

Drug Related Information

Monthly Report- August 2017

Fact Sheet



RESEARCH DIVISION
NATIONAL DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROL BOARD

Introduction

Currently, drug prevalence has been increasing and also drug related offences have shown an increase. Therefore, law enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka implement law against persons who engage drug related offence. Studying reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, we, NDDCB research unit has introduced the Drug Abuse Monitoring System or 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 presented by using DAMS data on August in 2017 and it can be used to get a basic idea about information on persons arrested for drug offences.

Objectives

The objectives are to document current trends and pattern on drug related arrests and treatment for policy making and also to disseminate knowledge on current trends to the NDDCB staff for planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programs.

Result and Findings

By considering the reported drug related arrests within August, the highest number of persons, 651, were from Colombo district. Gampaha, Kandy, Anuradhapura districts were reported as next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. However, considerable arrests were reported in every district in Sri Lanka and it is evidence for drug abuse prevalence in Sri Lanka.

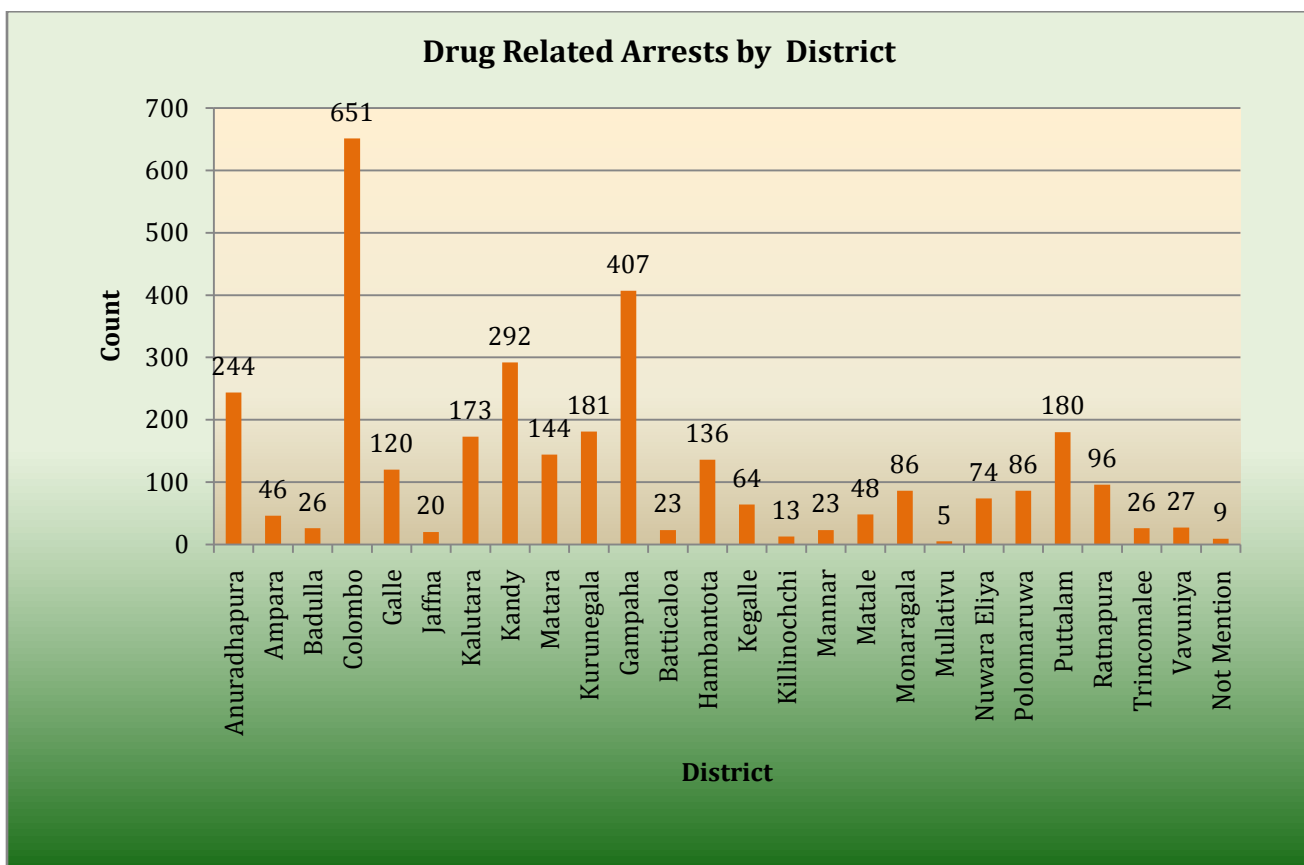
Majority, 97%, of arrested persons were male and 59% of arrested persons belonged to 20-34 year age category. There was no arrested persons less than 15 years, but there were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other categories. 48% of the arrested persons were married. Although 4% of arrested person never been to school, education level of 37% arrested persons have completed Ordinary Level and 6% have completed Advanced Level. University/technical education has been completed by 9 persons. Therefore, it can be concluded that education level of a person is not a significant factor for associating with drug related offence.

By considering the ethnicity of the arrested person, majority, 77%, were Sinhalese but arrested persons in other ethnicities such as Tamil, Muslim and Malay were documented.

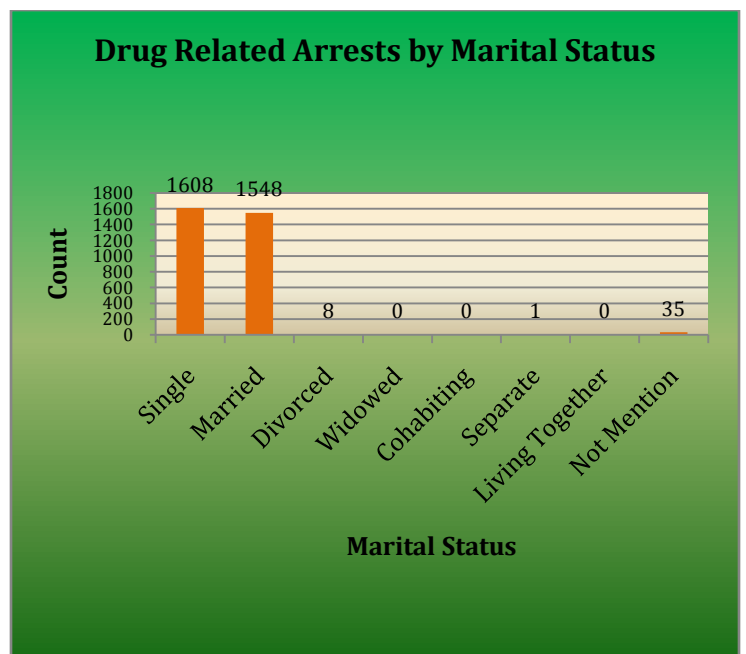
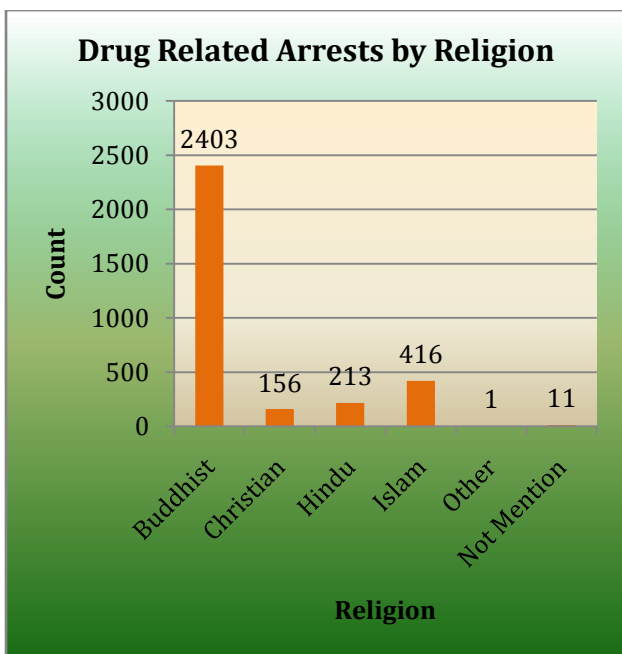
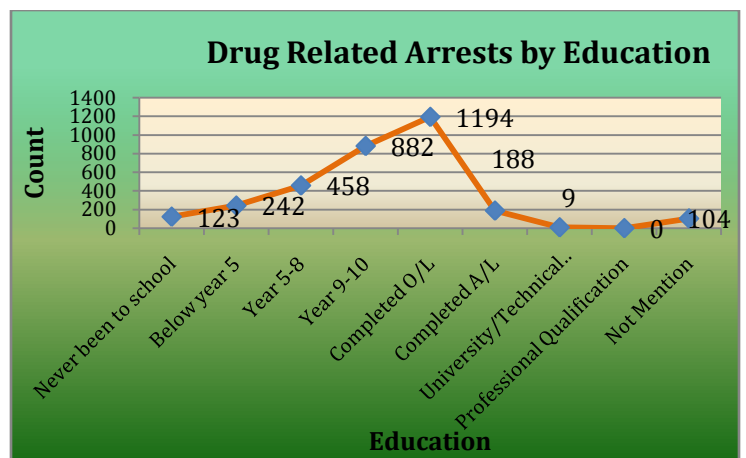
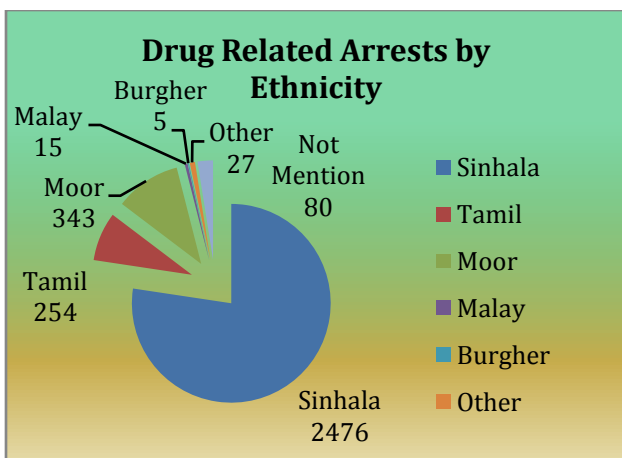
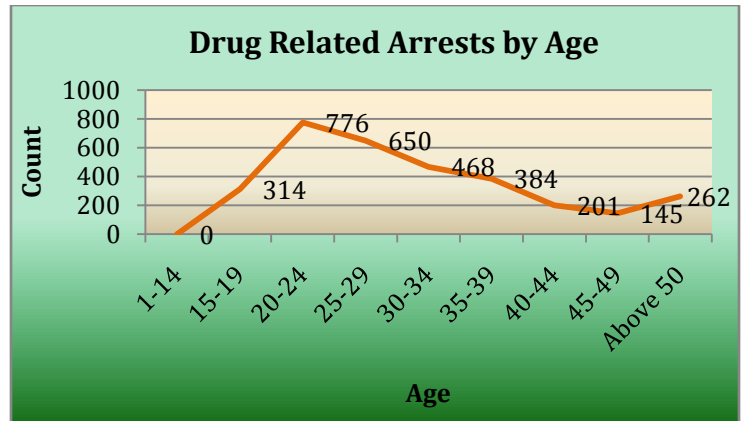
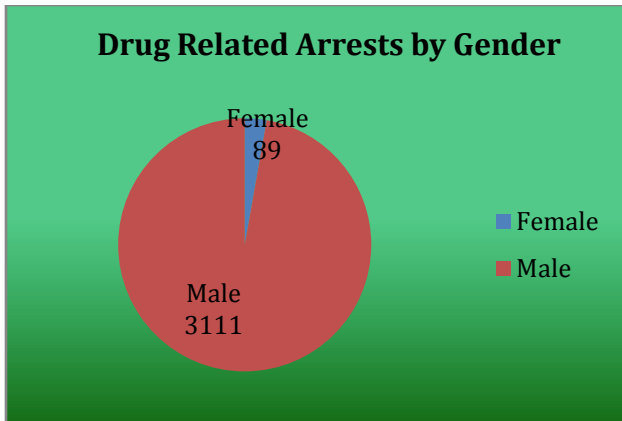
By considering the religion of the arrested persons the majority, 75%, were Buddhists but arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicates that religion and ethnicity are not significant factors for engaging the drug related offence.

Most of the arrested person, 34%, were working as labourers and some of the arrested person were working as drivers, farmers, fishermen etc. 1% of arrested persons were students and 10% were unemployed. Also, 2% of arrested persons were professionals.

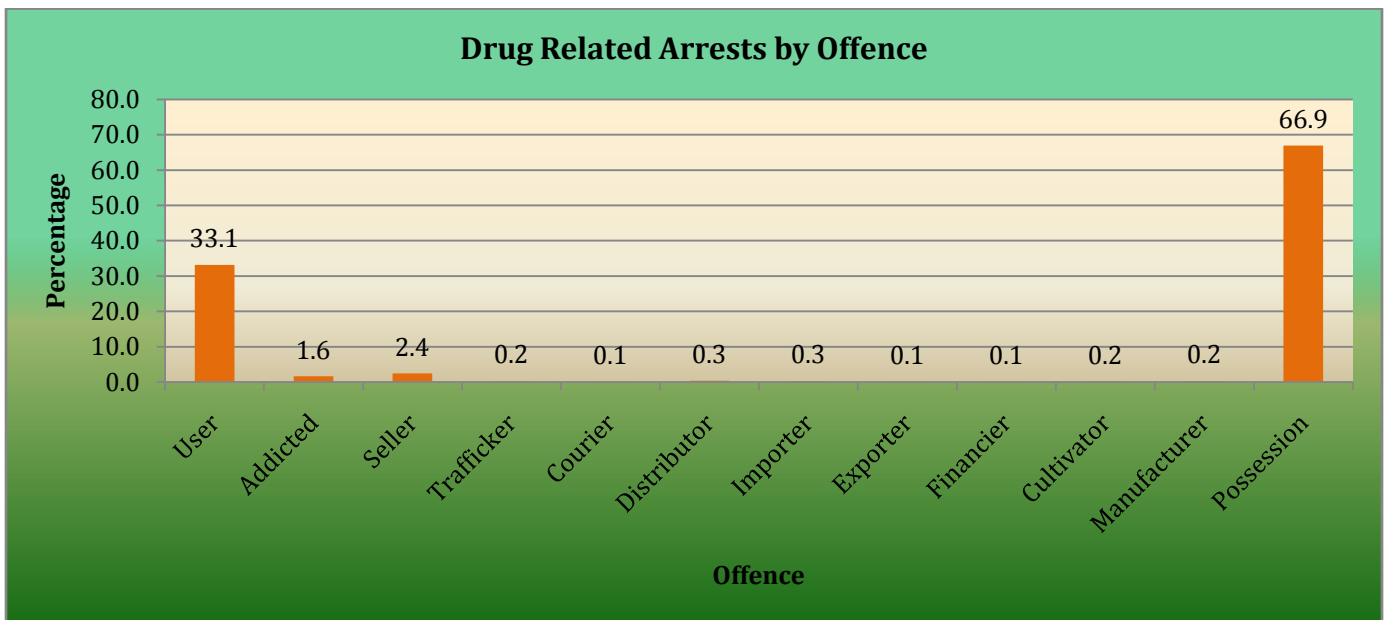
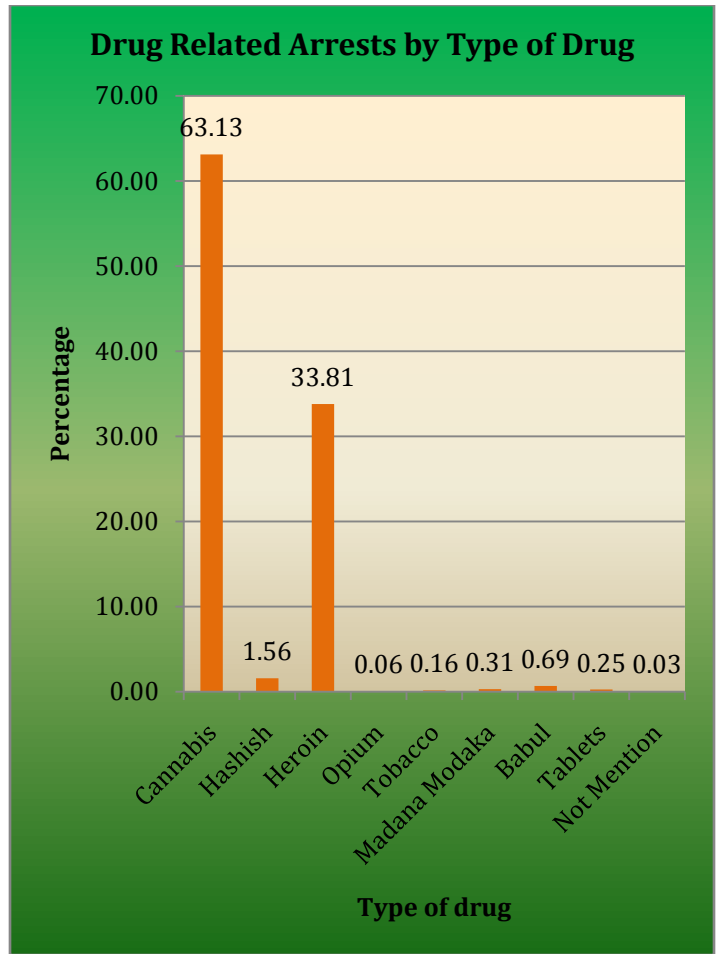
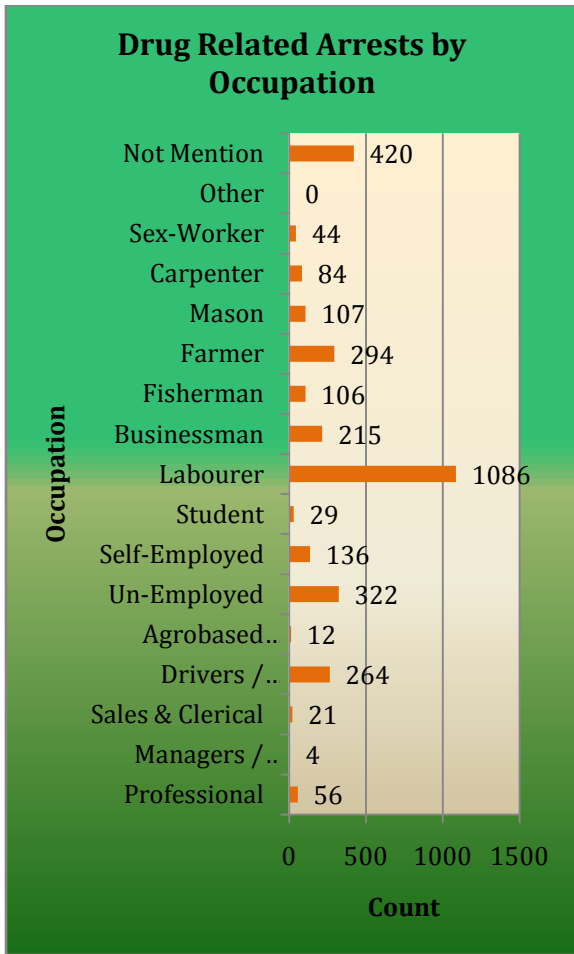
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences, It was 63%. Heroin is next highest drug and 34% were arrested for heroin related offence. Hashish, Babul, Madana Modaka, Tobacco, Opium and Tablets were rest of the drugs, which were involved in drug related offences. Most of the arrested persons, 66.9%, were arrested for possession of drugs and 33.1% were arrested for abusing drugs.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in August of 2017)



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