STATISTICAL REPORT ON DRUG RELATED ARRESTS IN SRI LANKA

DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SYSTEM VOLUME - 67

January - June 2024



National Dangerous Drugs Control Board No 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya

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 come for treatment, reporting institutions or practitioners.
- To monitor the trends and patterns in drug use
- To determine and describe the at risk groups in the population
- To be an `early warning system' to permit early programme responses

The information given in this report is mostly from Police Stations Island wide and Police Narcotic Bureau.

The Instrument of the Reporting Form used for reporting on drug users contains core items on:

- a. Demographic characteristics
- b. Drugs used
- c. Route of use
- d. Gender
- e. Frequency of drug use
- f. Nature of offence

Compiled by :

Research Division

Contents	
Introduction	1
Abstract	2
Gender	3
District	3
Age	4
Ethnicity	5
Religion	5
Marital status	6
Educational status	6
Drug	7
Route of use	7
Employment	8
Nature of offence	8

Abstract

This is an analytical report on persons arrested for drug related offences, received to the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) from January to June 2024. Total arrests were reported from Island wide police stations on daily basis.

According to the data recorded in data base from January to June 2024, 43,717 persons were arrested for drug related offences and out of that 21,321 (48.8%) were Cannabis users. The highest proportions, 10,052 of arrests were in aged 25 to 29. The majority, 5,076 seizers were reported from Colombo district and 24.3% from Western province.

Among the arrests, 98% were male and 2% was female. And it further indicates, 23,108 persons (52.9%) were married and 16,536 (37.8%) were single. When considering their educational background, highest amount of drug use was reported from those who completed O/L. Seventy six persons were reported as professionally qualified.

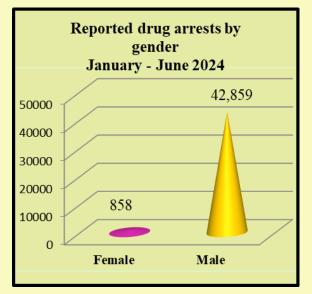
According to the ethnicity 72.6% of arrests were Sinhalese, 9.0% Tamils, 11.5% Moors, 0.01% Malays and 0.01% Burghers and they were further classified by their religion as Buddhists (70.3%), Islam (11.8%), Hindus (8.3%) and Christians (3.3%).

The distribution of the arrestees reported by occupation for the period of January to June 2024 is as follows, 19.8% were labourers, unemployed were 11%, agro base sector were 4.6% and drivers or privet sector were 3.1%.

Gender

Gender is not a deciding factor any more when it comes to drug consumption or related offences and it clearly shown in Fig.1. 42,859 (98%) persons were male and 858 (2%) were females. Compare to 2023, the number of male and female arrests has been increased.

Figure 01



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

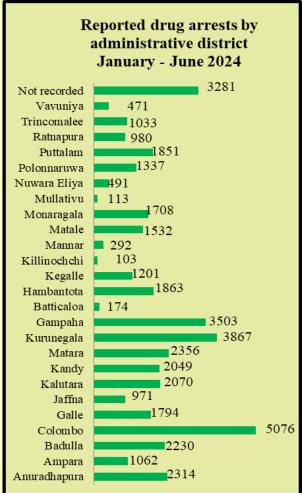
District

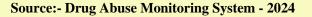
Reported data were further classified by districts. It emphasized illicit drugs are not only confined to Colombo but exists in remote and rural areas as well. Figure 2 illustrate the prevalence of drug arrest by districts and provinces.

The maximum number of arrests, 5,076 (11.6%), were reported from Colombo and out of the nine provinces Western Province (24.3%) was the highest drug related offences taking place and North Western Province has become the 2nd place (13%).

Some arrest district wise as follows, 2,049 (4.7%) from Kandy, 3,503 (8%) from Gampaha, 1,851 (4.2%) from Puttalam, 3,867 (8.8%) from Kurunegala, 2,314 (5.3%) from Anuradapura, 2,230 (5.1%) from Badulla 1,708 (3.9%) from Monaragala, 980 (2.2%) were from Ratnapura, 1,532 (3.5%) from Matale and 1,863 (4.3%) from Hambantota.







Age

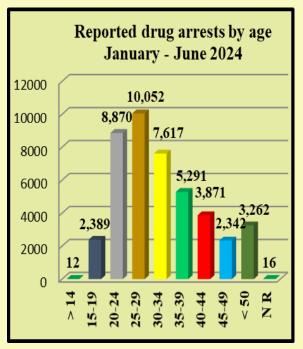
According to the classification of drug related arrests by age, (Fig. 03) clearly indicates that highest percentage (23%) were in aged 25-29.

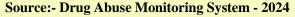
4

2023 January-June

The distribution of drug related arrests by age is shown in figure 04 and it reveals that majority, 20.3% (8,870), 17.4% (7,617), and 12.1% (5,291) were in the range of 20-24, 30-34 and 35-39 years accordingly. 3,871 were reported for age category of 40-44.



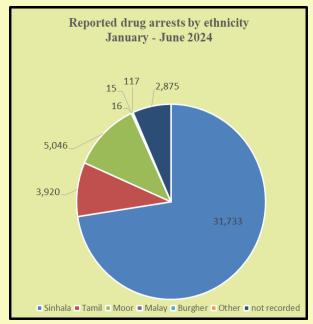




Ethnicity

During the period of January to June 2024, the number of arrests reported by ethnicity wise is as follows, 31,733 (72.6%) were Sinhalese, 5,046 (11.5%) Moors, 3,920 (9.0%) Tamils, 16 (0.01%) Malays, 16 (0.01%) Burghers and 117 (0.3%) were others.

Figure 04

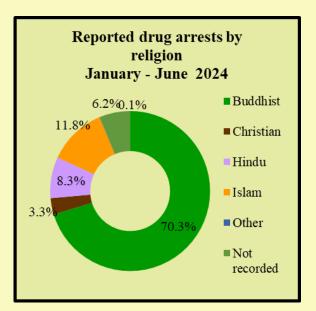


Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

Religion

According to the data shown in Fig 05, 30,720 (70.3%) were Buddhists, 3,639 (8.3%) Hindus, 1447 (3.3%) Christians and 5174 (11.8%) were Islam accusers. It clearly shows that majority of arrests were Buddhists.

Figure 05

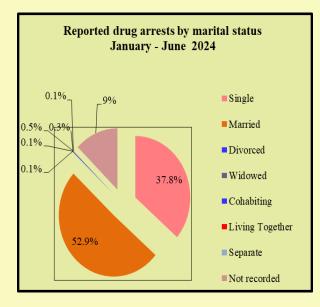


Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024 Research Division - National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

Marital Status

Among the persons arrested in January to June 2024, 16,536 (37.8%) were single, 23,108 (52.9%) were married, and 99 (0.2%) were divorced. It had been reported 09 separated and 5 cohabiting persons as well.

Figure 06



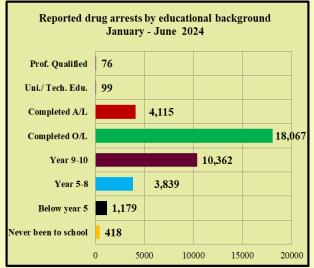


Educational status

Persons arrested on drug related offences were further classified based on their educational level. Majority of them were somewhat educated, 41% of them studied completed O/L.

99 university or technically educated persons and 76 professionally qualified were also reported. However 418 (1%) of them were never been to school.





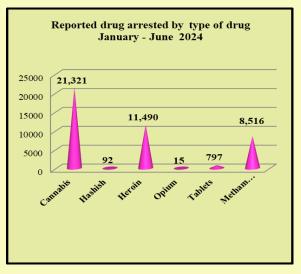
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

Drug related arrests by drug

According to the reported data, people arrested mostly for Cannabis and Heroin related offences. Their figures are as follows 21,321 (48.8%) for cannabis and 11,490 (26.3%) for heroin. Nevertheless 8,516 (19.5) Methamphetamine users and 92 Hashish users were recorded.

In addition to above illicit drug users, 2548 were arrested for other drugs, such as tablets tobacco powder (dumkudu), Babul, hans and Panpara in January to June of 2024.

Figure 08



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

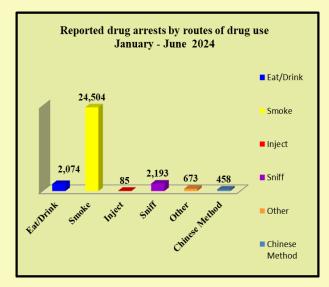
Routes (Method) of drug use

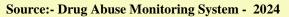
Persons who arrested for drug related offences have used different methods to use drugs.

Data imply that smoking 24,504 (56%), eating or drinking 2,074 (4.7%) and sniffing 2193 (5%). Chinese method 458 (1%) are the common drug using methods in Sri Lanka.

However 85 of drug injectors were also reported and fluctuated of those data are shown in Fig 09.

Figure 09





Employment

The distribution of the arrestees reported by occupation for the period of January to June 2024 is as follows, 8,676 were labourers, 4,828 were unemployed, 1,341 were self employed and 788 were drivers or transport workers.

Table 01

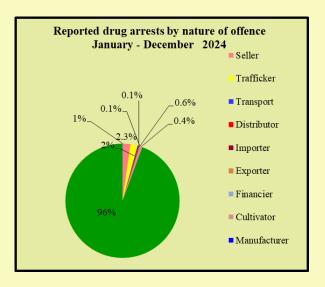
Employment	Number	%
Sales & Clerical	1	0.00
Drivers / Transport		
Workers	788	1.8
Agro based Workers	1995	4.6
Un-Employed	4828	11
Self-Employed	1341	3.1
Laborers	8676	19.8
Businessman	1017	2.3
Fisherman	1561	3.6
Government Sector	144	0.3
Private sector	1348	3.1
Construction sector	549	1.3
NA	7382	32.2
Other	14092	11.08

Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

Nature of Drug Offence

Among the total number of drug related arrests, 41,988 (96%) were arrested as possessions 992 (2.3%) as drug sellers and 319 (0.7%) were drug cultivators. In addition to that trafficker (895), distributer (125), financier (5), Manufacturer (35) were also reported in January to June of 2024.

Figure 10



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2024

7

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