



STATISTICAL REPORT ON DRUG DEPENDANTS REPORTED FROM TREATMENT AGENCIES

DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SYSTEM

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Introduction

The general objective of the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) is to establish a sound database for effective programme planning and monitoring. Specific objectives of the reporting system are as follows:

- To determine the incidence, prevalence and characteristics of drug users who come in contact with reporting institutions or practitioners.
- To monitor the trends and patterns in drug use.
- To determine and describe the at risk groups in the population.
- To assess and evaluate the existing treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug users.
- To be an ‘early warning system’ to permit early programme responses.

The Information given in this report is mostly from the Government and Non Governmental organizations in Islandwide. The instrument of the reporting form used for reporting on drug users contains core items on:

- a. Demographic characteristics
- b. Drug use
- c. Route of use
- d. Frequency of drug use
- e. Age at first use
- f. The primary drug used
- g. Treatment method
- h. Types of admission
- i. Nature of drug offence

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Abstract

The total number of reported drug users who had received treatment facilities for the year of 2019 was 3,613 and compared to 2018 the number of drug users had decreased by 19%. Of the total reported drug users, 32% received treatments from National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) treatment and rehabilitation centres, 19% from prisons drug treatment and rehabilitation programme, 20% from NGOs and 29% reported from Kandakadu Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre of Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation (BCGR).

Prisoner diversion programme has been changed in 2011 due to the enactment for the drug dependents (treatment and rehabilitation), act No. 54, 2007 has implemented compulsory treatment facilities in Sri Lanka and an exclusive treatment programme has been designed for prisons for drug related offenders.

The majority of reported drug users had received institutional treatment facilities and among the treatment admissions, 25% were from Colombo district. By considering the entire treatment admissions, 62% were from Western province.

According to the reported data, 3,594 males and 19 females were admitted for the treatments in 2019 and in compared to the corresponding period of 2018, the number of male and female drug users had decreased.

Among the total drug users 69% administrated drugs by smoking, 48% by eating or drink and 77% used Chinese method. It is also revealed that 2043 (56.6%) of drug users were single and 1268 (35.1%) were married. Data further indicates that 1686 (47%) of them have studied grade 5 to 10 and 1270 (35%) persons completed O/L examination.

Background

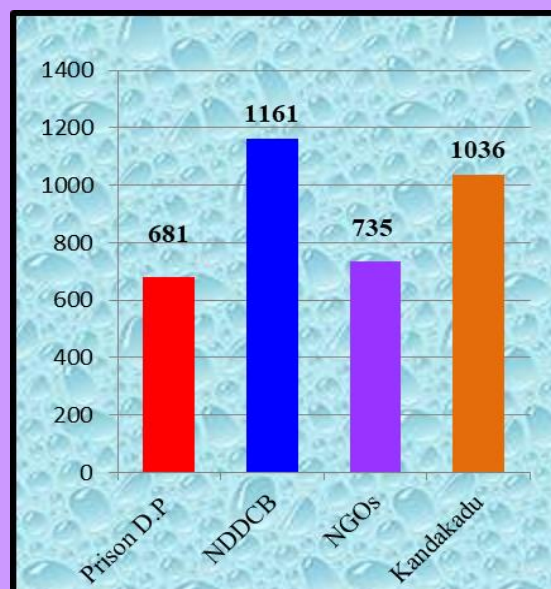
This is an analytical report prepared by the data received from the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) on persons treated in the drug treatment facilities during 2019. The data in this report is presented on monthly basis.

Three thousand six hundred thirteen (3,613) drug dependents have been reported from drug related treatment centres in 2019. 1,161 (32%) persons were reported from the NDDCB, 735 (20%) from NGOs, 1,036 (29%) persons from Kandakadu and 681 (19%) from prison drug treatment programmes.

Data indicates that, overall treatment received drug users decreased by 19% compared to 2018. People who obtained treatments from NDDCB treatment centres and NGOs had been increased in 2019.

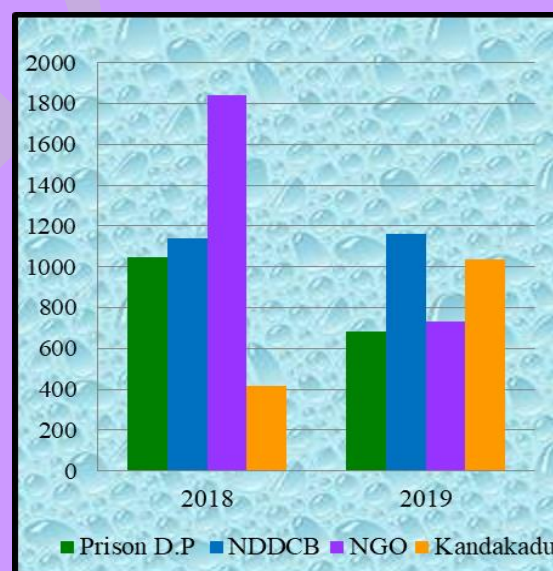
According to reported data, NGOs had provided treatment services for 735 drug users and out of them, 582 people received treatments from “Andurin Alokaya”, 25 from “Karunawe Niwasa”, 15 from “Community Concern Centre - Power House”, 38 from “Pathuma Meeduma” and 47 from “Mithuro mithuro”

Figure 01: Distribution of reported drug treatment admissions



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Figure 02: Distribution of drug users received treatment admissions 2018/2019



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Type of Admission

The distribution of drug related treatment admissions by type of admissions for treatment centres is shown table 01 and it

reveals that majority 1,564 was court referral admissions. Voluntary admissions were reported 1,735 persons.

Table 01

Type of Admission	Number of persons	Percentage (%)
Voluntary	1,735	48
Court referral	1,564	43
Other	314	9
Total	3,613	100

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System,2019

Nature of Treatment centre

By considering the type of treatment facilities received by the drug users in the year of 2019, majority, 89% (3,222), of them obtained in house or institutional treatments and compared to the same period of 2018, the clients has been decreased by 25%. Out of the types of drug treatment facilities, “institutional care” can be considered as the most popular drug abuse treatment facility.

Treatment method

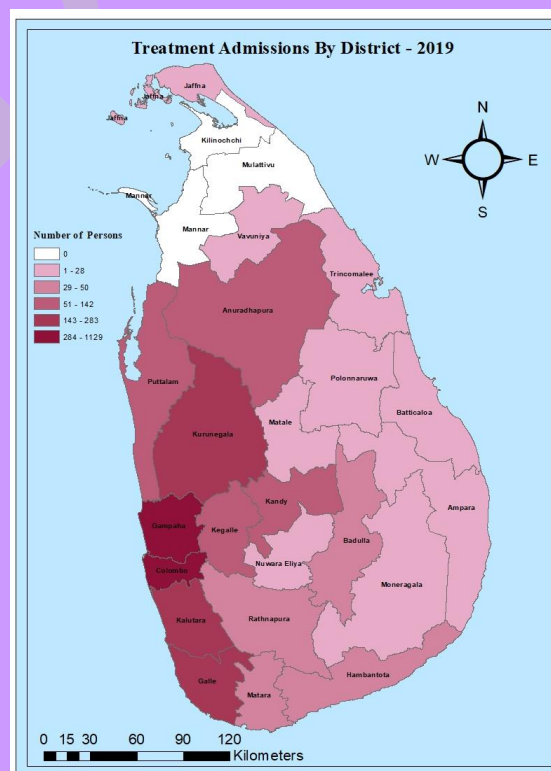
Treatment received persons were further classified based on their treatment methods, it shows that 65% were obtained psychological treatment method as majority. In addition to, 12 step (282), Western medicine (362), Therapeutic Community model (402) and faith base treatment model (370) were also reported.

District

Considering the number of treatment received persons in district wise, it emphasized that highest number of persons, 1,129 (31%) were reported from Gampaha district.

However, Colombo (919), Galle (283) Kalutara (215) Kurunegala (184), Puttalam (128) and are the other highlighted districts. Out of the nine provinces, 62% were reported for treatments from Western province, 10% from Southern province and 9% from North Western province and all the details are shown in tab. 02 and map 1.

Map 01



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System,2019

Table 02

District	Number of persons
Anuradhapura	142
Ampara	13
Badulla	45
Colombo	919
Galle	283
Kalutara	215
Kandy	95
Matara	50
Kurunegala	184
Gampaha	1,129
Hambantota	32
Kegalle	96
Matale	28
Nuwara Eliya	16
Polonnaruwa	23
Puttalam	128
Ratnapura	38
Trincomalee	03
Jafna	8
Monaragala	18
Vavunia	02
Bataloa	02
Not recorded	144
Total	3,613

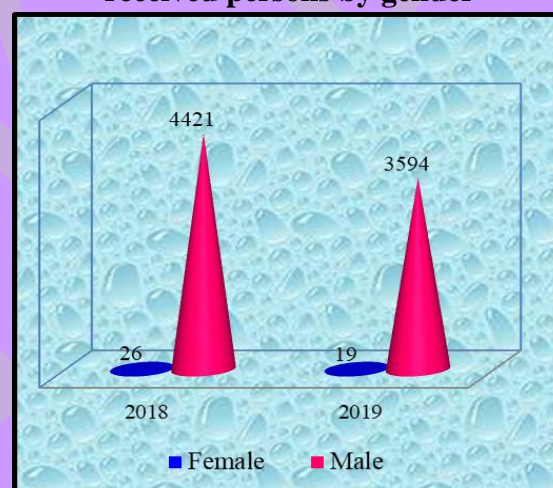
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System,2019

07% of significant decrease was shown by Rathnapura district in compared to last year and some of the other highlighted fluctuations are as follows, Kurunegala decreased by 38%, Kalutara decreased by 22% and Hambantota decreased by 6%, respectively. However, treatment admissions from Puttalam Gampaha, Matale, districts were increased by 45%, 07% and 04%.

Gender

Out of the total treatment admissions of 2019, 99% (3,594) were males. Gender distribution of treatment admissions in year 2019, the number of males had decreased by 19% compared to the corresponding year. Female treatment admission of previous year were 26 (01%) and 19 (01%) female drug users reported during the year of 2019.

Figure 03: Distribution of treatment received persons by gender



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System,2019

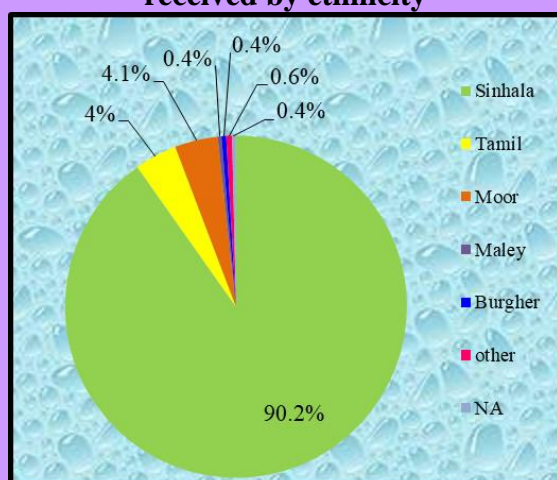
Ethnicity

According to the recorded persons by the ethnicity wise, 3,259 (90.1%) were Sinhalese, 147 (4.1%) were Moors, 145 (4%) were Tamils, 16 (0.4%) were burghers and 13 (0.4%) of them were Malay.

Compared to year of 2018, Sinhalese had decreased by 16%. As well as, Moors, Burger and Tamils had decreased by 37%, 20%, 44% and 29% respectively.

More details are shown in figure 8.

Figure 04: Distribution of treatment received by ethnicity

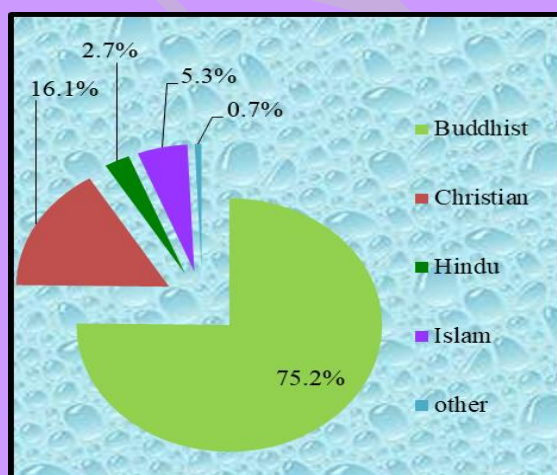


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Religion

According to the data shown in figure 9, majority, 2,717 (75.2%) of the clients were Buddhists. 581 (16.1%) Christians, 192 (5.3%) Islam and 97 (2.7%) Hindus. Buddhist and Christian, Islam religion group had decreased in compared to last year by 11% and by 33%. had Hindus increased by 5%.

Figure 05: Distribution of treatment received by religion



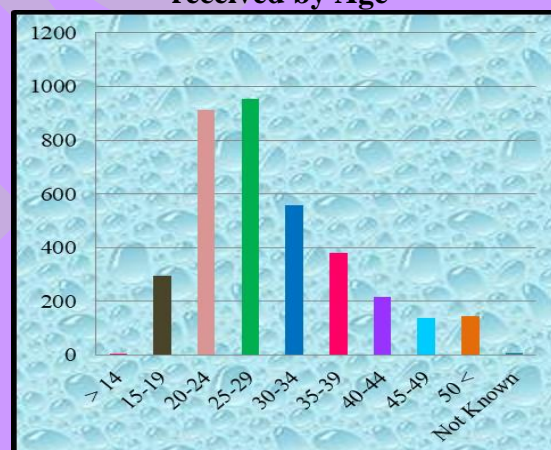
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Age

The distribution of drug related treatment admissions by age is shown in figure 6 and it reveals that majority, 51% (1,867), of the clients were in age 20-29 range. 15% (559), 381% (11) and 06% (216) were in the range of 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years accordingly. Nonetheless, six persons had reported for age category of 01-14.

In compared to last year figures except 15-19, age categories of 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 had decreased by 13%, 2%, 21%, 28% and 34% respectively.

Figure 06: Distribution of treatment received by Age



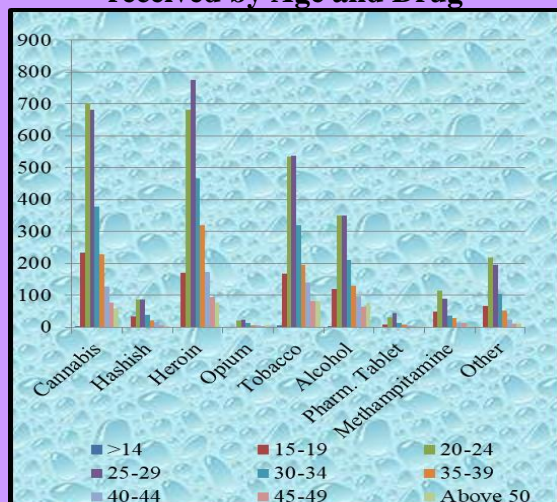
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Age and Drug

By considering the age and type of drug used, the majority of cannabis (681) and heroin (777) related treatment received persons were in 25-29 aged range. However most of the Alcohol (351) and tobacco (538) users were in 25-29 age range. According to the data, most of the

drug related treatment received persons were in 20-29 age group.

Figure 07: Distribution of treatment received by Age and Drug



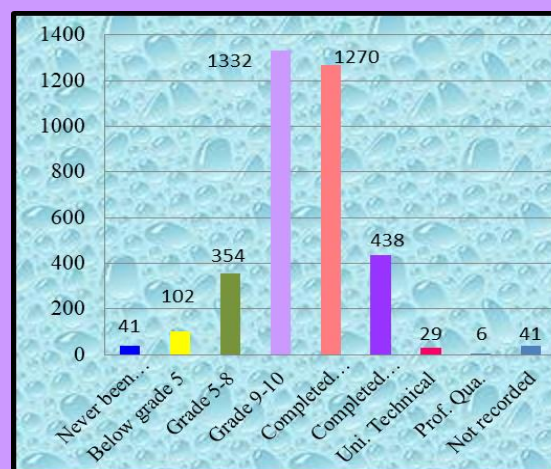
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Educational Status

Treatment received client's educational background implies that, 50% (1,788) of them had lower level (up to grade 10) educational background and 01% (41) of the persons never been to school. However, 35% (1270) had completed O/L, 12% (438) completed A/L exam and university or technically educated 1% (29) persons and six professionally qualified person was also reported.

Compared to year of 2019, people who had received treatments with below grade five had decreased by 64%, grade 5-10 decreased by 34%. As well as completed O/L and completed A/L had increased by 9% and 40%.

Figure 08: Distribution of treatment received by education

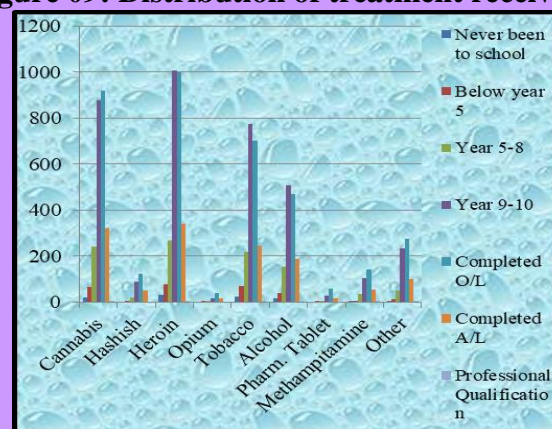


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Education and Drug

Below graph illustrates the relationship between education and drug. Majority of the heroin users (1,305) had studied up to grade 10 and it is similar for cannabis (1,211), tobacco (1,086), alcohol (719) and pharmaceutical tablet (87) users. Hence it shows that there is a considerable co-relationship in between the drug use and lower education level.

Figure 09: Distribution of treatment received by education and drug



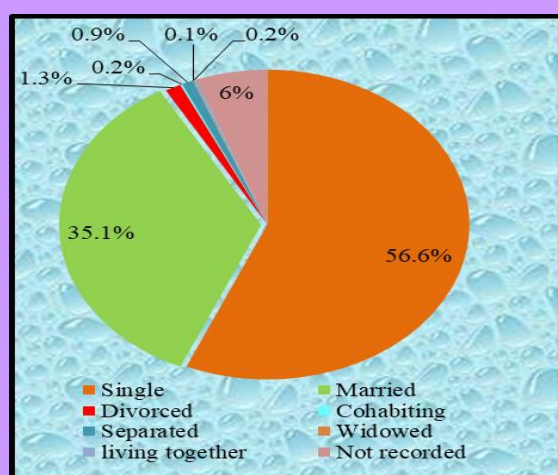
by education and drug

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Marital Status

Treatment received persons were further classified based on their marital status and it shows that 56.6% were single (2,043) and 35.1% (1,268) were married. In addition to them divorced (46), Separate (33), living together (08) cohabiting (06) and Widowed (03) persons were also reported.

Figure 10: Distribution of treatment received by marital status



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Compared to year 2018, clients with marital status of married, widowed, single and had decreased by 40%, 37%, 13% and respectively. In addition to that separate and divorced had increased by 27% and 7%.

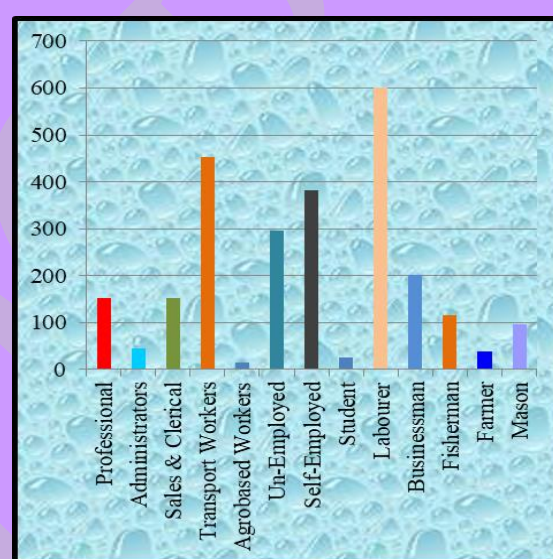
Employment

The distribution of the arrestees reported by occupation for the period of January to December 2019 is as follows, 600 were

labourers, 296 were unemployed and 453 were drivers or transport workers.

In addition to, 202 businessman and 382 self-employed persons were reported. All the drug related data are shown below figure 11.

Figure 11: Distribution of treatment received by employment



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

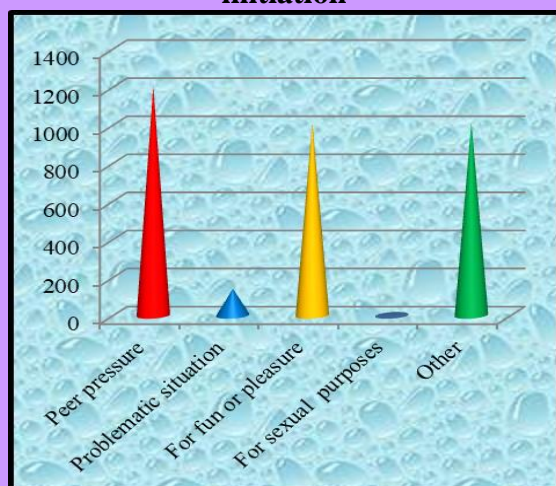
Influencing factors for drug initiation

Different factors were reported as influencing factors for drug initiation. Of persons who were admitted to the treatment services.

Out of them reported persons for drug initiation, majority 1,204 had initiated drug use due to peer pleasure. In addition to that 1,015 persons were recorded for pleasure and entertainment and 141

persons were reported for problematic situations. All figures are given below.

Figure 12: Distribution of treatment received by influencing factors for drug initiation

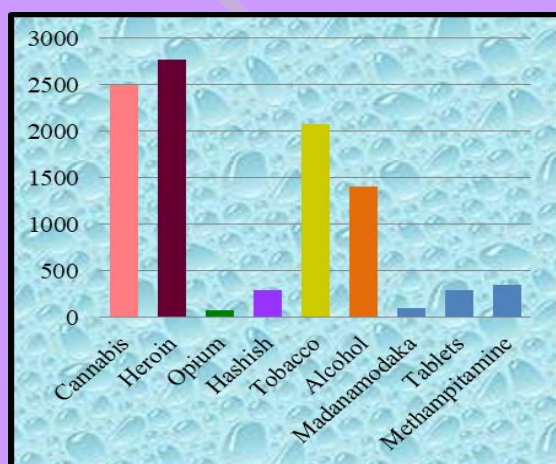


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Drugs

Data indicates that most of the treatment received clients were multiple drug users. 2,074 used tobacco, 2,726 used heroin and 2,497 used cannabis. Alcohol, Methamphetamine tablets and Hashis users are as follows, 1410, 348, 289 and 295.

Figure 13: Distribution of treatment received by Drug use

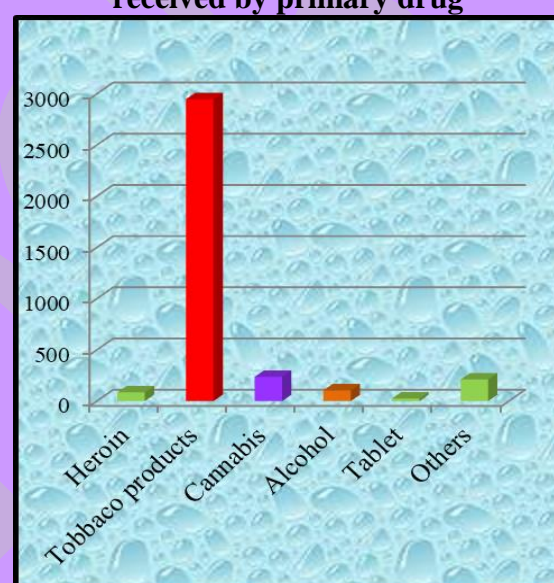


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Primary Drug

According to the figures of drug addicts primary drug use, Majority (2,948) were used Tobacco products (Cigarette, Madanamodaka, Babul). Of the total dependents 237 were used cannabis, 105 were used Alcohol and 85 were used heroin as primary drug.

Figure 14: Distribution of treatment received by primary drug

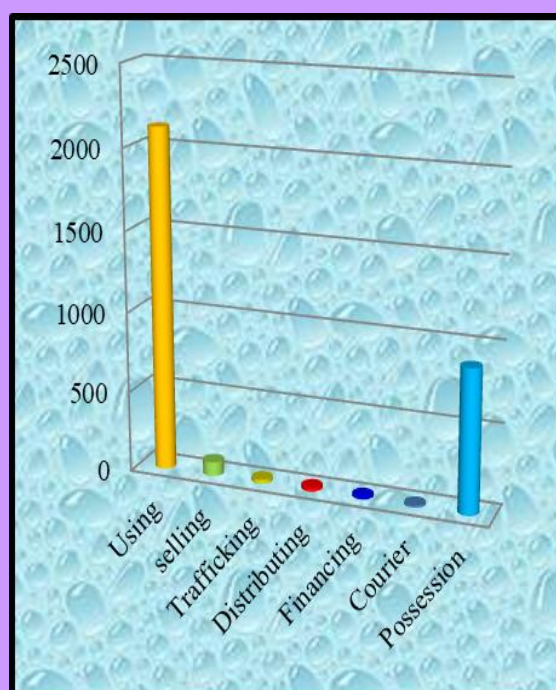


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Nature of offence

Most of the drug addicts have ever been engaged in one or more drug related offences and used different drugs. Out of the treatment received persons 88 of them have been reported as sellers. 23 distributors, 17 financiers, 13 drug couriers 25 and drug trafficker was reported. In addition to above drug related offences, 886 persons were arrested for possession of drugs and 2,121 persons were arrested as drug users.

Figure 15: Distribution of treatment received by drug offence

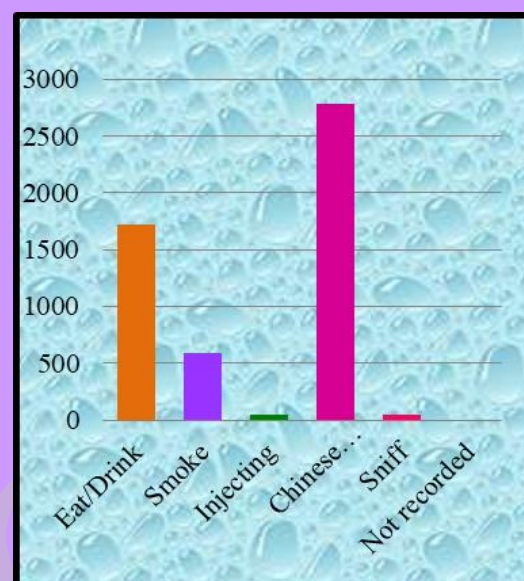


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Route of use

According to the reported data, clients had used more than one drug administrated methods. 69% (2,496) of them smoked the drug, 48% (1,723) eat or drink, 77% (2,782) used Chinese method, 01% (49) used drug-sniffing method and 01% (51) injected the drug. Compared to last year, all other methods have decreased and some of significant details are follows, smoking (24%), eat or drink (17%) Chinese method (01%).

Figure 16: Distribution of treatment received by route of use



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2019

Age of first use

Average age of drug initialization was analyzed and it shows that, all the drugs had been initiated at young age (15-25) and their details are as follows, 18 was the average age for hashish, 16 and 17 are the ages for tobacco and Alcohol. 19 and 25 are the average ages for opium and cannabis. However, heroin (27) has been initiated at above 25 years. When compared with last year figures, average age for each drug has been advanced.

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO.....

Dr. Laknath Welagedara, Chairman, NDDCB.

**Mrs. Badrani Senanayake, Director General (cover-up),
NDDCB.**

Commissioner General to Rehabilitation (BCGR) and his staff.

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