

## Central Narcotics Bureau Press Release

### **ABOUT TWO-THIRD OF NEW DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED IN 1<sup>ST</sup> HALF OF 2014 WERE BELOW 30 YEARS OLD**

- ***Heroin and methamphetamine remain top two most commonly abused drugs;***

Between January and June 2014, heroin and methamphetamine made up 93% of all drug abusers arrested and 5% of all drug abusers arrested abused cannabis, making it the third most commonly abused drug. This situation was similar to the same period in 2013.

2. Amongst new abusers, methamphetamine was the most commonly abused drug in the first half of 2014 (68% of the total), followed by heroin (15%) and cannabis (12%). In the same period of 2013, 61% of new drug abusers abused methamphetamine, 23% abused heroin and 10% abused cannabis. About two-thirds (69%) of new drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2014 were below the age of 30. This was a four percentage point increase when compared to the first half of 2013.

3. Compared to the first half of 2013, the first half of 2014 saw an overall decrease in the seizure of drugs. The estimated street value of the total drugs seized amounted to about S\$4.71 million, a decrease of 50% when compared to the first half of 2013. Seizures of heroin decreased by about 24%, from 35.94kg to 27.46kg. Seizures of methamphetamine or 'Ice' decreased by about 62%, from 22.49kg to 8.65kg. However, seizures of 'Ice' meant specifically for the local market increased about 10% from 4.82kg to 5.30kg.

4. Preventive Drug Education (PDE) remains a key approach in the Central Narcotics Bureau's fight against drugs. To engage youths and the general public on the dangers of drug abuse, CNB continued to deliver anti-drugs talks and held exhibitions to schools for the first half of 2014 to drive the anti-drug message to the masses. Key outreach efforts included DanceWorks!<sup>1</sup> 2014, an Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign<sup>2</sup> 2014 and the Singapore Games Creation Competition (SGCC) 2014<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> DanceWorks! is an annual anti-drug dance competition co-organised by CNB and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA).

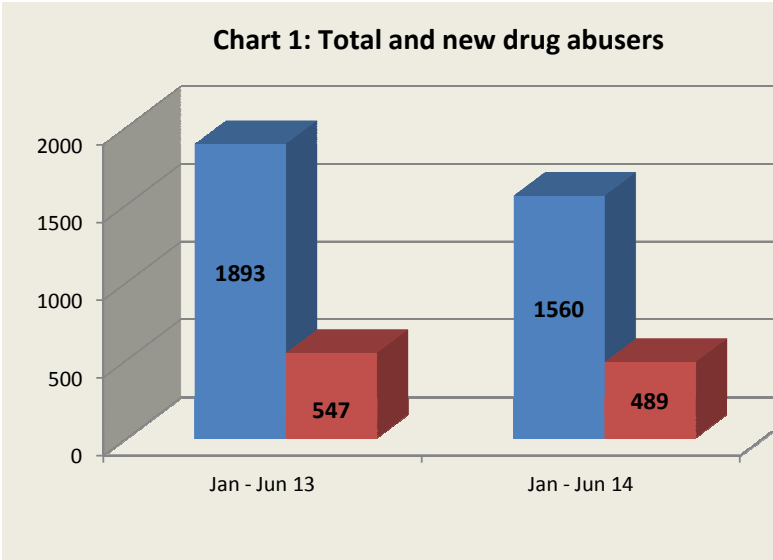
<sup>2</sup> The Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign is co-organised by CNB and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) annually to commemorate the World Drug Day on 26 June.

<sup>3</sup> The Singapore Games Creation Competition (SGCC) 2014 is jointly organised by CNB and Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) School of Interactive and Digital Media and is held from 16 May 2014 to 17 Oct 2014.

Community partnership is also one of CNB’s approaches to include the larger community in the fight against drugs. CNB also collaborated with key stakeholders such as the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), Fei Yue Community Services, Beyond Social Services, Yayasan Mendaki, and 4PM (also known as the Malay Youth Literary Association) to deliver the anti-drug message at these community partners’ events.

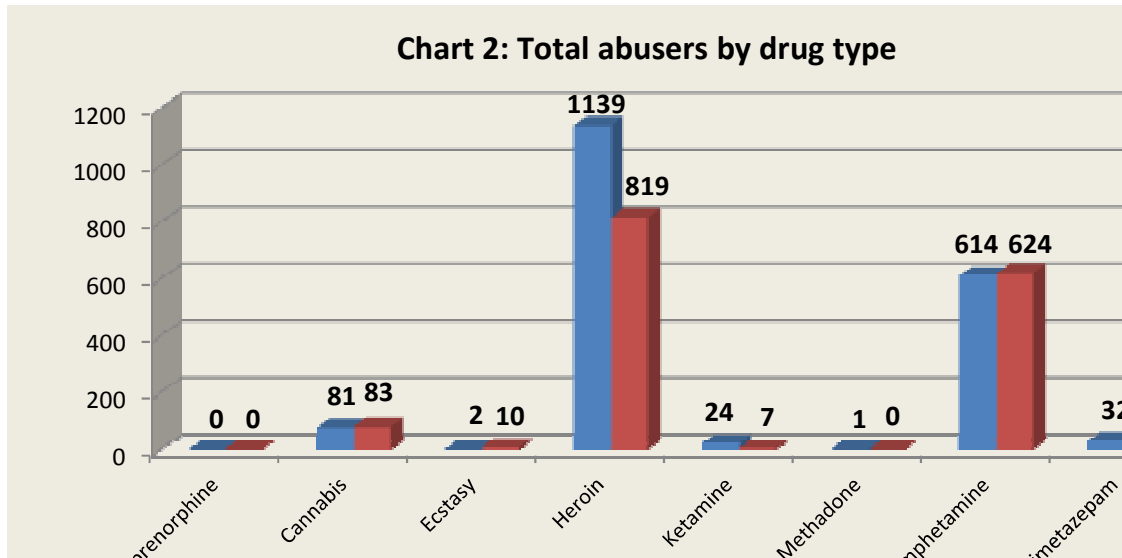
**Local Drug Abusers Arrested - Overall**

5. The total number of drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2014 saw a decrease of 18% as compared to the first half of 2013, from 1,893 to 1,560. The number of repeat drug abusers arrested decreased by 20%, from 1,346 to 1,071. However, repeat drug abusers continue to form the majority of drug abusers arrested, comprising 69% of total drug abusers arrested.

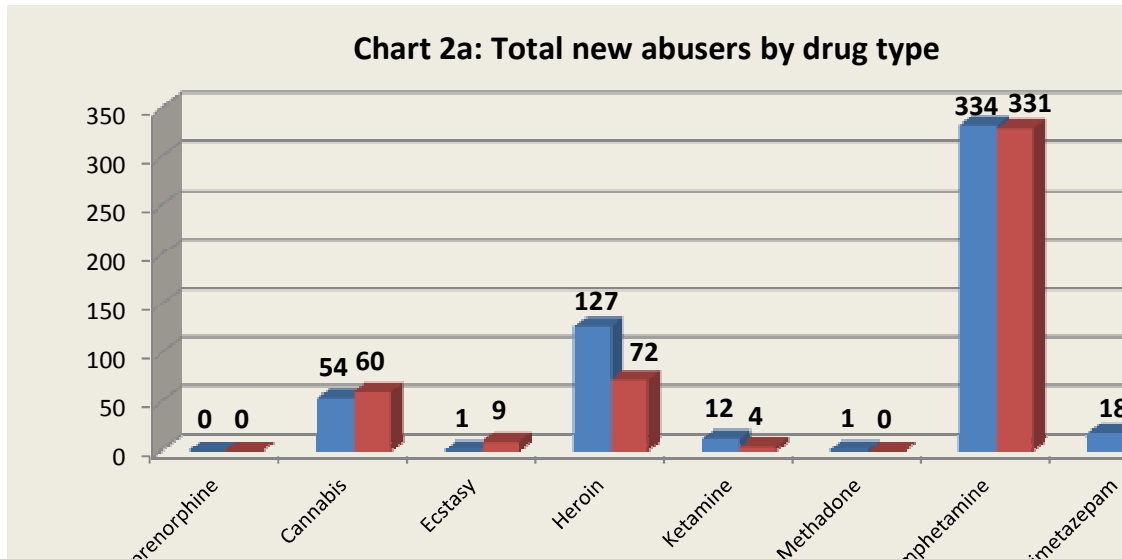


## Type of Drugs Abused

6. Heroin and methamphetamine remained the two most commonly abused drugs. About 93% of the total drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2014 abused either heroin or methamphetamine, which is similar to the first half of 2013.

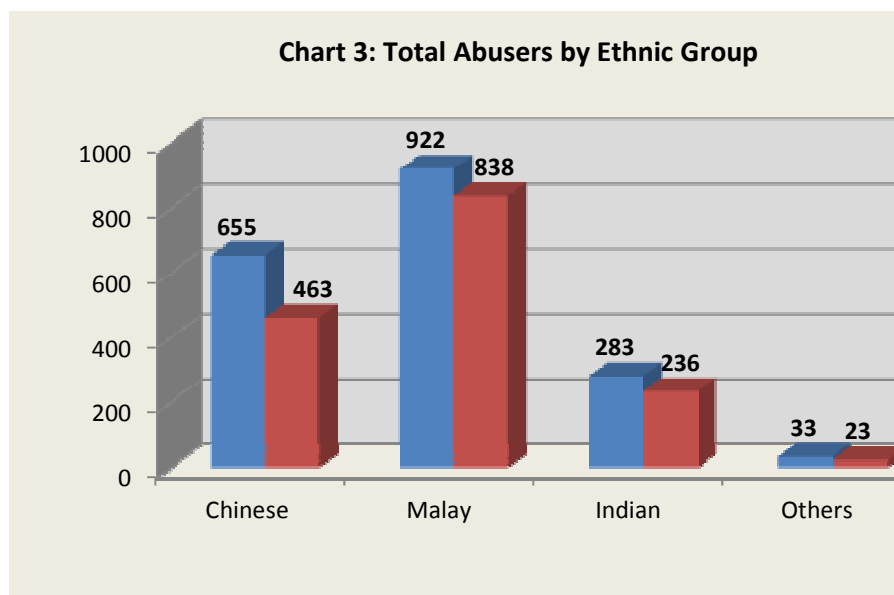


7. Methamphetamine is the most commonly abused drug amongst new abusers, followed by heroin and cannabis. New methamphetamine and new heroin abusers constituted about 68% and 15% of new abusers arrested, respectively. New heroin abusers arrested saw a decrease of 43% between January and June 2014 when compared to the same period in 2013, from 127 to 72. New cannabis abusers arrested saw an increase of 11% in the first half of 2014 when compared to the same period in 2013, from 54 to 60. New methamphetamine abusers arrested remained stable at 331 in the first half of 2014 when compared to 334 in the first half of 2013.

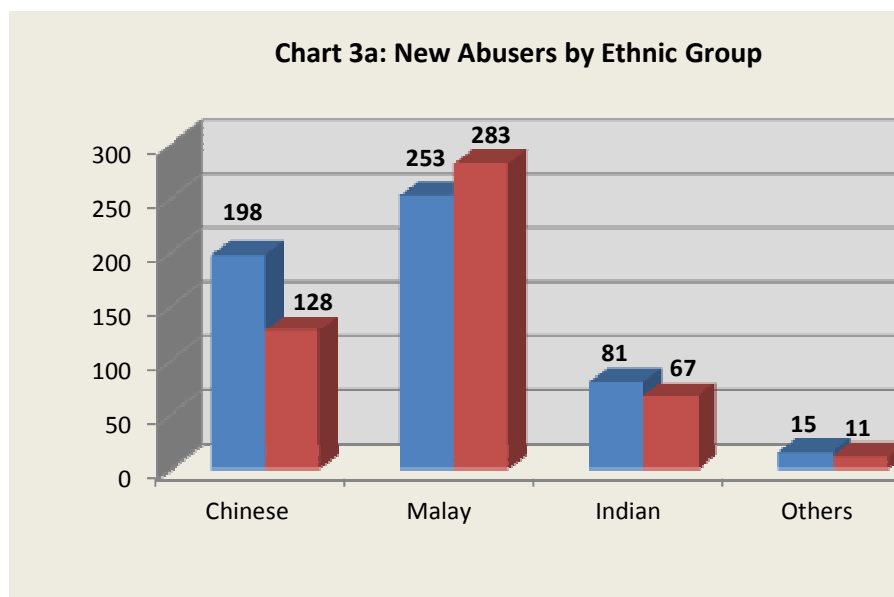


### Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Ethnic Group

8. The number of total drug abusers arrested saw decreases across all ethnic groups when comparing the first halves of 2013 and 2014. The number of Chinese abusers arrested decreased by 29%, from 655 to 463, the number of Malay drug abusers arrested decreased from 922 to 838, a 9% decrease, and the number of Indian drug abusers decreased from 283 to 236, a 17% drop.

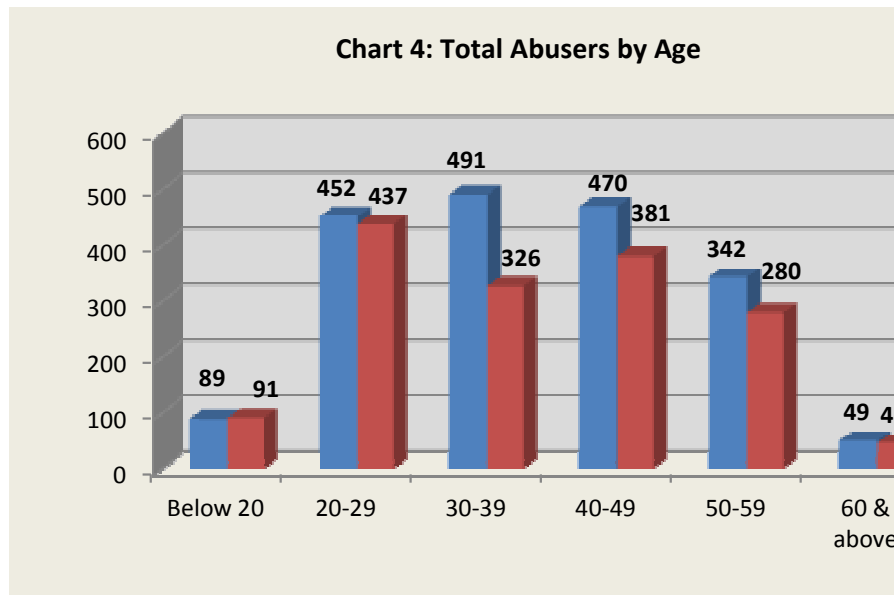


9. Among new abusers arrested in the first half of 2014, the number of new Chinese drug abusers arrested saw a 35% decrease from the first half of 2013, from 198 to 128, and the number of new Indian drug abusers decreased by 17%, from 81 to 67. However, the number of new Malay drug abusers arrested increased by 12%, from 253 in the first half of 2013 to 283 in the same period in 2014.

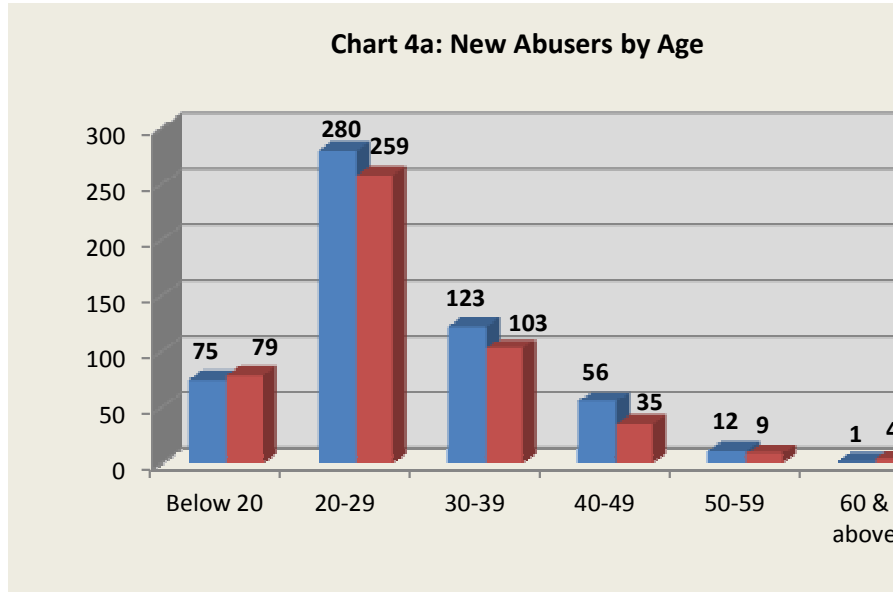


## Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Age Group

10. In the first half of 2014, all age groups showed a decrease in the drug abusers arrested except for those 'Below 20' which increased slightly to 91 abusers. Drug abusers belonging to the '30 to 39' age group saw the largest decrease, from 491 to 326 or a decrease of 34%.



11. For new drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2014, 69% or about two-thirds were below the age of 30, as compared to 65% in the first half of 2013. The number of new abusers in the '40 to 49' age group saw the largest decrease of 38%, from 56 in the first half of 2013 to 35 in the first half of 2014.



## Drug Seizures – First Half 2014

12. CNB seized approximately S\$4.71 million worth of drugs in the first half of 2014. With the exception of methamphetamine tablets (or 'Yaba') seized, which saw an increase, seizures of other drugs decreased. However, the regional drug situation has not improved. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2014, the estimated global production of heroin in 2013 rebounded to the high levels seen in previous years; and the global area of illicit opium cultivation in 2013 was 296,720 hectares, the largest area since 1998, when estimates first became available. South-East Asia produced 20.8% of the total world opium cultivation.

13. CNB continues to remain vigilant of the regional drug situation, which can affect the local drug situation. CNB maintains the close cooperation with our regional counterparts to disrupt syndicates' drug trafficking and production activities.

Drug type	Jan - Jun 13	Jan - Jun 14	% change in seizure	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 13	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 14
Heroin No.3	35.94 kg	27.46 kg	- 23.59%	≈ S\$9.4 million	≈ S\$4.71 million
Cannabis	10.42 kg	8.81kg	-15.45%		
Cocaine	1.5kg <sup>4</sup>	0.0005kg	-99.97%		
'Ecstasy'	4,303 tablets	1,612 tablets	-62.54%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	22.49 kg	8.65 kg	- 61.54%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	95 tablets	248 tablets	+161.05%		
Ketamine	3.03 kg	0.40 kg	-86.80%		
Nimetazepam	46,176 tablets	8,124 tablets	-82.41%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	44 tablets	5 tablets	-88.64%		

<sup>4</sup> The 1.5kg of cocaine seized was meant for overseas markets.



## PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

14. In order to take the fight against drugs upstream, CNB continues to focus on its Preventive Drug Education (PDE) efforts to spread the anti-drug message. These are some of the key PDE activities that were organised in the first half of 2014:

### **DanceWorks!/Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2014**

15. In its 16<sup>th</sup> edition, the annual anti-drug dance competition, DanceWorks! 2014, was co-organised by CNB and NCADA and held from 19 to 21 June at Joyden Hall, Bugis+. The dance competition is targeted at youths under 25 years and aims to promote an active drug-free lifestyle. More than 600 participants from schools and organisations formed a total of 62 teams and took part in the dance competition. Dance participants had to incorporate the theme, “Life Does Not Rewind, Say No to Drugs”, in their dance performances. To show their support for the anti-drug cause, 462 participants and supporters successfully broke Singapore’s record for the number of people performing the mass dance, “Cupid Shuffle”.

16. The Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) was held to commemorate the World Drug Day on 26 June. An anti-drug exhibition featuring a series of attractive games and activities conceptualised by a team of five students from Singapore Polytechnic (SP)’s School of Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE) to educate the public about the dangers of drugs was held concurrently with DanceWorks! 2014 at Bugis+. In addition, CNB also roped in over 100 youth volunteers who took to the streets on 26 and 28 June to hand out commemorative stylus wristbands and spread the anti-drug message to the general public.



*Participants performing at the DanceWorks! 2014.*

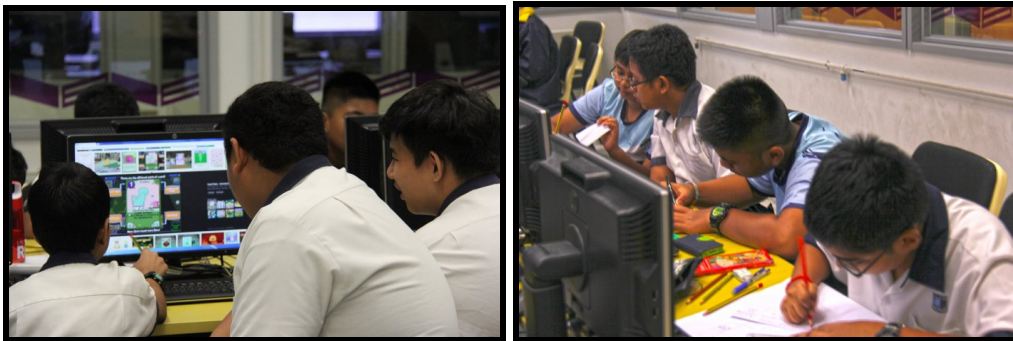


*Members of public at the ADAC 2014.*

## **Singapore Games Creation Competition 2014**

17. Jointly organised by CNB and Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) School of Interactive and Digital Media, the Singapore Games Creation Competition (SGCC) is being held from 16 May 2014 to 17 Oct 2014. SGCC is an annual event organised by NYP to give secondary school students an opportunity to learn about digital media development, in particular game creation, based on an assigned theme. With CNB coming in as its partner, this year's competition has adopted the ADAC 2014's anti-drug theme "Life Does Not Rewind. Say No to Drugs". A total of 623 secondary school students forming 192 teams have signed up for the competition.

18. Youths will get to learn about the harms of drug abuse while conceptualising and developing a game that will appeal to their peers and the general public. Selected winning games will be made available to the public later.



*Students attending the training workshops held from 16 to 19 June 2014 at NYP.*

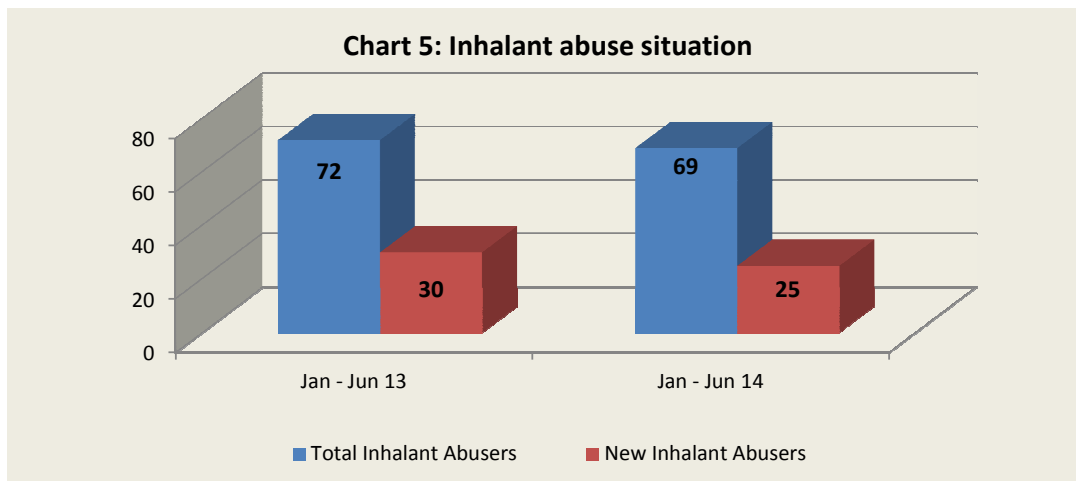
## **Collaborations with Home Team Departments and Community Partners**

19. To enhance the PDE outreach, CNB supported community partners' events and programmes through conducting anti-drug talks, holding exhibitions and sponsoring of PDE materials including brochures, publications and souvenirs. CNB also integrates the anti-drug element to Home Team agencies' programmes including the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Youth Engagement Programme to engage youths on the dangers of drugs.

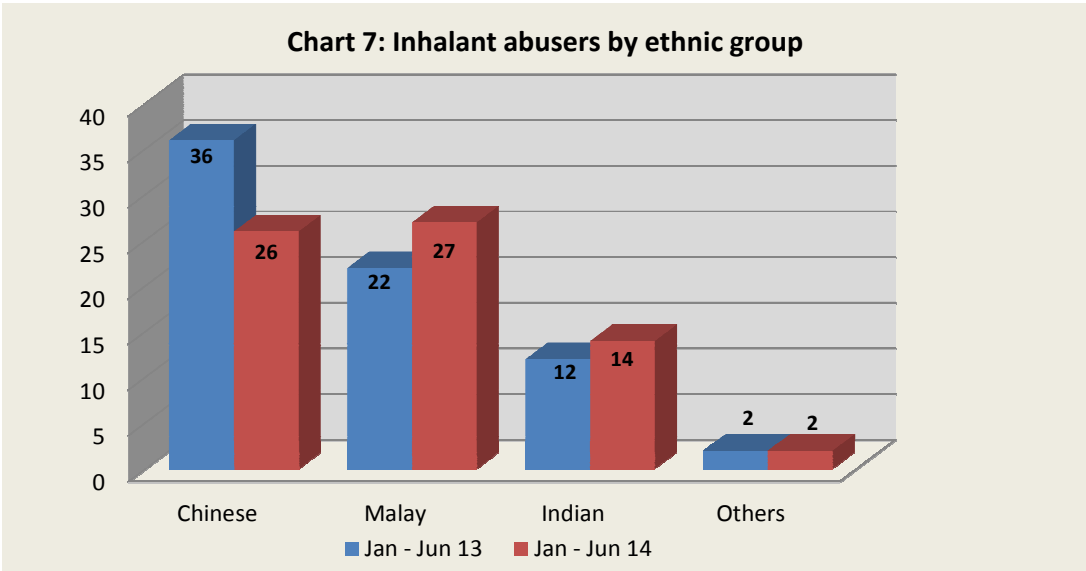
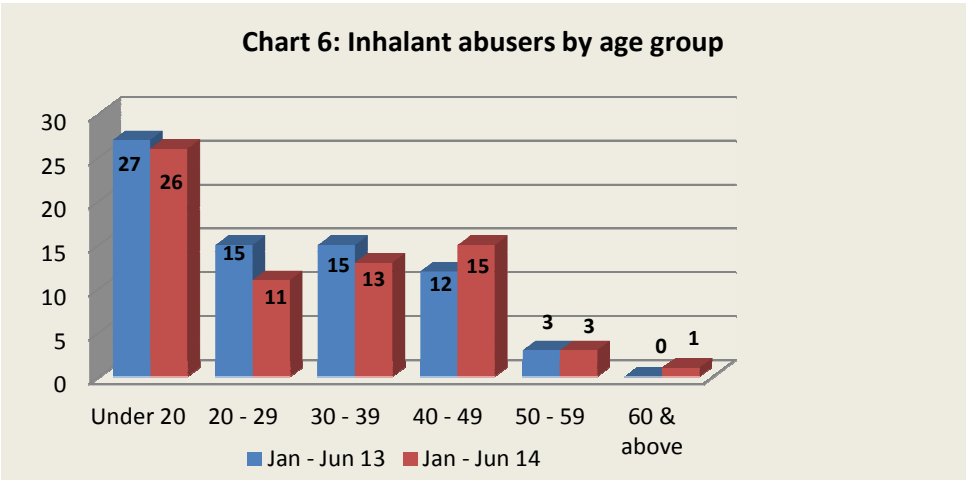
## INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION JAN TO JUN 2014

### DECREASE IN NUMBER OF NEW AND REPEAT INHALANT ABUSERS ARRESTED

20. There was a 4% decrease in the overall number of inhalant abusers arrested in the first half of 2014 when compared to the first half of 2013, from 72 to 69. New inhalant abusers dropped by 17%, from 30 in the first half of 2013, to 25 in the first half of 2014.



21. As per the first half of 2013, those aged below 20 continued to form the biggest group of abusers in the first half of 2014, at 38%. Chinese and Malay inhalant abusers remained the majority.



## **CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE**

22. To combat the inhalant abuse situation in Singapore, CNB will continue to visit shopkeepers to seek their assistance to avoid selling inhalant products to persons who might abuse them. Tell-tale signs of inhalant abuse include a chemical smell on one's breath. We adopt a calibrated approach in dealing with the shopkeepers. Letters of Advice will be issued to shopkeepers who sell inhalant products to inhalant abusers to seek their cooperation in stamping out inhalant abuse. The letter of advice seeks the cooperation of the shopkeeper in stamping out inhalant abuse by exercising control in the sale of inhalant products. It also serves as an educational material to shopkeepers by conveying the harmful effects and dangerous consequences of inhalant abuse.

23. For errant shopkeepers who persist in the sale of inhalant products to inhalant abusers, they will be issued with Letters of Notice. The notification is a legal requirement for errant shopkeepers to maintain a register on the sale of inhalant products. CNB also provides posters and other anti-inhalant materials to these shops to serve as reminders to shopkeepers, and to create awareness in the community.

24. To spread the anti-inhalant abuse message, CNB works with schools to give assembly talks to students to warn them of the dangers and harmful effects of inhalant abuse. In the first half of 2014, 69 anti-drug and inhalant abuse assembly talks were delivered to schools.

25. CNB will continue to work with stakeholders to eradicate inhalant abuse activities in Singapore.

[end of press release<sup>5</sup>]

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<sup>5</sup> Figures for 2014 are confirmed.