition
at the Caribbean Child
Research Conference**

Title of Study: “Social Bullying and the Experiences of Students in a Secondary School in Trinidad and Tobago”

Author: Lynn Marie Acres

School: Mt. Hope Secondary School

Over one third of children aged 13-15 years worldwide have been victims of bullying (Abdirahman, Bah, Shrestha and Jacobsen, 2012). Bullying can cause persons to become withdrawn, aggressive, suicidal, suffer from low self-esteem and potentially abandon the school system (Abdirahman, Bah, Shrestha and Jacobsen, 2012, Stuart-Cassel, Terizan and Bradshaw 2013). According to Stuart-Cassel, Terizan and Bradshaw (2013, 1), “social bullying may have the effect of undermining social status and threatening feelings of support, security and closeness in youth relationship”. Using a qualitative approach, this paper discusses the experiences of victims of social bullying, in a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. These stories are important for highlighting the negative impact of bullying on the learning environment. Bullying in schools can also violate a child's right to education and potentially affect their future. The research paper intends to inform Policy to minimise bullying in schools and support lobbying for counselling for both perpetrators and victims of bullying.

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