Drug Related Information Monthly Report - May 2020

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 and May in 2020 and the report revealed information on drug related arrests.

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, 2597 persons were arrested for drug related offences during April and May in 2020. Among these arrestees, 1185 persons were arrested in April and 1412 persons were arrested in May. It was 19% increase in May with compare to April in 2020.

District

By considering the arrested data in May, the highest number of persons (187) was reported from Colombo district. Monaragala (142), Anuradhapura (141), Kegalle (127) and Puttalam (107) districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 14 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in May with compared to April and highest increasing percentage was reported from Colombo district. 10 districts showed a decrease in May with compared to April in 2020 and highest decreasing percentage was indicated from Kurunegala district. There was no any arrested person in April and May from Killinochchi district. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district except Killinochchi during the considered period.

Gender

The majority (99%) 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 figures were same.

Age

65% 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

53.40% of the arrested persons in May were married and 46.39% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in May was divorced. By considering the arrested persons in April, 52.15% of them were unmarried and 47.59% were married while rest of them was divorced. The data highlighted that the percentage of married arrested persons in May was greater than the percentage of unmarried persons and it was vice versa in April.

Education

Although 1.63% of arrested persons in May never been to school, there were 37.96% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 8.64% of the arrested persons in May had completed advanced level. There were 5 arrested graduates 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 professionals.

Ethnicity and Religion

72.9% of the arrested persons in May were Sinhalese, 11.5% were Tamils, 11.0% 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.

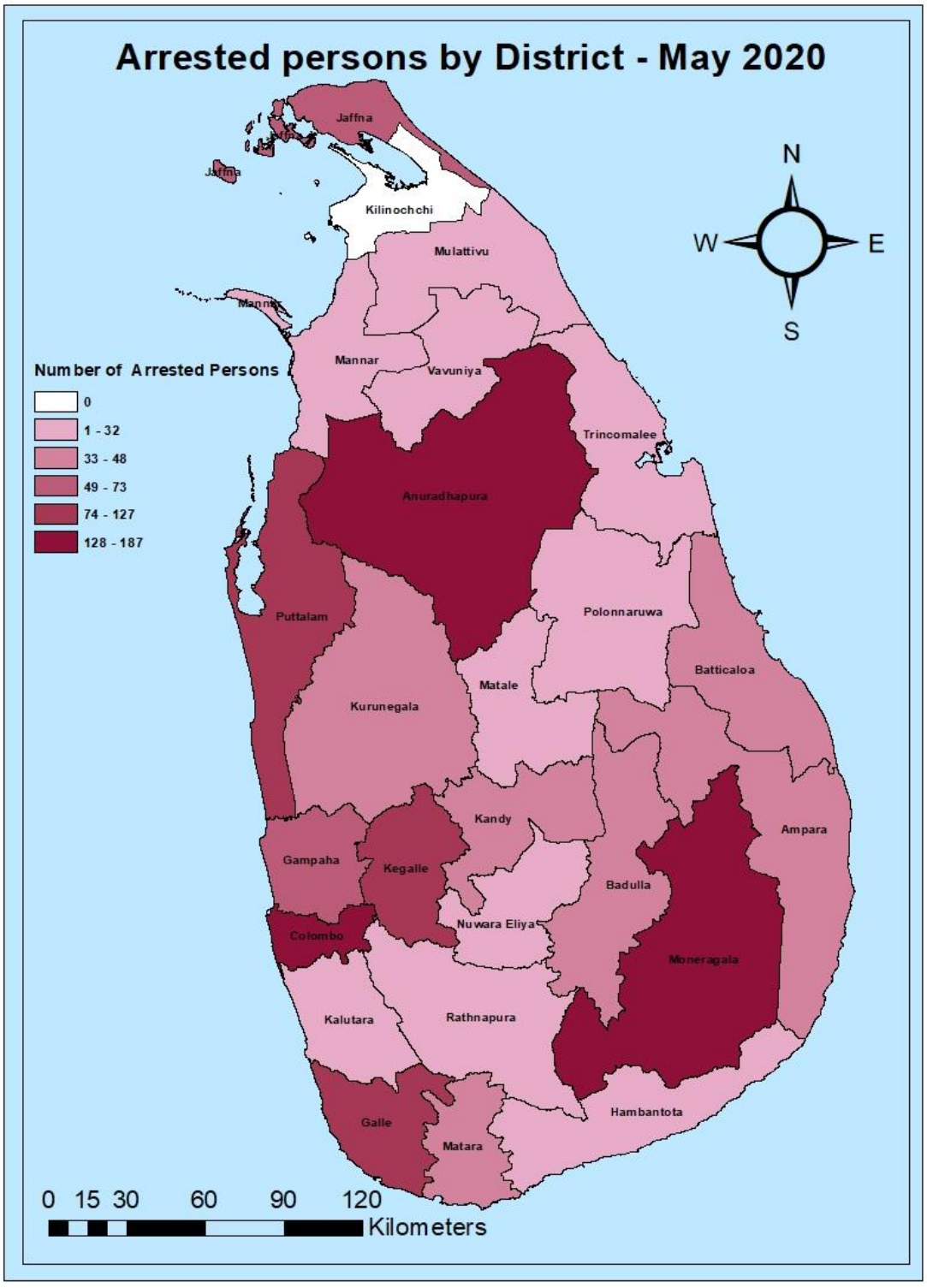
71.46% of the arrested persons in May were Buddhists, 13.74% were Islam, 9.35% were Hindus and 4.04% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in April with May, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in April and May were significantly similar. Majority of the 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

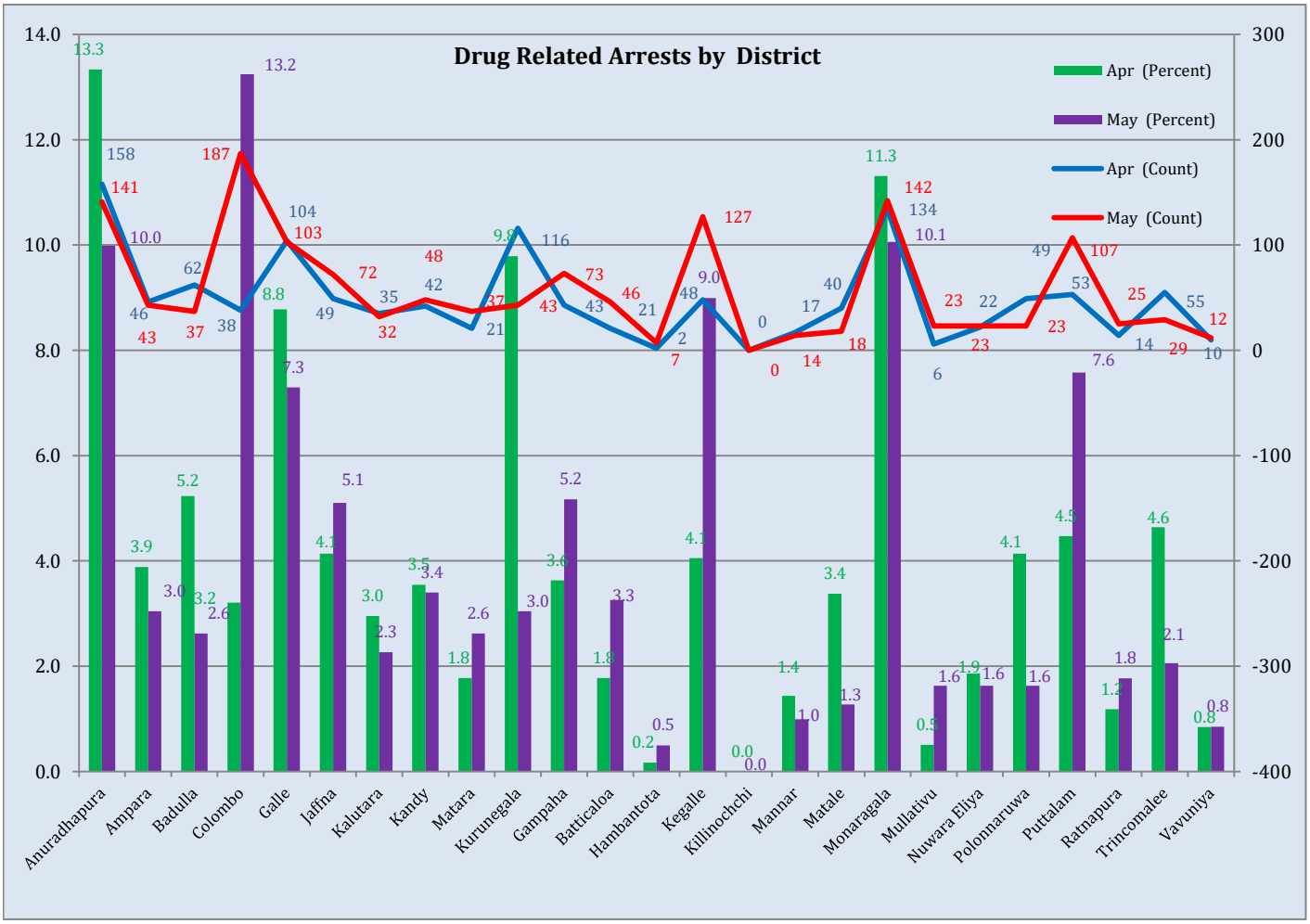
From the related data in May, 28.7% of arrestees were labourers, 17.4% were farmers, 14.9% were unemployed, 3.3% were self-employed, 0.4% was students and 2.7% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between April and May, it can be clearly identified that ratio 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.

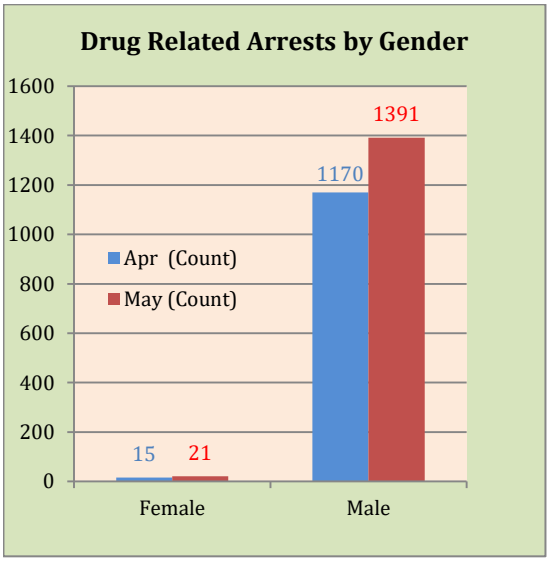
Type of Drugs

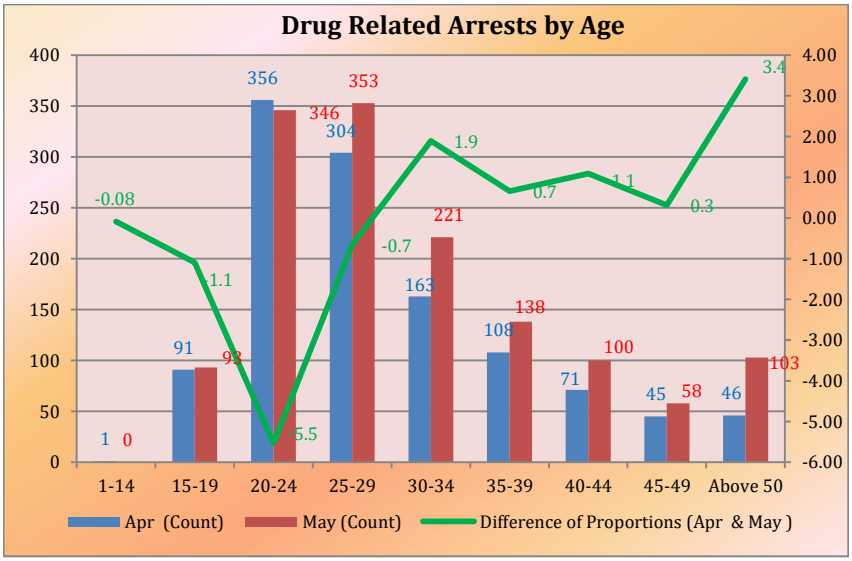
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in April, but the cannabis related offences had been decreased from 60.42% to 45.75% in May with compared to April. Heroin was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in May and 36.71% and 48.73% of arrestees in April and May were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish (0.07%), madanamodaka (0.64), babul (0.14%), tablets (0.64%), L.S.D (0.07%), and methamphetamine (Ice) (2.76%) were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences in May.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in April - May 2020)







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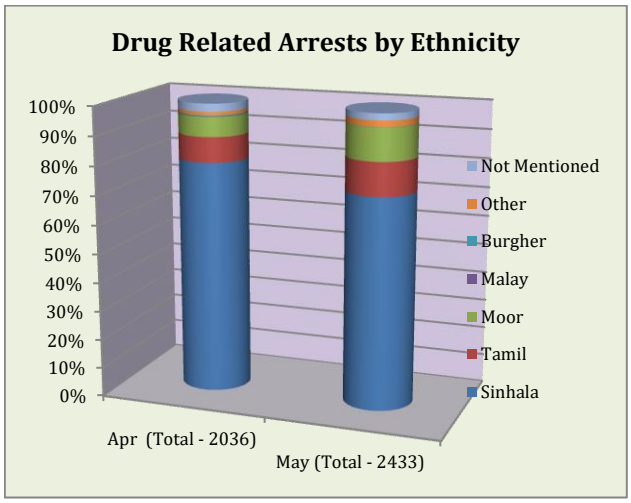

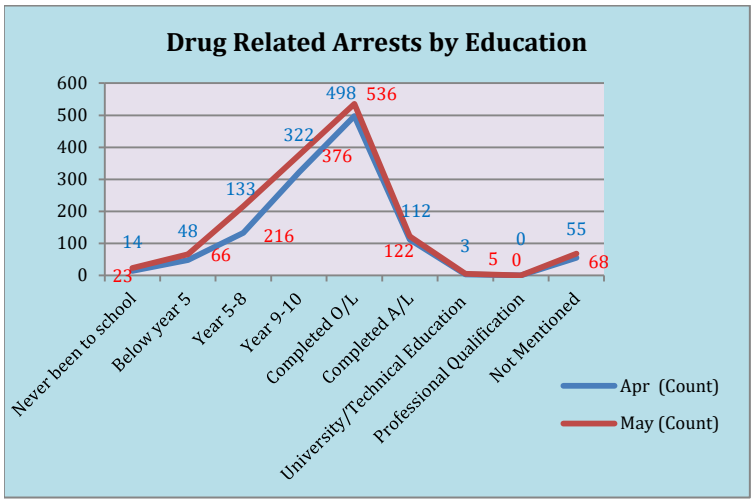

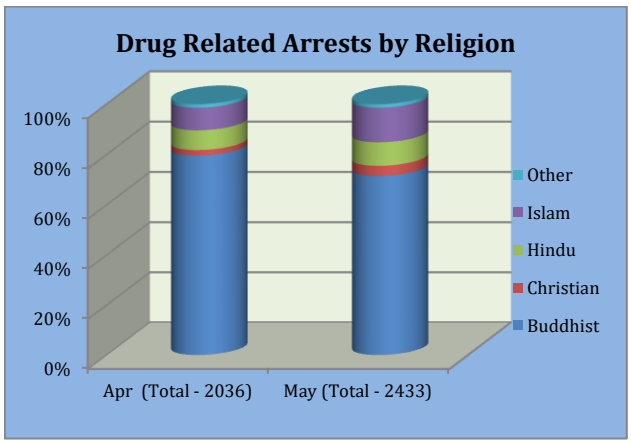

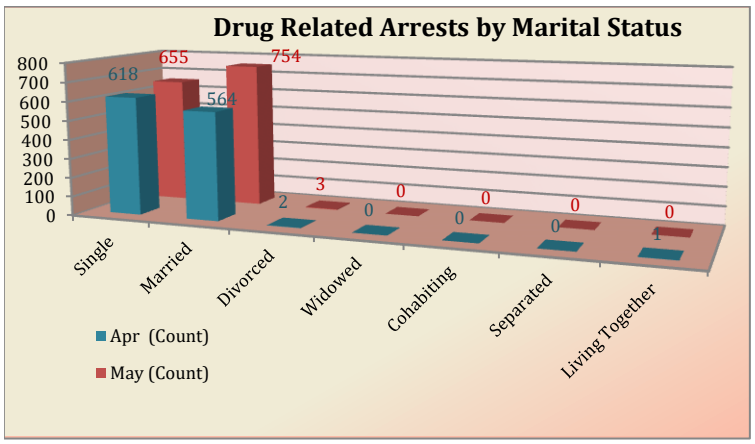

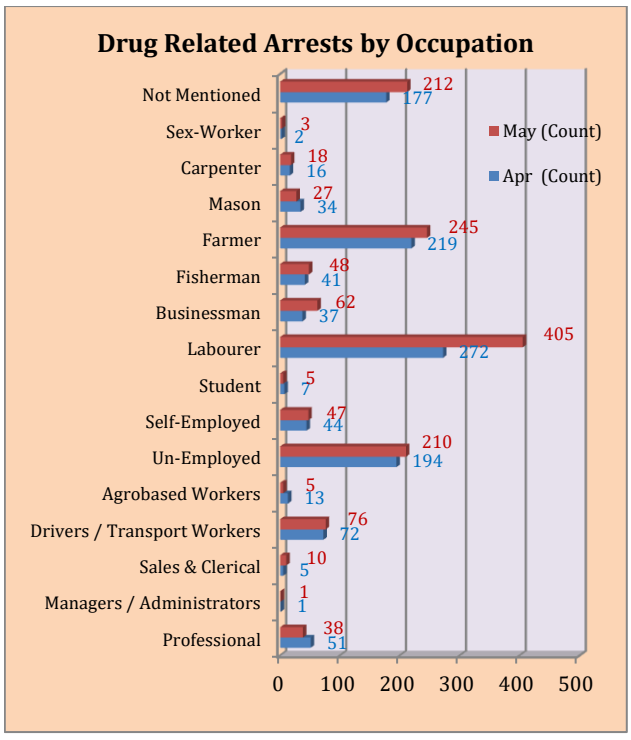

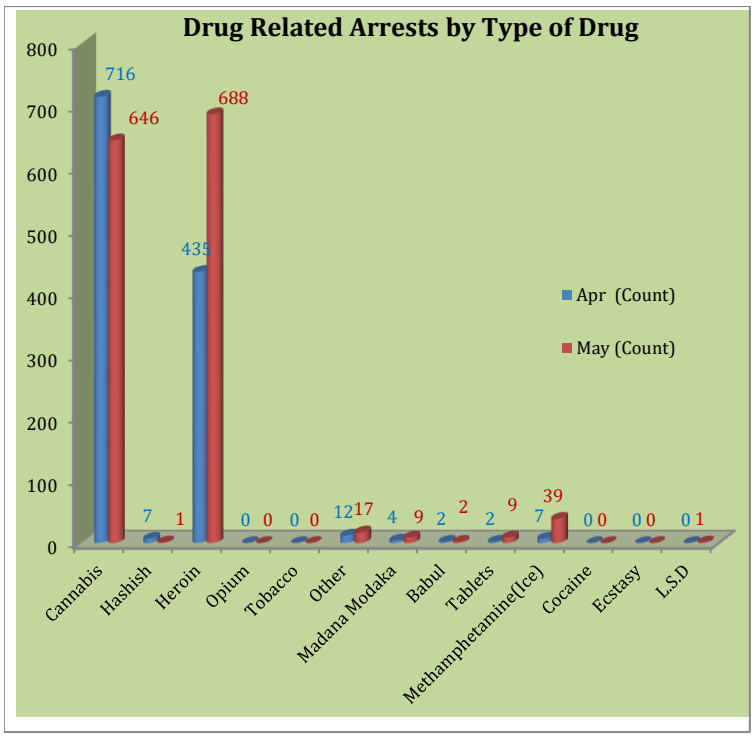

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