

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - May 2019 Fact Sheet



Research Division
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

Introduction

Currently, drug prevalence, drug related offences and drug related offenders who were arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are increasing. Studying about reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, the research division has introduced the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS). DAMS is a computerized information system, which collects information on persons arrested for drug related offences and persons seeking treatment for drug use. This report is prepared by using recorded data of DAMS in April in 2019 and May in 2019 and it can be used to get basic information on persons arrested for drug offences.

Objectives

The objectives are to document current trends and patterns on drug related arrests and treatment for policy making and to disseminate knowledge on current trends to the NDDCB staff and other related agencies for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programmes.

Results and Findings

According to the recorded figures, 2855 persons were arrested for drug related offences during April and May in 2019. Among these arrestees, 1598 persons were arrested in April and 1257 persons were arrested in May. It was 21% decrease in May with compare to April in 2019.

District

By considering the arrested data in May, the highest number of persons, 326, was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha, Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrestees respectively. 16 districts were highlighted with decreased number of arrested persons in May with compared to April and highest decreasing percentage, 100%, was reported from Killinochchi district. 8 districts showed an increase in May with compared to April in 2019 and highest increasing percentage was indicated from Matale district. 33 persons were arrested from Kegalle district in April and it was same in May. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district except Killinochchi during the considered period and it was indicated the progress of supply and demand of drugs in Sri Lanka.

Gender

The majority, 97%, of the arrested persons in May was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in April and May, the majorities were males in both months and it has decreased by 1% in May.

Age

64% of arrested persons in May belonged to 20-34 age category. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all age categories above 14 years. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in April with May, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

Marital Status

47.89% of the arrested persons in May were married and 51.71% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in May was divorced and separated. By considering the arrested persons in April, 50.75% of them were unmarried and 49.12% were married while rest of them was divorced. The data highlighted that the percentage of unmarried arrested persons in May was greater than the percentage of married persons and it was same in April.

Education

Although 3% of arrested persons in May never been to school, there were 40.2% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 7.7% of the arrested persons in May had completed advanced level. There were 4 arrested graduates and 1 professional in May. By considering the arrested persons in April, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each educational category except category of graduates, technical education and professional qualification.

Ethnicity and Religion

78.6% of the arrested persons in May were Sinhalese, 9.5% were Tamils, 9.2% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in April and May, the majorities of the arrested persons in each of these two months were Sinhalese but considerable number of arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that the percentage of Tamils was greater than the percentage of Moors in April and it was same in May.

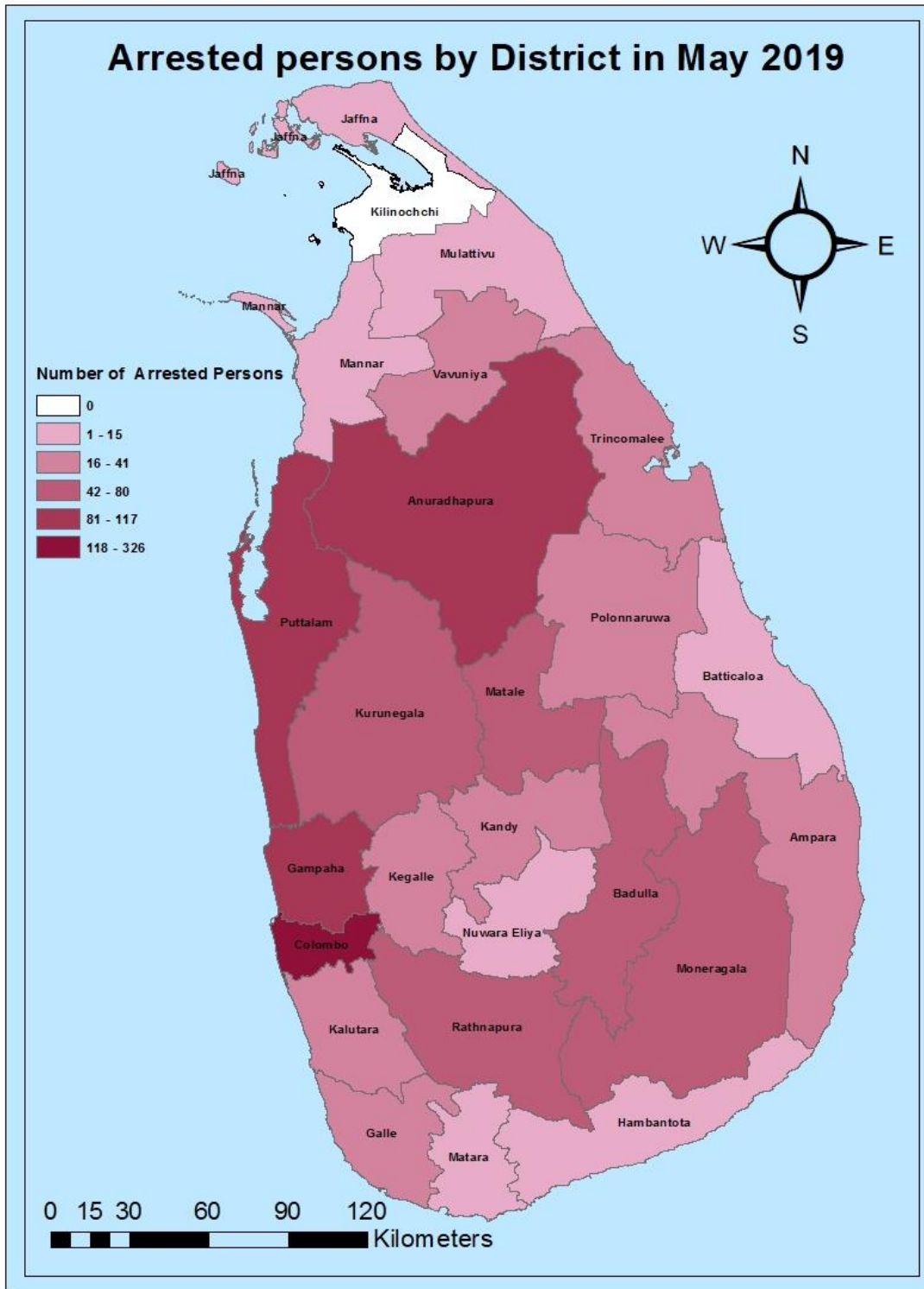
75.34% of the arrested persons in May were Buddhists, 12.81% were Islam, 8.04% were Hindus and 3.82% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in April with May, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in April and May were significantly similar. Majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but there were arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offences.

Occupation

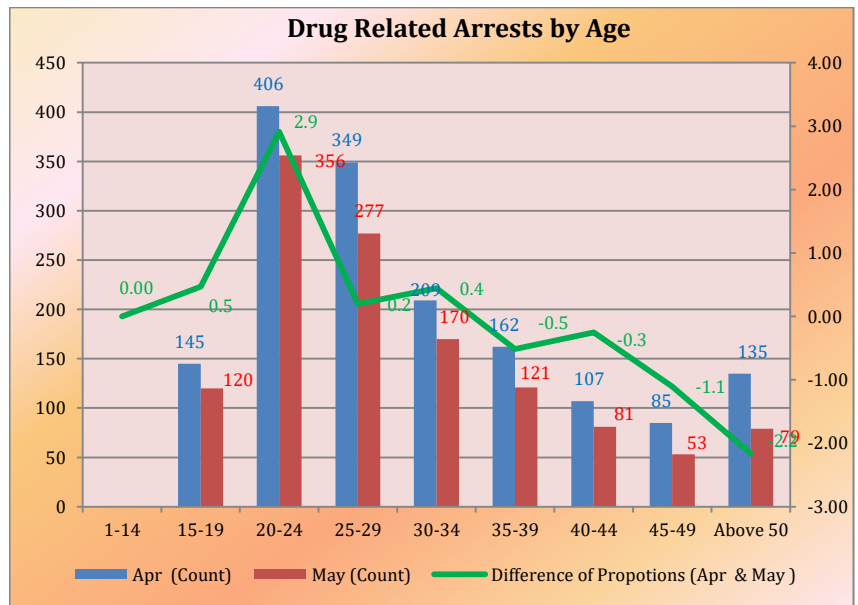
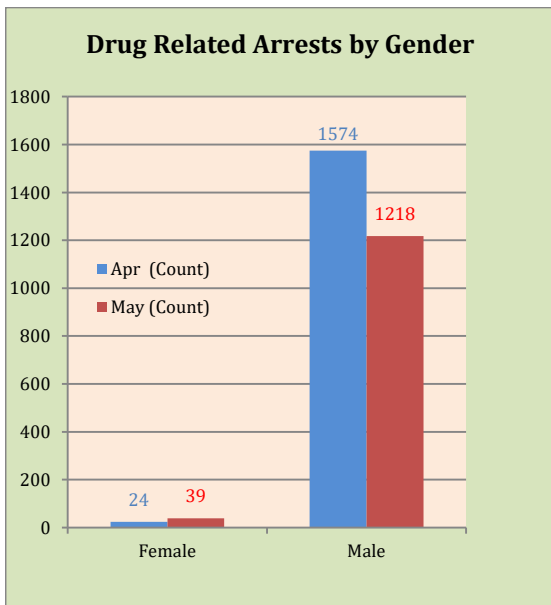
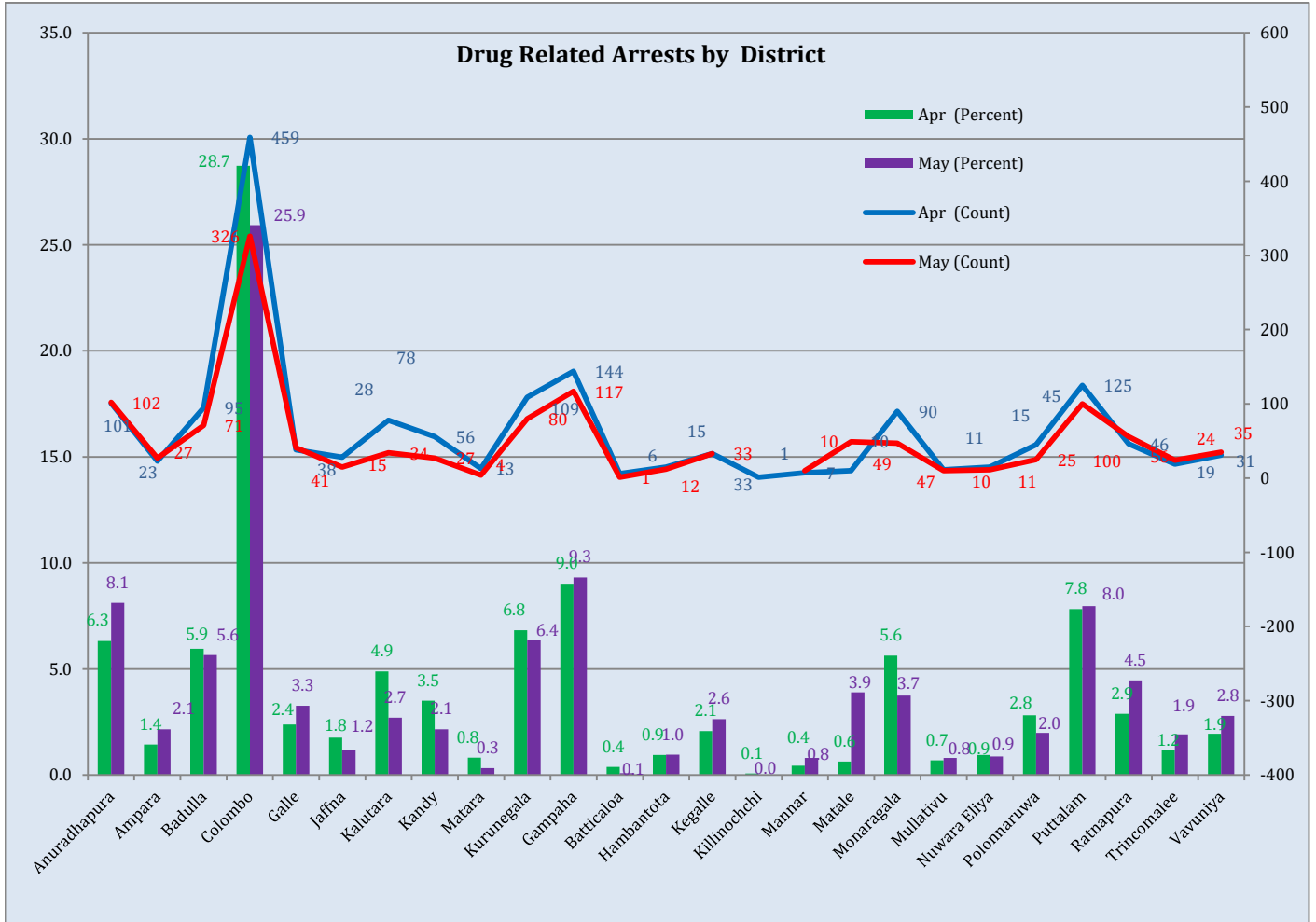
From the related data in May, 32.1% of arrestees were labourers, 11.3% were farmers, 13.2% were unemployed, 2.9% were self-employed, 0.7% was students and 4.1% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between April and May, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each months. In addition some of the arrestees were working as drivers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were small fluctuations in ratios of every occupation which were being engaged by arrestees in May with compared to April.

Type of Drugs

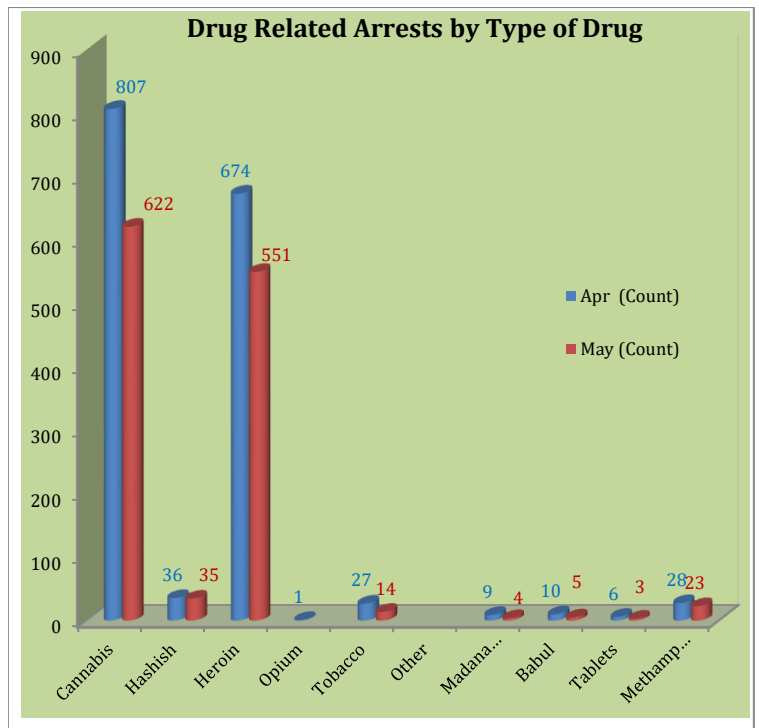
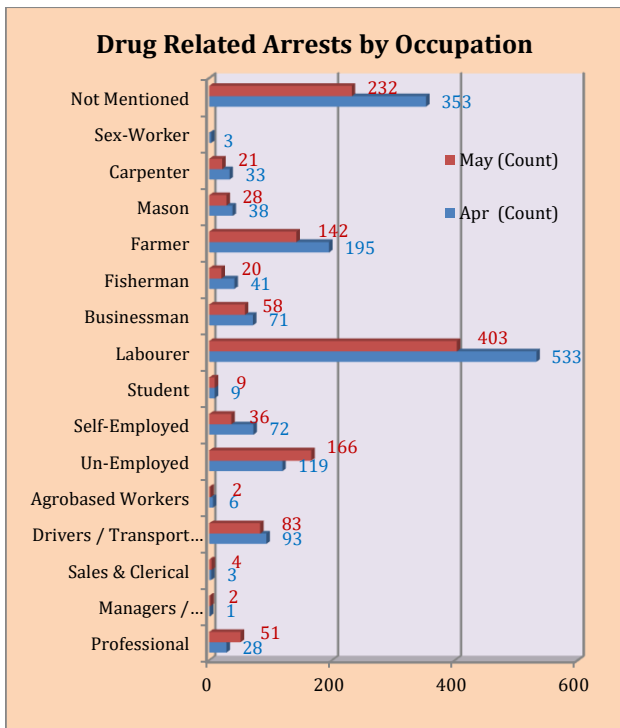
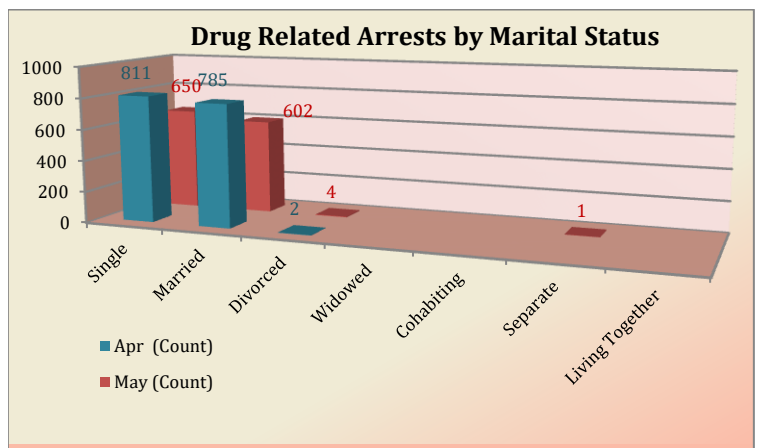
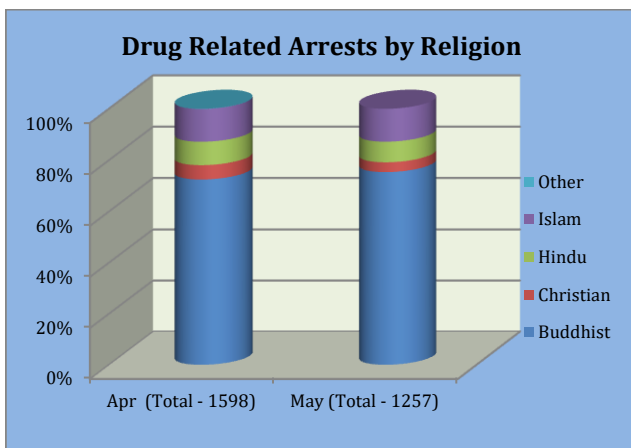
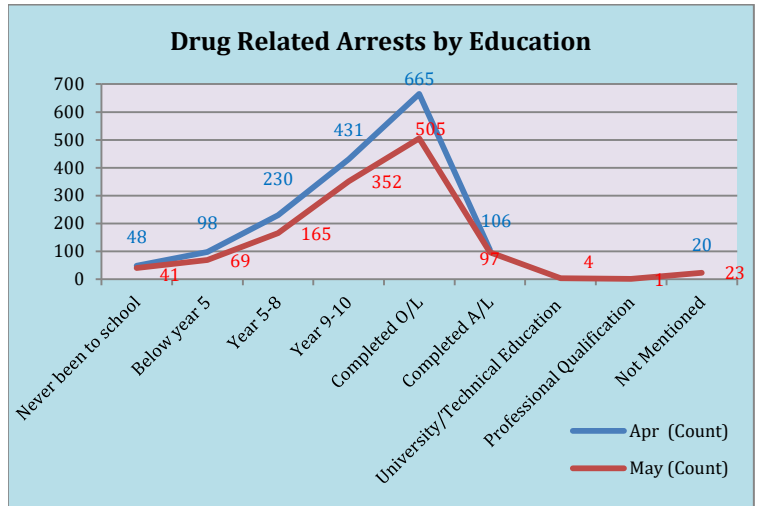
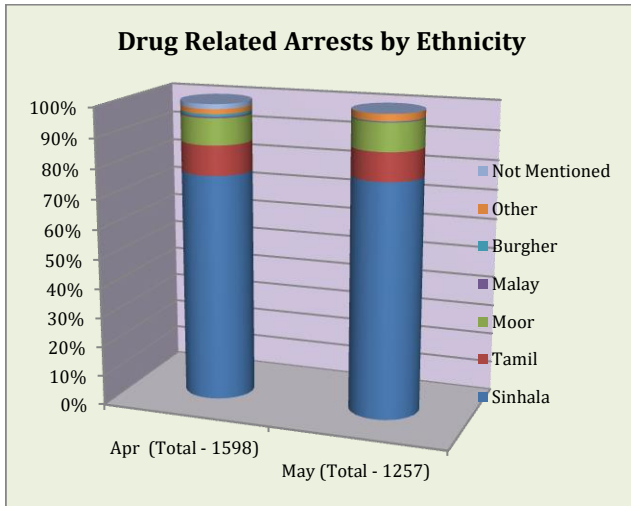
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in April as well as May, but the cannabis related offences had been decreased from 50.50% to 49.48% in May with compared to April. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 42.18% and 43.83% of arrestees in April and May were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium, methamphetamine (Ice) and tablets were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in April - May 2019)



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