

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - April 2018 Fact Sheet



**Research Division
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board**

Introduction

Currently, drug prevalence and drug related offences are being increased. Therefore, law enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka implement law against persons who engage in drug related offences. Studying 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 reported data of DAMS in March and April in 2018 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 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 2856 persons were arrested for drug related offences during March and April in 2018. From these 2856 arrestees, 1608 persons were arrested in March and 1248 persons were arrested in April. It was 22% decrease in April with compare to March.

District

By considering the arrested data in April, the highest number of persons, 192, was from Puttalam district. Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Kalutara and Colombo districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 16 districts were highlighted with decrease number of arrested persons in April with compared to March and highest decrease, 64%, was reported from Colombo district. However, no any change was reported from Badulla, Mullativu and Matale. Other 6 districts showed an increase in April with compared to March with highest increase, 173%, were indicated in Trincomalee district. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district in Sri Lanka during the considered period and it was an evidence for drug abuse prevalence in Sri Lanka.

Gender

Majority, 97%, of arrested persons in April was male and rest of the arrested persons was female. By comparing the data in March and April, the majority, male arrestees had been increased by 1% in April with compare to March and there was 96% of male from arrested persons in March.

Age

63% of arrested persons in April belonged to 20-34 year age category and no any person less than 15 years had been arrested and there were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in March with April, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories while no any person less than 15 years had been arrested in both months.

Marital Status

49.1% of arrested persons in April were married and 50.2% of arrested persons were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in April was divorced and cohabiting. By considering arrested persons in March, 46.6% of them were unmarried and 53% of them were married while rest of them were divorced and widowed. Therefore it can be concluded that proportion of married arrested persons in April were decreased by comparing the arrested persons in March while proportion of unmarried arrested persons in April were increased.

Education

Although 3% of arrested persons in April never been to school, there were 36.9% of arrested persons whose education level was Ordinary Level. Also, 6.7% of arrested persons in April had completed advanced level and university/technical education had been completed by 2 persons. By considering the arrested persons in March, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each of all categories of educational level. Therefore, it can be concluded that education level of a person was not a significant factor for associating with drug related offence.

Ethnicity and Religion

77% of the arrested persons in April were Sinhalese, 8% of the arrested persons were Tamils, 9% of the arrested persons were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in March and April, majority of the arrested persons in each of these two months was Sinhalese but arrested persons in other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were recorded. These data showed that percentage of Tamils was greater than percentage of Moors in March and it was vice versa in April.

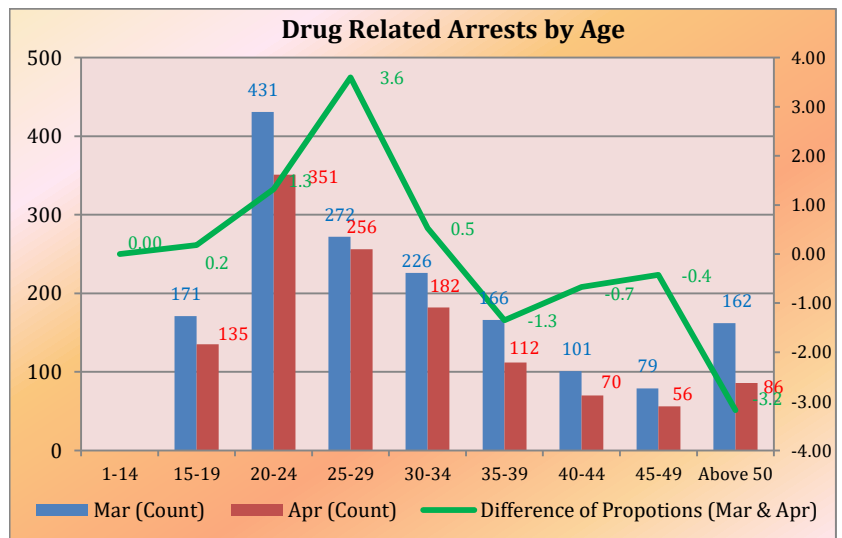
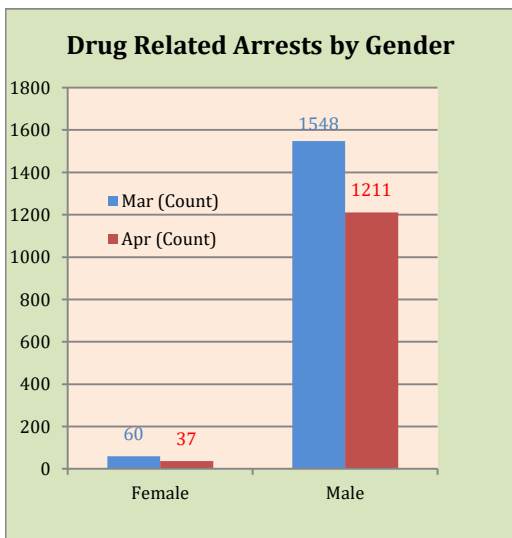
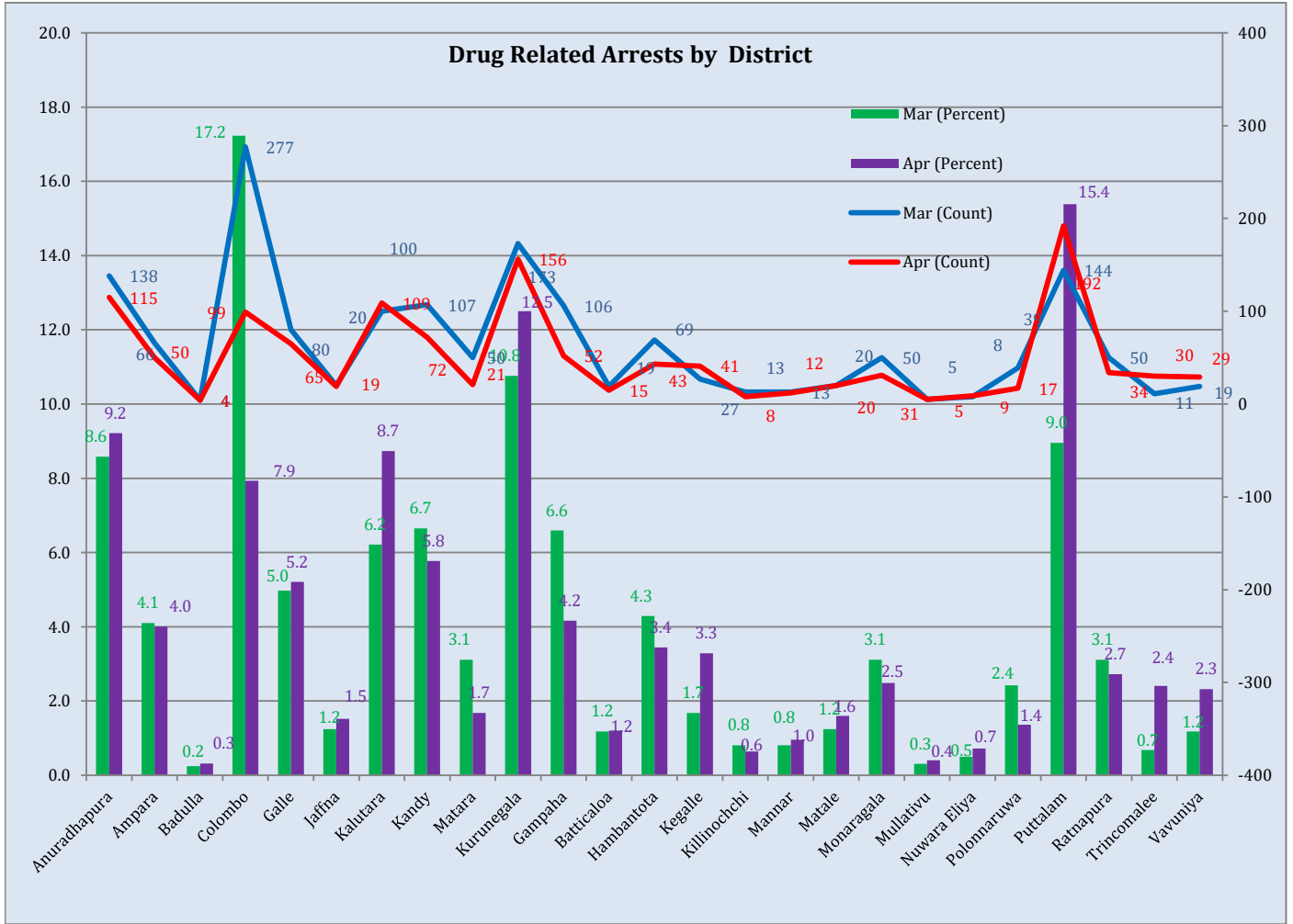
74% of the arrested persons in April were Buddhists, 13% of the arrested persons were Islam, 6% of the arrested persons were Hindus, 6% of the arrested persons were Christian and rest of the persons belonged to other religions. By comparing the religions of arrestees in March with April, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in March and April were significantly similar and majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offence.

Occupation

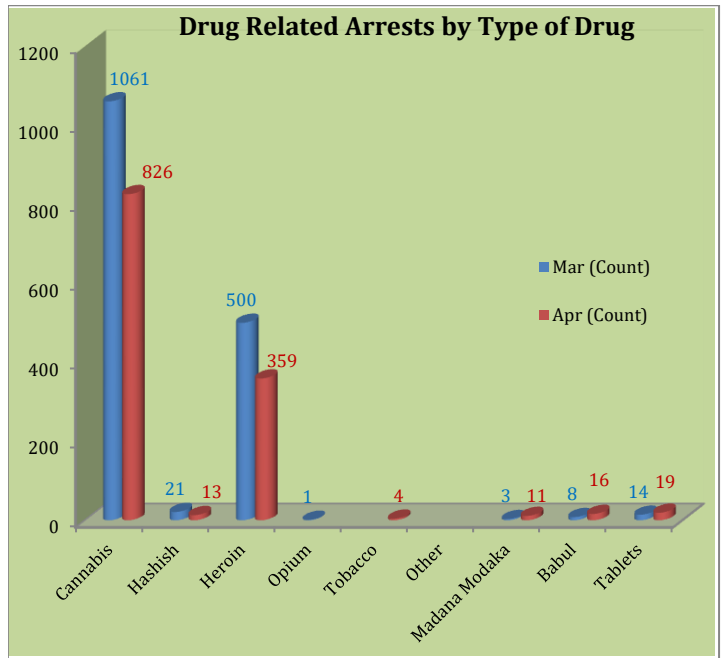
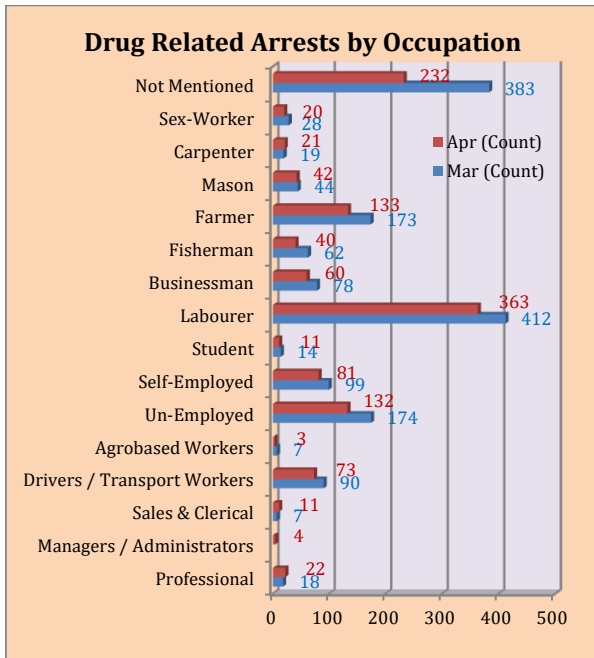
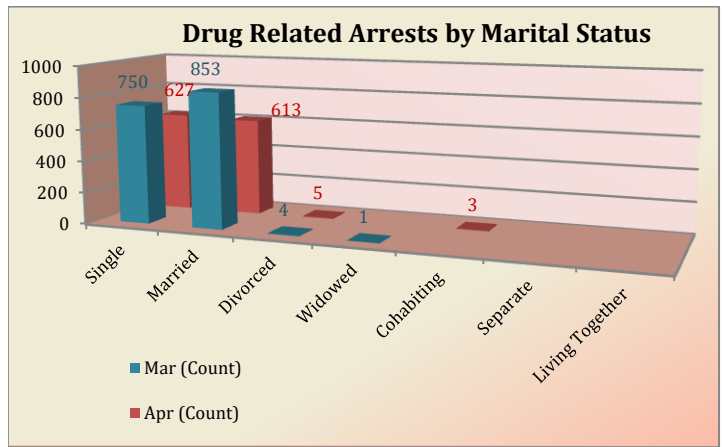
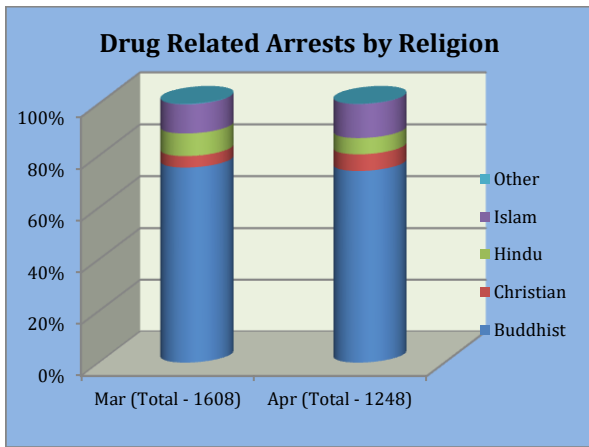
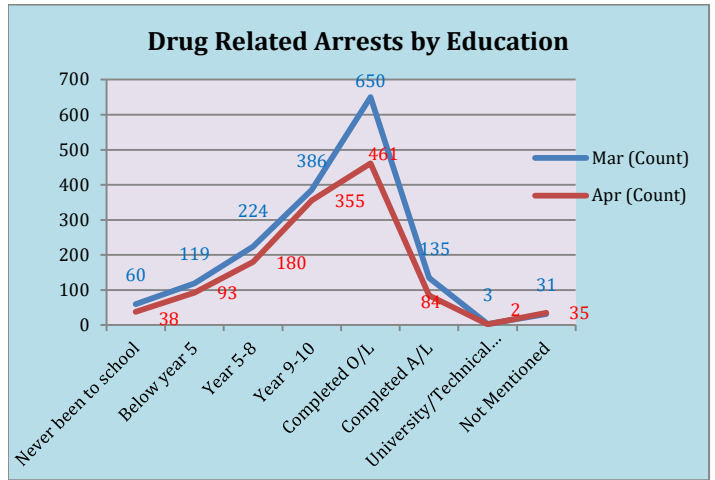
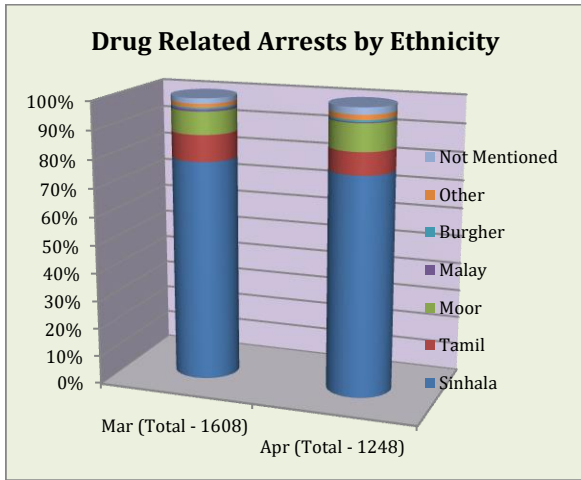
29% of arrestees were labourers, 11% of arrestees were farmer, 11% of arrestees were unemployed, 6% of arrestees were self-employed, 1% of arrestees were students and 2% of arrestees were professionals from the related data in April. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between March and April, it can be clearly identified that proportion of labourers was the highest from proportions of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each of the both months and some of the arrestees were working as drivers, farmers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were some small variations of proportions of every occupation which were engaging by arrestees in April with compared to March.

Drug type

Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in March as well as April, but cannabis related offence had been increased from 66% to 66.2% in April with compared to March. Heroin was the next highest drug and 29% of arrestees in March while 28.8% of arrestees in April were engaging on heroin related offence. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium and tablets were rest of the drugs, which were involved in drug related offences.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in March - April of 2018)



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