

# CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

## Drug and Inhalant Situation Report Jan – Jun 2012



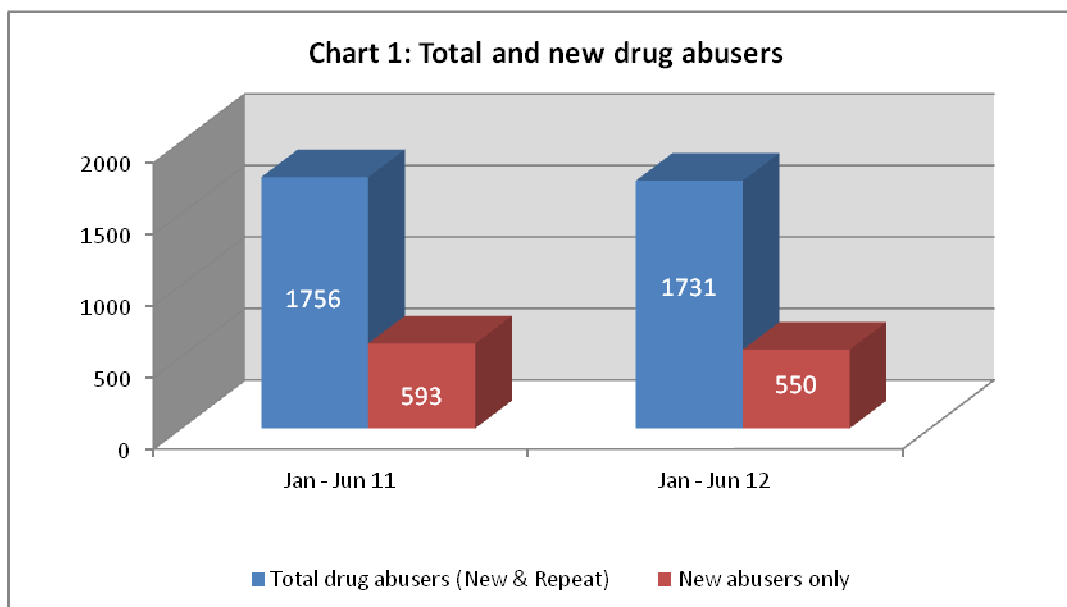
### CNB REMAINS VIGILANT

#### - INCREASING DRUG SEIZURES AND SLIGHT DIP IN DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED

Although there have been a slight dip in the number of drug abusers arrested, the local drug situation remains challenging. CNB remains vigilant and concerned about the local drug situation against the backdrop of increasing drug seizures, a worsening regional drug situation and the large number of repeat drug abusers expected to be released over the next few years. With our continuing tough vigorous enforcement stance, a total of 30 major operations had been conducted in the first half of 2012.

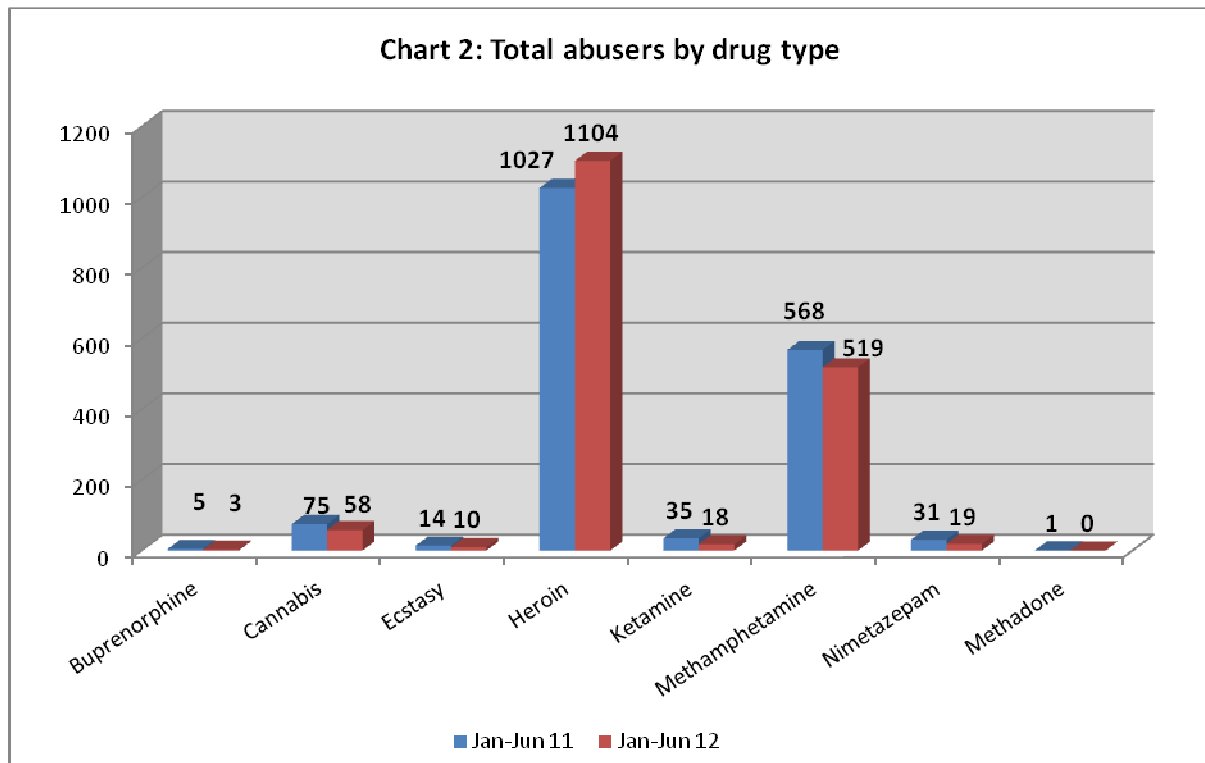
#### Drug Abusers Arrested

Compared to the first half of 2011, the total number of drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2012 dipped slightly by 1.4%, from 1,756 to 1,731. The number of new drug abusers arrested also saw a decrease of 7.3% to 550, where there were 43 fewer new drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2012.



## Type of Drugs Abused

Heroin and methamphetamine continued to be the two most commonly abused drugs. 94% of the drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2012 were heroin or methamphetamine abusers.



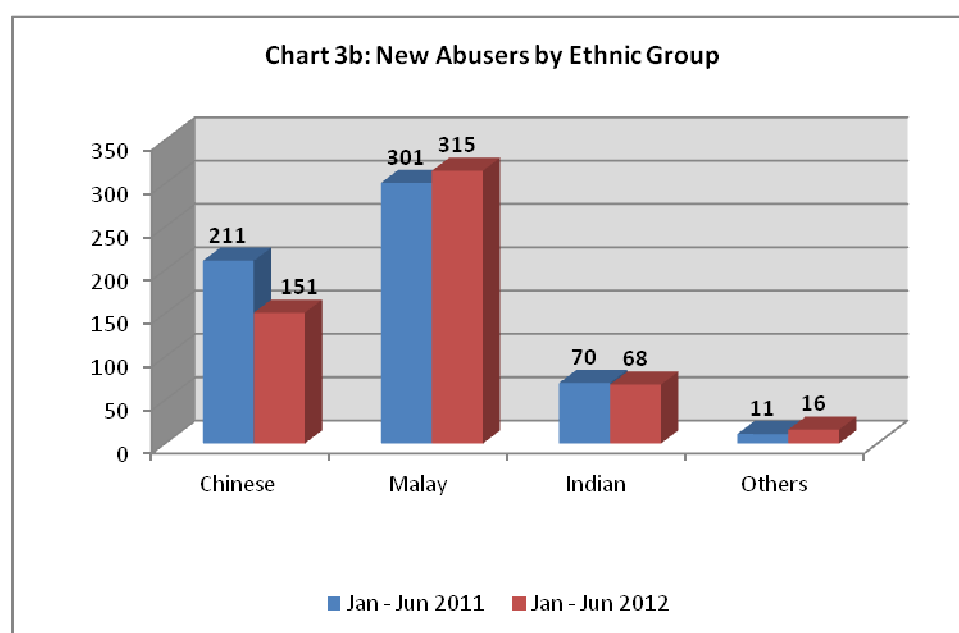
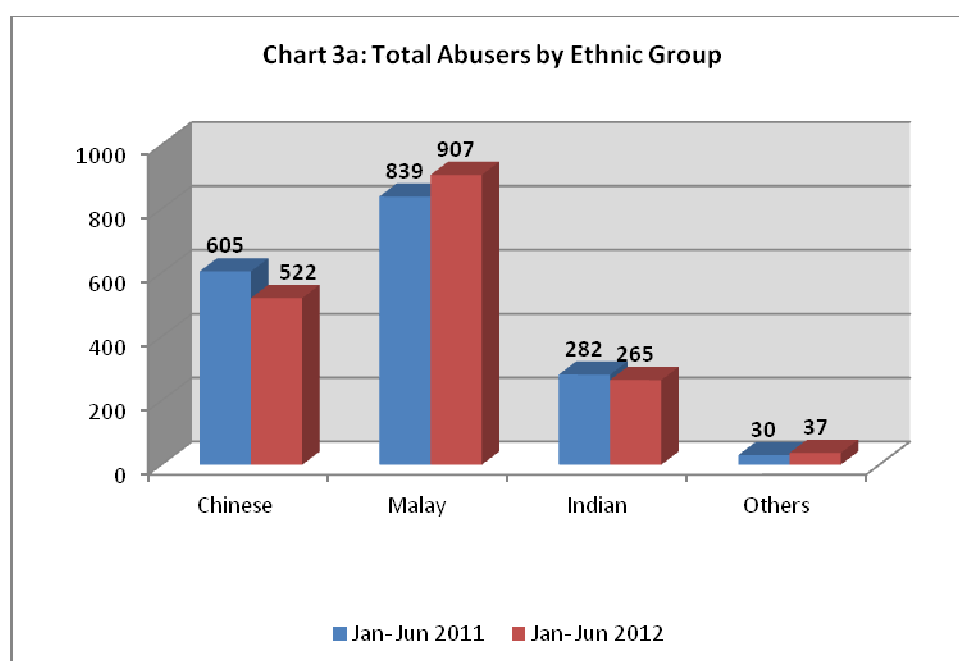
In the first half of 2012, the number of heroin abusers increased by 7.5% from 1,027 to 1,104 as compared to the first half of 2011. While methamphetamine remained the second most commonly abused drugs, the number of methamphetamine abusers arrested dipped 8.6%, with 49 fewer methamphetamine abusers arrested in the first half of 2012.

Heroin and methamphetamine were also the two most commonly abused drugs among new abusers. The number of new heroin abusers arrested in the first half of 2012 registered a 13.5% increase from the same period in 2011, from 148 to 168 new heroin abusers. The number of new methamphetamine abusers arrested in the first half of 2012 dipped 7.8% to 317 as compared to 344 new methamphetamine abusers arrested in the same period in 2011.

## Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Ethnic Groups

The number of Chinese and Indian drug abusers arrested declined by 13.7% and 6% respectively in the first half of 2012 compared to the same period last year. The number of Malay drug abusers arrested increased by 8.1% from 839 to 907.

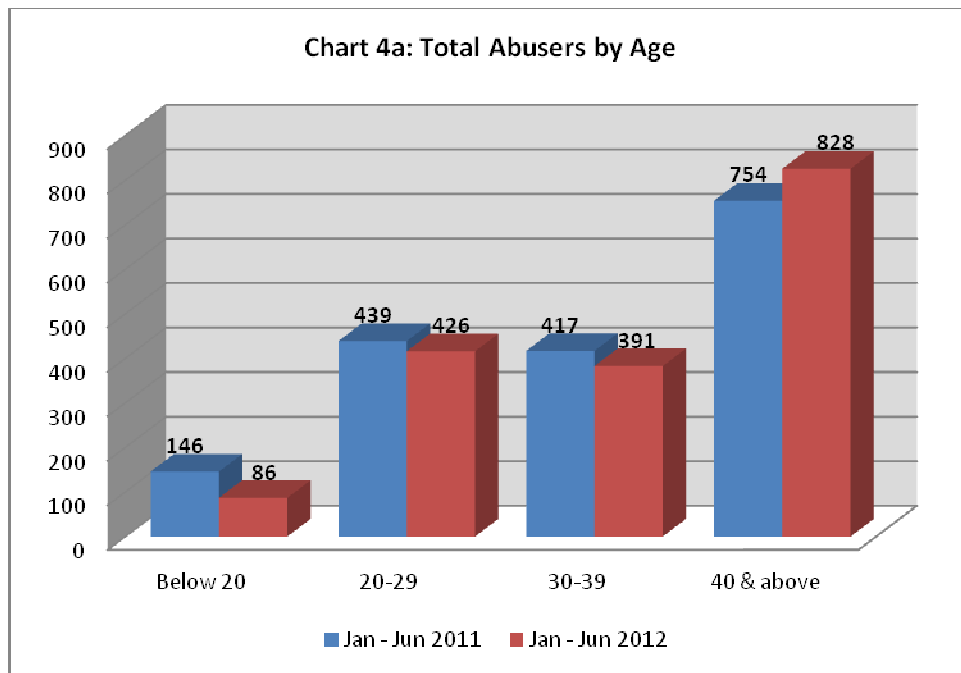
There was a 28.4% decline in the number of Chinese new drug abusers arrested. The trend for new drug abusers arrested across other ethnic groups in first half of 2012 remained relatively similar to that of those arrested in first half of 2011.



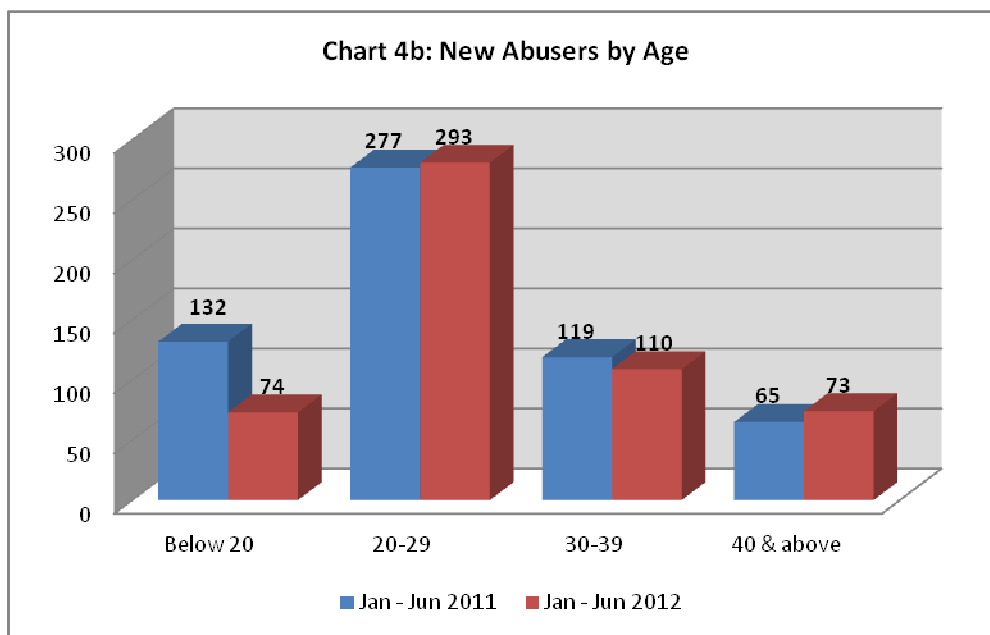
### Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Age Groups

The numbers of abusers arrested below 20 years of age declined 41.1% from 146 arrested in first half 2011 to 86 in the first half of 2012. However, the number of abusers aged 40 and above increased from 754 to 828. This age group remains the majority of abusers arrested, and comprised 48% of all abusers arrested in first half of 2012.

The numbers of abusers arrested by CNB in the first half of 2012 in the two age groups of '20 to 29' and '30 to 39' showed a decline, of 3% and 6.2% respectively.



The number of new drug abusers aged below 20 declined 43.9% from 132 to 74. The number of new drug abusers in other age groups arrested in the first half of 2012 was about the same compared to the same period last year. The majority of new drug abusers remained those aged between '20 to 29', and comprised 53.3% of new abusers arrested in the first half of 2012.



### Drug Seizures – First Half of 2012<sup>i</sup>

CNB seized approximately S\$9.3 million worth of drugs in the first half of 2012, which is about S\$1.5 million more compared to the same period of 2011. Other than 'Ecstasy,' ketamine and Nimetazepam, the other major drug types saw increased seizures. In particular, seizure of crystal methamphetamine, or 'Ice' increased from 4.0 kg to about 9.5kg.

Larger quantities of heroin, cannabis, methamphetamine and buprenorphine were seized in the first half of 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011. The increases ranged from 13.6% to 469.6%.

Drug type	Jan - June 11	Jan - June 12	% change in seizure	Estimated market value Jan - June 11	Estimated market value Jan - June 12
Heroin No.3	39.6 kg	44.99 kg	+ 13.6%	≈ S\$7.8 million	≈ S\$9.3 million
Cannabis	5.57 kg	9.03 kg	+ 62.1%		
'Ecstasy'	3,213 tablets	2,074 tablets	- 35.4%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	4.00 kg	9.50 kg	+ 137.5%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	430 tablets	624 tablets	+ 45.1%		
Ketamine	6.68 kg	1.87 kg	- 72%		
Nimetazepam	26,035 tablets	24,600 tablets	- 5.5%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	23 tablets	131 tablets	+ 469.6%		

## PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Preventive Drug Education (PDE) is a key component in CNB's overall strategy to fight against the drug scourge. PDE complements CNB's vigorous enforcement efforts by spreading the anti-drug message, inculcating anti-drug awareness and reinforcing in the public the zero-tolerance stance against drug abuse. In the first half of 2012, CNB continued to organise and support a wide range of PDE activities in partnership with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and various community self-help groups.

### Key PDE Events in 1H2012

#### 900 participants from 85 schools and non-school teams participated in DanceWorks! 2012

Considered an anchor initiative in CNB's PDE suite, DanceWorks! enters its 14<sup>th</sup> year in 2012, attracting an ever wider range of participants. DanceWorks! remains the only nation-wide dance competition with an anti-drug theme. Since the inaugural event in 1999, DanceWorks! has

continued to receive enthusiastic support. DanceWorks! 2012's tagline was 'Live It Loud with Dance! Stay Cool. No Drugs'. It attracted over 900 participants from 85 schools and non-school teams. Participating teams had to weave in an anti-drug message into their dance routines. To spread the anti-drug message to a wider audience, this year's DanceWorks! included a component of online fringe activities for dancers and non-dancers on the Live It Loud Facebook fanpage. These were the *DanceWorks! Logo Design Contest*<sup>ii</sup>, the *Fastest Fingers Challenge*<sup>iii</sup> and



the *My Favourite DanceWorks! Moment Contest*<sup>iv</sup>.





### Singapore Poly students helped organised Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2012

In support of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June, NCADA and CNB kicked off the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2012 in June, which sees them jointly organising a series of activities which will run from June 2012 to the end of the year. The theme of ADAC 2012 is *'Life Does Not Rewind. Make The Right Choice'*. This is the second year where students from the Singapore Polytechnic's School of Architecture and the Built Environment collaborated with NCADA and CNB to conceptualise and organise a series of anti-drug activities. One of the high points of ADAC 2012 was the successful record-breaking attempt to build Singapore's largest mosaic made up of phone wipes at The Cathay on 23 and 24 June 2012. More than 120 students from eight schools, ITE and polytechnics participated in the attempt.

Another highlight of ADAC 2012 was the **launch of the new mobile exhibition bus, the 'Drug Buster Academy'**, by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs. After the decommissioning of the previous exhibition bus in 2010, the launch of the new exhibition bus was a highly anticipated affair. The bus enables the spread of the anti-drug message to reach an even wider audience and is always a hit with school-children.

### More PDE outreach in 2H2012

ADAC 2012 sees a whole slew of activities planned for the rest of the year, including Sportzmania 2012, a hi-energy sports carnival featuring a futsal tournament and amazing race, which will be held in September 2012. Sportzmania 2012 is aimed at encouraging youths to lead a healthy drug-free lifestyle through fun and sports.



### Collaboration with Community Partners and Self-help groups

CNB supported events and programmes organised by its community partners and self-help groups for the purpose of PDE, by conducting anti-drug talks, holding anti-drug exhibitions or sponsoring of PDE materials such as brochures, publications or souvenirs carrying the anti-drug message. Examples of these include collaborating with the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) on an anti-drug workshop consisting of a sharing session and interactive anti-drug activities and games for at-risk youths; supporting the Chinese Development Assistance Council's (CDAC) Family Day in April 2012 by sponsoring various souvenirs carrying the anti-drug message.

## Stepping up Efforts amidst a Challenging environment

CNB continues to face a challenging drug landscape both on the supply and demand fronts. The worsening regional drug situation means the supply of drugs in the region will remain high. This will have an impact on the local drug situation. This is accentuated by an increasingly liberal attitude towards drugs amongst today's generation of youths and the contaminating influence posed by the expected increase of repeat drug abusers expected to be released from the Long-Term (LT) Imprisonment Regime in the coming years.

Moving ahead, CNB will continue to step-up our intensive enforcement efforts against drug offenders, while co-operating with our foreign counterparts to stem the flow of drugs into the local market. CNB will also be working together with our partner agencies on the implementation of the recently announced recommendations made by Task Force on Drugs to improve the local drug situation, which the national level Steering Committee is overseeing.

The recommendations include:

- tougher punishment for repeat drug traffickers, traffickers who target the young and vulnerable , as well as those who organise drug gathering;
- leveraging on technology such as adoption of hair analysis, which offers a longer detection period, to enhance CNB's detection capabilities;
- creation of a Young Persons Reporting Centre to decrease the contamination effect;
- enhancing outreach to post secondary institutions and Full-time National Servicemen;
- adopting a more calibrated approach in PDE by targeting youths-at-risk and out-of-school youths; and
- enhancing the Direct Supervision Order to include counselling and casework for young first time drug abusers.

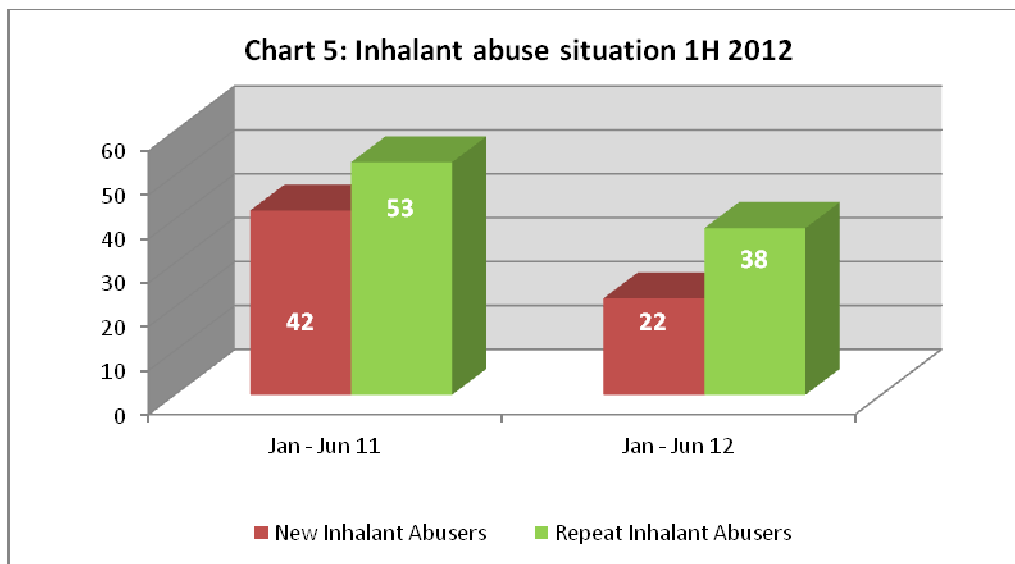
As a society, all of us, including parents, caregivers, teachers and friends, have a role to play to keep our loved ones away from drugs. Anyone who suspects that a loved one is engaging in drug/inhalant abuse or has information pertaining to the trafficking in drugs is advised to alert CNB by calling our 24-hour toll-free hotline at 1800-3256666. Together, we can keep Singapore drug free.



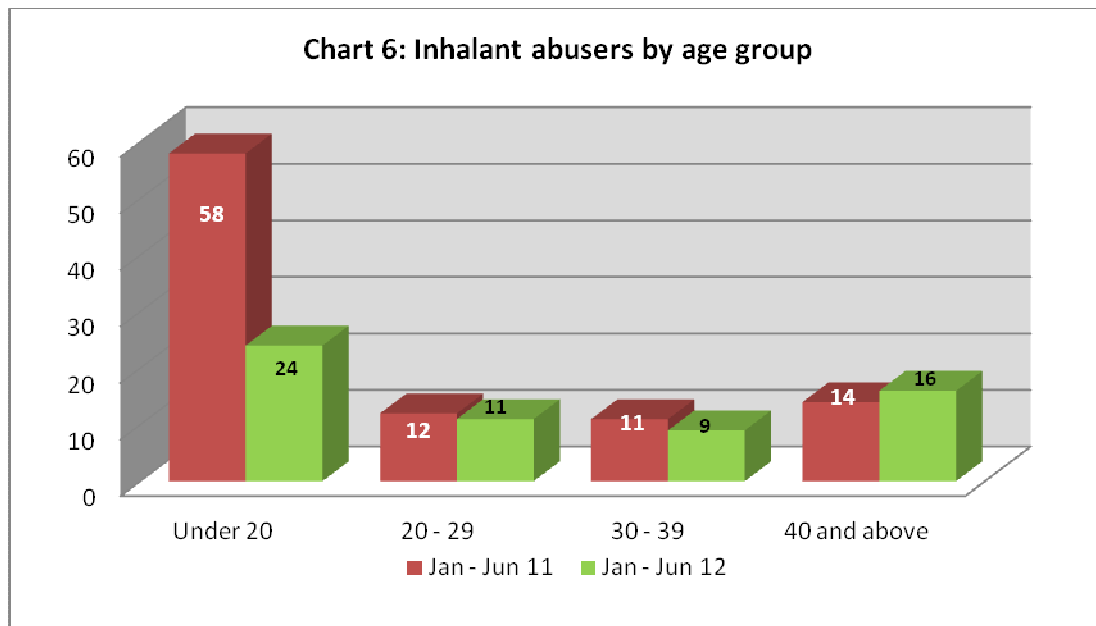
## INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION JAN TO JUN 2012

### INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION CONTINUED TO IMPROVE

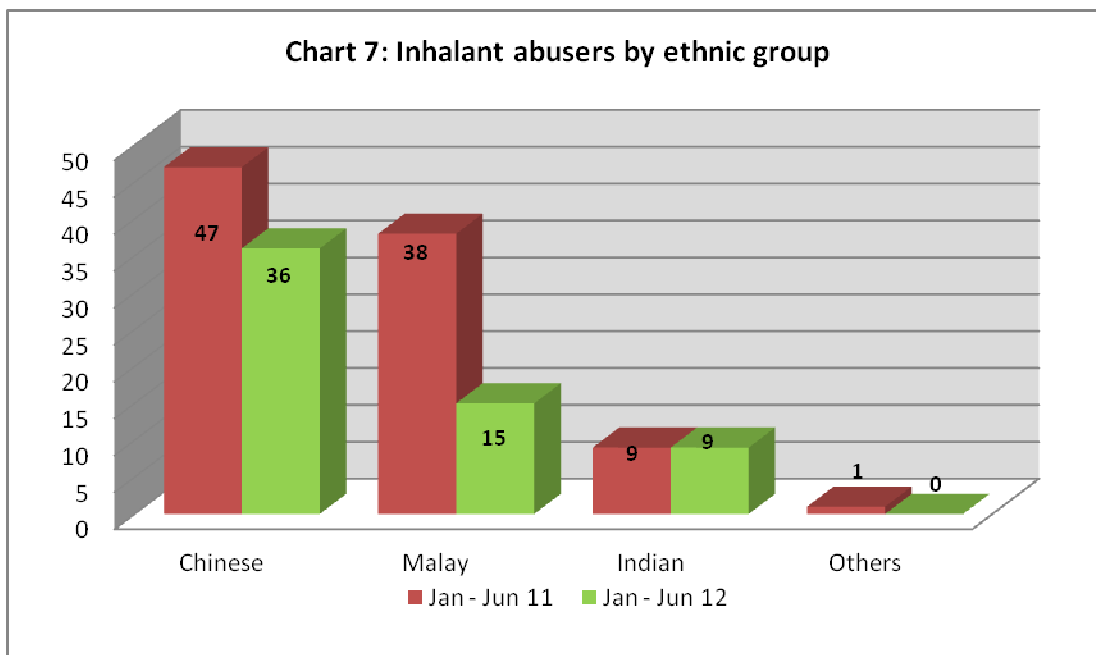
The inhalant abuse situation in Singapore continued to show improvement. The number of inhalant abusers arrested dropped from 95 in the first half of 2011 to 60 in the first half of 2012. There were no significant changes in the profile of inhalant abusers arrested.



There were fewer arrests of both new and repeat inhalant abusers. New inhalant abusers arrested in the first half of 2012 dipped 47.6% from 42 to 22 compared to the same period last year. Similarly arrests of repeat inhalant abusers declined about 28.3% from 53 in the first half of 2011 to 38 for first half of 2012. The number of youths under the age of 20 arrested for inhalant abuse saw significant decline of about 58.6% - from 58 in first half of 2011 to 24 for the same period this year. This group continues to make up the majority at approximately 40% of all inhalant abusers arrested in the first half of 2012.



The Chinese and Malay ethnic groups continue to comprise the majority of inhalant abusers arrested.



## CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE

For inhalants products such as glue which are easily available and have common and legitimate usage, CNB will continue to seek the assistance of shopkeepers to avoid selling products to persons who may be abusing them. For example, CNB will send Letters of Notice and Letters of Advice to all relevant shopkeepers in a particular vicinity when CNB receives information that inhalant abusers frequent and purchase products in that area. CNB also provides posters and other anti-inhalant materials to these shops to serve as public education and reminders.

Recognising the dangers of peer pressure, CNB has worked together with schools to identify friends of known inhalant abusers to conduct focused school talks and to warn them of the dangers and consequences of inhalant abuse. Since Aug 2007, 62 such talks have been delivered to 1,005 students.

CNB also conducts anti-drug and inhalant abuse school assembly talks targeted at the general student population. Since 2007, CNB conducts more than 100 such school talks every year. From January to June this year, CNB has conducted 68 such talks.

Moving forward, CNB will continue to engage these key stakeholders in its efforts to eradicate inhalant abuse.

## END OF NEWS RELEASE

ISSUED BY:

**CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU**

**16 August 2012**

**(Updated Jun 2013)**

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<sup>i</sup> Table only outlines seizures with a determinable street value in Singapore and is not an exhaustive list of all drugs seized by CNB.

<sup>ii</sup> Participants were invited to submit a logo for DanceWorks! with a short description explaining the rationale of the design.

<sup>iii</sup> Participants were invited to click on the correct alphabet letter amongst dancing alphabet letters to complete the tagline, "Live It Loud with Dance. Stay cool. No drugs!" within the shortest time possible.

<sup>iv</sup> To join the photograph contest, participants would take a photograph at DanceWorks! competition venue with a trademark that was clearly associated with DanceWorks! 2012, such as teams' costumes, anti-drug exhibition panels or sponsors' banners etc. They then uploaded the photograph(s) and got their friends to vote for the photographs.