



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2021

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ASEAN-NARCO
ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center





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Edited by:

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October 2022

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FOREWORD

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2021 is the seventh publication of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) since the first ADM Report had been launched in 2016 at the 37th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) in Bangkok, Thailand. The ADMN is a project under the management of ASEAN Drug Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) supported by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand. ADMN provides a platform to share information by analyzing the regional drug situation, presenting a national perspective, and incorporating innovative approaches to identify and monitor the emerging of drug problems. The ADM Report describes drug trend, drug use and emerging topics which is available in print and on ASEAN-NARCO website. ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2021 presents a comprehensive overview of ASEAN's latest drug situation by focusing on the demand and supply of illicit drugs encountered in the region.

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2021 presents an intensive analysis of the latest drug situation in ASEAN in term of the demand and supply of illicit drugs encountered in the region. Illicit drug use/ abuse is a significant problem in ASEAN. Eight types of drug continued spreading,

namely, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), opiates/opioids, cannabis, New Psychoactive Substance (NPS), Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants, hallucinogens and others. The pandemic of COVID-19 broke out in late 2019 and its pandemic has continued going up in 2021, which affected the drug situation with direct and indirect impacts on ASEAN Member States' drug control. Since the prevalence data across the ASEAN Member States were unavailable, treatment data was used to reflect the drug users' situation.

Among commonly used addictive drugs, ATS was the most widely abuse among ASEAN drug users admitted for treatment and accounted for three quarters who were ATS users. The second widely used substances were opiates/opioids and cannabis. The proportion of ATS users may vary between 68% to 82% each year. Around 15% were opiates/opioids users while cannabis users accounted for 5% of all drug users, ranging from 3% to 6% annually. Across ASEAN's total population, 92.0 drug users were treated per 100,000 in 2021, which increased by 21.4% from 2020. Of these, 69% were ATS users, opiates/opioid users accounted for 25%, 3.5% were cannabis users. The drug users treated in 2021 were greater than in 2015 at a 243.5% increase rate. It was noted

that the increase rate before the COVID-19 pandemic was 17.6% per annum, while the increase rate during the COVID-19 pandemic was 21.4% per annum.

In terms of supply of illicit drugs and law enforcement, across ASEAN total population, 57.9 drug offenders were arrested per 100,000 in 2021, which increased by 0.2% from 2020. Among these number, 76.7% were ATS traffickers, 8.5% were opiates/opioids traffickers, 7.5% were NPS traffickers, and 6.2% were cannabis traffickers. There were 385,971 drug offenders across ASEAN in 2021. It was noticeable that while drug offenders slightly declined during the COVID-19, the seizures were over two times increased from 2019. The number of drug offenders declined in all Member States but the Philippines and Malaysia. The ATS-related cases were most reported by ASEAN Member States, particularly, methamphetamine both tablet and crystal forms. Thailand arrested more than 97,000 offenders of ATS-related cases while over 50,000 cases in Malaysia and over 40,000 cases in Indonesia and the Philippines. Opioid-related cases were reported most by Malaysia, followed by Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore and Lao PDR. The number of drug crimes committed by foreign nationals in ASEAN region in 2021, only 7,632 foreign nationals committed which dramatically decreased from 2020. 85.8% out of these number of offenders were Southeast Asian nationals. The rest were from other Asian and European countries, including African and American continent. In terms of seizures, of top three drugs of abuse, cannabis seizures were

predominantly higher than other drugs. In 2021, over 6,000 metric tons of cannabis were seized, three time higher as in 2019. Over 170 metric tons of ATS were seized in 2021, it was a 22.5% increase from 2020. Only 17 metric tons of opiates/2020. opioids were seized, higher than in 2020 but lower than in 2019. However, it was observed that almost 500 metric tons of NPS were seized, slightly increasing from 2020.

The same as previous year, the pandemic of COVID-19 remained causing the delay in data collection and key-in the ADM Report System of ASEAN Member States, with the collaborative effort and continued cooperation with strong intention, the ADMN Report 2021 was successfully formulated. The 12th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting was held online, as the pandemic of COVID-19 kept on going, on 20-21 April, 2022 to exchange information on drug situation in each ASEAN Member States for the formulation of ADM Report 2021 as well as to discuss the problem and obstacles encountered the data collection and data key-in to the ADM Report System of ASEAN Member States; recommendations from the meeting led to the improvement of the ADM Report System including ADMN Questionnaires. The meeting also agreed to the ADMN Work Plan for 2022-2023. The 13th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting was held online on 24th - 25th August 2022 to look at Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of the ADM Report 2021 before the draft Report was circulated to ASEAN Member States for consideration. The meeting also

exchanged information on country drug situation for the preparation of the next publication of ADM Report 2022, including agreed to the ADMN Work Plan for the second half of 2022 to 2023. The ADM Report 2021 was presented to the 43rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters hosted by Malaysia in October, 2022.

Thailand, as the coordinator of the ADMN Project which is the regional drug monitoring platform for the formulation of the Report for early warning of emerging drugs in ASEAN with the uniqueness of the formulation and publication, would like to thank the ADMN Team of ASEAN Member States, ASOD Leaders, ASEAN Secretariat as well as all stakeholders, in particular Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network, chaired by Assc.Prof. Manop Kanato, Ph.D. and

his team, Office of the Narcotics Control Board, ASEAN-NARCO for the support to the success of the ADMN and the formulation of the ADM Report 2021. The ADM Report is the Report of ASEAN that reflected the drug situation in ASEAN showing in descriptive, statistical and graphic forms as well as explanatory innovation and programme implementation of ASEAN Member States to overcome the drug problem. The ADM Report, therefore, is the Report of collaborative effort of ASEAN Member States. The ADM Report and ADMN have been well recognized by ASEAN Leaders, ASEAN Ministers on Drug Control, ASOD Leaders. The ADMN Team do hope that the ASEAN Member States make full use of the ADM Report 2021 for early warning and monitoring drug situation in our region.

“Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs”

ADMN Team

October, 2022

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CHAPTER 1

Overview of ASEAN Drug Trends and Patterns

1. BACKGROUND

Southeast Asia is the southeastern region of Asia, consisting of the geographically south of China, east of India, and northwest of Australia. Southeast Asia is divided into two subregions: Mainland Southeast Asia and Maritime Southeast Asia. Mainland includes Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Maritime includes Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation among its ten Member State: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. ASEAN was established in 1967 and launched the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015. The ASEAN Community focuses on the influential association among Member State and enhancing its competitive capacity with other countries. Such focus is subject to three pillars: security, socio-cultural integration, and economic integration. It led to regional economic growth based on policy, establishing the free trade area, regional hub for transportation, regional collaboration expansion on convenient transportation and communication, liberal mobilization of goods, services, capital, investment, and labor for a single market and production base. It is also the common goal of ASEAN

Member States to drive the ASEAN Community towards being a drug-free region.

ASEAN has called for a regional meeting among the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to collaborate on the regional drug abuse resolution in five areas: law enforcement, preventive drug education, treatment and rehabilitation, research, and alternative development. There are additional proposals to share information related to drug syndicates and watch-list suspects under the framework of ASOD. The activities include international assistance for the ASEAN Member States to enhance their drug analysis capability and verify drugs for intelligence and investigation purposes. The ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center (ASEAN-NARCO) has been established as a hub to provide preventive and suppressive measures in the region and initiate proactive prevention and resolution of virtually ASEAN Member States' drug abuse.

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) began in June 2015. ADMN is a project under ASEAN-NARCO supported by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand. ADMN provides a platform to share information by analyzing the regional drug situation, presenting a national perspective, and incorporating innovative approaches to identify and monitor the emerging of drug problem. The information is provided in the annual ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report to timely detect drug issues, research, and policy development in each

ASEAN Member State. ADMN annual reports describing drug use trends and emerging topics are available in print and on the ASEAN-NARCO website.

ADMN is a system that aims to collect information over time from existing and archival data systems of ASEAN Member States that reflect the situation of drug abuse, such as drug abuse treatment and arrest reports. These systems indicate existing drug abuse patterns within the ten Southeast Asian Nations. Any of these changes are a sign of new ways of drug abuse that need further exploration. Because data used in ADMN systems are not population-based, it is not easy to develop incidence or prevalence rates. However, one can review these data over time, conclude where new drug abuse patterns exist, and follow how these patterns spread across the Member States.

ADMN has developed a questionnaire to collect drug information since 2015 and created a database through the collaboration of Member States. The questionnaire collects data on both drug demand and supply. Analyzing the data across time can provide an early warning on new drug patterns also insights into new spatial drug abuse patterns across the Member States.

The data developed the first ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report in 2015. The ASEAN-NARCO website has been utilized as an online database and information sharing among the ASEAN Member States.

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2021 presents a comprehensive overview of ASEAN's latest drug situation by focusing on the demand and supply of illicit drugs encountered in the region.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the drug situation in ASEAN. Chapter 2 presents drugs of concern in ASEAN, namely amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), opiates/opioids, cannabis, new psychoactive substances (NPS), cocaine, central nervous system (CNS) depressants, hallucinogens, and others. Chapter 3 focuses on ASEAN Member States' national drug situation reports. Chapter 4 introduces research knowledge and innovations undertaken by the Member States, and Chapter 5 highlights ASEAN's best practices in policy and programme implementation.

2. POPULATION

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s world population data shows that ASEAN has the third-largest population globally, behind China and India. The ASEAN population had increased from 628.7 million in 2015 to 667.1 million in 2021. The increase rate was 0.4%-1.6% per annum, ranging from 0.4 million in Brunei Darussalam to 273.9 million in Indonesia. ASEAN's population accounts for 8.5% of the world population, with Indonesia representing 41% of the ASEAN people. The sex ratio (males per females)

in ASEAN is about 1:1, with more than half below the age of 30. 47.7% of ASEAN's population lives in urban areas. ASEAN is the sixth-largest economy, behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The average economic growth of ASEAN Member States was 2.9% in 2021. And the average GDP per capita among the Member States has increased three-fold over the past 20 years. However, according to the World Bank statistics, significant income disparities remain between and across the ASEAN Member States.

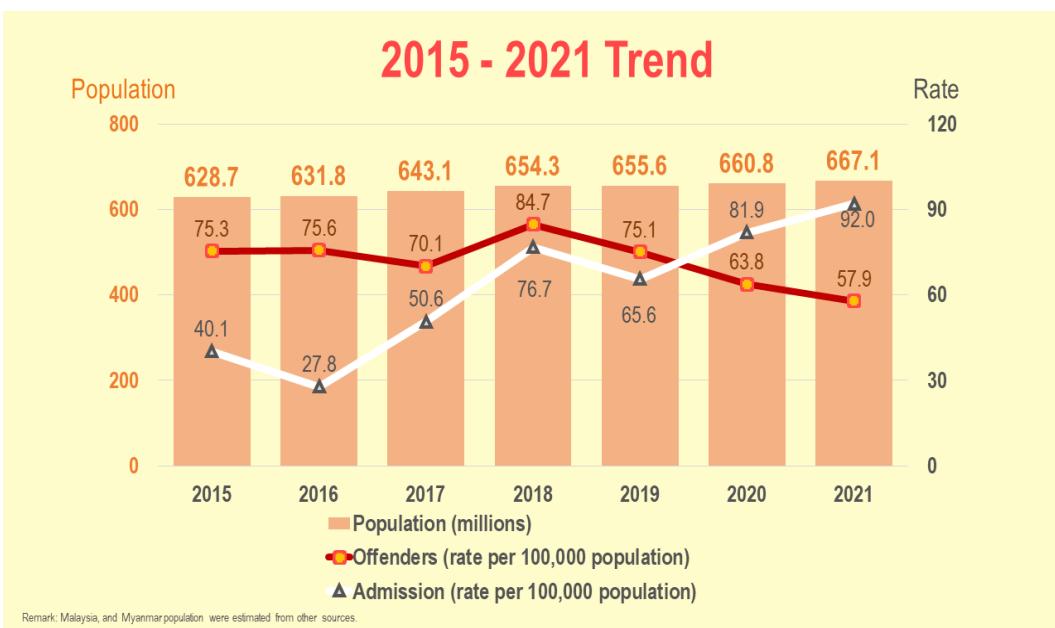


Figure 1: Population and General Trends in ASEAN

3. SITUATIONS

The pandemic of COVID-19 broke out in late 2019, making the World Health Organization (WHO) declare the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic on 11th March 2020. Its pandemic has continued going up in 2021, which affected the drug situation with direct and indirect impacts on ASEAN Member States' drug control. Since the prevalence data across ASEAN Member States are unavailable, treatment data is used to reflect the drug users' situation.

Across ASEAN's total population, 92.0 drug users were treated per 100,000 in 2021, which increased by 21.4% from 2020. Of these, 69% were ATS users, opiates/opioid users accounted for 25%, 3.5% were cannabis users, and 1.2% were polydrugs users. The drug users treated in 2021 were greater than in 2015 at a 243.5% increase rate. It should be noted that the increase rate before the COVID-19 pandemic was 17.6% per annum, while the increase rate during the COVID-19 pandemic was 21.4% per annum.

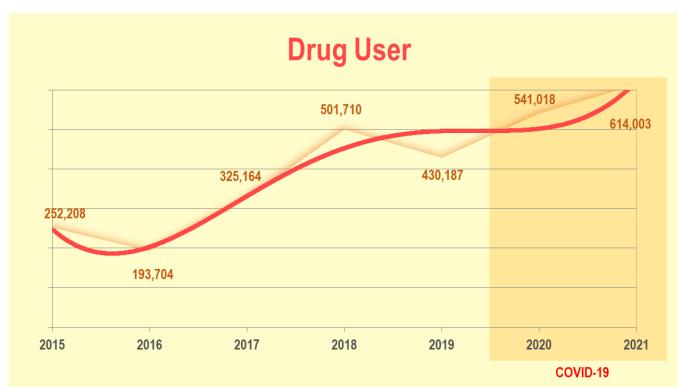


Figure 2: Drug Users' Trends in ASEAN

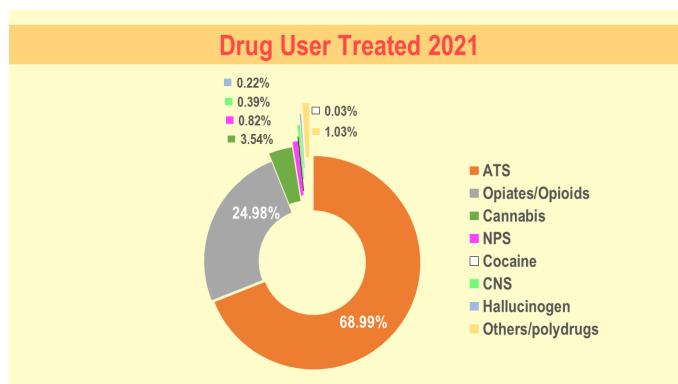


Figure 3: Drug users' treated in ASEAN 2021

Six hundred fourteen thousand three drug users in ASEAN were treated in 2021. Among 100,000 populations, the Philippines has seen the lowest treatment rate at 2.4, whereas the highest rate was Malaysia at 377.1 Trends in treatment found

decreased from 2020 in six countries. Compared to 2020, the rate of addiction treatment in Indonesia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and the Philippines increased. The rest were slightly decreased.

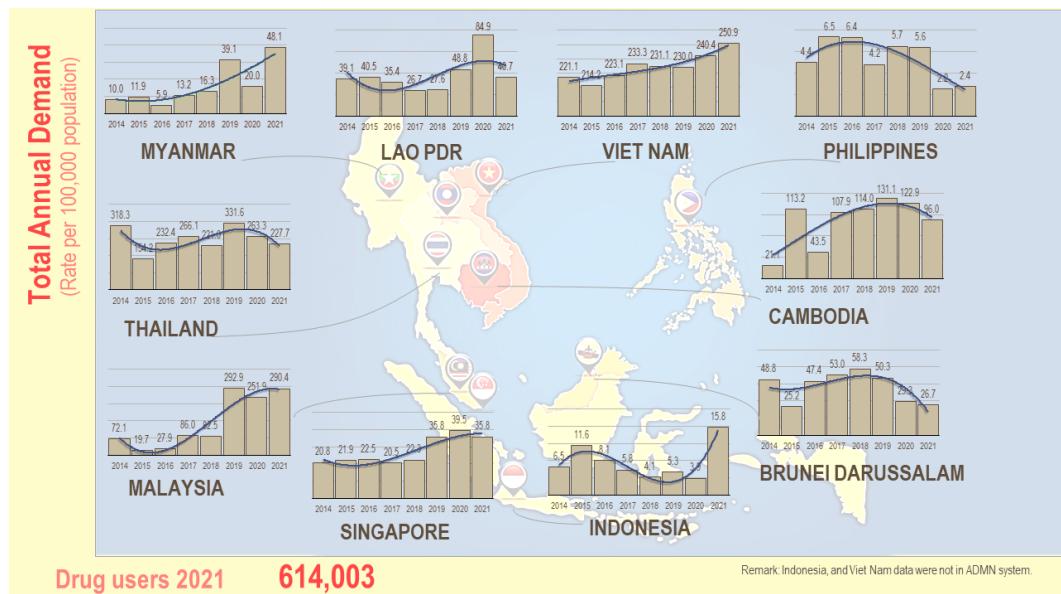


Figure 4: Rate of Drug users' treatment by the Member States

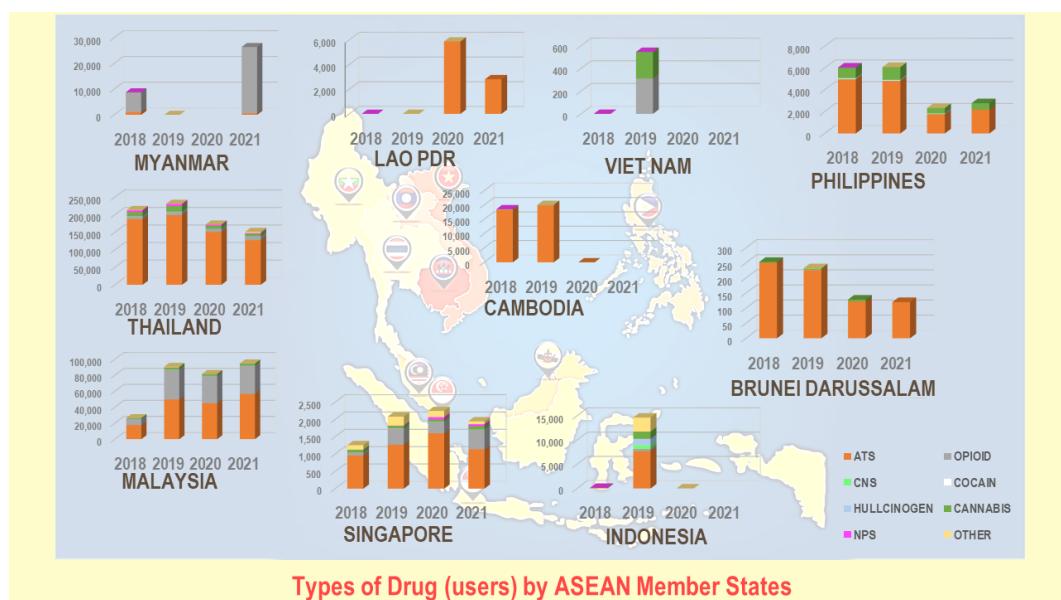


Figure 5: Drug users' treatment by Drug types by Member States

Thailand had the highest number of ATS treatments, followed by Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Singapore. Treatment of opiates/opioids was the highest in Malaysia, followed by Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Treatment of cannabis was the highest in Thailand, followed by Malaysia and Indonesia. While a few were recorded on NPS, hallucinogens, CNS depressants, and cocaine treatment.

Across ASEAN's total population, 57.9 drug offenders were arrested per 100,000 in 2021, which increased by 0.2% from 2020. Of these, 76.7% were ATS traffickers, 8.5% were opiates/opioid traffickers, 7.5% were NPS traffickers, and 6.2% were cannabis traffickers. It should be noted that the rate before the COVID-19 pandemic increased by 1.1% per annum, while the rate during the COVID-19 pandemic decreased by 5.7% per annum.



Figure 6: Law Enforcement Trend in ASEAN

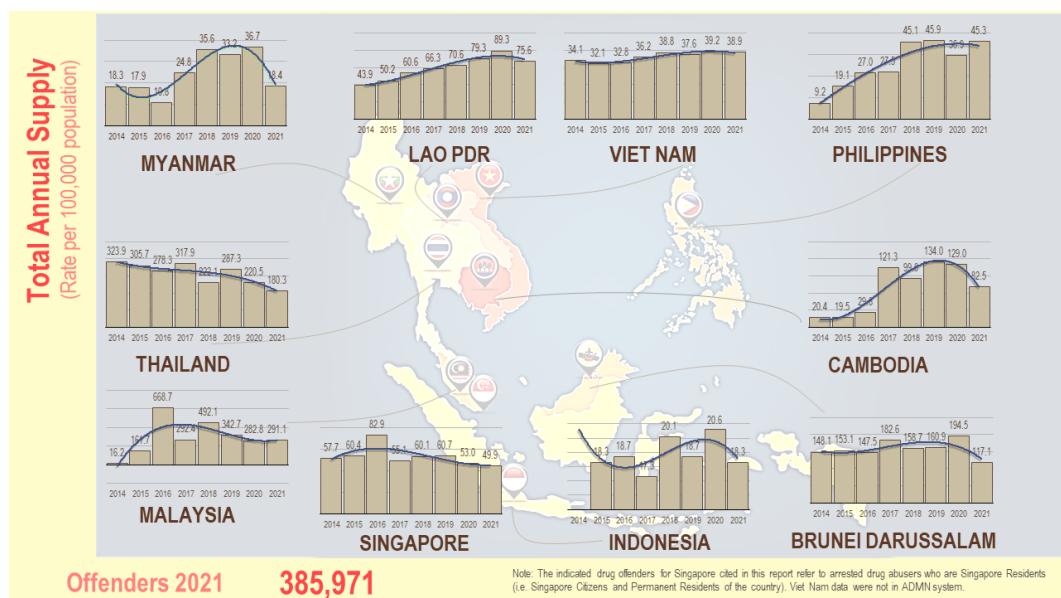


Figure 7: Trend of Offender Rates by the Member States

It should be noted that while drug offenders slightly declined during COVID-19, seizures were over two times increased from 2019. There were 385,971 drug offenders across ASEAN in 2021. The number of drug offenders declined in all Member States but the Philippines and Malaysia.

ATS-related crimes were most reported by all ASEAN Member States, particularly methamphetamine, both tablet and crystal forms. Thailand arrested more than 97,000 offenders of ATS-related

crimes, over 50,000 in Malaysia, and over 40,000 in Indonesia and the Philippines. Opioid-related crimes were reported in Malaysia, followed by Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, and Lao PDR. However, Cannabis-related crimes remain a problem in all ASEAN Member States, and continuous monitoring is necessary. As previously mentioned, NPS poses a challenge in the changing face of recreational drug use, with more than 10,000 offenders arrested in Thailand and Malaysia.

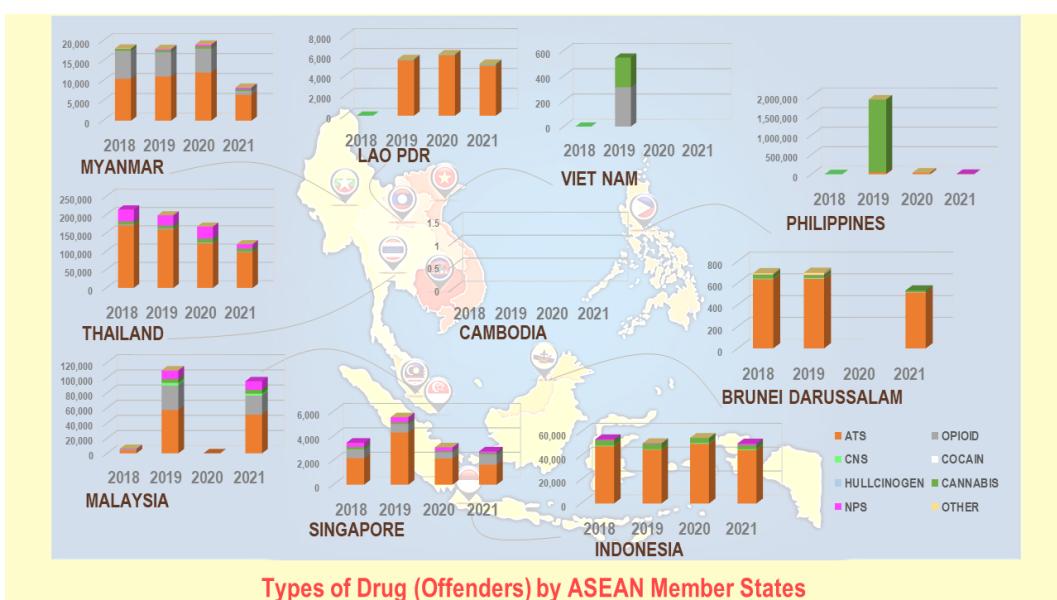


Figure 8: Drug Offender by Drug Types by Member States

In terms of drug seizures, cannabis seizures were predominantly higher than other drugs. In 2021, over 6,000 metric tons of cannabis were seized, three times as in 2019. Almost 500 metric tons of NPS were seized, slightly increasing from 2020. While over 170 metric tons of ATS were seized in 2021, it was a 22.5% increase from 2020. Only 17 metric tons

of opiates/opioids were seized, higher than in 2020 but lower than in 2019. Over two metric tons of CNS depressant were seized, 12 times higher than in 2020. Cocaine and Hallucinogen seizures were less than one metric ton. Precursor and other seizures significantly decreased from 2020.

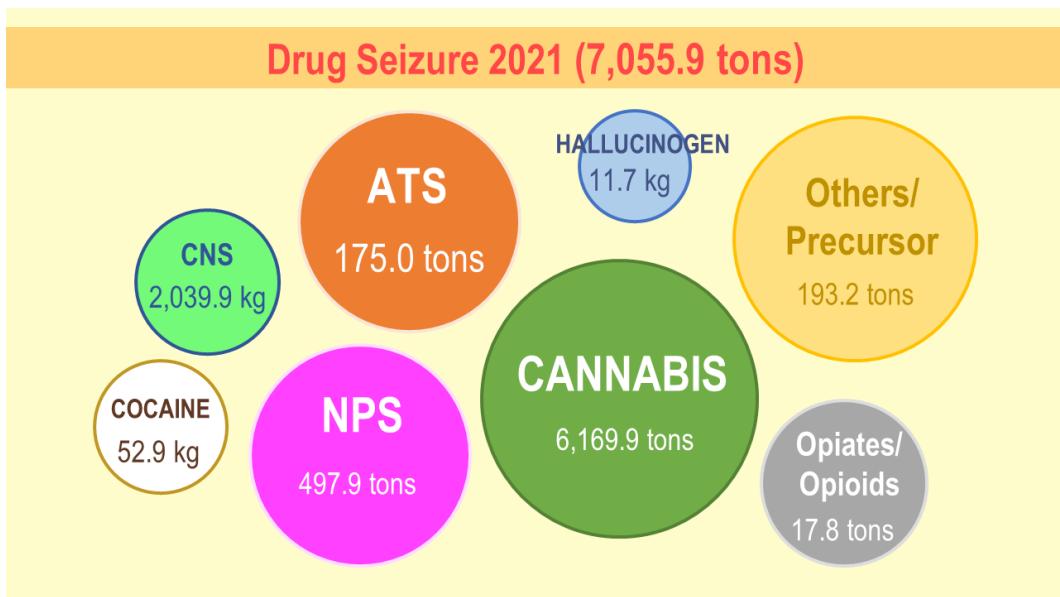


Figure 9: Drug seizure in ASEAN 2021

The number of drug crimes committed by foreign nationals in the ASEAN region. In 2021, only 7,632 foreign nationals committed, which dramatically decreased from 2020. 85.8% of these offenders are Southeast Asian nationals.

The rest are 1,083 nationals from 62 countries outside ASEAN from other Asian and European countries, including Africa and America.

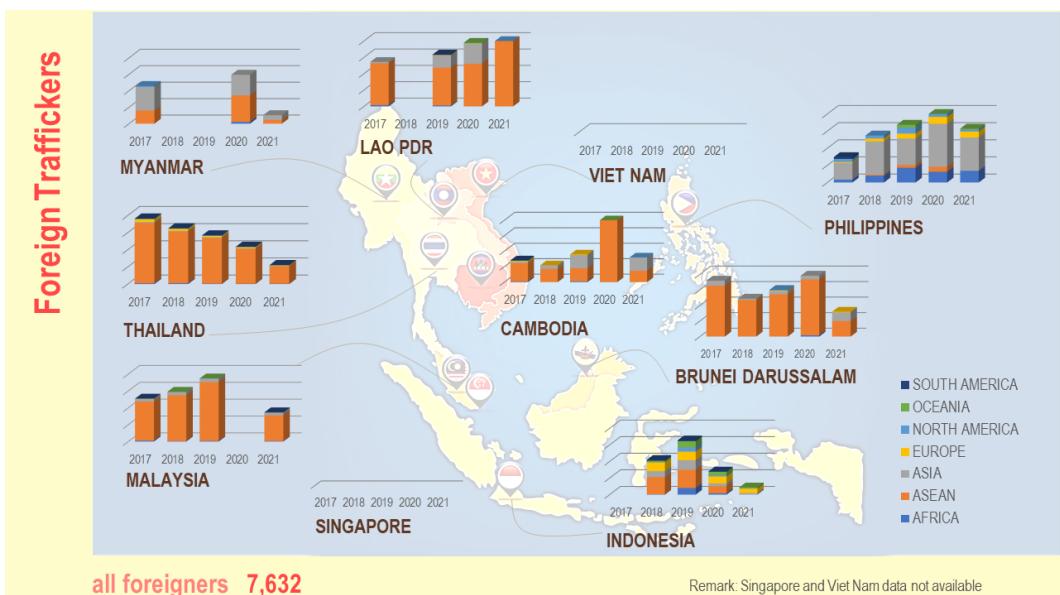


Figure 10: Foreign Traffickers Arrested in ASEAN Member States Classified by Geographical Zone

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION

The ASEAN Member States have been facing similar illicit drug problems such as opium poppy cultivation, heroin production, and methamphetamine manufacturing in the Golden Triangle. Thailand, Myanmar, and Lao PDR have collaborated with China in the "Safe Mekong Operation" since 2013, aiming to suppress drug trafficking along the Mekong River and the nearby Golden Triangle area. In 2015, this international law enforcement initiative expanded to include Viet Nam and Cambodia.

The "Safe Mekong Operation" emphasizes intelligence exchange, joint investigation, and operation on interdiction of essential chemicals and precursors, resulting in effective suppression within the Golden Triangle and related areas. As shown, seizures of significant drugs and precursors have increased in a short time as a result of this cooperation.

ASEAN Member States' law enforcement authorities have intercepted

drug precursors and chemicals destined for the production sites, resulting in many arrests and seizures. The number of drug offenders arrested has increased since 2015 to more than 3,688 in 2020 and decreased to 2,148 in 2021. Contrarily, the number of arrests for drug cases, which was 1,449 in 2020, showed less in 2021. There was a massive increase in methamphetamine tablets and cannabis from 2020. Although methamphetamine crystal was decreased from 2020, it was over 25 metric tons. Ketamine showed a two-time increase, while heroin was a 50% increase from 2020. Opium slightly declined. Although the COVID-19 epidemic in the region affected Safe Mekong Operation, the information exchange is continuing. However, with the ongoing implementation of alternative developments in some areas of the Golden Triangle, it is expected that the area's drug production and trafficking situation will improve in the next few years.

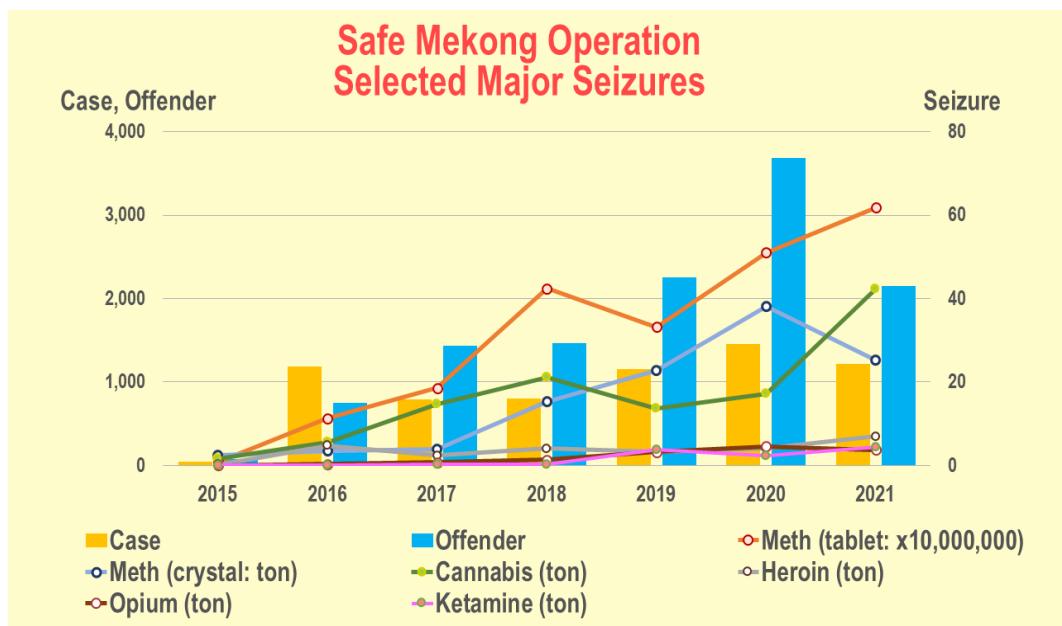


Figure 11: Arrest and Seizure by Safe Mekong Operation

CHAPTER 2

Major Drug Problems in ASEAN

OVERVIEW

Illicit drug use/abuse is a significant problem in ASEAN. Archaeological evidence reported using a plant-based psychoactive substance in Southeast Asia for over 15,000 years (Sullivan & Hagen, 2002). In the past five years (2017-2021), over 2.3 million ASEAN drug users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated drug users between 26 and 48 years old varies from country to country and is primarily male. Of these, 62.1% were new drug users. In 2021, 614,003 drug users accessed treatment facilities, a 13.4% increase from the past year. These drug users have increased by 88.8% from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late

2019 in ASEAN, drug users' access to treatment within ASEAN has increased by 42.7% since 2019.

Eight drug types were found in ASEAN, namely: amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), opiates/opioids, cannabis, new psychoactive substances (NPS), cocaine, central nervous system (CNS) depressants, hallucinogens, and others. Among commonly used addictive drugs, ATS was the most widely abused among ASEAN drug users admitted for treatment and accounted for three quarters. The second widely used substances were opiates/opioids and cannabis.

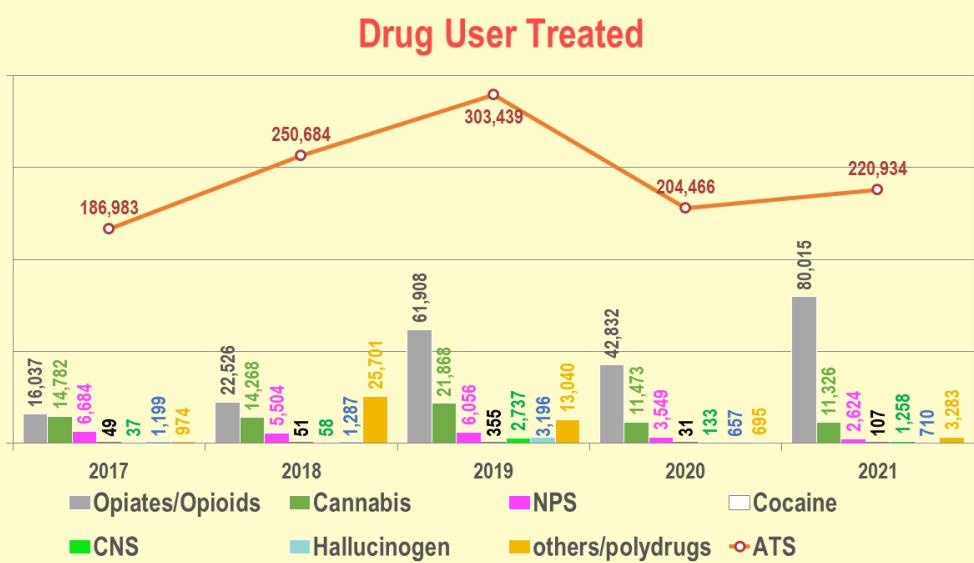


Figure 12: ASEAN Drug User Treated by Drug Types

Of all ASEAN drug users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States, three-quarters were ATS users. However, the proportion of ATS users may vary from 68% to 82% each year. Around 15% were opiates/opioids users. The percentage of opiates/opioids users may vary from 7% to 26% each year. Cannabis users accounted for 5% of all drug users, ranging from 3% to 6% annually. Even though Thailand launched the medical cannabis policy in 2019, the proportion of cannabis users in the treatment system remained unchanged, 3.5-5.3% from 2019-2021 (cannabis prescribed users in Thailand were not counted in this report). However, 3% of drug users who accessed treatment were polydrug users.

Considering the variation in a year, the ADMN data system is separated into the first six months (January-June) and the last six months (July-December). The majority of drug users get treated early each year. Over 60% of all ASEAN drug users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 57% to 70%. In early 2021, 69.8% of all ASEAN drug users accessed treatment. The number was a 28.8% increase from the past year. In comparison, 30.2% of all ASEAN drug users accessed treatment in late 2021, a slight decrease of 7.8% from the past year.

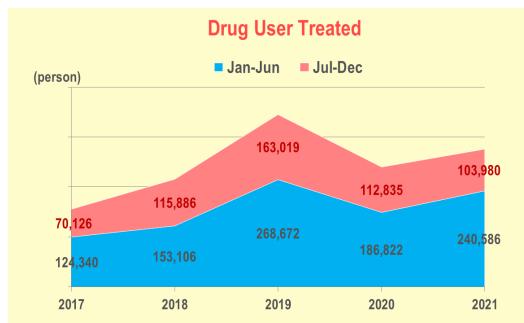


Figure 13: ASEAN Drug User Treated Periodically

According to drug types classification, ATS is still the highest proportion accounting for 75.7% of all drug users treated (2017-2021). The proportion varies from 64.0% to 86.5% in each period, highest in early 2018 and lowest in late 2021. Around 16% were opiates/opioids users. The percentage of opiates/opioids users may vary from 2.7% to 31.1% each period, highest in late 2021 and lowest in early 2017. Cannabis users accounted for 5% of all drug users, ranging from 2.6% to 7.2% periodically, highest in early 2017 and lowest in late 2021. Polydrug users accounted for 2% of all drug users, ranging from 0.3% to 3.8% periodically, highest in late 2019 and lowest in late 2020.

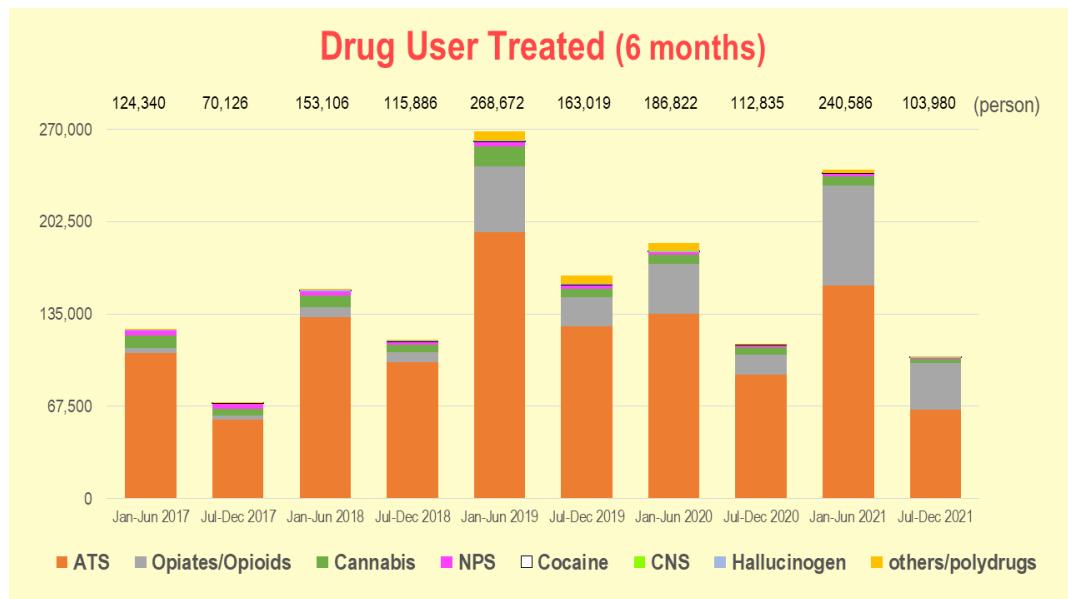


Figure 14: ASEAN Drug User Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), almost twenty thousand metric tons of illicit drugs were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over 3,800 metric tons annually. In 2021, 7,055.9 metric tons of illicit drugs were seized, a 50.2% increase from the past year. These seizures increase by six times of 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, illicit drugs within ASEAN have increased by 134.1% since 2019.

Unlike drug users, cannabis was the most illicit drug seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for three-quarters of all seized.

The second illicit drug seized was NPS accounted for 11% of all seized. ATS accounted for 3% of all seized. Interestingly, almost two thousand metric tons of precursor were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average precursor seized was over 377 metric tons annually. In 2021, however, only 193.2 metric tons of precursor were seized, a 66.5% decrease from the past year. This precursor increased by 60.1% from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, the precursor seized within ASEAN has decreased by 36.8% since 2019.

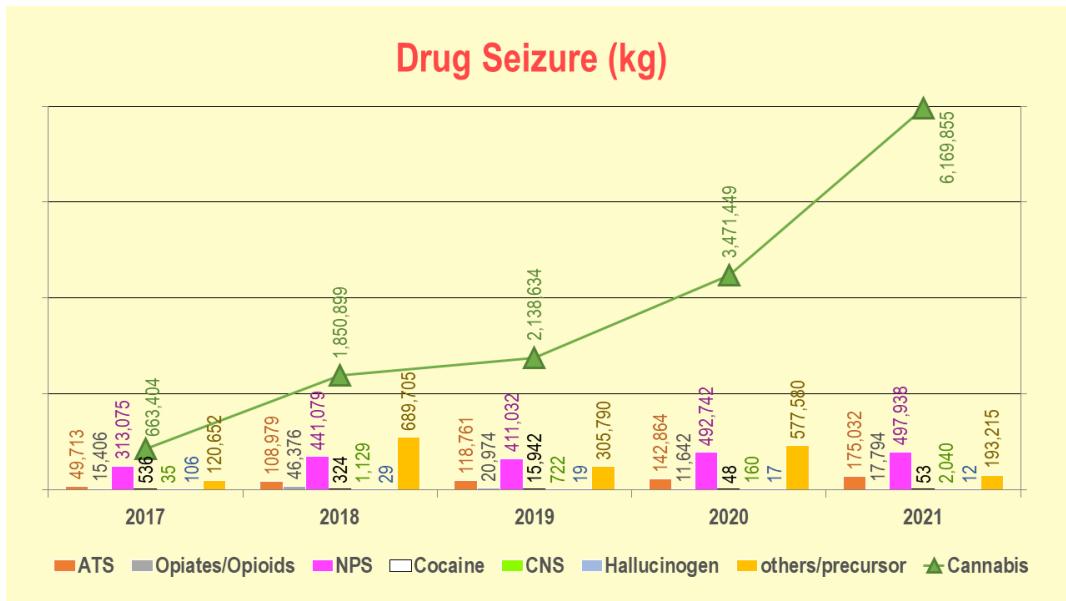


Figure 15: Illicit Drug Seized by Drug Types

Around 45% of all drugs were seized in the first half. The proportion may vary from 39% to 67%. In early 2021, 32.9% of drugs were seized. The number was a 9.7% increase from the past year during the same period. While 67.1% of drugs were seized in late 2021, twice the past year's increase. It should be noted that the 2021 seizures were almost 2.5 times increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

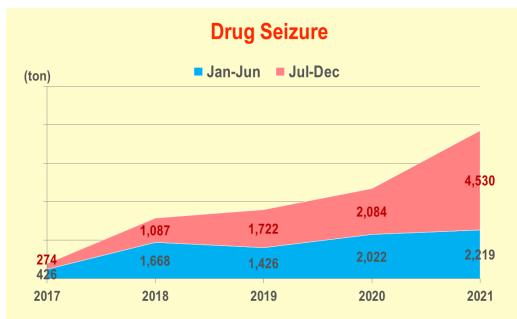


Figure 16: Illicit Drug Seized Periodically

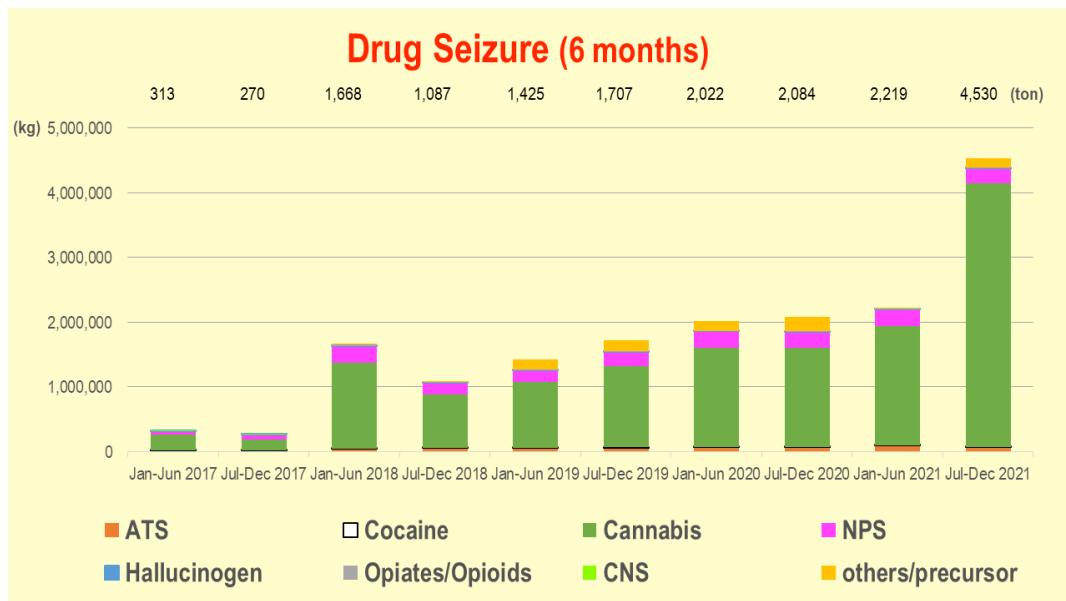


Figure 17: Illicit Drug Types Seized Periodically

According to drug types classification, cannabis is still the highest proportion accounting for 79.7% of all seized (counting on weight) in the past five years. The proportion varies from 65.3% to 89.8% in each period, highest in late 2021 and lowest in late 2017. In 2021, the proportion of cannabis seized was 87.7%, the most elevated in the past five years. Around 11% were NPS seized. The percentage of NPS may vary from 5.3% to 27.7% each period, highest in late 2017 and lowest in late 2021.

In 2021, the proportion of NPS seized was 7.3%, most lacking in the past five years. ATS seized accounted for 3% of seizures, ranging from 1.6% to 6.8% periodically, highest in late 2017 and lowest in late 2021. In 2021, the proportion of ATS seized was 2.4% lowest in the past five years. Precursors accounted for 5% of all seized, ranging from 0.3% to 11% periodically, highest in early 2019 and lowest in early 2021.

1. ATS

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) are a group of synthetic drugs, including amphetamine, methamphetamine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, MDMA (ecstasy), and its derivatives. ATS, in general, stimulates the central nervous system, also been proven to cause insomnia, arousal, and reduced hunger. ATS has been used to suppress appetite, improve cognitive performance, and treat ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), depression, and narcolepsy. ATS is also known for its addictive property and widespread substance abuse problem.

ATS is widely used in South-East Asia. It was first used as medicine and formerly sold legally at gas stations in Thailand for truck drivers used by long-haul drivers to stay awake. The Thai government outlawed the drug, particularly methamphetamine, in 1970 (Pressly 2019). In the past five years (2017-2021), over 1.1 million ATS users accessed treatment facilities within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated ATS users was between 27 and 46 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 11.1:1 (ranging from 9.6:1 to 12.1 each year). Of these, 63.7% were new ATS users (ranging from 60.8% to 80.3% each year).

In 2021, over two hundred thousand ASEAN population who suffer from using ATS access to get treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated ATS users was between 28 and 46 years old, varies from country to country, and is primarily male. Of these, 70.3% were new ATS users. In 2021, ATS drug users got treatment, a 2.1% decrease from the past year. These ATS users increase by 34.2% from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, ATS users' access to treatment within ASEAN has decreased by 31.1% since 2019.

ATS users found in ASEAN in 2021 were methamphetamine Tablets (YABA), methamphetamine crystalline (ICE/Shabu), amphetamine, and ecstasy. YABA was the most widely abused among ATS users, accounting for two-thirds of all ATS users. The second most commonly used were methamphetamine (crystalline), amphetamine, and ecstasy, respectively.

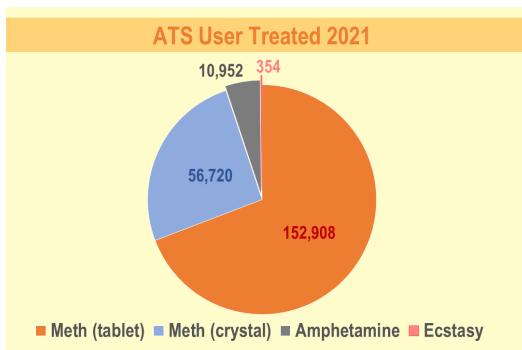


Figure 18: ATS User Treated in 2021

Of all ATS users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States in the past five years, over eight hundred thousand persons were YABA users. However, the proportion of YABA users may vary from 65% to 87% each year. In 2021 the proportion of YABA users was 69.2%. In comparison, almost three hundred thousand persons were *ICE/Shabu* users who accessed treatment in the past five years (2017-2021). The percentage of *ICE/Shabu* users may vary from 12% to 32% each year. In 2021 the proportion of *ICE/Shabu* users was 25.7%. Although ecstasy users have been reported as under three thousand users, accounting for less than 1% of all ATS users, it has been found that ecstasy users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States continuously. Even though Amphetamine users have been reported as over twenty thousand users since 2018, it has been found in only a few countries, ranging from 0.4% to 5% annually. In 2021 the proportion of amphetamine users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States was 4.96%.

Considering the variation in a year, most ATS users get treated early each year. Over 60% of all ATS users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 60% to 81%. In early 2021, 70.6% of all ATS users accessed treatment. The number was a 15.4% increase from the past year. In comparison, 39.4% of all ATS users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 28.4% decrease from the past year.

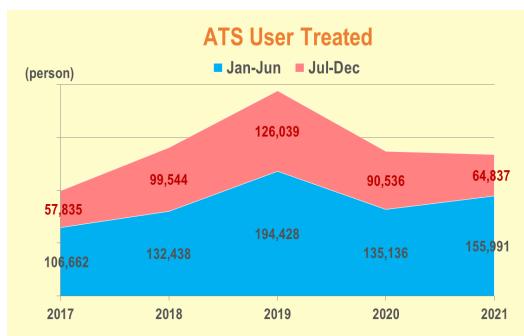


Figure 19: ATS User Treated Periodically

YABA is still the highest proportion accounting for 71.5% of all ATS users treated. The proportion varies from 55% to 91% in each period, highest in late 2017 and lowest in early 2021. Around 26.6% were ICE/Shabu users. The percentage of ICE/Shabu users may vary from 8% to 40% each period, highest in early 2021 and lowest in late 2017. Amphetamine

users accounted for 1.6% of all ATS users, ranging from 0.3 to 4.3% periodically, highest in early 2021 and lowest in early 2018. Ecstasy users accounted for 0.2% of all ATS users, ranging from 0.1% to 0.4% periodically, highest in early 2020 and lowest in late 2021.

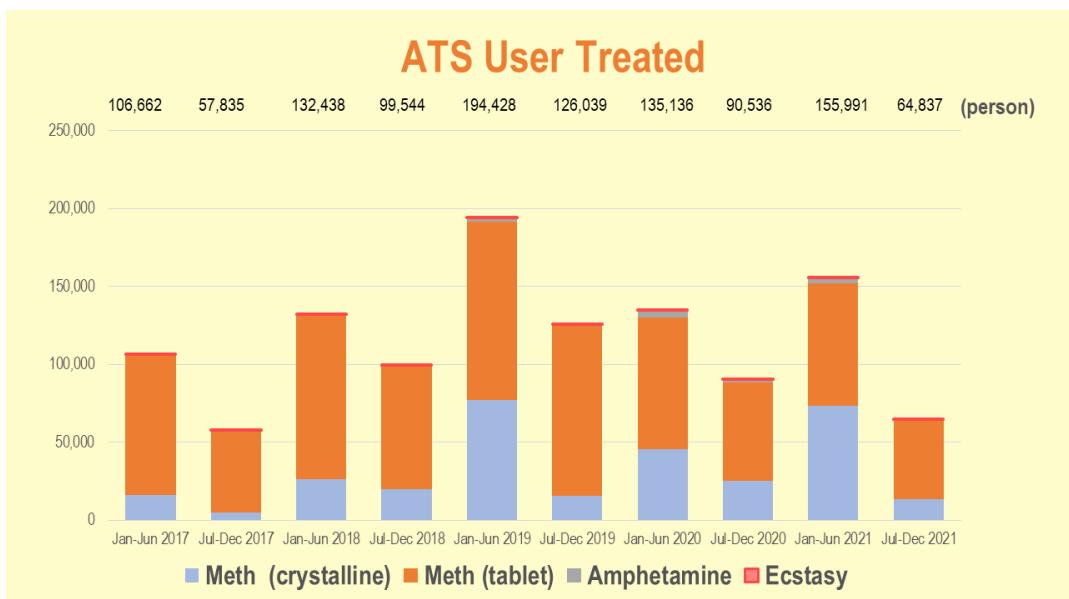


Figure 20: ATS User are Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were over 1.1 million ATS-related cases, with over 1.3 million offenders arrested. Over 560 metric tons of ATS were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over one hundred metric tons annually. In 2021, there were almost two hundred thousand ATS-related cases, slightly decreasing from 2020. ATS-related offenders in 2021

were arrested over two hundred fifty thousand persons, nearly the same as in 2020. Over 165.1 metric tons of ATS were seized, a 12.9% increase from the past year. These seizures increase by five times of 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, ATS within ASEAN has increased by 41.8% since 2019.

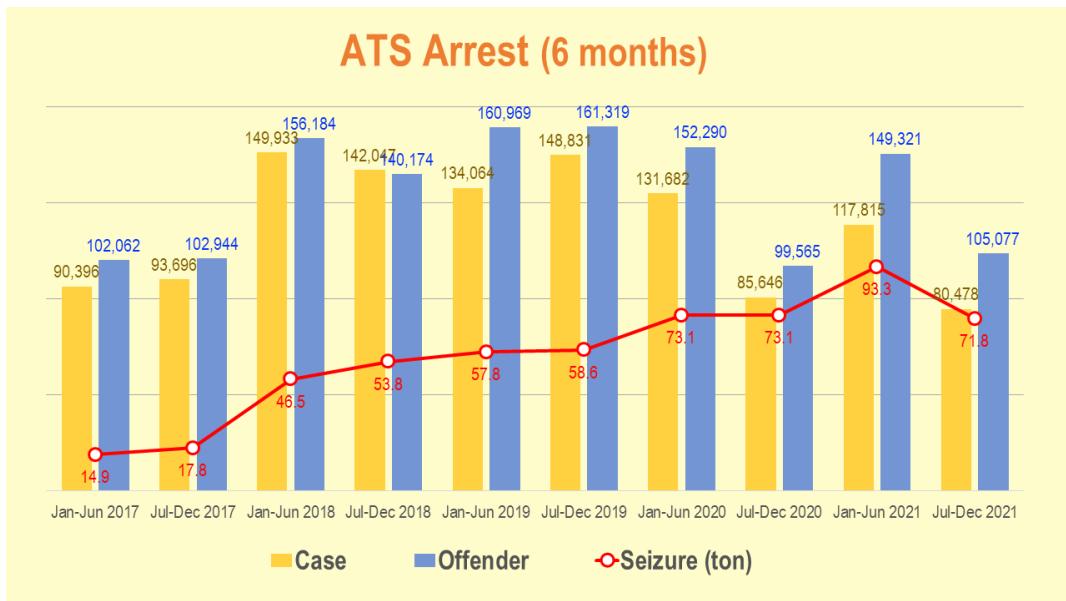


Figure 21: ATS Arrested Periodically

Similarly to ATS users, YABA was the most ATS seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for half of all ATS seized by weight. In the past five years, it varied from 44% to 78% of all ATS seized, with an average of 59 tons annually. In 2021, the YABA seizure was 85.4 metric tons. The second ATS seized was *ICE/Shabu* accounting

for over one-third of all ATS seized. In the past five years, it varied from 22% to 54% of all ATS seized, with an average of 46 tons annually. In 2021, *ICE/Shabu* seizure was 65.1 metric tons. The rest of the ATS seized are; amphetamine 16.7 tons, ephedrine 5.6 tons, ecstasy 2.2 tons, methamphetamine powder 223 kilograms, and methamphetamine liquid 65 kilograms.

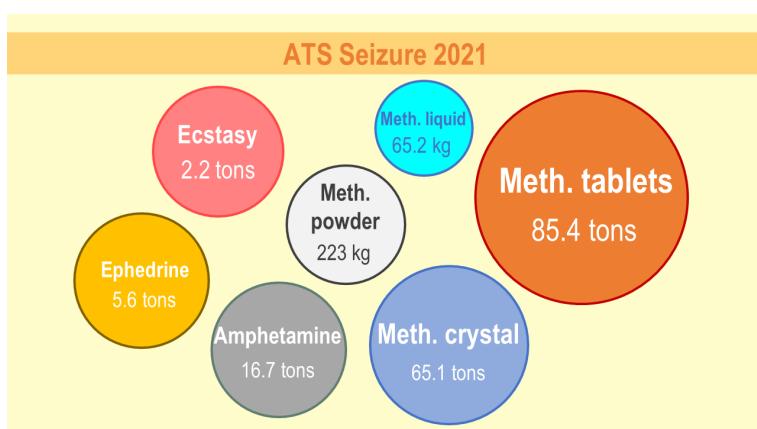


Figure 22: ATS Seizure 2021

According to the ATS classification, YABA is continuing the highest proportion by weight in every period. ICE/Shabu and ecstasy were also seized constantly in every period. Other ATS were also seized, such as amphetamine, ephedrine,

methamphetamine powder, and methamphetamine liquid. Other ATS were occasionally seized, such as pseudoephedrine (seized in 2018) and para-Methoxyamphetamine (PMA) (seized in 2018).

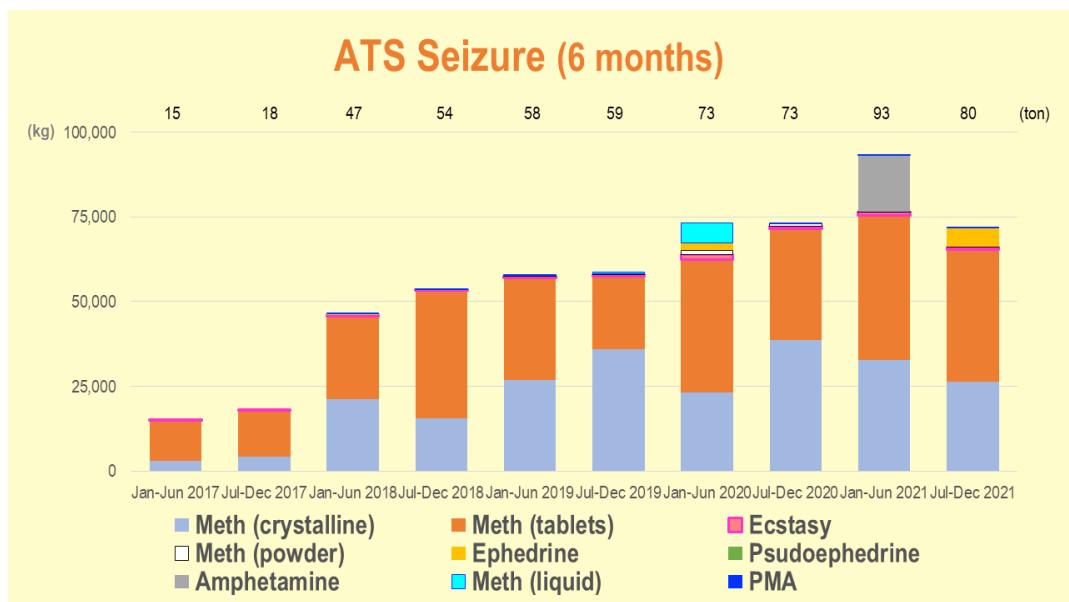


Figure 23: ATS Seizure Periodically

2. Opiates/Opioids

Among illicit drugs, opium has a long history. The archeological evidence of human use; the oldest known seeds date back to more than 5000 BC (Merlin 2003). During the late nineteenth century, opium was integral to European colonial rule in Southeast Asia (Bailey & Truong 2001). The Golden Triangle is where the borders of Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar are. It has been one of the most extensive opium-producing areas of the world since the 1950s. Most of the world's heroin came from the Golden Triangle until the early 21st century.

Opium is dried latex obtained from the unripe seedpods of the opium poppy plant grown at heights above 3,000 feet. Raw opium is a milky white latex that blackens as it dries to a sticky brown or black resin. It has a heavy smell and bitter taste. On the other hand, the prepared opium is indirectly heated to temperatures at which the active alkaloids, mainly morphine, are vaporized. Poppy seeds are a decent source of nutrients, including protein, fatty acids, and minerals. The opium poppy plant contains narcotic alkaloids. The pharmacologically active principles of opium reside in its alkaloids. The two most important are morphine and papaverine. Morphine is the principal medical alkaloid of opium as a sedative, hypnotic, and pain medication. Papaverine is used as a smooth muscle relaxant. Opium is a highly addictive narcotic drug categorized into three types: 1) natural opiates derived from the opium

poppy, 2) extracted opiates including morphine, heroin, codeine, and tramadol; and 3) synthetic opioids including fentanyl, methadone, buprenorphine, and noscapine. Several variations of opiates/opioids have been seized in the ASEAN Member States. These include opium, heroin, methadone, morphine, nalbuphine, and codeine.

In the past five years (2017-2021), around 2.5 hundred thousand opiates/opioids users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 35 and 49 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 21:1 (ranging from 12.7:1 to 24.5:1 each year). Of these, 43.5% were new opiates/opioids users (ranging from 25% to 99% each year).

In 2021, over one hundred thousand ASEAN population who suffer from using opiates/opioids had access to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 35 and 48 years old, varies from country to country, and is primarily male. Of these, 25.4% were new opiates/opioids users. In 2021, opiates/opioids drug users got treatment; two times increase from the past year. This opiates/opioids users increase by sixteen times from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, opiates/opioids users' access to treatment within ASEAN has decreased by 45% since 2019.

Four opiates/opioids users were found in ASEAN in 2021: heroin, opium, methadone, and street morphine. Heroin was the most widely abused among opiates/opioids users, accounting for over 90% of all opiates/opioids users. The second most commonly used were opium, methadone, and morphine, respectively.

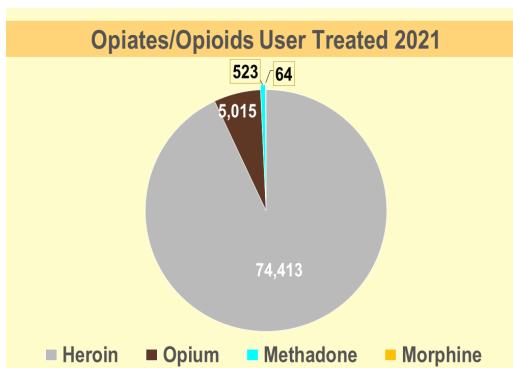


Figure 24: Opiates/Opioids User Treated in 2021

Of all opiates/opioids users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States in the past five years, over two hundred thousand persons were heroin users. However, the proportion of heroin users may vary from 58% to 95% each year. In 2021 the proportion of heroin users was 93%. In comparison, over eighteen thousand persons were opium users who accessed treatment in the past five years (2017-2021). The percentage of opium users may vary from 4% to 40% each year. In 2021 the proportion of opium users was 6.3%. Although morphine users have been

reported as under one hundred users, accounting for less than 1% of all opiates/opioids users, it has been found that morphine users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States continuously. Even though street methadone users have been reported as almost one thousand users, it has been reported most of the time, ranging from 0.2% to 1.2% annually. In 2021 the proportion of street Methadone users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States was 0.6%.

Considering the variation in a year, most opiates/opioids users get treated early each year. Around two third of all opiates/opioids users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 49% to 71%. In early 2021, 68.1% of all opiates/opioids users accessed treatment. The number doubled increase from the past year. In comparison, 31.9% of all opiates/opioids users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 2.5 times increase from the past year.

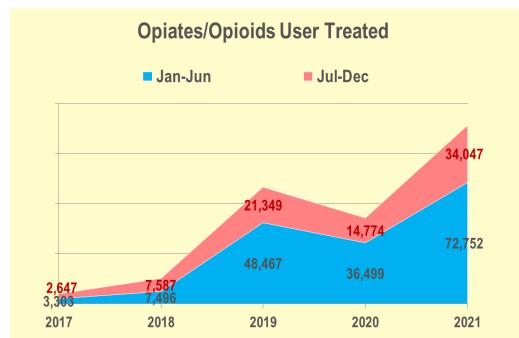


Figure 25: Opiates/Opioids User Treated Periodically

Heroin is still the highest proportion accounting for 91.8% of all opiates/opioids users treated. The proportion varies from 54% to 96% in each period, highest in late 2021 and lowest in early 2017. Around 7.7% were opium users. The percentage of opium users may vary from 4% to 41% each period, highest in early 2017 and lowest in early 2021.

Street methadone users accounted for 0.4% of all opiates/opioids users, ranging from 0.2 to 1.9% periodically, highest in late 2018 and lowest in early 2019. Morphine users accounted for 0.03% of all opiates/opioids users, ranging from 0.01% to 0.18% periodically, highest in early 2017 and lowest in early 2021.

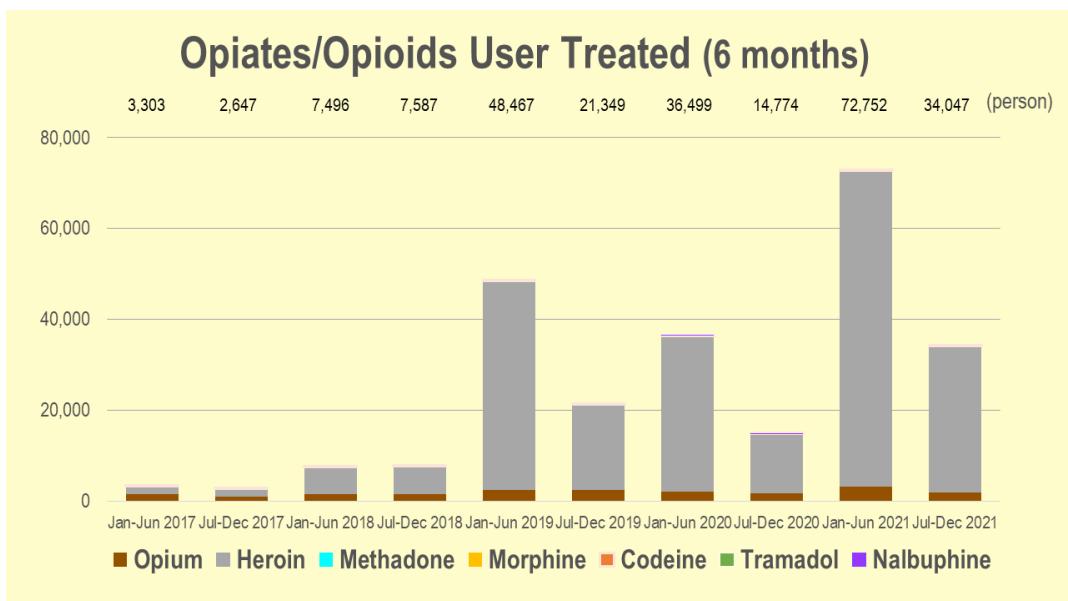


Figure 26: Opiates/Opioids User Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were over 1.2 hundred thousand opiates/opioid-related cases, with 1.2 hundred thousand offenders arrested. Over 96 metric tons of opiates/opioids were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over 19 metric tons annually. In 2021, there were over twenty-two thousand opiates/opioid-related cases, a 10.5% decrease from 2020. Opiates/opioids related

offenders in 2021 were arrested by almost two thirty thousand persons, a 10.1% decrease from 2020. Over 17 metric tons of opiates/opioids were seized, a 28.3% increase from the past year. These seizures huge increased since 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, Opiates/Opioids within ASEAN have decreased by 11.1% since 2019.

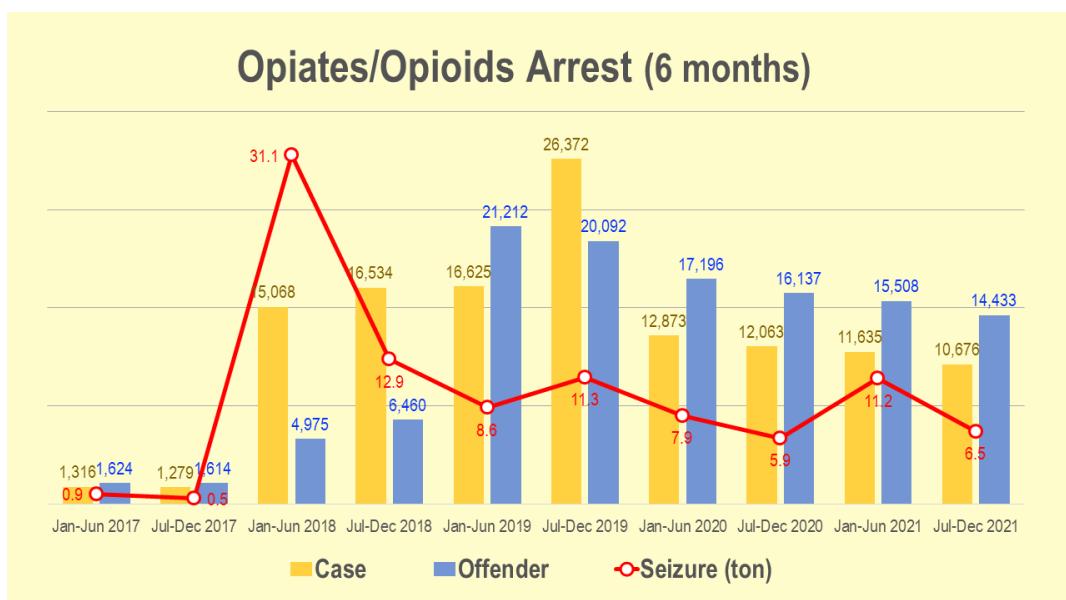


Figure 27: Opiates/Opioids Arrested Periodically

Codeine was the most opiates/opioids seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for two third of all opiates/opioids seized by weight in the past five years. It varied from 30% to 85% of all opiates/opioids seized, with an average of 12.2 tons annually. In 2021, the Codeine seizure was 6.5 metric tons. Heroin was the most opiates/opioid seized among the ASEAN Member States in 2021.

In the past five years, heroin seized accounted for 23% of all opiates/opioids seized by weight. In the past five years, it's varied from 8% to 58% of all opiates/opioids seized, with an average of 4.5 tons annually. In 2021, heroin seizure was eight metric tons. Opium accounts for 13% of all opiates/opioids seized. In the past five years, it's varied from 6.4% to 42.5% of all opiates/opioids seized, with an average

of 2.5 tons annually. In 2021, the opium seizure was 2.9 metric tons. The rest of the opiates/opioids seized are; tramadol 303 kilograms, methadone 2.6 kilograms, buprenorphine, and nubian, less than one kilogram.

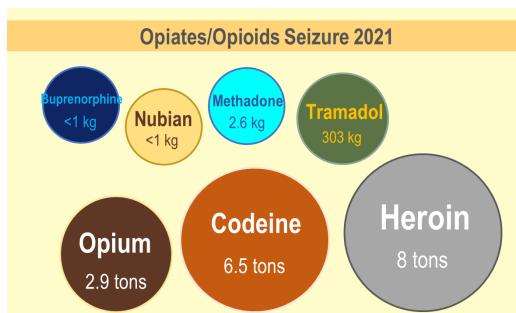


Figure 28: Opiates/Opioids Seizure 2021

According to the opiates/opioids classification, codeine is the highest proportion by weight in almost every period. Heroin (No.3, No.4, unclassified), opium (raw, prepared), methadone, and morphine were also seized constantly during every period. Other opiates/opioids were also frequently seized, such as tramadol. Other opiates/opioids were occasionally seized, such as nalbuphine/nubian (seized in 2018, 2021).

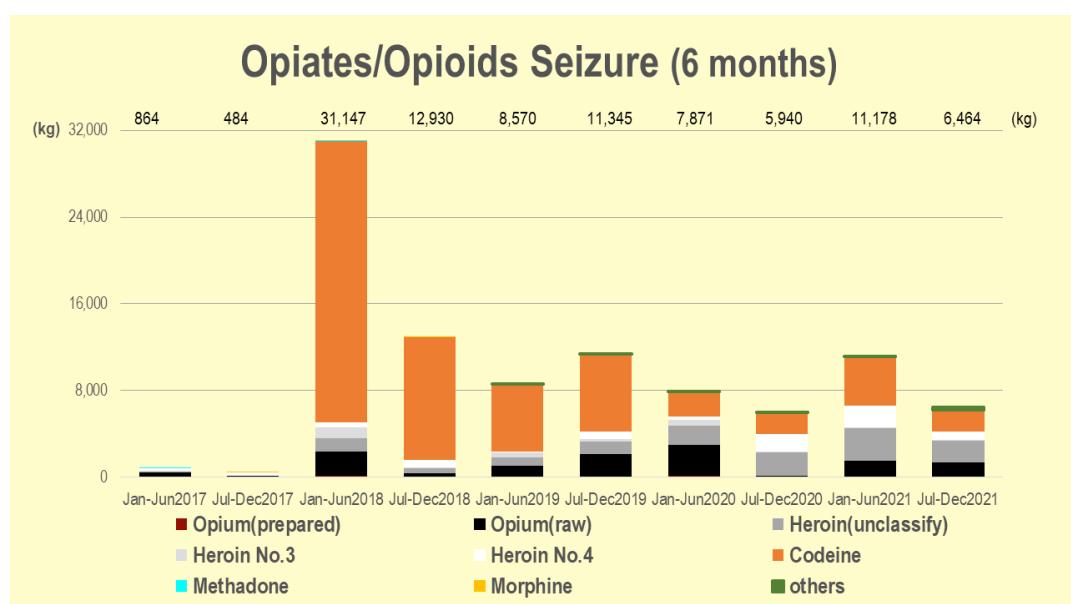


Figure 29: Opiates/Opioids Seizure Periodically

3. Cannabis

Cannabis is one of the old plants known, with records of its cultivation dating back thousands of years. Presumably, humans have known cannabis for over 10,000 years (Abel, 2007).

The first evidence of the use of cannabis was found in China, where archeological and historical findings indicate that the cannabis plant was cultivated there for fibers since 4.000 B.C. The use of cannabis as a medicine and food ingredient by ancient Chinese was also reported (Li & Lin 1974). Cannabis is a complex plant with over 400 chemical entities, of which over 60 are referred to as cannabinoid compounds. As a result, cannabis can be classified as a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogen that affects the central nervous system. The three major compounds in cannabis are 1) cannabinoid (CBN), a derivative of THC from oxidation, 2) cannabidiol (CBD), and 3) tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-9-tetra hydrocannabinol, THC). THC is the primary psychoactive cannabinoid in cannabis, affecting brain function, memory, and motor control. Cannabis has become popular among drug users and has been legalized for medical and recreational use in some countries. Only Thailand has legalized cannabis for medical use since early 2019 in ASEAN.

In the past five years (2017-2021), over seventy thousand cannabis users accessed treatment within the ASEAN

Member States, with an average of fourteen thousand persons annually. The average age of treated cannabis users was between 23 and 35 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 45.2:1 (ranging from 35.4:1 to 56.1:1 each year). Of these, 79.8% were new users (74% to 90% each year).

In 2021, over ten thousand ASEAN population who suffer from using cannabis will have access to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated cannabis users was between 27 and 32 years old, varies from country to country, and is primarily male. Of these, 76.5% were new cannabis users. In 2021, cannabis users got treatment 16.6% decrease from the past year. This number of cannabis users has decreased by 28.3% from 2017. Although cannabis was legalized in Thailand and the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in 2019 in ASEAN, cannabis users' access to treatment within ASEAN has decreased by 51.5% since 2019.

Considering the variation in a year, most cannabis users get treated early each year. Around two third of all cannabis users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 55% to 71%. In early 2021, 69.9% of all cannabis users accessed treatment. The number was a 4.7% increase from the past year. In comparison, 30.1% of all cannabis users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 43.4% decrease from the past year.

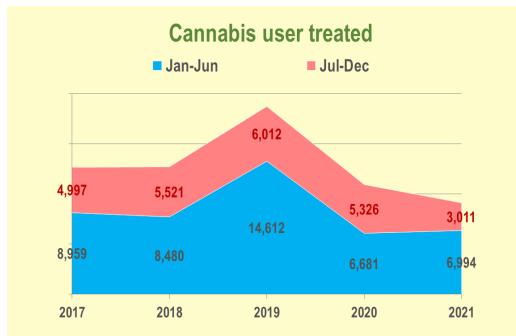


Figure 30: Cannabis User Treated

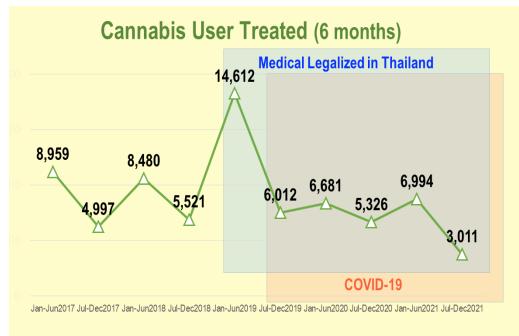


Figure 31: Cannabis User are Treated Periodically

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were almost ninety thousand cannabis related cases, with over 138 thousand offenders arrested. Fifteen thousand metric tons of cannabis were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were 3,000 metric tons annually. In 2021, there were over seventeen thousand cannabis-related cases, a 2.3% decrease from 2020. Cannabis-related offenders in 2021 were arrested over twenty thousand persons;

a slight decline from 2020. Almost seven thousand metric tons of cannabis were seized, an over two times increase from the past year. These seizures hugely increased since 2017. Although the medical legalization in Thailand and the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, cannabis within ASEAN has increased by three times since 2019. It should be noted that cannabis prescription users in Thailand were omitted.

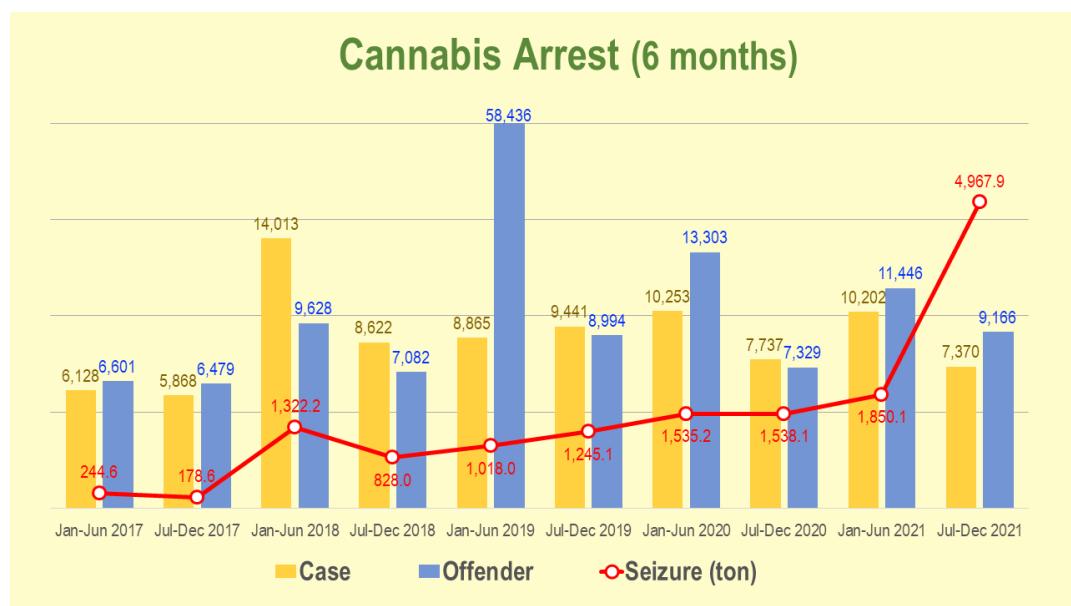


Figure 32: Cannabis Arrested Periodically

Cannabis plants were the most seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for 98% of all cannabis seized by weight in the past five years. It varied from 91% to 99% of all cannabis seized, with an average of 2,712 tons annually. In 2021, the cannabis seizure was over 6,000 metric tons. Cannabis dried was also high volume seized among the ASEAN Member States in 2021. In the past five years, dried cannabis seized accounted for 2% of all cannabis seized by weight. In the past five years, it's varied from 1.3% to 8.5% of all cannabis seized, with an average of 53.6 tons annually. In 2021, dried cannabis seizure was 96 metric tons. Cannabis resin accounts for less than 1% of all cannabis seized. In the past five years, cannabis resin seized varied from 9 kilograms to 607 kilograms, with an average of 127 kilograms annually. In 2021, the cannabis resin seizure was 8.7 kilograms.

The rest of the cannabis seized are; cannabis oil of 8.8 kilograms and cannabis seeds of less than one kilogram.

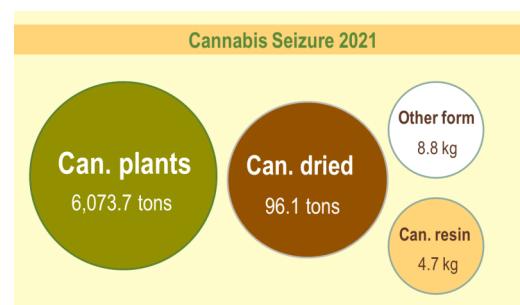


Figure 33: Cannabis Seizure 2021.

According to the cannabis classification, cannabis plants are the highest proportion by weight in every period. Cannabis dried, and cannabis resin was also seized constantly during every period. Cannabis seeds were also frequently seized, while cannabis oil was occasionally seized.

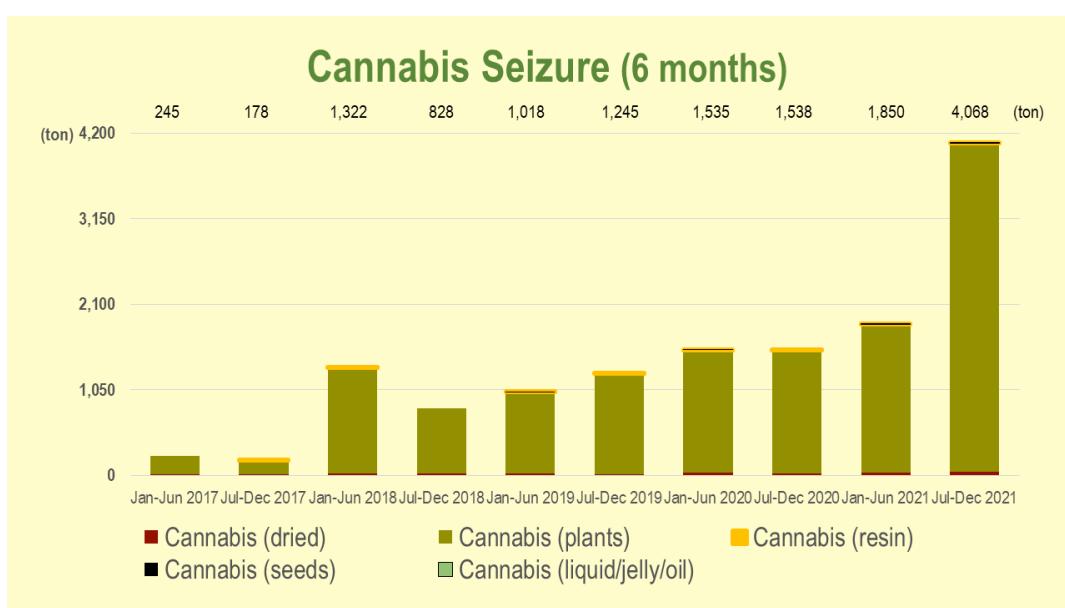


Figure 34: Cannabis Seizure Periodically

4. NPS

According to the World Drug Report 2013 (UNODC, 2013), New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) is an umbrella term for unregulated (new) psychoactive substances or synthetic substances that produce similar effects to illegal drugs or mimic the effects of controlled drugs, not for medical and scientific purposes. The majority of NPS are currently not under international control by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 or the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Drugs 1971. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) classifies NPS into seven categories according to pharmacology and health consequences: synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, ketamine, phenethylamines, piperazines, plant-based substances, and miscellaneous substances. NPS in this report will be based on the classification stated, although NPS defines each ASEAN Member State differently. Among the ASEAN Member States, several variations of NPS have been seized. Examples included *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom), ketamine, khat, cathinone, synthetic cathinones (bath salts), synthetic cannabinoids, and others.

Archaeological evidence suggests that betel nut was chewed approximately 13,000 years ago in Timor (Glover 1971, 1977) and 10,700 years ago in Thailand (Gorman 1970; Yen 1977). *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom) is indigenous to Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea. It was first formally

described by the Dutch colonial botanist Pieter Korthals in 1839 (Rech et al., 2015). Kratom has opioid properties and some stimulant-like effects. In August 2021, Thailand legalized kratom.

In the past five years (2017-2021), over 25 thousand NPS users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 18 and 28 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male: female) was 19.5:1 (ranging from 13.6:1 to 52:1 each year). Of these, 79.2% were new NPS users (ranging from 72% to 91% each year).

In 2021, almost three thousand ASEAN population who suffer from using NPS had accessed to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 26 and 28 years old, varies from country to country, and is primarily male. Of these, 74.7% were new NPS users. In 2021, NPS users got treatment, a 26.1% decrease from the past year. These NPS users decrease by 66.4% of 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, drug users' access to treatment within ASEAN has reduced by 56.7% since 2019.

Three NPS users in ASEAN in 2021 were kratom, ketamine, and others (synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, etc.). Kratom was the most widely abused among NPS users, accounting for three-quarters of all NPS users. The second most commonly used were ketamine, and other NPS, respectively.

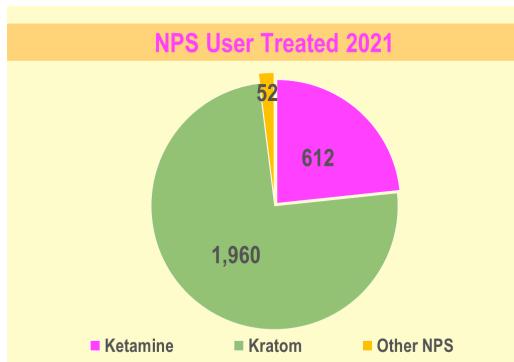


Figure 35: NPS User Treated in 2021

Of all NPS users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States in the past five years, over twenty thousand persons were kratom users. However, the proportion of kratom users may vary from 67% to 88% each year. In 2021 the proportion of kratom users was 67.8%. In comparison, over five thousand persons were ketamine users who accessed treatment in the past five years (2017-2021). The percentage of ketamine users may vary from 12% to 32% each year. In 2021 the proportion of ketamine users was 31.5%. Although other NPS users have been reported as under one hundred, accounting for less than 1% of all NPS users, it has been found occasionally.

Considering the variation in a year, most NPS users get treated early each year. 56.3% of all NPS users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 50% to 65%. In early 2021, 64.3% of all NPS users accessed treatment. The number was a 14.6% decrease from the past year. In comparison, 35.7% of all NPS users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 40.4% decrease from the past year.

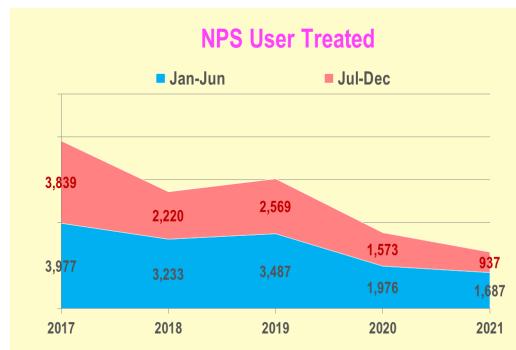


Figure 36: NPS User Treated Periodically

Kratom is still the highest proportion accounting for 79.8% of all NPS users treated. The proportion varies from 62% to 94% in each period, highest in early 2017 and lowest in early 2021. 19.8% were ketamine users. The percentage of ketamine users may vary from 5% to 37% each period, highest in early 2021 and lowest in early 2017. Other NPS users accounted for 0.4% of all NPS users, ranging from 0% to 2% periodically, the highest in early 2020. It should be noted that many drug users in Thailand were treated in a compulsory system. Thus, after August 2021, there were no kratom users in the compulsory system in Thailand.

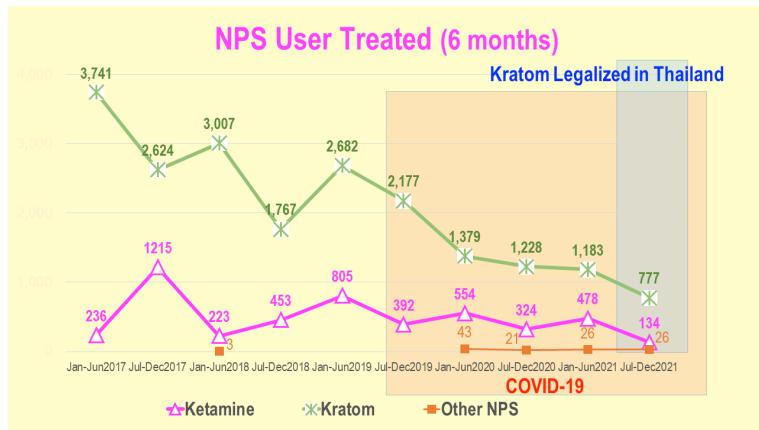


Figure 37: NPS User Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were over 1.7 hundred thousand NPS-related cases, with 1.9 hundred thousand offenders arrested. Two thousand metric tons of NPS were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were 400 metric tons annually. In 2021, over nineteen thousand cases of NPS-related were arrested, around a one-time decrease from 2020.

NPS-related offenders in 2021 were detained by almost twenty-five thousand persons, a one-time decrease from 2020. Five hundred metric tons of NPS were seized, slightly different from the past year. These seizures hugely increased since 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, NPS within ASEAN has decreased by 21.5% since 2019.

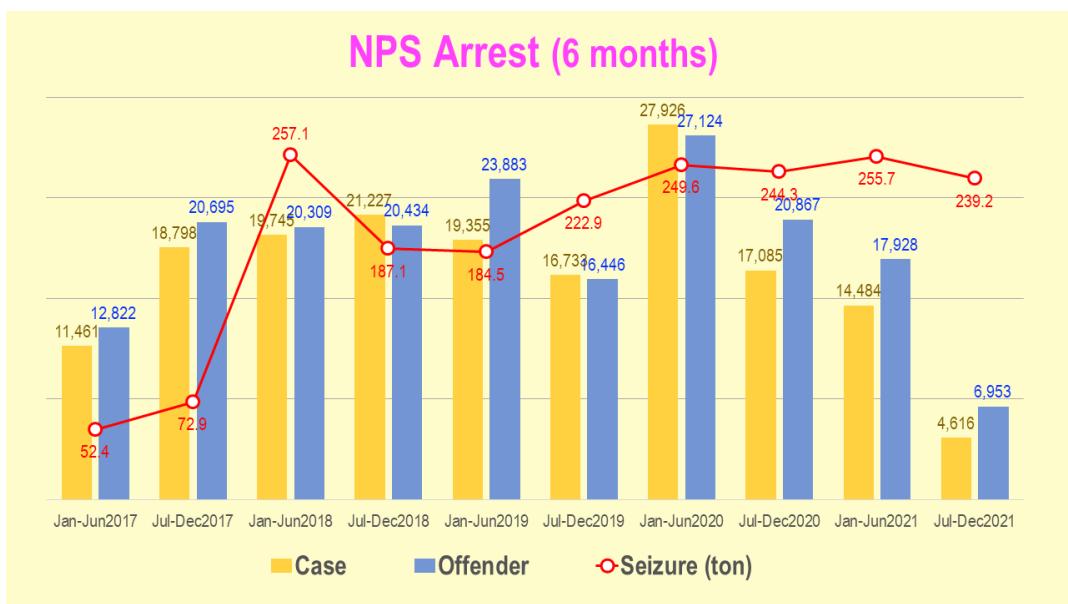


Figure 38: NPS Arrested Periodically

Like NPS users, kratom was the most NPS seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for 98% of all NPS seized by weight in the past five years. It varied from 97% to 99% of all NPS seized, with an average of 387.7 tons annually. In 2021, the kratom seizure was 490 metric tons. Ketamine was the second NPS seized among the ASEAN Member States in 2021. In the past five years, Ketamine seized accounted for 0.8% of all NPS seized by weight.

In the past five years, it's varied from 0.4%

to 1% of all NPS seized, with an average of 3 metric tons annually. In 2021, the ketamine seizure was five metric tons. Other NPS (khat, synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, etc.) account for less than 1% of all NPS seized. In the past five years, an average of 1.7 tons was seized annually. In 2021, the other NPS seizure was seized; synthetic cannabinoids 405 kilograms, cathinones 107 kilograms, and other less than one kilogram.

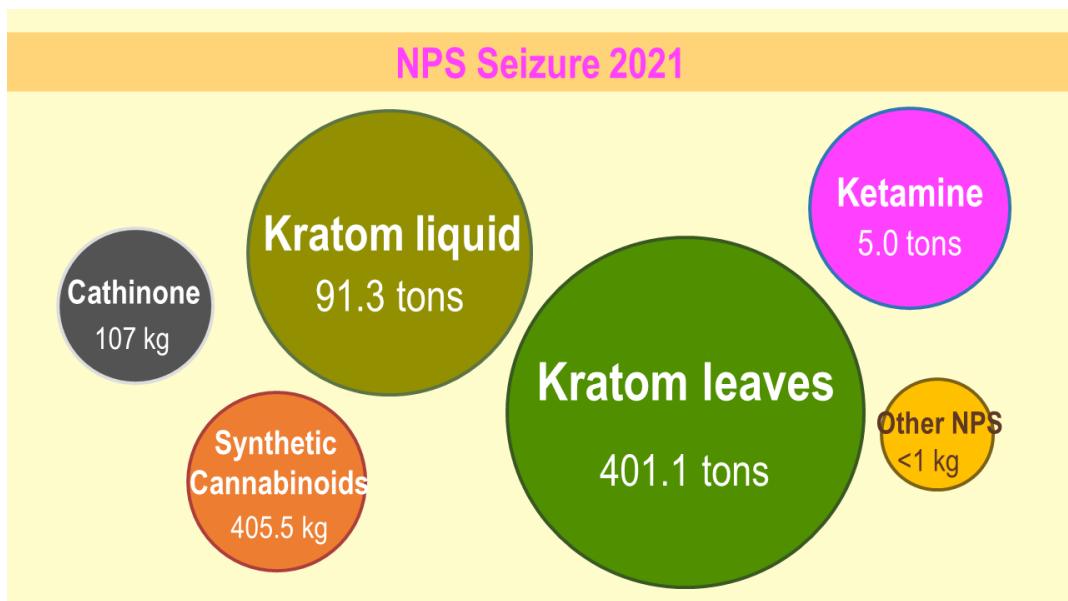


Figure 39: NPS Seizure 2021

According to the NPS classification, kratom is the highest proportion by weight in almost every period. Ketamine was also seized constantly during every period. Other NPS were frequently seized,

such as synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and cathinones. Other NPS were occasionally seized, such as khat (in 2018, 2019).

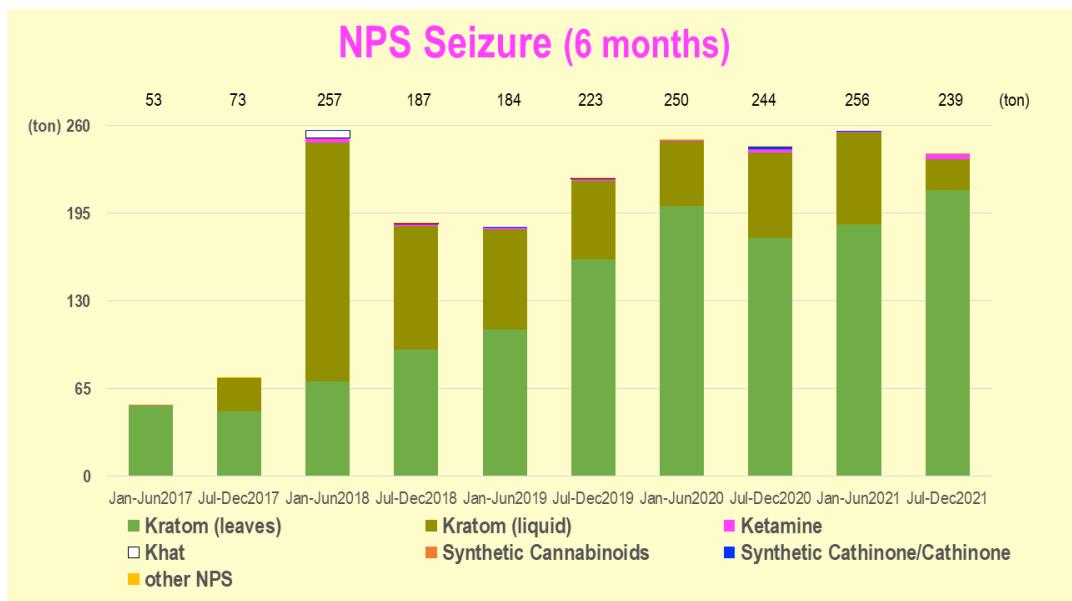


Figure 40: NPS Seizure Periodically

5. Cocaine

Cocaine, scientifically called methyl ester of benzoyllecgonine, also known as coke, is a natural substance found in coca leaves for its psychoactive alkaloid. The alkaloid content of coca leaves differs depending on species, climate, height above mean sea level, plant age, and other factors. The primary psychoactive substance in coca leaves is cocaine (benzoylmethylecgonine), generally in the range of 0.3-1%. On the street, cocaine comes in either of two forms (1) cocaine hydrochloride salt or base, which is a white, odorless crystalline powder with a bitter, numbing taste, and (2) cocaine sulfate or crack or rock, which is freebase in white to light brown colored, waxy rock-like substance.

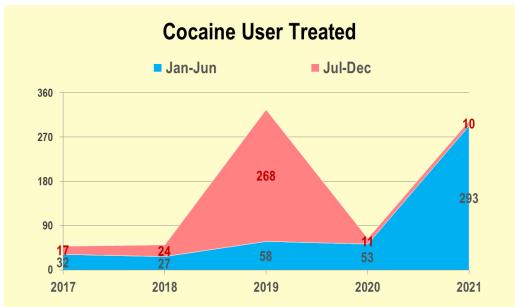
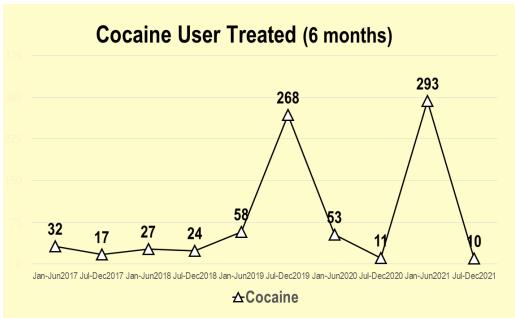
Cocaine is an addictive stimulant drug obtained from the leaves of coca. After extraction from coca leaves and further processing into cocaine hydrochloride (powdered cocaine). Cocaine stimulates the reward pathway in the brain. Mental effects may include an intense feeling of happiness, sexual arousal, loss of contact with reality, or agitation. Physical effects may include a fast heart rate, sweating, and dilated pupils.

Although cocaine is not popular in ASEAN, a few users were found. In the past five years (2017-2021), over seven

hundred cocaine users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated cocaine users was between 27 and 32 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 8.9:1 (ranging from 3.9:1 to 14.4:1 each year). Of these, 89.5% were new cocaine users (ranging from 83% to 93% each year).

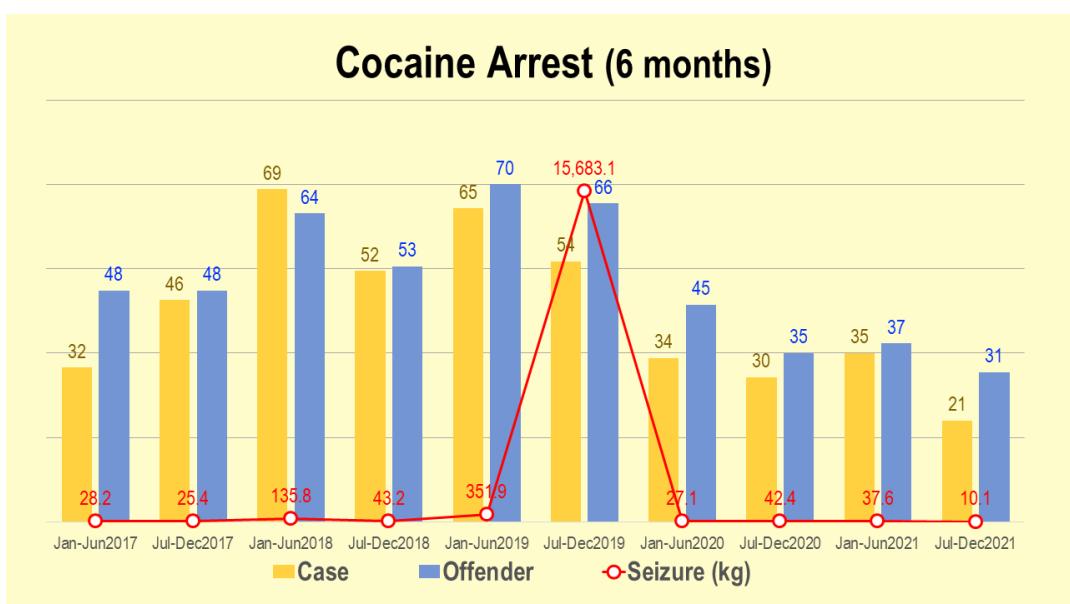
In 2021, three hundred ASEAN population suffering from cocaine had accessed to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 27 and 32 years old, varies from country to country, and is primarily male. Of these, 89.5% were new cocaine users. In 2021, cocaine users got treatment; a five times increase from the past year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, drug users' access to treatment within ASEAN has slightly decreased since 2019.

Considering the variation in a year, most cocaine users get treated early each year. 58.4% of all cocaine users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 17% to 97%. In early 2021, 96.7% of all cocaine users accessed treatment. The number was 5.5 times increase from the past year. In comparison, 3.3% of all cocaine users accessed treatment in late 2021, almost stable from the past year.

**Figure 41:** Cocaine User Treated**Figure 42:** Cocaine User Treated Periodically

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were 438 cocaine related cases, with 497 offenders arrested. Over 16 metric tons of Cocaine were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over 3.3 metric tons annually. In 2021, there were 56 cocaine related cases, a 12.5% decrease from 2020. 68 cocaine-related offenders in 2021 were arrested, a 15% decrease from 2020. Only 47 kilograms of cocaine were seized, a 31.4% increase from the past year. These seizures were 11% decrease since 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, cocaine within ASEAN has hugely decreased since 2019.

Cocaine Arrest (6 months)

**Figure 43:** Cocaine Arrested Periodically

6. CNS Depressants

Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants include sedatives, tranquilizers, and hypnotics that can slow the brain and central nervous system. CNS depressants can be divided into benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methaqualone, and GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyric). The substance may also treat anxiety, acute stress reactions, and sleep disorders; an overdose may cause coma, shock, and death.

In ASEAN over-the-counter drug market has been recognized for years. Of all over-the-counter drugs, CNS was used as a mixture of illicit drugs and a replacement. Over five years (2017-2021), over one thousand CNS users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated CNS users was between 28 and 40 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 25.8:1 (ranging from 2.2:1 to 34.5:1 each year). Of these, 93.7% were new CNS users (ranging from 35% to 98% each year).

In 2021, one thousand two hundred ASEAN populations who suffer from using CNS had access to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 29 and 40 years old, varied from country to country, and was primarily male. Of these, 62% were new CNS users. In 2021, CNS users got treatment; a four times increase from the past year.

These CNS users increase by forty-five times from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, drug users' access to treatment within ASEAN has increased 8.5 times since 2019.

CNS users found in ASEAN in 2021 were benzodiazepines, barbiturate, carisoprodol, and other CNS (unclassified). Benzodiazepines was the most widely abused among CNS users, accounting for a quarter of all CNS users. The other CNS commonly used were barbiturates, sedative-hypnotic, and unclassified psychotropic substances.

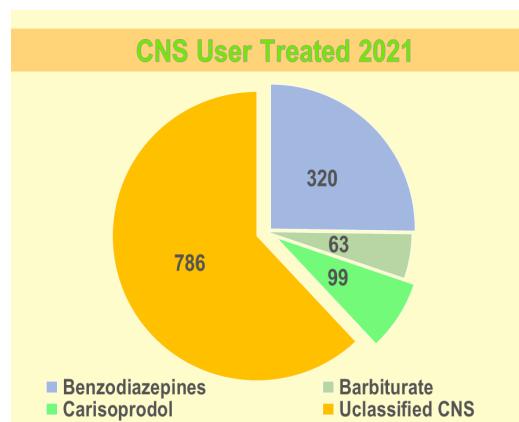


Figure 44: CNS User Treated in 2021

Of all CNS users accessing treatment within the ASEAN Member States in the past five years, 908 were benzodiazepine users. However, the proportion of benzodiazepines users may vary from 61% to 100% each year. In 2021 the proportion of benzodiazepines users was 93.1%. In comparison, 38 persons were other psychotropic users who accessed treatment in the past five years (2017-2021). The percentage of other psychotropic users may vary from 0% to 38% each year. In 2021 the proportion of other psychotropic users was 6.9%. It should be noted that barbiturates, sedative-hypnotic, and unclassified psychotropic substances were reported occasionally.

Considering the variation in a year, most CNS users get treated early each year. Around 72.7% of all CNS users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 57% to 88%. In early 2021, 232 CNS users accessed treatment. The number was a 22% decrease from the past year. In comparison, 27.3% of all CNS users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 3.5 times increase from the past year.

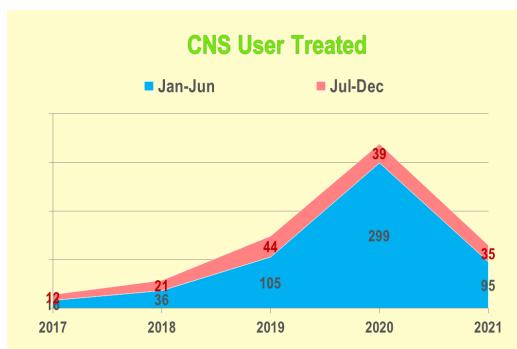


Figure 45: CNS User Treated Periodically

Benzodiazepines is still the highest proportion accounting for 96% of all CNS users treated. The proportion varies from 61.5% to 100% in each period, highest in every period of 2017-2019 and lowest in late 2020. Around 1.1% were barbiturate users. The percentage of barbiturate users may vary from 0% to 3.3% each period, highest in early 2020 and not reported between 2017-2019. sedative-hypnotic and unclassified psychotropic substances users accounted for 3% of all CNS users, ranging from 0% to 38.5% periodically, highest in late 2020 and not reported between 2017-2019.

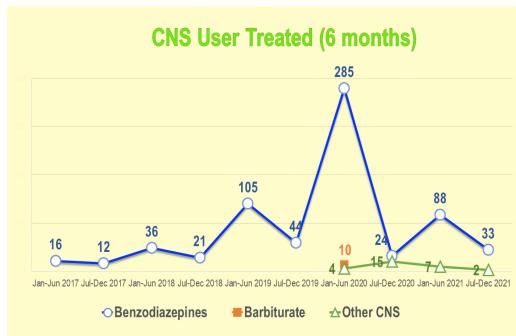


Figure 46: CNS User Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were over fifty thousand CNS-related cases, with twelve thousand offenders arrested. Three metric tons of CNS

were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over 560 kilograms annually. In 2021, over two thousand CNS-related cases were arrested, a 17% decrease from 2020. CNS-related offenders in 2021 were detained by over three thousand persons, an 18% decrease from 2020. Over two metric tons of CNS were seized, a vast increase from the past year. These seizures hugely increased since 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, CNS within ASEAN has increased by 2.5 times since 2019.

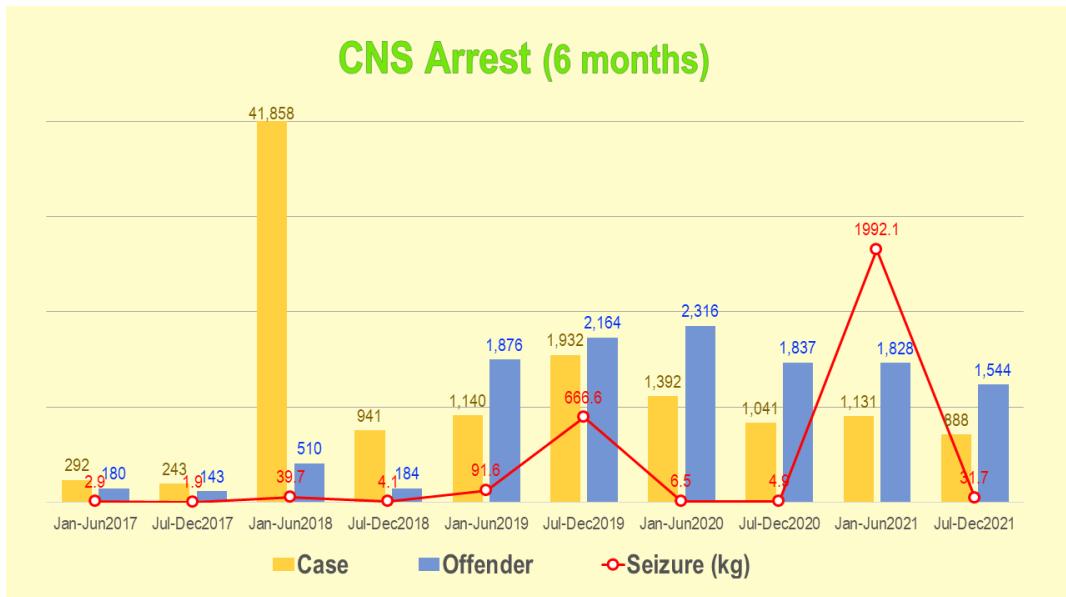


Figure 47: CNS Arrested Periodically

Unlike CNS users, nimetazepam (Erimin 5) was the most CNS seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for 71% of all CNS seized by weight in the past five years. It varied from 1% to 98% of all CNS seized, with

an average of 400 kilograms annually. In 2021, the nimetazepam seizure was two metric tons. Barbiturate was the most CNS seized frequency reported among the ASEAN Member States. In the past five years, barbiturate seized accounted

for 3.8% of all CNS seized by weight. In the past five years, it's varied from 1% to 52% of all CNS seized, with an average of 20 kilograms annually. In 2021, the barbiturate seizure was 36 kilograms. Benzodiazepines account for 4.4% of all CNS seized. In the past five years, it's varied from 0.1% to 78.4% of all CNS seized, with an average of 25 kilograms annually. In 2021, the benzodiazepines seizure was less than one kilogram. The rest of the CNS seized are sedative-hypnotic and unclassified psychotropic substances. In 2021, the unclassified psychotropic substances seizure was over 3 kilograms. In addition, 7.3 kilograms of GHB were also seized.

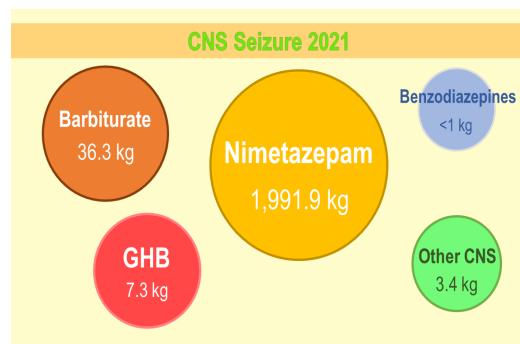


Figure 48: CNS Seizure 2021

According to the CNS classification, nimetazepam is the highest proportion by weight in almost every period. benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and unclassified psychotropic substances were also seized constantly.

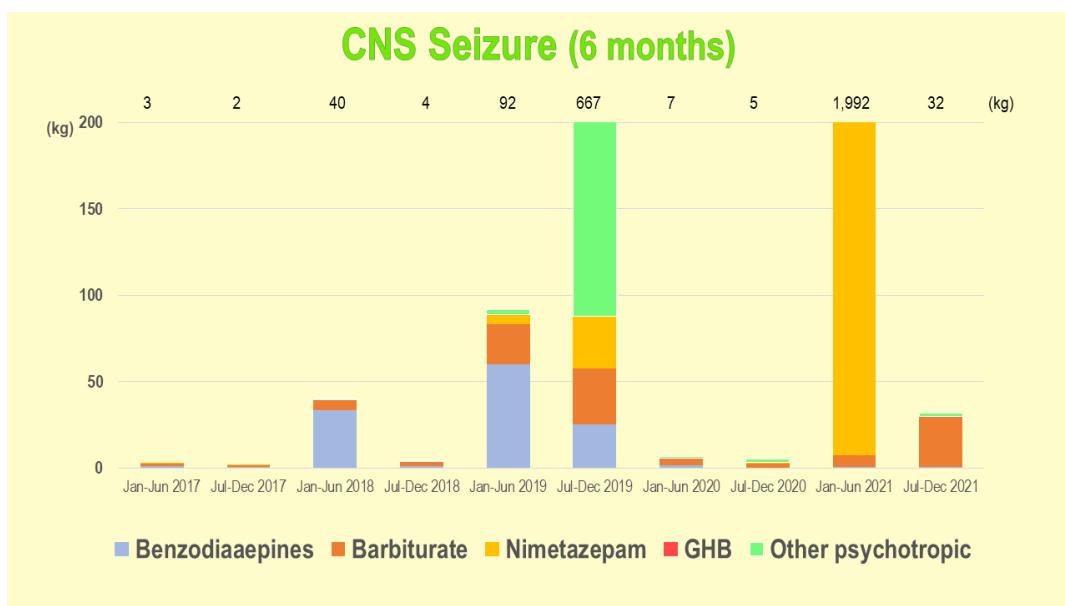


Figure 49: CNS Seizure Periodically

7. Hallucinogen

Hallucinogens are psychoactive agents that can cause hallucinations, perceptual anomalies, and other substantial subjective changes in thoughts, emotions, and consciousness. The common hallucinogens are psychedelics, dissociatives, and deliriants, which can treat mood disorders and chronic pain. Hallucinogen affects serotonin, dopamine, and glutamate, causing changes in perception, thought, emotion, and consciousness, ranging from illusions to hallucinations, such as hearing voices and distorted vision. Hallucinogenic drugs are popular for recreational and medical purposes in European countries, the United States, and England. Those in the 18-25 age group commonly use it. Unlike synthetic psychotropic drugs such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), ketamine, etc., psilocybe mushroom, commonly known as magic mushroom, is the most widely used recreational psychotropic substance.

In the past five years (2017-2021), around five thousand hallucinogens users accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated hallucinogens users was between 14 and 35 years old and varied from country to country. Sex ratio (male:female) was 17.1:1 (ranging from 12.7:1 to 28.9:1 each year). Of these, one-third were new hallucinogens users (ranging from 38.5% to 76.3% each year).

In 2021, seven hundred ASEAN populations who suffer from using hallucinogens had accessed to treatment within the ASEAN Member States. The average age of treated opiates/opioids users was between 31 and 35 years old, varied from country to country, and was primarily male. Of these, 45.4% were new drug users. In 2021, hallucinogens drug users got treatment, two times decrease from the past year. hallucinogens users decreased two times from 2017. Although the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, drug users' access to treatment within ASEAN has decreased twice since 2019.

Three types of hallucinogens users were found in ASEAN in 2021: inhalants, LSD, and magic mushroom. inhalants were the most widely abused among hallucinogens users, accounting for over 98% of all hallucinogens users. The second most commonly used were LSD, and magic mushroom, respectively.

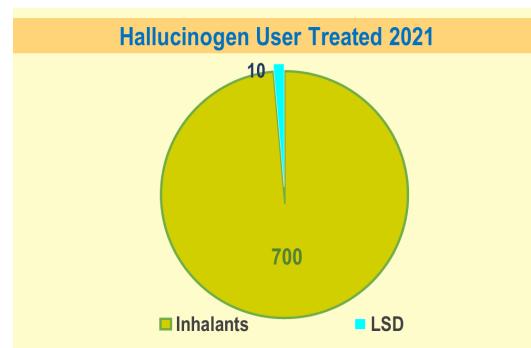


Figure 50: Hallucinogens User Treated in 2021

Of all hallucinogens users who accessed treatment within the ASEAN Member States in the past five years, over five thousand persons were inhalants users. However, the proportion of inhalants users may vary from 71% to 99% each year. In 2021 the proportion of inhalants users was 98.6%. In comparison, over three hundred persons were LSD users who accessed treatment in the past five years (2017-2021). The percentage of LSD users may vary from 0.1% to 28% each year. In 2021 the proportion of LSD users was 1.4%. Although a few magic mushroom users have been reported, it has been found occasionally.

Considering the variation in a year, most hallucinogens users get treated early each year. Around two third of all hallucinogens users accessed treatment in the first half. The proportion may vary from 55% to 77%. In early 2021, 64.3% of all hallucinogens users accessed treatment. The number was two times decrease from the past year. In comparison, one-third of all hallucinogens users accessed treatment in late 2021, a 26% decrease from the past year.

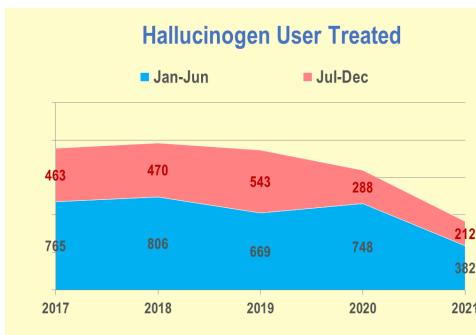


Figure 51: Hallucinogen User Treated Periodically

Inhalants are still the highest proportion accounting for 94% of all hallucinogens users treated. The proportion varies from 71% to 100% in each period, highest in late 2017 and lowest in early 2020. Around 6.1% were LSD users. The percentage of LSD users may vary from 0% to 38% each period, highest in early 2020 and lowest in late 2017. Magic mushroom users accounted for less than 1% of all hallucinogens users and were occasionally reported (early 2018).

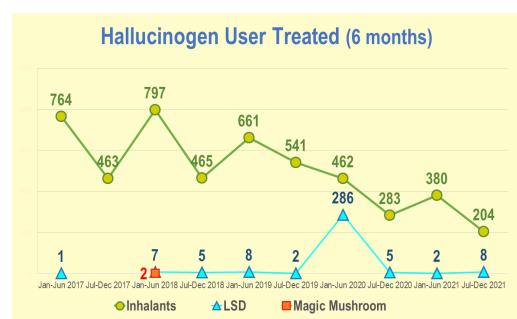


Figure 52: Hallucinogen User Treated Periodically by Drug Types

In the past five years (2017-2021), there were 2.5 over thousand cases of hallucinogens-related, with three thousand offenders arrested. Over one hundred kilograms of hallucinogens were seized within the ASEAN Member States. The average seizures were over 21 kilograms annually. In 2021, 428 cases of hallucinogens-related were arrested, a one-time increase from 2020. Eight hundred eighty-five persons were detained as hallucinogens-related offenders in 2021, a three times increase from 2020.

Over 18 kilograms of hallucinogens were seized, a 9% increase from the past year. These seizures were 29% decreased since 2017. Although the

COVID-19 pandemic occurred in late 2019 in ASEAN, opiates/opioids within ASEAN have increased by 8.4% since 2019.

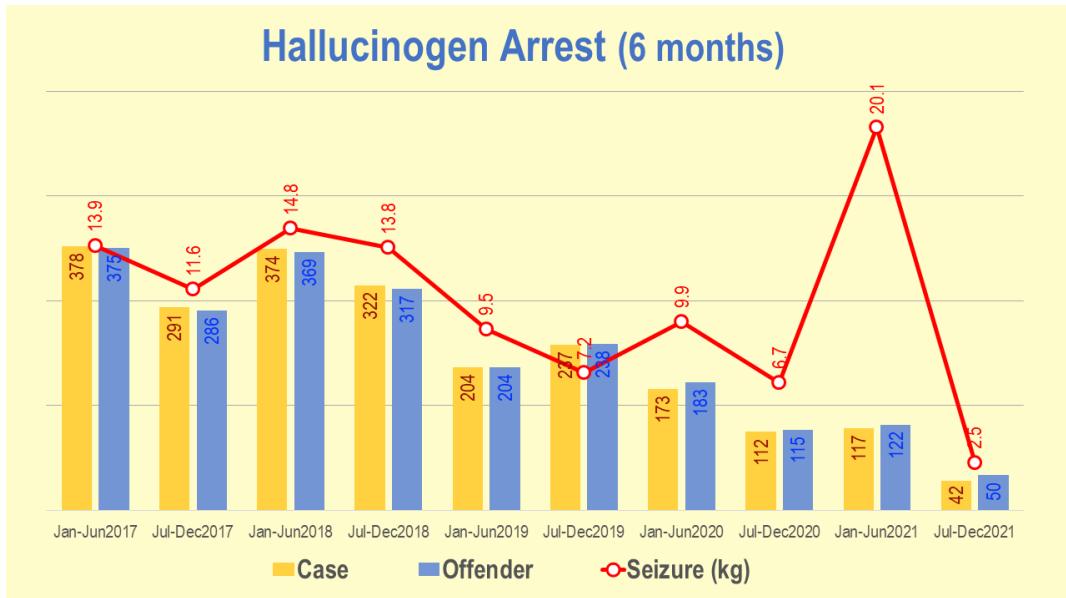
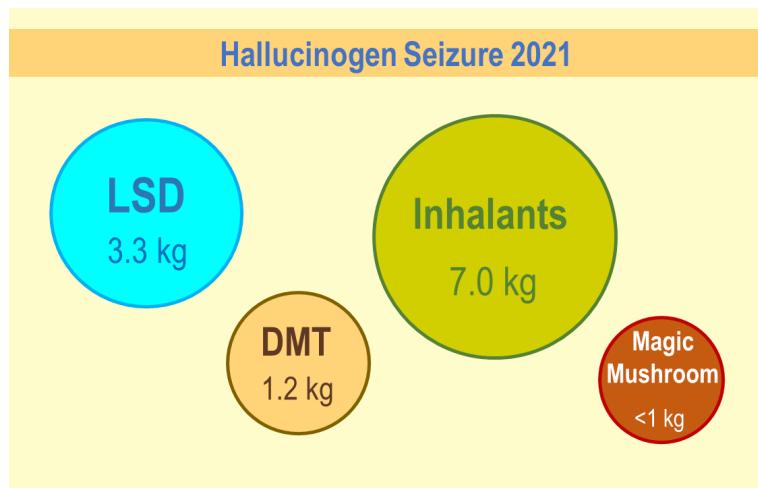


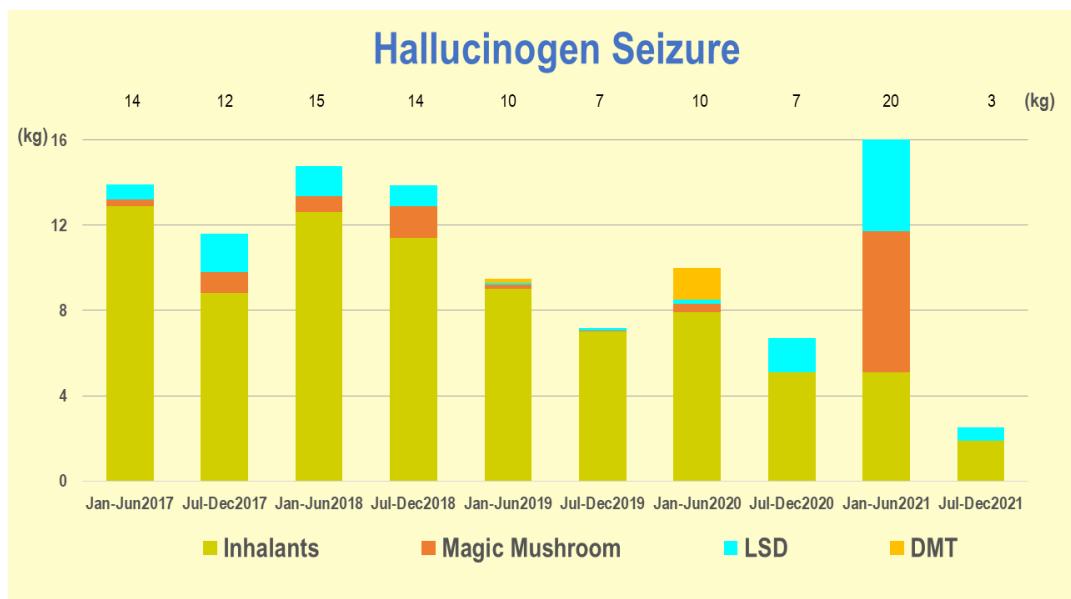
Figure 53: Hallucinogen Arrested Periodically

Inhalants were the most hallucinogens seized among the ASEAN Member States and accounted for 70% of all hallucinogens seized by weight in the past five years. It varied from 24% to 96% of all hallucinogens seized, with an average of 16 kilograms annually. In 2021, the inhalants seizure was 7 kilograms. Magic mushroom was the most frequently hallucinogen seized among the ASEAN Member States in 2021. In the past five years, magic mushroom seized accounted for 18.7% of all hallucinogens seized by

weight. In the past five years, it's varied from 1% to 60% of all hallucinogens seized, with an average of 4.4 kilograms annually. In 2021, magic mushroom's seizure was 17.6 kilograms. LSD accounts for 8.7% of all hallucinogens seized. In the past five years, it's varied from 1% to 11% of all hallucinogens seized, with an average of 2 kilograms annually. In 2021, the LSD seizure was 3.3 kilograms. The rest of the hallucinogens seized are DMT (N-N-Dimethyltryptamine) and others.

**Figure 54:** Hallucinogen Seizure 2021

According to the hallucinogens classification, inhalants are the highest proportion by weight in almost every period during 2017-2020. Magic mushroom was also seized constantly during every period. LSD was also frequently seized. DMT was occasionally seized (2019-2021).

**Figure 55:** Hallucinogen Seizure Periodically

8. Others

Polydrug use in this report means using multiple drugs simultaneously to achieve a particular effect. Often, users will mix multiple drugs to experience a new or more powerful high. Polydrug abuse intensifies the effects of each drug used and allows the user to experience different types of moods simultaneously. The euphoric effects are unique and more extreme, but so are the adverse side effects. All drugs have the potential for adverse side effects – even prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. However, when two or more drugs are used together, painful and harmful interactions can occur in the body. The effects vary by the drug combination. The pattern of polydrugs varies. In 2021, the two drugs combinations were heroin-methamphetamine (crystalline), cannabis-methamphetamine

(crystalline), ecstasy-methamphetamine (crystalline), cocaine-methamphetamine (crystalline), cannabis-methamphetamine (tablets), benzodiazepines-kratom, and inhalants-methamphetamine (crystalline). While the three combinations are heroin-cannabis-methamphetamine (crystalline), inhalants-cannabis-methamphetamine (crystalline), ecstasy-cannabis-methamphetamine (crystalline), cocaine-cannabis-methamphetamine (crystalline), and benzodiazepines-cannabis-methamphetamine (crystalline)

Regarding seizures and precursors in 2021, Toluene was the most precursor seized at 50.4 metric tons. Sodium Cyanide was 48.6 metric tons. Ethyl acetate was 43 metric tons. The rest of the ATS seized are; sulfuric acid, 18.3 tons; caffeine, 9.4 tons; sodium acetate, 4 tons; and unclassified substances, 19.5 tons.

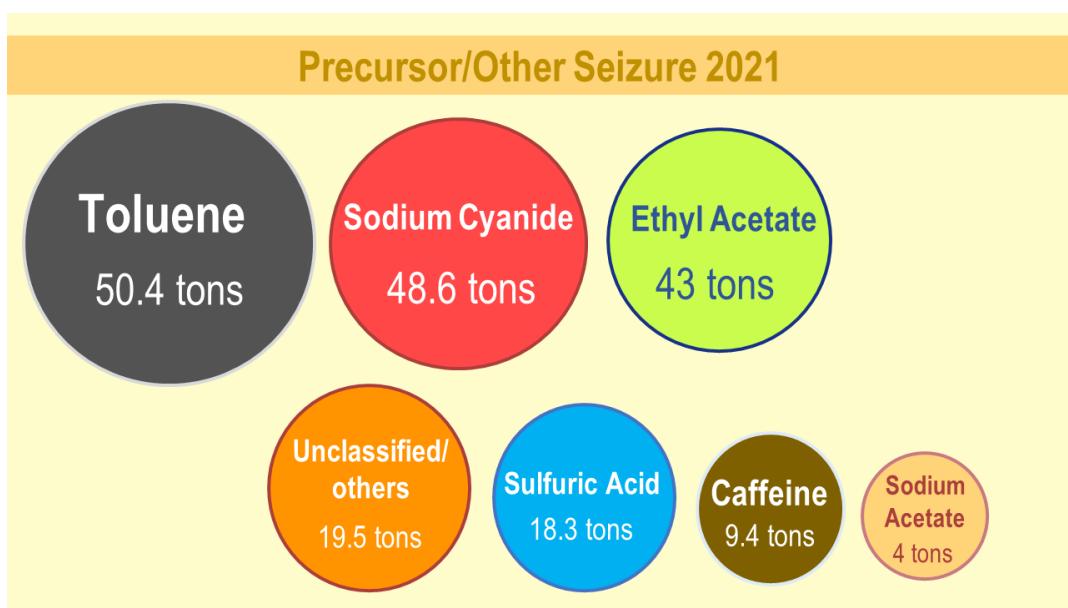


Figure 56: Precursor/Other Seizure 2021

CHAPTER 3

ASEAN Country Report



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Drug Arrests

In 2021, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) as the leading law enforcement agency in combating illicit drug related crimes in Brunei Darussalam, had made 531 drug arrests for various offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 27. New arrests made up 48.21% of the total arrest and the remaining 51.79% were of repeat arrests. The total drug users arrested constitute to 0.12 % of the population of Brunei Darussalam¹. Out of

the total arrests, 438 were males and 93 were females. Majority of the arrests were locals and of Malay ethnicity.

Drug abusers in the age group 30-39 years made up the largest group of arrests accounting to 37.9% of the total arrests. Below is the tabulated statistics of arrests according to age group:

Age group	No. of Person
14 years and below	2
15 - 19 years	22
20 - 29 years	123
30 - 39 years	201
40 - 49 years	125
50 - 59 years	49
60 years and above	9

¹ Population of Brunei Darussalam in 2021 was 429,999 persons.

The following are the different types of drug offences committed under the Misuse of Drug Act (MDA), Chapter 27:

Misuse of Drug Act (MDA) Chapter 27	Offence	No. of arrests
Section 3A	Possession of controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking	61
Section 5	Import and export of controlled drug	1
Section 6(a)	Possession of controlled drugs	109
Section 6(b)	Consumption of controlled drugs	529
Section 7	Possession of pipes and utensils	201
Section 9	Responsibilities of owners and tenants	0

Note: One arrestee may be arrested for multiple offences under Misuse of Drug Act, Chapter 27.

In the year 2021, the NCB had made around 234 land and sea operations throughout the country. These included joint operations with other law enforcement

agencies. Joint operations are aimed at further strengthening inter-agency efficiency in combating criminal related activities in Brunei Darussalam.

Drug Seizures

The largest drug bust in Brunei Darussalam for 2021 was made between March to June 2021. Drug seizures made during this period include of 2.7 Kg of Methylamphetamine from a major

operation targeting a drug syndicate. Methylamphetamine (syabu) remain as the most commonly abused drugs in Brunei Darussalam and this was followed by cannabis.

The table below shows the list of illicit drugs seized throughout the year 2021.

Type of Drugs	Gross weight
Methylamphetamine (Syabu)	3,395.29 gram (3.395 kg)
Cannabis	84.28 grams
Erimin 5 (Nimetazepam)	0.20 grams

Border Checkpoints

In our effort to intercept trafficking of drugs at the border, NCB officers are stationed at the six border control posts in Brunei Darussalam namely at Brunei International Airport, Kuala Lurah Control Post, Ujung Jalan Control Post, Labu Control Post, Sungai Tujoh Control Post and Serasa Ferry Terminal. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions

at the checkpoints were imposed and generally, foreign nationals were not allowed to enter the country except under special consideration. In spite of this, 3 arrests were made consisting of 1 permanent resident and 2 foreign nationals for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 27.

Drug Demand Reduction Strategy

Preventive drug education, treatment and rehabilitation as well as after-care efforts continues to be a key focus of NCB's strategy. In 2021, NCB had reached 2,166 civil servants and 611 members of the public throughout the country in its preventive drug education efforts.

Throughout the 2021, NCB had registered 183 individuals for Supervision Scheme in which 5 of the supervisees registered voluntarily.

The Al-Islah Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre had registered 121 new individuals in 2021 to undergo residential treatment and rehabilitation.



CAMBODIA

A) Overview on Drug Situation

- Drugs in the globe, regional and sub-regional still high concerns without any significant decreased. The Golden Triangle (GT) remain drugs source with huge production, geographically stationed in the region, particularly for ATS and heroin. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak whereby the international cross border travelling is strictly applied, but the drug syndicates not only stop but also seeking other alternative concealment with advance techniques to support their business.
- With note of smuggling routes had been shifted from air to sea and land routes. There are some remarkable of significant cases of illicit narcotics smuggling of along Cambodia with Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam borders.
- Cross border crimes are engaged with foreign drug syndicates, not only arrange their trafficking business but also engaging processing activities.
- The interdiction shown a significant case of trafficking and processing case, which involved with foreigners as suspects with huge number of narcotics and processing devices had been seizure.

B) Drug Control Mechanism

- Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the Royal Government of Cambodia keeping attention by putting more collectively actions from concern agencies to overcome the drug related problem.
- Fostering the existing drug control mechanism, Law enforcement agencies from national down to the local levels respectively responsibilities.
- Closely cooperate with foreign partners, particularly with law enforcement of neighboring countries to prevent the cross-border crimes including drugs.
- BLOs is one of the forums among other mechanism in the region for information and operation exchanged.

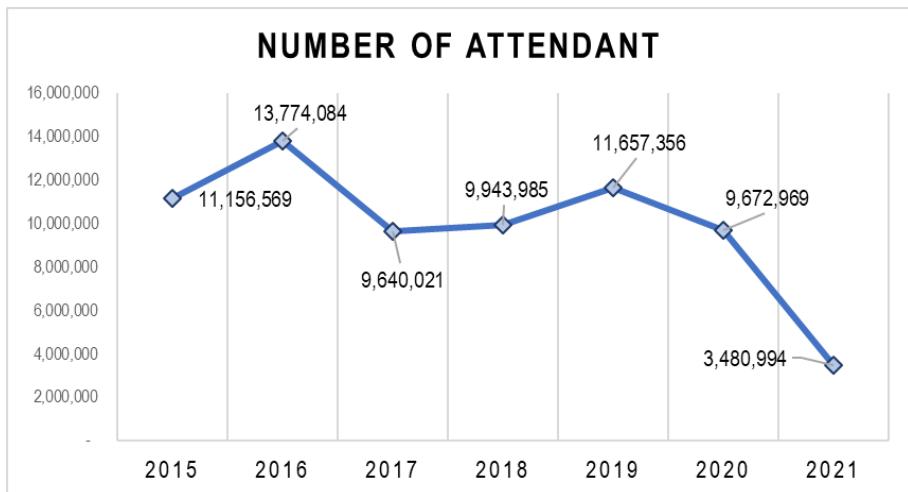
C) Combating Drugs' Achievement

Even Covid-19 pandemic outbreak whereby the countries is closed under precaution measures, the drug syndicates had shifted their illicit drug business both modus operandi and concealment

in smuggling drugs via air to land routes sharing border with Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam; via air freights and sea routes. Cambodian authorities had focusing more on the land routes and successfully interdicted some significant drug cases which involving foreign nationalities in illicit drugs trafficking, possession, and processing activities. With remarkable in combating drugs achievement in year 2021 as following:

- **Demand Reduction:**

 - 1) Public awareness on drugs' harmful is one of priority work to be focused even we face the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of participants receiving drugs harmful messages is accounted for 2,080,994 personals.
 - 2) TV, Radio, Mobile phones and Social Medias become one of the favor channels for public drugs harmful messages to their clients.
 - 3) All public agencies and other concern agencies is actively responsible for their duties related to drugs problem.
 - 4) The **3NOs and 1Report Slogan** for law enforcement is widely published and distributed.





(Picture: June 26th, 2022, Cambodian Authorities had burnt out of 3.90 Tons of Narcotic Substances)

- **Treatment and Rehabilitation:**

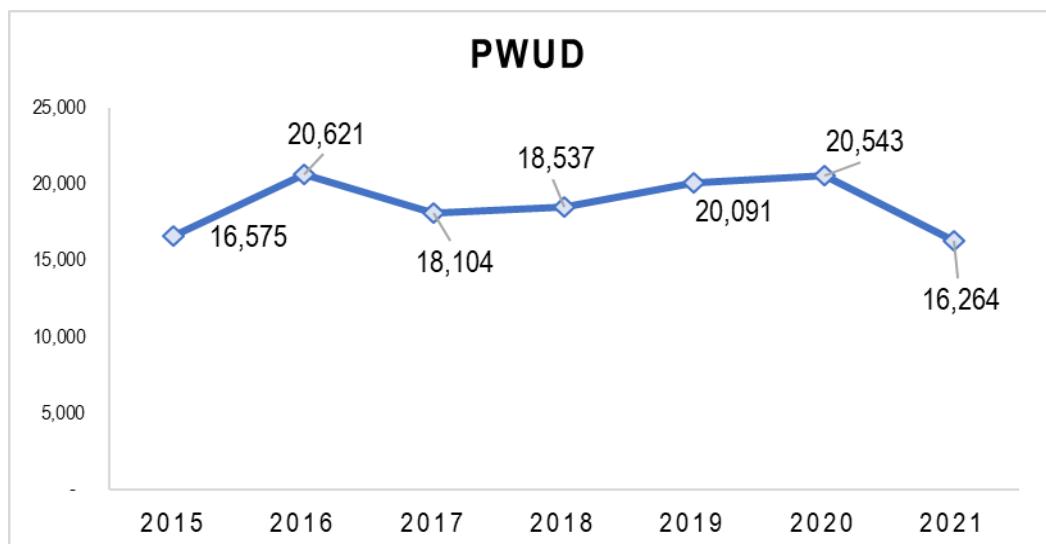
- 1) Fostering and enhancing treatment and rehabilitation services of the temporary rehabilitation centers.
- 2) Inauguration of the National Center of Voluntary and Community-based Treatment and Rehabilitation for Drug Addicts in Preah Sihanouk Province and welcome for service of drug addicts. Even the campus facilities are not yet fully completed.
- 3) We had expanded our service in public health facilities under community base treatment program.
- 4) The number of drug addicts or PWUD is officially recorded in year of 2021 is 16,264 individuals (1,036 is increase compared to same period of last year).

Demographic of drug addicts as follow:

- i) Age group: the main dominant is between 18-35 years old accounted as 94.23%
- ii) ATS is the most drug of choices, especially Methamphetamine Crystal (ICE) accounted for 96.86%, follow by methamphetamine powder (tablets/WY)
- iii) Workers or mobile workers is main group among the occupation of the drug addicts, follow by unclassified jobs
- iv) Drug addicts enrolled for Community-based Treatment (CBTx) under the public health services accounted for 6,836 out of the total drug addict's population (new enrollment is 5,124 individuals).



(Picture: National Center of Voluntary and Community-based Treatment and Rehabilitation for Drug Addicts in Preah Sihanouk Province)



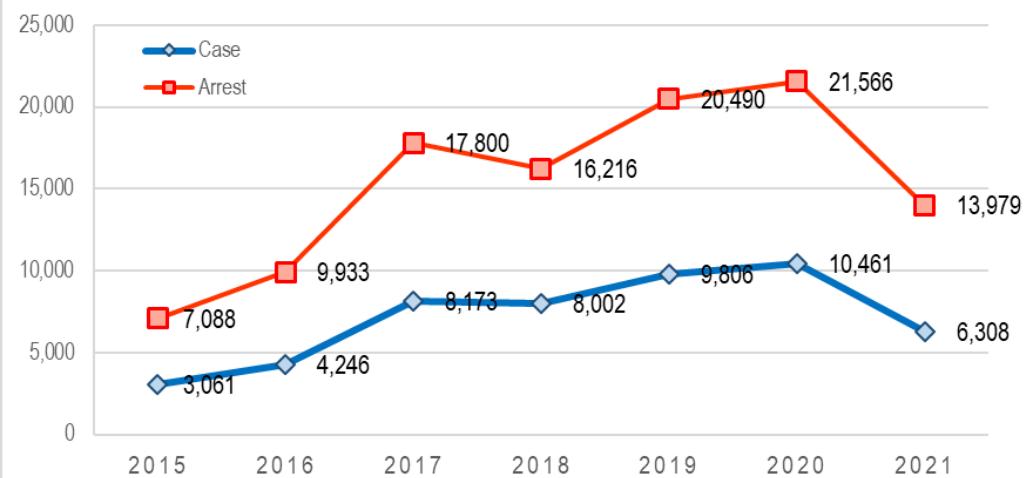
- **Supply Reduction**

- 1) The effectively enhancing of law enforcement capacity to encounter the drugs' related crimes by closely cooperated with foreign and neighboring countries. BLOs is one of the effective existing mechanisms in the region among GMS.
- 2) Investigation and operation techniques including financial investigation is effectively functioned with more practical skills under clearly defined order and responsibilities.
- 3) As results, in year of 2021, Cambodian Law Enforcement had successfully interdicted drug related crimes of 6,308 cases with 13,979 arrests (365 foreigners had been arrested with 15 nationalities). This figure is included:
 - ◊ Drug Trafficking Crimes is 4,473 cases with 8,672 arrests
 - ◊ Drug Consuming Crimes is 1,789 cases with 5,264 arrests
 - ◊ Narcotic Plantation Crimes is 37 cases with 9 arrests
 - ◊ Illicit Narcotic Processing Crimes is 9 cases with 34 arrests.

- 4) Total Drug Seizures are:

- ◊ Methamphetamine Tablets(WY) = 6.31 Kg
- ◊ Methamphetamine Crystal(ICE) = 947.95 Kg
- ◊ Ecstasy (MDMA) = 556.30 Kg
- ◊ Ketamine = 2,782.77 Kg
- ◊ Heroin = 275.58 Kg
- ◊ Cocaine = 1.99 Kg
- ◊ Cathinone = 106.97 Kg
- ◊ Nimetazepam = 11.73 Kg
- ◊ Dried Cannabis = 135.10 Kg
- ◊ Cannabis Herbs = 53,187 Plants
- ◊ Chemical Substances = 54,730.00 Kg

DRUG CASES AND ARRESTS





(Picture: Successful Interdiction of C2-1221 Operation)

• International Cooperation

1. Real time cooperation with all LE partners (sharing information) across the globe, regional and sub-regional
2. Strengthening the BLOs Mechanism, particularly with neighboring among GMS countries.
3. Internal LE capacity building
4. Strengthening the Chemical Management and Monitoring Mechanism



D) Way Forward

Base on the conclusion drawn for them evaluation and the results of the Drug Control in 2021 as stipulated in the National Plan of Drug Control and Phase 5th of Anti-Illicit Drug Campaign as ensure the consistency of outreach education to raise the public awareness on drug harm; Continuously enhance the function of Sub-committee on Treatment and Rehabilitation; Enhance capability building, commitment, morality and professionalism of the Law Enforcement officers abide to the 3 Nos and 1 Report Slogan of Samdach Krolahorm SAR KHENG; Continuously enhance the Precursor and Chemical controls; enhance and expand the international cooperation with neighboring countries in region and all development partners as well as legitimate documents development as guidelines, policies and laws related to drug control.. NACD with all competent entities had laid down number of activities, to get effective in combating drug related crimes with clearly defined practical works as follow:

Demand Reduction:

- Publication and distribution the **3NOs and 1Report Slogan** of Interior Minister
- Enhance the demand reduction activities: public awareness on drug harm via Medias and others; distribution of drug related harmful documents; high-risk groups (mobile workers, drivers, and disordered accommodation.

- Encourage the Printing on Packaging of Drug harmful message on Consumer Products and others. Increasing number of distributions on Drug harmful messages of mobile phone and media services.
- Drug harmful document designed and guideline for public entities' agenda **Training for Trainees** both civilian and arm forces for their respective distribution.

Supply Reduction:

- Enhance Law Enforcement Cooperation with concern parties and neighboring countries in the globe, region, and sub region in preventing drug smuggling.
- Expand Investigation Procedures and interdiction forces for drug related crimes, chemical diversion, and financial investigation.
- Monitor and Evaluation to the Management and Mechanism for Effective BLOs Functioning and Capacity Building.
- Continuous to the inspection and risk assessment to Industries and Enterprises on Chemical Substances Management
- Continuous to Implement the National Campaign on Anti-Illicit Drugs Phase 6; and Overloaded drug related documents in courts.

Treatment and Rehabilitation:

- Develop the Technical Guideline on Management, Monitoring and Functioning of the **National Center of Voluntary and Community-based Treatment and Rehabilitation for Drug Addicts** in Preah Sihanouk Province
- Advocate with Ministry of Interior for new Construction of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Posat Province.
- Encouragement on Community-based Treatment and Services. Capacity Building and Training on Treatment and Rehabilitation Services.
- Enhance the Data Collection and Updating on Drug Addicts Population

Drug Control Mechanism:

- Fostering the Effectiveness of Provincial Drug Control Committees
- Continuous to Promulgate the National Policy on DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

- Fostering the Procedure on Drafting the Drug Control Law Amendment and National Strategic Policy on Establishment of Drug Free Villages.
- Practice the Safety Precaution Measures and Social Distancing in the Temporary Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers during the Covid-19 outbreak.

International Cooperation:

- Real time cooperation with all LE partners (sharing information) across the globe, regional and sub-regional
- Strengthening the BLOs Mechanism, particularly with neighboring among GMS countries.
- Internal LE capacity building
- Strengthening the Chemical Management and Monitoring Mechanism
- Online forum for exchange information.

Pictures of Packaging and Logos Profiling



Ketamin



Methamphetamine ICE



Heroin



MDMA



INDONESIA

OVERVIEW

The National Narcotics Board (BNN) is the lead institution for prevention and eradication of the abuse and illegal trafficking of narcotics and precursor of narcotics (P4GN). Its tasks is based on Presidential Instruction number 2/2020, which is to coordinate the ministries/institutions and local governments in implementing the National Action Plan of P4GN by involving the communities and business sectors. BNN strategy in implementing the P4GN consist of soft power hard power, and smart power approaches.

Soft Power Approach

Soft power approach strategy aims to shape people's self-resistance and determination against drug abuse. This strategy empowers the P4GN program on prevention, community empowerment,

and rehabilitation in order to create a conductive and safe environment. Drug-free villages (Desa Bersinar) becomes a leading program in this field of. In 2021, 346 drug-free villages were established, an increase of 100% from the previous year.

Around 5,913 anti-drug activist volunteers have been appointed and trained to disseminate information and education on the danger of drug abuse in their respective neighborhoods. Rehabilitation efforts in drug-free villages was done through community-based intervention by giving training to 1,190 recovery agents in handling mild level and experimental stage of drug addiction. BNN has also encouraged 188 Community Health Centers that appointed as Institution of Report Obligation Recipient (IPWL) in rural areas to give rehabilitation first aid to 2,994 clients.

Family resilience program has been implemented to 1,035 families, resilience program has also been implemented to 1,740 schools and 352 universities and about 8,700 pioneer students has been trained.

In order to accelerate prevention of drug abuse in every level of communities, the “war on drugs” campaign has been through competitions involving community participation, starting from short movie festival, Tiktok challenges, smash on drugs, sing against drugs choral competition and “pantom against drugs” competition.

BNN also encourages communities’ participation by forming 23,031 P4GN activist that come from government institutions, private sectors, communities and educational environment. Urine test as early detection to drug abuse has been done to 160 thousands of people where about 1 thousand of them were detected as positive.

BNN also design the Grand Design Alternative Development (GDAD) program for ex-addicts whereby people who are involved in illicit crop cultivation are convinced to change their livelihood to high economic alternative crop commodities and also through life skill enhancement and entrepreneurship training. One of the results of this program is 49,630 tons of corn have been produced on 7,090 hectares of area in Aceh Province.

In rehabilitation sectors, recovery program for drug addicts was done in government rehabilitation facilities, community-based intervention (IBM) unit,

and private sectors rehabilitation facilities. As much as 11,290 drug addicts and drug abusers have access to rehabilitation services, and 2,847 clients have been given aftercare service in 2021.

BNN rehabilitation service facilities are the only one that give comprehensive service to drug abusers, by using medical, social and aftercare service in one roof. IBM is a sustainable intervention effort for the drug abuser, by community from community and for community, to meet the shortage of government and community ability to reach out on drug abusers with mild severity to have access to rehabilitation needs in the community.

Cooperation Sectors

To achieve the joint goal of drug-free Indonesia (Indonesia Bersinar), soft power approach strategy also includes bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperative activities. In 2021, BNN establishes bilateral cooperation with Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, Singapore Central Narcotic Bureau (CNB), and Australian Federal Police (AFP). Regional cooperation the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD), 42nd ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD). Multilateral cooperation is also established at the through the 64th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting, Consultative Committee Meeting (CCM) Colombo Plan, HONLEA Asia Pacific, and the UNODC Global Smart Programme.

As the initial step for cooperation, BNN has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Peru DEVIDA about sharing experience on Alternative Development; while with Australian Border Force (ABF) was conducted through training and webinar about drug law enforcement. Further, BNN is also exploring possible cooperation among other with the New Zealand Embassy, Royal Canadian Mountain Police, Australian Border Force, Malaysia Police, and the Philippines Police. The implementation of the memorandum of understanding with Peru DEVIDA is done through virtual bilateral meeting about sharing experience on Alternative Development while with Australian Border Force ABF was conducted through training and webinar about drug law enforcement. Indonesia also received training by INCIB regarding the use of IONICS in reporting on the circulation of NPS (new psychoactive substances) and precursors as well as training by DEA regarding drug investigations.

In the multilateral fora, this year Indonesia has officially nominated for membership of the CND for the period 2024–2027. BNN will also continue monitoring of Indonesia citizens involved in case of criminal drugs abroad. Currently there are 187 citizens involved in drugs cases abroad, 39 of them are women who are special attention to BNN because women are a vulnerable group that frequently used by drug networks in illicit drug trafficking.

The 2015 Drug-Free ASEAN program and its work plan, the ASEAN

Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 remains the prime vehicle in combatting drug trafficking throughout the region. As the country with the largest population in ASEAN, Indonesia's disposition in the direction of drug control policies and strategies will greatly determine the success of the Drug-Free ASEAN 2025 program. Realizing an ASEAN Drug Free through a zero-tolerance approach to drugs, should remain high on Indonesia's as well ASEAN's agenda.

Hard Power Approach

In the hard power approach strategy, repressive actions are implemented through strict and measurable law enforcement aspects in handling drugs syndicate networks. Throughout 2021, BNN has uncovered 85 national and international drug syndicate networks linked to Indonesian illegal drug activities, most of which comes from the golden triangle and the golden crescent. Overall, Indonesian law enforcement has disclosed 41,084 drug cases and apprehended 53,405 suspects. From these cases as much as 11,7 ton of shabu, 115.8 tons of cannabis, 58.5 hectares of cannabis fields, 872,843 tablets of ecstasy, and many other drugs have been seized and eradicated.

In relation to aforementioned cases, BNN also disclosed 14 money laundering cases derived from drug-related crimes, along with 16 suspects involved in it, and managed to confiscated assets and cash up to 108.3 billion rupiah.

Smart Power Approach

Drugs abuse prevalence survey :

BNN together with the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and the Center for Statistics (BPS) conduct National Survey on Drugs abuse in 2021 with the result of national prevalence rates has increased. In the past year category, increased from 1.80% or 3,419,188 people in 2019, to 1.95% or 3,662,646 people in 2021, and in ever used category increased from 2.40% or 4,534,744 people in 2019 to 2.57% or 4,827,616 people in 2021.

Although, there is good news that the prevalence rate in rural areas in the age range of 25-49 years are decreased from 3.39% to 2.24% for ever used category, and in past year use category have decreased from 2.50% to 1.61%. This means a successful outcome of the drug-free village program intervention.

Conclusion

Indonesia has made various efforts as a form of commitment to overcome drug problems, starting from approaching stakeholders in the context of implementing Action Plan of P4GN 2020-2024, revising national drug policies to increase policy effectiveness, strengthening security at borders and entry points for drugs into Indonesia, and increasing international cooperation.

Almost one million people in Indonesia managed to be saved from the influence of narcotics. Furthermore, Indonesia also become one of the biggest targets for narcotics smuggling by international drug syndicates. These facts clearly show the complex reality, trends and existing circumstances Indonesia is facing. For Indonesia, comprehensive efforts being taken must also include strict and proper law enforcement measures against drug traffickers.

ASEAN's commitment in reducing the rate of narcotic use and smuggling in Southeast Asia still require tougher efforts. Although there has been a clear form of policy, it is still need to expand its focus from the partial and domestic nature of each ASEAN Member States.



LAO PDR

Introduction

The Lao PDR is landlocked country in the centre of the Greater Mekong Sub-region that shares long borders with China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Due to its geographic and topographic location and the rapidly emerging economies of some its neighbours the Lao PDR become as a transit route for drug trafficking as well as precursor chemical in the sub-region unavoidably. The drug trafficking through Lao PDR has been increasing with higher frequency and volume in 2020. Northwest border still being the main gateway of drug flow to Lao PDR, while border in the Southwest part of the country has been increasing used for drug outflow. Methamphetamine tablet (ATS) remains the main drugs of abuse, while the number of opium users remains almost stable.

In response the government of the Lao PDR prioritised the fight against drug trafficking and drug use and instructed line sectors, local administrations and the public

to focus on the successful implementation of national legislative strategies against drugs such as the Law on Narcotics and the National Drug Control Master Plan. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) has effectively strengthened its monitoring efforts during the last years.

Legislation/National Drug Control Policy

The Government of the Lao PDR is constantly adjusting and improving legislative instruments and mechanisms to enable relevant authorities to respond effectively and immediately on the existing situation.

Under the National Drug Control Programme implemented from 1994 to 2000 drug control mechanisms has been established such as Provincial Commission on Drug Control and Supervision "PCDC", Provincial Counter Narcotic Police Units "CNU", Border Liaison

Office “BLOs” which support capacity building, gradual and balanced approaches to drug control focusing on Alternative Development. The strategy of a “Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination” which includes Alternative Development, Demand Reduction and Law Enforcement has been implemented from 2000 to 2006. In the National Programme Strategy for the Post-Opium Scenario and The Action Plan focused from 2006 to 2009 on 1,100 poorest villages to provide them with Alternative Development, Demand Reduction, Civic Awareness & Law Enforcement linked to 6th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) to overall reduce poverty. The implementation phase of the National Drug Control Master Plan 2009 to 2013 has been extended to 2015 to address the recent rise and proliferation of illicit drug production, trafficking, abuse as well as activities through a nine-point comprehensive strategy. The National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2021 to 2023. This Drug Control Master Plan was officially approved by the Lao National Assembly on 10th August 2021.

Measures taken on Drug Control

1. Alternative Development
2. Law Enforcement
3. Civic Awareness Campaign
4. Drug Demand Reduction
5. International cooperation

Alternative Development

LCDC integrated Alternative Development programmes into national drug control plans and policies. LCDC jointly with China conducted an annual opium crop monitoring and assessments. LCDC is implementing an Alternative Development programme in Houaphan Province, Northern part of Lao PDR. Actually, our local authorities of the Northern part of the country have supported ex-opium poppy farmers in remote areas to gain better living conditions by introducing sustainable Alternative Development and lawful livelihoods.

Law Enforcement

Capacity enhancement of law enforcement agencies, increasing border surveillance and the intelligence, ability to detect, investigate and prosecute illicit trafficking and related crimes are key priorities of the Government of the Lao PDR.

Police officials have cooperated with concerned sectors at different levels to carry out their function with high responsibility. This could be seen from the crackdown of *in 2021: 3,730 cases, arrests of 5,217 suspects of which 509 females and 119 foreigners, seizures of 143,007,700 Tablets of Methamphetamine (ATS), 467.79 Kg of Heroin, 18.84 Kg of raw Opium, 5,846 Kg of dry Cannabis, 2,990.96 Kg of Crystal Amphetamine (Ice), 19,480.33 Kg of Powder for mixing and producing drugs.* In addition, vehicles, weapons and other equipment were also seized.

Preventive Education

LCDC mobilise communities through effective civic awareness campaigns to prevent drug abuse, production, and trafficking. The authorities concerned have worked actively towards drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society, primarily among youth population of negative impact and danger of drugs. LCDC and local authorities have strived for establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organization to be drug-free places.

Attention has been made to awareness raising and dissemination in different forms to create awareness amongst people in the society to acknowledge and understand the rule of law and understand the danger of drugs. A number of people of all ethnicities have been mobilised to participate in drug control and prevention.

To contribute to the implementation of the Government Policy on Three Builds Directive connected with the development of the village as a development unit, each locality has actively paid attention to the implementation of the drug free village development plan. Up to now, drug free villages cover 68% of the total villages throughout the country. Drug free schools cover 72% of the total secondary schools. The drug free families, villages, education institutes and communities have contributed to the reduction of drug use to a certain extent.

Treatment, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centres

At present the concerned authorities of the Lao PDR provide 14 standard and non-standard treatment, rehabilitation and vocational training centres while three are under construction. The authorities concerned plan to expand the availability of Community-Based Treatment (CBT) for ATS users including the access to counseling services to all citizens by enabling hospitals, health facilities to offer these services.

We paid attention to drug addict treatment in drug treatment and habitation centres, hospitals, at community-based treatment and family levels in order to help drug victims to normalise their health. In addition to the physical and mental treatment, about 3,000 to 4,000 patients/times were also provided with basic vocational training. This is to provide them job opportunities after reintegrating to their families.

International relation and cooperation

The Lao PDR pays high attention to three single United Nations Convention and UNGASS 2016 outcomes and international collaboration to combat drug menace and tackle challenges. As drug prevention is considered as a first priority task the Lao government pays seriously attention to strengthening international cooperation and implementing bilateral agreements on narcotic drug cooperation, as well as implementation of community-based projects on drug demand reduction.

Lao PDR has implemented existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on drug control cooperation, exchange of information and intelligence and against drug trafficking with ASEAN countries, friendly countries and with international organizations. Regional cooperation such as the joint operation "Safe Mekong" strengthened networks and collaboration at regional level between Lao PDR, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.

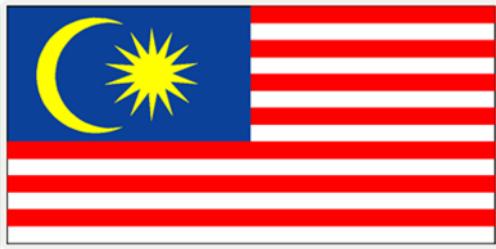
As we know that drugs are common problems in the region and in the world, international cooperation especially with the neighbour countries and ASEAN member's states to share lessons and data and information has been highlighted. These countries host regular meetings

at national and local levels on rotational basis. We participated in the implementation of a drug control related crime project jointly with 5 bordering countries.

Conclusion

The Drug problem is not a person or single state can solve, it needs more cooperation to assist each other, and this can get win-win for everyone. Law enforcement is a mechanism to use force for preventing and arresting drug trafficking to criminal justice system. Therefore, this is only a way how to stop drug dealers. The Government of Lao PDR is undertaking considerable efforts to ensure sustainability of opium elimination as well as to address the threats from other drugs by integrating Alternative Development work nationwide and supporting the development of alternative sustainable livelihoods for former and opium poppy growing farmers, drug addicts' treatment, but also for other vulnerable communities.

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Russian Government to provide your kind support and assistance in the area of drug control in Lao PDR throughout the previous years and beyond.



MALAYSIA

Malaysia remains steadfast in protecting its nation particularly the youth and vulnerable communities from illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse. Comprehensive, integrated and a well-balanced approach

is carried out to curb the menace of drug abuse with various involvement of government agencies, sectoral bodies and non-governmental organization.

Prevalence of Drug Abuse

The National Drug and Substance Abuse Data Collection Taskforce reported that in 2020, a total of 128,325 individuals have been identified as substance abusers and drug addicts in Malaysia. The collected data are divided into four categories as follows:

- I. Data of arrest under Section 15 (1) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 carried out by the Royal Malaysia of Police;

- II. Data of clients receiving treatment and rehabilitation at National Anti-drugs Agency under the Drug Dependents (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983;
- III. Data of patients receiving treatment for addiction at Ministry of Health facilities; and
- IV. Data of patients receiving treatment and rehabilitation in Private Drug Rehabilitation Centres.

Compared to 2020, there was a significant decrease in substance abusers and drug addicts who were identified in the country by 4.0 per cent. The decrease was a result of the Movement Control Order in which all the detection activities were reduced by enforcement agencies and the admission to rehabilitation centers was regulated strictly according to the Ministry of Health's Standard Operating Procedures. Despite the decrease, drug addiction persisted during the Pandemic Covid-19 and evidently has affected the treatment and rehabilitation services throughout Malaysia.

From this statistic, the prevalence of substance abusers and drug addicts in 2021 was 377 out of 100,000 population, with a ratio of one person for every 265 per population.

The task force also reported that Youth between the age of 19 to 39 years old were recorded as the highest group of people who used drugs in 2021, with 81,112 individuals or 65.9 per cent. It showed a decrease of 2.7 per cent as compared to 2021. It was followed by the adult category (40 years and above) as the second largest by 39,959 individuals or 32.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the youth category (13-18 years old) was the third with 1,961 individuals or 1.6 per cent.

In 2021, there were 79,816 individuals (64.8 per cent) have used Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS). Then followed by 39,100 individuals (31.7 per cent) have used opiates. In the ATS category, Methamphetamine (Crystalline) was the highest abuse with 77.4 per cent, followed by Methamphetamine (tablets) and Amphetamine at 12.2 per cent and 10.2 per cent respectively.

In terms of ethnicity, Malays dominated with 78.8 per cent, followed by Chinese with 7.0 per cent, Indians at 6.1 per cent, Sabah Indigenous at 4.9 per cent, Sarawak Indigenous at 2.0 per cent, and other ethnicities at 1.2 per cent.

According to Academic Background, the data showed that 22.8 per cent were school dropouts. 8.7 per cent of substance abusers and drug addicts have completed Primary School, followed by 64.2 per cent have completed Secondary School and 4.3 per cent went to Tertiary Qualifications.

This data also showed a significant decrease in poly-drug users in 2021 as compared to 2020 by 53.3 per cent. The non-poly-drug users were also decreased by 4.6 per cent. Of the total of 6,520 poly-drug abusers, 58.8 per cent have used two types of drugs, while 41.2 per cent have used three and above.

Drug Supply Reduction

In Malaysia, the Narcotics Crime Investigations Department (NCID) of the RMP is the main agency for the enforcement of drug laws. The Narcotic Division of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) also plays a vital role in enforcing drug laws. In addition to that, the Pharmacy Enforcement Division (PED) of the Ministry of Health enforces the Poisons Act 1952 and its regulations and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and its regulations which controls the sale, import and export of dangerous drugs (narcotics), poisons (including psychotropic substances), precursors and essential chemicals.

In addition to that, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) is the sole maritime law enforcement agency that enforces all federal laws in the Malaysia Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ). It was established and started its operation in November 2005. One of the main purposes of the agency is to combat the distribution and smuggling of drugs in EEZ. To ensure that EEZ is a drug-free zone, maritime operations are planned in areas regarded as hot spots based on intelligence information as well as by conducting joint operations with other enforcement agencies. MMEA is also in the process of establishing a cooperative arrangement with coastguards from neighboring countries such as Singapore and Indonesia.

Arrests and Seizures

In 2021, as shown in Table 1, a total number of 122,734 individuals were arrested under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952. It showed a decrease by 10.8% compared to the previous year, 2020 (137,610 individuals). There were 7,250 arrested cases under Section 39B for trafficking, 3,336 cases under Section 39A (2) for major possession and 14,664 cases under Section 39A(1) for minor possession. Movement Control Order has definitely impacted drug-related possession activities. However, drug trafficking under Section 39A(2) has a less significant impact, it only decreases by 2.7 per cent in 2021 which evidently showed illicit drug trafficking despite the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Table 1: No. of Arrests Under Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (DDA), 2018-2021

YEAR / SECTION	2018	2019	2020	2021
Sec. 39B – Trafficking	6,884	6,829	6,709	7,250
Sec. 39A(2) – Major Possession	3,997	3,986	3,427	3,336
Sec. 39A(1) – Minor Possession	14,691	16,044	13,441	14,664
Other sec. (under DDA 1952)	56,640	58,623	48,309	44,853
Sec.15(1)(a) – self-administration	75,465	80,386	65,724	52,631
TOTAL	157,677	165,868	137,610	122,734

Notes: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency

Table 2 showed the property seized in Malaysia. The number of cases investigated decreased in 2020. However, the value of properties seized has decreased from RM 501,032,797.54 to RM 162,979,893.58 (67.5 per cent). Meanwhile, the value of properties forfeited has increased to 403.8 per cent.

Table 2: Value of Property Seized Under the Forfeiture of Property Law in 2018-2021

Year	Number of Cases Investigated	Value of Properties Seized (RM)	Value of Properties Forfeited (RM)
2018	4,961	90,055,516.16	20,649,209.82
2019	5,570	99,450,227.50	5,112,069.20
2020	4,884	501,032,797.54	11,402,756.30
2021	4,949	162,979,893.58	19,152,234.06

Notes: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP)

Drug Trafficking Threats and Trends

The trafficking of the drug has been severely affected due to movement restrictions imposed during the pandemic. The borders were closed. Thus, an important passage for drug trafficking was closed. In Malaysia, Methamphetamine and Heroin are trafficked by land, Cannabis mostly by sea, and synthetic drugs by air. The supply of drugs by air has been completely disrupted due to air restrictions imposed by various countries.

Having porous borders, Malaysia remains vulnerable to the drug threat due to its close proximity to the drug-producing region of the Golden Triangle. As a result, the IDTS have taken this opportunity to exploit Malaysia as a transshipment point to transport drugs to other countries, especially to Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Australia and Singapore for methamphetamine.

The inundation of methamphetamine from Myanmar has troubled the neighbouring countries and their surrounding region. Its close location to China is exploited to illegally procure chemicals needed for methamphetamine production. However, due to the massive production by IDTS superfluous supply flooded the market consequently decreasing the price and resulting the IDTS marketing them into international markets

where the price will become doubled or even higher. Therefore, despite heightened efforts by drug enforcement agencies methamphetamine continues to be smuggled. In response, NCID continues to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation with international drug enforcement agencies.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

The country is now faced with the threat of new psychoactive substances (NPS) which give rise to new types of drugs that can produce more dangerous hallucinations as compared to traditional and synthetic drugs. Among the NPS materials used to produce drugs that were detected through tests by the Chemistry Department were mainly Cathinone and Phenylethylamines groups. These new drugs are believed to be produced by chemists who abused their knowledge by creating substances that could transform the trend of using traditional and synthetic drugs towards NPS drug addiction. Currently, 80 NPS were detected in the country and have been gazetted under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and the Poisons Act 1952.

Transportation of Drugs through Courier Services

Due to COVID-19, traffickers are adapting their strategies in order to continue their operations with new routes and methods. The supply of drugs by air has been completely disrupted due to air restrictions imposed by various countries. The syndicates resorted to using courier services to send drugs in parcels from Malaysia to other countries which include Australia, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and most recently New Zealand.

Malaysia as Transit Country

Due to the large volume of precursor chemicals destined to the Taiwan Province of China, Taiwan SAR (IT) appears to be emerging as a Methamphetamine producer for the Far East region.

The increased Methamphetamine production in the Taiwan Province of China has resulted in a significant decrease in price. Thus, Malaysia is seen as the next suitable market. It is being smuggled into Malaysia using air and sea cargo. In recent years, a syndicate from Taiwan Province of China chemists are cooperating with local syndicates to manufacture Erimin 5 as well as Methamphetamine in the country.

Due to strict enforcement at international entry points, drug smuggling activities through land and air borders have stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Royal Malaysian Police reported that drug smuggling through sea routes have increased.

The COVID-19 pandemic also showed an increase in seizures of the drug in parcels originating from Malaysia in other countries such as Australia, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and New Zealand.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department reported some cannabis cases originated from the USA and Great Britain during Pandemic COVID-19 in 2020.

Local Syndicates

NCID's intelligence revealed that the local syndicates are now on the rise in these few years with the absence of many other major syndicates, due to the intense efforts of NCID in disrupting drug smuggling activities as well as dismantling clandestine laboratories. Local syndicates are now prone to collaborate in trafficking methamphetamine with multi-foreign syndicates, believed to be operated abroad. The local syndicates are now involved with the importation of drugs from the Golden Triangle, especially via the northern route.

In conclusion, COVID-19 did not have much effect on the illicit drug supply in this region including Malaysia. Measures implemented by governments to curb the COVID-19 pandemic have led to drug trafficking routes by air being disrupted, along with drastic reduction or increased interdiction in trafficking routes over land.

The pandemic has led to changes but they are not very significant. The people involved in such trade are resorting to new methods and alternative routes including maritime routes, depending on the types of drug smuggling.

Hence, the fight against drugs, both within and internationally, will continue to be challenging. NCID, RMP needs to continue to work with the partners and will always maintain a good rapport with other international enforcement agencies to eradicate the drug problems within the region.



MYANMAR

Introduction

1. Drug production, trafficking and abuse among people are causing subsequent impacts in social, economic and health sectors as well as damages to the stability and tranquility of the countries as the majority of the countries around the world are facing drug problems.

2. Myanmar is conducting interceptions towards drug production and trafficking, prevention of drug abuse among people, drug treatment, after-care services, rehabilitation services of reintegration into social environment and vocational trainings in addressing drug problems.

3. Various policies are being laid down to tackle drug problems in the international communities. The successive governments of Myanmar defined the drug law enforcement measures as the Prior National Duty and implementing multi-faceted efforts.

4. After policies, laws and rules have developed and amended with the intention of controlling drug problem, work plans and special operational plans are laid out and operated in regions and states in response to the dynamic drug trends. The holistic and comprehensive approaches are being implemented in accordance with the five pillars shown hereinafter:

- 4.1 Supply Reduction and Alternative Development
- 4.2 Demand and Harm Reduction
- 4.3 International Cooperation
- 4.4 Research and Analysis
- 4.5 Compliance with Human rights



Supply Reduction

5. The Report titled Myanmar Opium Survey, which was jointly conducted with UNODC, shows that the 1,760 metric tons of opium production in 1996 and a decline to 315 metric tons in 2006 with an increase to 870 metric tons in 2013. Similarly, there were 670 metric tons of opium production in 2013 and a continuous decrease to 647 metric tons in 2015. There was another continuous decrease year on year with the yield of 550 metric tons in 2017, 520 metric tons in 2018, 508 metric tons in 2019 and 405 metric tons in 2020. The slight increase was found in 2021 with 423 metric tons.

6. Shan State continues to remain the main production area depending on the geographical situations. The Report of Myanmar Opium Survey also expresses the area under poppy cultivation was 37,300 hectares in 2018 and 33,100 hectares in 2019 with a decrease of 11 per cent compared to 2018. There was another decrease of 11 per cent in 2020 with 29,500 hectares of areas under poppy cultivation compared to those in 2019. A slight increase is rediscovered in 2021 with 30,200 hectares in the same line. Myanmar's opium cultivation, production and eradication trends are shown in the table below:

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Cultivated (Hectares)	43,600	51,000	57,800	57,600	55,500	-
Production (Metric tons)	610	690	870	670	647	-
Destroyed (Hectares)	7058	23,771	12,258	15,188	13,275	7,562
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	
Cultivated (Hectares)	41,000	37,300	33,100	29,500	30,200	
Production (Metric tons)	550	520	508	405	423	
Destroyed (Hectares)	3,536.96	2,578.52	2,459.91	2,026.58	4,632.97	

7. The Supervision Committee for Controlled Precursor Chemicals was formed in 1998, and the reform process of the committee was finalized on 19-9-2016 which is chaired by the Deputy Chief No (2) of Myanmar Police Force and consists

of 12 members from respective ministries. The Rules relating to the Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals was issued on 1st July 2004, and currently there were 39 substances under the national controlled list.

Controlled Precursor Chemicals (39).

Table 1 (1988 UN Convention)

1. Acetic anhydride
2. N-acetylanthranilic acid
3. Ephedrine
4. Ergometrine
5. Ergotamine
6. Isosafrole
7. Lysergic acid
8. 3,4 Methylene dioxyphenyl -2-propanone
9. Norephedrine
10. 1-phenyl-2-propanone
11. Piponal
12. Potassium permanganate
13. Pseudoephedrine
14. Safrole
15. 1-Phenyl-2-Propanone
16. N-phenethylpiperidine(NPP)
17. 4 amino-N-phenethylpiperidine(ANPP)
18. 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (PMK glycidate)
19. 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid (PMK glycidic acid)
20. alpha-phenylacetooacetamide (APAA)
21. Phenylacetic acid

Table 2

1. Acetone
2. Anthranilic acid
3. Ethyl Ether
4. Hydrochloric acid
5. Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)
6. Piperidine
7. Sulphuric acid
8. Toluene

Table 3

1. Ammonium Chloride
2. Ammonium Nitrate
3. Caffeine
4. Lead Acetate
5. Methylamine / Methylamine Hydrochloride
6. Sodium Acetate
7. Sodium Cyanide
8. Safrole Rich Oil
9. Tartaric Acid
10. Thionyl Chloride

8. The precursor chemicals are smuggled into Myanmar from neighboring countries across the borders in many ways

and the following table was the figures of uncovered and confiscated in Myanmar:

Types of Precursor	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Caffeine (kg)	9,932.26	19,847.48	5,885.00	20,759.49	19,226	11,371.9	9,355
Ephedrine (kg)	111.94	534.204	0.0015	139.71	4.02	630	-
Pseudoephedrine (kg)	1,000.90	119.20	390.10	45	-	150	-
Acetic anhydride (Lt)	260.00	16.00	1,318.34	40	4,140.11	12,240	-
Hydrochloric acid (Lt)	7,950.00	3,494.8	10,6720.00	181,657	106,411.46	53,827	20
Sulphuric acid (Lt)	2,197.65	28,476.8	11,034.90	62,135	77,883.08	15,104.8	18,340
Ethyl Ether (Lt)	-	250	-	203,794.25	26,674	6,180	-

9. When the exporting foreign countries send letters of enquiry on the chemicals used in illicit drug production to Drug Enforcement Division (DED) in respect of import of controlled chemicals from foreign countries, DED scrutinizes and resends letters on the addresses of the companies are whether right or wrong in a timely manner through Pre Export Notification System to prevent controlled precursors from diversion. Out of 66 PEN notices received in 2021, 59 recommendations and 7 objections were issued depending on the correct or wrong data.

10. As for Myanmar-Thai Alternative Development Programme, Mae Fah Luang Foundation implemented Crop Substitution Programme in Tachileik and Mong Hsat townships of the eastern Shan State by using 350 million Baht provided by Thailand

during 2012-2017. The programme included health care facilities, agricultural development, livestock breeding and treatment, developing commercial and small-scale forestry, production of value-added product, socio-eco surveys, study tours, providing delegates with a study visit to alternative development project area and capacity building trainings. In order to implement the sustainable alternative development programme, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and the Office of Narcotic Control Board has been signed in February 2022. It will be implemented continuously by the Ministry of Border Affairs from Myanmar side and Mae Fah Luang Foundation from Thailand side.

11. The projects on 3-year alternative development (2016-2018) and public forest were implemented in 60 project villages in Loi Lem and Hopong townships, the southern Shan State by using 5.9 million US dollars provided by Germany and Finland. The Green Gold Corporation

is now consisting in excess of 900 members and premier coffee produced in the project areas is exported up to 7 metric tons in 2018, 75 metric tons in 2019 and 160.8 metric tons in 2021 under supervision of UNODC. Some 0.6 metric tons of coffee were alternatively exported to Japan.



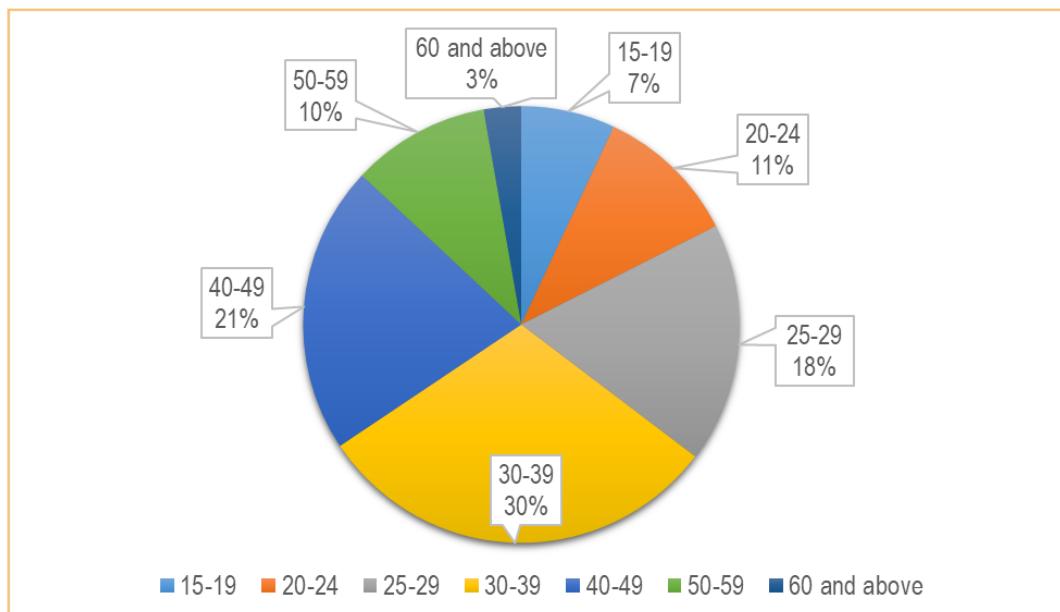
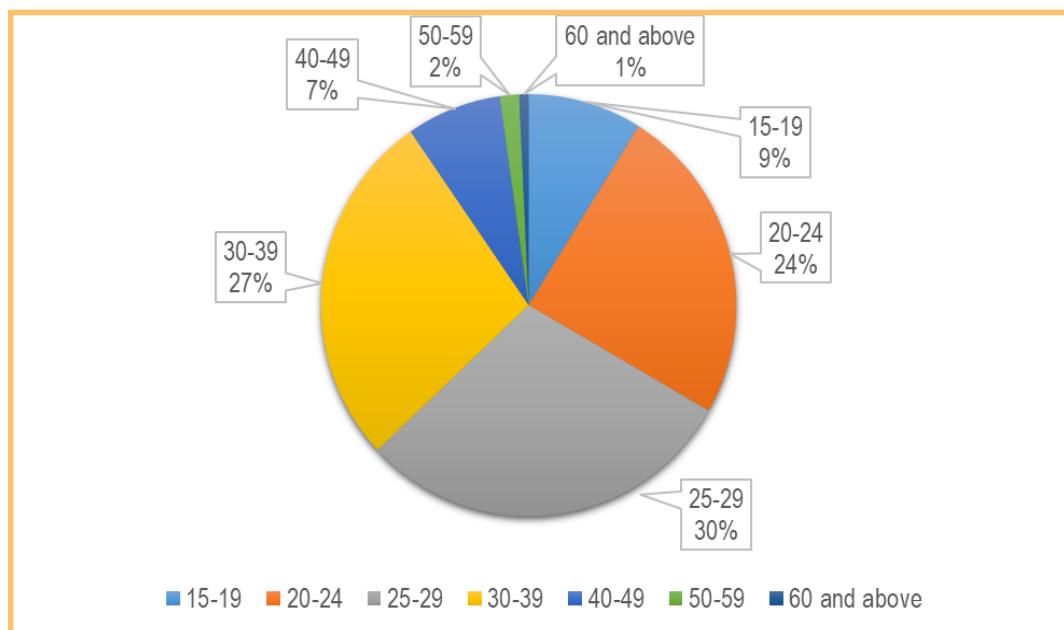
Demand Reduction

12. As drug addiction is considered as a chronic disease in public health, 29 treatment centres and 59 clinics are being established to provide treatment

services as well as community-based treatment centres. In 2021, there were 26,381 patients with Substance Use Disorder received healthcare services at drug treatment centers.

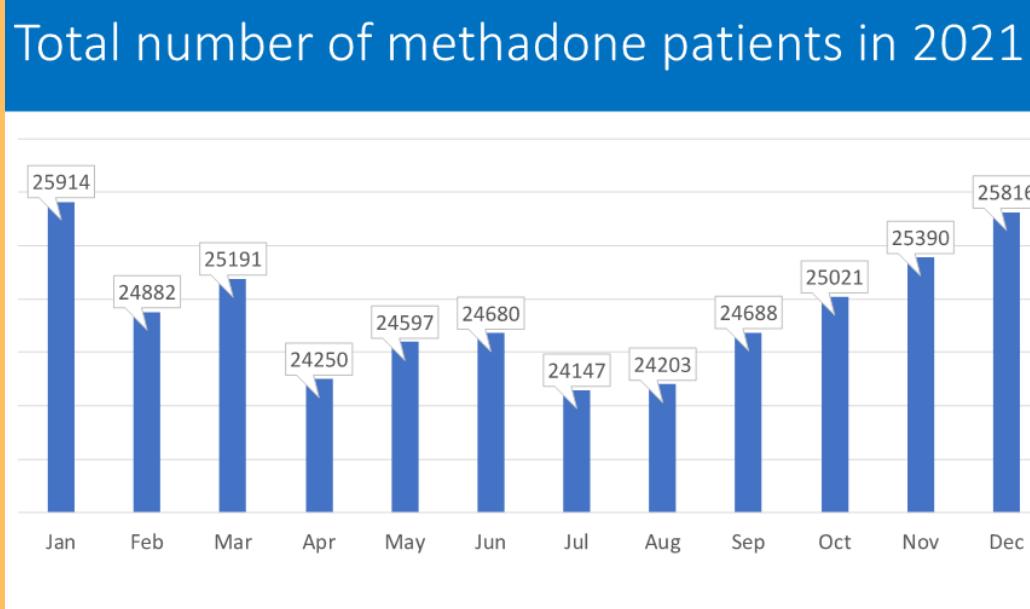
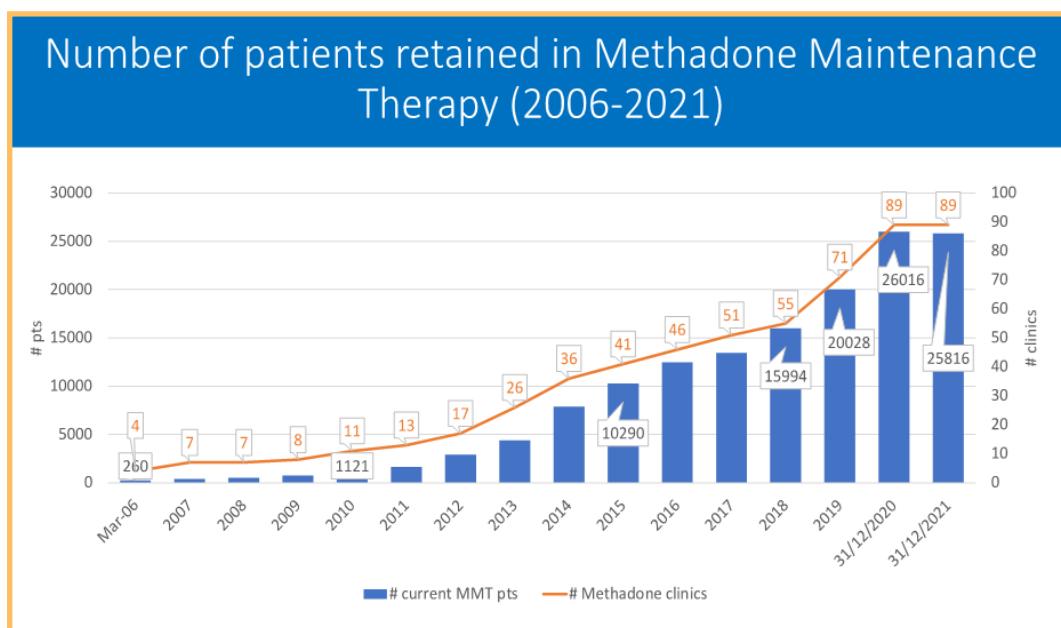
Number of New and Old Patients who received drug treatment in 2021

		Male	Female	Total
New patients	Out patients	4,404	57	4,461
	In patients	445	0	445
Old patients	Out patients	21,028	327	21,355
	In patients	120	0	120
Total		25,997	384	26,381

Age group of new patients who received treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in 2021**Age group of new patients who received treatment for Stimulants Use Disorder in 2021**

13. For Opiate Use Disorder, Methadone Maintenance Therapy was established in 2006. In 2021, Methadone treatment service was available at 89 methadone clinics in Mental Health

Hospitals, Drug Treatment Hospitals and General Public Hospitals. The number of patients who received Methadone Maintenance Therapy were 25,816 in 2021.



Harm reduction activities in 2021

Achievements	Male	Female	Total
Number of MMT patients who received HIV test	2502	32	2534
Number partners of MMT patients who received HIV test	3	14	17
Number of MMT patients who received HBS Antigen rapid test	2134	24	2158
Number of MMT patients who received Hepatitis B vaccination	637	15	652
Number of MMT patients who received Hepatitis C test	2391	24	2415
Numbers of IEC materials distributed			18719
Numbers of condoms distributed			72174
Numbers of MMT patients referred for ART			78
Numbers of MMT patients referred for STI treatment			10

Rehabilitation

14. There are 14 Rehabilitation Centers in Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Kengtong, Tachileik, Namlat, Myawady, Kawtaung, Wet-htee-kan, Pekon, Pa-an, Kalain Aung and Myeik, helping the discharged drug patients reintegrate into the social stream. Campaigns are being launched to recruit and encourage drug users to receive treatment services at treatment centers. While getting treated, they themselves and their dependents can receive proper support, undergo physical and mental rehabilitation, receive vocational training programs and be part of reintegration programs that are linked to continuum of care interventions. If they so desire, they can even get trained to become volunteer drug wardens.

15. The Rehabilitation Department was established under Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

on 30th January, 2018 in order to carry out rehabilitation services effectively.

Awareness Campaign

16. As the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) is consisted of working sectors from respective ministries, the Ministry of Education is carrying out education campaign for students and youths to raise awareness on the risk of drug abuse and psychoactive substances as the Education Committee for Students and Youths. The knowledge of drug abuse and psychoactive substances are also included as a particular lesson in life skills curriculum for Basic Education students and for out-of-school children, in Non Formal Primary Education and Non Formal Middle Education programmes.

17. In the year of 2021, study tours to Drug Elimination Museum were organized for the 486 participants covering students and teachers from Basic Education schools. Any study tours to the Museum could not be organized in 2021 due to the COVID-19 outbreaks. Moreover, a total 200 times of educative talks were conducted and 3,385 students took part there.

18. Furthermore, Public Awareness Education Committee under the CCDAC is also carrying out its awareness campaign with 5 sectors, including information and Public Relations Department, Myanmar Radio and Television, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Printing and Publishing Department and Public Relations and Psychological Welfare Directorate Office, especially bonding partnership with youth awareness sector and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) in carrying out drug awareness campaign in Basic Education schools as well as in universities.

19. To raise awareness of the danger of drug abuse, Public Relations and Psychological Welfare Directorate Office is carrying out its activities by monthly broadcasting short programmes, and songs at Military Television centers, Myawaddy and Yadanar Bone Information centers.

Several activities including 279 news, 502 TV spots, 52 footages, 30 songs, 26 articles, 1 poem, 2 editor's choices and 125 programmes have been broadcasted successfully in 2021.

Enacting Laws

20. The amendment on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993) was officially enacted and announced on 14th February, 2018 to be in line with the UN Conventions, international standards, norms, and policies as well as to create more accessibility for drug treatment services.

21. In order to fully implement the amended drug law, the committees are well organized and the necessary processes to enact the Amendment of Rules Relating to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1995) (draft) are accomplished. So, it is in progress to be enacted.

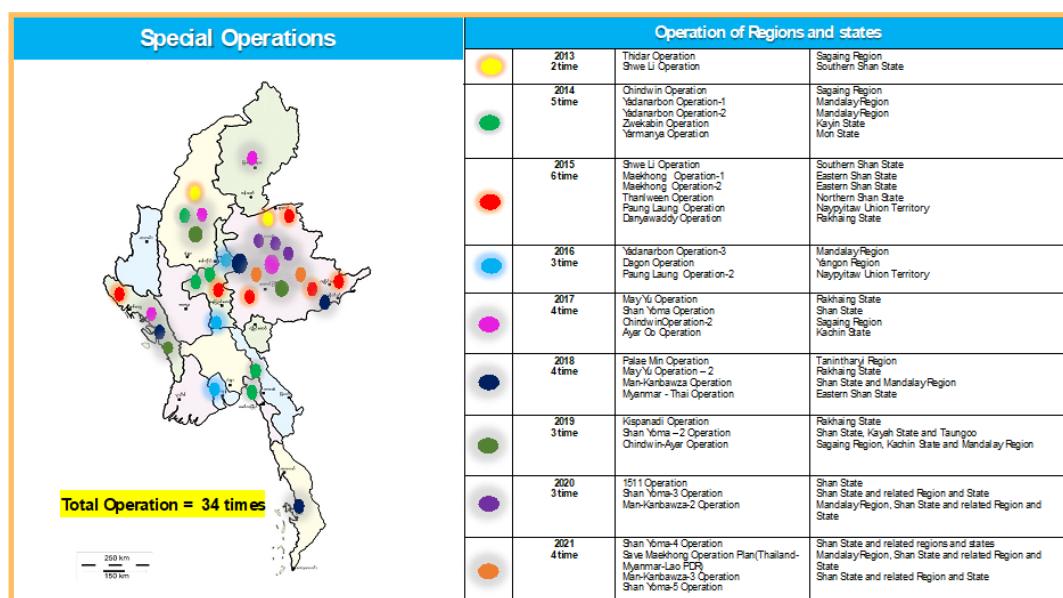
22. After the new Drug Control Policy had been adopted on 20th February, 2018, a two-year action plan in the relevant states and regions was developed and being operated to implement the National Strategic Plan (2020-2024).



Enforcement Measures

23. The Tatmadaw (Myanmar Military), the Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department play a key role in combating narcotic drugs in Myanmar. Drug

Enforcement Division is being formed under the Myanmar Police Force and its Sub-divisions and Units are deployed throughout the country. Drug Enforcement Division conducted 34 special drug law enforcement operations from 2013 to 2021.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2021

24. The following chart illustrates the seizures of narcotic drugs in Myanmar:

Types of drugs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Opium (kg)	1,828.40	888.84	945.7096	1,256.169	2,829.039	1,552.692	3,882.9	2,632.0
Heroin (kg)	435.46	186.04	769.2589	570.622	1,099.123	690.240	1,853.36	2,526.11
ATS Pill (Millions)	12.65	49.95	98.353	72.816	106.702	108.719	328.4	198.18
ICE (kg)	47.11	2261.69	2,464.0834	1,107.491	2,827.537	9,426.193	17,363.88	13,851.77
Mitragyna Speciosa	605.31	687.35	1,409.4324	651.127	1,833.886	2,542.599	2,632.72	1,058.48
Cannabis (kg)	205.54	87.70	188.7805	198.826	142.381	364.819	737.597	503.71
Case	6,696	6,414	8,800	9,544	13,037	13,000	13,960	6,990
Suspect	9,425	9,188	13,591	14,000	18,681	18,407	19,994	10,063

25. The following chart illustrates the number of heroin refineries and ATS tabletting machines seized between 2006 and 2021:

Types	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Heroin Refineries	1	5	5	3	1	-	1	3
Tablet Machines	8	5	1	3	-	2	6	3
Types	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heroin Refineries	3	-	3	-	6	8	3	1
Tablet Machines	2	3	2	2	2	15	27	1

Cooperation with public and other organizations

26. The Ministry for Information is in-charge of Mass Media Sector on the perils of narcotic drugs and the need to avoid abuse of it. Educational programmes on this menace are disseminated nationwide using all forms of media including radio, television, newspapers, journals, articles, cartoons and posters. Members from Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association (MANA) are travelling across states and regions in conjunction with holding preventive education talks and distributing educational monthly booklets.

27. In 2021, Ministry of Information has conducted 73 poster competitions, 18 photo exhibitions and 115 times of Talk show (Website TV). Moreover, 660 news, 6 latest news, 576 photos, 1 interview, 21 news articles and 262 slogans were published in newspapers covering Myanma Alinn, Kyemon and Global New Light of Myanma.

International Cooperation

28. Myanmar is closely cooperating with international communities, ASEAN member states, countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, BIMSTEC member countries and neighbouring countries in combating narcotic drugs. Additionally, there are joint endeavors with Yangon based United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC), US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Australian Federal Police (AFP), National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China and Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand. Information exchanges in relation to combating narcotic crimes are being conducted with Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR and Thailand through the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) established along the border areas which are adjacent to aforesaid countries.

29. Myanmar has also signed Bilateral Agreements with India, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Russia, Lao PDR, China, Thailand, and United States of America to jointly combat narcotic drugs. A Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and Indonesia is in progress to reach ratification.

Cooperation on Capacity Building

30. In terms of capacity building in the year of 2021, officers from Drug Enforcement Division have participated as follows: 3 workshops/seminars with 22 officers, 22 online meetings with 92 officers, 3 online workshops/seminars with 13 officers, 1 training with 9 officers, and 1 occasion with 3 officers. Then, 6 officers physically attended 1 occasion, which was held abroad.

Conclusion

31. The problem of narcotic drugs is intertwining with the ethnic armed conflicts. Thus, Myanmar is striving to secure a nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement by holding Peace Conference with all parties concerned.

32. Although Myanmar has made all-out efforts in controlling narcotic drugs by utilizing its own resources as well as in cooperation with the international community, the country is still struggling with constraints and challenges. However, Myanmar is trying her best to face and overcome any kind of constraints and challenges by adopting action plans in conformity with her domestic reality.



PHILIPPINES

Drug Situation and Anti-Drug Accomplishments

Amid the pandemic, the Philippines remains steadfast in implementing both drug supply and drug demand reduction programs guided by the Philippines Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy.

From January to December 2021 alone, law enforcement agencies have conducted 35,612 operations that led to the arrest of 50,565 drug personalities

and confiscation of dangerous drugs and Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals or CPECs. Seized dangerous drugs comprise of 2,302.71 kilos of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride, 1.14 kilos of cocaine, 74,786 pieces of ecstasy, 7.63 kilos of Kush, and large volume of Marijuana.

Major Dangerous Drugs Seized

Dangerous Drug/CPEC	Volume
Shabu (gram)	2,302,712.76
Cocaine (gram)	1,142.34
Ecstasy (piece)	74,786
Marijuana	
- Kush (gram)	7,631.83
- Bricks (gram)	1,213,529.95
- Dried leaves (grams)	4,512,262.03
- Plants (piece)	5,641,527
- Stalks (gram)	416,512.03
- Fruiting tops (gram)	57,335.98
- Seedlings (piece)	194,706
- Seeds (gram)	77,201.68

In the Philippines, Methamphetamine Hydrochloride or Shabu is the number one drug of choice, followed by Cannabis sativa or Marijuana, which is cultivated,

processed, traded, and is locally used. Methyleneedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) or Ecstasy is popular among party-goers.



One of the most recent trends observed is the use of Chinese tea bags labeled as Guanyinwang, Daguanyin, Chinese Pin Wei, High Mountain, and Qing Shan to conceal illegal drugs. From 2017 to the present, there have been 122 recorded

incidents of confiscation of shabu contained in Chinese tea packs. A total of 3,064 kilos of shabu were seized from the operations. The newest label observed was “Chinese tea Gift”.

Continous Use of Chinese Tea Packs

Label	No. of Incidents (2017 to CY 2021)	Total Shabu Seized (in kg)
Guanyinwang	71	1,659.72
Daguanyin	15	109.11
Chinese Pin Wei	3	294.02
Qing Shan	18	643.43
High ML Tea	1	2.06
Alishan Jin Xuan	9	280.81
Chinese Tea Gift	2	11
168 Yi Liu Ba	3	64.49
Total	122	3,064.64 kilos



Major Drug Hauls

During the second semester of 2021, a joint buy-bust operation conducted by PDEA, PNP, AFP, and NICA on August 1st, 2021, in Novaliches, Quezon City resulted in the arrest of three (3) Chinese drug personalities and the seizure of 127 kilos of shabu concealed in Chinese tea packaging labeled as "Guan Yin Wang" and "Qing Shan".



Another joint buy-bust operation was conducted by PDEA, PNP, AFP, and NICA on September 7th, 2021, in Candelaria, Zambales. A brief shootout initiated by the suspects occurred during the operation, resulting in the neutralization of four (4) Chinese drug personalities and the seizure of 502.16 kilograms of shabu.

It was followed by another operation conducted on September 9th, 2021, in Bacoor City, Cavite. A brief shootout initiated by the suspects also occurred during the operation, resulting in the neutralization of two (2) drug personalities and seizure of 181 kilos of shabu concealed in Chinese tea packaging labeled as "Guan Yin Wang".

On October 16th, 2021, a buy-bust operation was conducted by PDEA, PNP, AFP, NICA, and BOC in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, which resulted in the arrest of two (2) drug personalities and the seizure of 239.55 kilos of shabu concealed in Chinese tea packaging labeled as "Guan Yin Wang". Likewise, another joint buy-bust was conducted on October 18th, 2021, in Angeles City, Pampanga, resulting in the arrest of four (4) Chinese drug personalities and the seizure of 37.9 kilos of shabu.

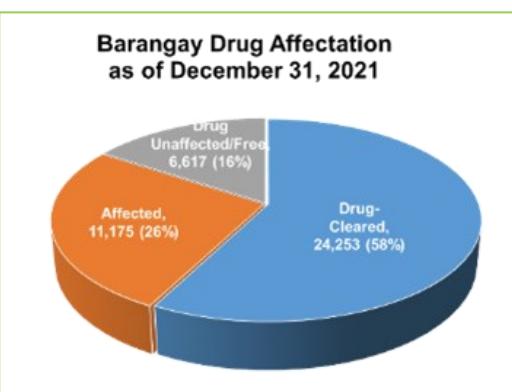
And before the year ends, another result of a joint buy-bust operation conducted by PDEA, PNP, and BOC on November 5th, 2021, in Tatalon, Quezon City, is the arrest of one (1) drug personality and seizure of 9,936 pieces of ecstasy tablets. The seized ecstasy package was declared as "Bed Sheets, Lady Bags, Watch, Shoes, and Cloth" and originated from Brussels, Belgium.



Another major accomplishment is the operation resulting from a Case Operational Plan implemented by PDEA and other law enforcement agencies, namely the Bureau of Customs, National Bureau of Investigation, and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. The COPLAN was intended to neutralize drug trafficking syndicates that smuggle illegal drugs into the country. In August 2021, a shipment declared as roasted coffee with a total weight of 10,530 kilos, was dispatched in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. The shipment was discharged in Pelambuhan, Tanjung Pelepas Terminal, Johor, Malaysia in October 2021. The team decided that the drugs be intercepted in Malaysia as the shipment could not enter the Philippines due to a lack of

documentation. The Philippines then coordinated with the Royal Malaysian Police to conduct the interception operation.

Barangay Drug Clearing Program



The barangay drug-clearing program is a major strategy implemented in the country where communities are rid of the influence of dangerous drugs through both supply and demand reduction activities. As of December 31st, 2021, 58 percent or 24,253 barangays have been declared drug-cleared. A total of 6,617 have also remained drug-unaffected.

Advocacy Campaigns

Amid the pandemic, the conduct of lectures, seminars, symposia, and multi-media activities reached audiences from different sectors. One such activity is the Tutok PDEA Kontra Drogen, a teleradio program created through PDEA's Memorandum of Agreement with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and two of its attached



agencies, the People's Television Network, Inc. (PTNI) and Bureau of Broadcast Services-Philippine Broadcasting Service (BBS-PBS), and a separate MOA signed with the veteran broadcaster, Mr. Erwin Tulfo. The MOA was envisioned to bring to the public the government's efforts, campaigns, programs, and activities in the fight against illegal drugs. The program is aired every Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00pm at Radyo Pilipinas 738 KhZ, simulcast with PTV 4.



PDEA also has the Extreme Documentary Series that highlights best practices on anti-illegal drug operations of PDEA operating units. This airs on Channel 106 at Signal Cable TV every Saturday. Also, the PDEA Extreme Youtube Channel showcases updates on the campaign against illegal drugs designed to mobilize society in support of the campaign.

Balay Silangan Reformation Center

Balay Silangan Reformation Center is a program that aims to provide shelter and refuge to drug offenders so they can be self-reliant and law-abiding citizens of the country. As of December 31st, 2021, a total of 319 Balay Silangan Reformation Centers were inaugurated nationwide. These centers have catered to 4,862 drug offenders, 3,723 of which have graduated and 786 are already employed.



Treatment and Rehabilitation



PROFILE OF DRUG USERS (Facility Based)

Demographic Indicator (Admissions = 2,708, as of December 2021)	
Mean Age	33 years old
Sex Ratio (Male to Female)	10:1
Civil Status	Single (53.03%)
Status of Employment	Employed (62.30%) (Workers/Employees, Businessman and Self-Employed)
Educational Attainment	High School Level (27.33%)
Economic Status	Average Monthly Family Income Php 15,142.03 or US\$ 300
Place of Residence	Urban Core (Specifically NCR 20.13%)
Duration of Drug-Taking	More than Six (6) years
Nature of Drug-Taking	Mono Drug-Use
Drugs/Substance of Abuse	Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (Shabu), Cannabis (Marijuana) & Benzodiazepines (Depressant)

Below is the data on treatment and rehabilitation admissions in the Philippines recorded from January to December 2021.

For 2021, a total of sixty-three (63) treatment and rehabilitation facilities reported to the Treatment and Rehabilitation Admission Information System (TRAIS). Of this, fifty-eight (58) are residential, and five (5) are outpatient.

As culled from these facilities, two thousand seven hundred eight (2,708) admissions were recorded. Out of this number, two thousand three hundred seventy-two (2,372) were inpatient with 2,344 (86.55%) new cases, and 28 (1.03%) readmitted or relapse cases. On the other hand, only 336 cases (12.41%) have availed of outpatient treatment. Some facilities reported no admissions for the year.

Comparing with the cases of the previous year, around fourteen percent (13.54%) increase in admission was noted. The rise in admission can be attributed to the resumption of operation by the different rehabilitation centers and the seeming willingness of the PWUDS to undergo treatment and rehabilitation, as evidenced by forty-two percent (41.54%) of voluntary submission cases.

Demographic profile

Sex and Gender. The center admissions consist of ninety per cent (90.47%) males, around nine per cent (8.83%) females, and one per cent (0.70%) LGBT. The ratio of male to female is 10:1 with a computed mean and median age of 33 years old.

Age. The youngest admission for the year under review is 13 years old while the eldest is 66. Majority of the admissions belong to the 40 years old and above age group with twenty-eight per cent (28.40%) cases.

Civil Status. Fifty-three percent (53.03%) are single, and around twenty-five per cent (24.74%) are married, those who have live-in partners comprised seventeen per cent (17.43%), and the rest, about five per cent (4.80%) are either widow(er), separated, divorced, or annulled.

Educational Attainment. As to educational attainment, twenty-seven per cent (27.33%) have attained high school level. On the second spot are those who have reached college (20.13%), followed by those who have graduated high school (16.62%).

Income. The average monthly family income is more than fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15,142.03).

Employment Status. About the status of employment, those employed (either workers/employees or businessman and self-employed) comprised sixty-two percent (62.30%) while unemployed by thirty-two percent (32.05%). Around five percent (4.54%) of the admission constitute students and almost one per cent (0.96%) out-of-school youth while few (0.11%) were pensioners.

Residence. Twenty per cent (20.13%) of reported cases are residents of the National Capital Region, while seventeen percent (16.80%) are from Region III.

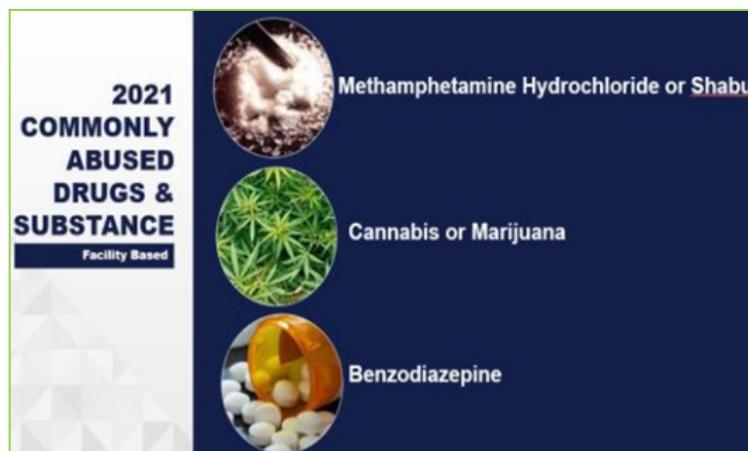
Age of First Use. Regarding the age of first use, (41.25%) belong to age 15 to 19 years old. Almost thirty-seven per cent (36.60%) admitted to have taken drugs 2 to 5 times a week while twenty-seven per cent (26.77%) used drugs monthly and nineteen per cent (18.91%) on a weekly basis.

Most Commonly Abused Drugs

The leading drug of abuse remains to be Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, or “Shabu” which comprised ninety-two percent (91.80%) of the total admission, followed by Cannabis (Marijuana) at twenty-six percent (26.29%). Benzodiazepines is the third drug of choice, and this could be because these are sedative medication used to address anxiety, insomnia, and

seizures, including certain Covid 19-related mental health problems. On the other hand, “LSD”, which was seen to be an emerging drug in 2020, occupied the 11th rank this reporting year.

Mono drug use is still the nature of drug-taking and the routes of administration are inhalation/sniffing and oral ingestion.





SINGAPORE

Overview

In 2021, CNB arrested 2,729 drug abusers. This was an 11% decrease from the 3,056 drug abusers arrested in 2020. This decrease was likely due to restricted social interactions arising from COVID-19 measures.

The number of repeat drug abusers arrested decreased by 6% to 1,793 in 2021, from 1,905 in 2020. The number of new drug abusers arrested decreased by 19% to 936 in 2021, from 1,151 in 2020. 60% of new abusers arrested were under 30 years old.

Methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis were the three most commonly abused drugs in 2021, with 92% of drug abusers arrested abusing at least one of these three drugs. For new drug abusers, methamphetamine, cannabis and 'Ecstasy' were the three most commonly abused drugs, with 90% of new drug abusers arrested abusing at least one of these three drugs.

Sustained Drug Enforcement

CNB continued to launch enforcement operations against drugs and worked closely with Home Team agencies to detect and prevent the flow of drugs into and within Singapore.

In 2021, together with the Singapore Police Force and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, CNB conducted seven island-wide operations targeting drug traffickers and abusers, as well as 101 operations at our checkpoints to intercept attempts to smuggle drugs into Singapore. CNB also carried out major operations that crippled 25 drug syndicates.

Drug Seizures

The drugs seized in 2021 were estimated to have a street value of about S\$18.31 million. There was a 31% increase in seizures of heroin to 95.43 kg in 2021, from 72.70 kg in 2020. Cannabis seizures

saw a 148% increase to 107.08 kg in 2021, from 43.10 kg in 2020. Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (more commonly known as ‘Ice’) saw a 7% increase to 49.95 kg in 2021, from 46.81 kg in 2020.

Local Drug Seizures in 2021					
Drug type	2020	2021	% change in seizure	Estimated market value 2020	Estimated market value 2021
Heroin No.3	72.70 kg	95.43 kg	+31.3%		
Methamphetamine (ICE)	46.81 kg	49.95 kg	+6.7%		
Cannabis	43.10 kg	107.08 kg	+148.4%		
Cocaine	21.15 kg	0.98 g	-95.4%		
Ecstasy	23,141 tablets + 92.13 g	9,313 tablets + 252.27 g	-59.8% (tablets) +173.8% (weight)		
Methamphetamine tablets (Yaba)	70 tablets	29 tablets	-58.6%	≈ S\$12.18 million	≈ S\$18.31 million
Ketamine	3.96 kg	3.46 kg +747 tablets	-12.6%		
Erimin 5	42,706 tablets	13,292 tablets	-68.9%		
Buprenorphine (Subutex)	NIL	NIL	-		
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones etc.)	305 tablets +6,216.6 g +33 bottles	2,775 tablets +6,681.6 g +249 bottles +9 stamps	+809.8% (tablets) +7.48% (weight) +654.5% (bottles) +900.0% (stamps)		

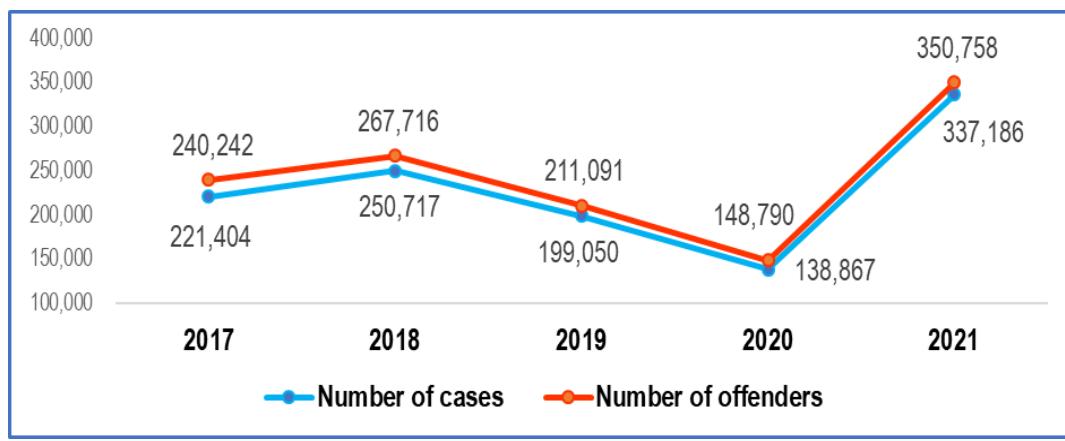


THAILAND

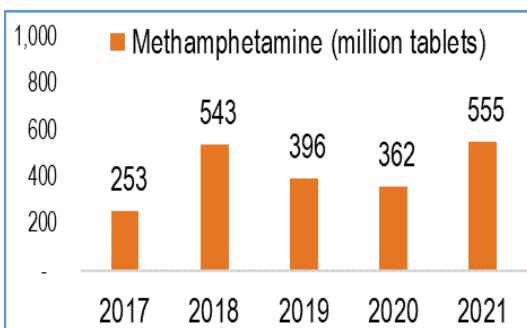
Overall Drug Situation

Thailand drug situation still remained critical, which was affected by the expansion of illicit drug production in Golden Triangle area during the past years. Drug syndicates continuously smuggled large amounts of drugs into Thailand resulting in a large number of drug seizures of the year 2021, especially synthetic drugs (methamphetamine and ICE). There were

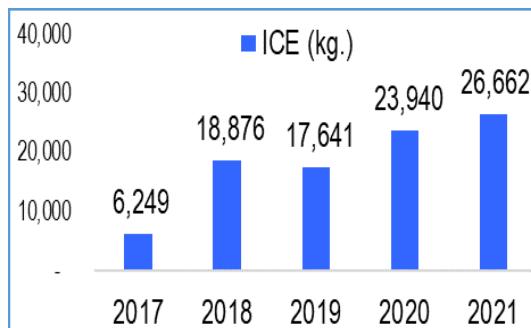
337,186 drug cases and 350,758 drug offenders in total. Also, the seized drugs comprised 554.7 million tablets of methamphetamine, 26,662 kilograms of ICE, 4,520 kilograms of heroin, 1,350 kilograms of ketamine, 45 kilograms of cocaine, 447,213 tablets of ecstasy, and 41,573 kilograms of cannabis.



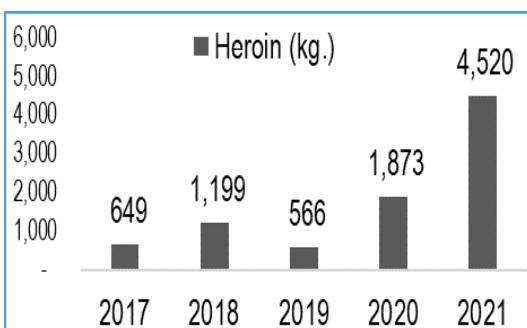
The arrested drug cases during 2017 - 2021



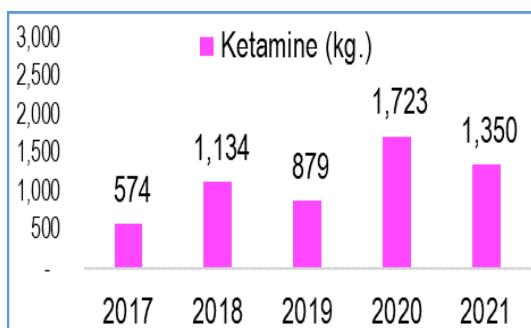
*Methamphetamine seized during
2017 - 2021*



ICE seized during 2017 - 2021



Heroin seized during 2017 - 2021



Ketamine seized during 2017 - 2021

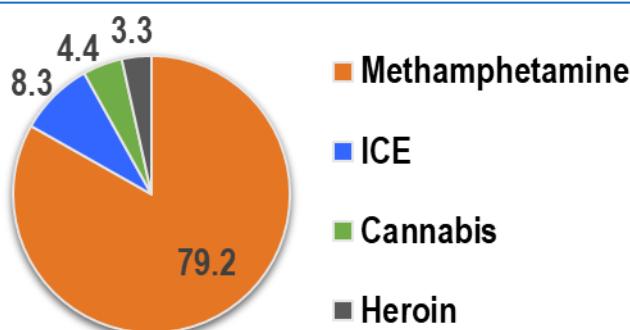
Taking advantage of technological advances in drug trafficking like communication, finance, and logistics leads to the closer relation between drugs and drug users. In addition to the general drug trafficking, nowadays the drug dealers use online channels and postal delivery to distribute drugs to more addicts such as Line, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram; especially Twitter is the most popular channel for trading. Most of the users are children and youths.

Almost all types of drugs are sold online and the price tags are showed distinctly. There are many options of delivery such as self-pickup or public/private postal services. Presently, the logistics business in Thailand keeps expanding, and it is a reason why postal delivery is more convenient and faster.

Drug Epidemic Situation

Drug epidemic situation tends to widely spread corresponding to the increase of drug production outside the country. The higher drugs are smuggled in and spread across the regions of Thailand. Also, the cheaper price of drugs stimulates drug use in the country and causes more new drug addicts. The collected data of treatment and rehabilitation showed that the new addicts were 70.34%, excluding many drug users who have not entered the treatment system. Those could end up with relapse and suffer from psychiatric symptoms.

The most prevalent drug was methamphetamine (79.2%), followed by ICE (8.3%), cannabis (4.4%), and heroin (3.3%). Among all drugs, ICE and heroin should be monitored because of their prevalence was rising, especially among youths in some area. Moreover, it was found that drugs and mixed psychotropic substances (Drug Cocktails) were abused among children and youths.



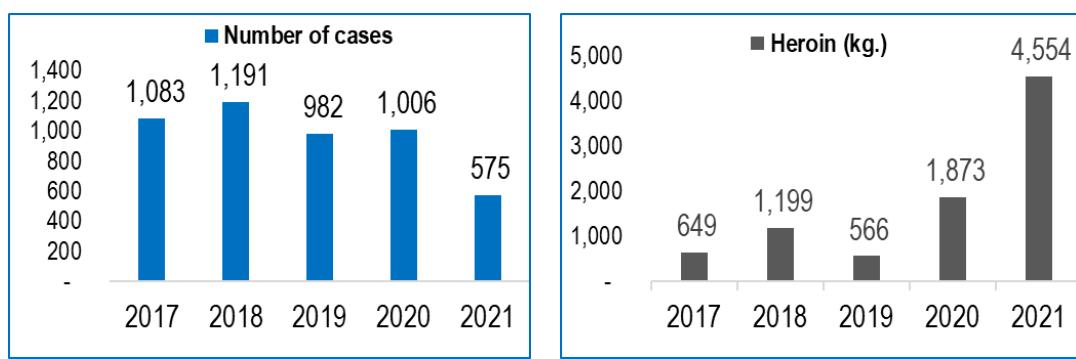
Drug Smuggling Situation

Drug traffickers have diverted drug routes from the production sites in the Golden Triangle. The original trafficking route was the northern border, but the new smuggling route was through the northeastern region of Thailand. As a result, the northeastern border area had more frequent smugglings of drugs. However, the smuggling routes in the northern border areas were still highly found. Therefore, a large amount of drugs was smuggled into the inner part of the country despite the large number of arrests along the border areas.

There were three concealment methods used by traffickers: hiding in agricultural crop trucks, using a modified pickup truck for transporting drugs, transporting by a procession of private cars. The interesting trafficking pattern was the smuggling of millions of methamphetamine tablets which was often intercepted in the country's inner areas. Most of drugs

were hidden in large trucks or trailers. The drug traffickers avoided the checkpoint, then brought the drugs to warehouses in the lower northern or central region before sending them to the southern provinces.

Furthermore, the international drug smuggling by sea was another remarkable method frequently seized. The drugs were hidden in the cargo ships and transported to foreign countries. Most of the destinations were in Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and South Korea. Although a number of drug cases has declined, the trend of drug smuggling by sea continued to increase significantly. In 2021, there were a total of 575 smuggling cases by sea. The monitored drug in heroin because 4,554 kilograms of heroin were seized, which increased 2.4 times over the previous year.



The seizure of drug smuggling by sea

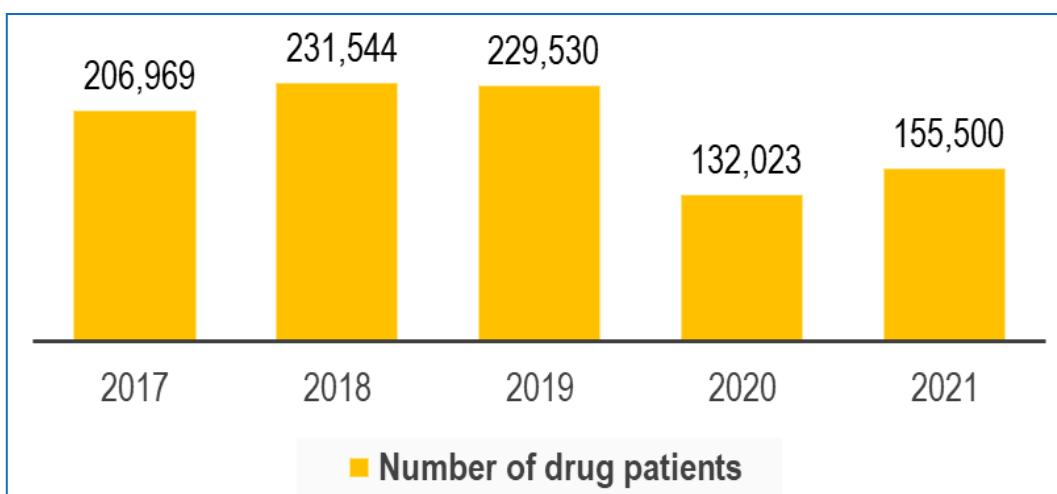
In addition to drug smuggling from the Golden Triangle area, Thailand also faced the problem of drug smuggling from other major parts of the world such as cocaine smuggling of West African syndicate from South America through various aircraft and the land border. Moreover, the interesting international trafficking was through the international parcel and by sea. Most of the destinations were in Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia.

In year 2021, a total of 49 cocaine arrests were found with 45.8 kilograms of cocaine. (In year 2020, there were a total of 50 cocaine cases with 26.8 kilograms of cocaine). There was also an increase of ecstasy smuggling via international postal parcels from Europe. In year 2021, a total of 303 cases of ecstasy were seized with 430,130 ecstasy tablets (In year 2020, there were a total of 259 cases of ecstasy with 491,070 ecstasy tablets).

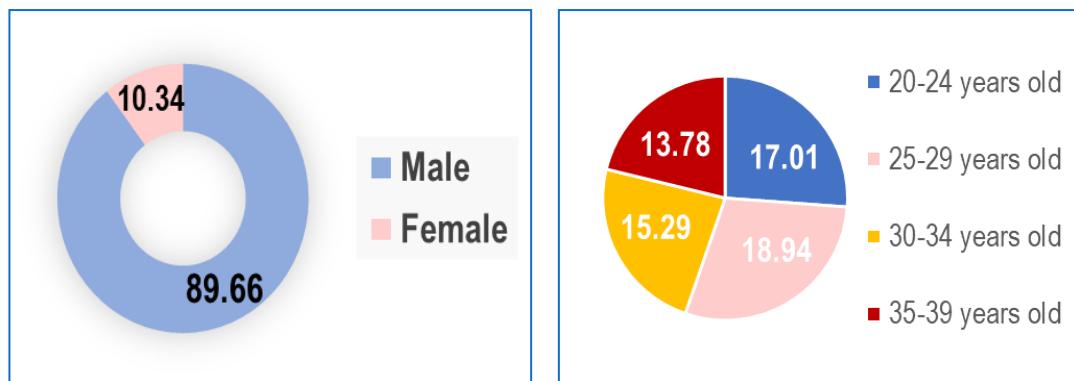
Treatment and Rehabilitation

In year 2021, there were 155,500 patients admitted to drug treatment (In year 2020, there were 132,023 patients). Most of them were male (89.66%). When considering the age groups of patients, most of the age group was 25 - group 20 - 24 years (17.01%), the age group 30 - 34 years

(15.29%), and the age group 35 - 39 years (13.78%). Most of the patients who have received treatment were 63.61% of drug abusers, followed by 31.99% of drug dependents and 4.40% of recreational users.



Number of drug patients under treatment during 2017-2021

*Groups of drug patients in 2021*

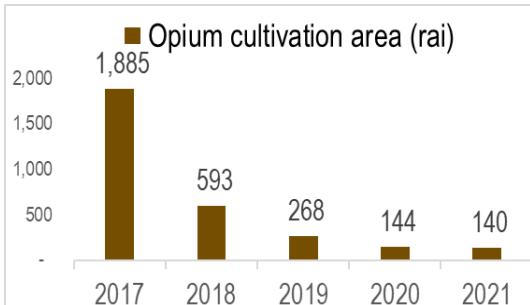
Illicit Crop Cultivation

The area of opium cultivation of Thailand in 2021 was 140.38 rai, decreased from the previous year (143.85 rai in 2020), and represented a reduction of 2.41%. It has been considered the smallest opium cultivation area since 1979. In 2021, opium cultivation areas were found in 21 districts, 6 provinces, namely Chiang Mai Province 120 plots 74.23 Rai, Tak Province 56 plots 40.56 Rai, Mae Hong Son Province 22 plots 14.45 Rai, Nan Province 29 plots 8.12 Rai, Lampang Province 2 plots 1.27 rai, and Chiang Rai province 1 plot 1.75 rai.

There were many factors that caused the decline of opium cultivation. For example, the rigorous measures were patrolling the opium cultivation before planting and after opium deforestation, putting down the financiers and their networks, psychologically publicizing on laws/penalties of opium and other illicit plants, and annually cutting down the opium fields. In 2021, all opium plots

were pruned out. Furthermore, climate change and drought surprisingly played an important role in reducing the opium cultivation. Besides, the cooperation from related agencies like the Royal Development Project and measures to treat opium abusers could decrease the demand of opium as well.

It is predicted that opium cultivation areas are likely to decline or disappear, especially in areas where severe cutting is enforced. However, opium cultivation will continue in promising areas such as valleys or deep forests along borders that are difficult for government officials to reach. Hill tribe people have high expertise in the high area and has developed opium cultivation by using modern agricultural technology to double the harvest. Also, the demand and its price of raw opium are still high, and make a lot of money for hill tribe people.

*Opium cultivation area during 2017-2021**Opium cultivation in the deep forest*

Decriminalization of Kratom

In 2021, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board took action to remove kratom from a list of narcotic drugs to solve problems that hinder people's livelihood. With the systematic management of kratom by studying and researching, kratom was promoted to be medical utilization and economic opportunity to generate income for the people, including preventing problems of kratom misuse for children and youth.

In driving the kratom unlock policy to achieve that effect Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board has proceeded as follows

1. Amendment The Narcotics Act (No. 8) B.E. 2021, with the abolition of kratom from being a Category 5 narcotic drug and abolishment of the penalties for kratom offenses, which were effective on August 24th, 2021.

2. Draft of kratom Act, which consists of important principle. The determination of kratom control measures prevents children and youth from accessing kratom and to prevent the misuse of kratom. The proposed bill has now been approved by the National Assembly and is pending the announcement of further legal enforcement.



Value-based Confiscation

The confiscation of assets in Thai drug cases in the past was a form of Property-based Confiscation. To explain, once the officers find drug-related offenses, they will conduct an investigation to find and collect the offender's assets, such as cash, cars, houses, land, and give the offender an opportunity to explain the origin of the property. However, some offenders have relied on legal gaps by transferring or hiding assets with various methods to evade officers' scrutiny.

Therefore, in order to fill the gap, the Value-based Confiscation is applied to increase the efficiency of asset seizure of Thailand by defining the framework for enforcing relevant laws to be clear to prevent any impact on honest people and emphasizing the staff to carefully consider

both process of collecting evidence and court rulings for effective law enforcement. Moreover, the process of amending the drug-related laws need to associate with other laws to achieve integration in all dimensions, such as money laundering, foreign countries law on the suppression of transnational organized crime including laws related to financial institutions business. It also supports the new asset seizure operations in the digital age such as cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin, as well as electronic payments (e-payment).

In 2021, Thailand has set a target of seizing drug-related assets of 6 billion baht, but in practice, more than 7 billion baht can be seized.

The table showing the value of assets seized from drug cases during the fiscal year 2017 - 2021

The fiscal year	No. of offenders	The value of seized assets (million baht)
2017	1,919	1,667.72
2018	2,237	1,228.66
2019	1,819	949.59
2020	1,853	790.57
2021	2,072	7,346.82



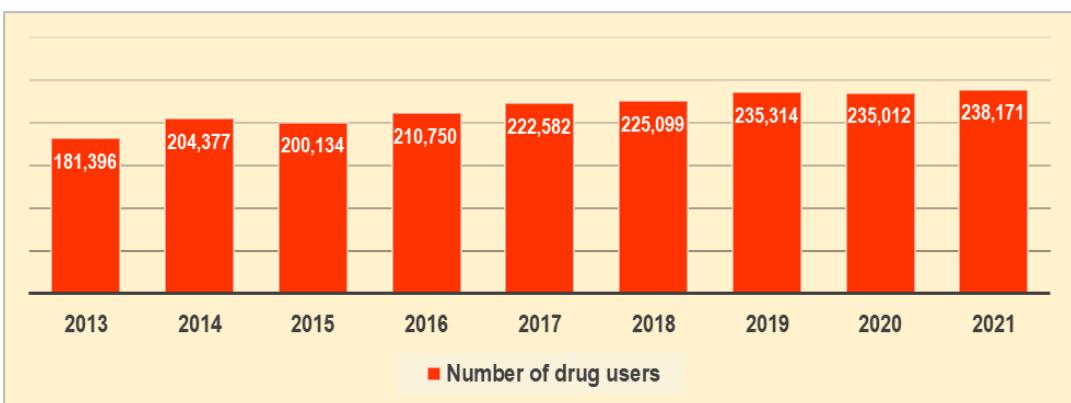
VIET NAM

General Drug Situation

1. Drug Use Situation

In 2021, Viet Nam recorded about 238.171 drug addicts. Most of them were male with about 92.27% people and the amount of female addicts were 7.73%. The illegal use of synthetic drugs had caused serious consequences to the life, health and psychophysiology of drug addicts. The drug addicts who were substance use disorder and an inability

to control behavior have committed serious crimes like murders, violence, traffic accidents with a huge quantity of deaths and serious consequences that affected social order and safety. In addition, the situation of polydrug addicts is more and more popular and most of them have used synthetic drugs with 70-80% of drug addicts.



2. Drug Crime Situation

Drug crime situation in Viet Nam has been complicated over the past few years. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has forced countries to apply strict border control measures, drug criminals have found many methods and tricks to illegally smuggle drugs across borders. The source of drugs in Viet Nam were from abroad, especially in the Golden Triangle area, which were illegally transported via land, air and sea ways. The majority of drugs were trafficked by land.

On the land way, drugs were mainly traded and illegally transported via Northwest, North Central (bordering Lao PDR), Northeast (bordering China) and Southwest borders (bordering Cambodia). In this way, criminals had smuggled drugs from the Golden Triangle area to the domestic market for a small consumption while others were going to be transported to third country.

In terms of airway, drugs were concealed into goods which are transported by the forms of express delivery, consignment of non-commercial goods and gifts (especially taking advantage of the electronic clearance policy) from European countries like Netherlands, France, Germany, Czech, Belgium to Viet Nam. Meanwhile, the seaway was being taken advantage by criminals to illegally transport drugs in large quantities from abroad to Viet Nam. The main transit ports were Ho Chi Minh, Ba Ria - Vung Tau and Hai Phong port.

Recently, there have been several drug crime cases related to high-tech crimes and transnational money laundering which contain a variety of complex risks. In these cases, criminals have used the high technology, social networks such as Zalo, Facebook, Viber, Telegram, and the deep web to communicate and trade. They have also transacted money by international bank cards or crypto such as bitcoin, ethereum that makes it challenging to dismantle the drug cases.

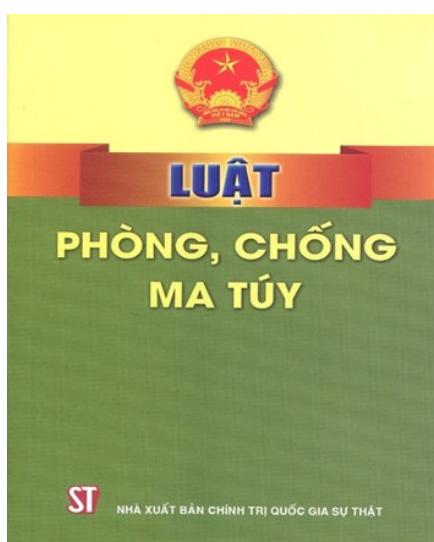
In addition, The Chinese and Taiwanese (China) drug dealers have illegally entered into Viet Nam and connected with domestic subjects for operating. They work as the companies, rent warehouses, workshops, apartments, then operate the drug trafficking routes from the Golden Triangle area through Lao PDR, Thailand and Cambodia to Viet Nam for consumption or continuing to the third country. The concealment methods consist of concealing drugs in electric motors; packing drugs mixed in goods such as furniture, machinery, electronic equipment, agricultural products, tea, plastic beads, scrap iron, electrical tape, children's toys, speakers and even concealing in the stomach of pigs. Drug criminals continued to use hot weapons to attack functional forces when they were arrested.

Results of Drug Prevention and Control in 2021

1. Policy and Implementation Programme

In 2021, Viet Nam adopted the National Programme on drug control for the period 2021-2025 to replace the National Programme on drug control 2017-2020. After adoption, the Government, the National Committee for AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution prevention, the Ministries and branches had issued directives, resolutions, action plans to implement this Program from central to local levels. In the same year, the National Assembly amended and approved the 2021 Law on Drug Control. The Ministry of Public Security coordinated with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health in developing 02 Decrees and 01 Circular to improve drug treatment and rehabilitation in Viet Nam.

On the occasion of World Drug Day 26th of June 2021, the MPS issued action plans to promote propaganda and drug control nationwide, especially in border areas like Northwest, Northeast, North Central - Central Highlands and Southwest border. These plans aimed to raise awareness and responsibility of people on the harms of drugs and reduce the negative impacts of the drug situation in the Golden Triangle on Viet Nam. In addition, the ministries and branches under the National Committee for AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution prevention have been reorganized structures, improved human resources and technical equipment to promote the effectiveness of drug prevention and control in the country.



Law on Drug control in Viet Nam

2. Law Enforcement

Under the current situation, the competent authorities of the National Committee have coordinated closely in implementation of various measures to combat drug-related crimes.

In 2021, there were 26,193 cases with 38,270 offenders related to drug crimes. The seizure of drugs were 2.7 tons and 2.3 million tablets of methamphetamine, 990 kg of cannabis, 680 kg of heroin, 140 kg of opium, 274 guns, more than 130 billion VND and related evidence. Compared to 2020, the number of cases increased by 2.3%, and the number of offenders decreased by 0.3%. Heroin seizure decreased by 16.5%. Methamphetamine powders decreased by 29.5% while methamphetamine tablets seizure increased by 9.9%; cannabis seizure increased by 286.9%.

3. International Cooperation

Viet Nam always strengthens drug control cooperation with other countries in the region and the world, especially bordering countries, international agencies and organizations to enhance cohesion and the effectiveness of law enforcement, and improve the capacity of law enforcement officers.

In the multilateral cooperation framework, Viet Nam has actively participated and contributed to the regional and international forums on drug control cooperation including CND, MOU,

ASEAN etc. In 2021, the Minister of Public Security of Viet Nam leaded the Vietnamese delegation to the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters hosted by Cambodia in the virtual platform (AMMD7).



The 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

Viet Nam also assigned the high level delegation to the 42nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD 42), 64th CND meeting, AAITF, ASITF, ADMN workshop, etc. In addition, Viet Nam also actively coordinated with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat to finalize the Report of Mid-term review of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing communities against illicit drugs 2016-2025 and Mid-term review of the ASEAN cooperation Plan to tackle Illicit drug production and trafficking in Golden Triangle 2020-2022.

The 11th Sub-region Action Plan (SAP) for period 2020-2021 and the Joint Statements of MOU Meeting in Bangkok in 2019 have been actively implemented and achieved the remarkable results. With UNODC, Viet Nam has been highly appreciated by UNODC and foreign partners in operating the activities of 22 Border Liaison Offices (BLO) along the land border nationwide. The BLOs have played an important role in supporting joint investigation and cooperation between neighboring countries in our region, especially at provincial levels.

In the bilateral cooperation relationship, Viet Nam advocates to promote deep and effective bilateral cooperation, especially with bordering countries and foreign partners in the region and world. For example, the MPS of Viet Nam signed a MOU with MPS of Lao PDR to strengthen the effectiveness of drug control cooperation between two ministries; signed 03 annual cooperation Plans with the Ministry of Public Security of China, the Ministry of Public Security of Lao PDR and the Ministry of Interior, the Kingdom of Cambodia on anti-transnational crimes. With the DEA (US), the Counter-Narcotics Police Department (CNPD), MPS has strengthened information exchange to identify drug criminals and suspects related to drug trafficking cases in Viet Nam. The two sides cooperated to organize 02 training courses on drug investigation tactics for Viet Nam's law enforcement officers.

With Thailand, CNPD has coordinated with ONCB to implement the Letter of Agreement effectively. According to the annual work plan, ONCB supports CNPD to improve the operation of Tan Lac checkpoint in Hoa Binh province and helps to carry out the activities of Mekong Safe Coordination Center (SMCC). The two sides also share the drug situation of each country regularly and timely via focal points (hotline) which have been established. In September 2021, the CNPD held a ceremony to present the Honor Medal to ONCB Minister of Counselor in the Royal Thai Embassy in Viet Nam for his contribution and effort in drug control cooperation between two countries.

With Australia, CNPD and AFP have tried to build an effective and practical relationship. On a monthly or quarterly basis, the two sides will hold meetings to exchange drug crime information, make and respond verification requests and consider joint investigations. For instance, the two sides coordinated to investigate and arrest 3 Vietnamese - Australian suspects, who committed the transnational money laundering and drug related-crimes in Ho Chi Minh city in May 2021. This case was a part of Special Operation Ironside that was led by Australian Federal Police in coordination with the FBI to smash a criminal network using encrypted communications all around the world to commit crimes. In addition, AFP also supported equipments and techniques for frontline officers to improve the effectiveness of drug control in Viet Nam

4. Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation

Viet Nam advocates strengthening and improving the effectiveness of drug treatment, rehabilitation and post-treatment management in order to support drug addicts to re-integrate to the community soon. In 2021, there were 170,958 turns of people who received treatment service in drug treatment and rehabilitation centers, in which there were about 30,510 new addicts, 40,043 people transferring from 2020 and 34,258 people returning to the community. Besides, the Ministry of Public Security reviewed the statistics of drug users and addicts nationwide according to the Law on Drug Prevention and Control 2021. The statistics on the number of drug users and addicts will also serve as a database to provide solutions and programs to reduce drug demand in Viet Nam.



The Ministry of Health has continued to implement the Methadone treatment program in 63 provinces and cities. By November 30th, 2021, there had been 341 facilities with 52,560 patients. The MOH has continued to pilot the multi-day dispensing of Methadone to opiate addicts. The pilot program will facilitate patients to access and maintain treatment, reduce treating time and expenses and limit infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Precursor Chemicals Control

The control of precursor chemicals has always been paid special attention and strengthened by Vietnamese competent authorities. In 2021, the MPS issued the Plan to coordinate control of legal precursors activities in relevant Ministries and branches which established an inter-sectoral working group. This group will be responsible for information exchange and coordinating control of legal activities related to precursors. In cooperation with foreign partners, the CNPD has actively processed information, inspected and supervised legal activities and sent notifications via PEN ONLINE, PICS and IONICS to authorities in Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, India, Spain, China, Malaysia, etc.

6. Elimination of Narcotic-Containing Plants

Ministries and branches have coordinated with localities, especially mountainous provinces, to prevent growing plants containing narcotics. The government and localities have opened many waves to mobilize people not to grow plants containing narcotics; use professional measures to detect areas of opium cultivation; establish Working Groups to review, inspect, detect and eliminate all areas of planting and replanting of narcotic-containing plants. As a result, the situation of opium cultivation continues to be controlled.

In 2021, there were about 13,273.6 m² (an increase of more than 1,700 m²) of narcotic plants, consist of 12,733, 6 m² of poppy plants in some provinces like Lai Chau (6,621 m²), Dien Bien (839 m²), Son La (2,530 m²), Ha Giang (186.54 m²), Yen Bai (1,205 m²) and others. The majority of opium cultivation were related to the Mong ethnic group and the functional forces destroyed 100% of illegal cultivation areas.

7. Propaganda and Preventive Education

The Vietnamese government has always focused on drug preventive propaganda and education, targeting on key areas, high-risk audiences like teenagers, pupils, students. The National Committee continues to direct the effective implementation of Decision No. 2140/QĐ-TTg dated December 30th, 2017 of the Prime Minister on approving the "Project of Coordinating propaganda on HIV, drugs and prostitution prevention and control until 2020" between 03 standing agencies, including: Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and 03 media agencies consist of Viet Nam Television, Voice of Viet Nam and Viet Nam News Agency.



In 2021, Vietnam's ministries and branches successfully implemented many anti-drug propaganda activities. The Ministry of Public Security coordinated with media agencies in promoting propaganda on drugs prevention and suppression to ensure social safety for the Lunar New Year 2021; building news and reportage for propaganda on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021 (June 26); maintaining the operation of the website: pcmatuy.bocongan.gov.vn to inform and propagate the results of law enforcement on drugs, international cooperation activities on drug control,

exemplary models, receiving and responding to citizens' comments. The Ministry of Defense organized more than 43 meetings and 30,829 sessions on drug propaganda and preventive education with 1,259,498 participants; published many news articles and reports on drug prevention and control; distributed a variety of materials and leaflets on drug prevention and control. The press agencies had 26,384 news and articles reflecting drug prevention and control, issued 30,000 stamps and 30,000 envelopes to deliver messages and images about harms of drugs to consumers, especially in provinces bordering China, Lao PDR and Cambodia.

Challenges

Viet Nam achieved a number of positive results in drug prevention and suppression in 2021. However, there are still challenges in the upcoming time consists of:

- The situation of illegal production, trading and transportation of narcotics has been more complicated on a global scale, especially synthetic drugs. Southeast Asia, especially the "Golden Triangle" has been one of the largest opium-producing areas in the world. In addition, the amount of drug trafficking via air and sea routes has tended to increase. The drug dealers who are
- Chinese, Taiwanese (China), South American and West African, have operated with sophisticated methods and tricks causing many difficulties in the investigation and detection.
- There are no extraditions and mutual legal assistance agreements between Viet Nam and many countries in the region and the world makes it difficult to arrest wanted people, exchange evidence and traces related to drug crimes.
- Due to many reasons (profit, demand ...), criminals are increasingly trading precursors for

illegal purposes. In particular, some high-risk substances like Pseudoephedrine, Ephedrine, etc. are used to produce illegal drugs. Meanwhile, the lengthy process of amending drug laws leads to not meeting practical requirements. Authorities also have difficulties in controlling many types of precursors because they appear in most areas of life and society.

On the other hand, there are still some other potential challenges such as: emergence of many new types of NPS, capacity of law enforcement officers, lack of equipment, etc.

Conclusion

The Government of Viet Nam always pays great attention to drug control by building comprehensive legal documents on drug control, strengthening law enforcement activity, enhancing international cooperation, judicial matters, drug treatment, etc. Moreover, Viet Nam also appreciate international cooperation through bilateral or multilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding are signed between the Vietnamese and foreign governments and international organizations, the activities of cooperation have been implemented effectively in many aspects: the exchange of criminal information; coordination and assistance in investing crimes and arresting international wanted subjects; the exchange of experience and training; therefore, drug prevention progress between Viet Nam and other countries has achieved important results.

In the upcoming time, Viet Nam will continue to cooperate closely with international organizations (UNODC, INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL, etc), countries in the region, especially in Asia-Pacific countries to carry out operations on drug prevention and control. Special attention should be paid to the precursors control to prevent the misuse of substances for synthetic drugs manufacturing. Furthermore, Viet Nam continues to negotiate and sign bilateral agreements on drug cooperation with countries that are highly involved in combating drug-related crimes.

CHAPTER 4

Research Knowledge and Innovation

INDONESIA

NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE, 2021

Drug abuse has been solemn and complicated. It is reflect from the relatively high national prevalence rate, the sophisticated smuggling, the extensive variety of distribution areas, the scope of social status of the exposed community groups, the adverse consequences to the financial and wellbeing perspective negative impacts to the socioeconomic and health aspects, as well as the various forms of difficulties and operational obstacles in its mitigation.

The general objective of this research is to conduct mapping on drug abuse in Indonesia at the national level. The specific objectives of this research are:

1. To figure out the prevalence rate of drug abusers at the national level and its comparison with the prevalence rate of the previous two years.
2. To analyze the pattern of drug abuse.

3. To analyze the impacting variables influencing factors of drug abuse, including individual, family and social factors.

This study uses a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional design in the form of a survey. The survey was conducted to acquire prevalence rate and estimated number of drug abusers in Indonesia. The quantitative approach is carried out at the individual level. The population of this study is the Indonesians of productive age group aged 15-64 years. The sample unit in this study is the household family, which is defined as the smallest unit in the society, where a group of people live together and eat from the same kitchen, regardless of whether they have family relation

INDONESIA

The determination of the minimum sample size (m) is influenced by the diversity of the population surveyed, the desired ideal accuracy level of the estimate, the level of estimate and the cost of data collection. The sampling uses the multistage random sampling method. The minimum sample size of respondents required to estimate the prevalence (p), with the specified precision, is calculated using the following formulation:

$$m = \frac{(1 - p) \times deff}{p \times rr \times e^2}$$

Information:

p : drug abuse prevalence in the past year, $p = 1.8\%$ (Drug Abuse Survey 2019)

$deff$: design effect, $deff = 2$

rr : anticipated response rate, $rr = 85\%$

e : relative standard error

Taking into account the availability of resources (manpower and budget) to set a relative standard error of 2.37% for the national estimate and 13%-18% for the provincial estimate, a minimum sample size of 170,000 respondents is required. However, due to the budget refocusing on this research, the number of samples was reduced to 66,900 respondents with a relative standard error of 4.38%. With the reduced number of samples, the relative standard error for provincial estimate becomes very large (between 22%-32%). Therefore, the analysis for the provincial level is omitted.

In the field, not all respondents who have been selected as samples can be interviewed, either because they refuse to be interviewed for various reasons or because the field team does not successfully meet the respondents. Respondents who refuse or could not be met were not replaced. It is because the determined respondents have represented the referred respondents so that it already portrays the respondent representation. This obstacle reduces the real number of respondents to 64,348 respondents (or decreased by 2,552 respondents, with an average of 75 respondents per province).

In general, the sampling method in this research is stratified three stage cluster sampling:

1. Stratification of provincial capitals. For each province, a city is chosen as the provincial capital. The city of the provincial capital is selected as an area with diverse socio-demographic and economic conditions.
2. Stratification of regencies/cities that are not provincial capitals, which are prone to drugs and have a census block that is prone to drugs.
3. Stratification of regencies/cities that are not provincial capitals, which are not prone to drugs and do not have a census block prone to drugs.

In each regency/city stratification of non-provincial capital, whether drug-prone or non-drug-prone regency/cities, one regency/city is selected randomly. So in each province, a city of the provincial capital and two regencies/cities which are not the provincial capital are selected.

Each rural village is divided into several census blocks, namely the enumeration work area which is part of a rural village/urban village. Referring to the sampling technique above, there are four sample frames used in the drug abuse survey, namely:

1. List of regencies/cities with information containing the estimated number of households that have been grouped based on their drug-prone status.
2. List of 2020 census blocks in the master frame in selected regencies/cities which is equipped with information containing the estimated number of households that have been grouped based on drug-prone status and urban/rural area classification.
3. List of households as a result of listing in the selected census block containing information on the education level of each household head.
4. List of eligible household members (aged 15-64 years) in the selected household. The procedure for selecting samples at the level of province, regency, census block, up to the selection of respondents is

carried out by multistage random sampling,

Quantitative data was collected by means of interviews using a structured questionnaire using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system. Respondents were selected randomly using a random table system based on a list of eligible household members (aged 15 – 64 years) in the selected household.

The collected quantitative data were analyzed descriptively and inferentially.

The descriptive analysis is done to obtain prevalence rate of drug abuse in Indonesia according to demographic characteristics and patterns of drug abuse, including the average age at initial use of drug, the distribution of the types of drugs, the frequency of drug abuse and the tendency of risky behavior in the population aged 15-64 years.

Meanwhile, inferential analysis is done to determine the effect on drug abuse from each factor, namely individual factors, family factors, social environmental factors, and risky behavior. The analysis was and direction of the relationship of the two variables using bivariate analysis, namely cross tabulation analysis, and looking at the coefficient values between the two variables. The provincial level analysis was not carried out because the number of samples for each province was insufficient, and the estimated relative standard error was between 22% - 32%. Thus, the sample error rate at the provincial level is quite large so that the validity of the data is weak.

INDONESIA

The conclusions of this research are:

1. The prevalence rate of drug abuse increases in 2021, from 1.80% in 2019 to 1.95% in 2021 for past year use. The increase also occurs in ever used from 2.40 to 2.57.
2. The increase in prevalence rates mainly occurs: a) in urban areas; b) female in urban and rural areas; c) age group 15-24 years and 50-64 years in rural and urban areas; d) having the main activity of not working/unemployed in urban and rural areas; e) having the main activity of taking care of the household in urban and rural areas
3. The general decline in prevalence rates occurs: a) in rural areas; b) male in rural and urban areas; c) age group of 25-49 years in rural and urban areas; d) having the main activity of working in rural areas. There is an increase in working urban drug abusers, but the number is small.
4. Marijuana and methamphetamine are the most widely consumed types of drugs. Three other types that are widely consumed: dextro, koplo pills and ecstasy. The first types of drugs consumed are: Cannabis, Shabu and Dextro. The average age at first using drugs is 19 years in rural areas and 20 years in urban areas.
5. Friendship is the main source in obtaining drugs for the first time and for free. Jointly purchasing drugs is often done to be able to buy drugs that are relatively expensive.
6. House, room, apartment, empty building, garden located far from residents and receives less supervision are the locations mostly used to abuse drugs.
7. Drug abusers tend to be permissive in dealing with friends and family who abuse drugs. They have more risky behavior than non-abusers especially the behavior of smoking, drinking alcohol and hang out at night.
8. Drug abusers tend to have slightly lower emotional closeness to parents or spouse than non-abusers. Frequency of communication with family does not guarantee to avoid drug abuse if it is not accompanied by quality of communication.
9. Drug abusers generally live in neighborhoods with social problems and have the ease to access public facilities.

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RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Research Fora

The Dangerous Drugs Board, as the lead agency on the policy formulation and strategy making body conducted studies and researches which is an integral part of the anti-drug campaign.

For 2021, the Board conducted the Research Forum on Drug Prevention and Control. It provided an avenue for cooperative research and exchange of scientific information of researches in the field of drug prevention and control.

The research forum highlighted the existing studies of the Dangerous Drugs Board, including the findings of the '2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse in the Philippines'. It also included

network-building activities and a series of research symposiums undertaken by the Dangerous Drugs Board and other related research on drug prevention and control from different sectors and institutions.

In compliance with the health protocols during the pandemic, the series of research symposiums and featured sectoral information sessions per month utilized the online platforms.

A total of 7,284 participants attended the research forum/symposiums which featured sectoral information sessions per month which utilized the online platforms. There are 12,045 viewers.

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Research Forum conducted were as follows:

1. Launching of the 2021 Online Research Forum Series on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control.
2. Featured Research for February: Examining the Family Dynamics in Addition: Inputs for the Treatment and Intervention in the Philippine Setting.
3. Featured Research for March: Drug Smuggling in the Philippines (An Exploratory Study)
4. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse Information Session for the Law Enforcement Sector.
5. April Featured Research Presentation: Translating Research into Practice – The Untapped Role of Drug Rehabilitation Workers.
6. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse for the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers.
7. May Featured Research: Lived Experiences of Selected Filipinos Recovering from Drug Abuse (a Phenomenological Study).
8. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse for the Education Sector.
9. June Featured Research: Preliminary Program Evaluation of a Church-Initiated Drug Reformist Center (Volunteer-Facilitators' Perspective).
10. July Featured Research: Preliminary Program Evaluation of a Church-Initiated Drug Reformist Formation Center (Drug Reformists' Perspective).
11. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse for the Health Sector.
12. August Featured Research: Contextualizing Drug Addiction in the Philippines from Psychological Needs Perspective (An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis).
13. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse for the Youth Sector.
14. 2020 Public Perception of Crime and Community Safety.
15. Effects of COVID-19 to the Patients and Delivery of Services of Selected Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers: An Exploratory Study.
16. Designing a Positive Psychology Intervention Program for Persons who use drugs (PWUDs) Undertaking Treatment and Rehabilitation.

17. 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse Information Session and Research Forum culminating activities.

Studies and Research

During the year, there are sixteen (16) research received and nine (9) research presented were as follows:

Examining Family Dynamics in Addiction: Inputs for Treatment Intervention in the Philippine Setting

Winona A. Pandan, Edna Luz Abulon (2017)

Substance abuse is a social problem that pervades many societies worldwide. Although a lot of research has been done on this topic, little is known about the family dynamics of the persons who use drugs (PWUDs), which could provide vital inputs to the intervention programs conducted in treatment centers in the Philippines.

This research described and analyzed the family dynamics in addiction through a qualitative research approach. Ten (10) male PWUDS persons who use drugs confined in a rehabilitation center and two of their family members were respondents of the study. In-depth interviews generated rich narratives, which were later subjected to content analysis.

The study revealed that the PWUDs were mostly the middle child in their families and had good relationships with their parents. Most of them are already

“fathers”. Upon being addicted to drugs, they were perceived negatively by their family members, and it was their siblings and spouses who took the courage to report them and send them for treatment in a rehabilitation facility.

The PWUDs and their families had relationship and communication patterns that can be described as both positive and negative. Positive patterns focused on openness and problem receptivity. While negative patterns focused on upholding the family's reputation and denying the presence of a drug problem; parents as enablers; fault-finding; removal of support groups; denial and avoidance of significant other; and restrained relationships.

Lastly, the problem of drug addiction affects not only the drug-taker and his/her parents but the other children in the family as well. As such, they need to also have a voice in the situation. Based on the interviews, a sibling (usually older than the PWUD) served as the linchpin. He/she was the crucial decision-maker who convinced the rest of the family regarding the wisdom of confining the substance abuser to a rehabilitation facility.

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This highlights the need to enlist the help of family members in confronting the problem and for all to be united and supportive of each other during such a difficult time. Strong commitment from the immediate family members shall thereby be given emphasis in the treatment process to facilitate recovery.

The impact of addiction in the family dynamics shall be simultaneously addressed by the treatment and rehabilitation centers in the Philippines. Addressing these calls for a thorough assessment of the client's familial background. Particular attention should be given to the probability of permissiveness in the family regarding drug-taking activities, as well as the mother's or any family member's enabling character. Such initial information about the family of the client could be used as a basis for updating the facility's intervention programs regardless of their treatment approach. Conduct of regular family counselling is imperative in determining the level of social support they are willing to provide to the client, to enhance channels of communication among the members and to slowly realize each member's contribution in the recovery of the client leading to better coping with the stigma of addiction in the family.

Alongside the family counselling, special sessions on psychoeducation for

the families should be undertaken to foster a deeper understanding of the nature of drug addiction and its exacerbating effects to the individual, to the family and to society.

Role of Filipino Occupational Therapist in Substance Addiction and Rehabilitation: A Q-Methodology

Michael P. Sy, Nobuo Ohshima & Ma. Patricia Nicole R. Roraldo (2018)

More than the shortage of manpower, occupational therapists (OTs) in substance addiction and rehabilitation (SAR) practice have remained underused and misunderstood in the Philippines. This study aimed to identify the role of Filipino OTs in people with substance use disorders (SUD) based on the perspectives of OTs, mental health professionals, and former service users in the community.

The study employed a qualitative approach guided by the conceptual underpinnings of the Participatory Occupational Justice Framework POJF 2010, which encourage the investigation of social indicators and contextual forces causing occupational injustice (Whiteford & Townsend 2011).

The Occupational Justice Health Questionnaire (OJHQ) (Wilcock & Townsend 2014) was used to collect pertinent data, consequently addressing the research aim. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) (Smith, Flowers, Larkin 2009) offered a six-step guideline that allowed in-depth exploration and the extraction of meanings from the participants' experiences. ATLAS.ti seven software was used for the coding process.

Using Q-Methodology (QM), this research revealed a tripartite role for Filipino OTs in SAR: (a) "Promoter of occupational participation," (b) "Collaborator to enhance participation and wellbeing," and (c) "Facilitator of environmental supports for occupational participation."

Drug use both has positive and negative effects. Still, the latter is usually why they are sent to jail or to a treatment and rehabilitation center (TRC). The negative effect is primarily on difficulties in social participation (aside from overworking, lack of education, and discrimination) which is recognized as an injustice.

There is a need to emphasize implementing occupation-based social participation interventions (Wasmuth et al. 2014) targeting occupational justice outcomes through collaborative partnerships: (Re)establishing social and communication skills, prioritizing routines and roles (including family, community,

and work roles), and collaborating with social workers and vocational teachers for gender sensitivity education and work coaching.

Life inside the TRC is a "second chance" but has a restricted system that underpins injustices, i.e., hunger, boredom, limited choices, etc. Occupational services should also recognize concrete obstacles within the environment and social conditions (i.e., poverty) that hamper (occupational) participation and justice (Godoy-Vieira et al., 2018).

To recognize these concrete obstacles, a participatory approach is encouraged to discuss them with clients, professionals, and other stakeholders to jointly form solutions, especially for living post-rehabilitation (Whiteford & Townsend 2011). While facilitating spiritual approaches was perceived to be outside the scope of OT in SAR (Sy et al. 2018), OTs use spirituality in restoring a sense of wellbeing and as a coping strategy (Jones et al. 2016), hence seeing spiritual activities as "coping occupations".

With very few OTs working in SAR, OTs can refocus their energies by partnering with faith-based groups to instigate fund-raising activities to gather resources for post-rehabilitation care (e.g., Benefit concerts, fun runs, plays, pageants, mangrove, and tree planting).

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The OT profession is fundamentally purposed to address injustices to facilitate occupational participation and justice (Kronenberg & Pollard 2005). Political Activities of Daily Living (PADL) can be utilized to enact this purpose alongside using occupation justice and participation-focused evaluation tools to support program implementation, i.e., OJHQ. Tracking narrative progress, documenting challenges-solutions and positive-negative experiences (Whiteford & Townsend 2011) of drug users. These collated data can then be translated into culturally appropriate media, e.g., films, plays, posters, television features, etc.

The findings of this study serve as an initial step in asserting OT's contribution to the SAR practice in the Philippines. The tripartite role perspectives of Filipino OTs in SAR practice are promoters of occupational participation, collaborators to enhance participation and wellbeing, and facilitators of environmental supports for occupational participation.

However, these identified role perspectives are divergent to the OT role as perceived by health authorities in the country, which may explain to some extent why Filipino OTs cannot secure jobs, develop practice, and create research in SAR practice. As an important human resource in mental health, OTs can only be maximized when their contribution to SAR is perceived by all stakeholders.

Furthermore, this study shows that QM is not limited to program evaluation to improve OT services but also in conducting attitudinal, perceptual, and mixed-method research. In the future, the identified tripartite role of Filipino OTs in SAR may be translated into research, continuing education modules, occupation-centered SAR programs, and a springboard for role-emerging practices.

Filipinos recovering from drug addiction live with injustices that should be addressed so they can experience a life where occupations can be chosen and enjoyed during and after rehabilitation.

Understanding the participants' lived experiences raised the consciousness of the injustices that exist, uncovering pointers for service delivery in SAR practice:

- ◆ Use of occupation-based social participation interventions.
- ◆ Limitation of occupational therapy services is an opportunity for partnerships and collaboration.
- ◆ A participatory approach is essential in discussing injustices and forming solutions.
- ◆ Deliberate use of political activities of daily living.

Uncovering the Lived Experiences of Filipino Drug Recoverees towards Occupational Participation and Justice through an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Michael P. Sy, Rod Charlie Delos Reyes, Ma. Patricia Nicole R. Roraldo & Nobuo Ohshima (2019)

The drug-using crisis involves participation and justice issues, making it a pressing health and social concern in the Philippines today. This study looked into the lived experiences of Filipinos recovering from drug addiction.

It aims to understand the factors related to occupational justice or injustice that contribute to substance addiction in the Philippines. By looking at these factors, the study suggests how to improve substance use rehabilitation (SAR) programs.

The study used a qualitative approach by interviewing twenty-four participants from two government treatment and rehabilitation centers in Bataan and Manila. The data gathering happened in 2018 and were later analyzed using interpretative phenomenological analysis.

Four themes emerged from the data analysis: 1) Living with drugs, 2) Living around rules, 3) Living for the future, and 4) Living amidst the war on drugs. These themes are shown as “periods” in the continuum of participation among Filipinos recovering from Drug Addiction. These periods of participation are marked by participants’ experiences in their daily lives before and during rehabilitation.

The study examined occupational justice by looking into these periods and factors that help or prevent them from engaging in meaningful activities. This, in turn, gives a better understanding of how occupation justice relates to their substance addiction.

From these periods, the study uncovered “sub-themes” that describe common experiences among participants. These “sub-themes” show how the interaction of substance addiction, recovery, and occupational justice vary based on situations and contexts

Theme 1: Living with Drugs

Drug-using harmed the participation in meaningful activities. The negative side effects of drugs prevented self-care activities like sleeping and eating. It also led to social isolation in the school, social gatherings, church, even among peers.

Drugs contributed to participation. In some cases, drug use was the coping mechanism that helped people forget their problems and be productive in other aspects of life. Drugs were also used by overworked participants to meet their company expectations. In some situations, drug-using is the way participants find companions.

Drugs led to more occupational injustice. Stories of participants showed that using drugs worsened experienced injustices. The history of drug-using heightens discrimination in work, gender, and society in general.

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Theme 2: Living Around Rules

Rules to establish routines. Participants expressed that the rules inside TRCs form their daily routines. While routines exposed participants to new things like craft, art, and chores, some said they were restricted and “robotic.” Others expressed that these gave them peace, order, and the opportunity to prepare for the real world.

Rules to form roles. Inside TRCs, following rules leads to rewards. Participants who followed the rules were given ranks within the center. Likewise, those who have skills like repairing, first-aid, haircutting, and computer were given food, privileges, and promotion for their contributions.

Rules that restrict. The rules of TRCs were seen as restrictive. They limited the opportunities available to participants and fueled occupation injustice. These restrictions include a limit on food portions and water usage, few courses for vocational training, and a lack of privacy among participants.

Theme 3: Living for the future

The third period, “living for the future”, is when participants experience feeling better, a more stable inner self, and a sense of hope for the future. For the participants, their positive experiences inside the TRCs, like skills

training and Spiritual Enhancement Program (SEP), made them feel “lighter” with a “clearer mind and stronger body”.

The SEP encouraged them to be more engaged in activities, accept their problem, live a healthier life, learn how to interact with others, and regain peace of mind. On the other hand, few participants have pessimistic views. Some expressed their hopelessness for change. Others feel that life after rehabilitation will be uncertain, and their dreams are now impossible to achieve.

Theme 4: Living amidst the war on drugs

The last period of participation consisted of stories reflecting the participants’ personal views on the war on drugs. Their views on the topic are clearly divided into those pro or anti.

Some participants were against the war on drugs as they see it as a brutal approach. A participant mentioned that the government should “practice what they preach” by showing good deeds and goodwill. Approval of the war on drugs was also present in some participants. They see that the situation now “has become better,” and the campaign led to voluntary admission to TRCs. However, even with approval, participants generally disagree with extrajudicial killings.

The polarized views on the war on drugs demotivated some participants to experience life outside of TRCs. This is because of fears of being a victim again of power and corruption. They remembered their traumatic experiences in light of the campaign like physical abuse, apathy, entrapment, extortion, and absence of due process. They note that these are especially true for poor and disadvantaged people.

The research aimed to offer insights into the lived experiences of Filipinos recovering from drug addiction. It used the lenses of occupational participation and occupational justice to understand their experiences before and during rehabilitation.

Looking at participants' lived experiences suggests that their occupational participation from outside and inside the TRCs follow a chronological pattern of "periods of participation": living with drugs, living around rules, living for the future, and living amidst the war on drugs.

Analysis of these periods revealed that occupational injustices are experienced by participants before and during rehabilitation. These injustices can then serve as pointers to improve rehabilitation programs towards promoting occupational participation.

Looking at substance abuse rehabilitation through the lens of occupational therapy practice provides new insights to improve occupation justice and participation. By identifying the injustices

experienced by participants, the study can recommend the following:

Emphasize the use of social participation interventions through partnerships with social workers and vocational teachers. These interventions should focus on social and communications skills, prioritizing routines and roles (including family, community, and work roles), gender sensitivity education, and work coaching.

Recognize concrete obstacles to participation within the environment and social conditions. Clients, professionals, and stakeholders must join to form solutions, especially to obstacles faced after rehabilitation.

For occupational therapists to refocus their energies by partnering with faith-based groups. Partnerships can be used for fund-raising activities to generate resources for post-rehabilitation care and support of occupational therapy in promoting occupational participation and justice in the SAR setting.

Using occupational justice and participation-focused evaluation tools (i.e., OJHQ) to support program implementation. Using tools like OHQ as a guide will help track narrative progress, documenting challenges-solutions, and positive-negative experiences. This information, in turn, can be used to create infographics, films, plays, posters, etc. Products like these can inspire advocacy to implement programs and mechanisms to address injustices in politics and the community.

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Preliminary Program Evaluation of a Church-initiated Drug Reformist Formation Center: The Volunteer-Facilitators' Perspective

Gino A. Cabrera, Alain Bernard A. Andal, Argel B. Masanda, Clarissa F. Delariarte, Gil Jeff S. Tanganco, and Alyana Fae R. Balbuena (2018)

The parish of San Simon, Pampanga initiated Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar for drug reformists in the municipality and nearby areas. The formation center's program aims to cater the former drug users to rediscover human dignity and become productive and value-oriented individuals through the collaborative efforts of the facility's volunteers as inspired by the Church's teachings. The program offers an attempt to reform the former drug users through engaging mainly in spiritual activities designed to cater holistic transformation, with other activities such as livelihood skills development and sports activities.

As part of a preliminary program evaluation, this study was framed through a mixed-method – sequential explanatory approach which centered on the implementation of the program that includes spiritual, livelihood, and sports activities. Using this method, the quantitative data was first collected through a survey method with all of the volunteer-facilitators of the center followed by the qualitative part through a focus

group discussion (FGD) to further explain and interpret the findings of the survey results which involved six volunteer-facilitators.

The survey questionnaires were administered among the ten completely enumerated volunteer-facilitators of the Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar, located at San Simon, Pampanga. After the survey results had been processed, six of them were invited for FGD. The mean age of the respondents is 47 years old. The youngest is 25, and the eldest is 65. Half of the respondents are retired professionals, which includes teachers, principals, and a nurse.

The data analysis also involved two phases. For the quantitative analysis, the study used descriptive statistics to measure the volunteer-facilitators' perception of the reformists' attitude towards the activities and the perceived improvement of the reformists. The study acquired descriptive indices through mean and standard deviation to describe the responses of the participants. Because of the relatively very low sample size ($N=10$), inferential statistics were not performed.

Thematic analysis was used in the qualitative data as a general mode of analysis. It emphasizes pinpointing, examining, and recording patterns (or "themes") within the data gathered from the FGD. More specifically, the stages performed are the following: familiarization

with data, generating initial codes, searching for themes among codes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, member-checking, and finally producing the final report.

Results show that the volunteer-facilitators favor sports and spiritual activities over livelihood activities as more important formative elements in the overall rehabilitation program for the reformists. Similarly, they seem to strongly believe that the said components are effective in the reformists' improvement against drug use, along with their genuine compassion, family-oriented approach, and strong commitment.

As perceived, indicators of successful formative rehabilitation program circles around (a) behavioral improvement – i.e., performing functionally in a task assigned; (b) spiritual development – i.e., praying and reading the Bible; and (c) personal enlightenment – i.e., becoming self-aware and advocate against illegal drug use.

Taken all together, these elements constitute an effective formation and rehabilitation program for drug reformists based on their experiences. However, the reformists' diverse characteristics and the facilitators' lack of counseling skills were seen as limiting factors. Hence, related programs for such capacity must endeavor to incorporate the cited factors.

The volunteer-facilitators perceived spiritual activities as the most valuable preferred activity for the reformist at the formation center.

They feel that they contributed to the improvement of the reformists by helping them to find deeper meaning in their lives.

As perceived, indicators of a successful formative rehabilitation program circle around behavioral improvement, spiritual development, and personal enlightenment.

The volunteers saw the diversity of the reformists and lack of skills in counseling and behavioral sciences as the limiting factors for doing their job effectively. The spiritual activities shall be continuously implemented, while minor improvements such as making it more structured may be considered.

Aside from sports activities, indoor activities such as board games, puzzles, and group games may also be included in the program. Livelihood programs may be strengthened by linkages with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Local Government Units (LGUs), and the private sector.

Offering additional and more intensive trainings for the volunteer-facilitators that can enhance their capacity to run the formation center may be undertaken. The program shall include more psychology-based activities that may include a mental health component. Bahay Pagbabago shall adopt a more empirical mechanism in assessing and evaluating both for the reformists and the entire program.

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Preliminary Program Evaluation of a Church-initiated Drug Reformist Formation Center: The Drug Reformists' Perspectives

Argel B. Masanda, Gino A. Cabrera, Alain Bernard A. Andal, Clarissa F. Delariarte, Gil Jeff S. Tanganco, and Alyana Fae R. Balbuena (2018)

Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar is a community-based, church-initiated formation shelter in San Simon, Pampanga. It caters to individuals in the community and nearby areas who seek refuge to overcome substance abuse. Using the sequential explanatory design, this study conducted surveys and focused-group discussions with 32 reformists to assess the shelter's formation program based on the reformists' standpoints. This is a sequel to the study conducted earlier with emphasis on the volunteers' perspective.

Similarly, the study utilized a mixed-method — sequential explanatory research design to corroborate the quantitative and qualitative data collected from the Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar reformists. It is a two-phase method where the quantitative data is collected first, followed by the qualitative data. Further, causal comparative was used to compare the respondent-reformists' perceived attitude towards the activities and their self-improvement in the formation center when grouped according to gender and age.

The researchers developed the following instruments. For the quantitative data - Formation House Attitude towards Activities Scale and Formation House Improvement Scale. The Formation House Attitude towards Activities Scale measures the appreciation and perceived effectiveness of the activities by the respondent-reformists. It is composed of 30 items with a 7-point Likert response options. Cronbach's Alpha test shows that the total activity scale has a high internal consistency ($\alpha=0.946$). Meanwhile, the sub-scales show moderate to high internal consistency (Livelihood, $\alpha=0.769$; Spiritual, $\alpha=0.769$; and Sports, $\alpha=0.907$). Meanwhile, the Formation House Improvement Scale gauges the perceived self-improvement of the respondents. It is designed in a 5-point Likert scale consisting of 12 items. The Cronbach's alpha score of 0.65 or 0.70 has a moderate level of internal consistency. For the qualitative data, two sets of semi-structured questions were used for the respondents' evaluation of the center's program. Nine open-ended questions focused on their perception of the formation center's mission, vision, and core values and an interview guide consisted of 18 questions that captured the respondents' perspectives on their experience of the program.

Participants are the 27 reformists housed at Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar, San Simon, Pampanga. Twenty-four of them are male, while only three are female. In terms of age group, 12 are between 31 to 40 years old while eight are below 30. Only seven of them are above 40 years old.

For the data analysis, the study used descriptive statistics through mean and standard deviation to measure the attitude towards the activities and the perceived self-improvement of the respondents. Non-parametric statistics using Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney, and Spearman Rho were computed for correlation.

Furthermore, thematic analysis was utilized as a general mode of analysis rather than a singular one. It emphasizes pinpointing, examining, and recording patterns (or "themes") within data gathered from the focused-group discussion. More specifically, the phases performed are the following: familiarization with data, generating initial codes, searching for themes among codes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and finally producing the final report.

Quantitative results using Spearman's rank correlations showed that there seemed to be a significant relationship between attitude towards livelihood ($\rho (2) = 6.589$, sig. = 0.037*, $p < 0.05$) and spiritual activities ($\rho (27) = 0.587^{**}$, $p < 0.01$), as formative components of the program, and perceived

self-improvement ($\rho (2) = 13.573$, sig. = 0.001**, $p < 0.01$) during their stay in the formation shelter.

It suggests that as the reformist develops a more positive attitude towards the livelihood, sports, and spiritual activities being offered at the formation center, it is also more likely that they may develop a higher sense of self-improvement.

Qualitative data yielded three general themes: (1) finding a higher purpose and deeper meaning in life through spiritually uplifting undertakings; (2) having family-oriented treatment, making them feel nothing less of their humanity; and (3) having holistic and dynamic activities, those that focus on the developmental facets.

These are the elements deemed by the reformists themselves as important, which constitute effective reintegration to their families, communities, and society. Hence, related programs for such capacity must endeavor to inculcate the mentioned factors.

The Bahay Pagbabago ni Apung Pilar seems to generally have an effective formation program for drug reformists.

The shelter's sports, livelihood, and sports programs seemed to successfully bridge their goals to develop formative capacities among their clients to successfully combat the debilitating effects of illegal drug use.

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Based exclusively on the reformists' perspectives, additional factors that might lead to a successful formation and rehabilitation program includes, but are not limited to: (1) finding a higher purpose and deeper meaning in life through spiritually uplifting undertakings; (2) having family-oriented treatment, making them feel nothing less of their humanity; and (3) having holistic and dynamic activities, those that focus on the developmental facets.

The reformists pointed out that time-related concern is the only point for improvement; hence, stricter policy relative to time scheduling in facilitating set activities or programs is ideal for a deeper engagement among the drug reformists.

Capability-building training should be provided for the volunteer-facilitators to equip them with the necessary technical knowledge on facilitating formative and rehabilitative activities essential for the overall recovery of the reformists.

Psychological training for the reformists must also be a part of the overall formation program of the shelter and related centers.

Adding icebreakers to the program activities could help fight diminishing interest and rekindle enthusiasm among drug reformists in their activity engagement.

Establishing a professional grooming program that will train drug reformists to relearn proper workplace behaviors and gain a positive impression and respect is highly beneficial.

The rehabilitation program should also provide training tips and guidance about practical soft skills such as getting ready for job interviews, getting a professional appearance, and communication skills.

Contextualizing Drug Addiction in the Philippines from Psychological Needs Perspective: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analyses

Argel B. Masanda, Maria Theresa Oba-Del Rosario (2018)

Drug addiction is a global phenomenon that specifically besets the Philippines society with a great deal such that the government waged war against it. While eradicating illicit drugs entirely is quite challenging, this study aimed to look at it eruditely from the lens of psychology by investigating the associated "needs" that push people towards drug addiction. The study performed a series of focused-group discussions with twenty-two stakeholders of Mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, one of the biggest in the country, consisting of ten persons who use drugs (PWUDs) and two of their close relatives, three reformed users, one psychologist, two psychometrists, two nurses, and two social workers. Data were analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). Trustworthiness was secured through triangulation methods ("member checking," "peer debriefing," "audit trailing," and literature review.

Results yielded thirty-five various themes grouped accordingly to sixteen subordinate themes and finally, three superordinate themes.

Substance use among PWUDs circles around their failed attempt to self-regulate, a sense of being

overwhelmed by personal troubles, and to some degree by social pressure.

Similarly, their emotional states contribute to their vulnerability towards substance use, and their behavioral reactions lead to increased usage due to its euphoriant solid effects. However, some PWUDs still believed that it was their personal decision to use and maintain substance use because it is their 'choice' that served as the core process governing their overall behavior. Variety of factors about their experience of illicit drug used surfaced.

These factors can be categorized into three overarching factors: intrapersonal, interpersonal, and environmental themes. Hence, it can be surmised that even though these factors can be comprehended from a biophysiological viewpoint, in a larger and more complete perspective, illicit drug use is best understood from the dynamics explained by this study. Therefore, treatment and rehabilitation must also center on these factors.

Based on the overall qualitative data gathered from various Mega DATRC, fifteen subordinate and three superordinate themes were extracted.

The subordinate themes were the themed data from the raw answers of the respondents, and the superordinate themes were the major clustered themes, namely: intrapersonal dynamics, interpersonal dynamics, and milieu.

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Intrapersonal dynamics refer to those factors that originated from within the PWUDs. In this study, these are the factors extracted from the psychologically driven needs of the PWUDs themselves.

On the other hand, interpersonal dynamics refer to those factors related to the PWUDs' interaction (or lack thereof) with others. Finally, the milieu-related dynamics are those factors that refer to the PWUDs' socio-economic environment; this refers to the social and economic situation that beset the PWUDs' efforts to combat (or that predisposes them to) illicit drug use. The effects of substance use can be categorized into affective, behavioral, and cognitive domains.

The identified emotional effects of illicit drug use observed in this study agreed with the established literature. These include irritability, short and hot temper that drove them beyond controlling more productive emotions (Szalavitz, 2016), and relief to highly emotional stresses (Rosenfeld, 2017).

Behavioral effects of substance use that the PWUDs reported were consistent with those identified in the DSM 5 (2013), which included, but were not limited to, increased alertness, and weakened body after the drug wears off restlessness, and getting into trouble due to uncontrolled behavior.

Finally, cognitive effects of substance use as experienced by the respondents were impaired overall executive function (Madoz, & Ochoa, 2012), which included memory and decision making (Bausela, 2018), skills, beliefs, and attitudes (Vilchez, 2018).

Lastly, the themes that were extracted from the respondents, which serve as the benchmark for a psychological intervention program, yielded data that may be emboldened by positive psychological concepts which have been found out to be helpful among addicts, though only to a limited degree since the application of positive psychology in drug treatment and rehabilitation is still relatively scarce.

It included promoting happiness (Lyubomirsky, Sheldon, & Schkade, 2015), increasing motivated behaviors in general (Köpetz, Lejuez, Wiers, and Kruglanski, 2015), harnessing curiosity (Loewenstein, 2014), spirituality (Heinz et al., 2010), hope (Magura et al., 2013), and self-regulation (1999).

Drug addiction can be best viewed in this study's context through various factors that can be construed as intrapersonal, interpersonal, and milieu related.

It means that at least on a psychological level, the nature of drug addiction has multi-layered and faceted underpinnings: those that arise from within the individual's dynamics, their overall psychosocial functioning, and the circumstances in their surroundings.

Drug addiction cannot be simply attributed as a "personal weakness" of PWUDs but rather a perseverant attempt toward satisfaction of psychologically relevant needs, albeit ineffectively. Hence, the gratification of these needs can be considered a possible avenue in dealing with drug control and prevention.

Looking at the psychologically relevant needs of PWUDs provides a wider and deeper understanding of the factors that are germane in their experiences of illicit drug use and thus might make them susceptible to drug addiction.

Use the qualitative data generated from this study as benchmarks to create a comprehensive psychological intervention program for PWUDs.

Devise tools that can effectively measure the progress of PWUDs in the context of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation in terms of the satisfaction of these psychologically relevant needs.

A pilot study must be conducted for the designed program that can be created from these needs to provide a better assessment of its utility and implementation.

Validate the said developed program for usefulness and effectiveness.

Effects of COVID-19 to the Patients and Delivery of Services of Selected Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers: An Exploratory Study

Dangerous Drugs Board (2020)

The global COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the world into an unprecedented crisis, and the restrictions put in place by governments have created a significant dislocation in the global economy. The COVID-19 pandemic leads to substantial modifications in substance abuse patterns which include the trafficking, transportation, substitution of harmful precursor chemicals and substances. Patterns of drug use and acquisition may change, and the capacity of governments to respond has also been adjusted. Given the travel restrictions imposed, the supply of drugs has been disrupted, and trafficking activities may have been more prevalent with darknet and shipments by parcel. (UNODC, 2020).

The COVID-19 Pandemic has severely affected the access to the delivery of services of the government, wherein the risk of viral spread is high among people in clusters, such as the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRCs), prompting the Department of Health to come up with the issuance of DOH Memorandum No. 2020-0264 or the Interim Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities.

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The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) adopted this infection prevention and control protocol with the resumption of admissions and activities in drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities nationwide. Upon compliance with these protocols, DATRCs gradually started accepting new admissions toward the last quarter of 2020. Aside from the required Drug Dependency Examination (DDE) by an accredited physician, there are other adjustments made to enhance infection prevention and control measures within drug abuse rehabilitation facilities for the protection of patients and the Health Care Workers (HCWs).

In this light, the study sought to identify the adjustments of patients as well as the delivery of services of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers at the time of the pandemic. It primarily utilized the phenomenological method to extract the lived experience of patients and practitioners in drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers (DATRCs). Merriam and Simpson (2000) acknowledged, "the strength of the descriptive research design is in the exploratory capability it provides." Descriptive statistics were used for the developed online survey form. Triangulation of data obtained from the online survey form, online-focused group discussions (FGD), and data generated from the Treatment and Rehabilitation Admission Information System (TRAIS)

intended for treatment and rehabilitation centers was also done.

Purposive sampling technique was employed in the selection of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers in NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, where the respondents were drawn.

A total of 110 patients undergoing treatment and rehabilitation in selected government and private residential facilities and twelve rehabilitation workers composed of nurses, psychologists, and program managers were the participants of the study. For the analysis of quantitative data, derived frequencies and percentages were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Qualitative data collected were analyzed through a coding system of recurring ideas/themes.

Patients have experienced symptoms of depression and anxiety because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the factors cited on the causes of anxiety include the loss of their source of financial security, where some of the patients were displaced from their jobs because of the pandemic, feeling of guilt, and worrying that they are not with their family and relatives at these challenging times.

Patients also experienced anxiety and fear of acquiring COVID-19 or hearing news of their relatives or loved ones contracting the disease.

Hearing cases of their family members or relatives acquiring COVID-19, and the reduced means of communication due to social distancing and community protocols also added weight to their emotional state.

On the other hand, some patients felt a sense of security as they continue to reside in the center during the pandemic. Trained staff of the centers provided mental health first aid response for those experiencing symptoms of depression and anxieties.

Their daily activities and movement in the center drastically changed as well, they shifted from their regular face-to-face group activities to minimal physical interaction with people that were only limited to online means of communication.

Their inability to communicate physically with their relatives, friends and families as well as join in group activities due to the suspension of the visitation privileges, face-to-face, and group activities in adherence to the existing health protocols gave the patients a sense of longing for their friends and loved ones.

There are a number of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers that encountered cases of COVID-19 transmission. Of the six (6) DATRCs, only one (1) DATRC has not encountered any cases of COVID-19 transmission.

Aside from transmission cases among the patients, there were also two (2) DATRCs that experienced COVID-19 cases among their health workers and staff.

COVID-19 cases in DATRCs were coordinated with the local government units and were brought to the LGU's isolation units.

DATRCs initiated a 14-day quarantine and contact tracing among its patients and center staff who had direct contact with the client, following the protocols set by the IATF. Swab tests for all DATRC's patients and staff were also implemented and coordinated with their respective Local Government Units.

Close coordination with the LGUs for the contact tracing among the families of the center staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 were made.

A contact tracing team was also established to handle the admission system and management of patients, as well as to make sure that the close contacts were quarantined, and the management rented a quarantine facility (outside the center) as a temporary shelter for their staff.

A clearance with a medical certificate from the center's physician was required for the infection and prevention control team comprised of medical doctors and nurses as they leave the center.

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There are DATRCs that reported that they had issued policies in compliance with the IATF and DOH guidelines, respectively, prior to the issuance of DOH DM No. 2020-0118. Among the protocols initially implemented include the observance of using face masks, face shields, and other personal protective equipment (PPEs).

When the suspension of the admissions and group activities were implemented, only nurses in full set of personal protective equipment could enter their residential dorm areas.

There are DATRCs that ceased admissions and group activities in their center following the DOH directive and strictly implemented the guidelines set by the IATF to prevent local transmission in their facility. The suspension of the admission and face-to-face visitation was also followed by the implementation of the new screening and health protocols aligned with the guidelines as indicated in the DOH Department Memorandum 2020-0264.

DATRCs were able to come up and adapt to the new system in terms of the visitation, admission, and engagement of programs aligned with the DOH protocols

There are DATRCs that augmented additional staff in their nursing section to address the staff complement requirement of the center to improve their COVID-19 response. The adjustments were also

reflected in the admission process of the drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation facilities, such as swab tests, 14-day quarantine, and assessment before client admission in the facility

To continue the delivery of services amid the pandemic, among the adjustments undertaken by the DATRCs include augmentations in their work arrangements such as the implementation of pre-duty quarantine, adjustments in the work schedule, provision of temporary shelter for staff and patients undergoing the 4-day quarantine, and assignment of color coding for the center staff. During the pre-duty quarantine, some DATRCs provided their staff with temporary shelter.

A satellite office outside the center for their staff and patients undergoing outpatient service was placed and implemented a stay-in work system for their personnel. They have assigned a color coding for their center staff, providing specific restrictions for access to other facilities, especially those who have direct contact with the patients.

An adjusted work schedule and implementation of work from home arrangements guided by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) were implemented in the government centers.

There are DATRCs that implemented online delivery of services such as family dialogue, counselling, visitation, group sessions. The contact of the patients with their families is done through video chatting and cross-platform messaging applications closely supervised by center staff. Implementation of training programs was also adjusted. The conduct of static group sessions was suspended and instead focused on group sessions with at least three patients per session. Other face-to-face training programs were continued, such as baking and livelihood programs but with a reduced number of participants.

Modules were also pre-recorded to minimize physical contact between the staff and the patients. Instead of their staff conducting physical lectures, recorded modules were played for the patients while conducting the online sessions. Topics related to COVID-19, which includes its overview, precautionary health measures, and coping with the anxieties and stress caused by the pandemic, were provided.

DATRCs encountered the challenge of low admission of inpatient and outpatient, following the suspension of the admission and conduct of face-to-face activities. The challenge brought by the decrease in the number of patients brought by the suspension of the admission allowed the DATRCs to have enough flexibility to adjust with the distancing measures implemented in their centers. The shift in the DATRCs' delivery of services to online means of implementation was also a challenge. This included access

to a strong internet or intranet connectivity given that there are centers in areas that have difficult or no connectivity, thus hindered the continuous operations in the conducted online visitation programs, virtual hearings, tele-counselling, and the implementation of online modules and training programs.

The adjustments in the delivery of their services and continuity of operations also brought the challenge of having additional administrative and logistical costs on the part of the center facility. Aside from the additional communication expenses brought by the demand on the use of mobile services and internet connectivity, the mandatory quarantine and swab testing as part of the new admission protocols is being shouldered by the center.

The DATRCs were confronted with the limited communication equipment available in some DATRCs for the conduct of call and text programs for their patients. There were instances that center staff were compelled to use their personal gadgets and load cards to be able to cater to the needs of their patients. There are also patients who have already graduated from the program but were not able to return yet to their families because of the strict community quarantine in their LGUs. With this, it entailed additional costs for the center.

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The implementation of health protocols also required additional logistical costs for the acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE), surgical masks, and disinfection items, which were re-aligned and diverted from the existing budget of the centers. DATRCs also encountered challenges brought by the delays in the processing of the release of the patients due to the lockdown implemented in the patients' community and delays in the processing of their court order.

The Philippine government provided a multi-sectoral approach in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. It is in this condition that the survey was undertaken, and the following conclusions were as follows:

The causal relationship between COVID-19 and drug addiction could be directly proportional. PWUDs are more vulnerable to acquiring COVID-19 because of their compromised health condition. In the same vein, the economic constraints and conditions caused by COVID-19 are likely to exacerbate the risk for the most vulnerable population groups to use drugs and substances.

The pandemic brought a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the patients, among which include having symptoms of depression and anxieties brought by adjustments in their daily lives and routines.

The feeling of isolation due to social distancing measures and the fear of acquiring COVID-19 can lead to anxiety, sleep disorders, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorders (Huang, 2020).

Some patients viewed that there is no difference in terms of access to the delivery of services of DATRCs, while there are some who find it more accessible than before the pandemic. Furthermore, patients find that the existing services of DATRCs have become better.

Personal adjustments were encountered by the patients, which included the inability to communicate physically with their relatives, friends, and families due to the suspension of group activities and visitation privileges. Furthermore, daily activities and mobility in the center drastically changed, shifting from the usual face-to-face for group activities, counselling, family interactions, and visitations with minimal interaction with people, usually by online platforms.

Patients also experienced anxiety and fear of acquiring COVID-19 or hearing the news of their family having COVID-19 and not being there for their family. The delays in court hearings and the implementation of lockdown restrictions in communities also affected the release of the patients.

Some DATRCs also encountered cases of COVID-19 transmission among their patients and staff. Consequently, significant adjustments in DATRCs were implemented to include the mandatory swab test on all its patients and staff, conduct of contact tracing in coordination with their respective LGUs, the establishment of a contact tracing team comprised of medical doctors and nurses from the center to handle the management of patients who acquired COVID-19.

Admissions and group activities were also suspended in adherence to the guidelines of DOH and IATF.

New screening and health protocols were established by the DATRCs, which include requiring patients to have swab tests and undergo a 14-day quarantine and assessment prior to admission to the facility.

DATRCs also made staff augmentations to improve their COVID-19 response and implemented work adjustments such as a pre-duty quarantine and work from home arrangements, social distancing, and quarantine measure, as well as the establishment of temporary shelter facilities.

DATRCs made significant adjustments in the delivery of their services, among which include the online delivery of services such as family dialogue, counseling, visitation, group sessions.

Static group sessions were suspended and instead focused on group sessions with at least three clients per session done face-to-face. Other

training programs were continued, such as baking and livelihood programs but with a reduced number of participants.

Innovations were made in the training programs, such as the use of pre-recorded modules, the inclusion of topics related to COVID-19, and mental health discussions to aid in coping with the effects of the pandemic.

Phone or video calls through cellphones or laptops provided by the facility became alternative means to client's family visitations as lent by center staff under close supervision.

The pandemic brought a lot of challenges to DATRCs, including the low admission of inpatient and outpatient, following the suspension of the admission and conduct of face-to-face activities.

The online means of implementation of DATRC programs and the limited access to a strong internet or intranet connectivity, as well as facilities and equipment, were also a challenge in implementing online modules, training programs, and tele counselling.

The adherence to the social distancing and quarantine measures in the admission of patients, online delivery of services, conduct of COVID-19 tests, and the delays in the release of the patients also entailed additional administrative and logistical costs on the part of the DATRCs, entailing the re-alignment and diversion of the existing budget of the centers.

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Recommendations:

- ◆ Align drug-related programs with interventions to counter the negative socio-economic consequences of the crisis can help prevent an increase in COVID-19 pandemic-triggered use of drugs.
- ◆ Scale-up demand reduction interventions for emerging vulnerable population groups affected by the loss of job, death of loved ones, and depression. The development and conduct of programs and interventions that will address the specific concerns of this emerging vulnerable population are imperative.
- ◆ Enhance prevention programs to include topics on COVID-19 precautionary measures, particularly for the most at-risk population and emerging vulnerable groups. Explore home-based healthy substitutes and positive alternative activities.
- ◆ Develop and enhance center-based scientific and evidence-based COVID-19 related interventions to make them more accessible and responsive to people in need.
- ◆ Address stigma against persons who use drugs and persons who acquired COVID-19 through education. Make existing services more inclusive and equitable through interventions that are anchored on respect for human rights.
- ◆ Allocate funding to COVID-19 related treatment and rehabilitation responses and other related programs and interventions.
- ◆ Expand professional development programs to COVID-19 related response.
- ◆ Ensure that DATRCs adhere to the government's COVID-19 safety and health protocols.
- ◆ Develop proactive response activities to address the new trends of drug abuse amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensure that the competence level of center-based front liners providing mental health services is improved to cater to the patients' needs better and appropriately.

Designing a Positive Psychological Intervention Program for Persons who Use Drugs

Argel B. Masanda, Maria Theresa Oba-Del Rosario (2018)

This paper aimed to explore the integration of positive psychological science in the context of treatment and rehabilitation of persons who use drugs (PWUDs). It further endeavors to outline a Positive Psychology Intervention (PPI) program that intends to harness the Character Strengths and Virtues (CSV) of the PWUDs as supplemental to their drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation.

Positive Psychology as a framework banks on the humanistic-existential perspective that "strives to help people fulfill their potential and maximize their wellbeing" (Cherry & Lacy, 2020) and considers "human nature to be open-ended, flexible and capable of an enormous range of experience" (Norcross & Lambert, 2011) where "the person is in a constant process of becoming" (Vos, Craig, & Cooper, 2014).

Martin Seligman, a pioneer of Positive Psychology (2012), theorized that by focusing on "positive subjective experience, positive individual traits, and positive institutions, a quality of life is achieved." He further postulates that what leads people to live more meaningful lives can translate to better mental illness management.

Correcting negative behaviors and increasing happiness and productivity promotes strengths, virtues, and factors contributing to a significantly gratifying and fulfilling life.

The designed PPI is a 14-session program intended to be delivered once a week within three months. It was subjected to the review of three expert psychologists with decades of forensic psychological experience. Based on their judgments guided by the evaluation standards stipulated by Yarbrough et al. (2010), the developed PPI addresses the psychological needs of the PWUDs in terms of their drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation, with its session activities deemed as realistic, prudent, diplomatic, and frugal.

Specifically, the session activities of the PPI are designed to enhance the following CSVs of the PWUDs: conformity, hope, self-acceptance, assertiveness, self-esteem, self-regulation, openness to change, motivation, personal strength, patience, happiness, and belongingness.

Furthermore, the researcher-made Face Validation Questionnaire for the designed PPI was evaluated based on the utility, feasibility, propriety, and accuracy. It consisted of a two-part questionnaire composed of 22-items using a 7-point Likert scale and three open-ended questions as a guide for the three expert validators.

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Descriptive statistics through means and standard deviations were used in the evaluation results of the three experts.

Finally, the proposed PPI also secures the legal and ethical requirements with due regard for the welfare of the PWUDs and other stakeholders where the said program will be implemented at the Mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, a government rehabilitation facility situated in Nueva Ecija, Region III.

In designing the PPI, the researcher has the following objectives in mind:

1. To positively impact the PWUDs' lives by increasing their experiences of positive emotions and developing their strengths and talents, thereby enhancing their goal setting and goal-striving abilities despite drug addiction.
2. To build a sense of hope into the PWUDs' perspective by cultivating a sense of gratitude, happiness, wellness, and wellbeing that will enable them to maintain healthy and positive relationships with others.
3. To assist the PWUDs in developing an optimistic outlook for a fuller life experience despite the drug addiction they have experienced.

The 14-session intervention program developed consisted of the following: institution, self-acceptance through

forgiveness, personal strength, conformity, sadness (targeting this through positive emotions, self-esteem, self-regulation, assertiveness, motivation, belongingness, openness to change, patience, hope and gratitude, and dissolution).

These identified psychological constructs in this comprehensive Positive Psychological Intervention program were patterned on the needs, expectations, and cultural contexts of PWUDs and the other stakeholders.

From the evidenced-based modules presented, strategic activities are accompanied by psychological instruments and evaluation questionnaires to aid the treatment and rehabilitation center (TRC) in assessing the effectiveness of the different modules.

Based on the results, the designed program, which was assessed on four (4) criteria – utility, feasibility, accuracy, and propriety obtained a 'high average rating' which indicated that the experts believed that the activities selected in the designed program were solidly based on the needs of the stakeholders of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (TRC). An overall rating of '4.69' with a standard deviation of '0.13' has an equivalent qualitative description of 'high average rating.'

Based on its utility (4.75, a standard deviation of 2.17), the PPI program seemed to target essential values and virtues.

Furthermore, the topics selected for each program are timely and appropriate to their current conditions.

In terms of its feasibility (4.75, a standard deviation of 2.38), the activities in the program have a high capacity for effective management strategies, and its procedures are practical and responsive to the way a psychological intervention program operates.

For the designed PPI program, accuracy criteria obtained a mean score of 4.78 and a standard deviation of 2.26, indicative that it employed systematic information in the collection, review, verification, and storage methods, based on technically sound designs and analyses appropriate for a program evaluation.

Lastly, in terms of propriety (mean of 4.50 and a standard deviation of 3.04), it was explicit in its efforts to consider the needs, expectations, and cultural contexts of the PWUDs and other stakeholders. It further protects human and legal rights and maintains the dignity of the participants and other stakeholders in its included activities.

In view of the designed PPI program and the psychologically oriented needs of the PWUDs, the following conclusions are hereby made:

1. Integrating activities that aim to harness character strengths and virtues (CSVs) among PWUDs is a specific psychologically oriented and proactive approach to drug

abuse treatment and rehabilitation.

2. Positive Psychology Intervention (PPI) program is an emergent trend in the field and practice of forensic and rehabilitation psychology. Applying the theory and concept of positive psychology in drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation is a promising frontier, especially in challenging times.
3. As created, the designed PPI program is considered supplemental to the existing programs of the drug abuse treatment, and rehabilitation centers (DATRCs) deemed to be a viable option in helping PWUDs attain a psychological good life despite drug addiction.

To make use of the designed PPI program drawn from the psychological needs of the PWUDs, the following recommendations are hereby suggested:

1. Run the designed PPI program for pilot study among PWUDs in a drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation center setting to establish the specific details about its proper delivery.
2. Assess the validity of the piloted version of the designed PPI program for its proper implementation in drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation facilities.
3. Explore possible application of the designed PPI program as supplemental to the existing Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs (CBRP) for PWUDs.

SINGAPORE

EXPLORING YOUTH'S MEDIA INTERPRETATION TOWARDS ANTI-DRUG MESSAGES



Exploring Youth's Media Interpretation towards Anti-Drug Messages

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BACKGROUND

The use of social media to promote preventive drug education (PDE) has become increasingly prevalent in Singapore and internationally. With youths being more connected by media and aware of persuasion attempts, the importance of constructing more persuasive anti-drug messages on media channels and by key-opinion leaders (KOL) is becoming more important. However, past literature has found mixed effects of using media campaigns for PDE (Ferri, 2013) and hence, experts have suggested by careful planning of media campaigns (Crano, n.d.). The effectiveness of an anti-drug message could be affected by **source** (e.g., credibility, authority) and **message characteristics**, as well as they way they **interpret** (i.e. Media Interpretation Processing Model) and **react** to messages (e.g., reactance). This study will examine the effect of these characteristics on outcomes like **message acceptance** and **drug attitudes**.

Research Aims:

1. Understand what makes anti-drug messages in social media effective
2. Explore how youths interpret anti-drug messages in social media

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METHODOLOGY

Two phases – qualitative and quantitative – have been conducted on students from 2018 to 2019. A pre-test has also been conducted prior to the main study in order to sense social media usage behaviour within that age group as well as to control for other source characteristics (e.g., credibility) and ensure the effects of manipulation.

Phase I

Focus Group Discussions

- Singaporean students from 18 - 25 year old
- What are youth's perceptions and interpretations towards drug media?

Phase II

Main Study: Experimental Groups (with Pre-test)

- 168 ITE students from 16 – 24 years old
- What kind of source and message affect outcomes?
- How do youths interpret anti-drug messages?

Participants completed a questionnaire on outcomes pre and post-exposure to anti-drug message of a source and message type* that they have been randomly assigned to:

	Authority (A)	Celebrity (C)	Ex-Abuser (EA)
Blatant Messaging (B)	(A) x (B)	(C) x (B)	(EA) x (B)
Subtle Messaging (S)	(A) x (S)	(C) x (S)	(EA) x (S)

*Sources were chosen and messages were crafted based on pre-test findings and existing PDE in Singapore

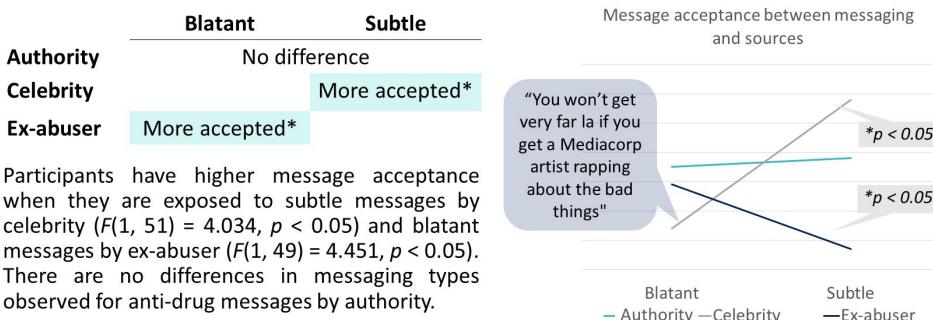
FINDINGS

RQ1: What kind of source and messages affect drug attitudes and message acceptance?

Key Finding 1: Overall, participants have better anti-drug attitude after reading the anti-drug messages.

Participants' drug attitudes after reading the anti-drug message were significantly higher than their attitudes before reading the anti-drug message ($F(1, 152) = 4.087, p < 0.05$).

Key Finding 2: Different combinations of messaging and sources work better in message acceptance.



Key Finding 3: Different sources and messaging work better between **participants who have seen anti-drug messages and those who have not.**

	Have not seen	Have seen	
Reactance	Celebrity < Authority*		For participants who have not seen anti-drug messages before, an authority source would lead to a higher reactance towards message compared to celebrity ($H(2)=-13.97, p < 0.05$).
Anti-drug Attitude		Blatant > Subtle*	For participants who have seen anti-drug messages, better anti-drug attitudes were observed for blatant messaging than subtle messaging ($t(86)=-2.36, p < 0.05$).
Willingness to share message	Ex-abuser > Celebrity/ Authority**	Ex-abuser/ Authority> Celebrity*	Participants are also more willing to share messages by ex-abusers in general ($H(2)=17.42, p < 0.01$; authority: $H(2)=-14.75, p < 0.05$; celebrity: $H(2)=-14.83, p < 0.05$).

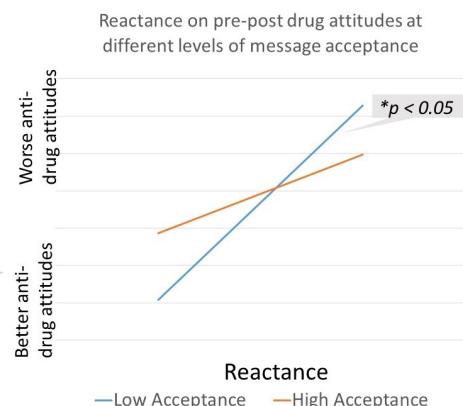
"an agency that wants to propagate a message which is the same as the findings, I'll be more sceptical"

RQ2: What is the relationship between the outcomes and how does media interpretation affect them?

Key Finding 4: Participants had more permissive drug attitudes when they have **more reactance and did not accept message** (anti-drug message backfired).

At lower message acceptance, higher reactance significantly predicted worse drug attitudes after reading messages ($\beta = 0.087; p = 0.05$). At higher message acceptance, reactance did not significantly predict drug attitudes.

"what's the propaganda of cannabis now you'll lose brain cells is it (...) I don't see the bad things that Singapore government would like us to think about marijuana"



Key Finding 5: Messages are more accepted through: (1) pro-drug characters that audience **do not want to identify with** and (2) **realistic** characters

Higher acceptance of message was observed:

- The more participants do not want to identify with pro-drug characters ($\beta = -0.439; p < 0.00$)
- The more realistic the participants perceive characters to be ($\beta = 0.277; p < 0.00$)

*Relationship observed among FGD participants' commentary on certain PDEs

"really highlight the consequences (...) I don't want my life to be like that"

"even if we knew who she was it's very superficial"; "it did not show a person"



e.g., realistic characters/pro-drug characters that audience do not want to identify with

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DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of past literature has explored characteristics, like sources and messaging, in persuasion and advertisements. This study has built on this knowledge through exploring the interaction between messaging and source on anti-drug attitudes and message acceptance in the aspect of substance abuse prevention. Policy makers could consider the optimal pairing of source with messaging in substance abuse prevention in order to achieve better message acceptance and outcomes in attitudes.

Additionally, this study has shed light on the relationship between reactance and message acceptance on attitudes, as well as the importance of specific media interpretation processing on message acceptance. In the crafting of anti-drug messages, stakeholders may also be mindful and consider the impact of character portrayal on audience's message acceptance.

LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Convenience Sampling of ITE students
 - Not generalizable to other youth segments and age groups
- Limited message types examined
 - Only words; no visuals or animations
 - Focused on anti-drug message only
- Mainly self-reported questionnaires
 - Not observational studies of actual social media usage behaviour
- Limited sample size for more meaningful analyses to examine relationship
- Other age groups and youths from other institutions not considered
- Consider other media types and pro-drug messages in future studies
- Consider observational studies and other physiological outcomes (e.g., eye movement)
- Collect more samples for meaningful analysis between more variables

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS AND VIOLENCE AMONG METHAMPHETAMINE USERS IN THAILAND

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1. Introduction

Drugs have been a problem for Thailand since 1360 (Fine Arts Department, 1978). The drug policy in Thailand is one of the prohibitions in the criminal justice framework. Although the government controls the spread of narcotics through the Narcotics Act 1976, abstinence and prohibition of most substance use (except substances such as alcohol and nicotine) have characterized drug policies (Kanato et al., 2010). The Narcotics Control Act 1976 mandates abstinence-based drug policies, which established a drug-free goal and provided a requirement to reduce drug abuse and its consequences. These policies state that all non-medical drug use is illegal, fines and imprisonment for substance abuse, and help is only extended to those who desire to abstain from all use (Kanato et al., 2010). Although prohibition has been the dominant drug policy, registered drug users increased significantly (ONCB, 2020). As are other

countries in the region, Amphetamine type stimulant (ATS) is predominantly the major epidemic (Farrel et al., 2002).

Methamphetamine (Yaba and Ice in Thailand) is a highly addictive drug. In 2018, it was estimated that 27 million people worldwide used amphetamines (UNODC, 2020). The derivative of amphetamine (including methamphetamine) is a central nervous system stimulant, generally snorted, smoked, injected, or orally ingested (Volkow et al., 2010). It is commonly used to lose weight (as it causes appetite suppression); increase alertness, energy, stamina, and concentration; provide confidence, and ease social interactions. Thus, users perceive it to have an enabling effect that facilitates task performance and may improve specific activities' efficiency (Courtney et al., 2014). Nonetheless, it harms both physical and psychological health and surrounding people.

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In Thailand, it was estimated that, in 2019, 1.97 million people used at least one type of drug within the past year. 1.3% of the population (0.65 million people) were estimated to be past year users of methamphetamine tablets, whereas 0.7% of the population (0.37 million people) were estimated to be past year users of crystal methamphetamine (Kanato et al., 2020). Thailand faced a significant drug inflow problem, particularly related to methamphetamine tablets. Further, the forensic laboratory of the Office of the Narcotic Control Board (ONCB) found that the pills were not clean; they were composed mainly of 15-25% methamphetamine, 60-80% caffeine, and a few other substances (Kanato et al., 2017). Further analyses showed other substances within methamphetamine tablets, such as ephedrine, amphetamine, phentermine, dimethylamphetamine, chlorpheniramine maleate, and theophylline (Matapatara et al., 2016). Therefore, the composition of methamphetamine tablets and their effects vary depending on the manufacturer, as they utilize different substances in the drug formula.

Methamphetamine usage is known to provoke various effects in the body and mind: direct behavioral outcomes, such as increased aggressiveness, lesser inhibition, and irritability (Carney et al., 2017, Wicomb et al., 2018); psychological symptoms, such as paranoid/delusional behavior

and psychotic events accompanied by hallucinations (McKetin et al., 2018, Wearne et al., 2018, Voce et al., 2018, Perry et al., 2019); and physical symptoms, such as increased heart rate and muscle tension (Isoardi et al., 2019, Fowler et al., 2018, Bazmi et al., 2017). Overdose is considered the leading cause of death among users (GBD 2016 SDG Collaborators, 2017). Other causes were indirectly ascribed to methamphetamine use, including HIV and hepatitis C deaths, which may be transmitted through injecting practices. Furthermore, the 2018 World Drug Report found that 1.2% are attributed to amphetamine use disorders (UNODC, 2018).

It was also found that methamphetamine use may result in severe aggressive behavior (Carney et al., 2017), which may cause users to harm others or themselves. These violent occurrences are usually directed at the users' families - or people closely related to them and manifest in different forms: physical, mental, emotional, and even violent behavior (Kalokhe et al., 2015). Further, it was found that these behaviors may be caused by many factors (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2018). In Thailand, a report showed that one in six Thai women have already faced violent behavior related to drug use within their families or partners (Chuemchit et al., 2018).

The Thai government has declared drug-related problems a national agenda priority for years. In 2019, over 80% of Thailand users attending treatment programs were methamphetamine users (ONCB, 2020), and many of these had been re-admitted to the program. Many methamphetamine users in Thailand easily access the treatment system, as they are usually under probation and are typical customers of walk-in hospitals.

In this study, participants were access to public services. This study aimed to explore the psychosocial impacts of methamphetamine use, including direct behavioral effects, psychological and physical symptoms, and the presence of violence. The results can inform researchers and policymakers about developing screening tests targeting the high risk of developing psychological symptoms to reduce the social and psychological impacts of methamphetamine use in Thailand.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Aim, population, and samples

This study aimed to assess demographic characteristics and drug use behaviors correlated with direct behavioral effects, psychological and physical symptoms, and violence among Thai methamphetamine users undergoing a treatment program.

One thousand thirty-five drug users participated. They were Thai citizens in the civil registration system of the target provinces. Drug users with psychological symptoms who attended addiction clinics/

psychiatric clinics at public hospitals during the study were recruited. Voluntaries participating samples were interviewed and observed by a research assistant trained in collaboration with the researchers and taking a history and physical examination from a health professional.

The study population was drug users with psychological symptoms treated at addiction clinics/psychiatric clinics in public hospitals scattered across the country. Therefore, stratified cluster sampling was applied. All 77 provinces in Thailand were divided into ten zones according to ONCB operation consisting of 7-12 provinces per zone. Each zone 1 province was randomly selected (Ahmed, 2009). In sample size calculation, confidence intervals were set to 95% confidence level, an acceptable difference of 5%, an assumed proportion of 0.4, and a size of the population of 200,000 (estimate based on the previous report on methamphetamine users attending drug treatment in 2018 (Kanato et al., 2019)), and design effect 2.5. The minimum sample size required to perform this study was 923 drug users. Besides, this study allowed 20% of the subjects not voluntarily to participate. Thus, 1,154 drug users were targeted. Simple random sampling was applied to get samples in selected provinces, the samples in each zone were proportionated to population size. Finally, only 1,035 drug users agreed to participate.

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2.2 Outcomes

The outcomes of interest for this study were psychological symptoms and violence demonstrated by methamphetamine users. Abnormal symptoms were characterized as a demonstration of direct behavioral effects and psychological and physical symptoms (Drug Commissioner of the German Federal Government, 2016). Violence was described as a demonstration of psychological violence (insulting, making someone feel miserable, humiliating, belittling, and threatening behavior); physical violence (bodily assault, assault by sharp or blunt objects); and sexual violence (degradation and humiliation, indecency, and rape). The relationship between demographic characteristics with different types of drugs and violence was analyzed.

2.3 Tools

It focused on questions and responses targeted explicitly at drug users directly to psychological symptoms and violent demonstrations in their day-to-day lives. The researchers developed the tools used in this study based on the drug commission report from the German Federal Government (Drug Commissioner of the German Federal Government, 2016) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (National Drug Research Institute of the Australian Institute of Criminology, 2007). There were; five items related to demographic characteristics (sex, age,

marital status, employment status, and education), four items related to drug use behaviors (use duration, frequency per day, amount per time, and combined usage with other drugs (polydrug), seventeen questions about abnormal symptoms, and violence.

2.4 Data gathering

Researchers and healthcare professionals collected the data through observation, interviews, history taking, and physical examination. Data collection is carried out in a specific area. The subjects were given explanations related to the study objectives and decided to participate in the study voluntarily. No name, address, or personally identifiable information is recorded, but a numeric code will replace it. Besides, the data of the sample is kept under confidentiality standards.

2.5 Data analysis

The collected data was imported to the database through double data entry. Data were adjusted for outliers and missing values. Statistical analysis was employed by frequency, distribution, mean, and Chi-Square.

2.6 Ethics statement

This study has been approved by the Khon Kaen University Ethics Committee, which was carried out under the Helsinki Declaration. Written consent from the sample, including from parents/guardians of minors, are required.

3. Results

3.1 Demographic characteristics and drug use behavior of methamphetamine and other illicit drug users.

Of all samples, 93% were male. 80% were adults (25 years old and older), and the mean age was 33.3 years (sd. 9.94, min. 15, max. 70). 46.1% attained elementary school, and 43.5%

were unemployed. 59.1% used drugs for more than ten years (mean 14.3, sd. 8.62, range 0-39). 70.4% experienced violence in their life. Of all samples, 74.8% used methamphetamine as the primary drug. Table 1 compares methamphetamine users with other drug users related to their demographic characteristics. Chi-square tests demonstrated significant differences in sex, marital status, and education.

Table 1 Comparison between methamphetamine and other illicit drug use related to demographic characteristics and drug use behavior.

Characteristics		Meth. n(%)	Others n (%)	Total n (%)	P-value
Sex	Male	702(90.7)	261(100.0)	963(93.0)	0.000***
	Female	72(9.3)	0(0.0)	72(7.0)	
Age	Up to 24	162(20.9)	45(17.2)	207(20.0)	0.198
	25 and over	612(79.1)	216(82.8)	828(80.0)	
Marital Status	Single	468(60.5)	189(72.4)	657(63.5)	0.000***
	Couple	306(39.5)	72(27.6)	378(36.5)	
Education	Elementary	378(48.8)	99(37.9)	477(46.1)	0.002**
	Higher	396(51.2)	162(62.1)	558(53.9)	
Employment status	Unemployed	333(43.0)	117(44.8)	450(43.5)	0.611
	Employed	441(57.0)	144(55.2)	585(56.5)	
Duration of drugs used	Up to 10 years	324(41.9)	99(37.9)	423(40.9)	0.264
	11 years and over	450(58.1)	162(62.1)	612(59.1)	
Violence	Never	234(30.2)	72(27.6)	306(29.6)	0.248
	Ever	540(69.8)	189(72.4)	729(70.4)	

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3.2 Methamphetamine and other illicit drugs use associated with abnormal symptoms

Over half of the study's participants (67.8%) demonstrated some abnormal symptom at least once within the past month. 61.7% experienced irritability while using drugs, while 55.7% experienced drunkenness like agitation. Less than 40% experienced each other psychological symptoms such as less

restraint, aggressiveness, impulsiveness, hallucinations, delusion, panic attack, paranoia, depression, acute psychomotor instability, and learning disorder. Table 2 compares methamphetamine users with other drug users related to their experienced symptoms. Chi-square tests demonstrated statistically significant differences in irritability, aggressiveness, hallucinations, depression, and acute psychomotor instability.

Table 2 Comparison between methamphetamine and other drug use related to abnormal symptoms.

Abnormal symptoms	Meth. n(%)	Others n(%)	Total n(%)	P-value
Less restrained	234(30.2)	81(31.0)	315(30.4)	0.808
Irritability	414(53.5)	225(86.2)	639(61.7)	0.000***
Aggressiveness	216(27.9)	126(48.3)	342(33.0)	0.000***
Impulsiveness	207(26.7)	72(27.6)	279(27.0)	0.791
Drunkenness like agitation	432(55.8)	144(55.2)	576(55.7)	0.857
Hallucinations	261(33.7)	108(41.4)	369(35.7)	0.026*
Delusion	252(32.6)	90(34.5)	342(33.0)	0.568
Panic attack	207(26.7)	72(27.6)	279(27.0)	0.791
Paranoid	261(33.7)	99(37.9)	360(34.8)	0.217
Continuous sadness	180(23.3)	117(44.8)	297(28.7)	0.000***
Acute psychomotor instability	135(17.4)	18(6.9)	153(14.8)	0.000***
Learning Disorder	306(39.5)	108(41.2)	414(40.0)	0.599

3.3 Demographic characteristics and methamphetamine use behaviors associated with violence

Among methamphetamine users, 90.7% were male. 79.1% were adults (25 years old and older). 48.8% attained elementary school, and 43.0% were unemployed. 55.8% used drugs for more than ten years. 69.8% experienced violence in their lives, while 53.5% had violence

in the past month. 24.4% used methamphetamine with other drugs (polydrug). Table 3 compares lifetime violence related to demographic characteristics of methamphetamine users. Chi-square tests demonstrated significant differences in sex, education, duration of methamphetamine used, frequency per day, and amount of methamphetamine use (tablets per time).

Table 3 Comparison between participants' demographic characteristics and violence among methamphetamine users

Characteristics		Never n(%)	Violence n(%)	Total n(%)	P-value
Sex	Male	225(96.1)	477(88.3)	702(90.7)	0.000***
	Female	9(3.9)	63(11.7)	72(9.3)	
Age	Up to 24	45(19.2)	117(21.7)	162(20.9)	0.444
	25 and over	189(80.8)	423(78.3)	612(79.1)	
Marital Status	Single	144(61.5)	324(60.0)	468(60.5)	0.688
	Couple	90(38.5)	216(40.0)	306(39.5)	
Education	Elementary	162(69.2)	216(40.0)	378(48.8)	0.000***
	Higher	72(30.8)	324(60.0)	396(51.2)	
Employment status	Unemployed	90(38.5)	243(45.0)	333(43.0)	0.092
	Employed	144(61.5)	297(55.0)	441(57.0)	
Duration of Meth. used	Up to 10 years	144(61.5)	198(36.7)	342(44.2)	0.000***
	11 years and over	90(38.5)	342(63.3)	432(55.8)	
Frequency/day	One	162(69.2)	315(58.3)	477(61.6)	0.004**
	More than one	72(30.8)	225(41.7)	297(38.4)	
Amount of Meth./time	Up to 2 tablets	108(46.2)	189(35.0)	297(38.4)	0.003**
	3 tablets and over	126(53.8)	351(65.0)	477(61.6)	
Type of Meth. used	Single	171(73.1)	414(76.7)	585(75.6)	0.286
	Polydrug	63(26.9)	126(23.3)	189(24.4)	

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65% of violent methamphetamine users used methamphetamine on three tablets or more per time, and 63.3% had used methamphetamine for more than ten years. Considering people who have committed violence against others, it was found that 43.4% had used

methamphetamine for more than ten years, using three or more tablets at a time. Of all violent methamphetamine users, 76.7% have committed violence against another person in the past month. Table 4 shows methamphetamine and violent behaviors.

Table 4 Education, methamphetamine use behavior, and lifetime/past month violence

Education	Duration (Meth.)	Frequency	Amount	Lifetime n(%)	30 days n(%)
Elementary	Up to 10 years	One/day	Up to 2 tablets	27(5.0)	18(4.3)
			3 tablets and over	27(5.0)	18(4.3)
		Two and more	Up to 2 tablets	9(1.7)	0(0.0)
			3 tablets and over	18(3.5)	18(4.3)
	11 years and over	One/day	Up to 2 tablets	36(6.7)	27(6.5)
			3 tablets and over	36(6.7)	27(6.5)
		Two and more	Up to 2 tablets	9(1.7)	9(2.2)
			3 tablets and over	54(10.0)	27(6.5)
Secondary and above	Up to 10 years	One/day	Up to 2 tablets	36(6.7)	36(8.7)
			3 tablets and over	54(10.0)	45(10.9)
		Two and more	Up to 2 tablets	9(1.7)	9(2.2)
			3 tablets and over	18(3.5)	18(4.3)
	11 years and over	One/day	Up to 2 tablets	36(6.7)	27(6.5)
			3 tablets and over	63(11.7)	45(10.9)
		Two and more	Up to 2 tablets	27(5.0)	9(2.2)
			3 tablets and over	81(15.0)	81(19.6)
TOTAL				540(69.8)	414(53.5)

4. Discussion

Results showed that participants were primarily male. The 2018 World Drug Report reported that female drug users had increased and that a higher proportion of women are in prison for drug-related offenses (women 35%, men 19%) (UNODC, 2018). Another study found that female methamphetamine users are more prevalent in the Americas, Australia, Europe, and Asia (Dluzen et al., 2008; Loza et al., 2016). Additionally, in 2016, the number of female methamphetamine users in Southeast Asia increased (UNODC, 2018). Based on our results and the inconclusive findings from previous research, it seems crucial to focus on interventions to reduce methamphetamine usage in Thailand.

This study found no significant difference between age groups. However, statistical data and other studies elsewhere show that methamphetamine use among young people is on-trend, as is the world's trend (UNODC, 2018). In 2011, methamphetamine tablets were found to have been used overdose by many adolescents in northern Thailand due to the modernization society (Cohen, 2014). Moreover, a web-based survey found that 55% of Bangkok adolescents had at least one adverse childhood experience (emotional, physical, or sexual abuse). This was a significant factor contributing to the violence and drug problems as adults (Swangpun et al., 2019)

Statistics and research studies in Thailand also found that the users had more adverse reactions to taking drugs. The phenomenon is in line with international trends in the UN2018 Global Smart Update and World Drug Report (UNODC, 2018b). Additionally, all physical and mental disorders are a direct consequence of drug abuse behavior. In this study, there were significant differences, especially when comparing the duration of methamphetamine use among the samples. Previous studies have indicated that both short-term and long-term use of methamphetamine affects physical and mental health, although long-term use has a more significant effect. (National Drug Research Institute of the Australian Institute of Criminology, 2007). Therefore, a harm reduction measure for methamphetamine users is needed to reduce the long-term effects, especially among new users who are likely to show future drug abuse symptoms in both short- and long-term usage.

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In addition, violence among methamphetamine users was also associated with the frequency of drug use. This is consistent with several studies that have found that High-frequency use of methamphetamine may lead to more severe violent behavior (Carney et al., 2017, Wicomb et al., 2018, Perry et al., 2019, London et al., 2015, Leslie et al., 2018, Allerton, et al., 2008). Even in this study, marital status did not correlate with violence. Another study in Thailand found that only 15% of the women who participated in the methamphetamine-related domestic violence study reported experiencing domestic violence (Chuemchit et al., 2018). Therefore, treatment programs - including drug camps, community-based treatment, brief advice/brief intervention, and matrix programs - should include content on violence-related and psychological symptoms in a counseling session to reduce violent behavior.

There are some limitations to this study. This includes the lack of a sample from "Hidden populations" who live in the community but do not enter the treatment system. This is because the study was limited to those who accessed public services. Hence, there may be bias in sample selection. However, this study's findings are important clues to study further, especially the analysis of various factors weighting. This will lead to the development of screening tools for drug users who are likely to develop psychiatric symptoms and violence against those around them and have a significant social impact.

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CHAPTER 5

Policy and Programme Implementation

Policy and Programme Implementation Brunei Darussalam

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGY THROUGH PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION

The Preventive Drug Education (PDE) Division is one of the six main divisions in Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) whose role is to provide preventive education and raise awareness on the dangers of drug abuse to the various levels of community in Brunei Darussalam.

During the COVID-19 pandemic phase in 2021, the Preventive Drug Education Division had conducted several activities such as talks, and lectures for students and Government officials from various Departments by observing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) set by Ministry of Health with social distancing restrictions in place as well as

programmes conducted virtually. With this, PDE had reached out to 695 students and 475 audience from various Government Departments.

The PDE Division undertakes this responsibility through several platforms such electronic media or social media as well as online interaction and printed media with the support from the public and private sectors and various civil societies.

1. School-based Talks

Awareness talks are conducted at educational institutions for students in primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The talks include information on misuse of drugs and its effects to the society. Students in the primary levels were also shown cartoon animations of Alli and Alliyah containing advices on drug awareness and interactive activities were also applied throughout the session.



2. Ministry of Education Expo – Higher Education / Tertiary Level

The Ministry of Education held a Higher Education Expo from the 15th February until the 21st February 2021. The expo was officiated on the 18th February 2021 by Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh, Deputy Minister of Education at the Ministry of Education Building Main Hall. In one of the webinar events, PDE was invited to deliver a talk on the danger of misusing drugs.

The expo was participated by 27 higher institutions, education services agencies as well as government and private agencies.



3. Post-School Youths

i. 10th Youth National Service Program (PKBN) 2021

In reaching out to post-school youths through the annual national programme known as Program Khidmat Bakti Negara (PKBN), a national youth development programme aimed at developing and enhancing their spirit of patriotism, discipline, good morale, a sense of community and resilience, BKN has been involved in conducting various sessions for the participants that were divided in platoons. The PDE programme were carried out in the form of talks, anti-drug exhibition, interactive activities such as Explorace with embedded anti-drug messages.



ii. Youth Mosque Society

On 23rd June 2021, PDE was invited to deliver a talk on the Knowledgeable Community Program (Program Masyarakat Bermaklumat) for the Youth Mosque Society from Brunei and Muara District.



The sharing session, with a focus on advice to not fall prey and be deceived by unreliable resources, be curious and vigilant on online scams by drug trafficking syndicates, cautioning the society especially those travelling abroad. The session also included drug abuse awareness information.

4. Community Based Talks

Workplace Programmes

The talks held at the workplaces contained awareness of drug abuse, effects and legal implications of being involved in a drug crime. Awareness videos were also shown including physical drug exhibition; display of replications of confiscated convicted drug cases.



5. PDE Roadshows

Persatuan Qudoz Event Management Service — “Brunei Unified”

Minister at The Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud launched the campaign “Brunei Unified” held at The Mall, Gadong on 9th February 2021, as a follow up of the campaign “Mother and Child Awareness” which was held in 2020.

The campaign was organized by the Qudoz Event Management Services, “Brunei Unified” aim is to unite Brunei citizens to realise and achieve Brunei Vision 2035. This campaign was participated by public and private sectors as well as NGOs.

Apart from conducting roadshow, Mr. Abu Nor Ali Shamsul bin Haji Mohamad from the Enforcement Division, NCB was invited to become a panel on one of the forum organized during the event.

6. International Day Against Drug Abuse And Trafficking

With the theme of “Social Responsibility and Attention in Preventing Drug Trafficking”, Brunei Darussalam celebrated 2021 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking with a Friday prayer Sermon highlighting that Islam stresses great importance on harmony and well-being of family life, society and the nation. The Narcotics Control Bureau, NCB is among the government agencies that is entrusted with the responsibility to tackle as well as prevent drug trafficking and abuse in the country. With an emphasis that NCB is responsible for enforcing laws pertaining to drugs in the country, and its efforts to enforce such laws will be more effective and successful if the bureau receives support from the community, as drug abuse is a part of social ills that can threaten the country's future. Hence, it is important for the community to work together to assist NCB in eradicating drug syndicates in the country. Members of the community were encouraged to be united and attentive to what is happening around us, and raise awareness as well as understanding on the dangers of drug abuse and trafficking.

The international day was celebrated in Brunei Darussalam through a variety of activities and on the eve of the celebration, the main bridges in Brunei Darussalam, Raja Isteri Anak Saleha Bridge dan Sultan Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien Waddaulah Bridge, were enveloped with turquoise lightings, colouring the surrounding Brunei waters. The colour signifies the turquoise ribbon, which is a sign of hope as it represents causes that support addiction recovery.



7. Rampai Pagi Talk Show

NCB in 2021, collaborated with Brunei Darussalam national broadcaster, Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) where NCB is allocated a 20-minute segment, 2 times a week for 12 months, during the rampai pagi talk show. The aim of this

segment is to further inform and educate the public on the roles and functions of NCB, effects and dangers of drug abuse to the society, the legal implications to being involved in drugs, Supervision Programme and Treatment and Rehabilitation programmes run by NCB.



Policy and Programme Implementation

Malaysia

Introduction

Drug abuse had become the main concern of the Malaysian government since 1983. In that year, the government had launched a national campaign which was called “Drugs Are Number One Enemy”. At that time, drug addiction was not only regarded as a social problem but also a threat to national security. Since then, Malaysia is committed to addressing the drug issues.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

There are three types of treatment and rehabilitation services provided in Malaysia, namely:

- a. Institutional-based programs;
- b. Community-based programs; and
- c. Aftercare programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unforeseen challenges globally including in Malaysia in 2020 resulting Malaysian Government applying strict protocols and orders known as Movement Control Orders (MCO) to curb the Covid-19 outbreaks nationwide. The newly enforced law required the people to practice new norms and strict routines as precautionary measures to control the pandemic.

During the pandemic, NADA has consistently assessed the treatment and rehabilitation modules. The pandemic paved the opportunity for NADA to implement new strategies accordingly.

One of the challenges in providing a comprehensive service during MCO or RMCO is physical attendance. Since the restriction has limited the services physically, NADA came up with flexible treatment and rehabilitation modules.

Supervision Programmes via calls and tele-counseling (Community - based Treatment)

Due to limited physical contact, Clients were supervised through online programs, in which counsellors will set virtual meetings through online video streaming (Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, WhatsApp, Telegram). Aside from online counselling, practical guidance on recovery was provided through Recovery Pocket Book (RPB). The book consists of 19 sub-items that self-explained the method of addressing or coping with thought, emotion and behaviour. RPB is a self-administered therapy session which available on social media such as Facebook and YouTube.

Hello AADK

Hello AADK is a helpline operating from 8am to 10pm every day to serve individuals in need of psychosocial services. This helpline serves as a new platform initiated by NADA in assisting individual or society who need of referral and advocacy due to drug-related problems. Currently, there are 52 experienced counsellors assigned to this initiative. Counsellors are responsible, need to be prepared at all time and practised counsellor's etiquette codes while handling the session.

Developed SOP and guidelines

In order to reduce risk of spreading COVID-19 among Clients in Rehabilitation Centres, SOPs were created to provide compulsory and informative guidelines on best practices as part of requirement before admission. Besides that, eleven (11) Centres were categorized as triage to screen and quarantine new Clients in order to ensure that they are not infected by COVID-19 before treatment.

National COVID-19 Immunisation Program

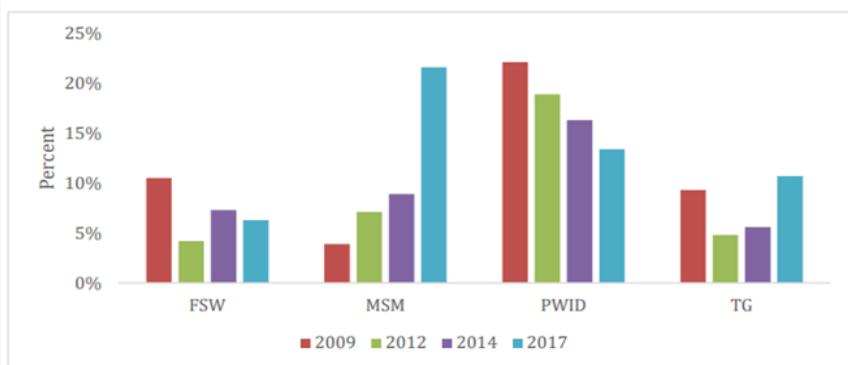
In order to deliver a healthy and secure services, NADA ensure that all officers are fully vaccinated. NADA also supported the National COVID-19 Immunisation Program by the Government of Malaysia by immunising all Clients in the Rehabilitation Centres. By end of 2021, a total of 94% of Clients were reported of completing two (2) doses of COVID-19 vaccination.

Harm Reduction

Malaysia has implemented the harm reduction approach since 2005 primarily to reduce HIV infection among People Who Inject Drug (PWID). PWID are one of the key populations for HIV infection in Malaysia and are included in the Integrated Biological Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) survey at regular interval (2 to 3 years) since year 2009.

HIV prevalence among key populations, Malaysia (2011-2020)

Figure 22 Percentage of specific key populations living with HIV

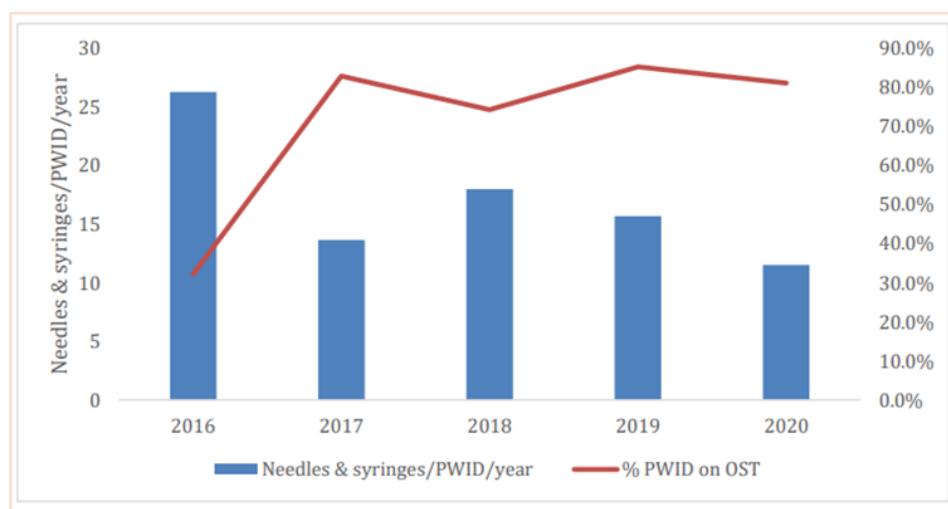


Source: IBBS Malaysia

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021, Ministry of Health Malaysia

Given that sharing injection paraphernalia is the main mode of transmission in Malaysia since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, Harm Reduction Program that consist of Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) and Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) remained the mainstay of prevention programs to PWID in Malaysia.

The OST Program coverage offered at selected government and private health facilities since 2006, has shown an increased to more than 81% at end of 2020. While the NSEP program, implemented through smart partnership with NGO under Malaysian Aids Council (MAC) at their outreach points throughout the country has reported a significant reduction in program coverage of more than 50% in 2020 compared to 2016.

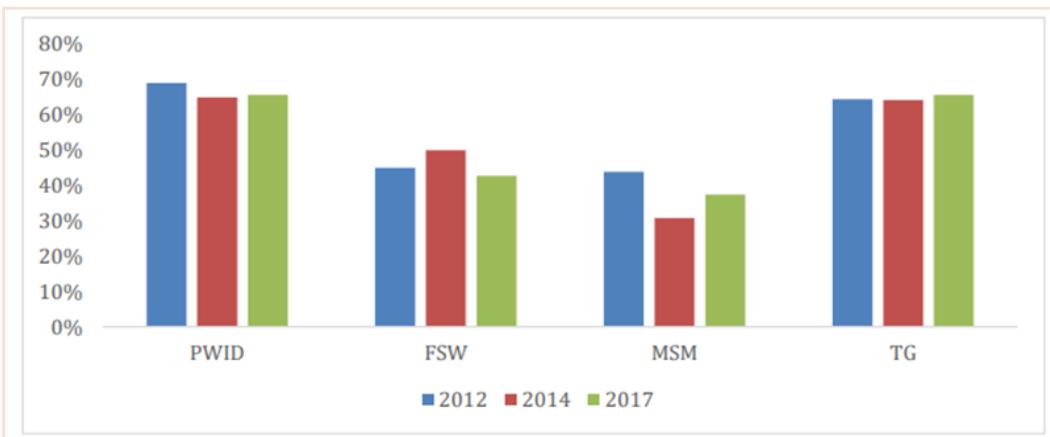


NSP and OST Coverage among PWID, 2016-2020

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021, Ministry of Health Malaysia

This is in line with the National Strategic Plan for Ending AIDS that encourage opioid injectors to shift to OST to ensure better ART uptake.

According to IBBS results from 2012 to 2017, the coverage of prevention programmes among PWID have been moderate (50%-70%) but higher compare to other key population.

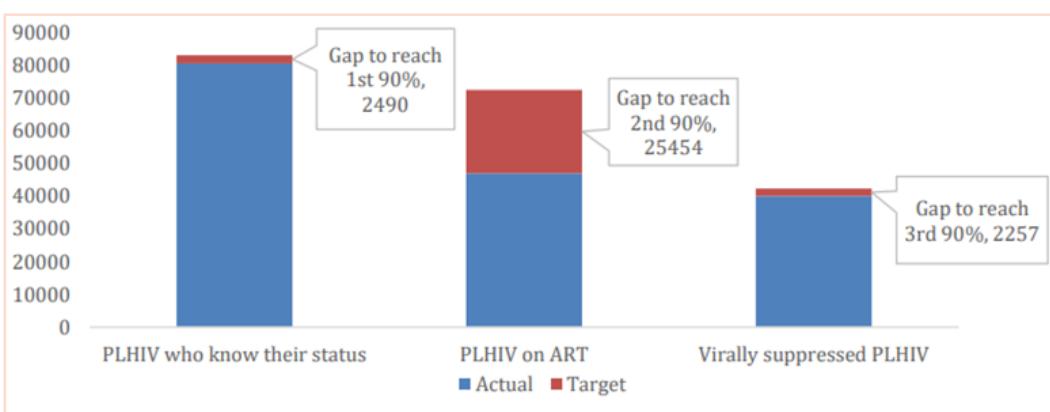


Coverage of Prevention Programmes Among Key Populations, Malaysia, IBBS 2012-2017

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021, Ministry of Health Malaysia

Malaysia has its sight set on the beginning of the end of AIDS in the country through the new National Strategic Plan on Ending AIDS for 2016-2030 including fast-track-treatment target of 90-90-90; with 90% of people living in HIV (PLHIV) know their status, 90% PLHIV will receive

Antiretroviral Treatment and 90% PLHIV receiving Antiretroviral Therapy will have viral suppression. In that regard, Malaysia has achieved 89%-56%-85% as of 2019 as shown on the chart below.

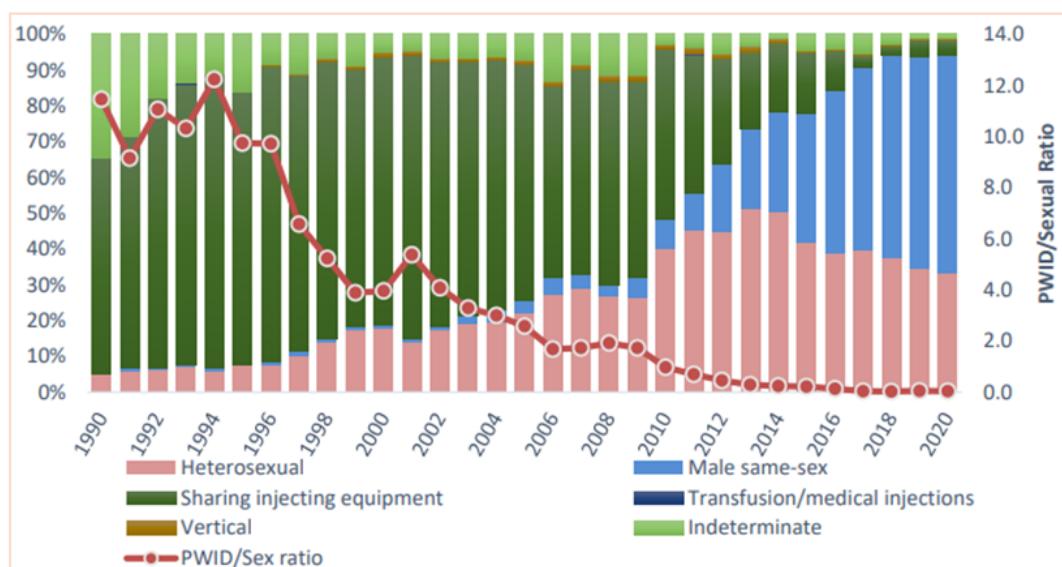


HIV Testing and Treatment Cascade, Malaysia, 2020

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021, Ministry of Health Malaysia

However, this program is also in the context of drug treatment aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and with a view to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use.

In the past one decade, the country observed gradual changes in the HIV epidemic landscape from predominantly PWID to more sexual transmission. The proportion of sexual transmission has increased to more than 90% in 2019. However, these changes bring forth new challenges related to sexual behaviour with drug use.



Trend of HIV infection by Mode of Transmission, 2000-2020

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021, Ministry of Health Malaysia

In the nutshell, these programs (harm reduction) have positive impact as reflected in the declining of HIV prevalence

and increasing continuous safe injecting practices above 80% in this key population.

Preventive Drug Education

Drug Prevention Programme in Malaysia

Drug prevention is considered an essential and cost-wise strategy in addressing drug demand reduction. Drug prevention programs are designed to provide the education and support necessary to diminish drug dependency in communities, schools and the workplace. Drug abuse prevention has become an important first step in informing specific individuals about the dangers of addiction, prevention techniques and where to find recovery help if it should be deemed necessary.

There are two (2) main pillars implied in NADA's prevention programme, specifically Preventive Drug Education (PDE) and Public Awareness Programme. Whilst Public Awareness Programme emphasizes on campaign focuses on the public community, PDE focuses on four (4) strategies / programs such as below:

- i. Drug-Free Family Program;
- ii. Drug-Free Education Institution Program;
- iii. Drug-Free Community Program; and
- iv. Drug-Free Workplace Program

Malaysia has been implementing evident-based and best practices prevention programs to ensure the quality, efficacy and effectiveness of the program that can contribute to drug demand

reduction especially among new drug abuser/addict and cases in the country. One of the practices based on evidence-based is Community Empowerment (CE). CE has been used in NADA as one of the Prevention Education strategies to eradicate drug and substance abuse in the community. The objective of the CE is to enable the community ownership to all programs and activities that require comprehensive and holistic efforts at all levels of the community itself by targeting groups such as Community Leaders, Non-Government Organization (NGOs), volunteers as well as community itself. CE is also implemented to provide knowledge and understanding on the dangers of drugs to all levels of the community, to provide basic skills in preventive education and drug treatment and rehabilitation to selected community leaders and to establish engagement with community members in planning, mobilization and implementing preventive education and drug treatment and rehabilitation activities in the community.

As in 2021, NADA has successfully trained a number of 1,004 community leaders in local communities which have been appointed and comprises of local politicians, religious leaders, village heads, NGOs and others to engage and perform prevention activities in their respective community across the country.

A community encompasses of individual, organizational and community elements can be empowered based on evidence-based models and approaches which is the Integrated Community Battery – Drug Abused Prevention Strategies (COMBAT-DAPS) Integrated and Model of Empowerment Expansion Framework (EEF). Both models are integrated prevention models specifically developed for community leaders, families and education institution members to carry out drug prevention programs to achieve the country's drug-free aspirations. Following the current situation of Covid-19 pandemic which hit the country in 2020, the exposure of Community Empowerment (CE) programmes to targeted groups by face-to-face had to be implemented in different platform via video conference in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which has been directed by the government to eradicate the spread of Covid-19.

Besides the established programs, new initiative has also been applied such as:

- i. **Initiative in Addressing Drug, Substance Abuse and Social Deviation.** The cooperative initiative with other government bodies and NGOs is implemented across the nation comprises of 122 districts, 8 zones and 3 sub-zones.
- ii. **The announcement of 155 high-risk areas.** These 155 KBT focus on the issue of drug and substance abuse, as well as social diversion that may be the root cause of drug

and crime issues. The KBT greening program is aim to prevent the emergence of new addicts, increase the recovery rate of clients, improve the detection of drug addicts, increase cooperation and community/ agency involvement and restrict the entry of drugs. The implementation of the program in 155 KBT comprises of these KBTs divided in 5 years towards achieving "Restrained-Drug 2025" starting with 16 KBTs in 2021. Among programs implemented in these areas including prevention, rehabilitative treatment, enforcement and harm reduction by involving 4 phases of action namely cleaning, intervention, strengthening and retention. Local District Officers are appointed as program coordinators using Community Empowerment approach, by having community leaders in responsible for area management at KBT and this will indirectly mobilize all efforts and actions collaboratively and comprehensively. As of November 2021, 13 out of 16 KBTs (81.3%) were successfully accomplished green status whilst 18.8% KBTs still under yellow status.

- iii. **The deliverance of Public Awareness campaign** has been revised due to the current situation. Campaign through static media such as face to face and physical exhibition have been shifted and focused on digital/ virtual platform specifically on social medias such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and

Youtube. New videos, posters and theme song with new trend and demand have been aggressively produced in tackling awareness campaign to all target groups in 2021 especially teenagers and youth.

a) A total of **four (4) commercial videos** has been produced focuses on four main target groups namely parents/family, childrenadolescents, employer/employee and community. NADA has also co-operated with newly appointed champion/ ambassador, a prominent celebrity and icon in Malaysia to produce anti-drugs messages for the public.



- b) NADA has rolled out noteworthy **posters of Anti-drugs message/campaign** which has been uploaded in media social on daily basis to ensure the messages are extensively spread to the target groups.





(OST Diva Popular) Floor 88 - Chikadun (Official Music...)

MVM MUSIC ✓

16M views • 7 months ago



iv. Co-operation and establishment of smart partnerships with private sectors for better coverage of PDE initiatives and public awareness movements such as with prominent telecommunication companies as well as cooperation with other government bodies.

- c) NADA has also collaborated with trending and famous local band in Malaysia by producing a hit song called “Chikadun” that becomes a sensational number in Youtube and most radios.

Enforcement Initiatives

Complaints Management System

NADA Enforcement Programmes aim to help drug addicts to be treated and rehabilitated. A Complaints Management System was introduced by NADA and is known as SHARP System. It was fully operated since January 2019. A total of 10,638 complaints were received nationwide in 2021 and were successfully registered into the SHARP system. This system enables effective management of public complaints regarding drug addiction and monitoring of the actions taken by NADA Officers on each complaint.

Operation to Detect and Detain

In addition, the implementation of operations to detect and detain drug addicts were carried out based on strict SOP to ensure that NADA enforcement personnel are not exposed to the risk of COVID-19 infection while performing their duties. By focusing on operations related to public complaints, a total of 5,737 operations were conducted last year with 13,443 arrests in 2021.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

The NADA is collaborating with the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in efforts to combat the issue of drug trafficking and sharing expertise to train a strong intelligence team.

The focus in 2021 is to formulate the following objectives:

1. An intelligence training module has been prepared for the use of AADK officers to implement intelligence programs / training.
2. MMEA is ready to contribute expertise and teaching staff for intelligence courses / training to AADK.
3. The AADK Intelligence empowerment program will be implemented in 2 series in each of the 4 zones in 2022.

Managing People Under Supervision

Based on the statistics collected for 2021, a total of 73,113 People Under Supervision (PUS) have undergone a period of supervision to follow treatment and rehabilitation programs between two to three years in the community. Emphasis is given to the management of pre-determined client file categorization and this is a method of assessing the level of compliance based on the status of the identified clients and arranged according to compliant and non-compliant categories throughout the supervision period. In addition, urine tests must also be tested upon PUS in ensuring drug-free and adherence to surveillance conditions throughout this period.

Regional and International Cooperation

In 2021, NADA participated in the 5th and 6th ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) meeting via teleconference platform. The 5th ASITF meeting was chaired by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Brunei Darussalam in February while the 6th ASITF meeting was chaired by National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) Cambodia in November. This meeting was aimed at conformation and expertise sharing as well as cross - border-operations coordination in the region through the cooperation of various enforcement agencies of ASEAN member countries to combat drug trafficking syndicates in international waters.

In addition, a meeting of the Technical Meeting Mid Term Review (MTR) ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drug Trafficking 2016-2025 was held on 31st March 2021. Through this meeting, all ASEAN member countries have shared their views to the National Narcotics Bureau (BNN) Indonesia that has conducted a mid-term analysis on the ASEAN Work Plan which has begun to be reported by all ASEAN countries in 2016. BNN has sent a questionnaire to identify the achievements of all ASEAN countries based on the Work Plan that has been formatted.

The sharing of the latest information and data on the country's drug supply and demand through the 10th and 11th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting (ADMN)

was conducted by teleconference on 7th - 8th April 2021 and 4th - 5th August 2021. ADMN is a technical and capacity development platform operated by ASEAN NARCO to monitor, collect and analyses drug addiction trends in the region to be updated from time to time through the annual ADMN report.

NADA also participated the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on 12th-16th April 2021 held online from Vienna, Austria. The CND conference is held annually to discuss, deliberate and adopt on various decisions and resolutions related to the drug problem at international level. The conference also aims to enhance the role of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs as well as to strengthen universal anti-drug programs, especially those implemented under the UNODC platform.

Malaysia annually participates in the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) meeting. On 14th September 2021, NADA participated in the 42nd ASOD Meeting via teleconference. The meeting was hosted by the Lao National Commission for Drug Control (LCDC) Lao PDR. The ASOD meeting is an important platform for ASEAN countries to discuss drug-related issues and problems in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, enforcement, alternative development and research.

In addition, NADA also participated in the 7th AMMD Meeting via teleconference on 13th-14th October 2021 organized by National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) Cambodia. The delegation from Malaysia was led by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Datuk Jonathan bin Yasin. AMMD's role is to provide policy and strategic direction to ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to strengthen existing cooperation and integrated actions taken by ASEAN member countries in addressing all aspects of the regional drug problem.

On 28th October 2021, NADA also joined the 11th ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) Meeting via teleconference. The meeting was hosted by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) Myanmar. AAITF meetings play an important role in strengthening relations between ASEAN countries through enforcement agencies at international airports, sharing information and expertise, coordinating cross-border investigations and operations as well as establishing cooperation with various other relevant enforcement agencies in ASEAN countries.

In order to strengthen mutual cooperation and establish close collaboration with other ASEAN countries, NADA has steered several bilateral meetings with ASEAN counterparts. Bilateral meetings with CNB Singapore were held on 16th November 2021, followed by DDB Philippines on 8th December 2021 and NCB Brunei on 13th December 2021.

Conclusion

Integrated and balanced approaches have been carried out to curb substance abuse and drug addiction in Malaysia. The five main thrusts of the National Drug Policy were translated into programs and activities that are aimed to reduce illicit drug trafficking and protect the community from the menace of the drugs

Policy and Programme Implementation Philippines

Policies

To fulfill the mandate of the Dangerous Drugs Board, it formulates policies to address new and emerging issues on drug abuse prevention and control. From January to December 2021, eight (8) Board Regulations have been adopted in the country.



The following are the relevant policies issued:

Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2021 – Provisional Removal of Lianhua Qingwen from the List of Dangerous Drugs for a Period of One (1) Year

To ensure access to this traditional herbal medicine that has been proved to help alleviate COVID-19 symptoms, Lianhua Qingwen, which contains ephedra,

has been removed from the list of dangerous drugs in the Philippines for one year. As there were no reports of its abuse and its ephedra content is minimal and cannot be readily extracted, the provisional delisting was approved.

Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2021 – Granting of Moratorium on the Implementation of Regulation No. 2, Series of 2020 (Subject: Guidelines on the Nationwide Implementation of Drug Clearing Program in Controlled Facilities for Persons Deprived of Liberty) in All Controlled Facilities

The implementation of the drug clearing program in controlled facilities was approved in 2020. However, the pandemic has prevented its full implementation as some facilities have been on lockdown to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. As the health and safety of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), jail officers, and law enforcement operatives were the top priority, a moratorium on the implementation of drug clearing in jails has been approved.

This Regulation covers the parameters of exemption, one of which is that the moratorium shall not include surprise search and seizure operations due to actionable intelligence reports, subject to coordination and health procedures promulgated by responsible officials of the controlled facilities. This covers all detention facilities, including the Bureau of Corrections and provincial jails.

Board Regulation No. 3, Series of 2021 – Amending Certain Sections of Board Regulation No. 1 Series of 2016, Entitled: Guidelines in the Implementation of "Operation: Lawmen"

This Regulation grants rewards and awards to law enforcers because of successful anti-drug operations to lift their morale, motivate and enhance their productivity in pursuing High-Value Targets (HVTs) and High-Impact Operations (HIOs). Amendments to the Regulation, originally approved in 2016, include guidelines on the delivery and management of the application for reward.

Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2021 – Sustaining the Implementation of Barangay Drug Clearing Program (BDCP) and Repealing for Such Purpose Board Regulation No. 3, Series of 2017

The Board issued this Regulation to enhance existing guidelines to effectively respond to the prevailing drug abuse situation in the communities. The BDCP aims to reduce drug affectation in the country by implementing drug supply

and drug demand reduction activities to minimize the impact of the drug problem by integrating the support of stakeholders, duty bearers, and local chief executives. The goal is to realize drug resilient and self-policing communities and produce stigma-free rehabilitated PWUDs and drug reformists.

Board Regulation No. 5, Series of 2021 – Allowing the Use of Ordinary Prescription in Triplicate Form to Prescribe Esketamine Single-Use Nasal Spray Device for Treatment-Resistant Depression

Esketamine, as contained in a single-use nasal spray device, is used in treating Treatment-Resistant Depression, a major depressive disorder in adults who have not responded adequately to at least two different antidepressants of adequate dose and duration to treat the current depressive episode. It contains an isomer of Ketamine, which is classified as a dangerous drug. It would need a special prescription for patients to access the medical preparation used for treatment-resistant depression.

In line with the commitment of the state to ensure that mental health conditions are treated and prevented, the Board approved the use of ordinary prescription in triplicate form in prescribing this medication with certain conditions, which include administration only in hospitals or clinics under the supervision of a health care professional.

Board Regulation No. 6, Series of 2021 – Guidelines on the Implementation of Section 20 of RA 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended, Specifically the Last Paragraph Thereof, Covering the Necessary Cost for the Maintenance and Preservation of Seized Item/s Pending Trial of the Case, and the Subsequent Award of the Confiscated Property/Items of Lawful Commerce in Favor of the Operating Unit and for Other Lawful Purposes

This Regulation covers the guidelines for the deduction of maintenance and preservation costs of properties or items seized from illegal drug operations, pending trial of the case, and the subsequent award of the confiscated property/items of lawful commerce in favor of the operating unit.

Board Regulation No. 7, Series of 2021 – Amending Section 11 (d) of DDB Regulation No. 5, Series of 2003, entitled: Guidelines in the Implementation of Operation: “Private Eye”

The Dangerous Drugs Board issued Regulation No. 7, Series of 2021, amending Section (11) d of Board Regulation No. 5, Series of 2003, to make the Operation: “Private Eye” more responsive to the dynamics of national and international drug situation and to the drug prevention and control campaign of the government. The Regulation provides for guidelines in anti-drug eradication operations and value of confiscated and recovered marijuana and hashish seeds in the conduct of anti-drug operations.

Board Regulation No. 8, Series of 2021 – Authorizing the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to Operate Jail-Based Drug Reformation Centers

Board Regulation No. 8, Series of 2021 provides for the institutionalization of jail-based drug reformation programs, otherwise known as “Kanlungan sa Piitan” implemented by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. The program primarily caters to Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) ordered by the courts to undergo six (6) months of drug rehabilitation as a penalty under Section 15, Article II of Republic Act 9165 and under the plea-bargaining framework in drug cases issued by the Supreme Court. This intensifies the institutional efforts of BJMP to rehabilitate and reintegrate probationers, parolees, and first-time drug offenders to become productive and law-abiding members of the community.

Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2022 - Extending the Grant of the Provisional Removal of Lianhua Qingwen From the List of Dangerous Drugs for Another Period of One (1) Year

Lianhua Qingwen is a medication used to treat influenza during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003. It is one of the recommended drugs in the Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol for Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia by the National Health Commission of China, and has been registered as a “plant medicine supplement” product in several countries. It is expected to treat symptoms associated with mild COVID-19 symptoms.

On 4th February 2021, the Dangerous Drugs Board issued Regulation No. 1, Series of 2021, allowing for the Provisional Removal of Lianhua Qingwen from the List of Dangerous Drugs for a Period of One (1) Year. The continuing availability and accessibility of medicines that alleviate flu-like symptoms have been very important with our current pandemic situation. With the continuing and rising cases of infections brought by the virus, the provisional removal of Lianhua Qingwen from the list of Dangerous Drugs was extended for another period of one (1) year through the issuance of Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2022.

Preventive Education and Training Programs

Capacity Building Programs

In-House Training on Facilitation and Presentation Skills

This is a training workshop that focuses on enhancing facilitation and presentation skills. To improve these aspects, nine staff members from PETID underwent this training in March 2021.



Training of Trainers on Strong Families Program

The Training of Trainers on Strong Families Program is a two-day training on evidence-based family skills prevention program designed to assist families in low-resource areas to deal with its associated challenges. 11 personnel from the PETID staff attended this training on 16th-17th March in Microtel, UP TechnoHub, Quezon City.



Webinar on Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)

This three-day webinar aims to enrich the participants' knowledge and skills on effective parenting and enhance their roles as parents in drug prevention and control, especially during the pandemic. This year, two STEP training sessions were successfully implemented. The first one was held on 17th-19th February in Microtel in UP TechnoHub, Quezon City, with 43 participants, while the next was held on 11th-12th November 2021. The participants were 129 officers and members of the Pasay City General Parent-Teachers Association and the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Fixation with the Anal Stage

Anal expulsive personality is formed:
(lack of, or too lenient toilet training)

- tends to be excessively messy, disorganized, careless, defiant, wasteful, destructive, highly ambivalent, & has sadomasochistic tendencies

Asec Lheng V Matibag

Webinar on Strengthening Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADAC) on Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP)

This webinar is pursuant to Board Regulation No. 4, Series 2020, which aims to provide guidelines for the oversight of General Intervention (GI) and Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP) implemented and adopted by the Local Government Units at various levels. In 2021, the DDB conducted three separate trainings with a total of 164 participants from Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Sarangani Province.



Online Seminar-Workshop on Dangerous Drugs Law for Judges, Prosecutors, and Law Enforcers

This is a three-day seminar-workshop that aims to coordinate and integrate the overall efforts of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), especially in prosecution and investigation. With the help of the Department of Justice and the Philippine Judicial Academy, a virtual workshop held on 23rd-25th March was attended by 37 judges, 1 prosecutor, and 39 other representatives from various law enforcement agencies.



Webinar on Capacitating Stakeholders on Drug Abuse Prevention Education

This webinar is a two-day program on drug abuse prevention education designed for the different stakeholders in the community, schools, and workplaces. In 2021, the DDB trained 68 TESDA trainers from different regions nationwide. The training was held via Cisco Webex on 24th-25th March .



Webinar on Refusal Skills Program

This is a trainer's training for Educators who are expected to cascade the program, which aims to create self-awareness among participants and make them aware of their leadership qualities. This training aims to help them take responsibility for creating positive attitudes and changes in their lives. A total of 919 participants from five batches from DAPCO Muntinlupa, DepEd BLSS, SK Pasay City, and DepEd Davao del Sur were able to attend.



Webinar on Capacitating Faith-Based Organizations on Drug Abuse Prevention Education (DAPE)

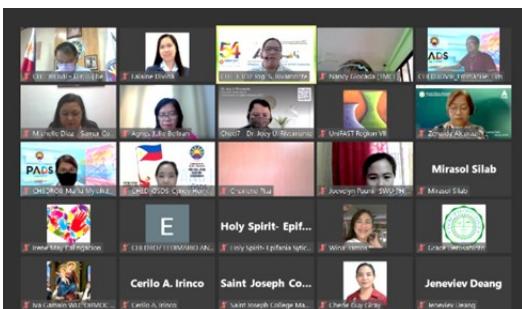
This webinar aims to empower religious organizations to be anti-drug advocates and capacitate them on necessary knowledge and skills on DAPE. In 2021, 354 participants from two batches were able to participate virtually. The attendees were composed of different religious leaders and pastors of Seventh-Day Adventist churches nationwide.

Online Training on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) for Substance Use Core Course Implementer Series (Cur. 1) and the UPC Training on Physiology and Pharmacology (Cur. 2) for the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

This online UPC training aims to train the participants on Curriculum 1 (Introduction to Prevention Science), which provides an overview of the science underlying evidence-based prevention interventions and strategies and the application of these effective approaches in prevention practice. Seven batches from different higher education institutions were trained in 2021. A total of 426 guidance counselors were able to participate in the training.

To complete the foundation of the Universal Prevention Curriculum, the second training was introduced. This online seminar aims to train the participants on Curriculum 2 (Physiology and Pharmacology for Prevention Specialists), which presents an overview of the physiology

and pharmacology of psychoactive substances and their effects on the brain to affect mood, cognitive functions, and behavior and their consequences on the individual, the family, and the community. A total of 471 guidance counselors from different colleges and universities were in attendance.



National Training on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) for Substance Use, Specialty Track 2: School-Based Prevention

This track introduces the science behind school-based prevention interventions and policies and the methods used to improve school climate, strengthen policies and intervene directly with classroom prevention and interventions. 34 participants from the DDB Pool of National Trainers, LGUs, DepEd, non-government organizations, and members of the UP-ATCPDE attended this training on August 10th-13th, 2021.



Online Training on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) for Substance Use for the ASEAN Member States

On December 7th-9th, 2021, 88 participants from eight different ASEAN Member-States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, and Viet Nam) attended the three-day training, which aims to train the participants on Curriculum 2: Physiology and Pharmacology for UPC Prevention Coordinators.



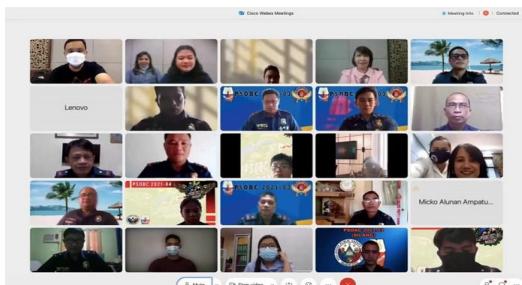
Virtual Orientation Seminar for DDB Authorized Representatives

This is a project implemented by the DDB for the Parole and Probation Officers, designed to orient and brief the DDB Authorized Representatives relative to voluntary and compulsory confinement cases under Article VII of RA 9165. A total of 93 Chief Parole & Probation Administration Officers attended this virtual orientation in June.



Online Continuing Seminar on Anti-Illegal Drug Operations and Investigation

This is a five-day seminar for law enforcers to provide updates on anti-illegal drug operations and investigations to help them become even more competent and prepared in performing their duties. The DDB, with the help of the PDEA Academy, was able to convene and train three batches of participants from the National Police College.



Webinar on Illegal Drug Awareness and Prevention

This webinar aims to increase awareness and prevention of illegal drugs. In July 2021, the DDB held online seminars for two batches of participants from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).



Webinar on Capacitating Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADAC) on Board Regulations' Update in Relation to Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP)

The two-day online activity is focused on DDB Board Regulation No. 7, series of 2019, which provides standard rules and regulations governing access to treatment and rehabilitation programs and services. In 2021, 128 participants composed of officers and staff members of the Malabon Anti-Drug Abuse Office and representatives from 21 barangays convened to attend this webinar, which took place on 26th-27th August.

Department of National Defense (DND)-Wide Training of Trainers on Drug Abuse Prevention Education (DAPE) and Capacity Enhancement for Law Enforcers

This is a two-day training designed to provide the DND participants knowledge and skills to facilitate Preventive Education Trainings within the DND and update them on the roles of the law enforcement sector. 66 civilian and military personnel attended this training virtually 16th-17th September.

Webinar on Capacitating Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Drug Abuse Prevention Education (DAPE) under the New Normal

This is a two-day webinar for the NGOs focused on their roles in the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy. On 25th-26th October, 46 participants,

composed of NGO representatives, Anti-Drug Abuse Council Staff, and NDEP Coordinators, attended this webinar.



National "Barkada Kontra Droga (BKD)" Convention

This is a two-day online convention for the members of BKD, highlighting the best practices of the different BKD Chapters nationwide. In October 2021, 7,112 participants composed of BKD advisers & members from the different chapters attended the convention.

Capability Enhancement on Drug Abuse Prevention Program for the Correction's Pillar

This is an activity designed to capacitate the participants on the basic information relative to the drug problem, including skills enhancement in handling drug-related cases to assist offenders to return to the mainstream of society. In November, 90 Bureau of Jail Management and Penology officers and staff participated in the training.

Enhancing Training Skills for Prevention: Capacity-Building for ASEAN Prevention Practitioners

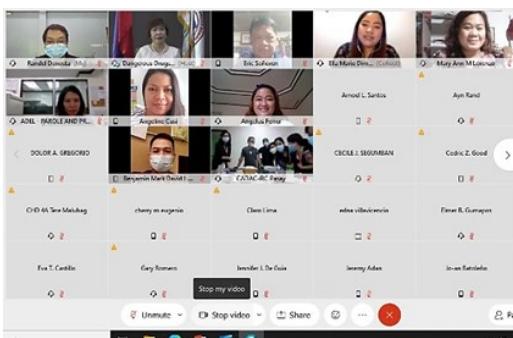
This is a four-day training program designed to provide relevant theories and strategies to further enhance the training competencies of prevention practitioners in the ASEAN. This program is in collaboration with the University of the Philippines-ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education (UP-ATCPDE).



Advocacy Programs

Webinar on Overcoming Social Stigma on Drug Use

This webinar aims to encourage people to reach out for help and find the appropriate path to recovery and reduce the stigma surrounding their situations. In January 2021, 99 participants attended virtually, while 88 viewers joined via FB live stream.



Webinar on Drug Abuse Prevention Education

This webinar is an activity that aims to create awareness of the relevant facts about the dangers of illegal drugs. A total of 675 participants from three batches were able to participate. The attendees were from the Lions Club International, the Department of Education, the University of the East, and the Philippine State College of Aeronautics.



“Barkada Kontra Droga (BKD)” Program

On January 29th, 2021, De La Salle University (DLSU) students and youth volunteers joined an online discussion and orientation because of their intent to create their own BKD chapter within the university. 56 DLSU Student Formation Discipline Office officers and staff, students & youth volunteers successfully entered and participated virtually via Zoom.

Likewise, a national launching of Barkada Kontra Droga was held on March 20th, 2021. This activity aims to encourage secondary schools to become more actively involved in promoting youth empowerment, leading a healthy lifestyle that is drug-free and productive, and implementing the program under the National Drug Education Program (NDEP) of DepEd. 399 participants composed of Local Persons for OK sa DepEd from the Regional and Schools Division Offices were in attendance.

Another Webinar on the same program was undertaken, which aims to open avenues for discussion on the BKD Program and equip the participants with the necessary knowledge on drug abuse prevention education. 4 batches with a total of 489 participants composed of principals, teachers, NDEP coordinators, non-teaching personnel and students attended virtually.

Drug-Free Workplace Program “Webinar on the Legal Aspect of Drug Abuse”

This activity aims to update the knowledge of the employees on the Salient Features of RA 9165 and Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memo Circular No. 13,

Series 2017. On April 12th, 2021, 38 employees from the Tourism Promotions Board of the Department of Tourism participated virtually.

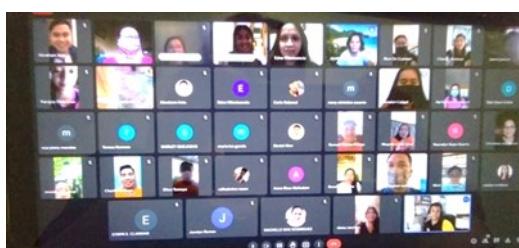
Webinar on Impact and Prevention of Drug Use in the Workplace

This activity aims to enrich participants' knowledge on the impact of drugs and substance use in the workplace while at the same time, provide them with some tips on how to discourage drug use in the workplace. 15 batches with a total of 1,470 participants attended the webinar.



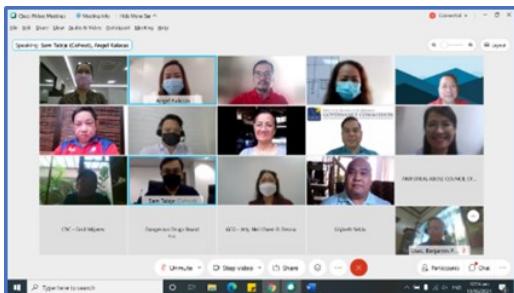
Webinar on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control (DAPC)

This is a discussion highlighting the national government's campaign against illegal drugs. In 2021, the DDB facilitated three separate webinars for 2,103 participants from different schools and universities.



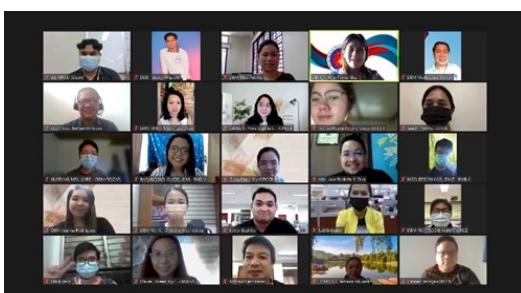
Online Policy Forum on the Drug-Free Workplace Program

This virtual activity is aimed to revisit and review the contents and components of Drug-Free Workplace policies and programs, relative to its appropriateness and responsiveness to the changing needs of the government and private institutions. 17 participants from different government agencies (DILG, DOLE, CSC, PDEA, GCG, QC ADAC, ADCOP, and DAPCO-Muntinlupa) attended the forum on June 10th, 2021.



Orientation Webinar on the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) and Drug-Free Workplace Policy

This webinar aims to discuss the salient features of PADS and to know the contents and components of the Drug-Free Workplace Policy. In 2021, two batches of Department of Finance officers and staff attended the virtual orientation.



Webinar on the Importance of Peer Support in Developing Resilience Against Drug Abuse

This online discussion focused on the importance of peer support to help participants develop resilience against drug abuse. On July 18th, 2021, 100 officers and staff members from the Philippine Statistics Authority took part in this training.



Drug Abuse Prevention Webinar for NSTP Students

The Drug Abuse Prevention Webinar is an online orientation on drug abuse prevention for the youth, specifically those attending college and taking NSTP classes and their coordinators, in fulfillment of the drug education requirements in the program curriculum. On September 23rd, 2021, 45 NSTP students & coordinators from the different departments of NBS College attended the webinar.

Webinar on the Role of Families on Drug Abuse Prevention

This is a discussion on how families play an important role and help in the drug abuse prevention campaign. This webinar was attended by 55 Philippine Statistics Authority officers and staff in September 2021.



“Sana All No More” National Youth Commission (NYC) Regional Webinar Series

This is an online discussion, spearheaded by the NYC, highlighting drug abuse prevention education and showcasing the results of the 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse. 16 batches (total of 2101 participants) composed of SK federation officials and representatives, and NYC regional office representatives were able to virtually participate in the webinar series.

“Kilos Kabataan, Atin ang Kinabukasan”

This is an online activity for the youth organized by the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC) as

part of their Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week activities. 424 participants composed of Senior High School students and SK Federation officers and members attended this activity on November 17th, 2021.

Webinar on the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy – The Government’s Response to the Anti-Illegal Drug Problem and Relevant DDB Policy Issuances

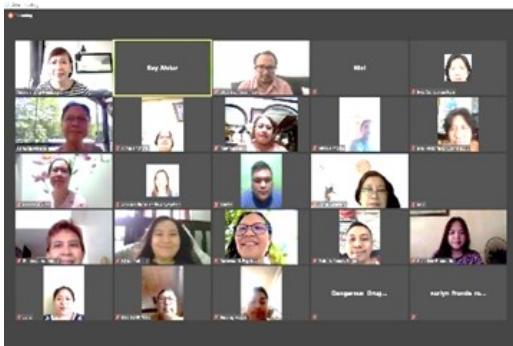
This is an online activity organized by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) as part of their Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week activities. On November 17th, 2021, 78 participants composed of members of the OSG-PADC & Representatives from the different Divisions of the OSG attended the webinar.

Drug Youth Convention of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation of Cebu City

This online convention was organized for the youth to provide them with tips and strategies on how to keep safe, healthy, and drug-free during the pandemic. 250 youth leaders from all over the country gathered virtually on November 28th, 2021 to attend the convention.

Webinar on the Implication of COVID-19 Pandemic to Mental Health and Substance Use

This webinar aims to provide insights on the link between substance use and mental health and the technical know-how to better address the health issues considered treatable. 72 participants from various cities & municipalities Anti-Drug Abuse Councils in Cebu Province, MSWDO, CBDRP & SK Focal Persons participated in this webinar on November 18th, 2021.



Webinar on Optimizing Social Media Literacy and Virtual Story Telling – DDB & PIA

This is a discussion that aims to provide insights on the concepts of media literacy and substance use. It also discusses the application of media literacy concepts in drug abuse prevention.



Special Events

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (IDADAIT)

The annual celebration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or IDADAIT was once again celebrated virtually due to the circumstances brought about by the pandemic. This year, part of the celebration included launching the #PADSulong campaign,

Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week (DAPC Week)

This year's week-long celebration had the theme "Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives," which emphasized the

importance of combating disinformation campaigns about illegal drugs that can harm the public.



Policy and Programme Implementation Singapore

AMENDMENTS TO MISUSE OF DRUG ACT

There has been a rapid increase in the number, types and availability of NPS across the globe. Based on a report released in June 2022 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, there were at least 1,127 NPS reported from 2009 to 2021. Many of these NPS have been reported in overseas journals to have no licit use. Their abuse has been linked to adverse physical and psychological

reactions, including paranoia, seizures, hallucinations and even death. CNB regularly reviews its strategies to improve the detection and regulation of NPS, including the regular listing of NPS that have emerged in the market. In response to the challenging NPS environment, the CNB identified and listed an additional 13 NPS as Class A controlled drugs in 2021.

PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION (PDE) AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

PDE is the first line of defence in Singapore's overall drug control approach, and CNB continuously seeks out new ways to educate and engage the community on

the harms of drugs and strengthen the resilience of Singaporeans, especially the young, to stay drug-free.

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTHS

Anti-Drug Competition

DrugFreeSG Video Competition 2021

The DrugFreeSG Video Competition is for youths interested in video production and looking for an avenue to creatively express their understanding of the harms of drugs through short videos.

A virtual videography workshop was held to teach participants filmmaking techniques, as well as impart anti-drug related information to them.

The competition attracted 64 entries from a total of 215 participants. CNB also invited netizens to vote for their favourite videos.

The winning entries can be accessed from CNB's YouTube channel.



Stills from Year 2021 winning entries

Programmes in Schools

After-School Engagement (ASE) Programme

CNB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, offers a customised after-school engagement programme for secondary school students, to inculcate the importance of adopting a drug-free lifestyle.

Students learn about the harms and consequences of drug abuse through various activities, including a sharing session by an ex-drug abuser, an augmented reality experience, video screening and an anti-drug talk by a CNB officer.

The ASE programme is also offered via virtual conferencing platforms.



Interactive PDE Skits

Schools are invited to engage CNB to stage interactive skits to educate and engage students on the dangers of drug abuse through humour and themes relatable to youths. Through storytelling, the skits reiterate the harms of drug abuse, and urge students to lead a drug-free lifestyle. Both physical and live-stream skit performances are available.

CNB, in collaboration with the National Library Board, have also staged these skits at public libraries on weekends and during the school holidays.



Anti-drug Ambassador Activity and Anti-Drug Montage Competition 2021

The Anti-drug Ambassador Activity (AAA) and Anti-Drug Montage Competition is an annual event targeted at upper primary students. The booklet, filled with interactive and engaging activities, is distributed to primary schools who are then invited to take part in the activities and enter the competition to show support for the drug-free cause.

In 2021, approximately 38,500 students from 104 schools took part in the AAA. Winning entries of the Anti-Drug Montage Competition showcasing the students' art and craft work can be accessed from the [CNB website](#).



Entries submitted for the Anti-Drug Montage Competition

Resources for Persons-of-Influence

Microsite: Make The Right Choice

CNB collaborated with Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) to develop a microsite "Make The Right Choice" to serve as a multi-faceted resource repository of digital content, including educational games, interactive quizzes, parenting articles and videos to educate the public on the negative consequences that drugs may bring about.

The gamified content takes users down the rabbit hole of drug abuse and addiction, and the interactive quiz helps users find out their stress coping styles.



Gamified content and interactive quiz on Make The Right Choice

As part of the collaboration with SPH, The Straits Times featured an ex-drug abuser, social worker aide and a CNB officer in a series of 'Smart Parenting' editorials, published on Fathers' Day and Children's Day in 2021, to highlight the importance of active parenting in drug prevention among children and youths.

THE STRAITS TIMES
BRANDED CONTENT

How to talk to your child about the harms of drugs and spot the signs of drug abuse

It's never too early to start a conversation about the harms of drugs

CNB enforcement officer Saifullah Md Ali Hafizan and social worker aide Raymond Loke share their tips on how to begin a conversation about the harms of drugs with your child. PHOTO: SANDY FICHA

Article in The Straits Times' Smart Parenting column

SPH School Publications: Little Red Dot and IN Magazine

To complement existing preventive drug education (PDE) offerings in schools, CNB runs regular PDE advertorials and comic strips in the Little Red Dot and IN Magazine, which are SPH school publications distributed to primary and secondary school student subscribers. Teachers may use the content as teaching materials to engage students in conversations on the harms of drug abuse, and to emphasise the importance of a drug-free lifestyle.



Anti-drug comic strips in Little Red Dot publication distributed to primary school students



Sharing from an ex-drug abuser in IN Magazine distributed to secondary school students

Information Booklet for Persons of Influence: Staying Free from New Psychoactive Substances

Staying Free from New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) contains facts and resources on NPS that educators, parents, and counsellors can share with their students, children, and charges. The booklet includes age-based lesson plans, accompanied by infographics and videos.

More than 440 schools as well as family and youth oriented community organisations have received copies of the booklet. The soft copy is available for download from the [CNB website](#).



Augmented Reality Mobile Game App: Drug Buster Buddies

CNB developed an Augmented Reality (AR) [mobile game application](#), Drug Buster Buddies, targeted at primary school students, that allows players to learn more about the harmful effects of drugs through fun and engaging gameplay.

Drug Buster Buddies can be downloaded for free on the Apple iOS Store and Google Play store.



Virtual Heritage Gallery Tour

The Heritage Gallery tour is a key component in CNB's Learning Journey programme. Visitors (typically organised groups from schools and workplaces) learn about CNB's history through various exhibits and artefacts gathered from interesting cases and our PDE efforts over the years.

Physical tours to the Gallery remain suspended due to the COVID-19 situation. The virtual Heritage Gallery was thus created as a digital alternative for CNB to sustain engagements with our target audiences.

The virtual Heritage Gallery is available for public access on our CNB website in two modes - (i) a 360° camera virtual tour (with touch points) to provide audience with a more immersive experience, and (ii) a short video guided tour that provides viewers with a quick rundown of CNB's history.

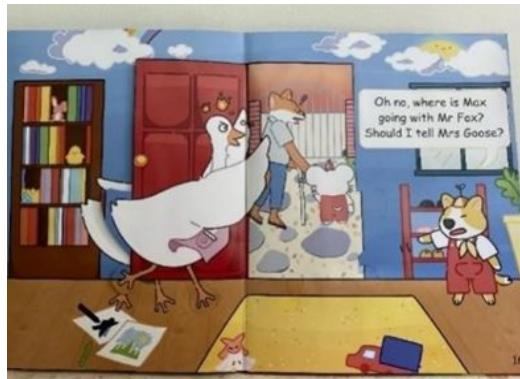


Collaborations With Youths

Interactive Book: Be Careful, Max!

CNB collaborated with three Nanyang Polytechnic graduates to develop *Be Careful, Max!*, an interactive book targeted at pre-schoolers as part of ongoing efforts to move preventive drug education efforts upstream. The book features animal characters and interactive flaps, and seeks to teach children the importance of refusing offers from strangers while weaving in the anti-drug ribbon and CNB's original character Captain Drug Buster in the artwork.

More than 330 books have been distributed to kindergartens and selected preschool operators. The book is also available on the CNB website as an e-book.



Board Game: Conquer

Conquer is a board game co-conceptualised by CNB and a Nanyang Polytechnic graduate. Set in a fictional school, players are divided into Heroes whose mission is to keep students drug-free, and Villains who are out to get others addicted to drugs. Instead of a one-way anti-drug messaging, the interactive nature of the gameplay allows for a more organic experience for students to learn about the importance of a drug-free lifestyle.

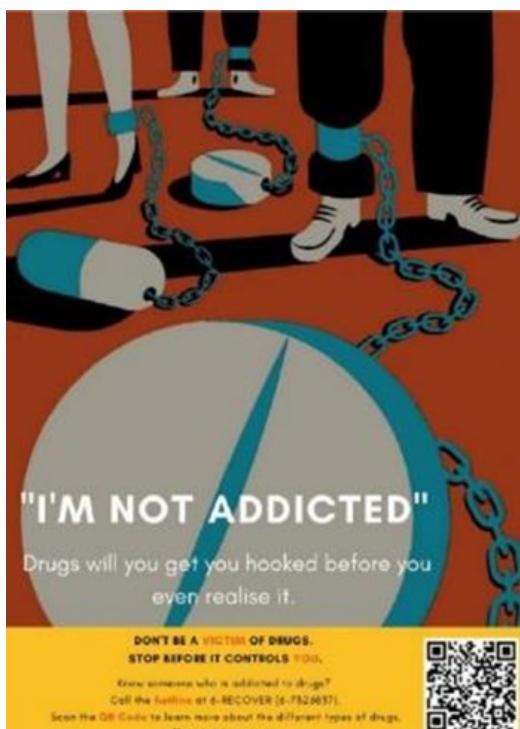
Game sets have been distributed to all secondary schools and selected community organisations. Educators are encouraged to incorporate the game into anti-drug lesson plans.



Collaboration with Republic Polytechnic

CNB collaborated with Republic Polytechnic to design a lesson on drug prevention as part of the Youth Health Module for Year 2 students pursuing the Diploma in Health Management & Promotion. The lesson sought to equip students with the necessary knowledge to analyse social factors that influence youth health behaviour, and develop health promotion strategies to tackle substance abuse amongst their peers.

CNB officers were invited to share on global and local drug trends and challenges, and Singapore's zero-tolerance approach towards illicit drugs. Students were graded on class-based discussion and assignments which included designing anti-drug campaign proposals and posters.



Virtual Reality Mobile Game App: *Man in the Mirror*

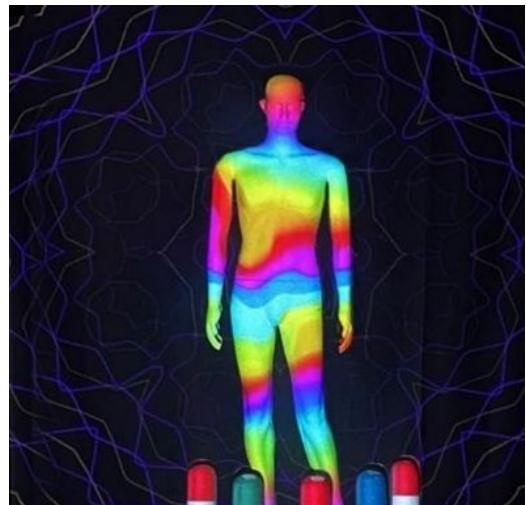
CNB collaborated with Singapore Polytechnic's School of Design and Media to develop a Virtual Reality (VR) mobile game application "Man in the Mirror". It is an immersive role-playing game that aims to educate players, particularly youths, on the perils of drug abuse and the importance of making the right choices. Man in the Mirror was launched in May and June 2021 on [Google Play](#) and [Apple App Store](#) respectively. Customised VR cardboard headsets designed by the students were also produced and distributed via online giveaways to generate interest amongst youths to learn about the dangers of drugs and drug abuse. The headsets were also handed out during a special screening of the trailer held at the Omni Theatre from 21st to 27th June 2021.



Nanyang Polytechnic students at work

Art Installation: Monomania

Monomania is a PDE installation conceptualised and developed by students from Singapore Polytechnic's Media, Arts and Design School. The art installation is based on a fictional storyline of a promising young athlete who fell prey to drugs and seeks to convey the consequence of drug abuse to youths through peer advocacy. Monomania simulates a spatial augmented reality for viewers by projecting virtual images onto real objects through the use of projection mapping technology and audio-visual effects.



Anti-Drug Animated Videos

CNB worked with a group of Singapore Polytechnic students pursuing a Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics to produce a series of animated videos to debunk common misconceptions about drugs and drug abuse, based on the students' storylines and art direction.



Collaborations with Winners of DrugFreeSG Video Competition 2020

CNB worked with the winning teams of the DrugFreeSG Video Competition 2020 to produce two PDE videos: *Captain Drug Buster vs Dr Wacko - The First Encounter*, an animated adaption of our comic book, as well as *NPS & Drug Abuse: A conversation between an ex-drug offender and a student*, a candid dialogue between an ex-abuser and youth. These co-creation efforts seek to provide a platform for youths to creatively express their anti-drug advocacy organically from their perspective, so that the younger audience can relate better to the messages.



PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

BUILDING ADVOCACY

Youth Anti-Drug Advocate Programme

The Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) programme is a youth-focused sub-scheme of the A3 (Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy) Network that seeks to nurture young people aged **17 to 25 years old** to be resilient and speak up for the drug-free cause through peer advocacy.



Anti-Drug Campaign by Hwa Chong International School students



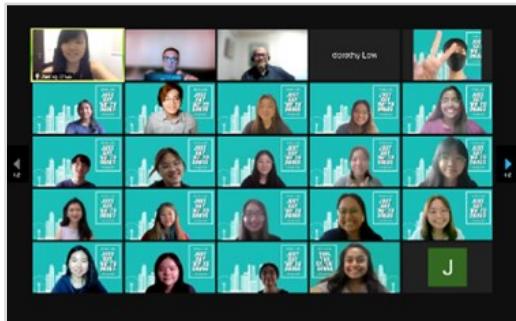
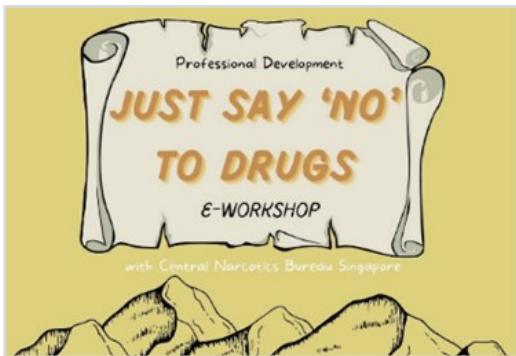
Drug Prevention Awareness Campaign by a group of ADAs and ITE College Centre students

It aims to create a platform for the youth voice to be heard by bringing together youth advocates and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to steer other youths away from drugs. As of December 2021, over 200 youths have participated in the programme, and over 20 ADAs have moved on to become A3 Adult Advocates.

ADA initiatives in 2021 include ground-up awareness campaigns held in school campuses in collaboration with various student bodies.



A poster design competition was organised as part of the Hwa Chong International School Anti-Drug Campaign



Advocacy event led by our ADAs and students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Rotaract Club

CNB also collaborated with an Adult Advocate who hosts a community library to put up a drug-free themed display with posters, collaterals, and a message board for residents to pledge their support for the drug-free cause.



Display at The Caterpillar Library

Collaboration with Community Libraries

Community libraries, which are usually found at lift landings or void decks of public housing estates, are actively maintained by residents through their exchanges and contributions of pre-loved books. As part of CNB's efforts to inspire anti-drug advocacy within the communities, we have initiated collaborations with four community libraries. CNB's PDE publications were displayed at these libraries throughout October and December 2021, for young children and residents to read.



Themed display at Little Library at Clementi Ridges

A3 Adult Advocates Engagement

The A3 Adult Advocates Scheme is one of five sub-schemes under the A3 Network. In November 2021, the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) hosted an engagement session for Advocates as a refresher to existing advocates, as well as to onboard new advocates. The session was opened by NCADA Chairman, Hawazi Daipi, and featured a group sharing session on how to approach different audiences in talking about drug issues.



Let's Talk Dope Webinar

CNB organised a webinar titled Let's Talk Dope on Zoom for more than 170 participants from the Home Team Volunteer Network (HTVN) on 21st May 2021 under the HTVN Webinar Series Connecting YOU with the Home Team.

During the webinar, CNB shared with participants the harms of drug abuse and Singapore's drug control strategies. CNB also took the opportunity to address common misconceptions about drug abuse, the drug rehabilitation process, and volunteering opportunities in CNB.

Participants were also given a virtual tour of the CNB Heritage Gallery to learn about Singapore's history with drug abuse, view exhibits and drug artefacts, and learn about CNB's history since it was inception in 1971.

HTVN Webinar
Connecting You with the Home Team

**Friday,
21 May 2021**
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Let's Talk
"Dope"**

Live webinar on Zoom

To register, click on the image or scan the QR code below
REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 14 MAY, 12 NOON

LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE*

*Priority will be given to HT Volunteers who have not attended any of the HTVN Webinars. Selected volunteers will be notified with a confirmation email

htvn | Ordinary People Extraordinary Mission

CNB
FOR A DRUG-FREE SINGAPORE

WHAT'S NEW WITH NEW PSYCHOMIMETIC SUBSTANCES

Learn about the harms of drugs and Singapore's approach to drug control

CNB
Heritage Gallery Tour

Gain Insights into Singapore's history with drug abuse through the virtual Heritage Gallery tour



PUBLIC EVENTS

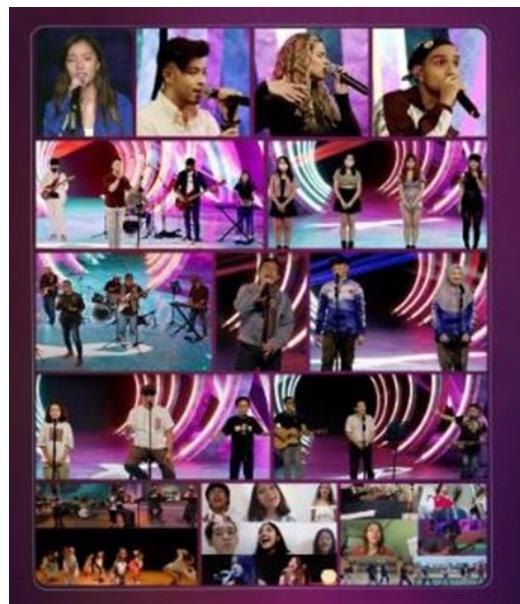
#ILiveFor DrugFreeSG Virtual Concert

CNB held its first DrugFreeSG Virtual Concert on 22nd February 2021, with the theme '#ILiveFor' to convey the message that when one has something to live for, one is less likely to throw one's life away to drugs.

The concert also sought to raise awareness on the anti-drug cause and garner support for the drug-free Singapore movement.

The Virtual Concert featured local celebrity artistes and performances from CNB's community partners and educational institutions, and CNB's youth volunteers.

CNB's Special Task Force made an appearance at the Concert to demonstrate how they take down armed drug offenders, and share about the training officers undergo as well as the risks they have had to take as part of CNB's elite strike force.



Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign

2021 marked the 26th year of the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC), organised by CNB to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June annually. ADAC 2021 comprised three key events – (1) the DrugFreeSG Light-Up event, (2) the anti-drug ribbon-folding exercise in MOE schools, and (3) the #ILiveFor social media campaign.

(1) DrugFreeSG Light-Up

The DrugFreeSG Light-Up 2021 took place on 26th June where numerous iconic buildings and landmarks in Singapore lit up in green or white, the colours of the anti-drug ribbon. 28 community partners, including seven community partners who had participated for the first time, showed their support for the anti-drug cause in solidarity.

CNB's partners in the United Against Drugs Coalition (UADC) also showed their support and joined in the celebrations.



HSBC Rain Vortex at Jewel Changi
Airport



Buildings and structures lit up in green for the DrugFreeSG Light-Up 2021



A splash screen shown to users when the Lazada app was launched on their devices on 26 June 2021

(2) Anti-Drug Ribbon-Folding Exercise

CNB conducted the anti-drug ribbon-folding exercise at MOE schools to encourage students to pledge their support for a drug-free Singapore.



Anti-drug ribbon-folding activity in schools

(3) #ILiveFor Social Media Campaigns

A series of social media activities were held from June to September 2021 under the theme '#ILiveFor' to garner the public's interest and raise awareness about the drug-free cause. This includes an Instagram Filter contest, a sticker contest, surprise pop quizzes on drug-related information and a 'Guess the Emoji' contest featuring healthy drug-free hobbies held to further engage the public.

In addition, CNB collaborated with UADC partner, Outlander Passion Club, for a car aerial formation video where 10 cars were decorated with customised stickers and arranged in the shape of the anti-drug ribbon. The video was uploaded online to garner the public's support to stand united against drugs.

CNB also worked with students to produce infographics and videos to educate and engage youths on the harmful effects of drugs and how to help others turn away from drug abuse. A compilation video

featuring shout-outs from students from various Institutes of Higher Learning and what they lived for was produced and shared on social media.



#DrugFreeSG Light-Up Instagram Filter Contest and Sticker Contest



Surprise pop quizzes and 'Guess The Emoji' Contest





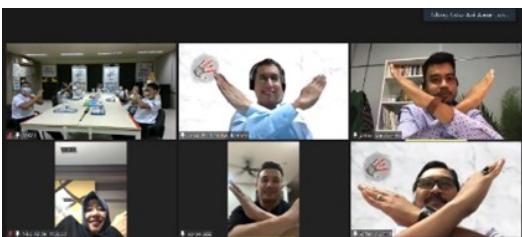
Car aerial formation video in collaboration with Outlander Passion Club



Engagement Sessions with Community Organisations



Shout-out video from IHL students



Engagement Sessions with Community Organisations

Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) Campaign

Launched in April 2017, the Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) campaign is a ground-up, community-nuanced initiative which supports the anti-drug efforts within the Malay-Muslim (MM) community.

DIH initiatives include volunteer engagement sessions, outreach programmes and engagement sessions with mosques and community organisations.



Volunteer Engagement Sessions



Minister for Home Affairs, K Shanmugam and Minister of State for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of National Development, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim launched the display of DIH banners and standees across all mosques in Singapore.



Outreach Programme for a Halfway House to support ex-offenders in their recovery journey



Outreach Programme for a Halfway House to support ex-offenders in their recovery journey



Distribution of Deepavali festive snacks to needy beneficiaries and to build resilience in times of uncertainty

Bothaiporulai Ethirthu Nirpom (BEN) Campaign

In 2019, CNB extended and expanded its outreach to the Indian community under the ‘Bothaiporulai Ethirthu Nirpom’ (BEN) campaign, which translates to ‘We Stand United Against Drugs’.

In 2021, BEN engaged the Indian community via a “live” interview with CNB officers over a radio channel, and distribution of Deepavali festive snacks to needy beneficiaries whilst promoting the importance of building resilience in time of uncertainty.



“Live” interview with CNB officers over a radio channel

CNB50 CELEBRATIONS

#CNB50 Celebrations

In commemoration of CNB's 50th anniversary, CNB published a series of #CNB50 social media posts from August 2021, with bite-sized fun facts about CNB's history and heritage. To increase public engagement, a three-part CNB50 contest was also rolled out and was well-received by netizens.

To mark this historical milestone, the CNB Headquarters at the Police Cantonment Complex was illuminated for the first time with a celebratory banner on the façade of the building during the DrugFreeSG Light-Up on 26th June 2021.

On 7th December 2021, the CNB50 Anniversary Event was held, with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as the Guest-of-Honour. A commemorative CNB50 coffee-table book, The Bureau's Fight for a #DrugFreeSG and CNB50 stamp set, CNB50: Continuing the Fight for a Drug-Free Singapore, were also launched at the event.



The Takedown

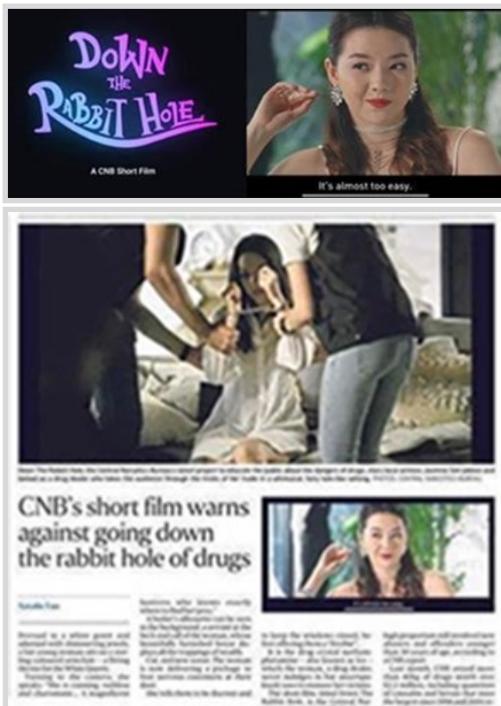
To celebrate CNB50, a drama series, The Takedown was produced and debuted in November 2021. The series included subplots based on real-life cases to highlight the harms of drug abuse to our society, especially to families and children. The series also sought to raise public awareness about CNB's work in anti-drug enforcement, preventive education, and community engagement.



MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

PDE Short Film: *Down The Rabbit Hole*

On 14th May 2021, CNB launched the PDE short film *Down the Rabbit Hole* on CNB's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube). The films narrated from the point of view of a drug trafficker who peddles drugs to young, impressionable youths and gets them hooked on drugs so she can profit from them. The film aims to impress upon viewers the mercenary mentalities of drug traffickers, whose primary motivation is profit-making at the expense of the young and curious, and often vulnerable, targets who are lured 'down the rabbit hole' of drug addiction.



Media coverage on Straits Times on the PDE short film, Down The Rabbit Hole

Crimewatch

A CNB anti-drug trafficking operation was featured on TV programme, *Crimewatch* in June and July 2021. The re-enactment showed CNB officers rescuing a one-year-old boy from suspected drug traffickers. The case highlighted the harms that drugs and drug trafficking can cause to innocent victims like children.



#SingaporeansAgainstDrugs

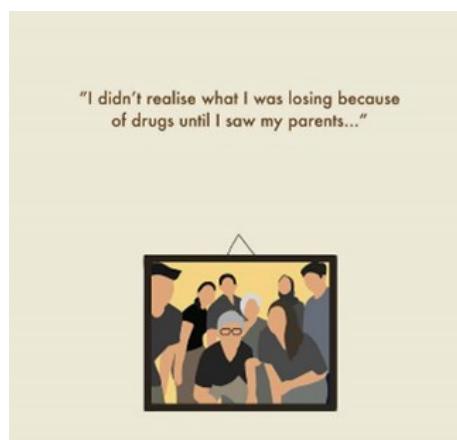
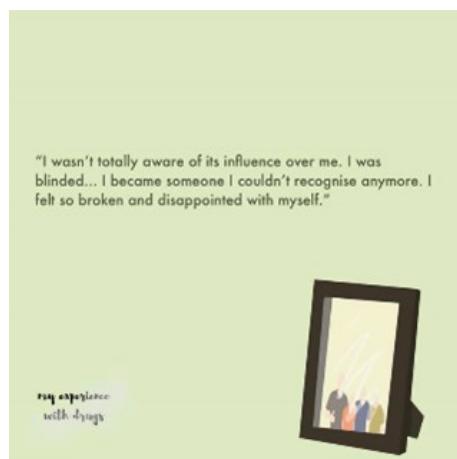
#SingaporeansAgainstDrugs is an ongoing social media campaign which features ordinary Singaporeans and their support for a drug-free Singapore. The campaign aims to encourage youths and members of the public to lead healthy and drug-free lifestyles.

Previous posts featured anti-drug advocates such as youth dance group MODE SG and family band Broken Slipper Squad, both of whom had collaborated with CNB for the #DrugFreeSG Virtual Concert in February 2021.



Project i - My Experience With Drugs

Project i is a social media campaign featuring the life stories of former drug abusers. The ex-abusers share their journeys from their addiction to their moment of epiphany and decision to change for the better. Their candid and heartfelt thoughts and reflections on their battle with drug abuse are captured in the illustration series which can be found on NCADA's Facebook page.



Policy and Programme Implementation

Thailand

Promulgation of Narcotics Code B.E.2564 (2021)

In the past, the most countries believed that drugs were so evil and undermined a society. Therefore, penalties have been imposed on those who involved with drug offenses. In addition, it was believed that the harsh law enforcement would lead to succeed in creating "Drug Free World". Thailand was among those countries that had the same perception. The time went by, the drug situation keep on changing, new drugs emerged. The world came up with new perception that such measures did not reduce the number of inmates of drug cases. For Thailand, more than 80 per cent of the prisoners were drug users, drug dealers, drug couriers, and drug retailers. It did not have a significant impact on the drug syndicates, kingpins but caused the problem of overflowing prisons. It reflected that the use of the criminal justice system in solving drug problems was not the solution at the root cause.

To solve drug problems in unity, Thailand has adjusted the concept of solving the drug problems to be more in accordance with international principles. The government has a policy to improve and develop drug-related laws to be

up-to-date according to the national strategy and country reform plan. Also, the government amended the legal provision to be in line with the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016), which provides alternative measures for drug users to undergo treatment instead of punishment or prosecution. For instance, the government adopts measures of Harm Reduction, Alternative Development, as well as amends laws that hinder livelihood of people. It also endorses the principle of drug users as patients. The narcotic plants are utilized for scientific and medical use, and the punishment is to be appropriate for the behavior in the offense. Those adjustment of concept to solve such drug problems leads to the promulgation of Narcotics Code B.E. 2564 (2021). The Narcotics Code had been drafted since in 2015 and it had taken 5-6 years before finishing, from now on, it will be the enforcement of the law as according to its intention, which needs to be driven appropriately in each process.

The Narcotics Code is the first narcotics law of the country which has reformed the conceptual framework to the new drug counteracting notion which is in consistent with the new global trend as according to the resolutions of the UNGASS 2016. The main points are the sensitiveness on improving drug categorization which has put some drugs in more proper category; the development of the new policy on drug abuser which focuses on health, public-health and drug problem is considered as a basic problem rather than a criminal problem; the improvement of criminal policy by setting up proper penalty and broadening alternative measures rather than imprisonment; enforcement of the laws to wipe out and destroy the illicit drug trafficking structure which is the core rather than the suppression of small-time drug dealer; and most importantly, the reorganization of the drug control management structure of the government to become more unity to serve as a tool to supervise and implement the policy effectively under the new conceptual framework as being designated in the Narcotics Code.

The Narcotics Code is the government's intent to systematize and enforce drug laws effectively by collecting drug laws that were originally distributed in a total of 24 laws, handled in the responsibility of many agencies, and consolidating into a single law of the "Narcotics Code" to ensure consistent and non-duplicative work and make it easy for people to study and understand.

The Narcotics Code came into force on December 9th, 2021. There are important issues such as adjustment of the penalty rate to be appropriate for the offense, confiscation of drug offenders' assets both in Property-based Confiscation and Value-based Confiscation, chemical control, including improvement of drug treatment guidelines using the public health process.

In 2021, Thailand had been working on the prevention and suppression of drugs according to this Narcotics Code with the following actions:

Firstly, the important matters about penalty are the adjustment of the criminal policy by determining the appropriate punishment for the behavior in the offense, revocation of minimum penalty, cancellation of the presumption of possession, addition of the presumption of possession to consume, adjustment of the punishment system, emphasis on cracking down serious criminal organizations by considering serious circumstances and consequences or using other alternative measures according to the severity level of the offense.

"Punishment based on offenders' behavior" has a clear classification of traders/abusers by dividing the drug-related people into 3 groups:

1. Victim group who use drugs, drug abusers, and juveniles are encouraged to undergo rehabilitation measures or other measures instead of imprisonment. They are to be helped, taken care of, and inspired to build immunity.

2. Labor group are under treatment measures, extension measure to the drug syndicates, penalties and reduced penalties when providing useful information.

3. Drug Owner group shall face with severe criminal penalties, conspiracy or support measures, confiscation measures, probation conditions, or enforcement of fines in accordance with the Penal Code.

Adjustment of the penalty rate to be appropriate for the offense led the problem of overflowing prisoners to be reduced. It also supported the operations of the law enforcement officers to be able to operate more efficiently.

Secondly, breaking the financial cycle of drug traffickers by enhancing measures to seize assets from drug traffickers both in the form of Property-based Confiscation and Value-based Confiscation, which has set a target of confiscation of 6,000 million baht. By 2021, Thailand can seize assets more than 7 billion baht.

Thirdly, the main point of treatment and social rehabilitation for drug abusers is solving problems of drug users or addicts in terms of public health and health and giving a chance to repent and turn over a new leaf. In addition, a person who consumes or possesses a small amount of drugs (according to the ministerial regulations) can voluntarily receive

treatment without being prosecuted. The whole treatment system was adjusted from the compulsory system to be a voluntary system and treatment system according to court orders. There are social rehabilitation centers that provide care, counseling, and assistance to people in therapy to receive social welfare, temporary housing support without repeating the same mistakes and coming back to live with the people in society.

The benefit of new Narcotics Code is that people can understand and access the law more easily. Also, it promotes and supports the cooperation between government agencies, private sectors and the people in the integration of drug management. The offender is punished appropriately to the severity of action. There are more measures to suppress the drug network (Property-based Confiscation and Value-based Confiscation). The courts have greater discretion to impose penalties or other measures that are more appropriate. There is a rehabilitation system and the opportunity for addicts whose possession to consume to be able to voluntarily attend therapy instead of litigation. Those who have undergone rehabilitation will be assisted by social rehabilitation facilities.

The approach to solve drug problems has changed. This reflects that Thailand's view on the drug problem has changed dramatically, considering that the drug problem is a problem caused by many factors: economic, social, educational, well-being, and health problems. There has been a change in the perception of the drug user from the "criminal or social danger" to "patient", which requires support and cooperation from all sectors. Moreover, the concept of giving consumers a chance to receive rehabilitation to return to live in society is an important turning point in the integration of drug solutions to make Thai society safe from drugs sustainably.

For full enactment of the Narcotics Code, the secondary laws would be drafted to support the main law, Narcotics Code. There is a provision defines that 68 secondary laws should be drafted and it is under the responsibility of 3 agencies namely, the ONCB, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Health (by the Office of Food and Drug Administration or FDA and the Office of the Permanent Secretary of Public Health) and the Office of the Court of Justice. The drafting of the secondary laws should be done within 180 days to 2 years as being defined differently for each law,

In conclusion, the ONCB reformed and developed the acts and regulations related to narcotics to more updated and in line with the National Strategy and Reform Plan as well as the government's policy declared to the Parliament including the amendment of some provisions to be in consistent with the international guidelines, outcome document of UNGASS 2016. Moreover, the ONCB enacted the Narcotics Code aiming at to gathering the acts related to narcotic drug and their provisions which are under the responsibilities of several agencies by classify them into groups in the form of code of law which would harmonize the solving of narcotic problem as well as creating the unity on narcotics control and reducing what were obstacles or burdensome towards the livelihood of the people.

ANNEX

TYPES OF TEA BAG PACKAGING IN MALAYSIA 2021



GOLDEN YELLOW



LIME GREEN



QING SHAN



TOP GRADE GREEN TEA /
YELLOW GOLD LEAF



HIGH GRADE GREEN TEA



CHINESE TEA GIFT



CHINA TEA



ALISHAN JIN XIAN TEA



Safe Mekong Coordination Center : China Lao PDR Myanmar, Thailand Cambodia Vietnam
Report summary of situations of Safe Mekong Operation Plan between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Case/Offender	Case/Person	1,217/2,148	28/80	55/122	49/59	599/1,186	310/391	174/308
Narcotics and Chemicals								
Acetic	Kg.	4.26	-	-	-	-	4.26	-
Acetone	liter.	3,000.00	-	-	-	-	3,000.00	-
Acetonitrile	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acetyl Chloride	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alcohol	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allylbenzene	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonium Chloride	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonium Formate	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonium Hydroxide	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthranilic Acid	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzene	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzyl Chloride	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzylidhyde	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bromo Phenyl Ethyl Ketone	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
caffiene	Kg.	17,780.00	-	-	8,425.00	9,355.00	-	-
Calcium Carbonate	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CH3OH	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chloroform	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Codeine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyclohexane	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Safe Mekong Coordination Center : China Lao PDR Myanmar, Thailand Cambodia Vietnam
Report summary of situations of Safe Mekong Operation Plan between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Ethyl Acetate	liter..	24,960.00	-	-	-	24,960.00	-	-
Ethylamine	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethyldine Diacetate	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hydrobromic	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hydrochloric Acid	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hydrogen Peroxide	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methylene Chloride	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-Butyl Acetate	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-Butyl Alcohol	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phenol	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phosphoric Acid	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phosphorous Pentachloride	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phosphorous Trichloride	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piperidine	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potassium Cyanide	kg.	750.00	-	-	-	750.00	-	-
Sec-Butyl Alcohol	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Acetate Trihydrate	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Carbonate	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Cyanide	kg.	66,642.00	-	-	-	66,642.00	-	-
Sodium Hydroxide Powder	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Hydroxide	liter.	12,500.00	-	-	-	12,500.00	-	-

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Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Sodium Hypochlorite	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sulfuric Acid	liter.	18,280.00	-	-	-	18,280.00	-	-
Thionyl Chloride	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thionyl Disulfate	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toluene	kg.	40,100.00	-	-	-	40,100.00	-	-
Tramadol	capsule.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trichloroethylene	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
alprazolam	Tablets.	120,000.00	-	-	120,000.00	-	-	-
Cocaine	kg.	1.98	1.98	-	-	-	-	-
Cold Medicine	Bottle.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diazepam	Tablets.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ecstasy	Tablets.	3,621,768.00	3,254,628.00	-	124,250.00	47,050.00	195,840.00	-
Cannabis	kg.	42,252.19	0.00	-	572.00	34.34	41,612.90	32.94
Heroin	kg.	6,975.36	318.20	554.41	306.25	3,801.94	1,625.78	368.79
Ice	g.	25,353,979.56	890,041.55	304,615.69	2,868,000.00	12,626,853.90	7,944,942.34	719,526.08
Ketamine	g.	4,466,868.66	2,830,780.12	297.00	-	760,920.00	552,000.00	322,871.54
Kratom	g.	108,501.87	-	-	-	108,501.87	-	-
LSD	sheet..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medicine	Tablets.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Opium	kg.	3,668.41	-	24.29	3.70	2,247.44	264.00	1,128.99
Yaba	Tablets.	618,305,142.00	22,500.00	6,650,780.00	131,951,327.00	178,150,805.00	298,189,427.00	3,340,303.00
1-Phenyl-2-Propanone	kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Safe Mekong Coordination Center : China Lao PDR Myanmar, Thailand Cambodia Vietnam
Report summary of situations of Safe Mekong Operation Plan between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
3,4-Methylenedioxypyrophenyl-2-Propanone	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-Anilino-N-Phenethylpyridine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acetic Anhydride	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
alpha-Phenylacetooctanitrile	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzyl Cyanide	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ephedrin	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ergometrine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ergotamine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethyl ether	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iosafatole	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lysergic Acid	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-Acetylanthranilic Acid	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-Phenethyl-4-Piperidone	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norephedrine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phenylacetic Acid	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piperonal	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potassium Permanganate	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pseudoephedrine	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Safrole	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonium Nitrate	Kg.	28,785.00	-	-	-	28,785.00	-	-
Potassium Phosphate	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MDDP2P	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Report summary of situations of Safe Mekong Operation Plan between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
ethanol	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown Chemicals	Kg..	84,408.00	84,357.00	-	-	38.00	-	13.00
DEXTROSE	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EthyVanillin	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
powder chemical	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flavoring liquid	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Ethoxide	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemical reagent	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Titanium(N) Methoxide	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-Bromoethyl chloroformate	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methyl MercaptaW	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stimulant Powder	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methyl Alcohol Acid	liter..	28,260.00	-	-	-	28,260.00	-	-
Di-Tartaric Acid	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diaminopropionic Acid	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Charcoal	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acid	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coral bone	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urea	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tri Fluoro Acetic Acid	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixture of Methanol Nitric Acid	liter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dioxohexahydro	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dimethylhydian Dioxohexahydro	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Report summary of situations of Safe Mekong Operation Plan between 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Dichloroethane	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PROPYNYL CHLORIDE	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixture of LITHIUM IODIDE	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morphine	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixture of Methylamine Sulfuric Chloride	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PHENETHYLAMINE	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEODYMIUM TITANATE Arsenic Trichloride	(liter),	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
sodium Acetate	Kg..	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	-	-	-
Dithiooxamide 92%	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dicyclohexylacetic	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polypropylene Acid	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trifluoracetophenone Acid	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethyl Maltol	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caustic Soda	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BENZYL ETHER	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-Isopropyl Benzylamine	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
กีนบุนกา	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium Chloride	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potassium Chloride	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
“ນຳມາຈິກເຕັມ	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
chemical	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LORAZEPAM	tablets.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Narcotics/Chemicals	Unit	6 countries	Cambodia	China	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam
Morphine	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meihi Powder	Kg..	7.00	-	-	-	-	7.00	-
Dibenzoyl-L-Tartaric Acid	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ວິທະຍາອົນສີຕໍາ	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acetic acid Sodium	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
effervescent C	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theophylline	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dichloromethane	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tartaric Acid	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dimethyl Carbonate	liter.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CATHINONE	Kg..	15.00	15.00	-	-	-	-	-
MDMA	Kg.	150.00	150.00	-	-	-	-	-
Nimetazepam	tablets.	19,500.00	19,500.00	-	-	-	-	-
BISMUTH (II) OXIDE	liter..	9,000.00	-	-	-	9,000.00	-	-
Sulfurous Dichloride	liter.	13,600.00	-	-	-	13,600.00	-	-
Dimethyl Sulfate	liter.	8,400.00	-	-	-	8,400.00	-	-
ເທົ່າຍະກຳ	Kg..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FUB-AMB (Cannabinoid)	Kg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nimetazepam	Kg.	19,500.00	19,500.00	-	-	-	-	-
ເທົ່າເງິນເຮົາ	g.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note : The drugs, precursors and chemical were seized in the 11 targeted areas of the Safe Mekong Operation specified by 6 member countries, not overall seizures of the country.

