



# DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SYSTEM

# 2021 STATISTICAL REPORT ON DRUG DEPENDANTS REPORTED FROM TREATMENT AGENCIES

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Research Division  
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

## **Introduction**

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

- To determine the incidence, prevalence and characteristics of drug users who come in contact with reporting institutions or practitioners.
- To determine and describe the at risk groups in the population.
- To assess and evaluate the existing treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug users.
- To be an ‘early warning system’ to permit early programme responses.

This analytical report was compiled based on the reported data from government and private treatment agencies and services on monthly basis. Standard and pre-tested form was used as the instrument for reporting details on drug users which contains following core items:

- a. Demographic factors
- b. Type of Drugs
- c. Route of use
- d. Age at first use
- e. reasons for drug initiation
- f. Treatment method
- g. Types of admissions

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## **Abstract**

The total number of reported drug users who had received treatment facilities for the first quarter of 2021 was 375 persons. Of the total reported Drug Dependent Persons, 80% received treatment and rehabilitation from treatment and rehabilitation centers of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB), 09% from prisons drug treatment rehabilitation programme, 06% from Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation (BCGR) and 05% from NGOs.

The majority of reported drug dependent persons had received institutional treatment facilities and among the treatment admissions, 27% were reported from Colombo district. By considering the entire treatment admissions, 56% were from Western province.

Treatment admissions further revealed that, 372 males and 03 females were admitted for treatments in first quarter of 2021.

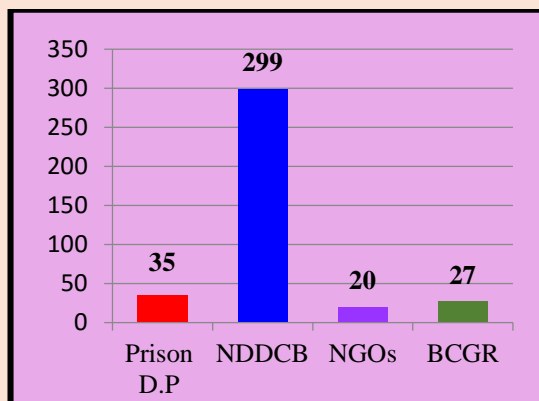
Among the total reported drug dependent persons 13% administered drugs by smoking, 04% by eating or drink and 80% used Chinese method (Chases the Dragon). It is also revealed that 442 (58%) of drug users were single and 275 (27%) were married. Data further indicates that 98 (26%) completed education up to A/L examination and 186 (50%) persons completed O/L examination.

## Background

This is an analytical report on persons treated from treatment facilities during the first quarter of 2021 (January to March) and data received to the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) on monthly basis.

Three hundred and seventy five (375) drug dependent persons have been reported from treatment services during first quarter of 2021. 299 (80%) persons were reported from the NDDCB, 20 (05%) from Private treatment centers, 27 (07%) from BCGR and 35 (09%) from prison drug treatment programmes.

**Figure 01: Distribution of reported drug treatment admissions**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Type of Admission

The distribution of drug related treatment admissions by admission types is shown table 01 and it reveals that majority 316 was

Voluntary admissions. 51 Court referral admissions were reported during the period.

**Table 01**

Type of Admission	Number of persons
Voluntary	316
Court referral	51
Other	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Nature of Treatment facility

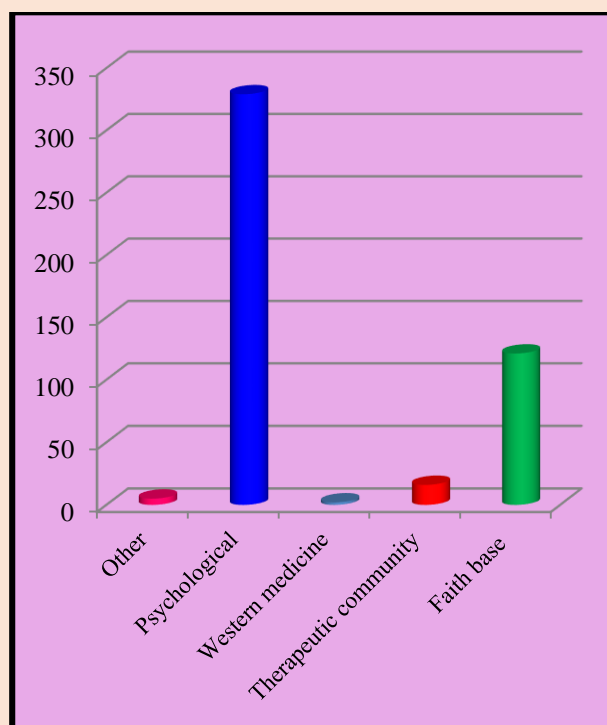
By considering the type of treatment facilities received by the drug users in the first quarter 2021, majority, 96% (360) of them obtained in house or institutional treatment services. Out of the types of drug treatment facilities, “institutional care” can be considered as the most popular drug abuse treatment facility.

## Treatment method

Treatment received persons were further classified based on treatment methods which they have treated and it shows that 93% were obtained psychological treatment method as majority. In addition to that, Therapeutic Community model (16) Faith Based treatment model (03) were also reported.



**Figure 02: Distribution of treatment methods**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## District

Considering the number of treatment received persons in district wise, it emphasized that highest number of persons, 100 (27%) were reported from Colombo district.

However, Gampaha (86), Kurunegala (27), Kalutara (22), Kandy (18), Galle (17) and Kegalle (14) are the other highlighted districts. 56% were reported for treatment services from Western province, 10% from Southern province and 09% from North Western province and all the details are shown in table No. 02.

**Table 02**

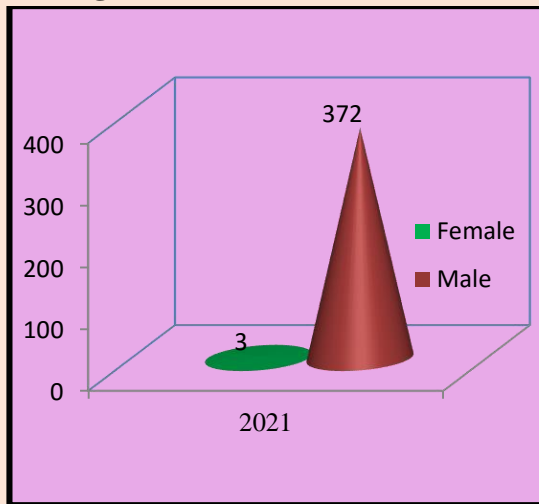
District	Number of persons
Anuradhapura	18
Ampara	01
Badulla	02
Colombo	100
Galle	17
Kalutara	22
Kandy	18
Matara	15
Kurunegala	27
Gampaha	86
Hambantota	02
Rathnapura	10
Kegalle	14
Matale	06
Nuwara Eliya	01
Polonnaruwa	03
Puttalam	04
Badulla	02
Jaffna	05
Not recorded	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Gender

Out of the total treatment admissions of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021, 99% (372) were males. 03 (1%) female drug users

**Figure 03: Gender distribution**

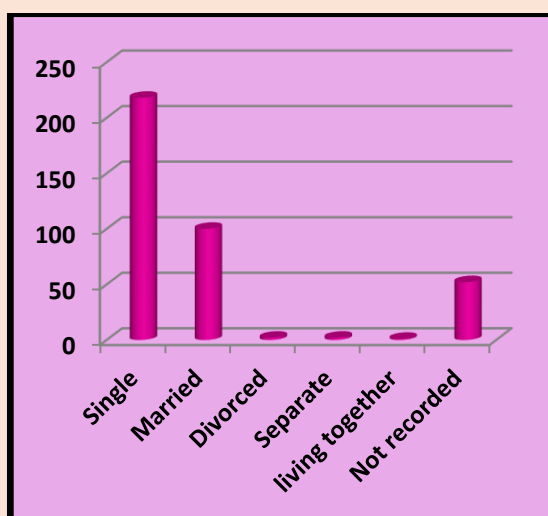


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

### Marital Status

Treatment admissions were further classified based on their marital status and it shows that 58% (218) were single and 27% (100) were married persons. In addition to that, divorced (02), separate (02) and living together (01) persons were also reported during the period.

**Figure 04: Distribution of marital status**

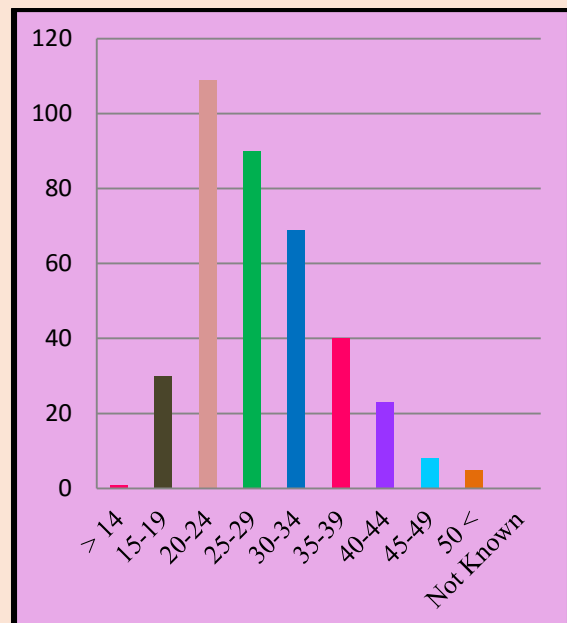


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

### Age

The distribution of drug related treatment admissions by age is shown in figure 05 and it reveals that majority, 54 % (199), of the clients were in age 20-29 range. 18% (69), 11% (40), 08% (30), and 06% (23) were in the range of 30-34, 35-39, 15-19 and 40-44 years accordingly. Nonetheless, one person had reported for age category of 01-14.

**Figure 05: Distribution of treatment admissions by Age levels**

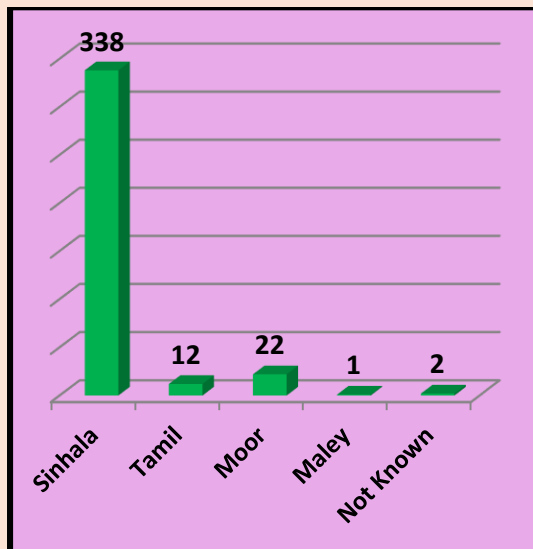


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

### Ethnicity

According to the recorded persons by the ethnicity wise, 338 (90%) were Sinhalese, 22 (06%) were Moors, 12 (3%) were Tamils, and 01 (0.5%) of them were Malay. More details are shown in figure 06.

**Figure 06: Distribution of treatment admissions by ethnicity**

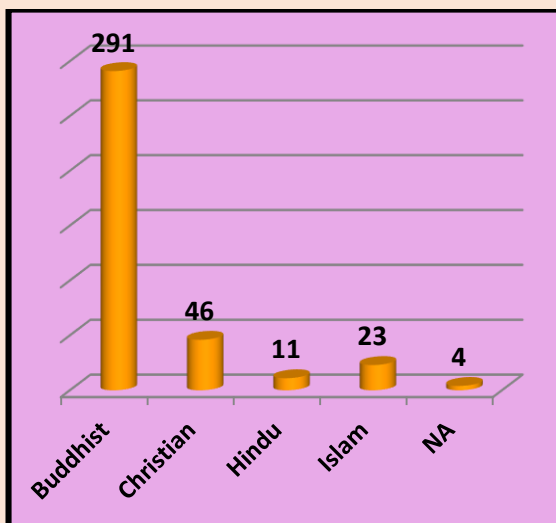


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Religion

According to the data shown in figure 07, majority, 291 (78%) of the clients were Buddhists. 46 (12%) Christians, 23(6%) Islam and 11 (03%) Hindus.

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

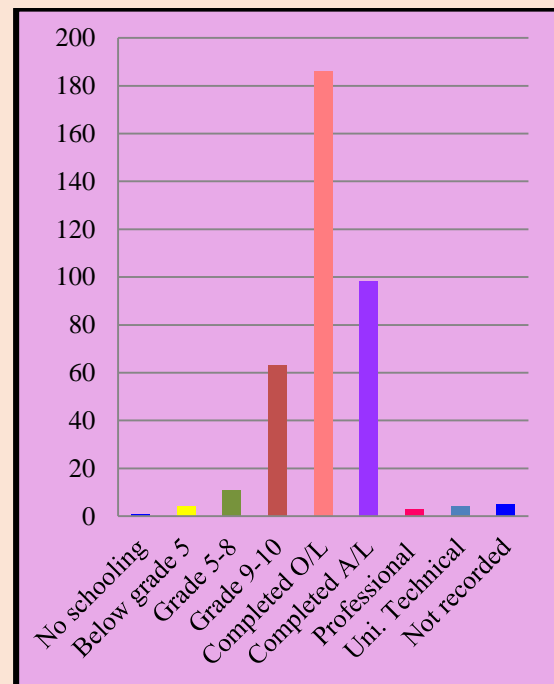


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Educational Status

Treatment received client's educational background implies that, 22% (78) of them had lower level (up to grade 10) educational background and 0.5% (01) of the persons never been to school. However, 50% (186) had completed O/L, 26% (98) completed A/L exam and university or technically educated 04 persons.

**Figure 08: Distribution of treatment admissions by level of education**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

## Employment

The distribution of treatment admissions by employment categories is as follows, 09 were laborers, 25 were unemployed and 16 were drivers or transport workers.

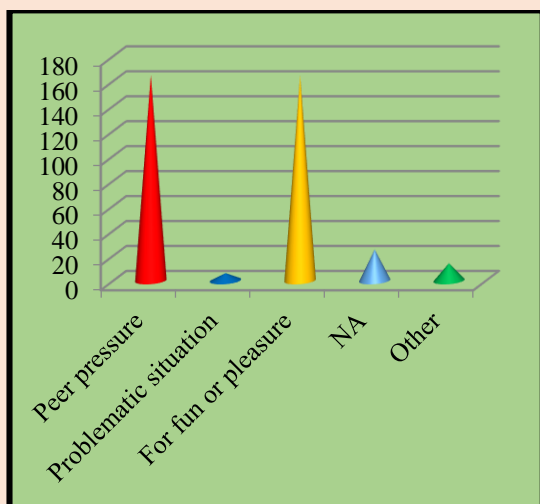


In addition to, 13 businessmen, 11 Sales & Clerical, 07 self-employed persons and 03 Manager or Administrators were reported.

## Influencing factors for drug initiation

Different factors were reported as influencing factors for drug initiation. Out of the total drug dependent persons who reported to the treatment services, majority (165) had initiated drug use due to peer pressure. In addition to that 165 persons has initiated to using drugs for pleasure and entertainment and 06 persons were reported for overcoming of problematic situations at theory lives. All figures are shown below.

**Figure 09: influencing factors for drug initiation**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

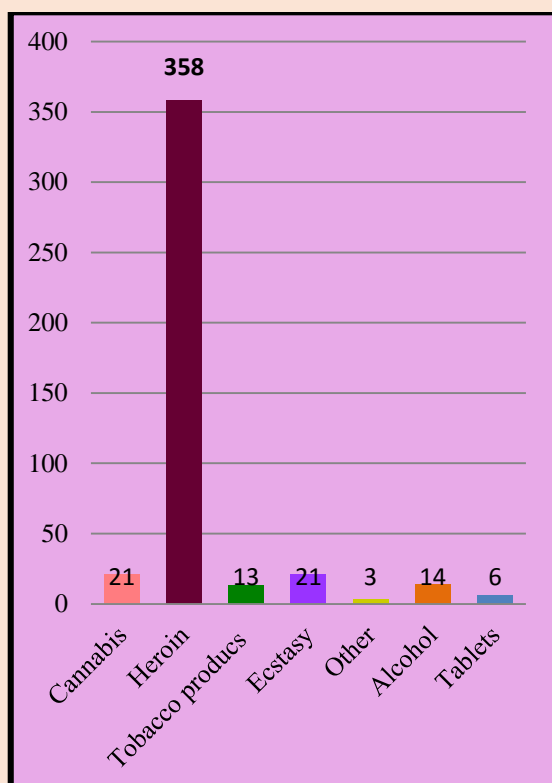
## Age of first use

Average age of drug initiation was analyzed and it shows that, all the drugs had been initiated at young age (15-29) and details are as follows, 18 and 17 was the average age for hashish and Heroin use, initiated tobacco use at age 15-year alcohol at the age of 20 and cannabis users are initiated use at the age 15 years. However, out of the total drug dependent person who received treatment services during this period, initiated Methamphetamine (ICE), cocaine, ecstasy use at the age above 34 years.

## Drug use

Treatment admission records further indicates that majority of drug dependent persons were poly drug users. 13 persons were used tobacco, 358 used heroin, 21 used cannabis, 14 used Alcohol and 6 persons used pharmaceutical tablets.

**Figure 10: Distribution of treatment received by Drug use**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

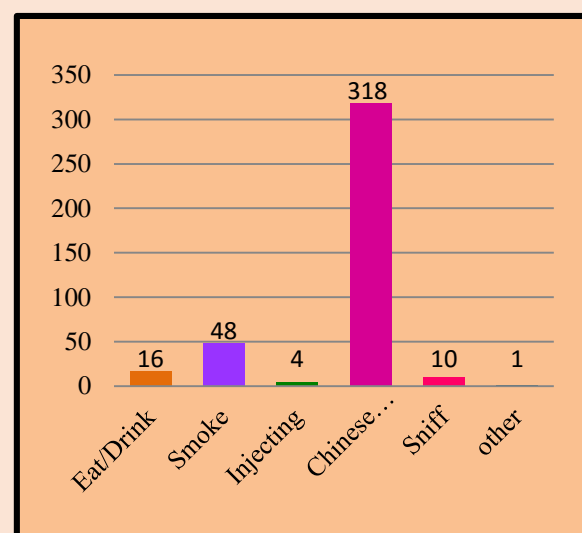
### Primary Drug

Out of the total persons who reported to the treatment services during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021, majority (177) were used Tobacco products as primary drug. Data further revealed that, 18 persons were used cannabis, 05 were used Alcohol and 02 were used Methamphetamine as primary drugs. 171 persons were not mentioned about their primary drug.

### Route of use

According to the reported data, clients had used more than one method for administered drugs. 13% (48) smoked drugs, 04% (16) eat or drink, 80% (318) used Chinese method, 03% (10) used drug-sniffing method and 01% (04) injected the drug.

**Figure 11: Methods of drug use**



Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 2021

### Drug related offences

Most of the drug dependent persons have ever been engaged in one or more drug related offences and used different drugs. Out of the persons who reported to the treatment services, 05 persons have been arrested at their life time for drug selling. Further, 163 persons were arrested for possession of drugs.

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