Drug Related Information Monthly Report - MAY 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 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 reported data of DAMS in April and May in 2018 and it can be used to get basic information on persons arrested for drug offences.

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 for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programs.

Results and Findings

According to the recorded figures 3097 persons were arrested for drug related offences during April and May in 2018. From these arrestees, 1248 persons were arrested in April and 1849 persons were arrested in May. It was 22% decrease in May with compare to April.

District

By considering the arrested data in May, the highest number of persons, 315, was reported from Kurunegala district. Puttalam, Colombo, Anuradhapura and Kandy districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 19 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in May with compared to April and highest increase, 333%, was reported from Nuwara Eliya district. Other 6 districts showed a decrease in May with compared to April and highest decrease, 39%, was indicated in Kalutara 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 the arrested persons in May was male and rest of the arrested persons was females. By comparing the data in April and May, proportions of both male and female arrestees in both months were same.

Age

61.8% of arrested persons in May belonged to 20-34 year age category and 4 arrested persons were less than 15 years. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in April with May, 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 April.

Marital Status

49.4% of arrested persons in May were married and 50.1% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in May was divorced, separated and living together. By considering arrested persons in April, 50.2% of them were unmarried and 49.1% were married while rest of them was divorced and cohabiting. Therefore it can be concluded that proportion of unmarried arrested persons in May was slightly decreased in compared to the arrested persons in April while proportion of married arrested persons in May was slightly increased.

Education

Although 3% of arrested persons in May never been to school, there were 40.6% of arrested persons whose educational level was Ordinary Level. Also, 9.0% of the arrested persons in May had completed advanced level and one person had completed university or technical education. By considering the arrested persons in April, 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

79.8% of the arrested persons in May were Sinhalese, 8.4% were Tamils, 8.7% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in April and May, majority of the arrested persons in each of these two months was Sinhalese but arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that percentage of Tamils was less than percentage of Moors in April as well as in May.

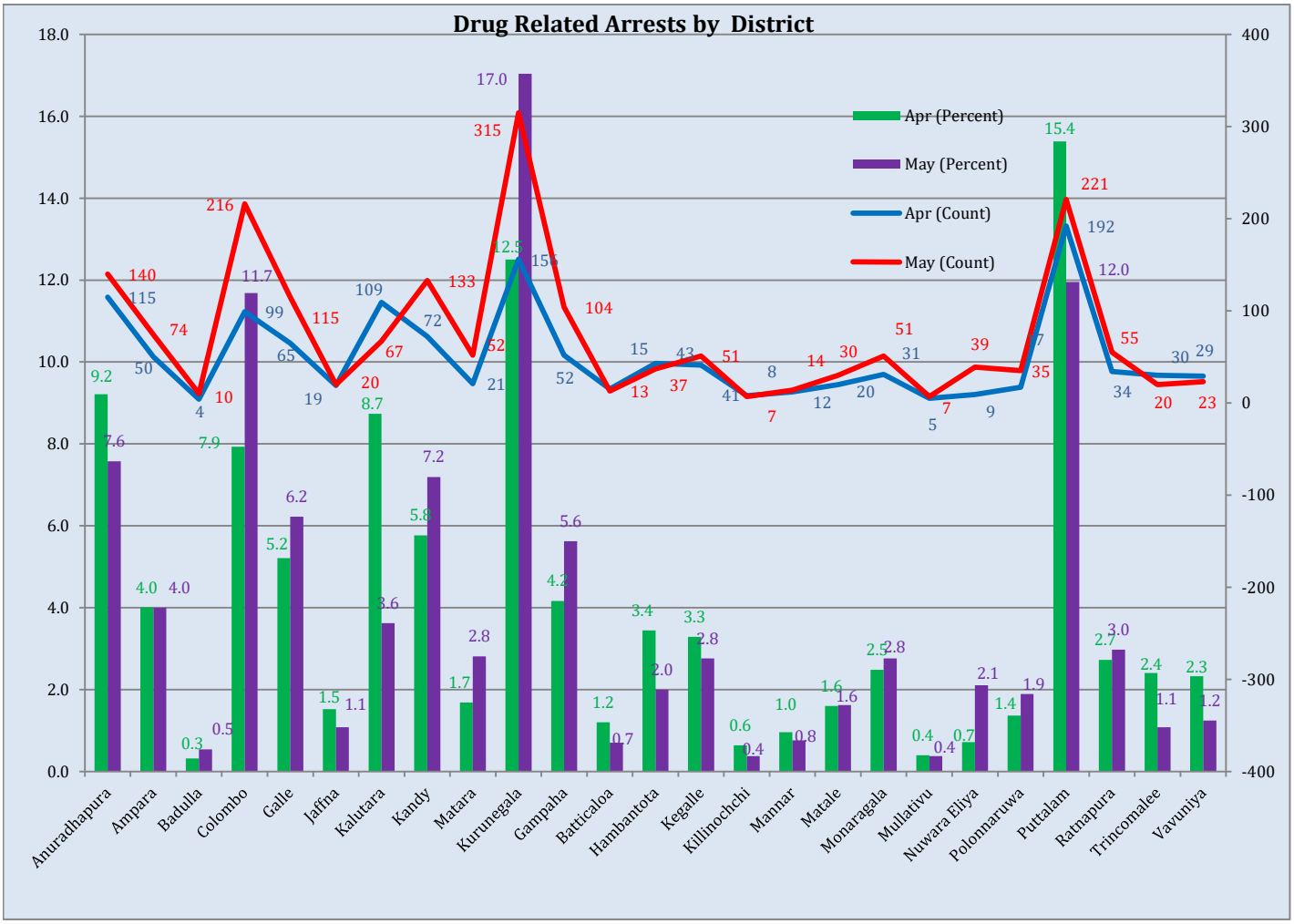
77% of the arrested persons in May were Buddhists, 10% were Islam, 8% were Hindus, 4% were Christians and rest of the persons belonged to other religions. By comparing the religions of arrestees in April with May, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in April and May were significantly similar and 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 offence.

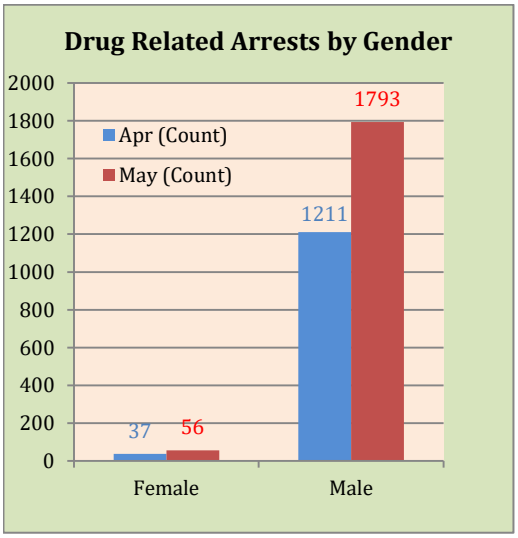
Occupation

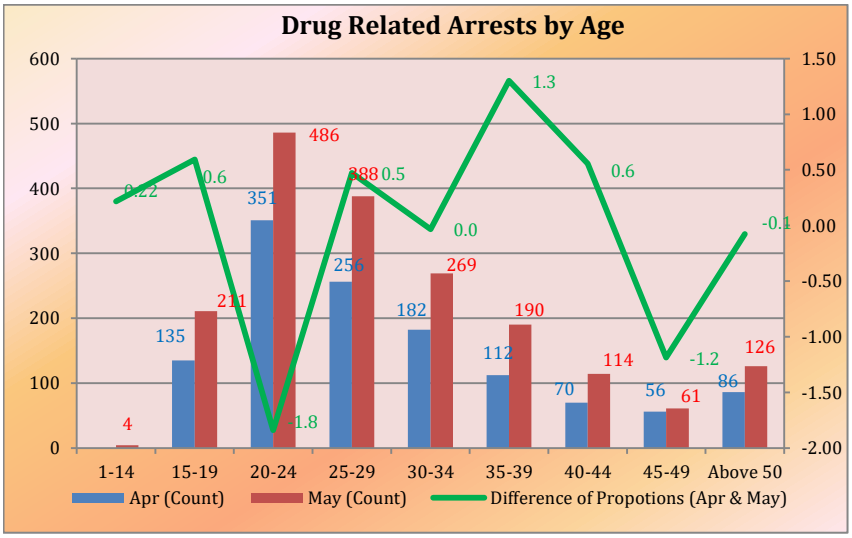
22% of arrestees were labourers, 11% were farmer, 13% were unemployed, 9% were self-employed, 1% were students and 2% were professionals from the related data in May. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between April and May, it can be clearly identified that proportion of labourers 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 May with compared to April.

Drug type

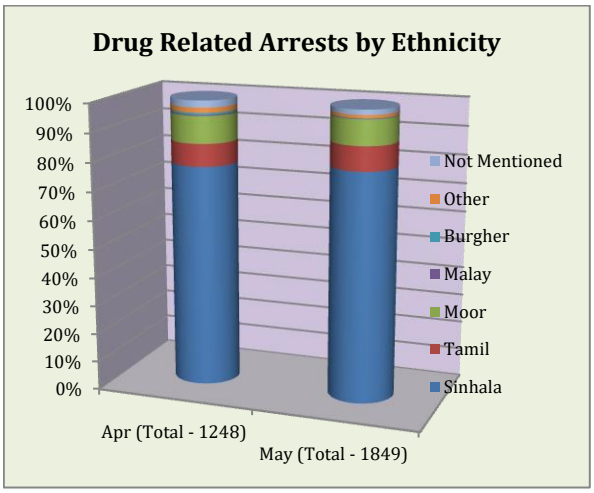
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in April as well as May, but cannabis related offence had been decreased from 66.2% to 61.9% in May with compared to April. Heroin was the next highest drug and 28.8% and 35.9% of arrestees in April and May respectively were engaging on heroin related offence. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium, methamphetamine(Ice) and tablets were rest of the drugs, which were involved in drug related offences.

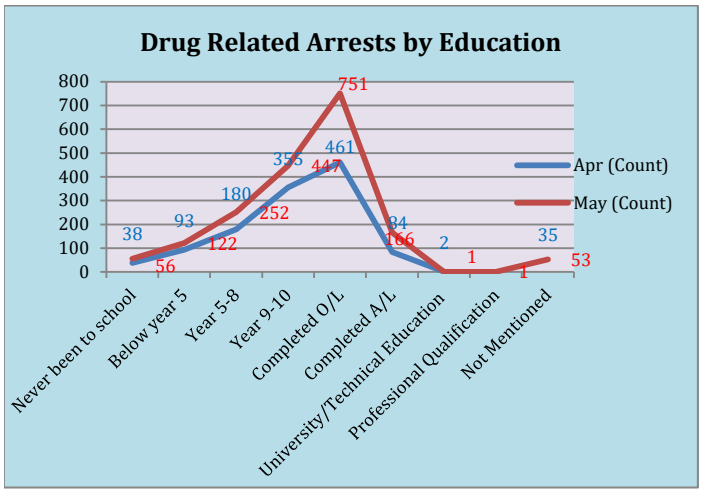


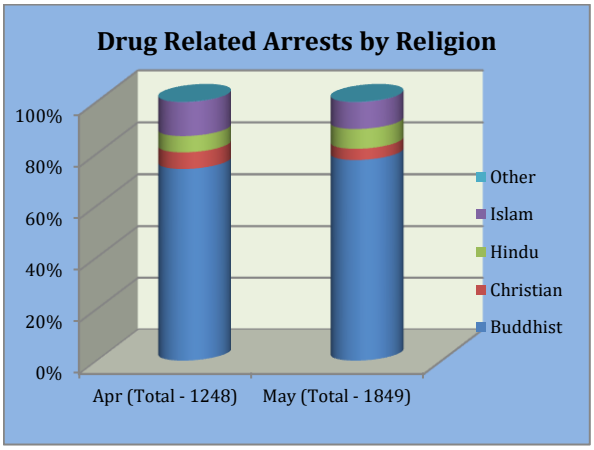


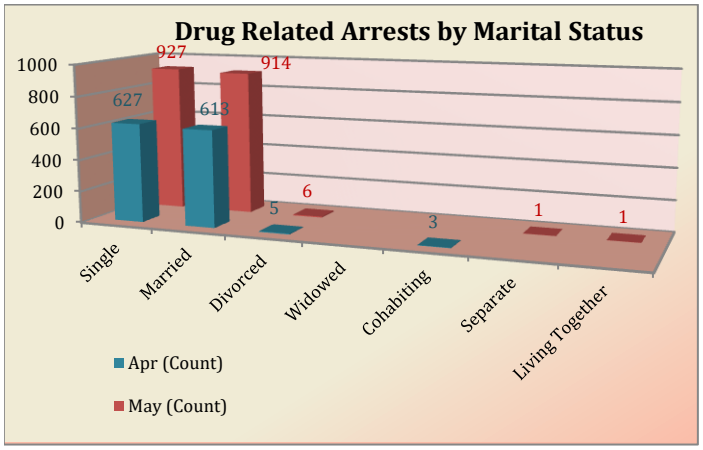


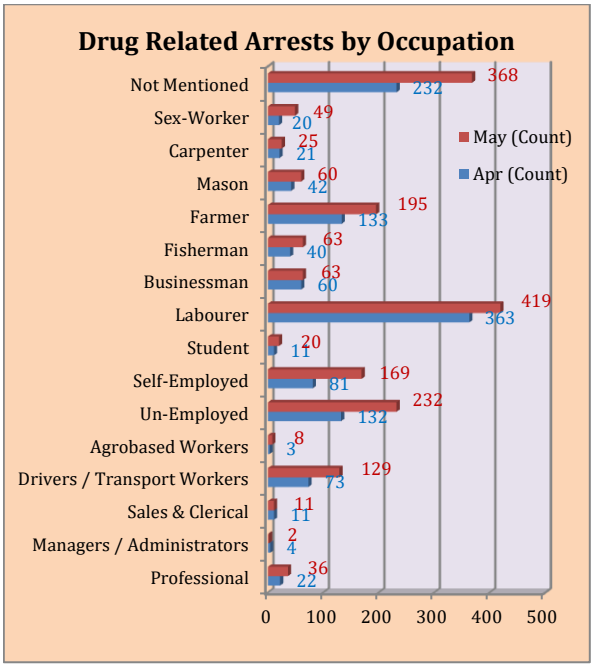
(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in April - May of 2018)

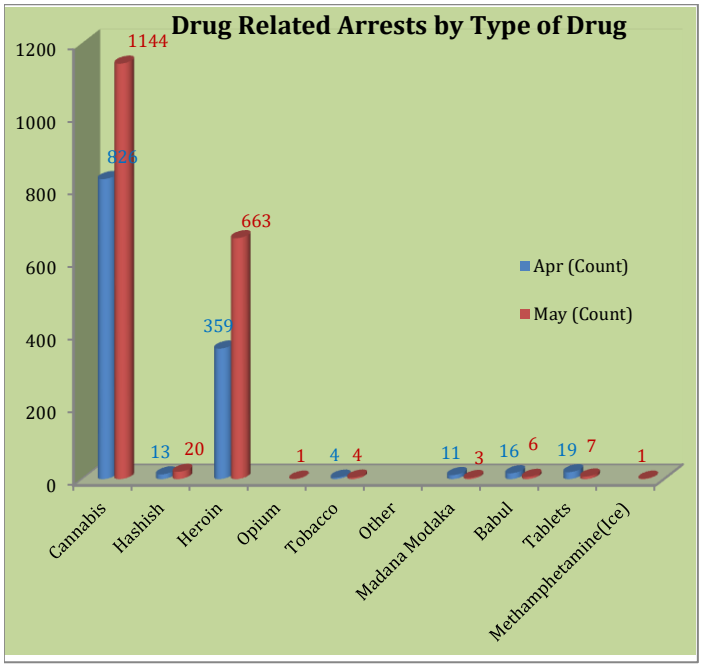












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