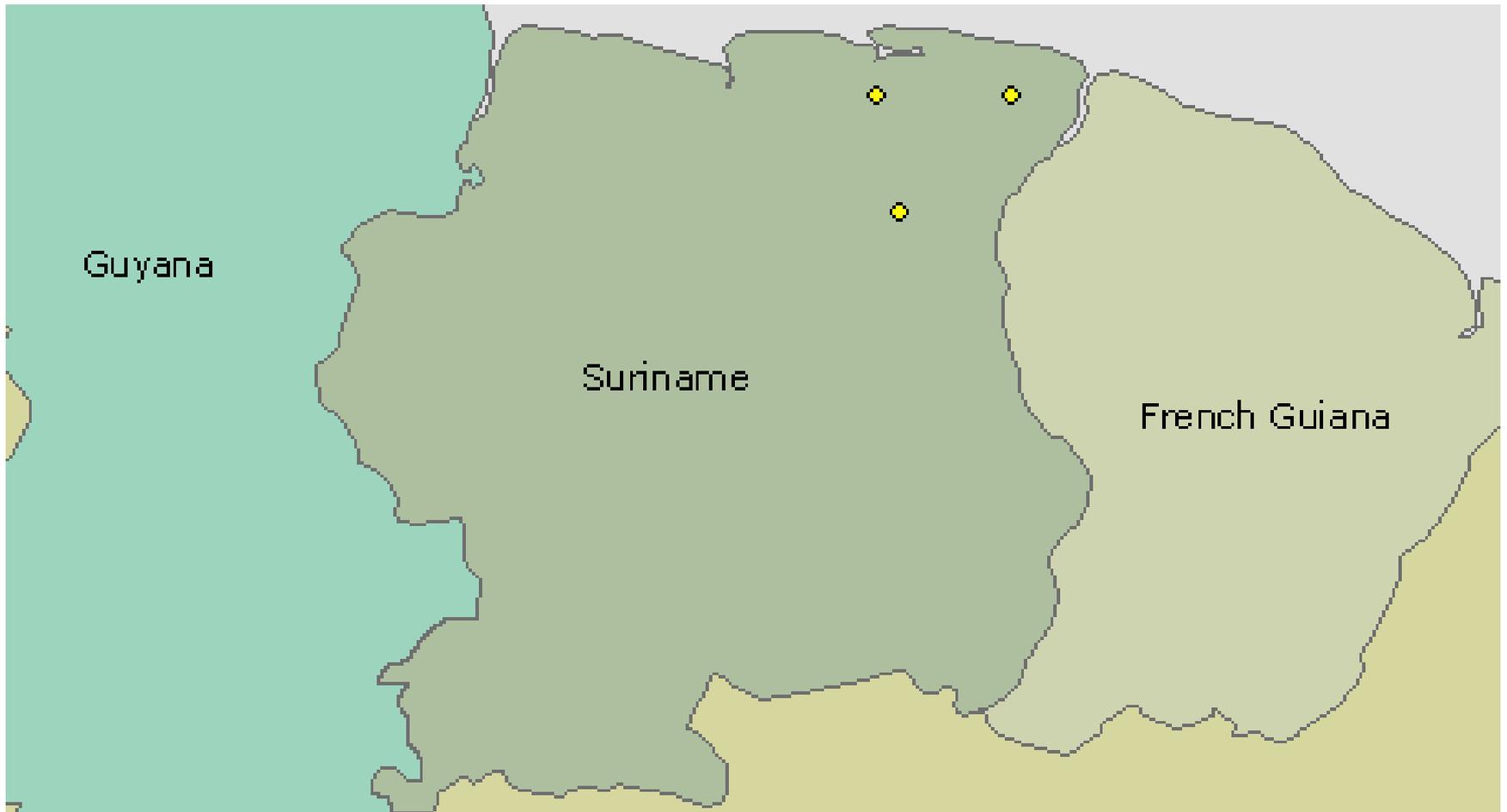




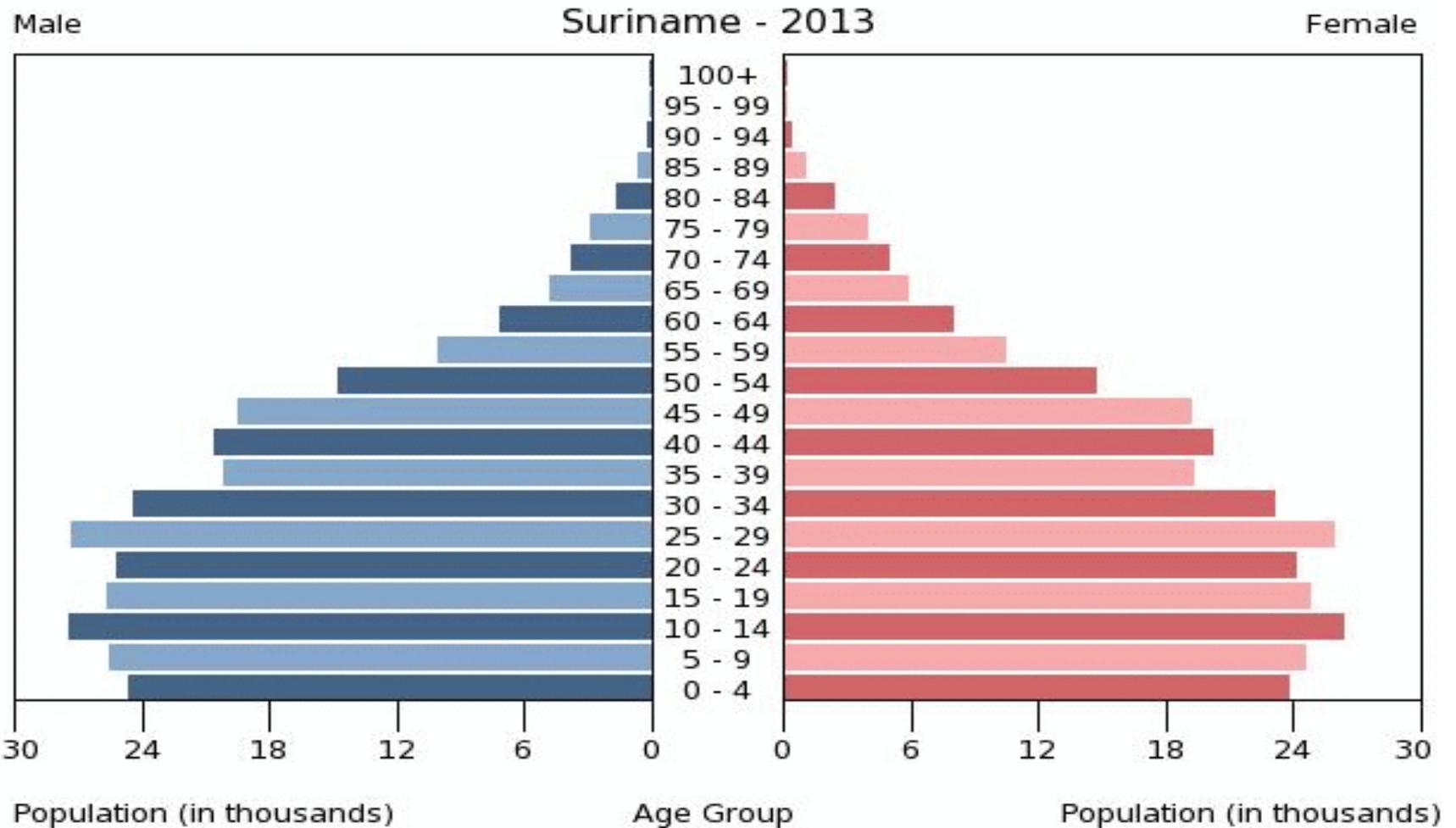
Decisive action on Prevention – Suriname sets a regulatory framework for effectively reducing tobacco use and increasing alcohol taxes

Drs. Michel Blokland  
Minister of Health Suriname  
Forum of Key Stakeholders on NCD Issues in the  
Caribbean  
8 June 2015

# Geography



# National Population Distribution



# Tobacco-Control Legislation

# Background

- Suriname committed to ratifying and implementing the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2008
- The goals for tobacco-control legislation were to prevent the detrimental effects of second-hand smoke on vulnerable populations, to avert smoking initiation, and to promote smoking cessation

# Research

- 2007 National Household Drug Prevalence Survey found nearly 40% of males and 10% of females currently smoked
- 2009 GYTS and GSHS survey found that half of all adolescents surveyed are subject to second hand smoke
- 2011 indoor air quality testing exceeded WHO standards by 29 times

# Tobacco Commission & Strategic Partnerships



# Education and Mobilization of Society



Anti-Lobbying, Parliament Voting, Legislation S.B.  
2013 no. 39, Preparation for Implementation

# Industry Anti-Lobbying



# Passage of Comprehensive Bill



# Legislation S.B. 2013 no. 39

- Smoking ban in indoor public places
- Tobacco advertising ban
- A ban on the sale of tobacco products to minors and the use of vending machines
- A ban on electronic cigarettes
- Pictorial health warnings required on packaging
- The development, implementation, and monitoring a national tobacco control strategic plan
- Promote epidemiological surveillance
- Promote inter-sectoral collaboration for legislation implementation
- Establishment of Tobacco Bureau to promote research and strengthen cessation programming
- Compliance and enforcement regulations
- Strict penalties for non-compliance
- Allows for the development of future regulations to ensure full implementation of the law

# Outcomes

- Signed into law 6 March 2013 by President Bouterse
- Effective 7 June 2013
- Effective 7 June 2014 all cigarette packages were required to carry graphic warning labels
- The law was hailed by PAHO as the most comprehensive tobacco-control legislation in the Caribbean region, due to its inclusion of electronic cigarettes
- Ministry of Health and the National Assembly were awarded the Tobacco prize by the WHO
- The InterAmerican Heart Foundation also recognized Suriname for its legislation
- Anecdotal evidence suggests changing social norms around smoking

# Challenges

- Still encounter advertising and promotion via magazines, email, and social media
- Illegal importation of electronic cigarettes
- Current cycle of graphic warning labels on packaging are printed in English rather than Dutch
- Oversight of legislation implementation
- Consistent enforcement continues to be an issue

# Looking Ahead

- Strengthen inter-sectoral exchange and dialog of the law
- Develop messaging to empower the community to act when they witness a violation of the tobacco law
- Monitor the content of tobacco products
- Enhance tobacco cessation programs
- Amend law to include public green spaces as smoke-free spaces
- Amend law to include health warnings on movies that show smoking
- Expanded, periodic M&E and research

# Alcohol Taxation

# Background

- Laws on alcohol pricing & taxation have existed since 1891
- Minor changes made in 1953, 1994 & 2000
- 2004 excise tax increase
- 2008 excise stamps for alcohol and tobacco were implemented with the help of a newly established Special Excise Stamp Control Unit
- 2011 excise tax was increased once again (33% - 68%) were announced by the new administration as fiscal measures

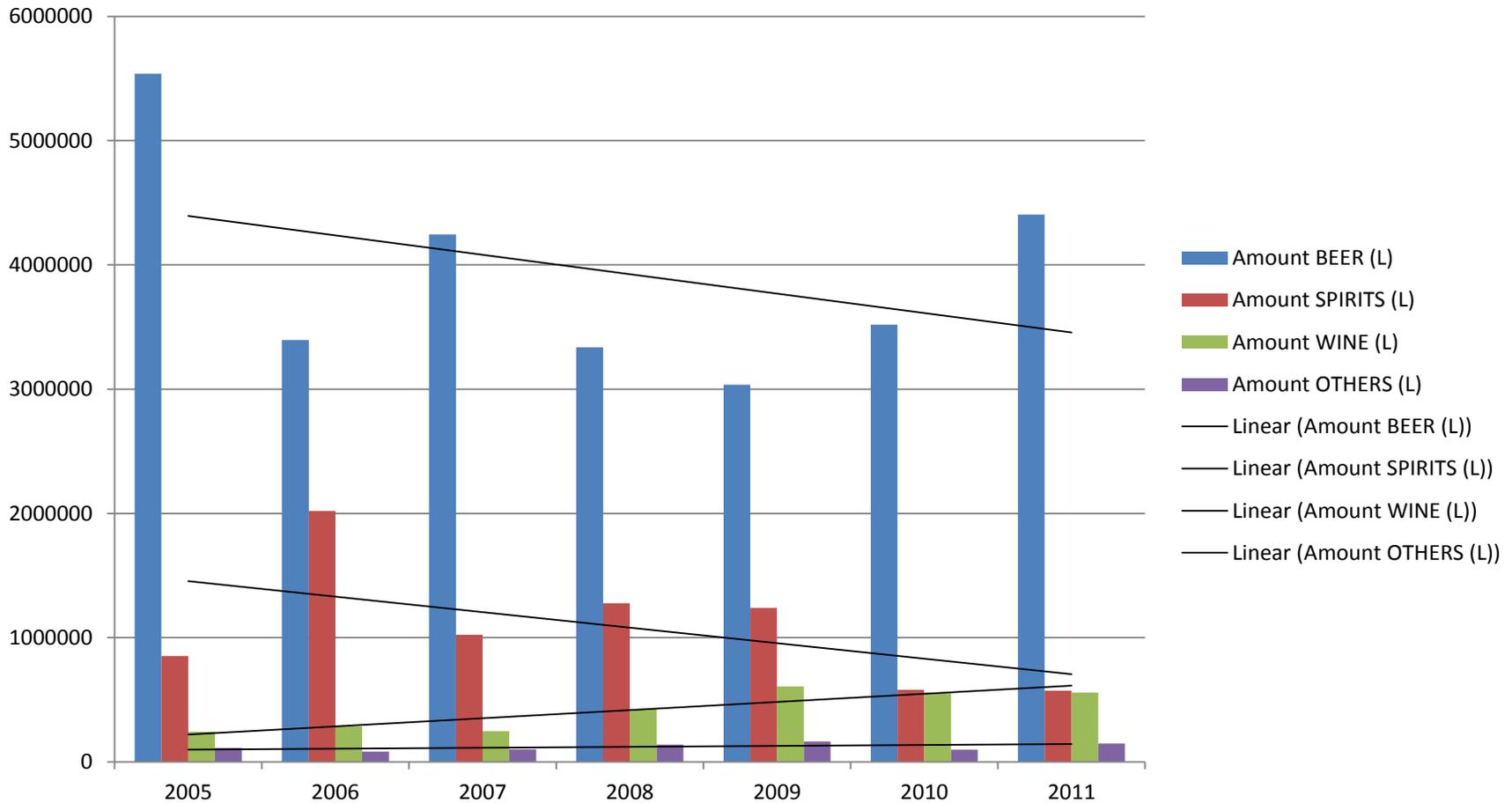
# Current Alcohol Taxation

- Taxes and Pricing
  - Duties (50%)
  - VAT (10%)
  - Statistic Tax (1.5%)
  - Consent Tax (0.5%)
  - Excise Tax (based on alcohol type and % of alcohol)

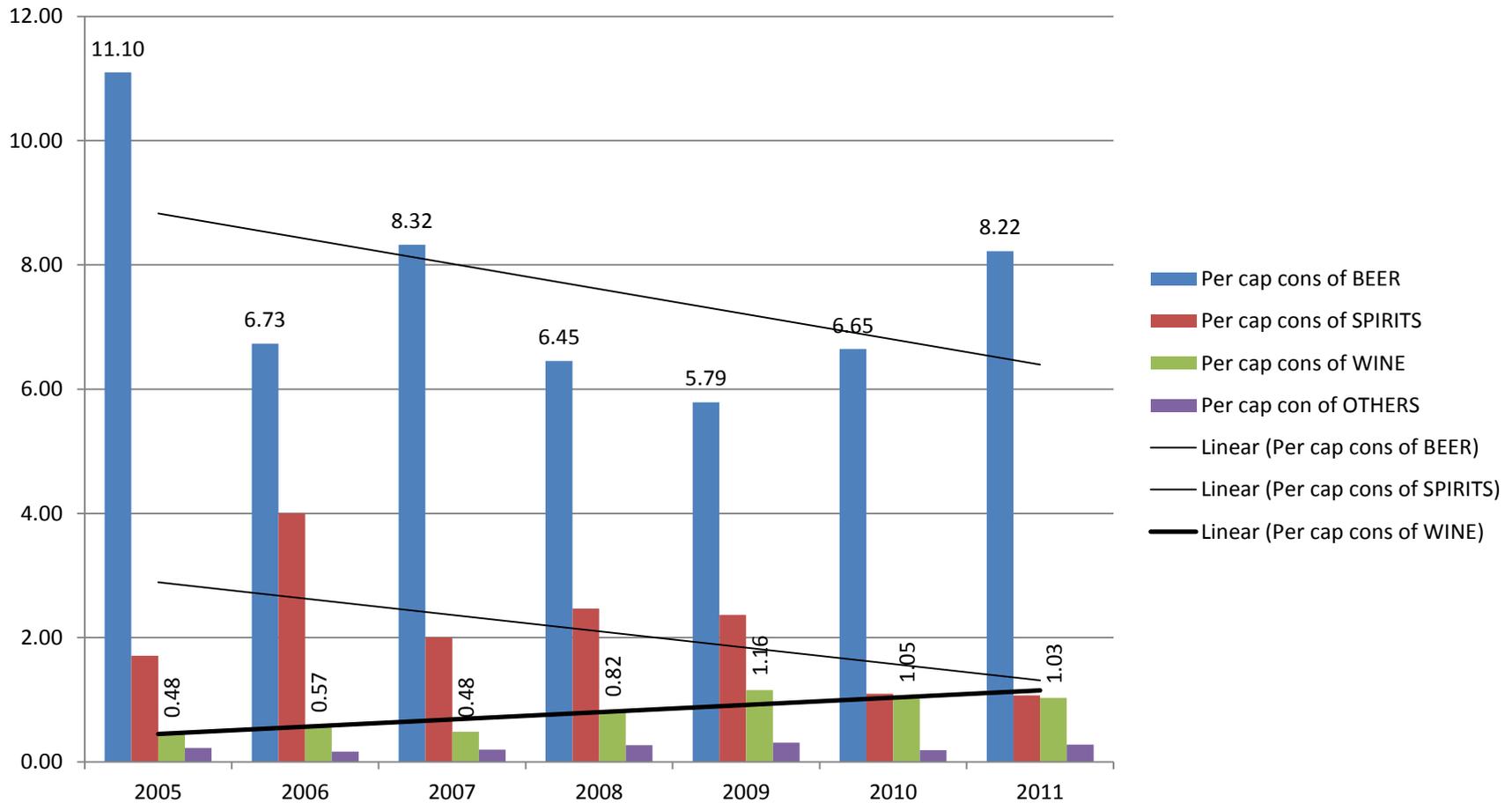
# Current Excise Tax Structure

<b>Alcoholic Beverages</b>	<b>Excise Tax Tariff per liter</b>
<b>Whisky</b>	<b>US \$ 6.75</b>
<b>Rum</b>	<b>US \$ 2.00</b>
<b>Category 1. 0 – 30 vol. % alc.</b>	<b>US \$ 3.30</b>
<b>Category 2. 30 – 40 vol. % alc.</b>	<b>US \$ 4.50</b>
<b>Category 3. 40 – 50 vol. % alc.</b>	<b>US \$ 6.75</b>
<b>Category 4. &gt; 50 vol. % alc.</b>	<b>US \$8.25</b>
<b>Wines</b>	<b>US \$ 0,12 per vol. % alc.</b>
<b>Beers</b>	<b>US \$ 50 per Hectoliter (US \$ 0.50 per Liter)</b>

# Alcohol Sales Trends (2005-2011)



# Per capita consumption by alcohol type (2005-2011)



# Looking Ahead

- Continue to advocate for comprehensive alcohol-control legislation
- Evaluate local initiatives and work to scale-up initiatives that are working
- Continue with public awareness campaign for education and agenda-setting purposes
- Continue to prepare for legislation on:
  - Marketing and Sponsorship of Alcohol beverages
  - Availability of Alcoholic beverages
  - Alcohol Free Environments (Public Places)
- Enforcement of laws & regulations
- Screening & Brief Interventions for alcohol-related problems
- Monitoring & Surveillance

# Barriers and Facilitators to Progress with NCDs

## Barriers

- Law enforcement
- Lack of human resources
- Lobbyists from the private sector

## Facilitators

- Champions at the executive level
- Momentum from the success of the tobacco control legislation
- Model language and multi-sector structure from tobacco-control legislation to execute other NCD-related policies

# Thank You

Drs. Michel Blokland

