



DRUG RELATED STATISTICS

ARRESTS & TREATMENT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023



National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

No 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya

Drug-Related Arrests

Drug Related Arrests by Drug

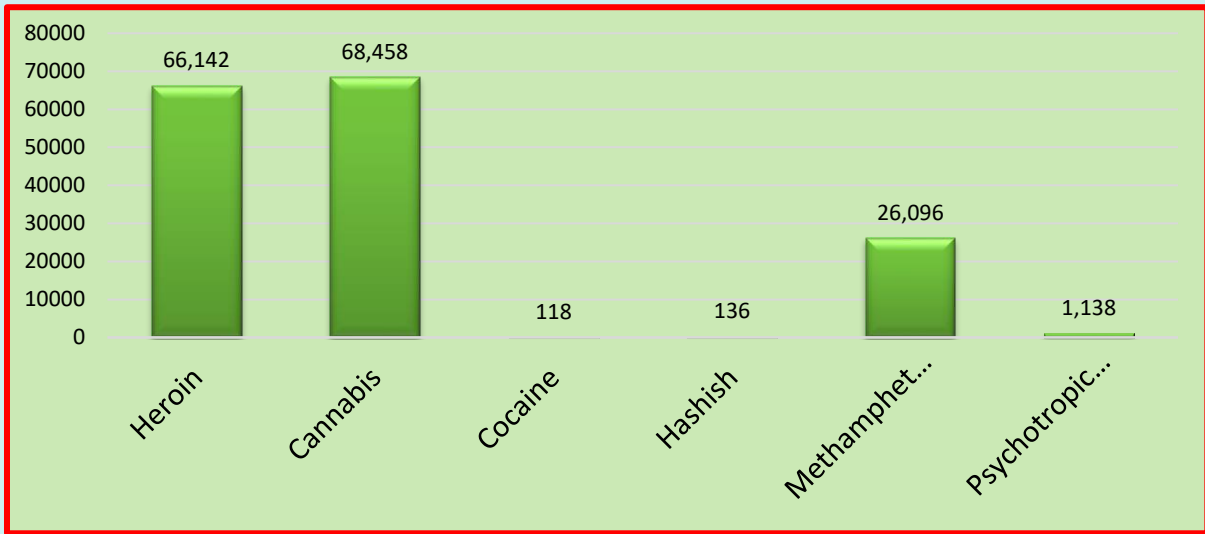
In 2023, a total of 162,088 individuals were arrested for drug-related offenses across the island. Of these arrests, heroin-related offenses accounted for 66,142 individuals, representing 40.81% of the total. Cannabis-related offenses led to 68,458 arrests, making up 42.23% of the total, indicating its widespread use and cultivation. Methamphetamine-related arrests were 26,096, with 16.1% of the arrests, reflecting a significant concern over the rise of synthetic drugs. Additionally, 118 persons were arrested for cocaine-related offenses, and 136 individuals were detained for offenses related to hashish. These statistics underscore the broad spectrum of drug issues facing the region and the extensive efforts by law enforcement to address them.

Table No: 1- Drug-related Arrests by Drugs

Type of drugs	Frequency	%
Heroin	66,142	40.8
Cannabis	68,458	42.2
Cocaine	118	0.1
Hashish	136	0.1
Methamphetamine	26,096	16.1
Psychotropic substances	1,138	0.7
Total	162,088	100.0

Source: Police Narcotics Bureau, 2023

Graph No: 01 –Drug-Related Arrest by Drugs



Source: Police Narcotics Bureau, 2023

In 2023, the total number of arrests for drug-related offenses saw a notable increase compared to 2022, marking an emerging trend in the country. This upward trend in drug-related arrests underscores growing concerns about drug prevalence and the efforts by law enforcement authorities to combat drug trafficking and abuse

Table No: 2 - Drug-Related Arrests by Districts

District	Heroin	%	Cannabis	%	Methamphetamine	%	cocaine	%	hashish	%	Psychotropic Substances	%	Opium	%	Others	%	Total
Anuradapura	2,057	45.3	2,108	46.4	219	4.8	0	0.0	1	0.0	120	2.6	0	0.0	36	0.8	4541
Polonnaruwa	589	22.7	1,704	65.7	263	10.1	0	0.0	5	0.2	5	0.2	0	0.0	27	1.0	2593
Badulla	616	17.9	2,420	70.3	156	4.5	0	0.0	2	0.1	118	3.4	0	0.0	129	3.7	3441
Moneragala	167	6.8	2,185	89.4	43	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	45	1.8	2443
Batticaloa	246	19.2	629	49.0	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1	5	0.4	1	0.1	400	31.2	1284
Ampara	282	14.2	1,442	72.4	176	8.8	0	0.0	4	0.2	2	0.1	0	0.0	85	4.3	1991
Trincomalee	427	17.9	1,359	57.1	400	16.8	0	0.0	1	0.0	161	6.8	0	0.0	32	1.3	2380
Galle	2,189	44.6	2,189	44.6	160	3.3	0	0.0	6	0.1	3	0.1	0	0.0	362	7.4	4909
Matara	2,070	38.8	2,613	49.0	10	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.1	2	0.0	633	11.9	5332
Hambantota	1,389	27.8	3,205	64.0	305	6.1	0	0.0	9	0.2	18	0.4	0	0.0	78	1.6	5004
Colombo	28,273	42.0	19,593	29.1	15176	22.5	15	0.0	14	0.0	54	0.1	15	0.0	4253	6.3	67,393
Kalutara	3,125	45.8	2,498	36.6	392	5.8	0	0.0	3	0.0	77	1.1	0	0.0	721	10.6	6816

DRUG RELATED STATISTICS - 2023

Gampaha	9,791	47.6	6,076	29.6	4380	21.3	4	0.0	2	0.0	36	0.2	0	0.0	262	1.3	20,551
Mannar	132	26.0	199	39.3	125	24.7	2	0.4	3	0.6	26	5.1	0	0.0	20	3.9	507
Jaffna	699	50.7	405	29.3	60	4.3	1	0.1	0	0.0	110	8.0	0	0.0	105	7.6	1380
Mullativu	38	15.1	191	76.1	18	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.2	1	0.4	0	0.0	251
Kilinochchi	29	13.1	169	76.5	10	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	5.9	221
Vavuniya	118	21.1	370	66.2	37	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.5	0	0.0	31	5.5	559
Kegalle	1,229	40.1	1,380	45.0	238	7.8	0	0.0	3	0.1	42	1.4	0	0.0	173	5.6	3065
Ratnapura	717	26.9	1,684	63.2	248	9.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.5	2663
Matale	631	21.9	1,682	58.3	268	9.3	0	0.0	2	0.1	5	0.2	0	0.0	299	10.4	2887
NuwaraEliya	116	4.7	1,140	45.8	54	2.2	0	0.0	8	0.3	81	3.3	13	0.5	1077	43.3	2489
Kandy	2,285	40.1	2,718	47.7	387	6.8	3	0.1	11	0.2	64	1.1	1	0.0	233	4.1	5702
Kurunegala	3,178	35.5	5,017	56.0	518	5.78642	0	0.0	3	0.0	22	0.2	1	0.0	213	2.4	8952
Puttalam	2,167	38.7	2,214	39.5	93	1.66131	0	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.1	8	0.1	1111	19.8	5598

Source: Police Narcotics Bureau, 2023

Table No: 3 – Drug-Related Arrest by Provinces

Province	Heroin	Cannabis	Methamphetamine	Others (Hashish, Opium, Cocaine, Psychotropic Substances, and others)
North Central	2646	3812	482	194
Western	41189	28167	19948	5456
Southern	5648	8007	475	1115
Central	3032	5540	709	1797
Northern	1016	1334	250	318
Eastern	955	3430	578	692
Sabaragamuwa	1946	3064	486	232
North Western	5345	7231	611	1363
Uva	783	4605	199	297

Source: Police Narcotics Bureau, 2023

*Other drugs - Babul, Madanamodaka, Hans, Panpara

According to arrest statistics, the Western Province has the highest prevalence of drug-related incidents in the country. In addition to the Western Province, the Southern and North Western Provinces also exhibit high prevalence rates of drug-related activities.

Seized Quantity of Drugs (Kg)

In the period from January to December 2023, law enforcement agencies across the island reported significant seizures of various illicit drugs. A total of 850.749 kilograms of heroin was seized, highlighting the substantial presence and distribution of this narcotic. Cannabis seizures were even more pronounced, with law enforcement authorities seizing 10,220.462 kilograms, indicating its widespread cultivation and use. Additionally, 83.242 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized during this period, underscoring the growing concern over synthetic drugs in the region. These figures reflect the extensive efforts by law enforcement to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

Table 4 - Seized Quantity of Drug (Kg)

Drug	Seized quantity (kg)
Heroin	850.749
Cannabis	10,220.462
Cocaine	25.546

Hashish	274.481
Opium	1.561
Methamphetamine	83.242
Psychotropic substances	Capsules: 315,648 Tablets: 1,184,334

Source: Police Narcotics Bureau, 2023

Treatment Admissions for drug use disorders

Treatment Admissions for drug use disorders

In 2023, various government and non-government organizations played crucial roles in providing drug treatment services in Sri Lanka. Throughout the year, a reported total of 1,889 individuals received treatment for drug dependence. Among them, 757 individuals (40.0%) received treatment services from the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board treatment centers.

Furthermore, 370 individuals (19.5%) received treatment from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or private treatment facilities, underscoring the diverse range of options available for individuals seeking help for drug dependence outside of government-run programs.

A significant portion of individuals, 762 (40.2%), received treatment from the Kandakadu Treatment and Rehabilitation Center of the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation. This center plays a crucial role in providing rehabilitation services, particularly for individuals with drug dependence issues.

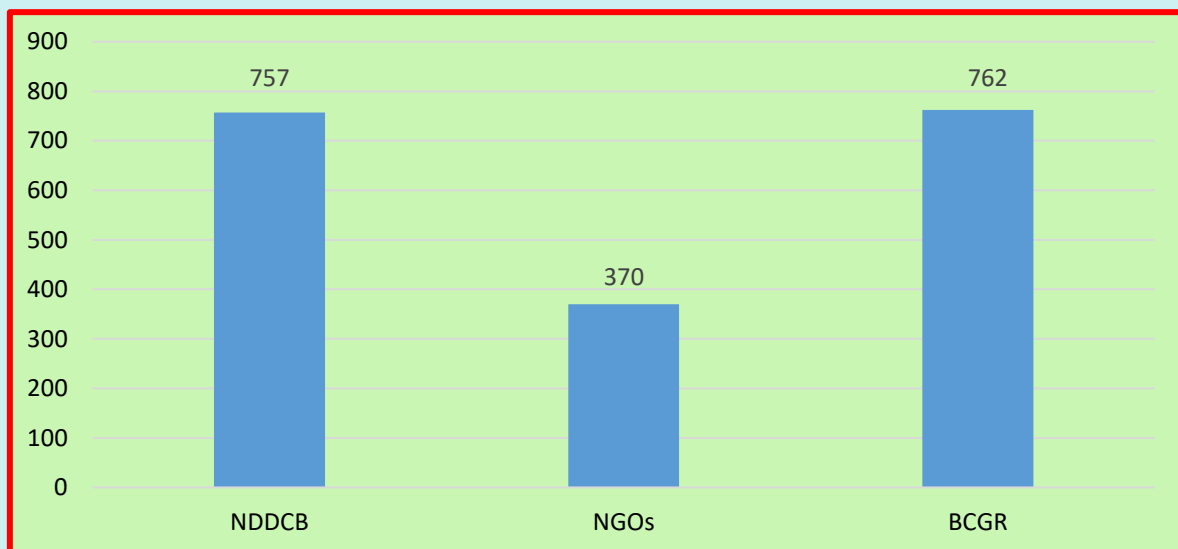
Overall, the collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and private treatment facilities demonstrates a concerted effort to address drug dependence and provide support to individuals struggling with substance abuse across Sri Lanka.

Table No: 05 - Reported Drug Users by Treatment Facility for 2023

Treatment Facility	Government	NGO	Kandakadu	Total
Number of treatment received persons	757	370	762	1889
Percentage %	40.2%	19.6%	40.2%	100.0

Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System-NDDCB, 2023

Graph No: 04 - Reported Drug Users by Treatment Facility

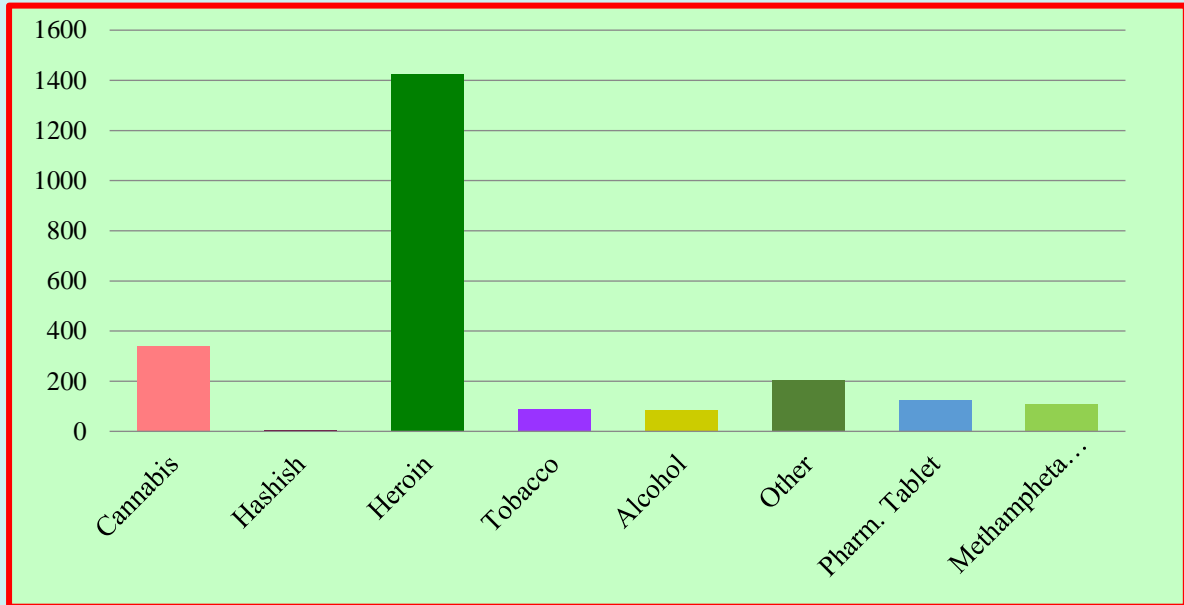


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System-NDDCB, 2023

Treatment Admissions by Drug

Data indicates that most of the treatment received clients were multiple drug users. 154 used tobacco, 1,193 used heroin, and 278 used cannabis. Alcohol, tablets, and opium users are 94, 106, and 7.

Graph No: 05 - Treatment Admissions by Drug

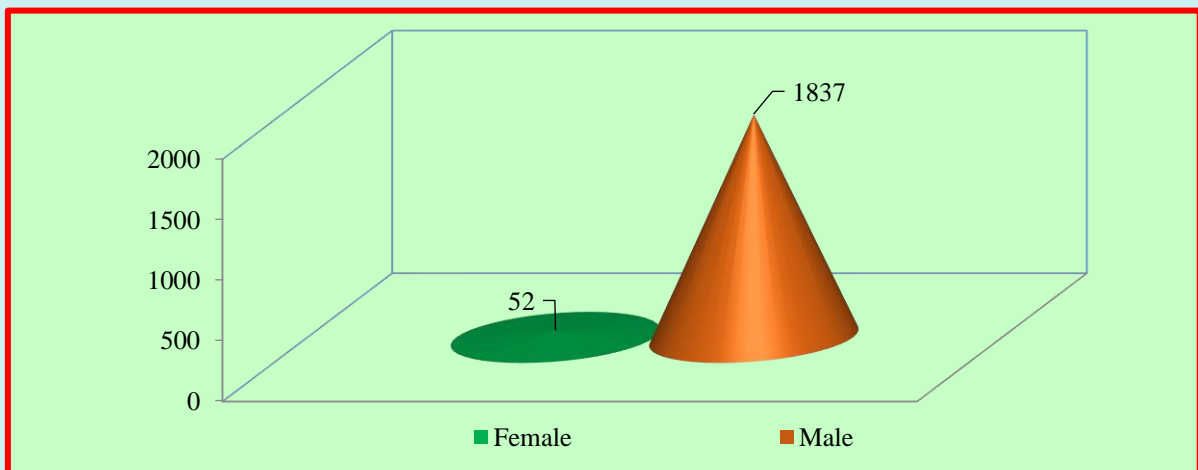


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System-NDDCB, 2023

Treatment Admissions by Gender

Out of the total treatment admissions of the year 2023, 97% (1,837) were males and 52 (03%) were females.

Graph No: 06 - Treatment Admissions by Gender

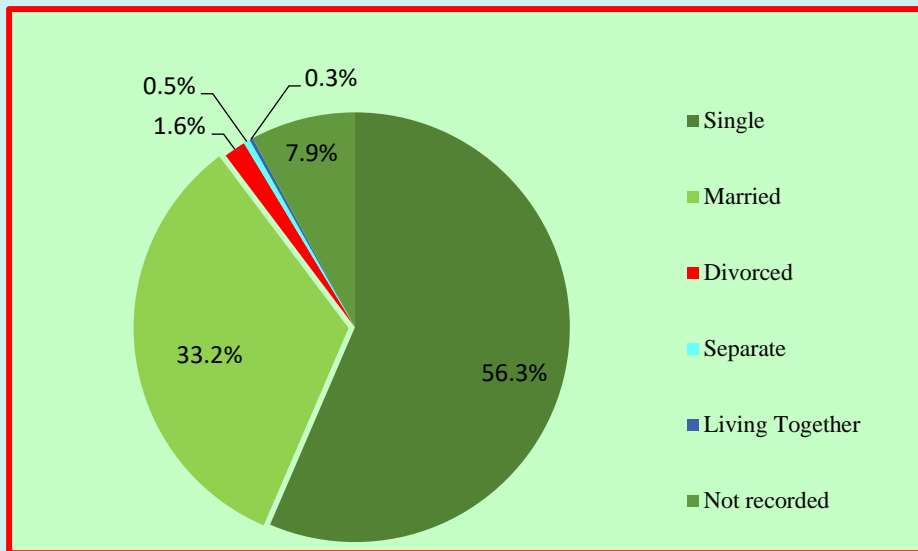


Source: Drug Abuse Monitoring System-2023, NDDCB

Treatment Admissions by Marital Status

In 2023, individuals receiving treatment for drug dependence were categorized by marital status. The majority, comprising 56.3% of the total, were single, reflecting the prevalence of substance abuse among unmarried individuals. Additionally, 33.2% were married, indicating that a sizable portion of those seeking assistance were in marital relationships. A smaller number were classified as divorced (31), separated (09), or living together (05).

Graph No: 07 - Treatment Admissions by Marital Status

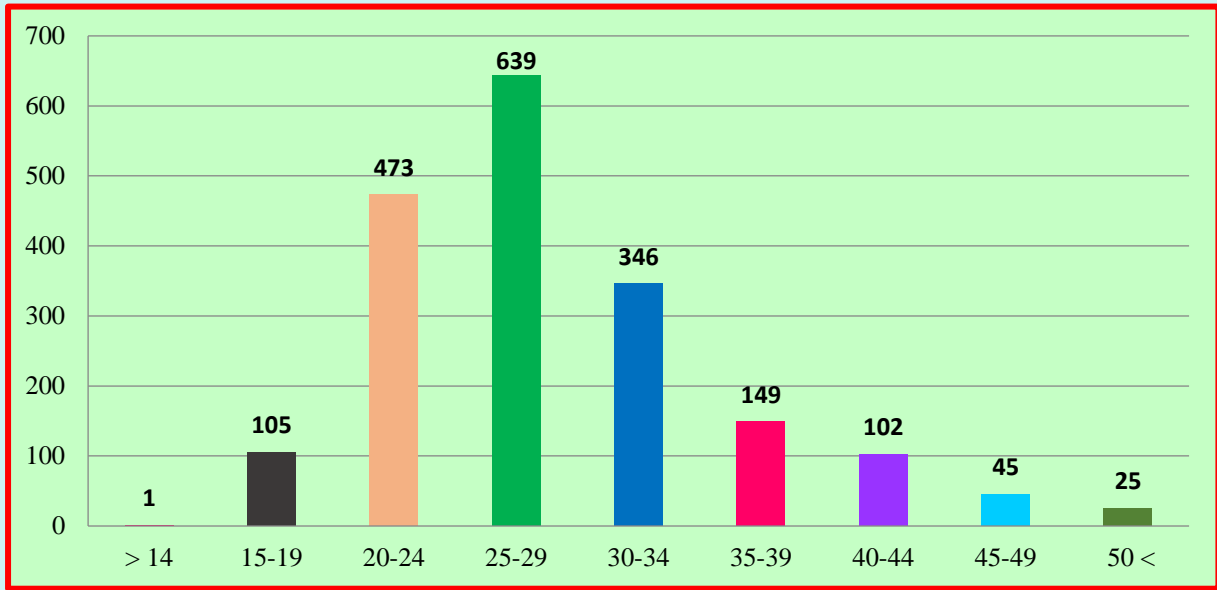


Source: DAMS Treatment Data-NDDCB, 2023

Treatment Admissions by 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 Graph No: 08. 18% (346), 08% (149) and 05% (102) were in the range of 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years accordingly.

Graph No: 08 - Treatment Admissions by Age

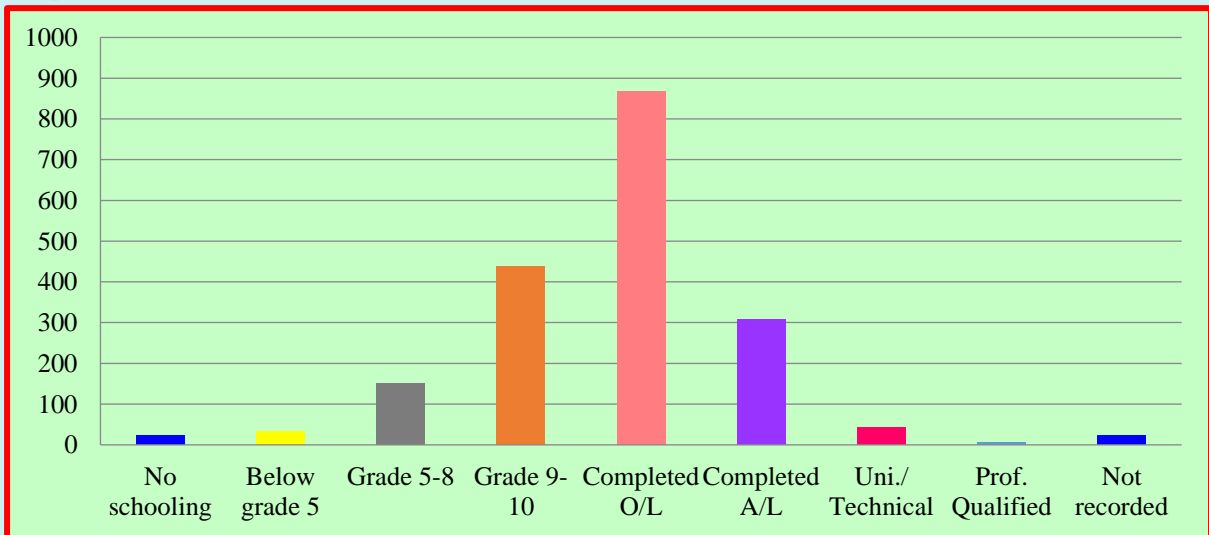


Source: DAMS Treatment Data-NDDCB, 2023

Treatment Admissions by Educational Levels

The educational background of persons who were admitted to the treatment services implies that 33.6% (587) of them had a lower level of (up to grade 10) education and 01% (24) of the persons have never been to school. However, 46% (868) had completed O/L, and 16% (309) completed A/L exam and university or technically educated 42 persons.

Graph No: 07 - Treatment Admissions by Educational Status



Source: DAMS Treatment Data: 2023, NDDCB

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