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 second quarter of 2022.

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

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Abstract

The total number of reported drug users who had received treatment services for the second quarter of 2022 was 390. Of the total reported drug users, 40% received treatment from the treatment and rehabilitation center of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB). 5% from prisons drug treatment rehabilitation programme, 12% from NGOs and 43% from Kandakadu Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre of Bureau of Commissioner General of Rehabilitation (BCGR).

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, 29% were from Gampaha district. By considering the entire treatment admissions, 60% were from Western province.

According to the reported data, 387 males and 03 females were admitted for the treatment services in the second quarter of 2022.
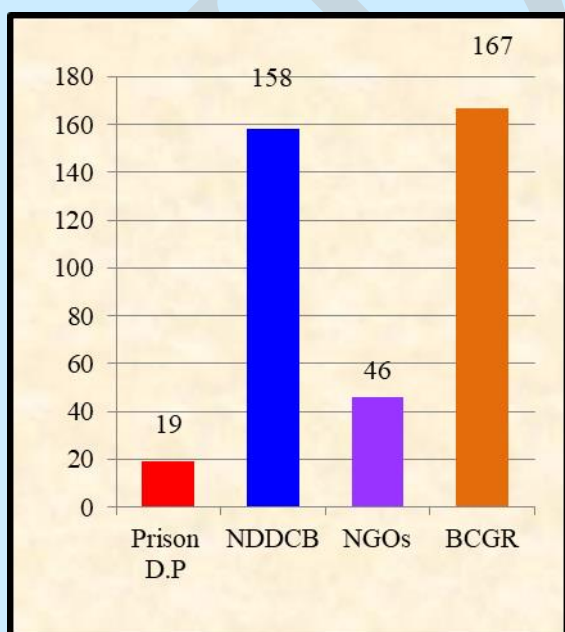
Among the total drug users 29% administrated drugs by smoking, 4% by eating or drink and 63% used Chinese method. It is also revealed that 236 (60.5%) of drug users were single and 117 (30%) were married. Data further indicates that 116 (30%) of them have studied grade 5 to 10 and 168 (43%) persons completed 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 second quarter (April to June) of 2022.

Three hundred and ninety (390) drug dependents have been reported from drug treatment and rehabilitation centres during the second quarter of 2022. 158 (40.51%) persons were reported from the NDDCB treatment centers, 46 (11.79%) from NGOs, 19 (4.87%) from prison drug treatment programmes and 167 (42.82%) from Kandakadu treatment and rehabilitation Centre.

Figure 01: Distribution of treatment admissions

Source:Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

NGOs sector had provided treatment services for 46 drug users and out of them, 17 from Andurin Alokaya Treatment centre, 12 persons from miduma treatment centre and 02 persons from Nawajeewana treatment centre,

Type of Admission

The distribution of admission types is shown in table 01 and it reveals that majority (161) was from voluntary admissions. Court referral admissions were reported 211 persons.

Table 01

Type of Admission	Number of persons	Percentage (%)
Voluntary	161	42
Court referral	214	54
Other	15	4
Not report	0	0
Total	390	100

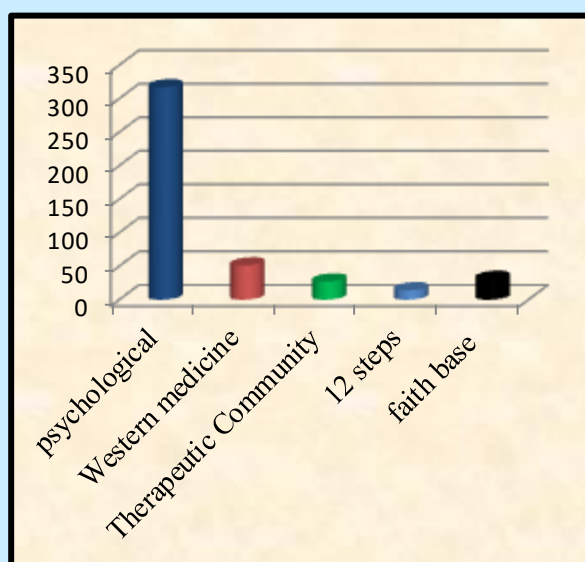Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Type of Treatment facilities

By considering the type of treatment facilities in the second quarter of 2022, majority, 95.9% (374), 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 72% (317) obtained psychological treatment method as majority. In addition to, Faith Base Treatment Model [12 steps] (14), Western medicine (51) and Therapeutic Community model (27) faith base treatment model (31) were also reported.

Figure 02: Distribution of treatment methods
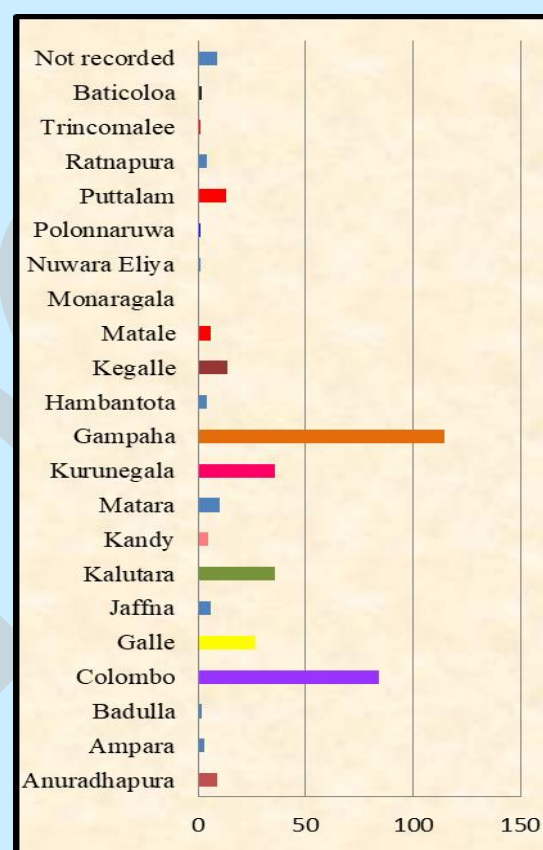

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

District

Considering the number of treatment received persons by districts, it was emphasized that highest number of persons, 115 (29%) were reported from Gampaha district.

However, Colombo (84), Kalutara (36) Kurunegala (36), Galle (27), Puttalam (13) and Kegalle (14) are the other highlighted

districts. Out of the nine provinces, 60% were reported for treatment from Western province, 11% from Southern province and 12% from North Western province and all the details are shown as follows.

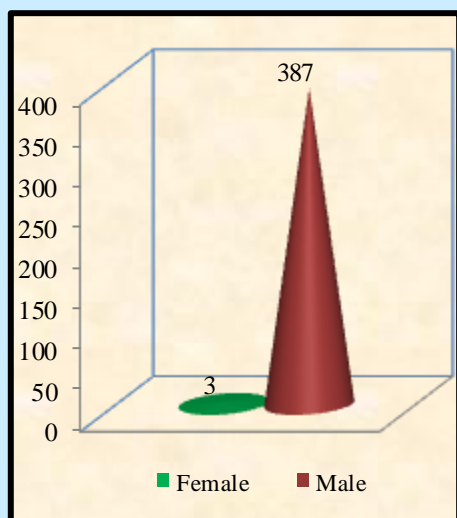**Figure 03: Distribution of treatment admissions by districts**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Gender

Out of the total treatment admissions of the second quarter of 2022, 99.2% (387) were males. 03 (0.8%) female drug users reported.

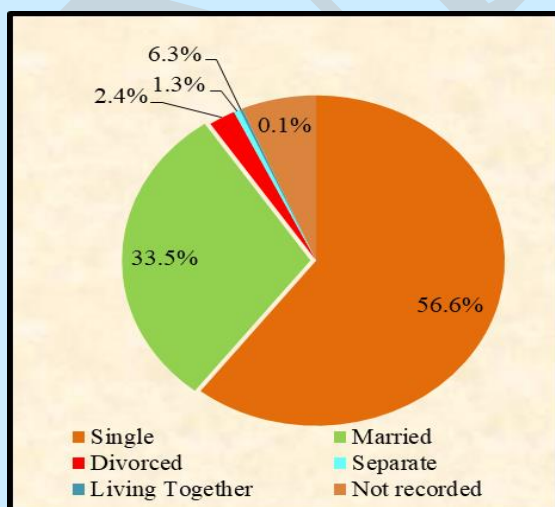## Figure 04: Distribution of treatment admissions by gender

Source:Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Marital Status

Treatment received persons were further classified based on their marital status and it shows that 60.5% (236) were single and 30% (117) were married. In addition divorced (9) and Separated (2) persons were also reported.

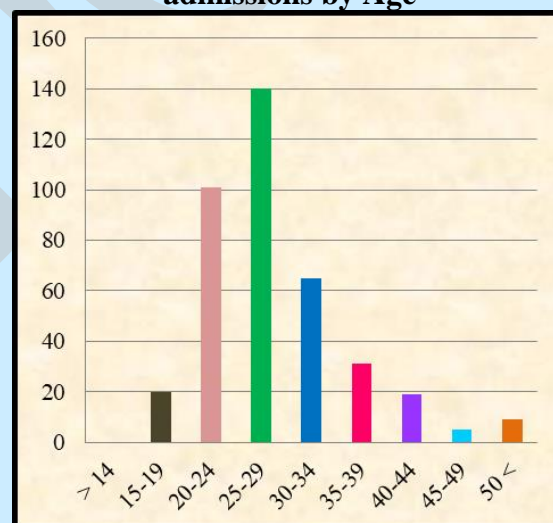## Figure 05: Distribution of admissions by marital status

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

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, 62% (241), 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. 17% (65), 8% (31) and 5% (19) were in the range of 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years accordingly.

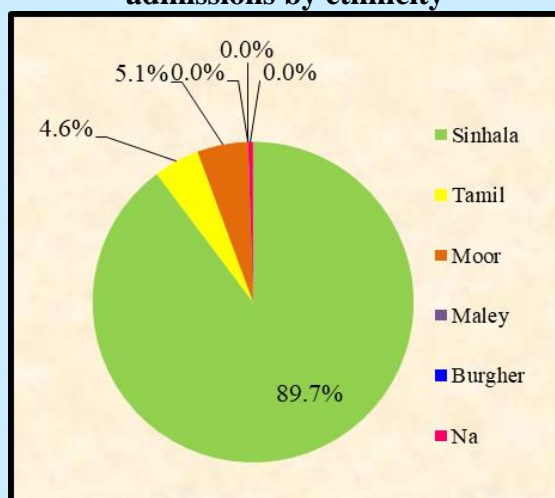## Figure 06: Distribution of treatment admissions by Age

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Ethnicity

According to the recorded persons by ethnicity wise, 350 (89.7%) were Sinhalese, 20 (5.1%) were Moors and 18 (4.6%) were Tamils. More details are shown in figure 07.

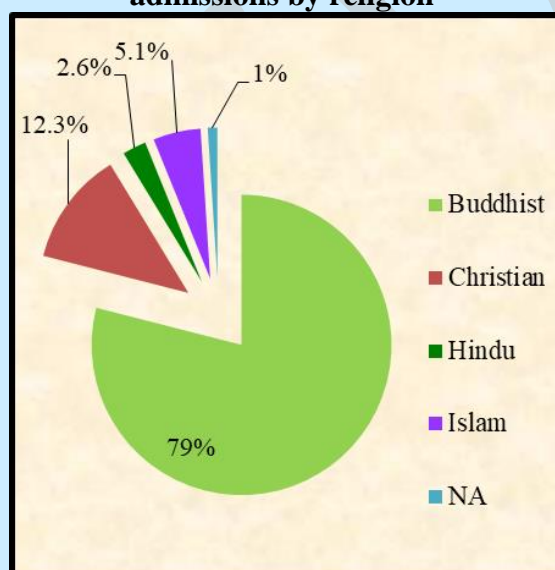**Figure 07: Distribution of treatment admissions by ethnicity**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Religion

According to the data shown in figure 08, majority, 308 (79%) of the clients were Buddhists. 48 (12.3%) Christians, 20 (5.1%) Islam and 10 (2.6%) Hindus.

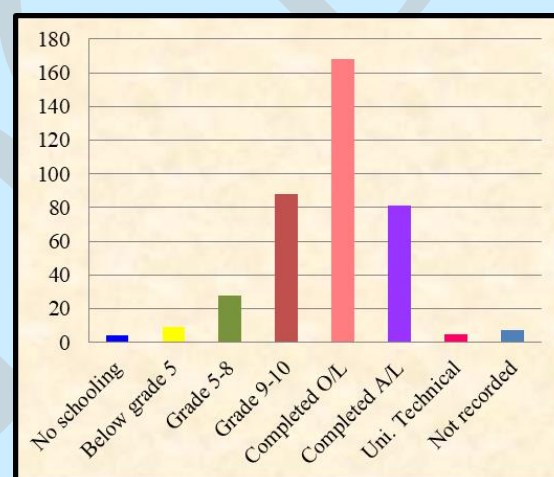**Figure 08: Distribution of treatment admissions by religion**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Educational Status

Educational background of treatment persons implies that, 32% (125) of them had lower level of (up to grade 10) education and 01% (04) of the persons have never been to school. However, 43% (168) had completed O/L, 21% (81) completed A/L exam and university or technically educated 05 persons.

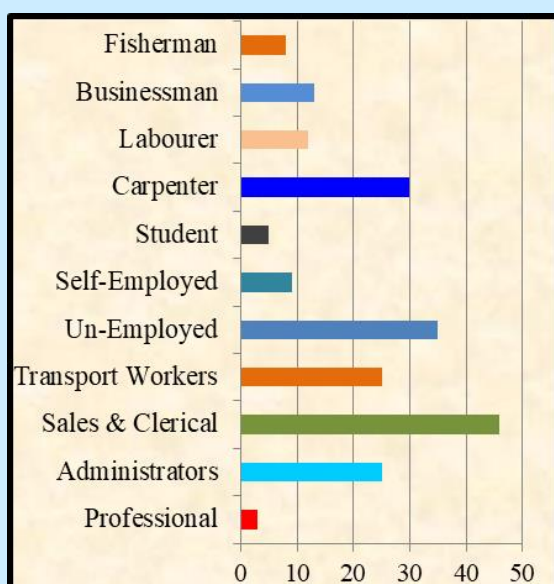**Figure 09: Distribution of treatment admissions by education**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Employment

The distribution of the treatment admissions reported by occupation for the period of the Second quarter of 2022 is as follows, 30 were labourers, 46 were drivers or transport workers and 12 were businessmen.

In addition to, 25 salesmen, 35 self-employed persons, fishermen 13, mason 08 and 12 professionals were reported.

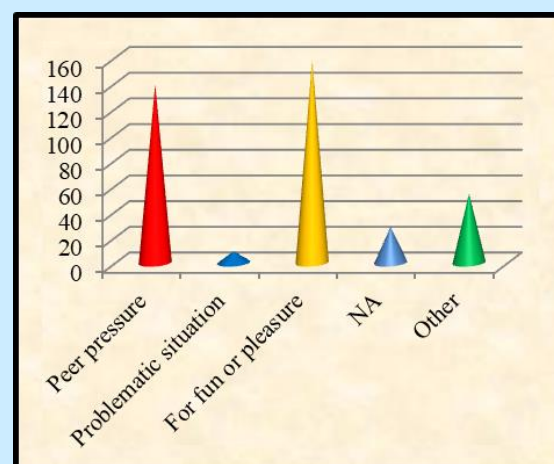**Figure 10: Distribution of treatment admissions by employment**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

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 (139) had initiated drug use due to peer pressure. In addition to that 158 persons were recorded for pleasure and entertainment and 9 persons were initiate drug use due to problematic situations. All figures are given below.
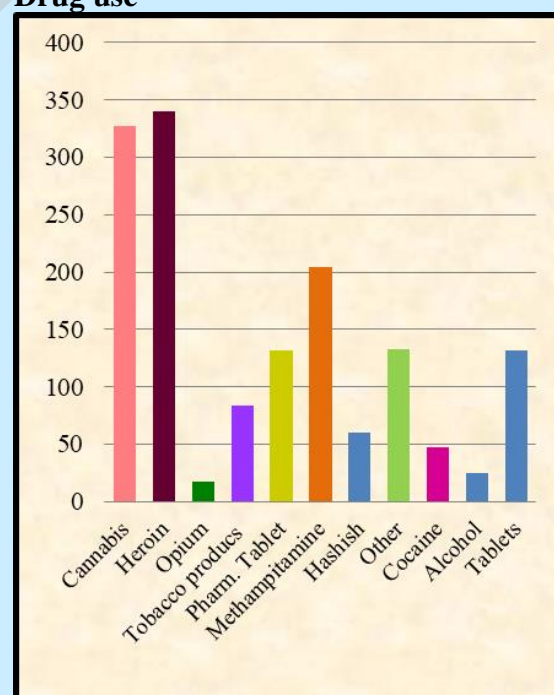
Figure 11: influencing factors for drug initiation

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Drugs

Data indicates that most of the treatment received clients were multiple drug users. 84 used tobacco, 340 used heroin and 327 used cannabis. Alcohol, tablets and opium users are as follows, 25, 219 and 17.

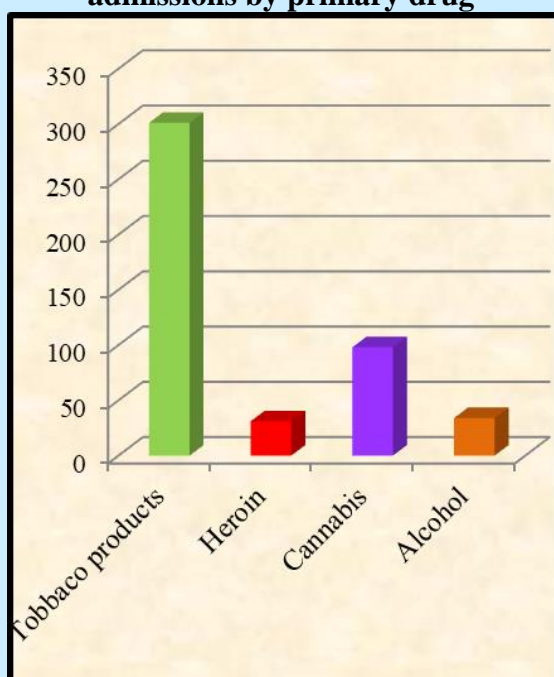**Figure 12: Distribution of clients by Drug use**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Primary Drug

As per figures of primary drug use, majority (301) used Tobacco products. Of the total dependents 31 used heroin, 34 used Alcohol and 98 used cannabis as primary drug.

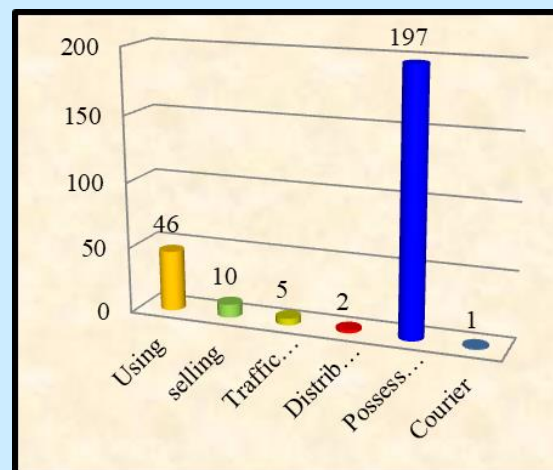**Figure 13: Distribution of treatment admissions by primary drug**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

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, 10 of them have been reported as drug sellers. 197 persons were arrested for possession of drugs during their life time.

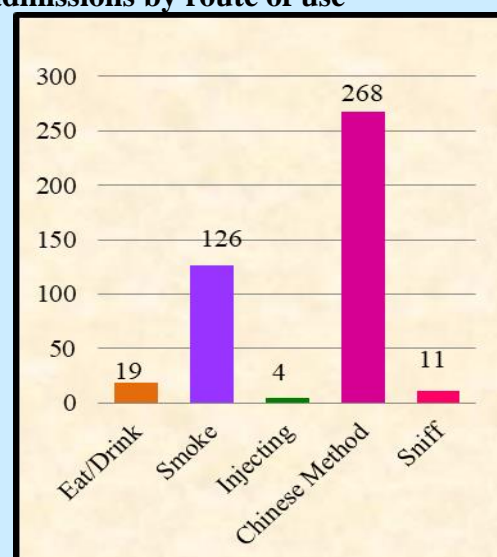**Figure 15: Distribution of treatment received by drug offence**

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

Route of use

According to the reported data, clients had used more than one method for the consumption of drugs. 29% (126) of them smoked the drug, 04% (19) eat or drink, 63% (268) used Chinese method, 03% (11) used drug-sniffing method and 01% (04) injected the drug.

Figure 16: Distribution of treatment admissions by route of use

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2022

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