

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - September 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 August and September 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, 4416 persons were arrested for drug related offences during August and September in 2018. From these arrestees, 1926 persons were arrested in August and 2490 persons were arrested in September. It was 29% increase in September with compare to August.

District

By considering the arrested data in September, the highest number of persons, 272, was reported from Puttalam district. Gampaha, Colombo, Kandy and Anuradhapura districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrestees respectively. 17 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in September with compared to August and highest increase, 149%, was reported from Gampaha district. 8 districts showed a decrease in September with compared to August and highest decrease, 22%, was indicated in Kalutara 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

Majority, 96%, of the arrested persons in September was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in August and September, the majority, male arrestees had been decreased by 1% in September.

Age

62.7% of arrested persons in September belonged to 20-34 age category and there were 3 arrested persons 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 August with September, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

Marital Status

51.89% of arrested persons in September were married and 47.79% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in September was divorced, widowed and cohabiting. By considering of arrested persons in August, 51.45% of them were unmarried and 48.29% were married while rest of them was divorced. Therefore it can be concluded that proportion of unmarried arrested persons in September was decreased in compared to the arrested persons in August while proportion of married arrested persons in September was increased.

Education

Although 3% of arrested persons in September never been to school, there were 38.3% of arrested persons whose educational level was Ordinary Level. Also, 8% of the arrested persons in September had completed advanced level and there were some graduates and professionals. By considering the arrested persons in August, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each of all educational categories except the category of professionally qualified.

Ethnicity and Religion

79.9% of the arrested persons in September were Sinhalese, 9% were Tamils, 6.9% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in August and September, 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 percentage of Tamils was greater than percentage of Moors in August as well as in September.

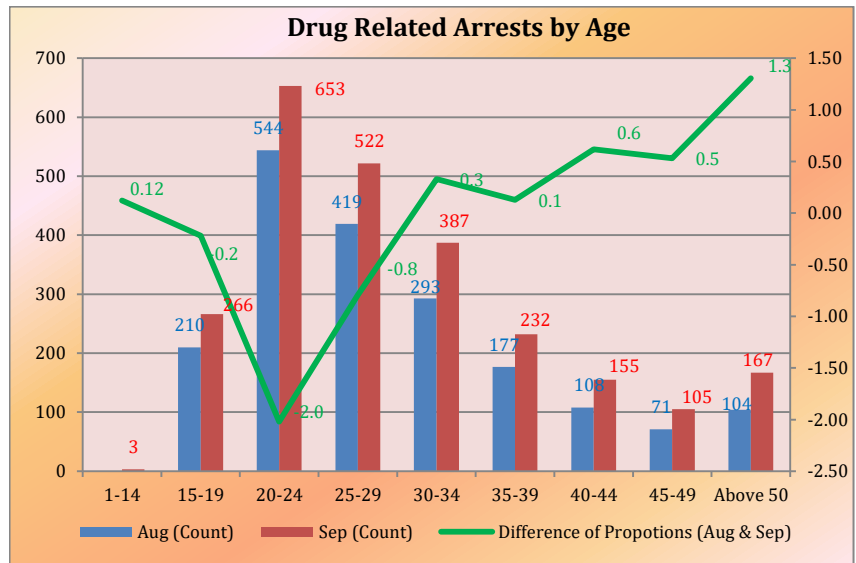
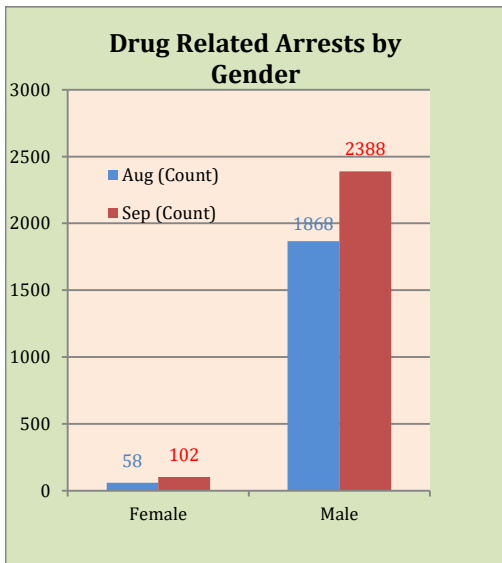
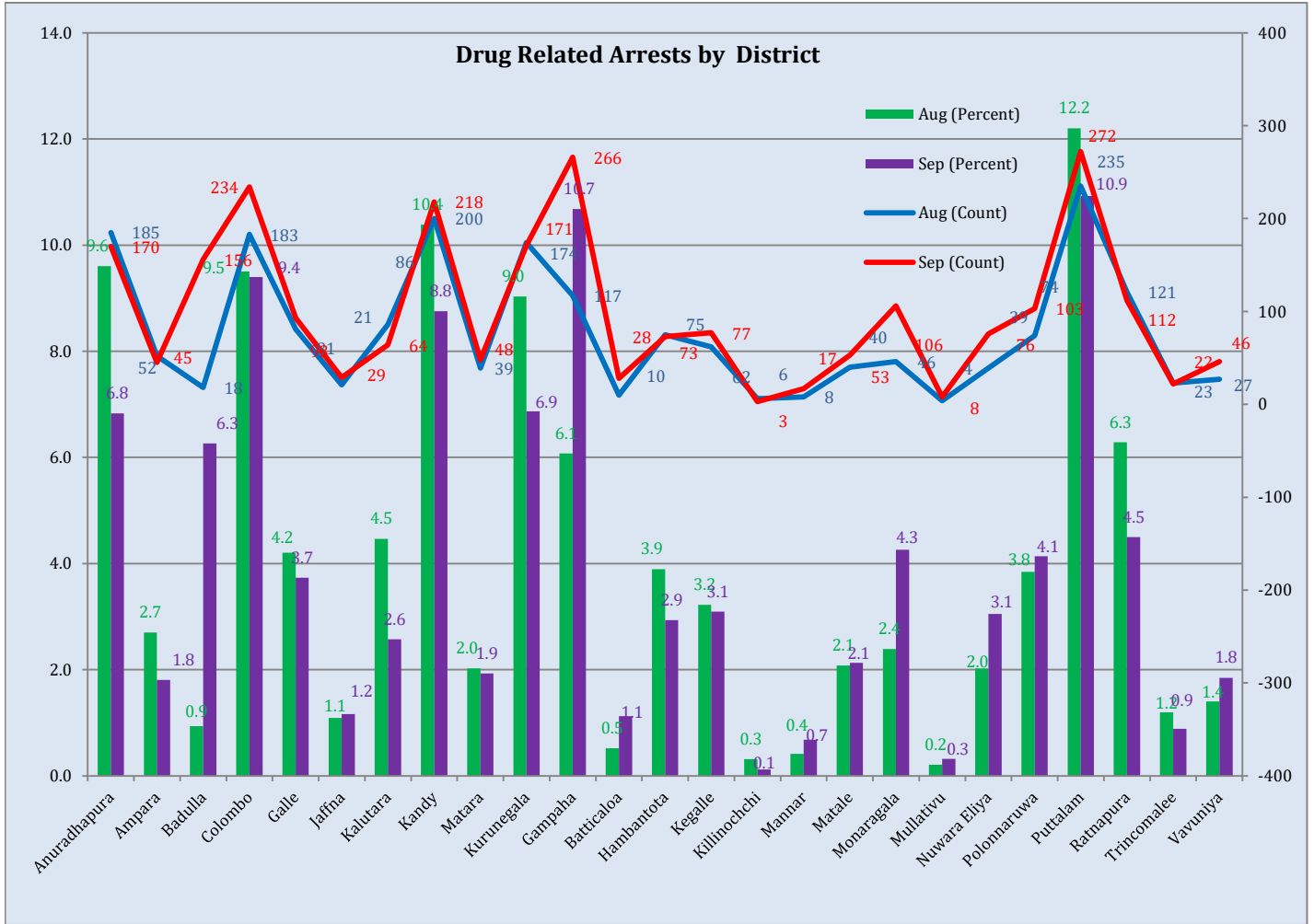
74.82% of the arrested persons in September were Buddhists, 10.04% were Islam, 8.07% were Hindus and 6.91% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in August with September, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in August and September were significantly similar and 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

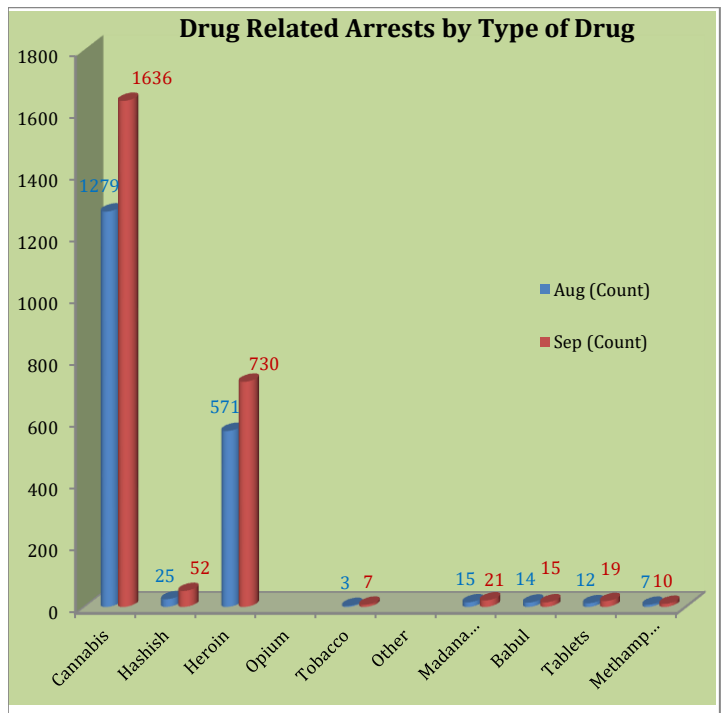
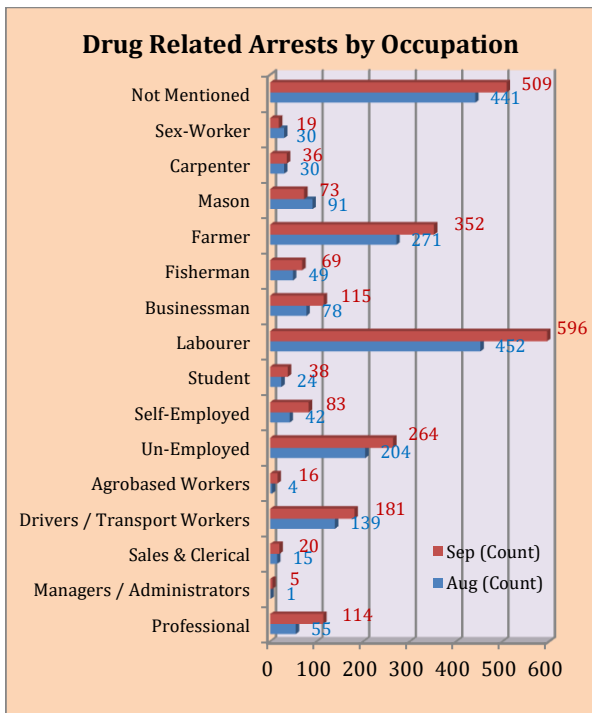
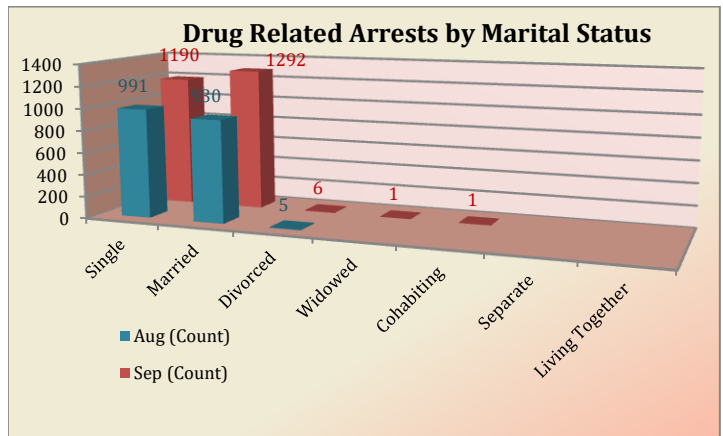
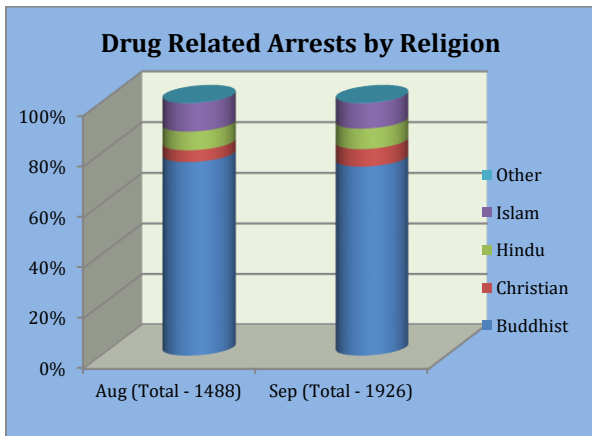
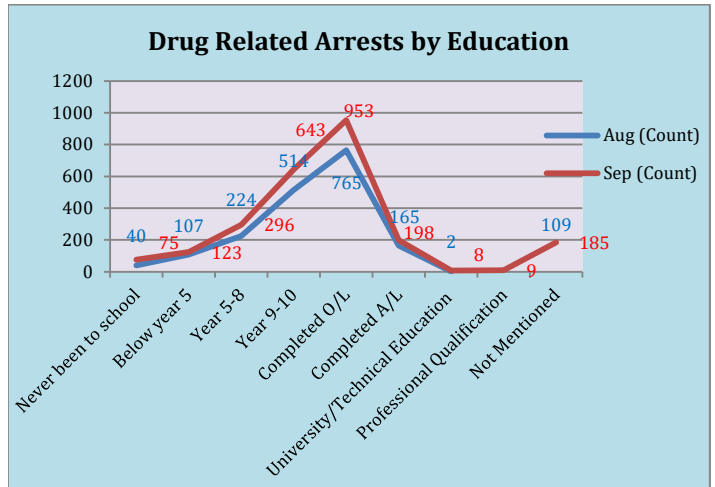
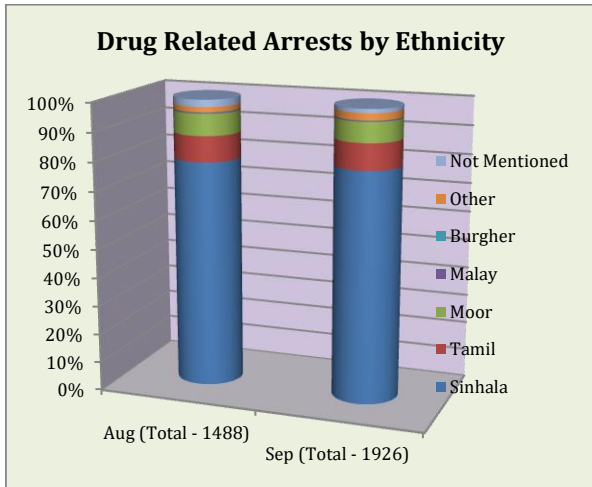
From the related data in September, 23.9% of arrestees were labourers, 14.1% were farmers, 10.6% were unemployed, 3.3% were self-employed, 1.5% was students and 4.6% were professionals. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between August and September, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each of the 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 September with compared to August.

Type of Drugs

Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in August as well as September, but cannabis related offence had been decreased from 66.4% to 65.7% in September with compared to August. Heroin was the next highest drug. 29.65% and 29.32% of arrestees in August and September respectively were engaging on 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 August - September of 2018)



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