

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - November 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 October and November in 2019 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, 4651 persons were arrested for drug related offences during October and November in 2019. Among these arrestees, 2615 persons were arrested in October and 2036 persons were arrested in November. It was 22% decrease in November with compare to October in 2019.

District

By considering the arrested data in November, the highest number of persons (627) was reported from Colombo district. Puttalam (146), Gampaha (122), Galle (121) and Kalutara (118) districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 4 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in November with compared to October and highest increasing percentage was reported from Trincomalee district. 19 districts showed a decrease in November with compared to October in 2019 and highest decreasing percentage was indicated from Matale district. 24 persons were arrested from Matara district, 4 persons were arrested from Mullativu district in October and it was same in November. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period except Killinochchi district (0) in October.

Gender

The majority (98%) of the arrested persons in November was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in October and November, the majorities were males in both months and percentage of male was decreased from 99% to 98%.

Age

60% of arrested persons in November belonged to 20-34 age category. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in October with November, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

Marital Status

48.58% of the arrested persons in November were married and 50.83% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in November was divorced, widowed and separated. By considering the arrested persons in October, 46.73% of them were unmarried and 53.0% were married while rest of them was divorced, widowed and separated. The data highlighted that the percentage of unmarried arrested persons in November was greater than the percentage of married persons and it was vice versa in October.

Education

Although 2.46% of arrested persons in November never been to school, there were 37.87% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 7.96% of the arrested persons in November had completed advanced level. There were 9 arrested graduates in November. By considering the arrested persons in October, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each educational category except category of professionals.

Ethnicity and Religion

71.8% of the arrested persons in November were Sinhalese, 13.2% were Tamils, 9.8% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in October and November, 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 October and it was same in November.

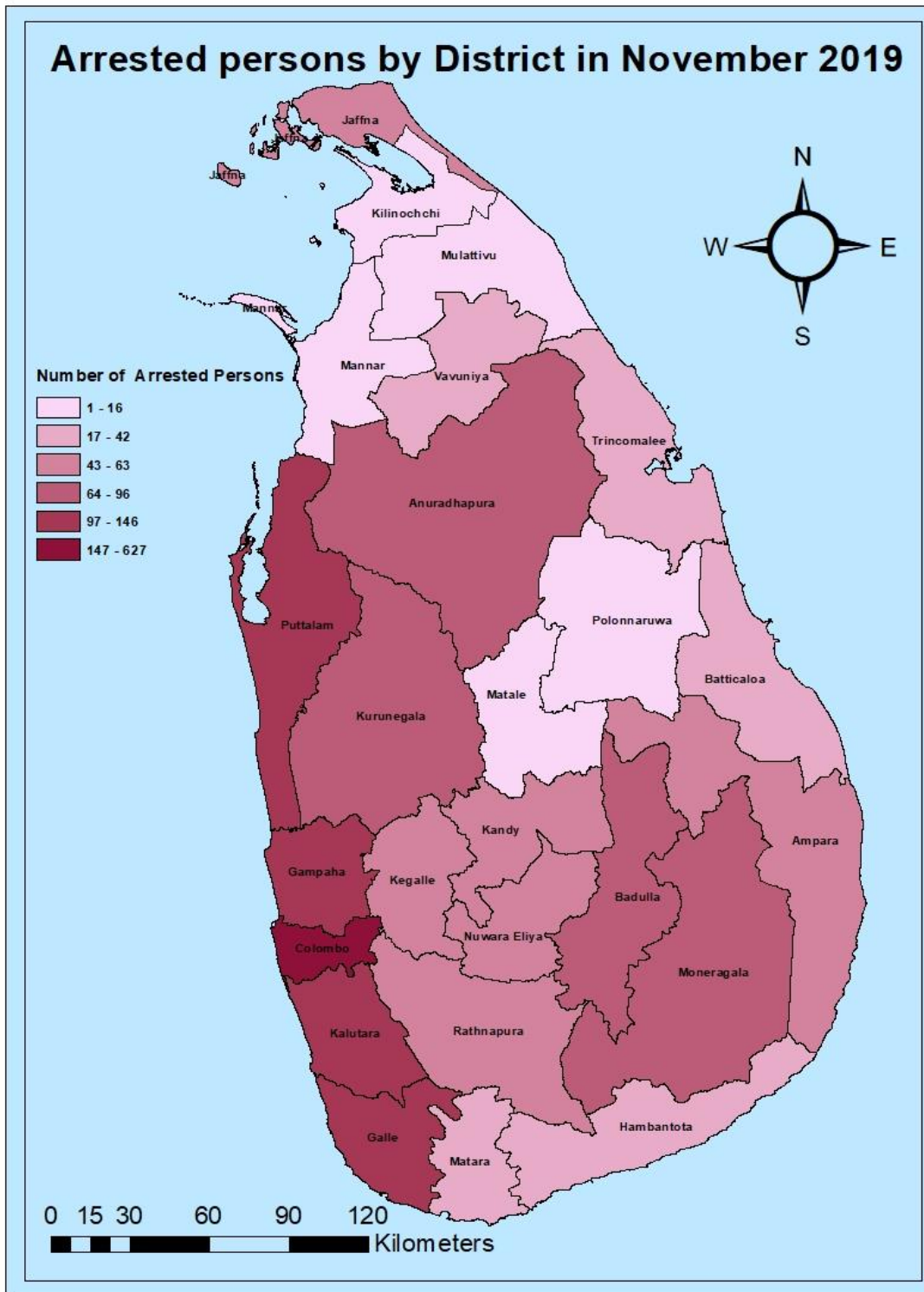
70.38% of the arrested persons in November were Buddhists, 13.16% were Islam, 10.81% were Hindus and 5.55% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in October with November, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in October and November were significantly similar. 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

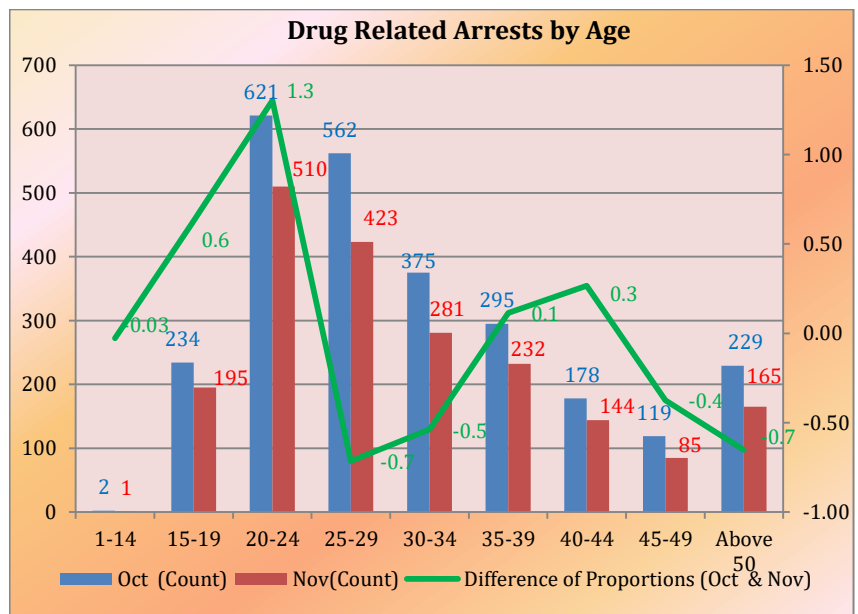
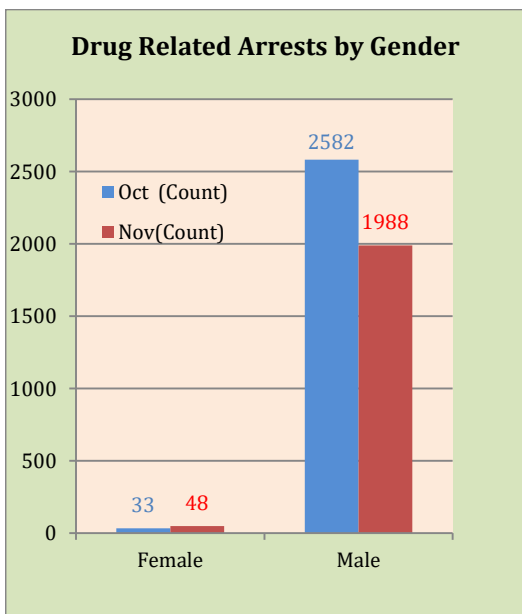
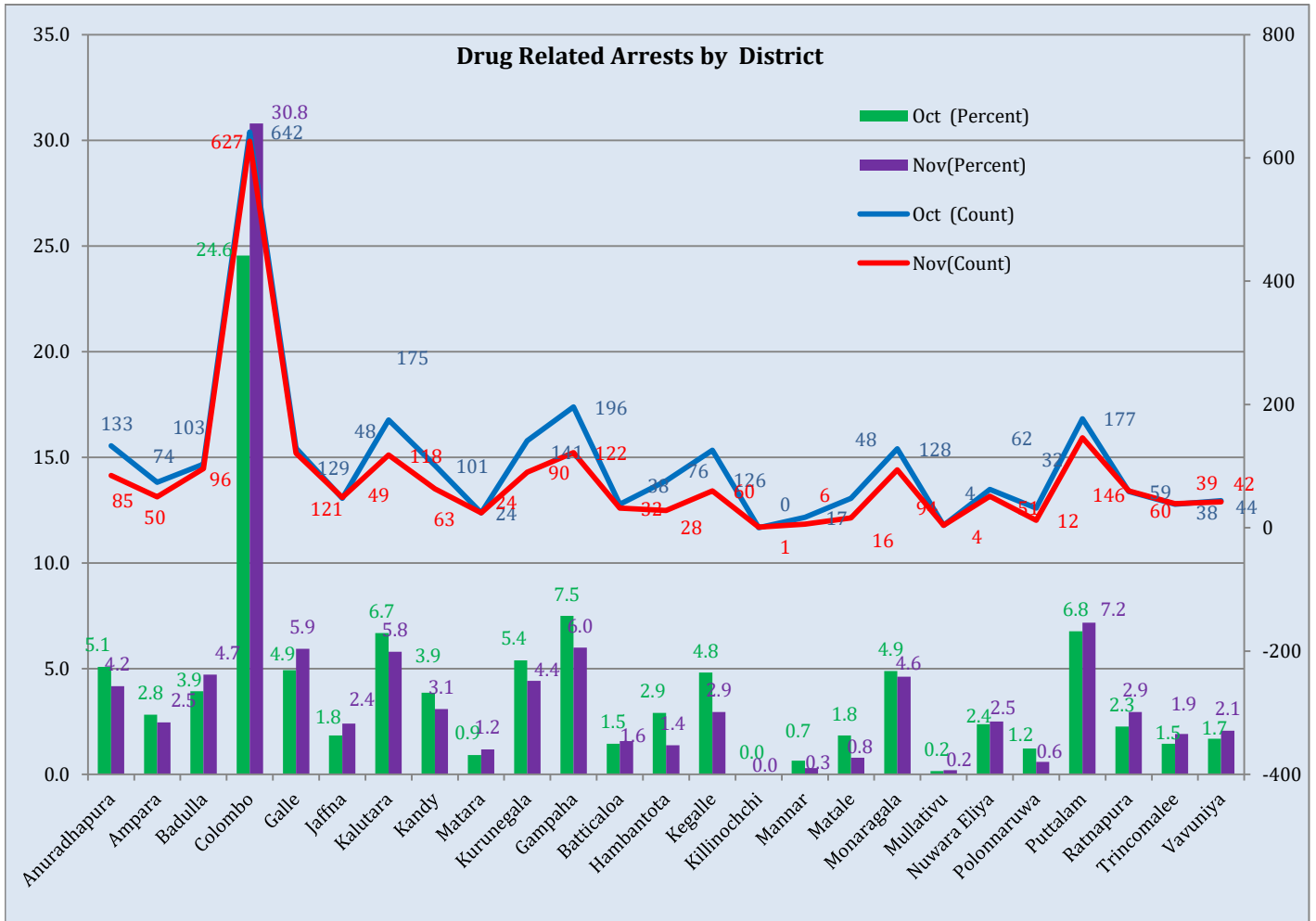
From the related data in November, 41.4% of arrestees were labourers, 8.3% were farmers, 13.7% were unemployed, 3.9% were self-employed, 1.1% was students and 2.4% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between October and November, it can be clearly identified 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 November with compared to October.

Type of Drugs

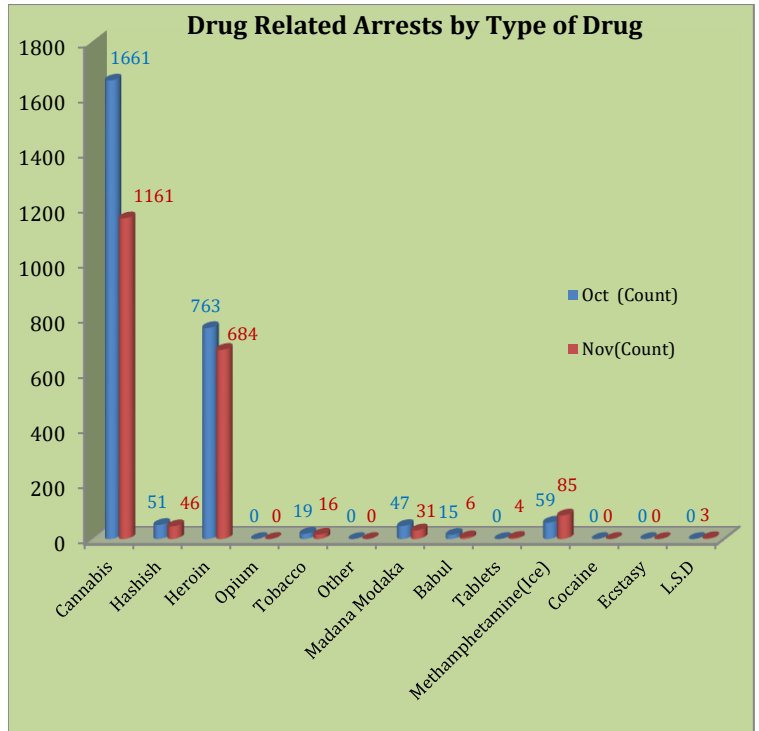
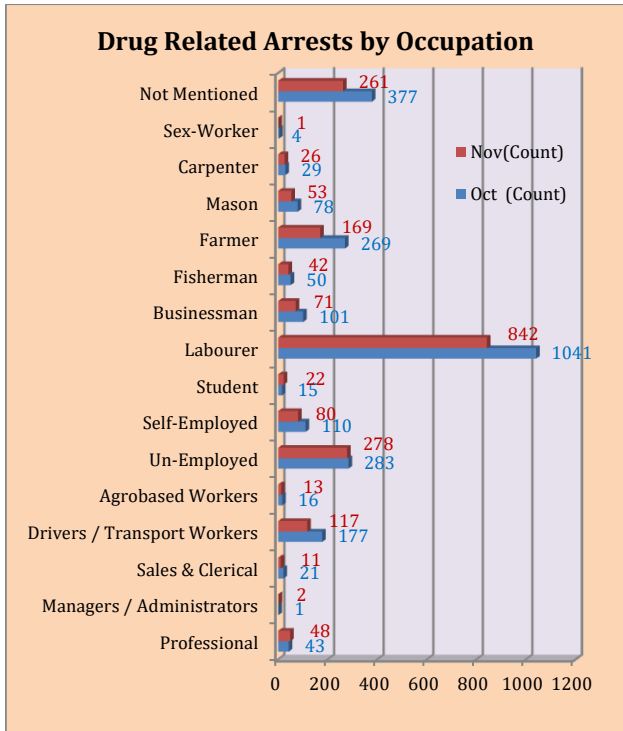
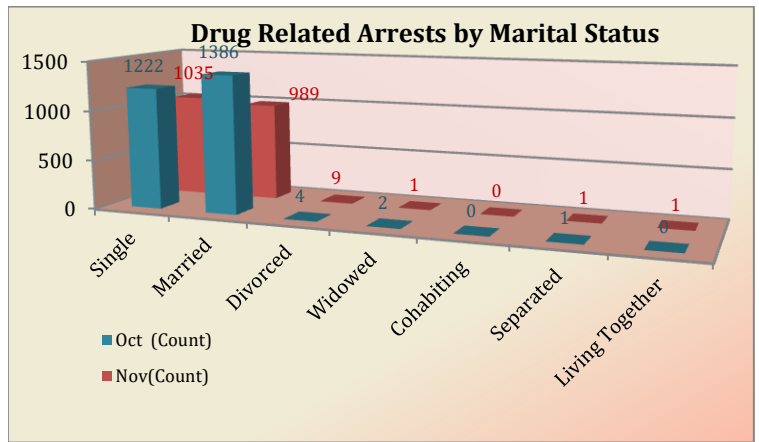
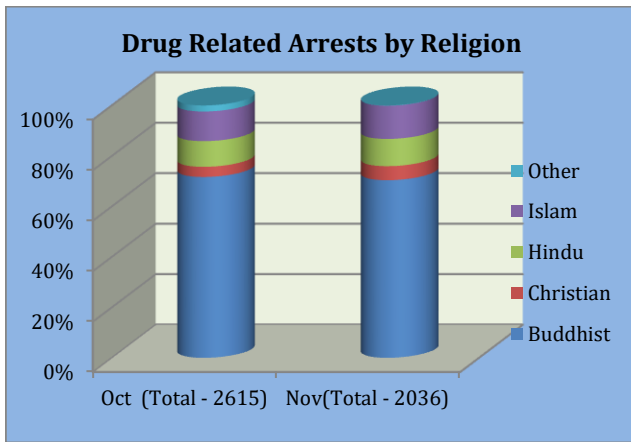
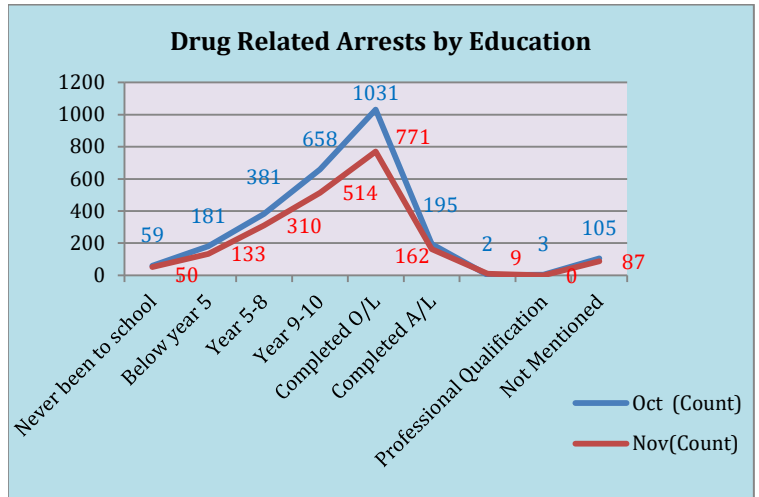
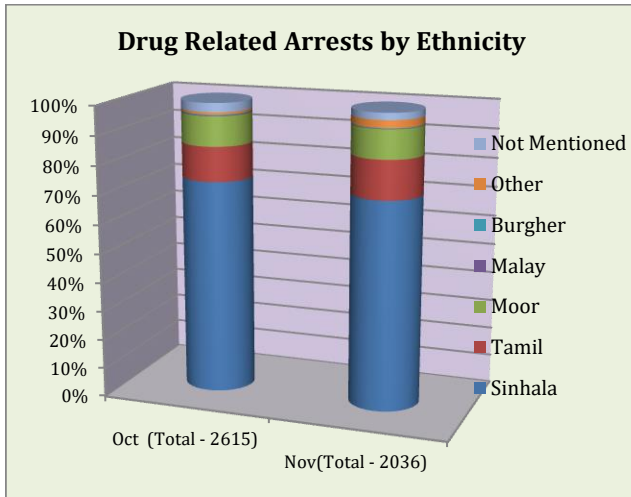
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in October as well as November, but the cannabis related offences had been decreased from 63.52% to 57.02% in November with compared to October. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 29.18% and 33.60% of arrestees in October and November were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish (2.26%), tobacco (0.79%), madanamodaka (1.52), babul (0.29), tablets (0.20), L.S.D (0.15) and methamphetamine (Ice) (4.17) were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences in November.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in October - November 2019)



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in October - November 2019)



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in October - November 2019)