

Understanding the Popularity Surge of “Space Oil Drug”: Common Factors Behind Drug Abusers

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Outline



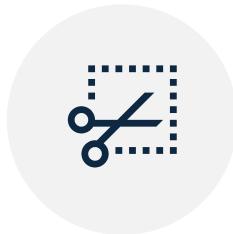
BACKGROUND



METHODOLOGY



FINDINGS AND
ANALYSIS



LIMITATIONS



CONCLUSION
AND FUTURE
WORK

Background



In 2024, the **third most** abused drug for **individuals under 21** is “Space oil drug” [1]

X7 times more “Space oil drug” cases in 2024 than in 2023 [2]

Project aim:

Why is it popular?

- Analyse data on **age under 21** drug abusers
- Derive main factors behind popularity of “Space oil drug”

✓ Enhance Public Awareness

✓ Facilitate Better Prevention

Methodology (Tools)



Excels in Data Visualization



User-Friendly Interface

Methodology (Data)

Data source: The Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau [3]

1. Reputable and authoritative source
2. Highly relevant data focused on narcotics



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府
保安局禁毒處

Data description:

Number of reported drug abusers from 2021 to 2024

Fields:

- Age Group
- Sex
- Common Type of Drug Abused
- Whether Previously Convicted
- Educational Attainment.....

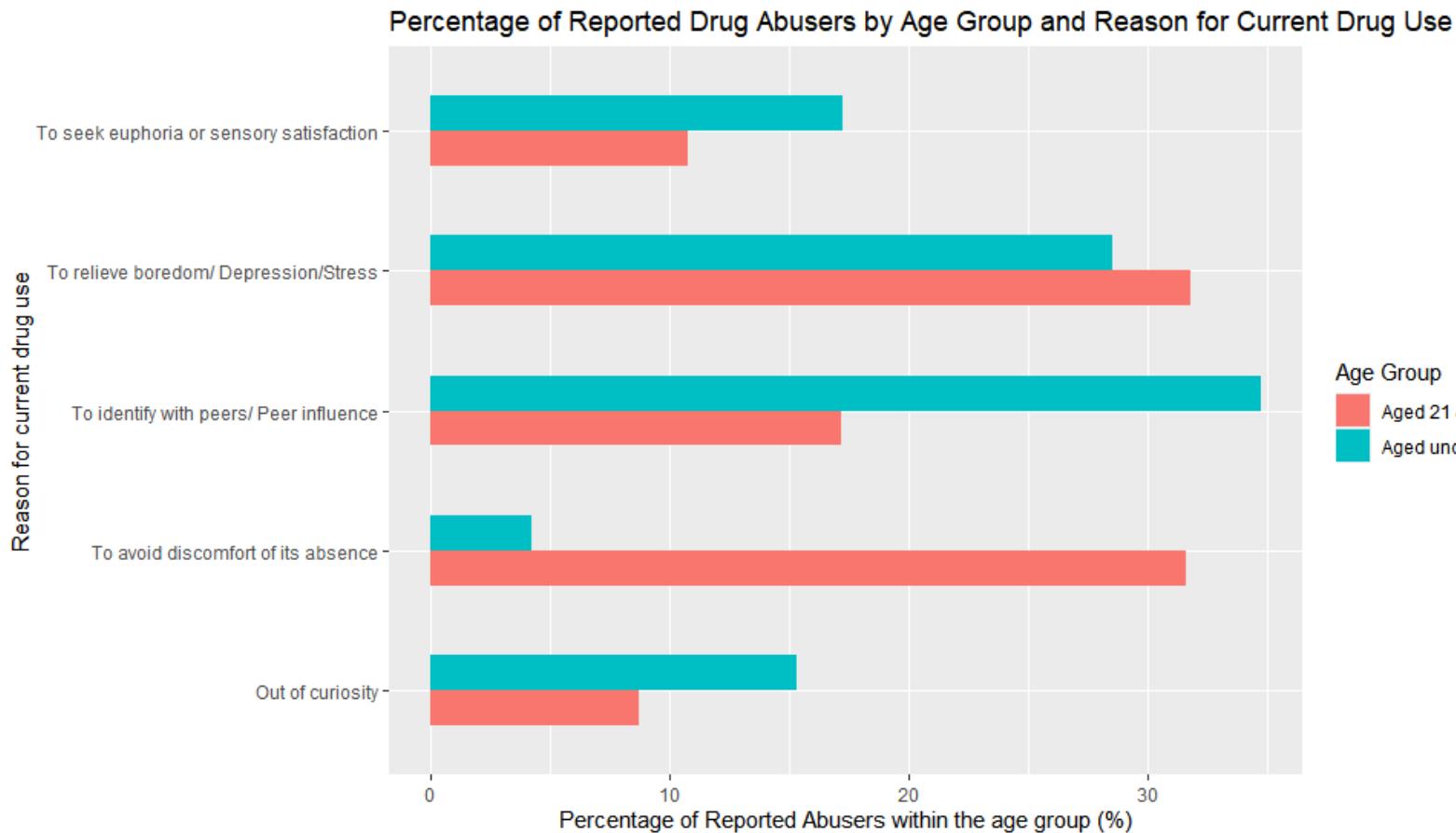
Findings and Analysis

Q1: What are the common factors shared among age under 21 drug abusers?

Q2: How do these factors relate to the rise in popularity of the “Space Oil Drug”?

Q1: What are the common factors shared among age under 21 drug abusers?

- A. Personal Reasons for Current Drug Use
- B. Type of drug abused
- C. Gender
- D. Whether Previously Convicted



Observations for drug abusers under 21,

- Peer influence is much more impactful
- Second major reason: Coping mechanism

Total Number of reported abusers aged 21 and over [">>>>](#)
 Total Number of reported abusers aged under 21

Q2: How do these factors relate to the rise in popularity of the “Space Oil Drug”?

Peer Influence

- A “Rite of Passage” [4] for social acceptance



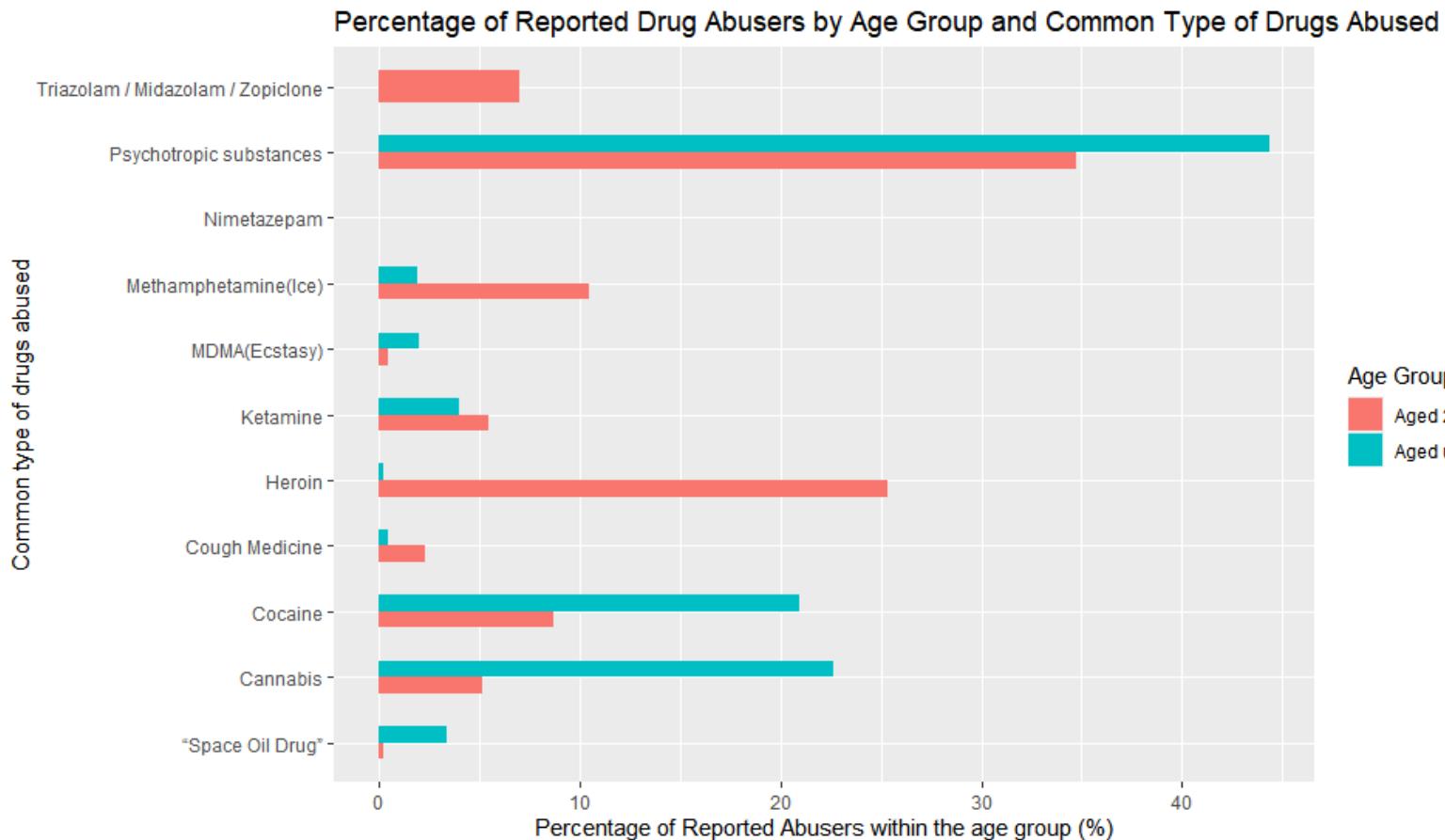
“Space oil drug” as Coping Mechanism

- Main ingredient: Etomidate (anesthetic) [5]
- Effect: transient euphoria



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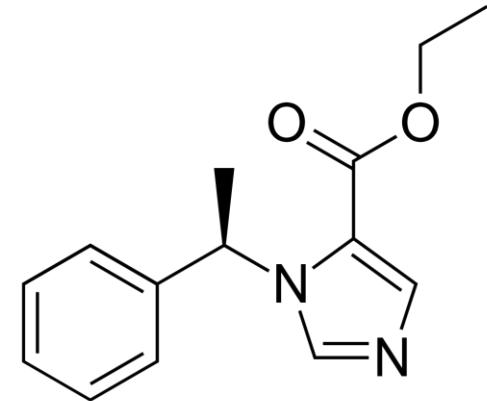


Observations for drug abusers under 21,

- Psychotropic substances (cause mood/behaviour changes) are the most popular
- Cannabis and Cocaine are much more sought after

Q2: How do these factors relate to the rise in popularity of the “Space Oil Drug”?

Etomidate ⊆ **Psychotropic substances**



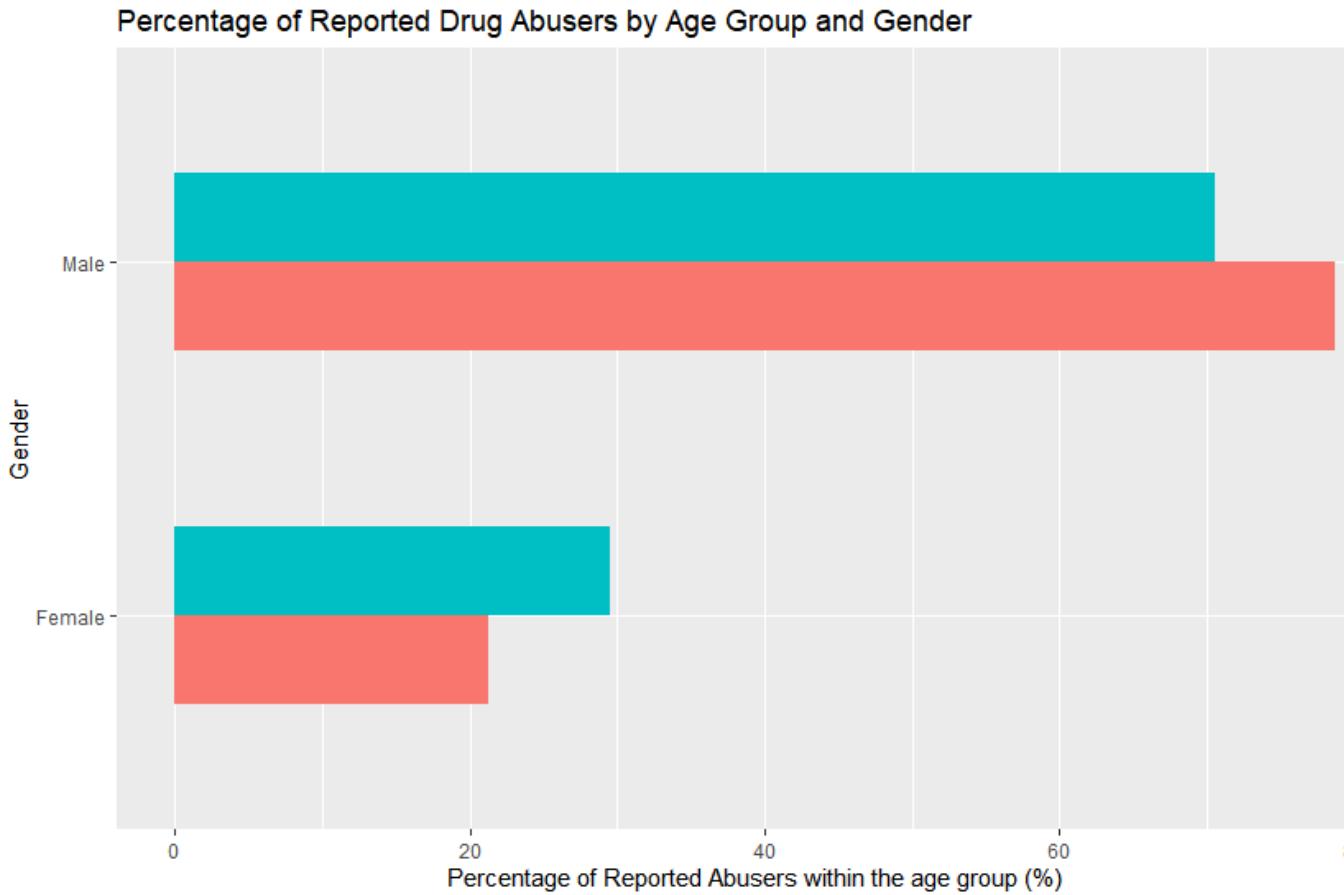
“Socially acceptable” drug

- Cannabis and “Space oil drug” often regarded as “less harmful” [6]



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- A. Personal Reasons for Current Drug Use
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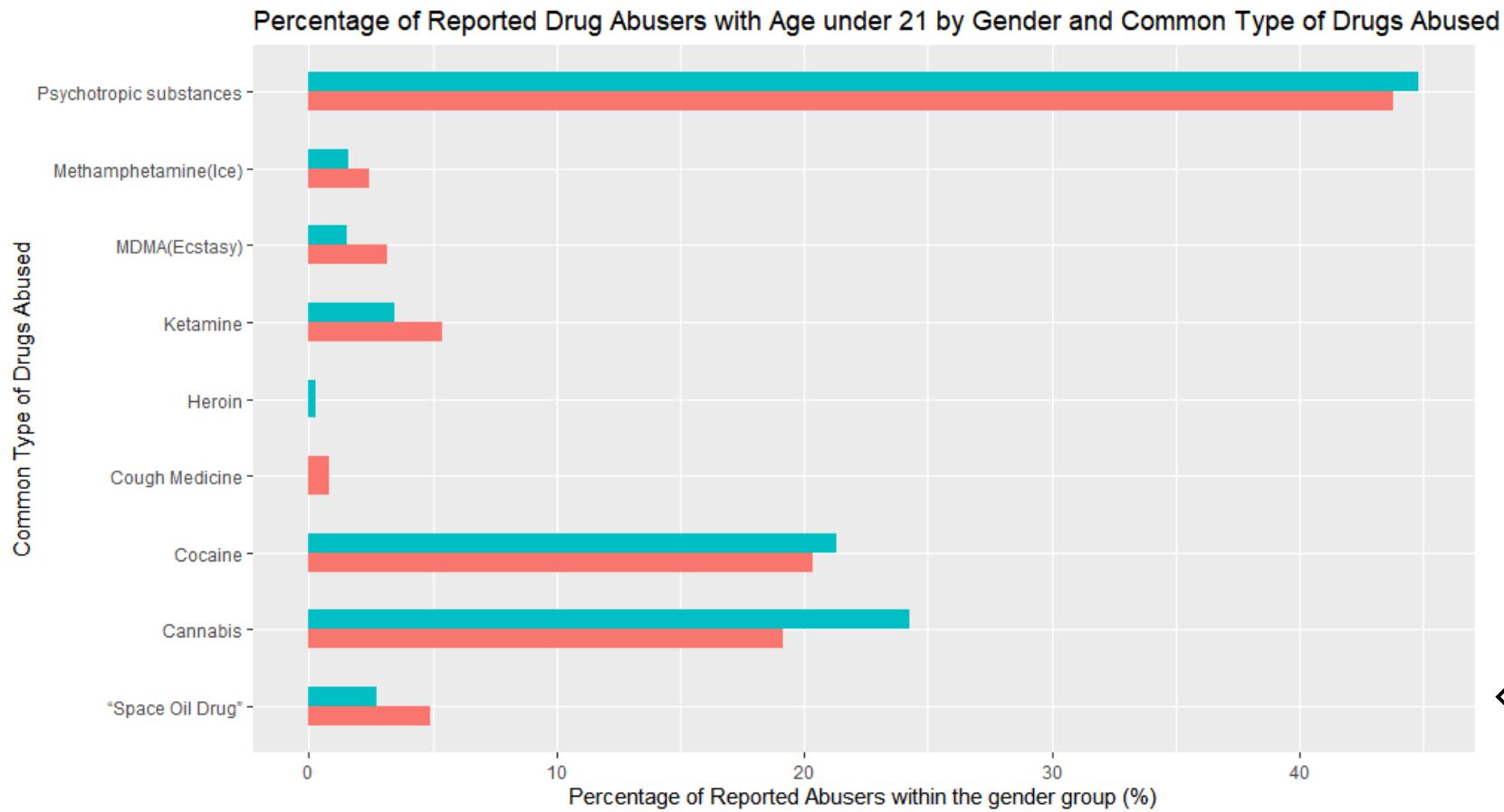


Observations for drug abusers in general,

- Male drug abusers make up the larger population

Hong Kong 2023 sex ratio [7]:

908 males per 1000 females
(Excluded foreign domestic helpers)



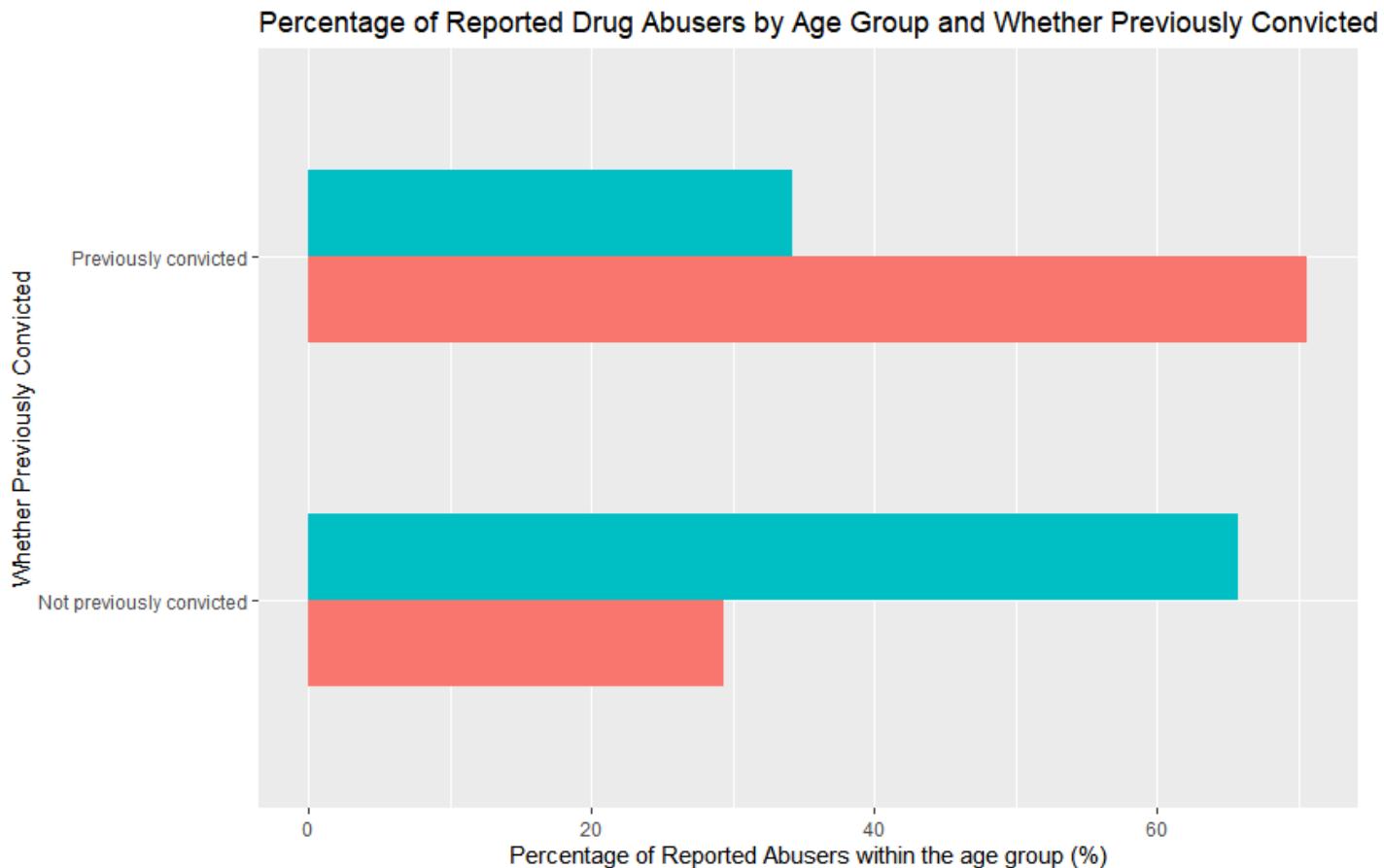
Drug preferences may not be related to gender

Observations for under 21 drug abusers of different genders,

- Similar patterns for choice of drugs

Q1: What are the common factors shared among age under 21 drug abusers?

- A. Personal Reasons for Current Drug Use
- B. Type of drug abused
- C. ~~Gender~~
- D. Whether Previously Convicted



Observations for drug abusers under 21,

- Profiles differ greatly from those aged 21 and over
- Most have no prior convictions.

Traditional belief:

- Only “youth gangsters” (古惑仔) use drugs

Q2: How do these factors relate to the rise in popularity of the “Space Oil Drug”?

Appeal to novelty

- New and unknown



Easy to access [8]

- Only require e-cigarette
- Relatively affordable price (~200 HKD per 1 pod)



Limitations

Confounding Variables

- Missing data on:
 - Personal Relationships
 - Mental Health Status.....
-

Selection Bias

- All data are sourced from arrested persons

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Conclusion and Future work

- Identified common attributes of young drug abusers
 - Better prevention to target these individuals
- Analyzed the “draw” of “Space oil drug”
 - To enforce policies to combat future similar substances

Future research:

- Conduct anonymous surveys
 - Expand data to include individuals outside of reported cases



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