

# Drug Related Information Monthly Report - October 2018

## Fact Sheet



**Research Division**  
**National Dangerous Drugs Control Board**

## **Introduction**

Currently, drug prevalence and drug related offences are being increased and drug related offenders who were being arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies also have been increased. 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 September and October in 2018 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 for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programs.

## **Results and Findings**

According to the recorded figures, 6923 persons were arrested for drug related offences during September and October in 2018. From these arrestees, 2490 persons were arrested in September and 4433 persons were arrested in October. It was 78% increase in October with compare to September.

## **District**

By considering the arrested data in October, the highest number of persons, 272, was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Kalutara and Kandy districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrestees respectively. 17 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in October with compared to September and highest increase, 453%, was reported from Colombo district. 8 districts showed a decrease in October with compared to September and highest decrease, 45%, was indicated in Ratnapura district. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period and it was one of the evidence for drug abuse prevalence in Sri Lanka.

**Gender**

The majority, 97%, of the arrested persons in October was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in September and October, the majority, male arrestees had been increased by 1% in October.

**Age**

59.1% of arrested persons in October belonged to 20-34 age category and there were 1 arrested person less than 15 years old. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in September with October, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

**Marital Status**

48.93% of arrested persons in October were married and 50.60% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in October was divorced, separated and cohabited. By considering of arrested persons in September, 47.79% of them were unmarried and 51.89% were married while rest of them was divorced, widowed and cohabited. Therefore it can be concluded that the proportion of married arrested persons in October was decreased in compared to the arrested persons in September while proportion of unmarried arrested persons in October was increased.

**Education**

Although 3.7% of arrested persons in October never been to school, there were 38.9% of arrested persons whose educational level was Ordinary Level. Also, 8.1% of the arrested persons in October had completed advanced level and there were some graduates and professionals. By considering the arrested persons in September, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each of all educational categories.

## **Ethnicity and Religion**

78.2% of the arrested persons in October were Sinhalese, 9.2% were Tamils, 8.9% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in September and October, the majority of the arrested persons in each of these two months was Sinhalese but 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 September as well as in October.

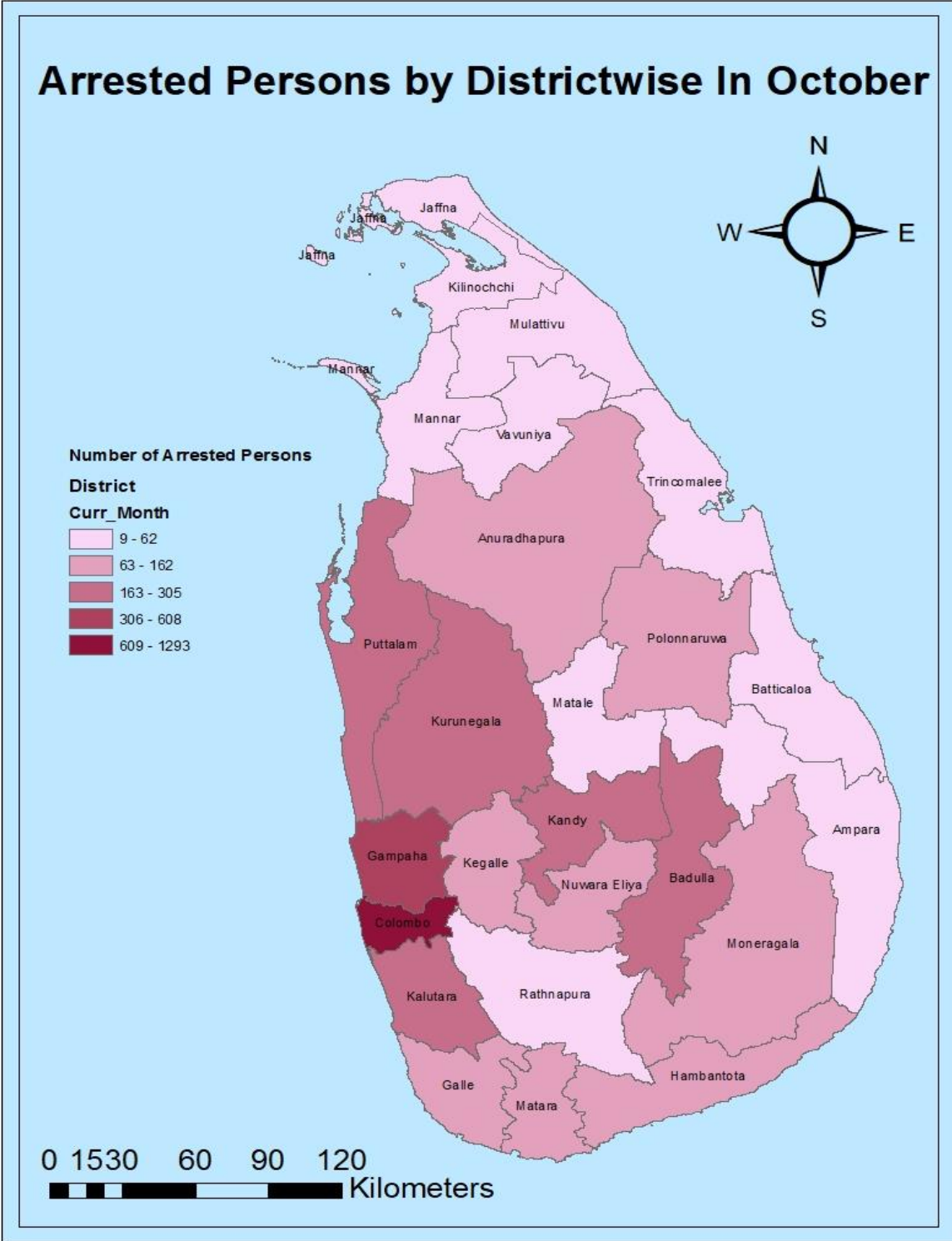
74.24% of the arrested persons in October were Buddhists, 11.03% were Islam, 7.94% were Hindus and 6.72% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in September with October, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in September and October were significantly similar and the 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**

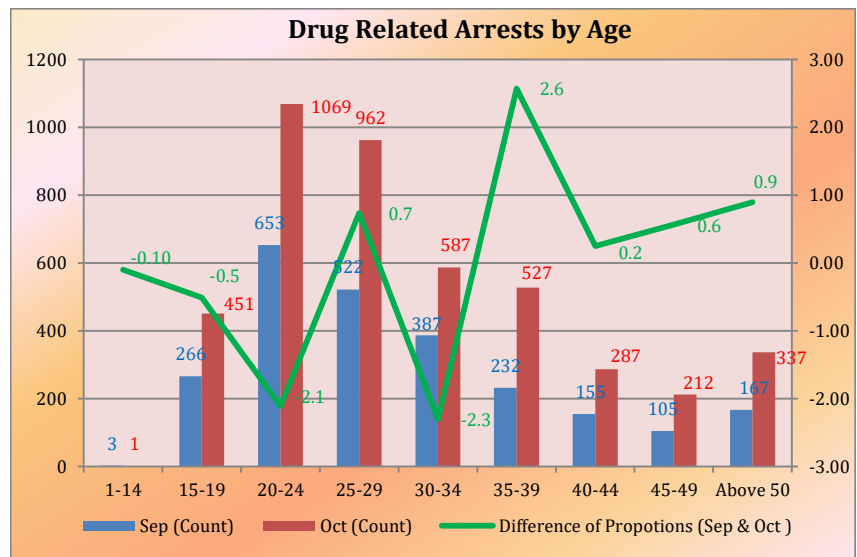
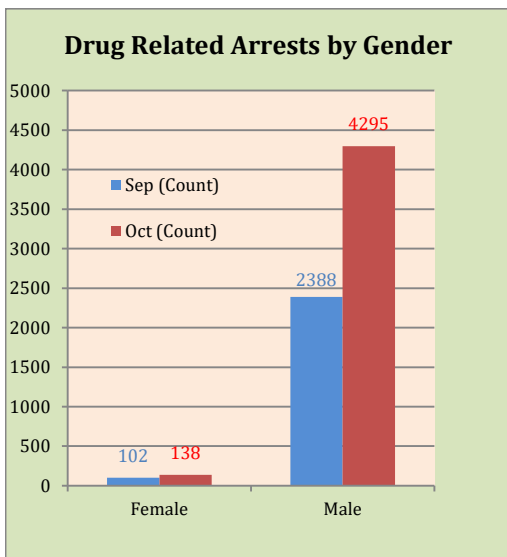
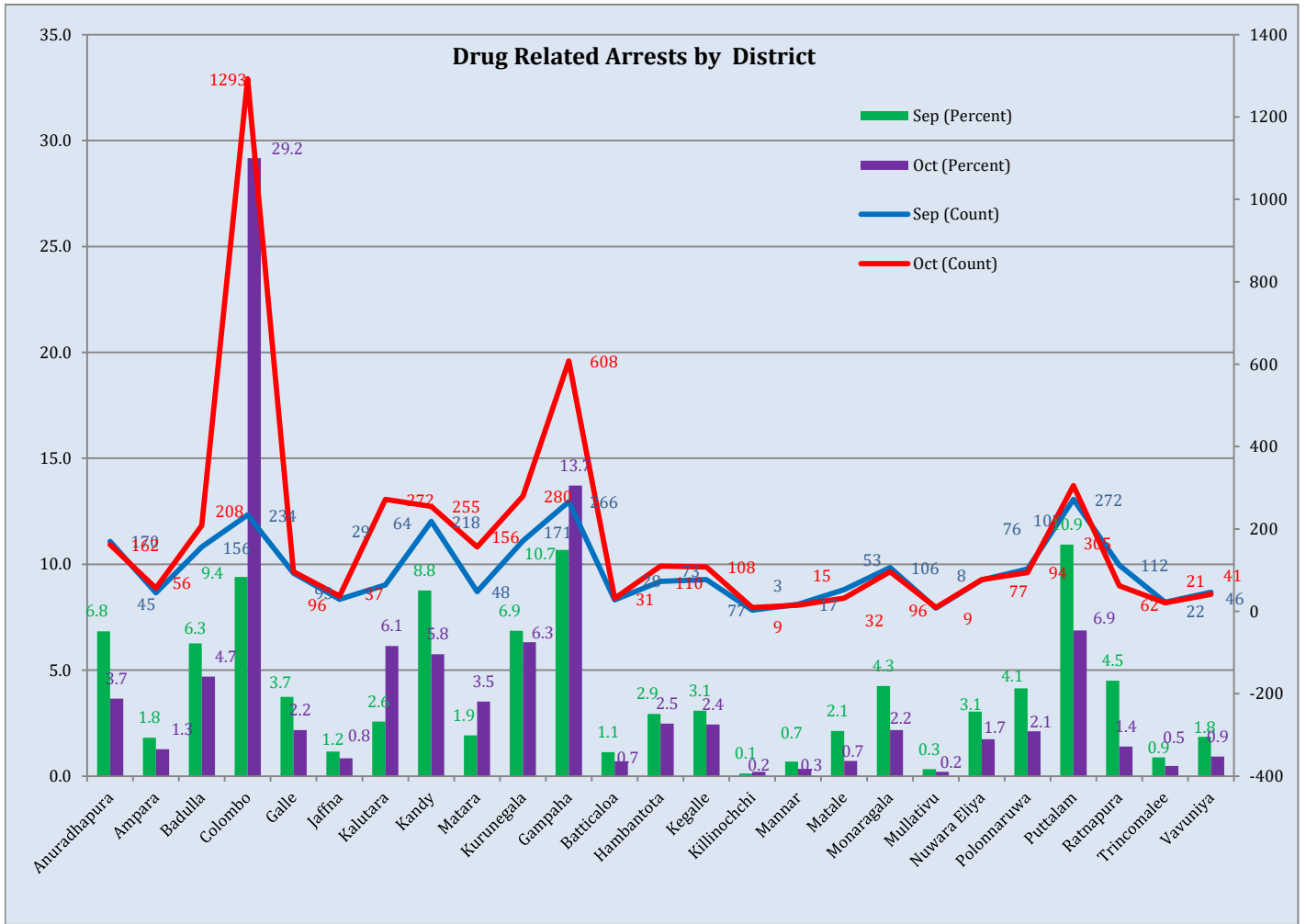
From the related data in October, 31.9% of arrestees were labourers, 8.3% were farmers, 11.7% were unemployed, 4.0% were self-employed, 1.2% was students and 3.3% were professionals. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between September and October, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each of both months and 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 October with compared to September.

## **Type of Drugs**

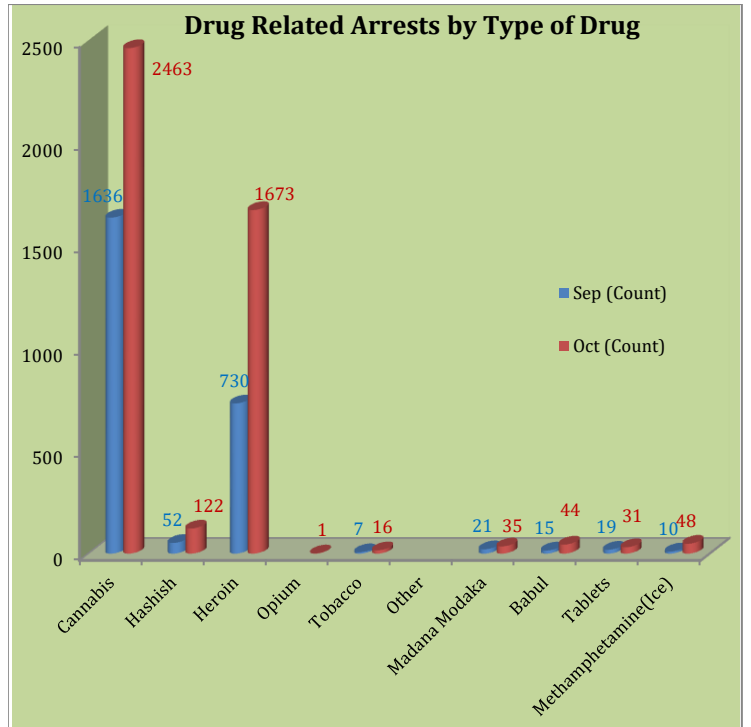
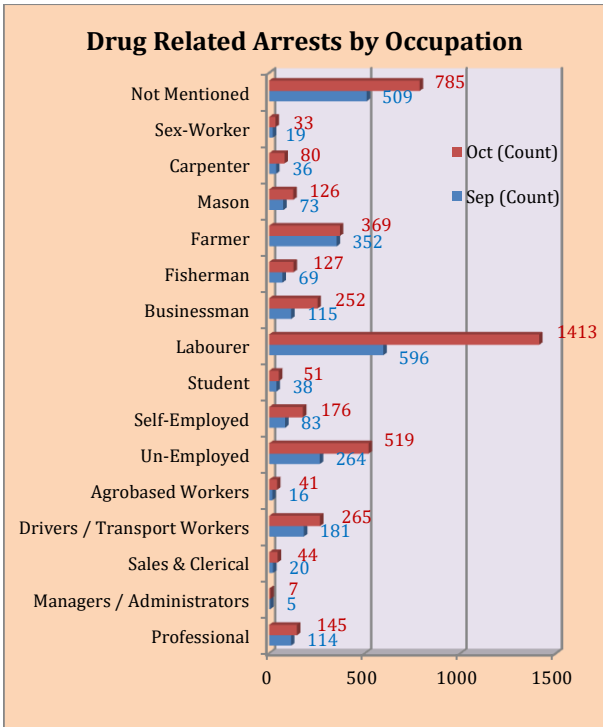
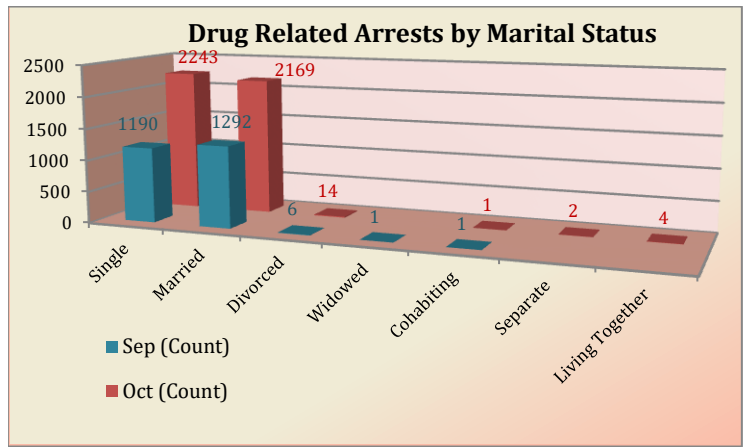
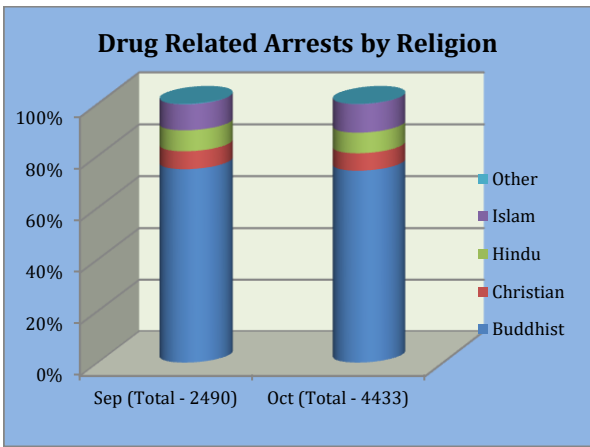
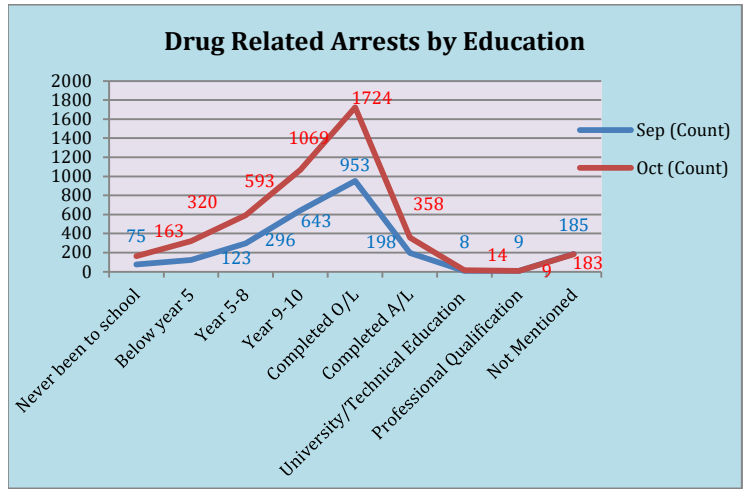
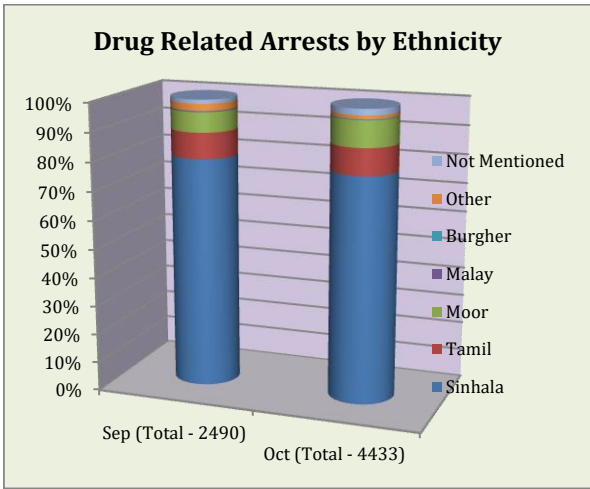
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in September as well as October, but the cannabis related offence had been decreased from 65.7% to 55.56% in October with compared to September. Heroin was the next highest drug. 29.32% and 37.74% of arrestees in September and October respectively were engaging in heroin related offence. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium, methamphetamine (Ice) and tablets were rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in September - October of 2018)



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