

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - November 2018

Fact Sheet



Research Division
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

Introduction

Currently, drug prevalence, drug related offences and drug related offenders who were arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are increasing. 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 recorded data of DAMS in October and November 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, 8419 persons were arrested for drug related offences during October and November in 2018. From these arrestees, 4433 persons were arrested in October and 3986 persons were arrested in November. It was 10% decrease in November with compare to October.

District

By considering the arrested data in November, the highest number of persons, 1152, was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Kalutara and Kandy districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrestees respectively. 17 districts were highlighted with decreased number of arrested persons in November with compared to October and highest decrease, 89%, was reported from Killinochchi district. 8 districts showed an increase in November with compared to October and highest increase, 59%, was indicated in Vavuniya district. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period and it was one of the evidence for drug abuse prevalence in Sri Lanka.

Gender

The majority, 97%, of the arrested persons in November was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in October and November, the majorities were males in both months and figures were same.

Age

59.96% of arrested persons in November belonged to 20-34 age category and there were 2 arrested person less than 15 years old. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in October with November, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

Marital Status

49.20% of arrested persons in November were married and 50.43% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in November was divorced and widowed. By considering of arrested persons in October, 50.60% of them were unmarried and 48.93% were married while rest of them was divorced, separated and cohabited. Therefore it can be concluded that the proportion of unmarried arrested persons in November was slightly decreased in compared to the arrested persons in October while proportion of married arrested persons in November was slightly increased.

Education

Although 3.7% of arrested persons in November never been to school, there were 39.3% of arrested persons whose educational level was Ordinary Level. Also, 8.7% of the arrested persons in November had completed advanced level and there were some graduates. By considering the arrested persons in October, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each of all educational categories.

Ethnicity and Religion

78.7% of the arrested persons in November were Sinhalese, 8.2% were Tamils, 9.6% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in October and November, the majorities of the arrested persons in each of these two months were Sinhalese but considerable number of arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that the percentage of Tamils was greater than the percentage of Moors in October and it was vice versa in November.

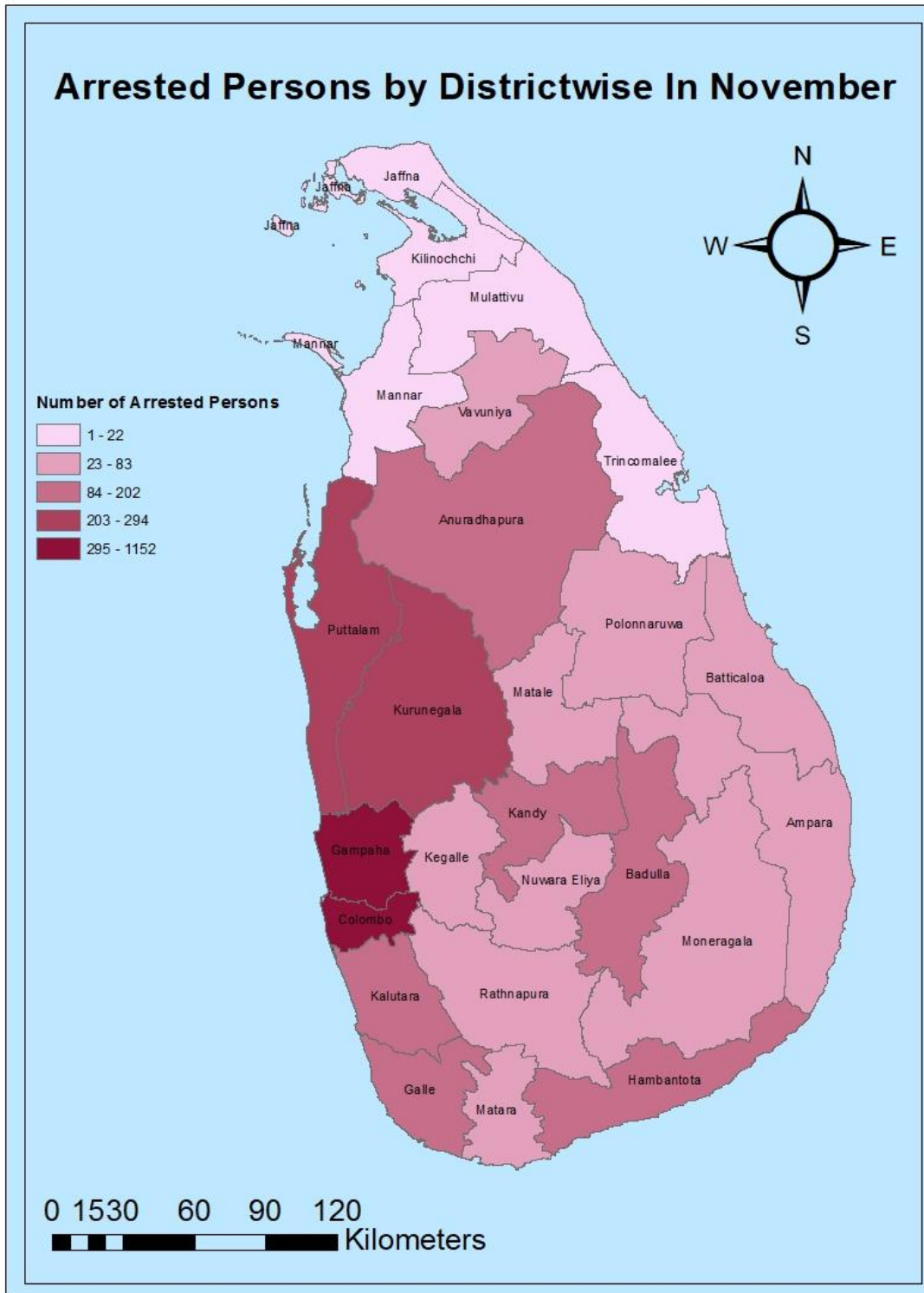
71.68% of the arrested persons in November were Buddhists, 12.07% were Islam, 6.65% were Hindus and 9.43% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in October with November, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in October and November were significantly similar and the 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 offences.

Occupation

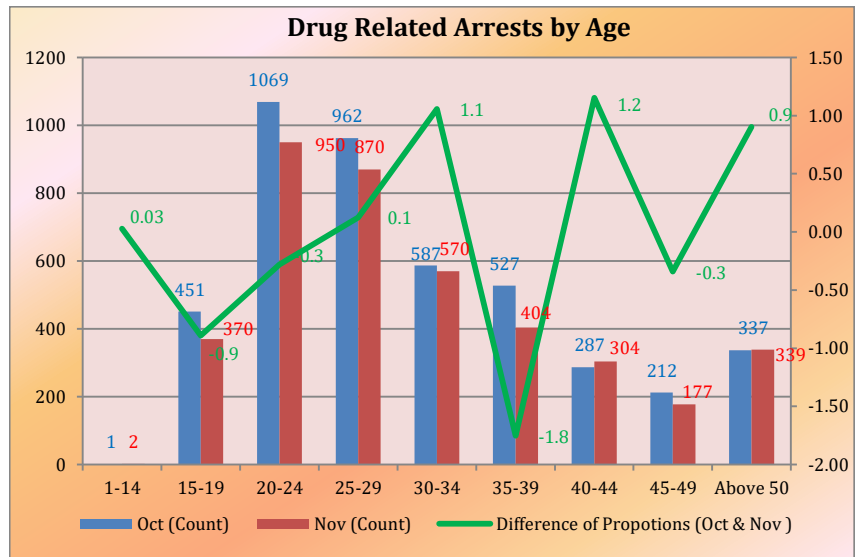
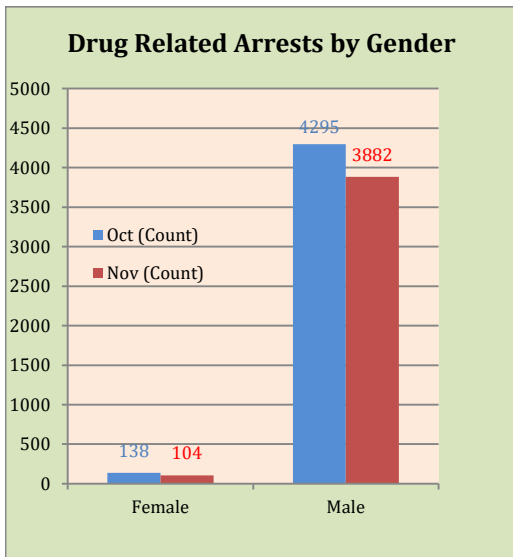
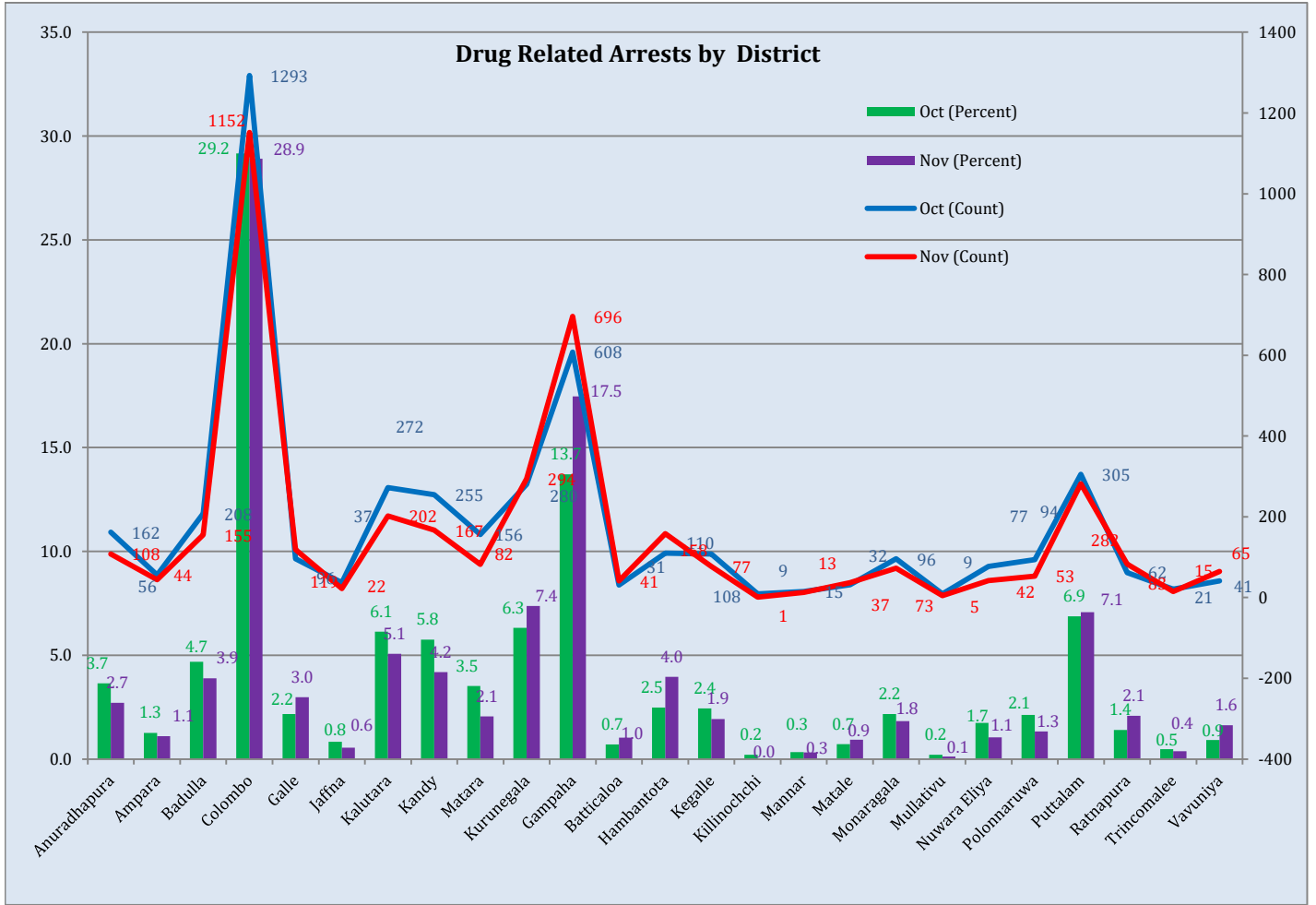
From the related data in November, 33.6% of arrestees were labourers, 7.2% were farmers, 10.2% were unemployed, 2.5% were self-employed, 0.6% was students and 3.8% were professionals. By comparing the occupation distributions of arrested persons between October and November, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each of both months and some of the arrestees were working as drivers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were small fluctuations in ratios of every occupation which were being engaged by arrestees in November with compared to October.

Type of Drugs

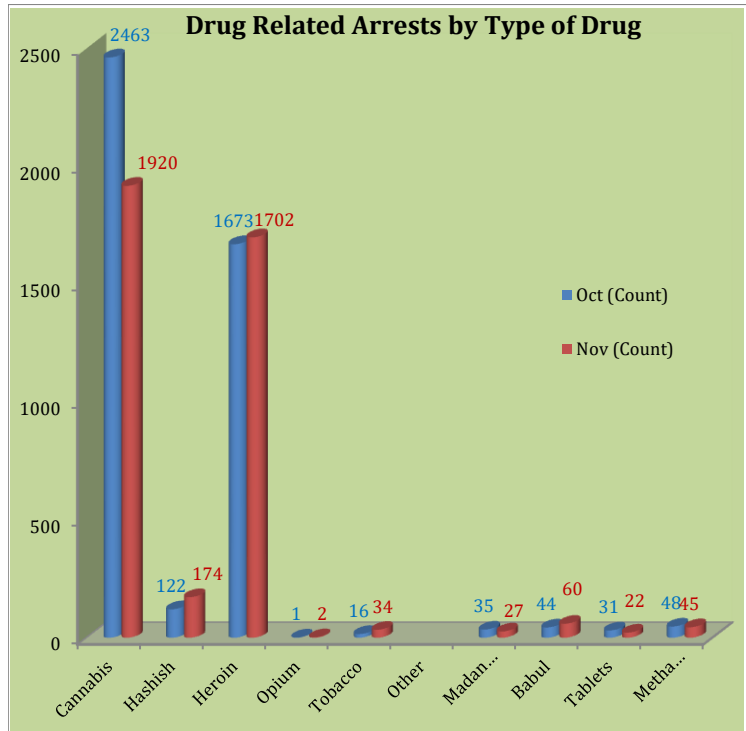
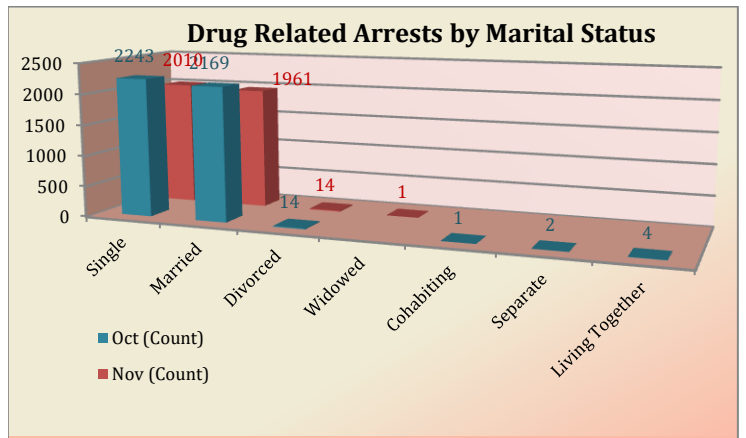
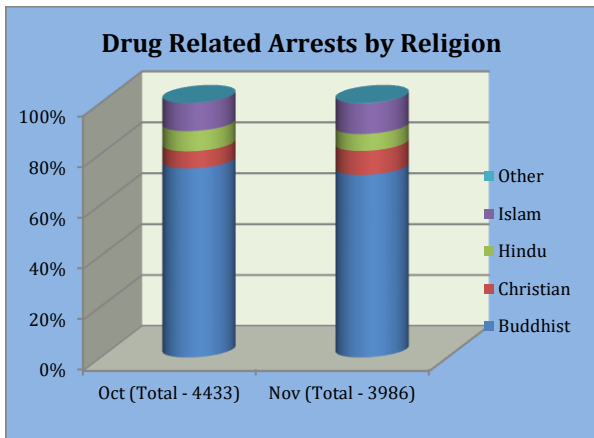
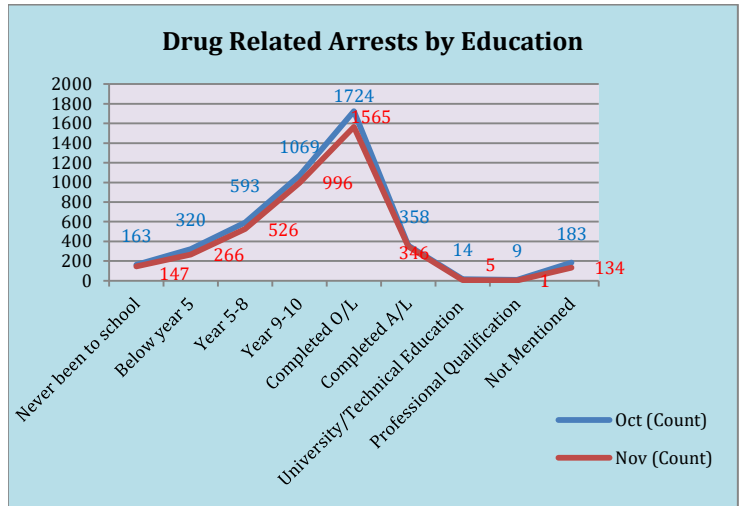
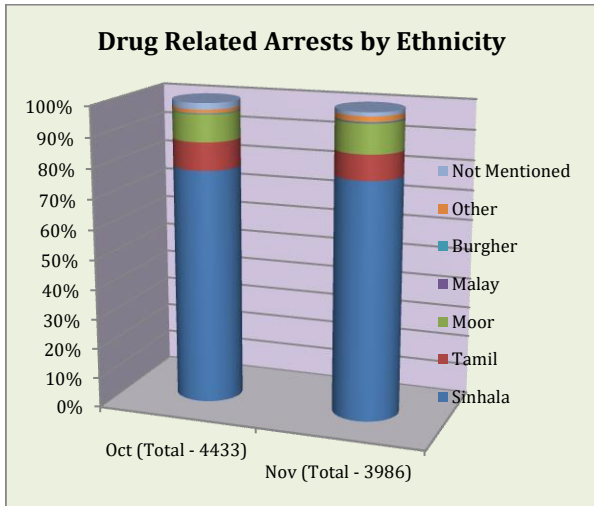
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in October as well as November, but the cannabis related offence had been decreased from 55.56% to 48.17% in November with compared to October. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 37.74% and 42.70% of arrestees in October and November were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium, methamphetamine (Ice) and tablets were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in October - November of 2018)



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