STATISTICAL REPORT ON DRUG DEPENDANTS REPORTED FROM TREATMENT AGENCIES

DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SYSTEM

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Research Division

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Introduction

The general objective of the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) is to establish a sound database for effective programme planning and monitoring. Specific objectives of the reporting system are as follows:

- To determine the incidence, prevalence and characteristics of drug users who reported to treatment and rehabilitation services.
- To monitor the trends and patterns of drug use.
- To determine and describe at risk groups in the population.
- To assess and evaluate the existing treatment and rehabilitation programmes.
- To be an 'early warning system' for effective programme implementation.

This analytical report is based on the information reported from government and Non government treatment services to the DAMS during the year 2021.

Information on treatment admissions are comprised under following 'indicators'.

a. Demographic characteristics
b. Drug use
c. Route of use
d. Frequency of drug use
e. Age at first use
f. The primary drug used
g. Treatment method
h. Types of admission
i. Nature of drug offence

Research Division

Abstract

The total number of reported drug users who had received treatment services for the year of 2021 was 1,703. Of the total reported drug users, 44% received treatment from the treatment and rehabilitation center of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB). 07% from prisons drug treatment rehabilitation programme, 15% from NGOs and 35% from Kandakadu Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre of Bureau of Commissioner General of Rehabilitation (BCGR). Compared to year 2020, total drug treatment admissions were increased in 2021.

Treatment and rehabilitation services have been regulated and monitored by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board in terms of the provisions of act No: 54 of 2007; drug dependent persons treatment & Rehabilitation act.

The majority of reported drug users had received institutional treatment facilities and among the treatment admissions, 32% were from Colombo district. By considering the entire treatment admissions, 66% were from Western province.

According to the reported data, 1,699 males and 04 females were admitted for the treatment services in the year 2021.

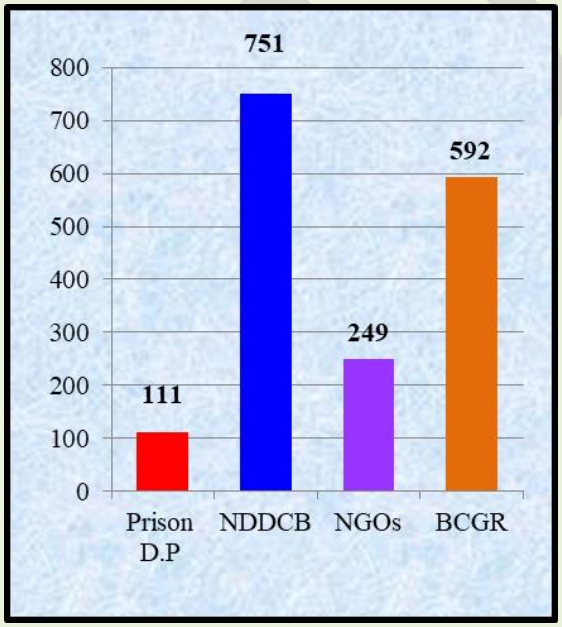
Among the total drug users 27% administrated drugs by smoking, 09% by eating or drink and 58% used Chinese method. It is also revealed that 987 (58%) of drug users were single and 531 (31%) were married. Data further indicates that 458 (27%) of them have studied grade 5 to 10 and 812 (48%) persons completed O/L examination.

Background

This is an analytical report based on the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) on persons treated in drug treatment facilities during the year 2021.

One thousand seven hundred and three (1,703) drug dependents have been reported from drug treatment and rehabilitation centres during the year 2021. 751 (44%) persons were reported from the NDDCB treatment centers, 249 (15%) from NGOs, 111 (07%) from prison drug treatment programmes and 592 (35%) from Kandakadu treatment and rehabilitation Centre.

Figure 01: Distribution of treatment admissions



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

NGOs sector had provided treatment services for 249 drug users and out of them, 94 from Nawajeewana treatment centre, 35 persons from miduma treatment centre and 23 persons from Mithuru Mithuro Treatment centre.

Type of Admission

The distribution of admission types is shown in table 01 and it reveals that majority (848) was from voluntary admissions. Court referral admissions were reported 730 persons.

Table 01

Type of Admission	Number of persons	Percentage (%)
Voluntary	848	50
Court referral	730	43
Other	46	03
Not report	79	04
Total	1,703	100

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

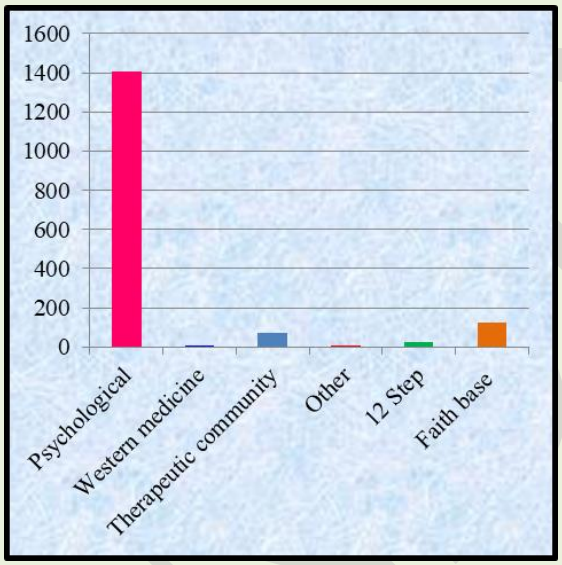
Type of Treatment facilities

By considering the type of treatment facilities in the year 2021, majority, 92% (1,573), of them obtained in house or institutional treatments. Out of the types of drug treatment facilities, "institutional care" can be considered as the frequently wed treatment facility.

Treatment methods

Persons received treatments were further classified based on the treatment methods, it shows that 85% (1,409) obtained psychological treatment method as majority. In addition to, Faith Base Treatment Model [12 steps] (26), Western medicine (10) and Therapeutic Community model (70) faith base treatment model (122) were also reported.

Figure 02: Distribution of treatment methods



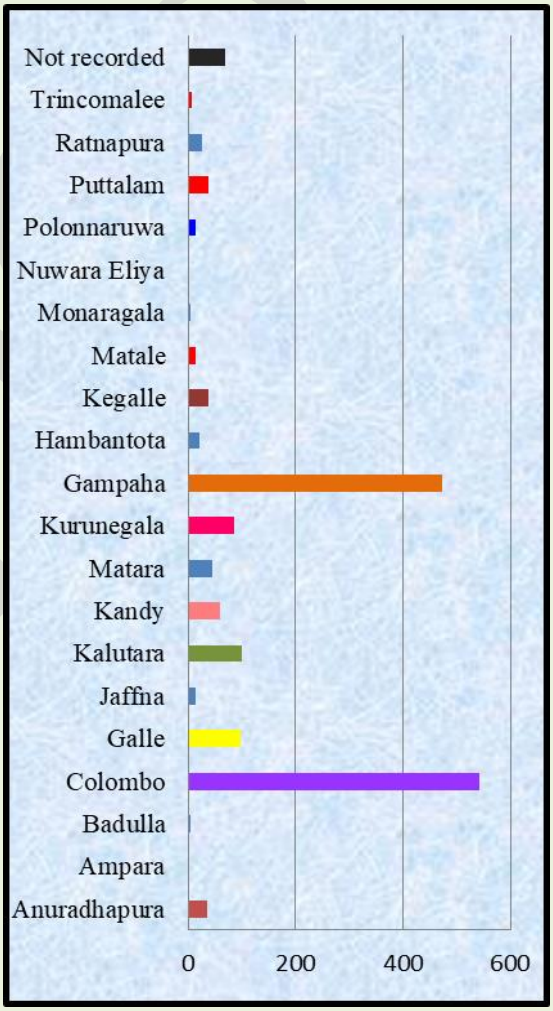
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

District

Considering the number of treatment received persons by districts, it was emphasized that highest number of persons, 543 (32%) were reported from Colombo district.

However, Gampaha (474), Kalutara (100) Kurunegala (85), Kandy (60), Puttalam (37) and Kegalle (38) are the other highlighted districts. Out of the nine provinces, 66% were reported for treatment from Western province, 10% from Southern province and 07% from North Western province and all the details are shown as follows.

Figure 03: Distribution of treatment admissions by districts

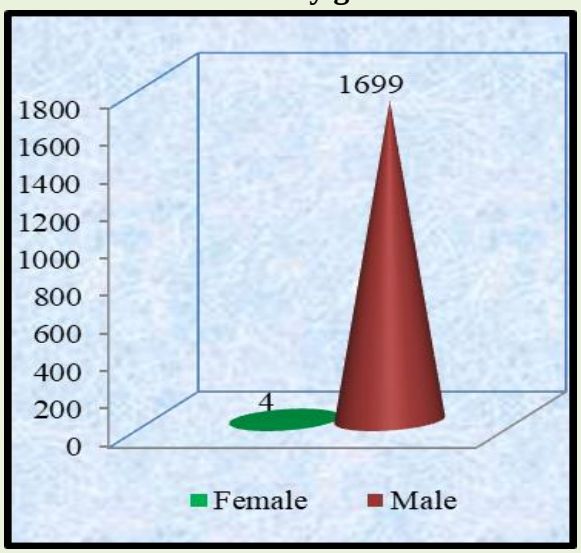


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Gender

Out of the total treatment admissions of the year of 2021, 99.8% (1,699) were males. 04 (0.2%) female drug users reported.

Figure 04: Distribution of treatment admissions by gender

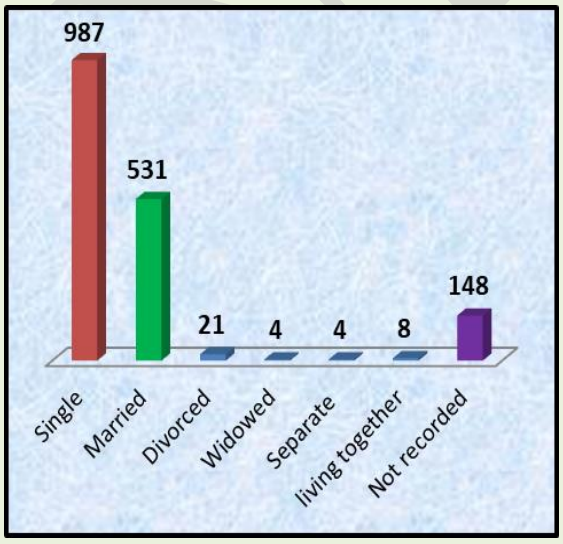


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Marital Status

Treatment received persons were further classified based on their marital status and it shows that 58% (987) were single and 31% (531) were married. In addition divorced (21), Separated (04) and living together (08) persons were also reported.

Figure 05: Distribution of admissions by marital status

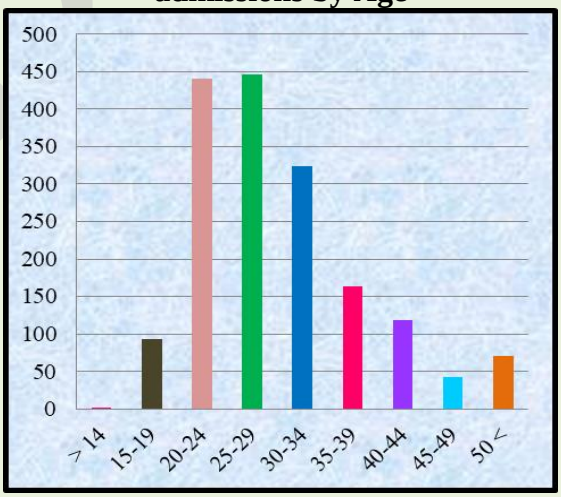


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Age

Substance abuse is an increasing global socio – medical problem among young/ adolescent males. The distribution of drug related treatment admissions by age is shown in figure 06 and it reveals that majority, 52 % (887), of the clients were in age 20-29 range. Similar findings have been shown by the previous studies conducted by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. 19% (324), 10% (164) and 07% (118) were in the range of 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years accordingly. Nonetheless, Two persons had reported for age category of 01-14.

Figure 06: Distribution of treatment admissions by Age



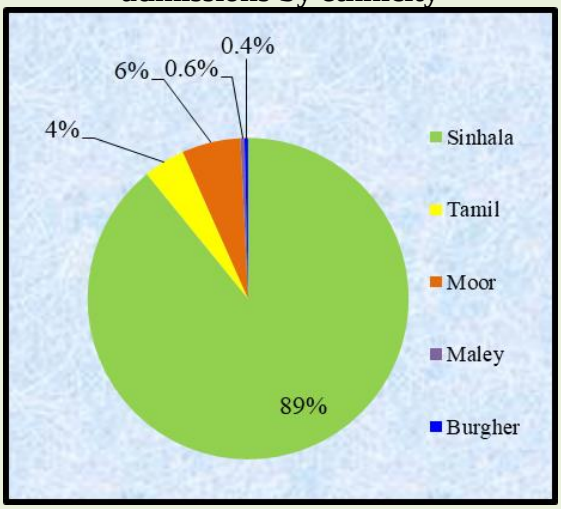
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Ethnicity

According to the recorded persons by ethnicity wise, 1,509 (89%) were Sinhalese, 100 (06%) were Moors, 71 (04%) were Tamils, and 07 (0.4%) of them

were Malay. More details are shown in figure 07.

Figure 07: Distribution of treatment admissions by ethnicity

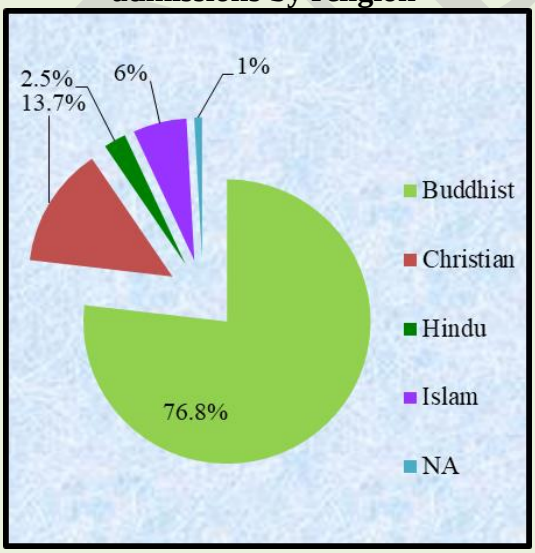


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Religion

According to the data shown in figure 08, majority, 1,308 (76.8%) of the clients were Buddhists. 233 (13.7%) Christians, 103 (06%) Islam and 43 (03%) Hindus.

Figure 08: Distribution of treatment admissions by religion

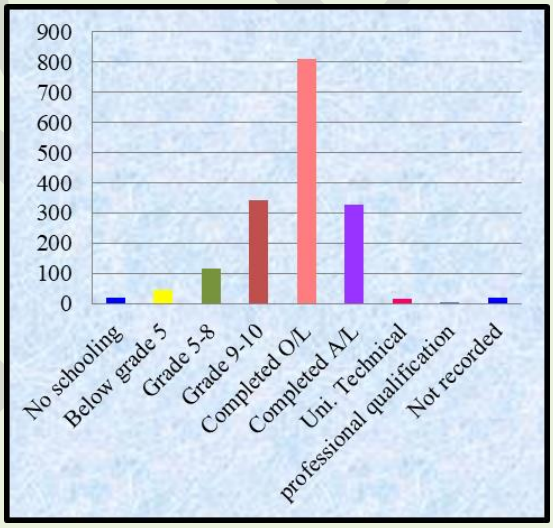


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Educational Status

Educational background of treatment persons implies that, 30% (503) of them had lower level of (up to grade 10) education and 01% (20) of the persons have never been to school. However, 48% (812) had completed O/L, 19% (328) completed A/L exam and university or technically educated 16 persons.

Figure 09: Distribution of treatment admissions by education



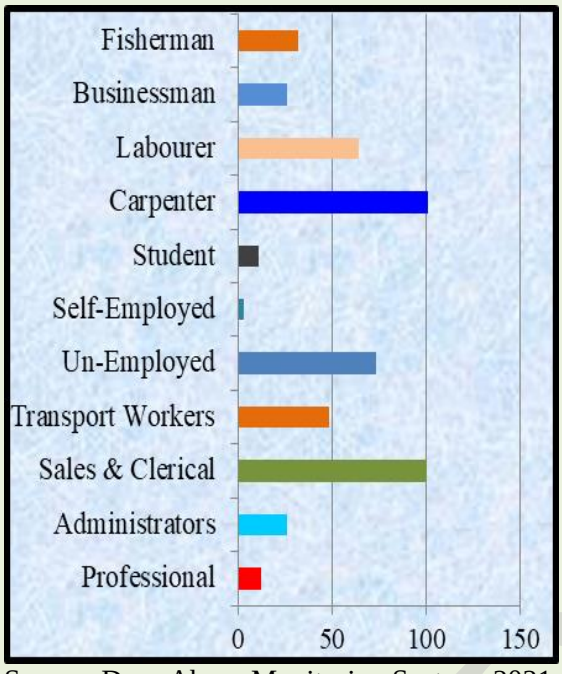
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Employment

The distribution of the treatment admissions reported by occupation for the period of the year of 2021 is as follows, 101 were labourers, 100 were drivers or transport workers and 64 were businessmen.

In addition to, 26 sales mans, 73 self-employed persons, fishermen 26, mason 32 and 03 professionals were reported.

Figure 10: Distribution of treatment admissions by employment



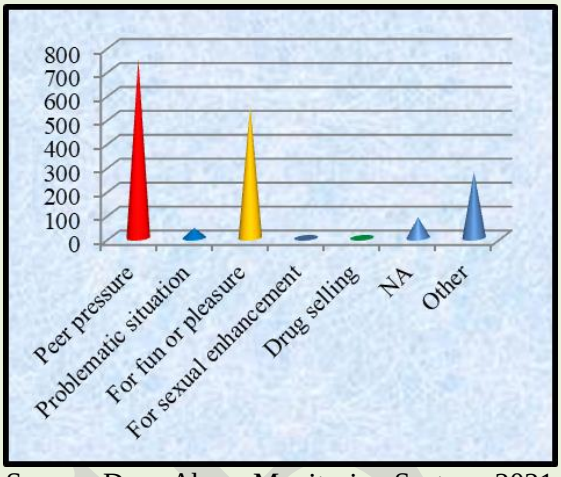
Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Influencing factors for drug initiation

Research currently suggests a considerable number of factors that may contribute to the initiation of drug use. SUD persons who are reported to the treatment services have revealed the factors which effected to their Drug initiation.

Majority (746) had initiated drug use due to peer pressure. In addition to that 551 persons were recorded for pleasure and entertainment and 41 persons were initiate drug use due to problematic situations. All figures are given below.

Figure 11: influencing factors for drug initiation

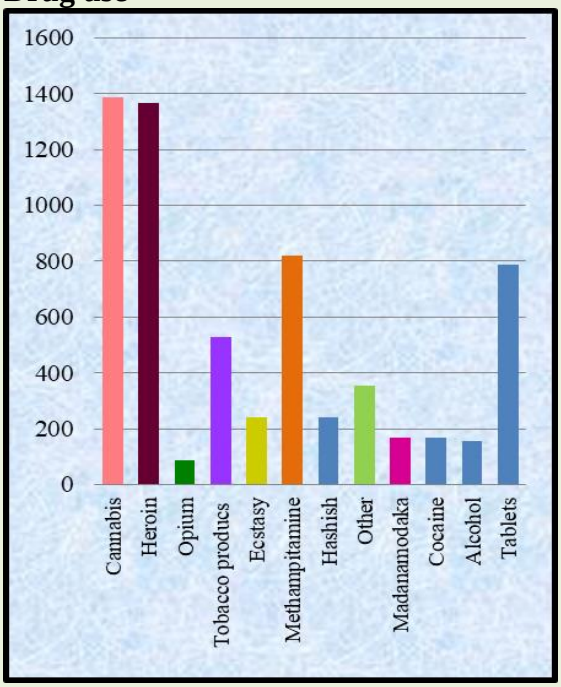


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Drugs

Data indicates that most of the treatment received clients were multiple drug users. 276 used tobacco, 1,364 used heroin and 1,385 used cannabis. Alcohol, tablets and opium users are as follows, 156, 879 and 86.

Figure 12: Distribution of clients by Drug use

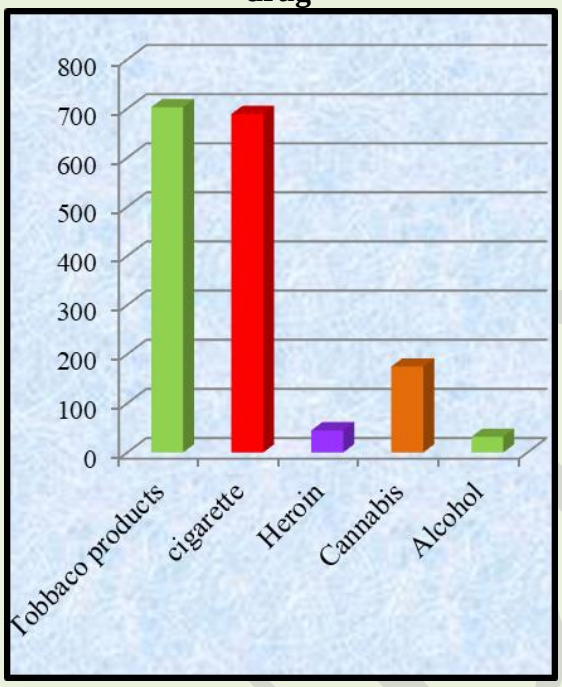


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Primary Drug

As per figures of primary drug use, majority (703) used Tobacco products. Of the total dependents 689 used cigarette, 45 used heroin, 32 used Alcohol and 175 used cannabis as primary drug.

Figure 13: Distribution of treatment admissions by primary drug

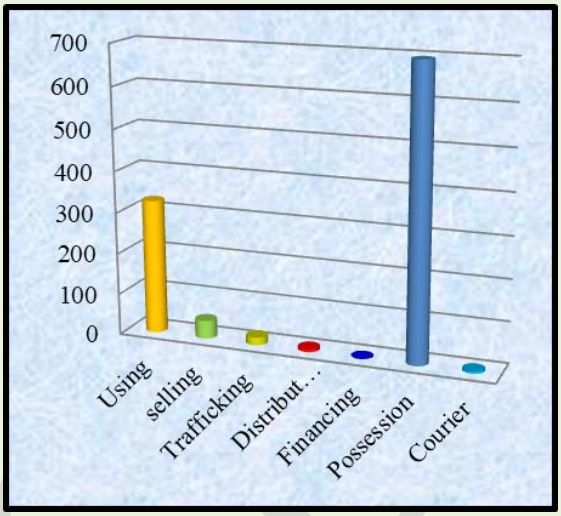


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Nature of offence

Incidents were reported that, persons with substance use disorders have been engaged in drug related offences with different drugs. Out of the treatment received persons, 44 of them have been reported as drug sellers. 695 persons were arrested for possession of drugs during their life time.

Figure 15: Distribution of treatment received by drug offence

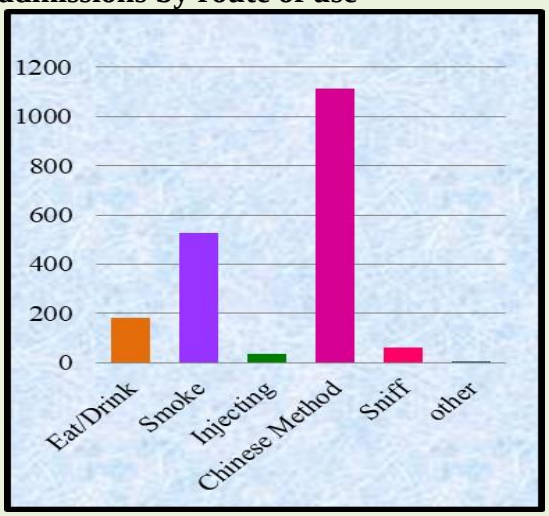


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

Route of use

According to the reported data, clients had used more than one method for the consumption of drugs. 27% (527) of them smoked the drug, 09% (182) eat or drink, 58% (1,111) used Chinese method, 03% (61) used drug-sniffing method and 02% (36) injected the drug.

Figure 16: Distribution of treatment admissions by route of use



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

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