

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - February 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 drug related offence. Studying reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, the NDDCB research unit 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 DAMS data in January and February 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 planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programs.

Results and Findings

There were 3300 arrested persons as the total number of recorded arrested persons for both January and February. From these 3300 arrestees, 2063 persons were arrested in January and 1237 persons were arrested in February. It was 40% decrease in February with compare to January.

District

By considering the arrested data in February, the highest number of persons, 160, was from Anuradhapura district. Kurunegala, Puttalam, Kandy, Colombo districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. All districts were highlighted with decrease number of arrested persons in February with compared to January and highest decrease, 78%, was reported from Batticaloa 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, 96%, of arrested persons was male in February and rest of the arrested persons was female. Majority, 97%, of arrested persons was male in January and it had been decreased by 1% in February.

Age and Marital Status

63% of arrested persons belonged to 20-34 year age category in February and there were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in January with February, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within proportions of each categories and also no any person less than 15 years had been arrested in February while 1 arrested person less than 15 years had been arrested in January. Half of the arrested persons in each of January and February were married.

Education

Although 3% and 2% of arrested persons never been to school in January and February respectively, there were 38% and 35% of arrested persons whose education level was Ordinary Level in January and February respectively. Also, 6% and 9% of arrested persons in January and February respectively had completed Advanced Level and University/technical education had been completed by 5 persons in January. 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

By considering the ethnicities of arrested persons in January and February data separately, majority of the arrested persons 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 January and it was wise versa in February.

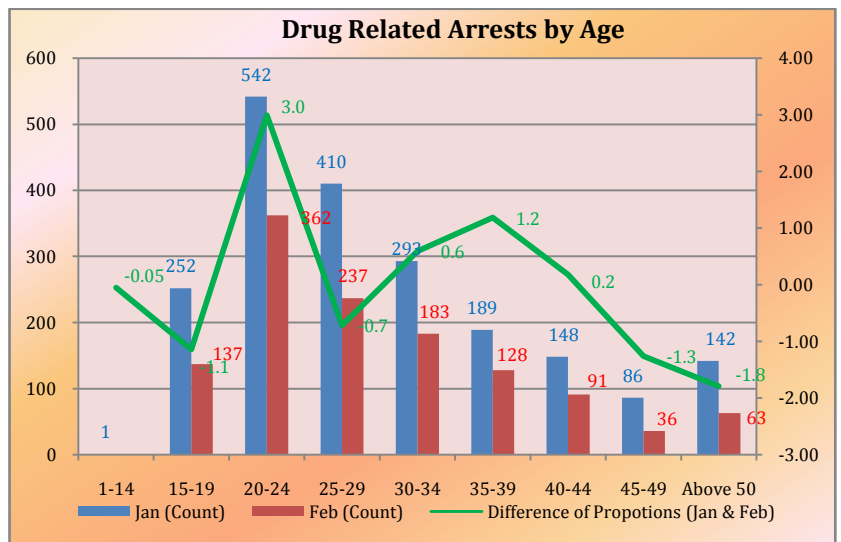
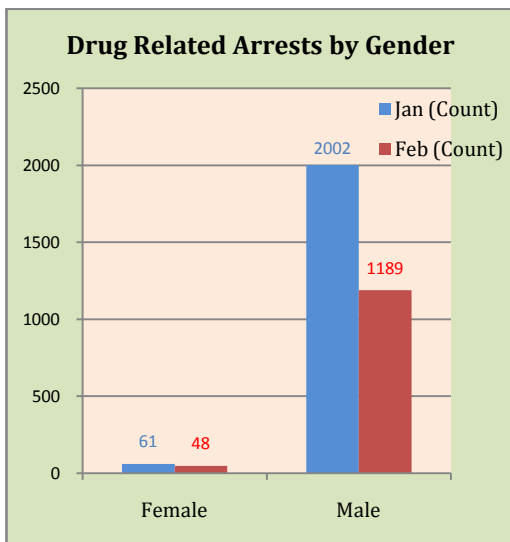
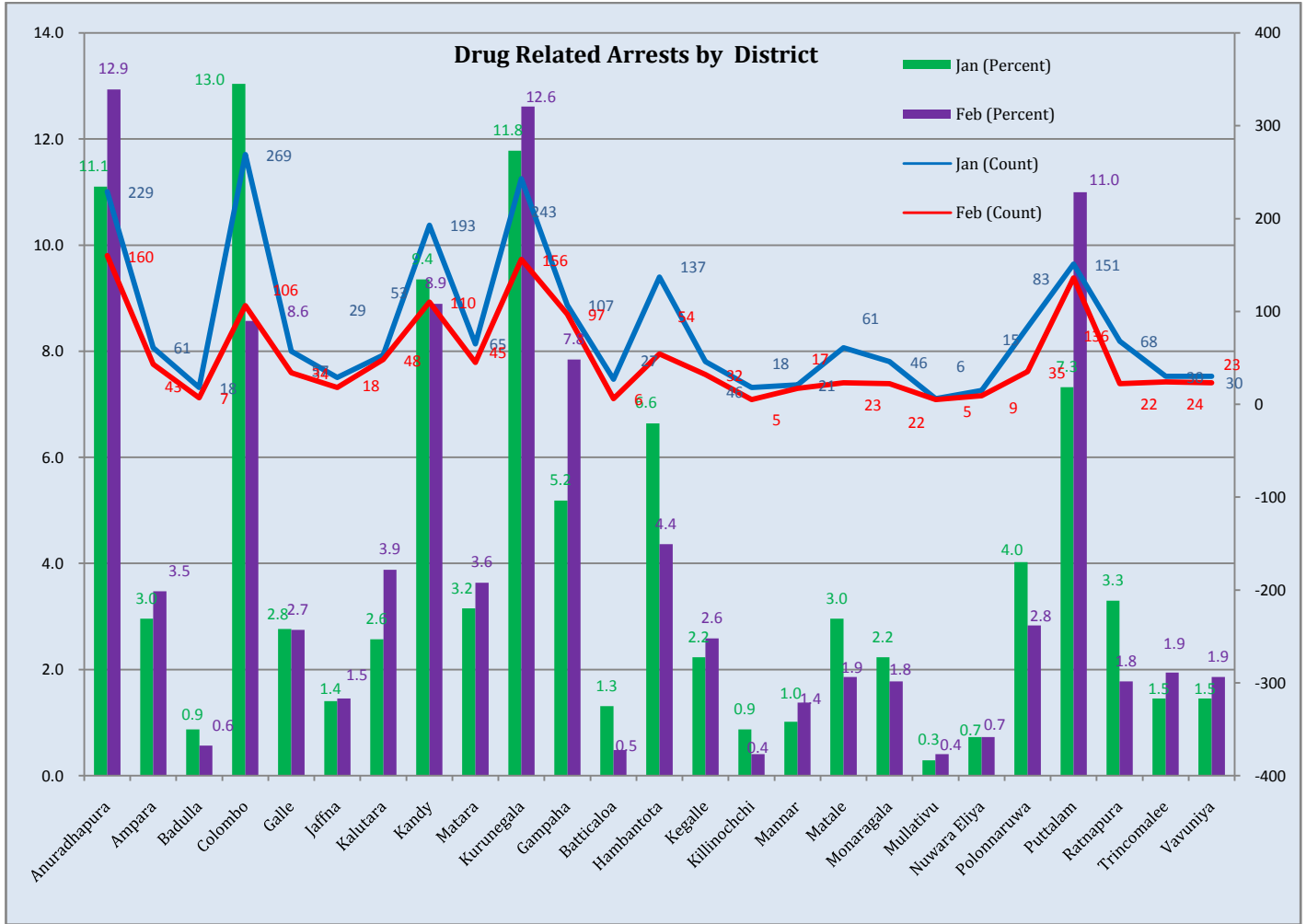
By considering the religions of arrestees in January as well as February, majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offence.

Occupation

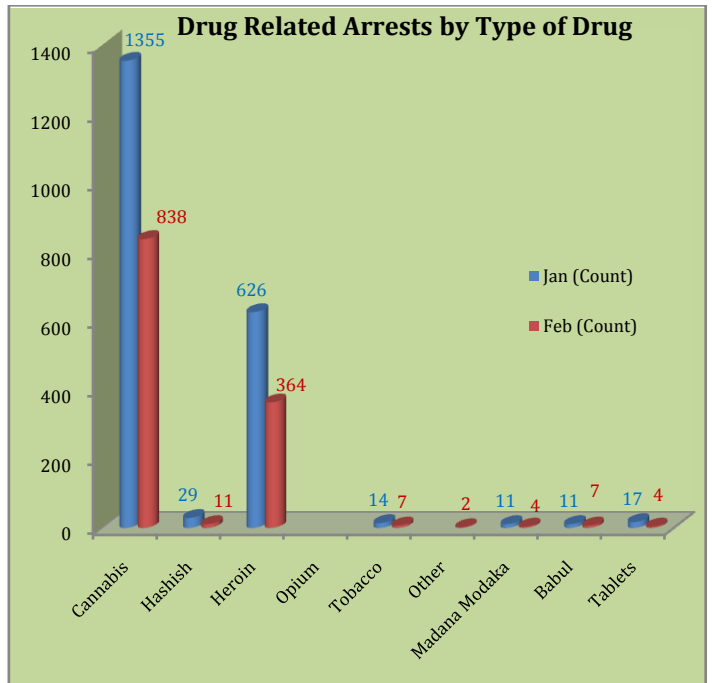
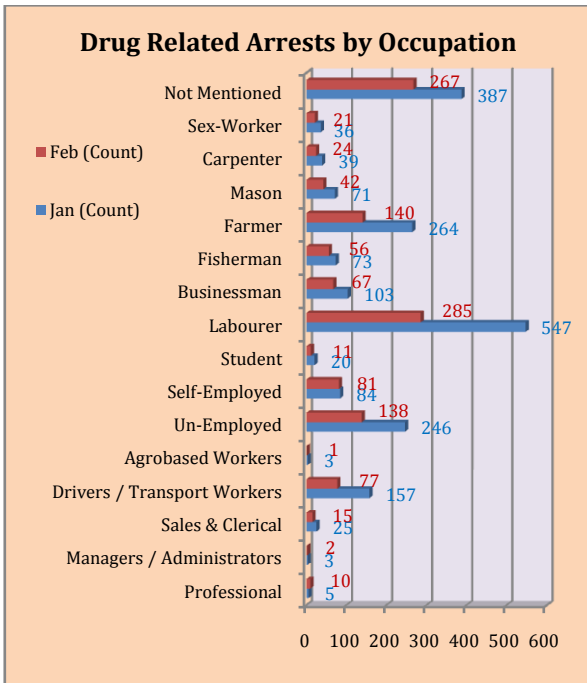
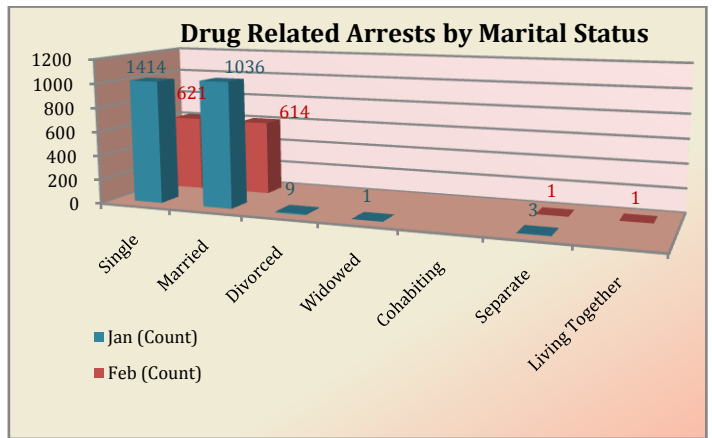
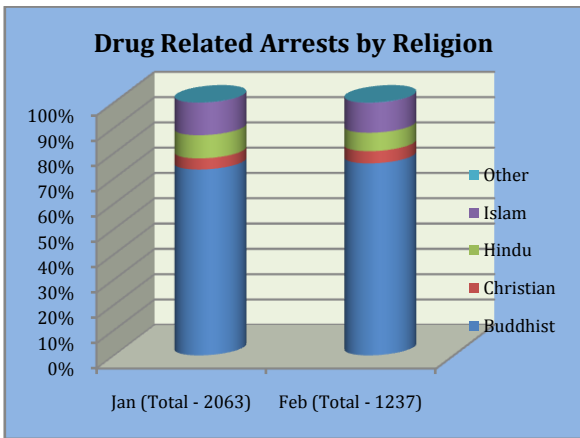
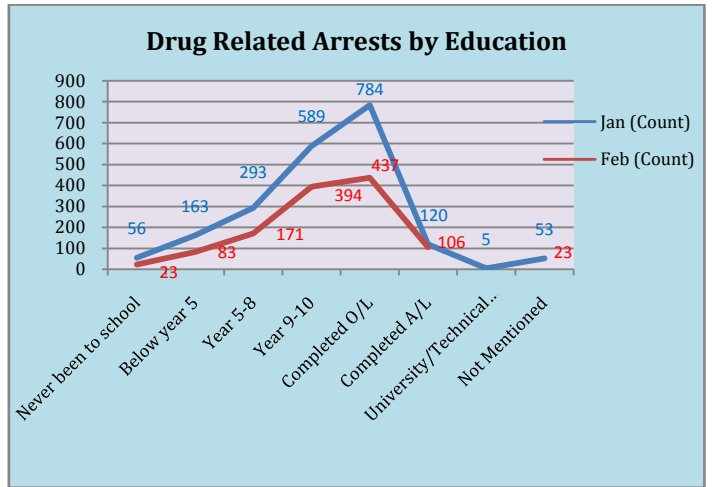
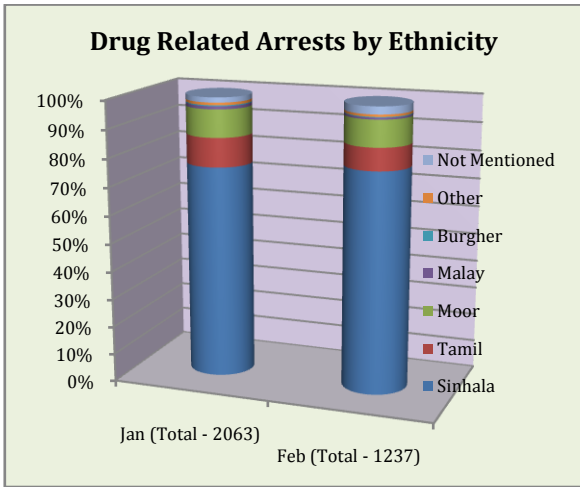
By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between January and February, it can be clearly identified that proportion of labourers was the highest from proportions of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each of the both months and some of the arrestees were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

Drug type

Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in January as well as February, but cannabis related offence had been increased from 66% to 68% in February with compared to January. Heroin was next highest drug and 30% of arrestees in January and 29% of arrestees in February were engaging on heroin related offence. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco and tablets were rest of the drugs, which were involved in drug related offences. Most of the arrested persons, 70%, were arrested in February for possession of drugs and it was 75% in January.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in January -February of 2018)



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