

Drug Related Information

Monthly Report - March 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 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 DAMS data in February and March 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

There were 2845 arrested persons as the total number of recorded arrested persons for both February and March. From these 2845 arrestees, 1237 persons were arrested in February and 1608 persons were arrested in March. It was 30% increase in March with compare to February.

District

By considering the arrested data in March, the highest number of persons, 277, was from Colombo district. Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. Nine districts were highlighted with decrease number of arrested persons in March with compared to February and highest decrease, 54%, was reported from Trincomalee district. However, no any change was reported from Mullativu and 15 districts showed increase in March with compared to February with highest increase, 217%, were indicated in 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 in March was male and rest of the arrested persons was female. By comparing the data in February and March, Majority, 96%, of arrested persons in both months separately was male.

Age

58% of arrested persons in March 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 February with March, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within proportions of each categories while proportion of 35-39 age category was same in February and March and also no any person less than 15 years had been arrested in both months.

Marital Status

53% of arrested persons in March were married and 46.7% of arrested persons in March were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in March were divorced and widowed. By considering arrested persons in February, 50.2% of them were unmarried and 49.6% of them were married while rest of them were separated and living together. Therefore it can be concluded that proportion of married arrested persons in March were increased by comparing the arrested persons in February while proportion of unmarried arrested persons in March were decreased.

Education

Although 3.7% of arrested persons in March never been to school, there were 40.4% of arrested persons whose education level was Ordinary Level. Also, 8.4% of arrested persons in March had completed advanced level and university/technical education had been completed by 3 persons. By considering the arrested persons in February, it can be clearly identified that there was no any arrested person whose education level was university/technical education level while there were significant numbers of persons for each of all other 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

78% of the arrested persons in March were Sinhalese, 9% of the arrested persons in March were Tamils, 8% of the arrested persons in March were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in February and March, 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 less than percentage of Moors in February and it was vice versa in March.

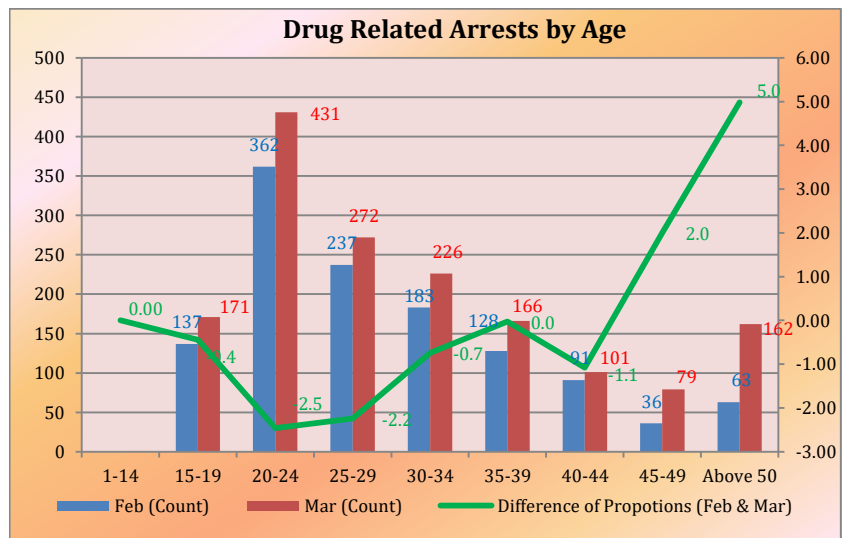
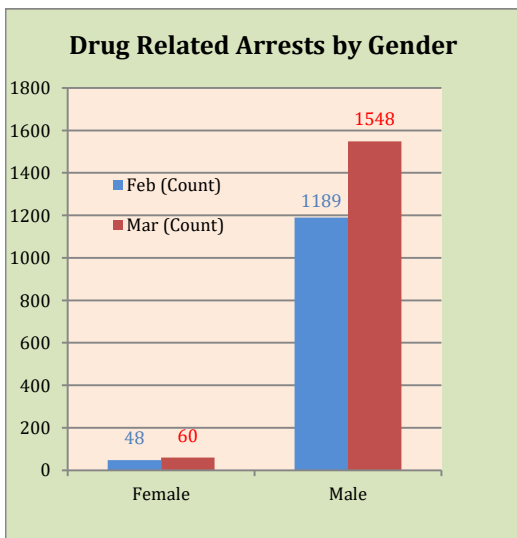
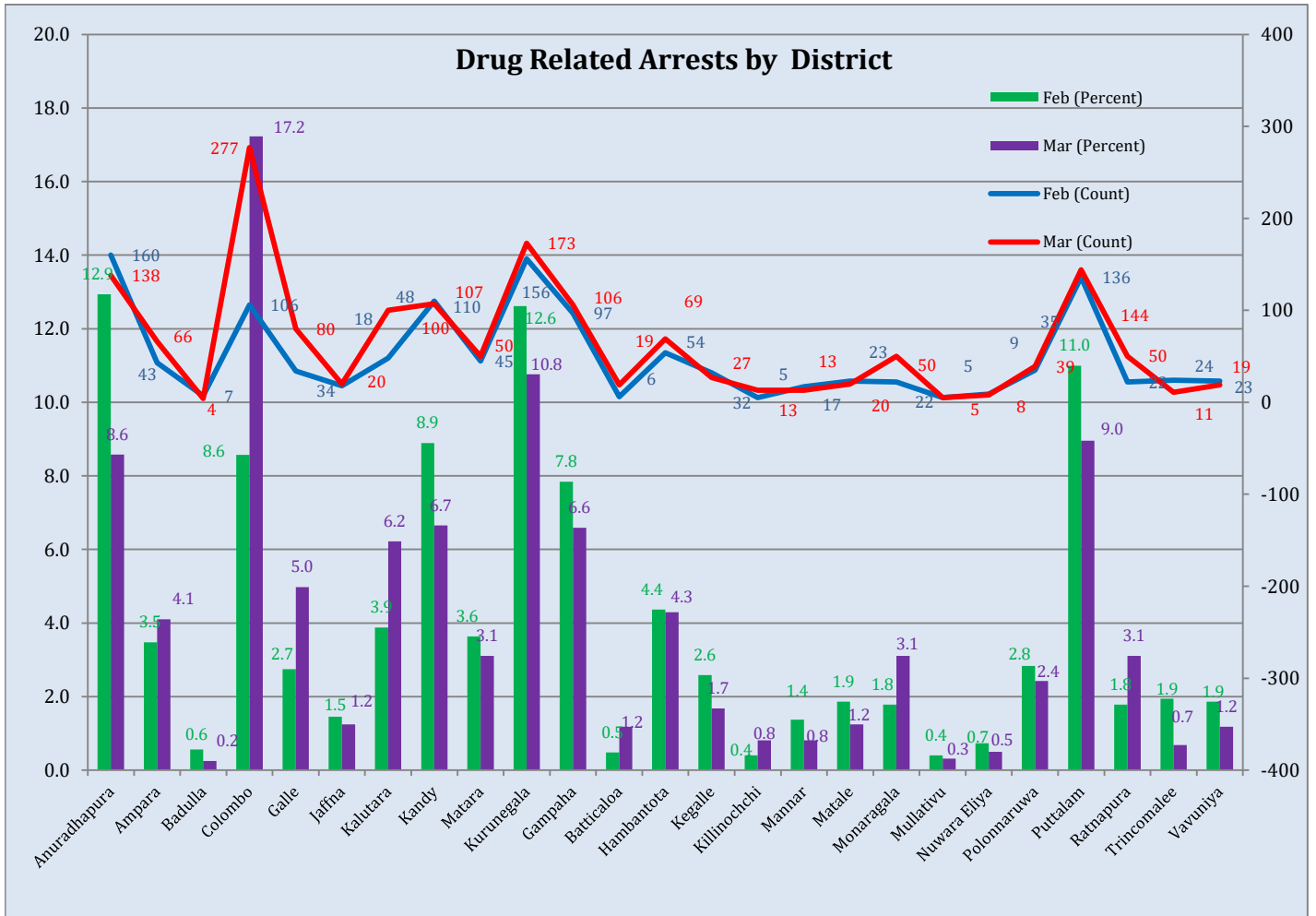
75% of the arrested persons in March were Buddhists, 11% of the arrested persons in March were Islam, 9% of the arrested persons in March were Hindus, 4% of the arrested persons in March were Christian and rest of the persons belonged to other religions. By comparing the religions of arrestees in February with March, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in February and March 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

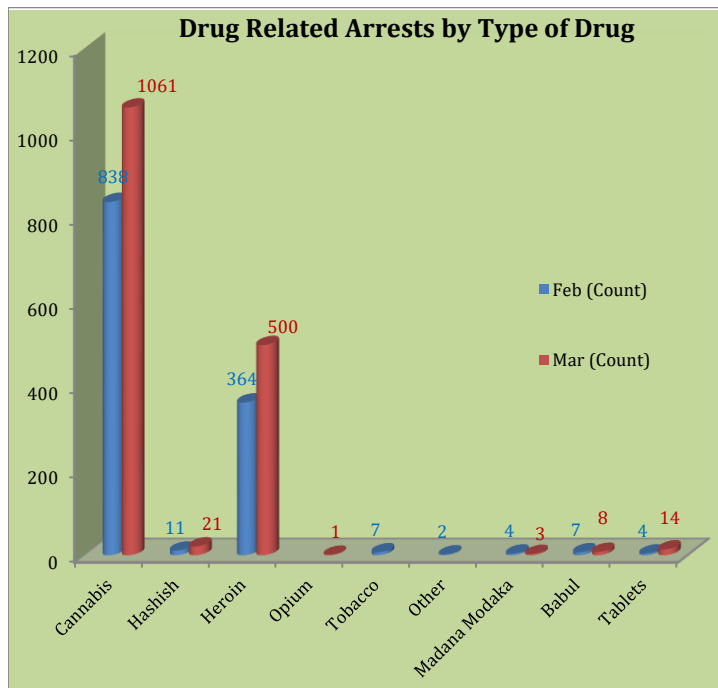
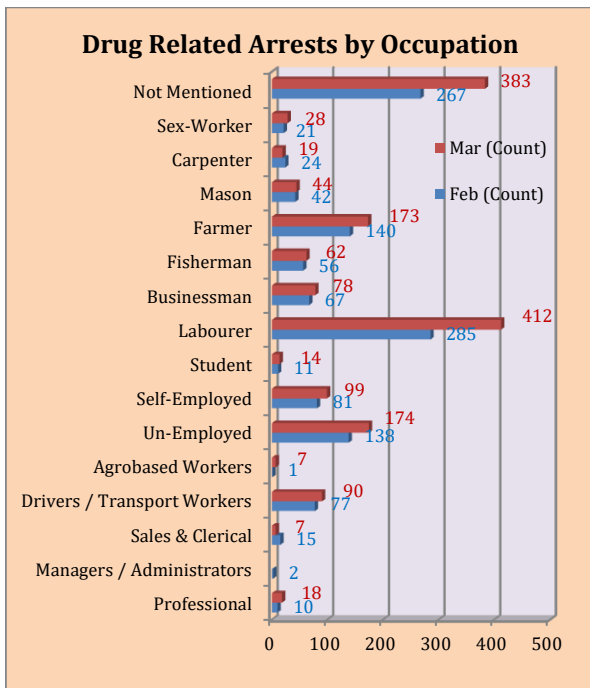
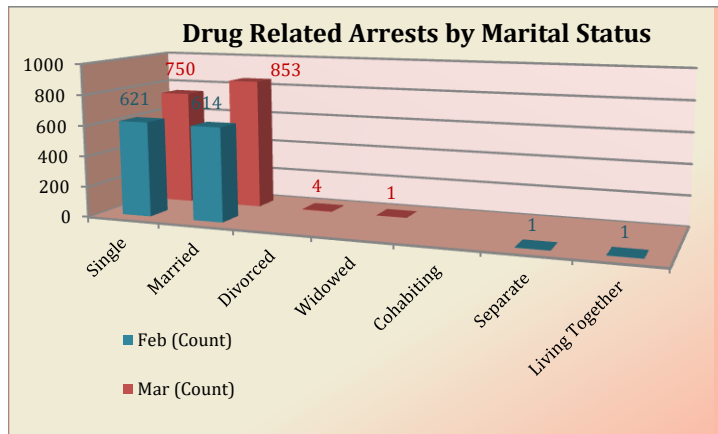
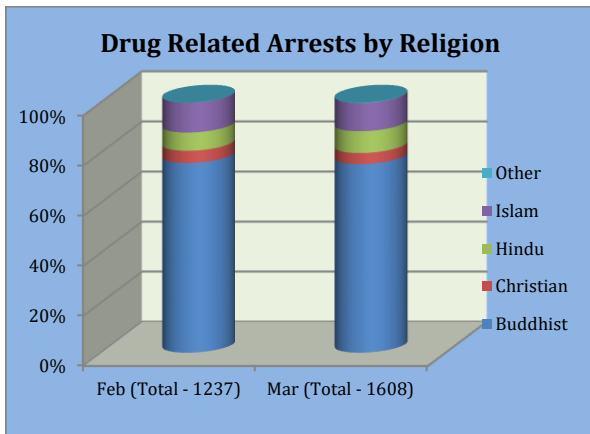
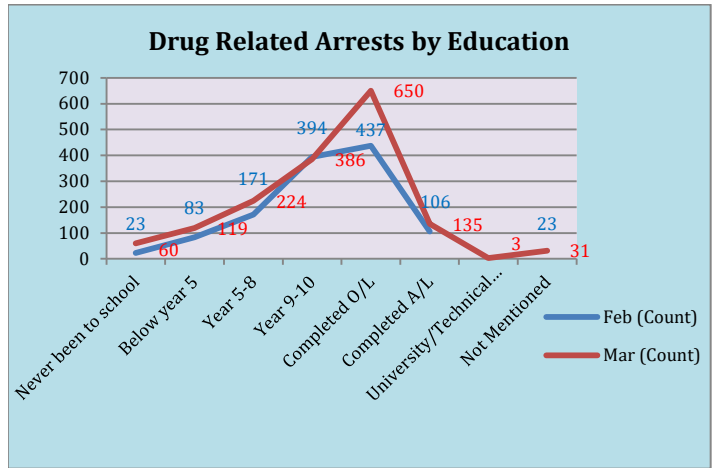
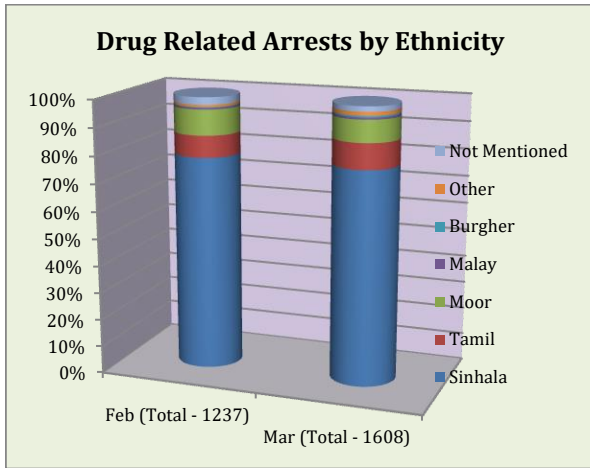
25% of arrestees in March were labourers, 11% of arrestees were unemployed, 6% of arrestees were self-employed, 1% of arrestees were students, and 1% of arrestees were professionals from the related data in March. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between February and March, 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 March with compared to February.

Drug type

Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in February as well as March, but cannabis related offence had been decreased from 68% to 66% in March with compared to February. Heroin was next highest drug and 29% of arrestees in February and 31% of arrestees in March 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 February -March of 2018)



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