

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - January 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 December in 2017 and January 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 4491 arrested persons as the total number of recorded arrested persons for both last year December and January in 2018. From these 4491 arrestees, 2428 persons were arrested in December and 2063 persons were arrested in January. It was 15% decrease in January with compare to December. By considering the arrested data in January, the highest number of persons, 269, was from Colombo district. Kurunegala, Anuradapura and Kandy districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. Ten districts were highlighted with increase number of arrested persons in January with compared to December and highest increase, 33%, was reported from Matale district. However, no any change was reported from Mannar and 14 districts showed decrease in January with compared to December with highest drop down, 56%, were indicated in Nuwara Eliya 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.

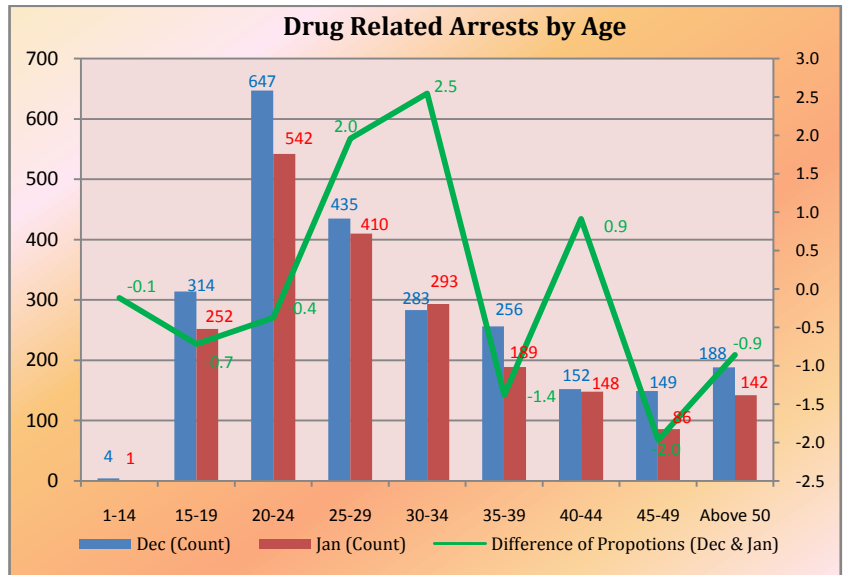
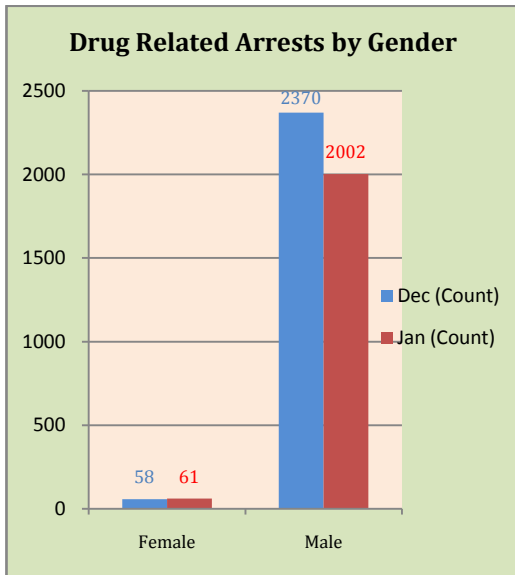
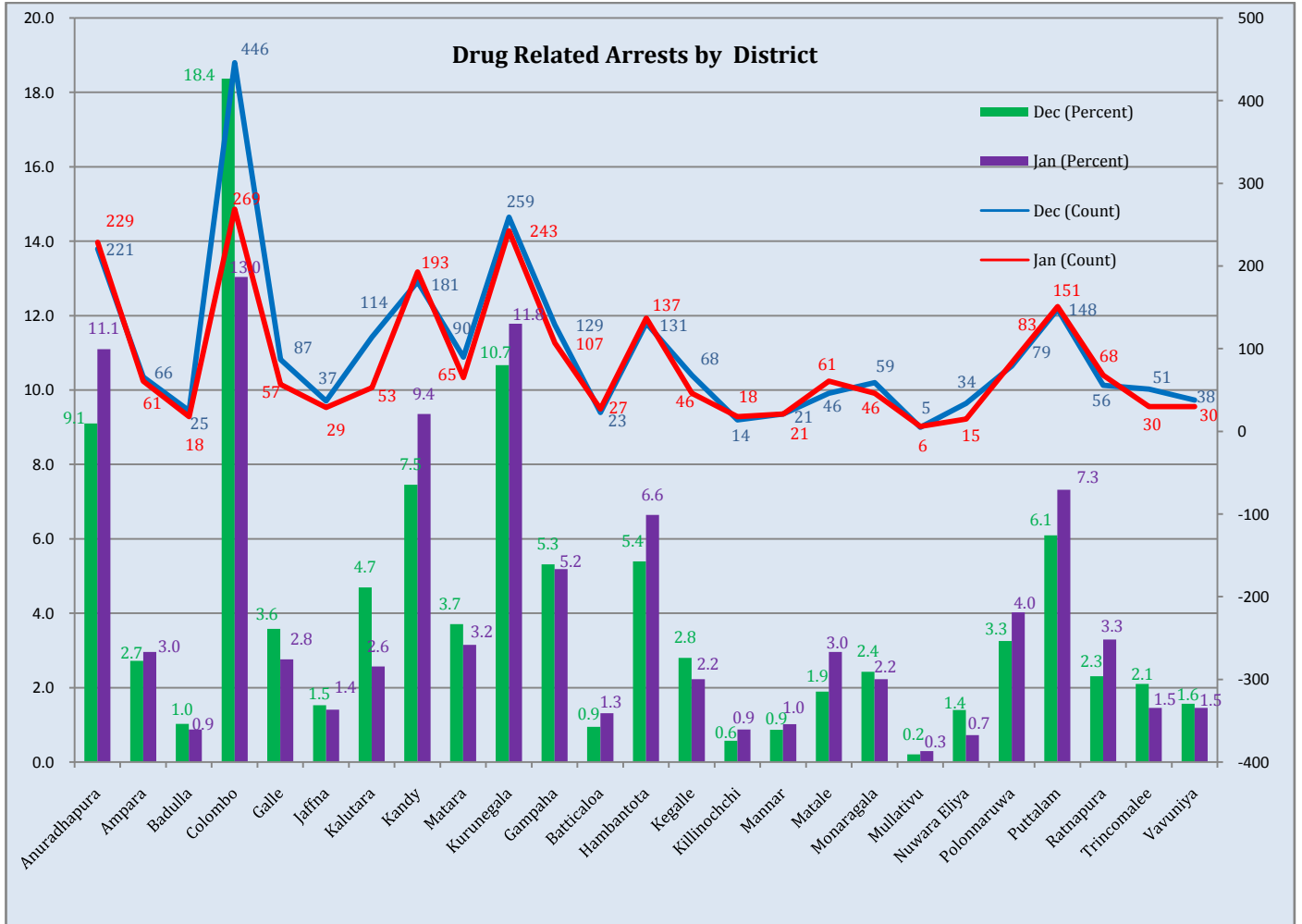
Majority, 98%, of arrested persons was male in December and it had been decreased by 1% in January. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in January with December, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within proportions of each categories and also only 1 person less than 15 years had been arrested in January while 4 arrested persons less than 15 years had been arrested in December. 60% of arrested persons belonged to 20-34 year age category in January and there were significant numbers of

arrested persons in all other age categories. Half of the arrested persons in each of December and January were married. Although 4% and 3% of arrested persons never been to school in December and January respectively, there were 39% and 38% of arrested persons whose education level was Ordinary Level in December and January respectively. Also, 9% and 6% of arrested persons in December and January respectively had completed Advanced Level and University/technical education had been completed by 7 persons in both of these months. Therefore, it can be concluded that education level of a person was not a significant factor for associating with drug related offence.

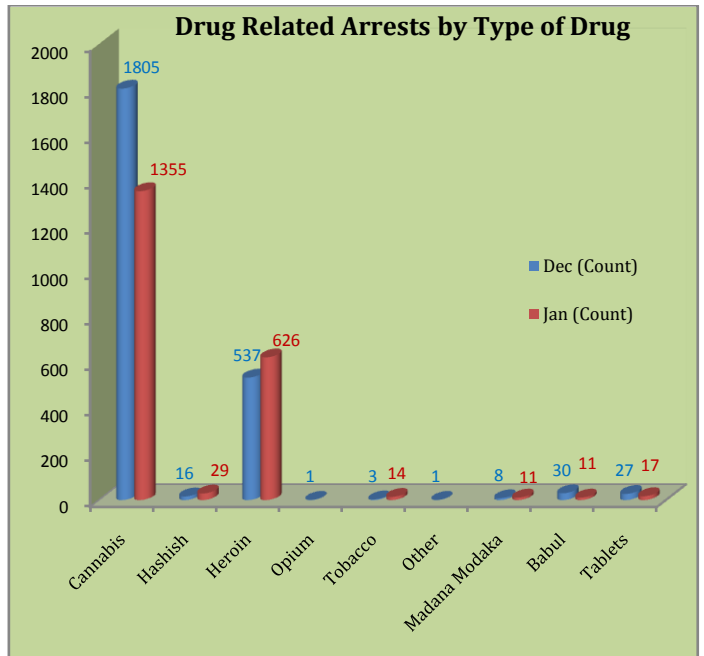
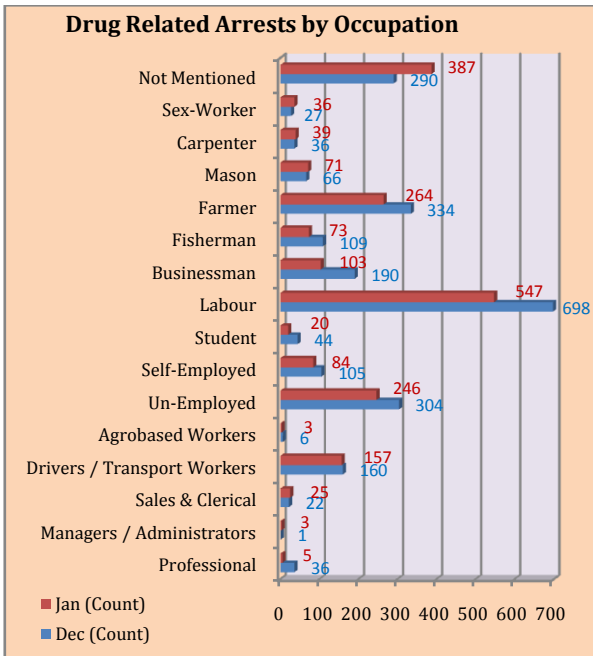
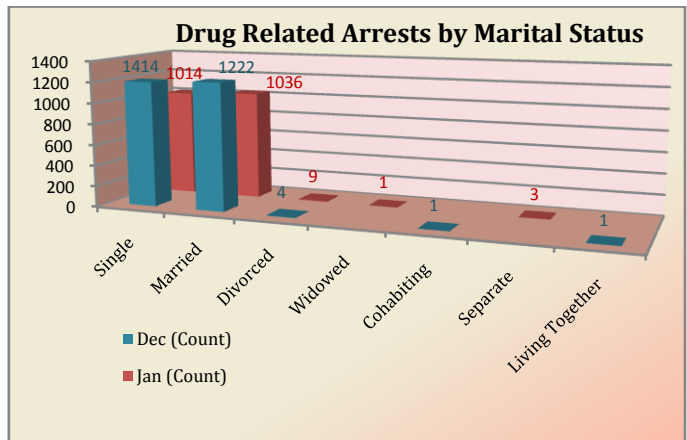
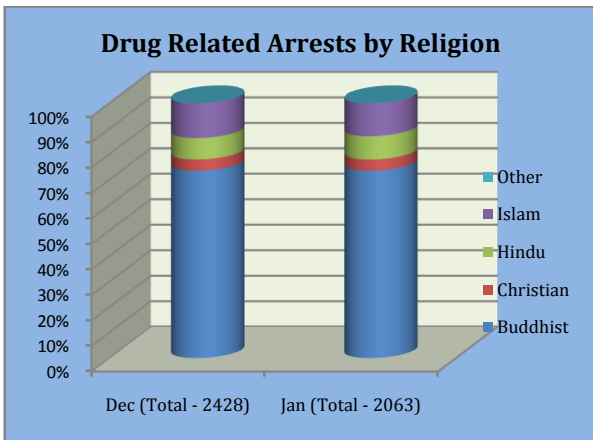
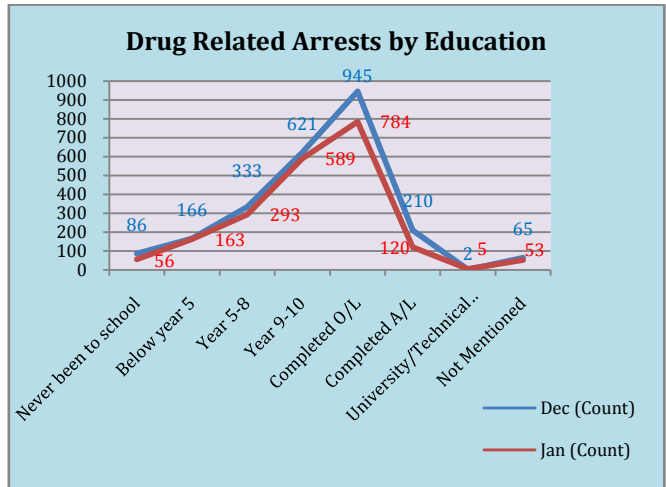
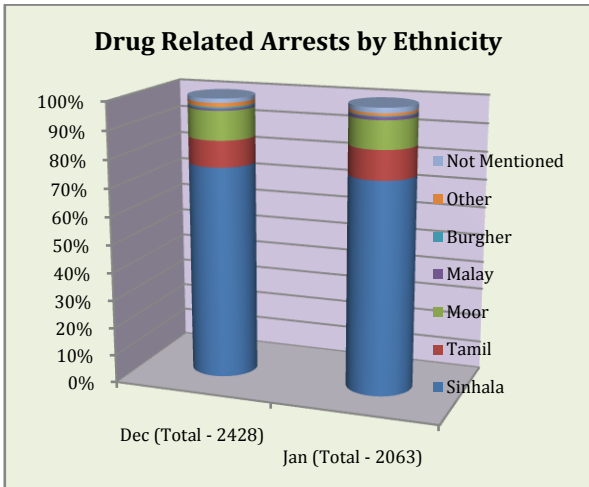
By considering the ethnicities of arrested persons in December and January data separately, majority of the arrested persons was Sinhalese but arrested persons in other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were recorded. These data showed that percentage of Tamils was greater than percentage of Moors in January and it was wise versa in December. By considering the religions of arrestees in December as well as January, 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.

By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between December and January, it can be clearly identified that proportion of labours 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 January with compared to December. Also, 1% of arrestees were students, 12% of arrestees were unemployed and 0.2% of arrestees were professionals from the related data.

Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in December as well as January, but cannabis related offence had been decreased from 74% to 65% in January with compared to December. Heroin was next highest drug and 22% of arrestees in December and 30% of arrestees in January 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. Most of the arrested persons, 75%, were arrested in January for possession of drugs and it was 72% in December.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in December of 2017 - January of 2018)



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