



STATISTICAL REPORT ON DRUG RELATED ARRESTS IN SRI LANKA

DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SYSTEM

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Research Division

National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya.

Tel: 2868794-6 Fax: 2868791-2 Hot Line:1984

E-mail: mail@nddcb.gov.lk

Web: www.nddcb.gov.lk

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 is presented based on the reported data to the Drug Abuse Monitoring System during the period of January to June 2021. Standard and pre-tested online form was used as the instrument for reporting details on drug offenders which contains following core items:

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

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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 2021. Drug related arrest records have been received to the database on daily basis.

According to the data reported to the database from January to June 2021, 11,264 persons were arrested for drug related offences and out of them 5,397 (48%) were Cannabis users. The highest proportions, (24%) of arrested persons were in aged 20 to 24. The majority, 1,369, seizures were reported from Colombo district and 20% from Western province.

Among the total arrests of the period, 98% were male and 02% was female. Data further indicates that, 5836 persons (52%) were married and 4551 (40%) were single. When consider their educational background, 41% of them have studied up to grade 5 to 10 and nine persons were reported as professionally qualified.

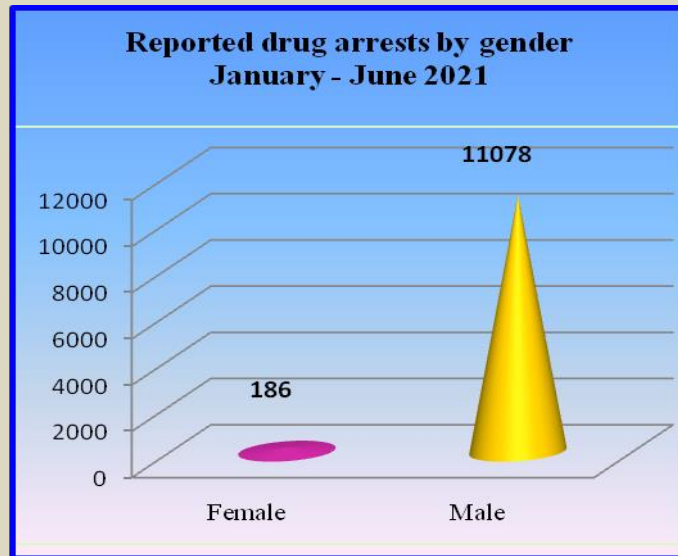
Distribution of persons by ethnicity revealed that 79% of persons were Sinhalese, 09% Tamils, 07% Moors, 0.1% Malays and 0.2% Burghers and they were further classified by their religion as Buddhists (76%), Islam (11%), Hindus (08%) and Christians (04%).

The distribution of the arrestees reported by occupation for the period of January to June 2021 is as follows, 24% were labourers, 15% were unemployed persons, farmers were 14%, professionals were 06% and drivers or transport workers were 4%.

Gender

Gender is not a deciding factor any more when it comes to drug consumption or related offences and it clearly indicated in Fig.1. 11,078 (98%) persons were male and 186 (02%) were females. Compare to 2020, the number of male and female arrests has been decreased.

Figure 01



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System - 2021

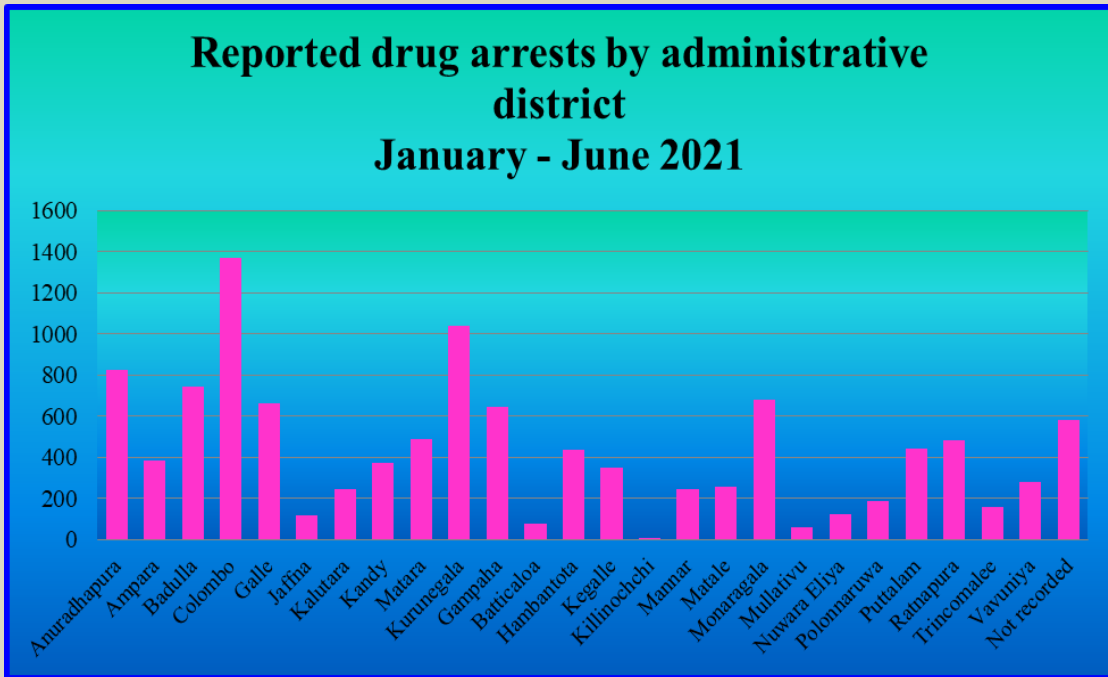
District

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. Map 1, Map 2 and figure 2 illustrate the prevalence of drug related arrests by districts and provinces.

The maximum number of arrests, 1369 (12%), were reported from Colombo and out of the nine provinces, Western province (20%) was reported with the highest drug related offences and 14% was reported from Southern province.

Number of arrested persons from other districts are as follows, 374 (03%) from Kandy, 644 (06%) from Gampaha, 444 (04%) from Puttalam, 1041 (09%) from Kurunegala, 827 (07%) from Anuradapura, 741 (07%) from Badulla, 678 (06%) from Monaragala, 482 (04%) were from Ratnapura, 486 (04%) from Matara, 255 (02%) from Matale, 439 (04%) from Hambantota and 348 (04%) from Kegalla.

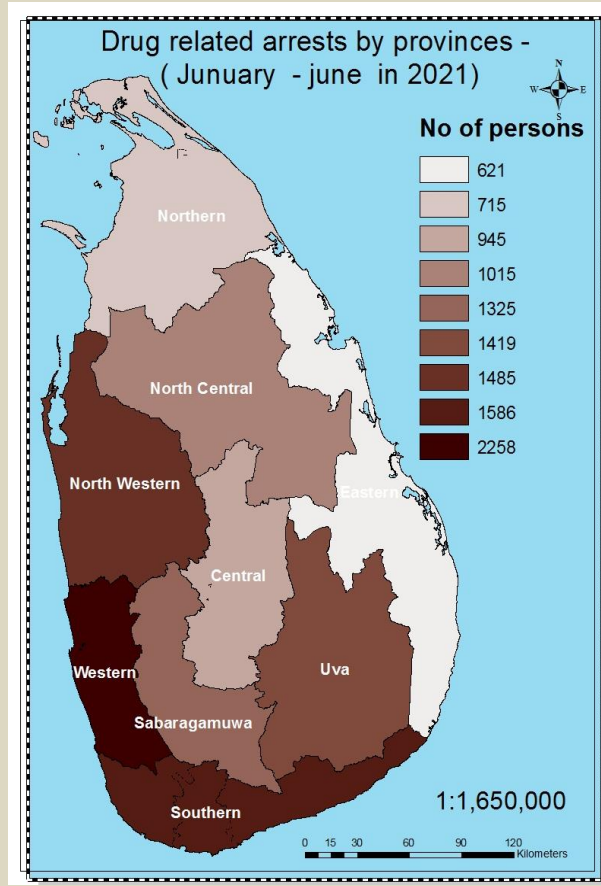
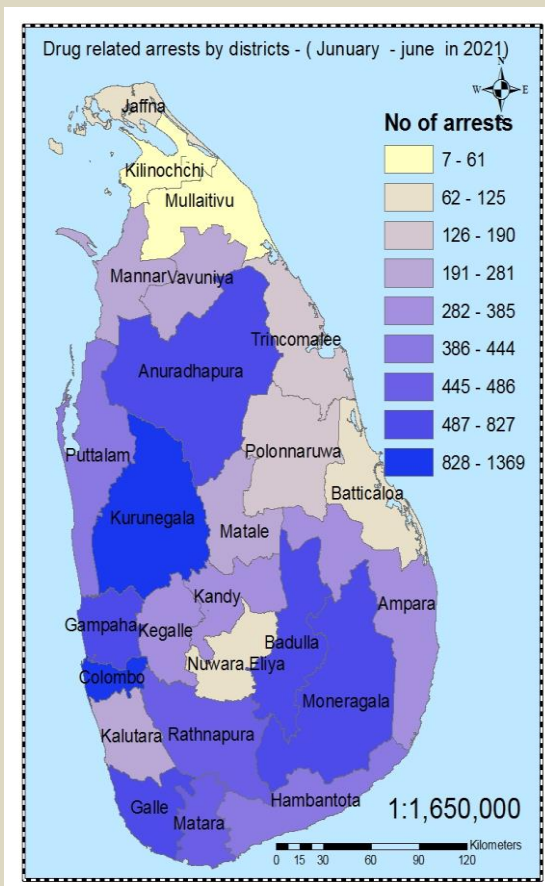
Figure 02



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Map 01

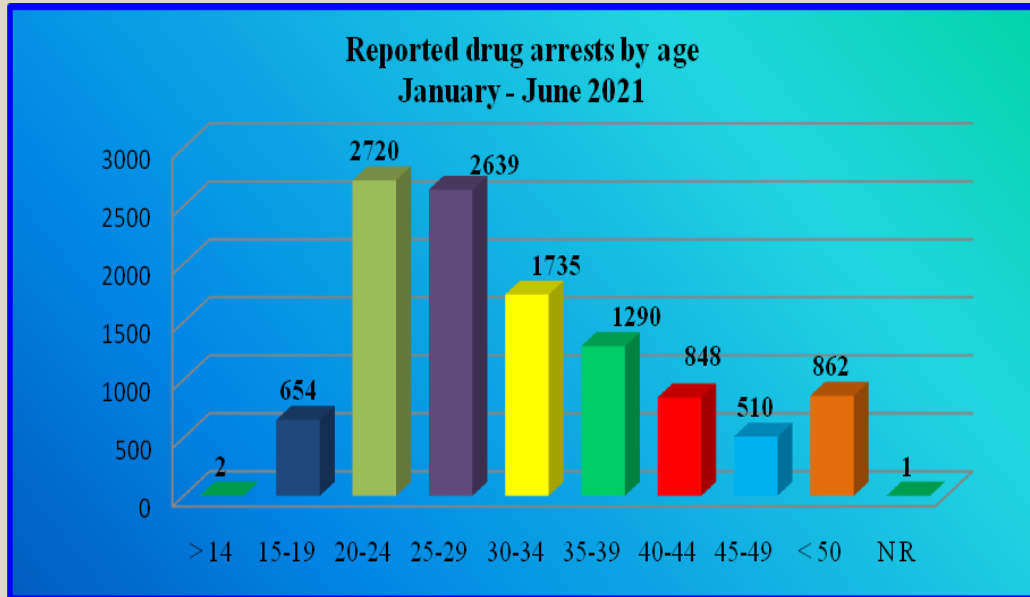
Map 02



Age

According to the classification of drug related arrests by age, Fig. 03 clearly indicates that the highest percentage (24%) were in aged 20-24.

Figure 03



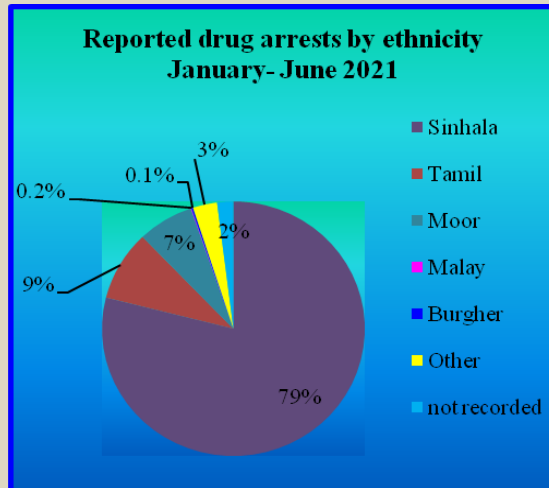
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

By considering the age and drug use, 20-24 age range was highlighted as the most risk group, as the majority of cannabis (1381), heroin (1209), methamphetamine (82) Pharmaceutical tablets (04) and hashish (07) related arrested persons were reported from age category. According to recorded data, 1149 persons were recorded for age group 25-29 for Cannabis. Age group of 20-24 was identified as the most risk group and it shows that there is a significant drug addiction trend among the younger generation.

Ethnicity

For ethnicity during the period of January to June 2021, the number of arrests is as follows, 8849 (79%) were Sinhalese, 786 (07%) Moors, 1008 (09%) Tamils, 16 (0.1%) Malays, 26 (1.2%) Burghers and 325 (03%) were others.

Figure 04

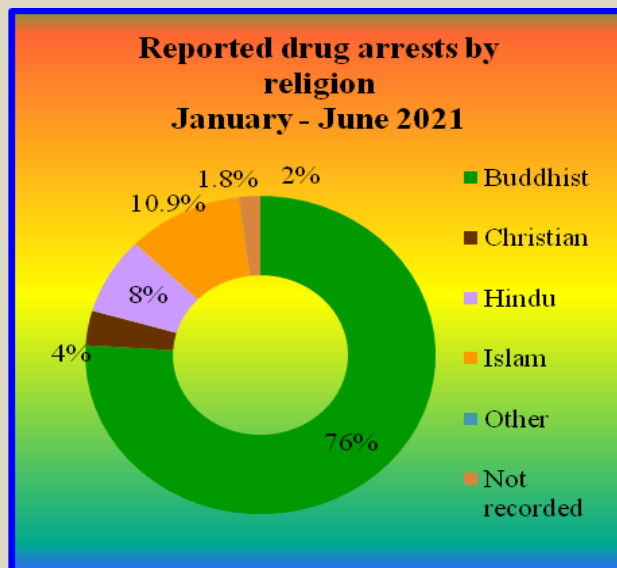


Source: - Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Religion

According to the data shown in Fig 06, 8558 (76%) were Buddhists, 884 (08%) Hindus, 399 (04%) Christians and 1202 (11%) were Islam accusers. It clearly shows that the majority of arrests were Buddhists.

Figure 05

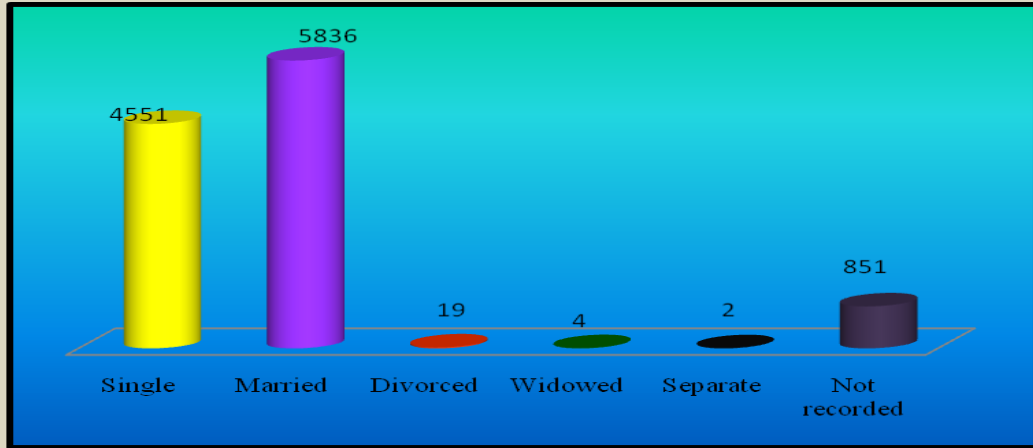


Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Marital Status

Among the persons arrested in January to June 2021, 4551 (40%) were single, 5836 (52%) were married, and 19 (0.1%) were divorced. It had been reported that two separated, 04 widowed and one cohabiting persons as well.

Figure 06



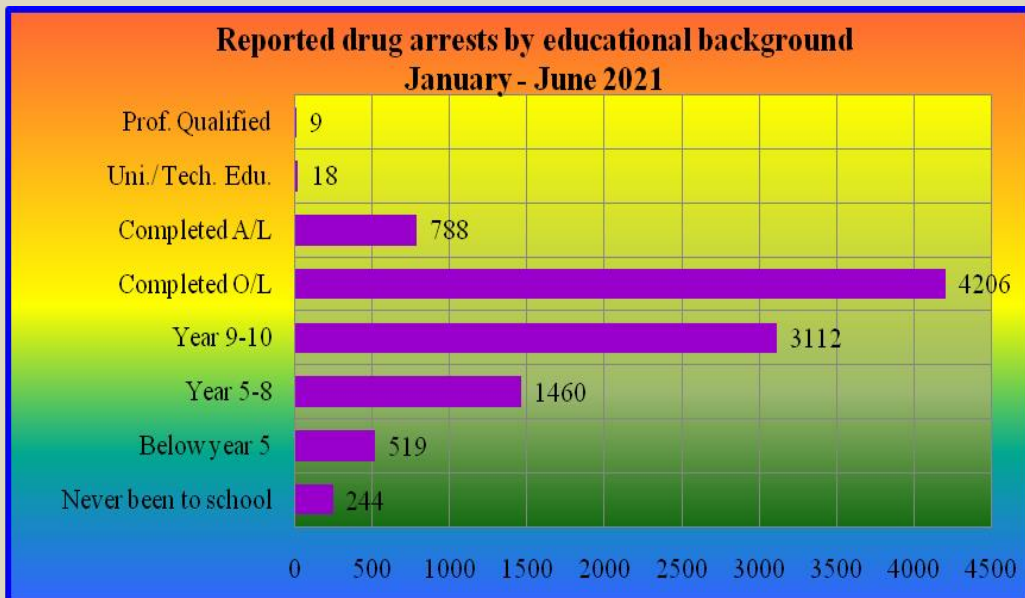
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Educational status

Persons arrested for drug related offences were further classified based on their educational level. Majority of them were somewhat educated, 41% of them studied up to grade 5-10 and 37% complete educational level of O/L were reported.

Eighteen university or technically educated persons and Nine professionally qualified were also reported. However, 244 (02%) of them were never been to school.

Figure 7



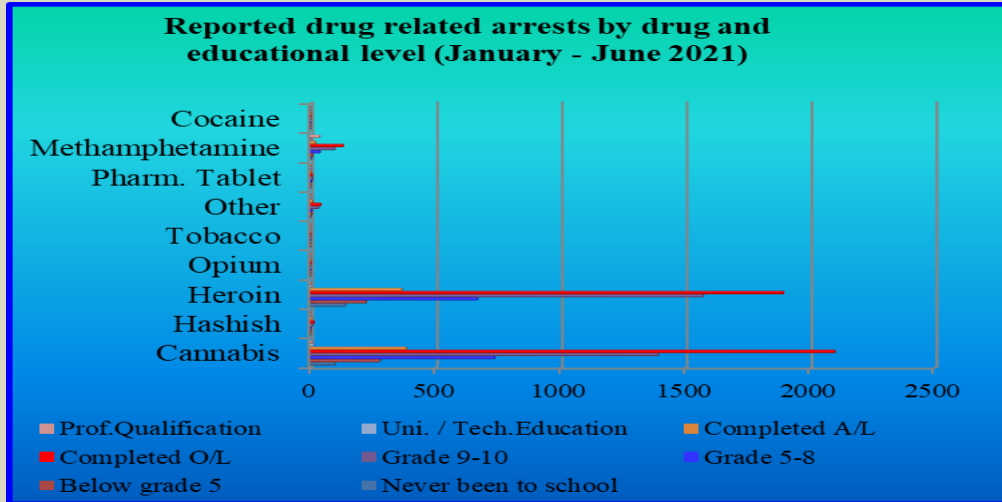
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Education and drug

The highest persons (2129) of cannabis users were school dropout within the education level of grade 5-10. In addition, 2242 heroin users were from school drop out in the same

level of Education. In addition to that, people who complete educational level of O/L were reported 1894 for heroin and 2099 were for cannabis.

Figure 08



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

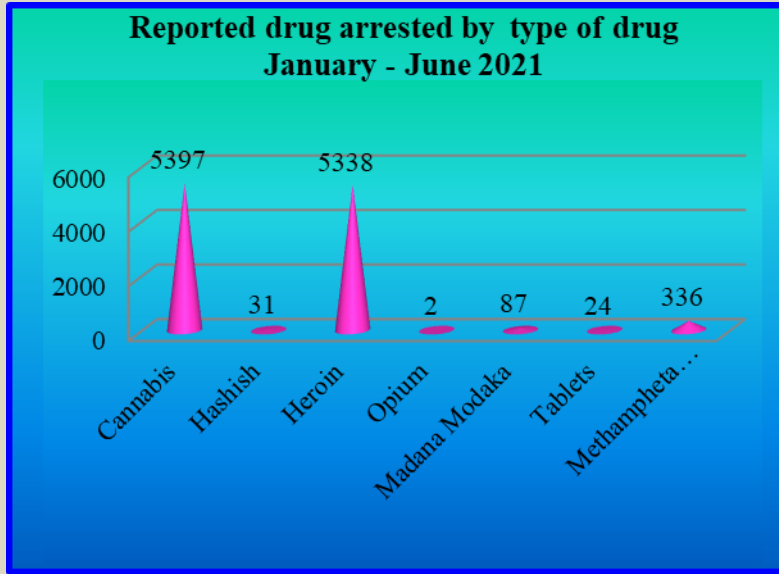
98 persons for cannabis and 140 persons for heroin were recorded as never been to school. 277 persons were reported for cannabis and 223 persons were reported for heroin representing below grade five level of education. It shows that there is a co-relationship between the drug use and lower education level.

Drug related arrests by drug

According to the reported data, people arrested mostly for Cannabis and Heroin related offences. Their figures are as follows, 5397 (48%) for cannabis and 5338 (47%) for heroin. Nevertheless, for 336 Methamphetamine users and thirty one for hashish users were also recorded.

In addition to 87 for Madana Modaka, 24 for Tablets and eight for Babul were arrested for other drugs. 336 persons were arrested for Methamphetamine during January to June of 2021.

Figure 09



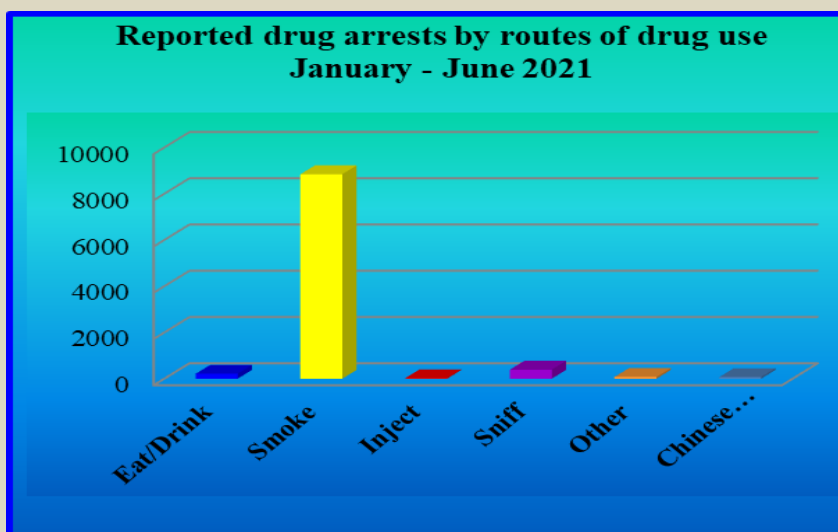
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Routes (Method) of drug use

Persons who have been arrested for drug related offences have used different methods to use drugs. Data imply that for smoking 8842 (92%), for eating or drinking 213 (2.2%) and for sniffing 389 (04%). And for Chinese method 68 (0.7%), these are the reported common drug using methods in Sri Lanka.

However, 0.2 % of drug injectors were also reported and accordingly fluctuation of data is shown in Fig 11.

Figure 10



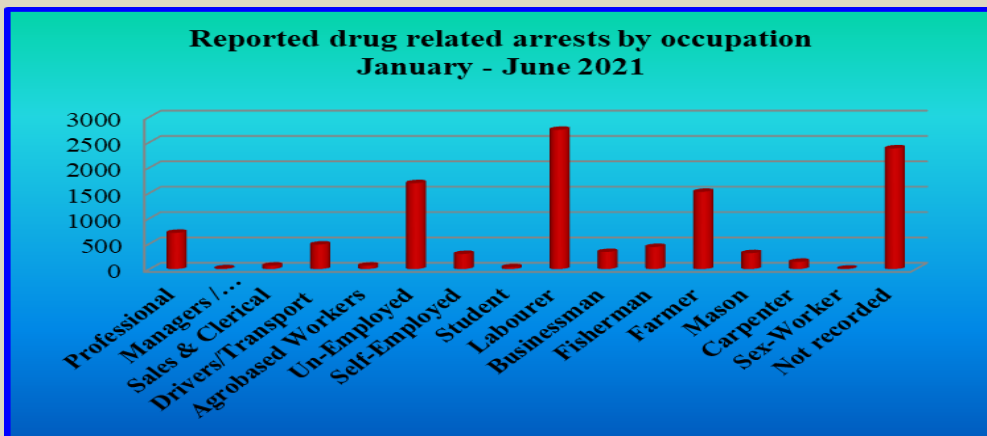
Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Employment

The distribution of the arrestees reported by occupation for the period of January to June 2021 is as follows, 2745 were labourers, 1694 were unemployed, 1523 were farmers and 484 were drivers or transport workers.

In addition, 715 Professional were reported, out of that 314 Mason were reported, 436 Fisherman were reported, 337 were reported for businessman and 298 were self-employed. All the drug related data are shown as follows.

Figure 11

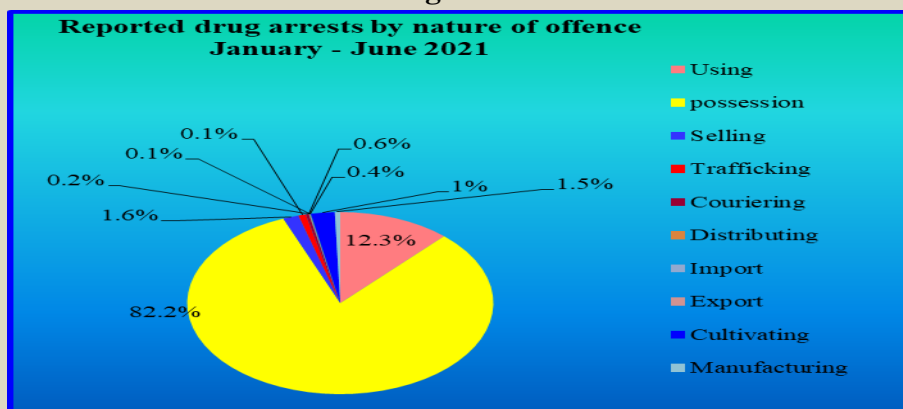


Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021

Nature of Drug Offence

Among the total number of drug related arrests, 9548 (82%) were arrested as possessions 1380 (12%) as drug user and 293 (03%) were drug cultivators. In addition to that seller (193), trafficker (91), courier (39), distributor (09), financier (04), Manufacturer (66) were also reported during the first half of year 2021.

Figure 12



Source:- Drug Abuse Monitoring System 2021