

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

PRESS RELEASE – UPDATED AS OF 15 MAY 2014



CNB MAINTAINS RELENTLESS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN 2013. INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED AND DRUGS SEIZED.

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested 3,581 drug abusers in 2013, an increase of 2% from the 3,507 drug abusers arrested in 2012.

In 2013, repeat abusers constituted 69% (or 2,471 arrests) of all abusers arrested. This represented a 2% increase from 2012, where there were 2,415 arrests.

The number of new abusers arrested increased by 2%, from 1,092 in 2012 to 1,110 in 2013. New abusers made up 31% of all abusers arrested. About half of new abusers arrested are 20 to 29 years old. New youth abusers below the age of 20 decreased by 6% from 162 arrests in 2012 to 153 arrests in 2013.

Heroin and methamphetamine continue to be the two most commonly abused drugs, with about 92% of all drug abusers arrested having abused either heroin or methamphetamine. Cannabis abusers arrested increased by 31%, from 142 in 2012 to 186 in 2013.

CNB's priorities remain our relentless enforcement efforts to prevent drugs from entering Singapore and flowing onto our streets, and spreading the zero-tolerance anti-drug message. In 2013, CNB conducted 46 major operations, including 19 island-wide operations, crippling 20 drug syndicates. The island-wide operations targeted middle-level traffickers, street-level pushers and drug abusers, and were strongly supported by the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

CNB's intensive enforcement efforts saw an increased seizure of drugs in 2013. The estimated street value of the drugs seized in 2013 amounted to S\$20.5 million, 12% higher than the estimated S\$18.3 million in 2012. CNB seized 72.37kg of heroin in 2013, about 9% more

"The Central Narcotics Bureau has kept up our intensive enforcement actions against all drug offenders, and 2013 saw an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested and drugs seized.

Of concern is the increase in the number of cannabis abusers arrested in 2013 – from 142 in 2012 to 186 in 2013. Globally, some jurisdictions have relaxed their stance on the abuse of cannabis, with many seeing it as something relatively harmless. They cannot be more wrong. We would like to remind everyone that 'Life Does Not Rewind'. Start on the damaging path of drug abuse and it will lead to harm, not just on yourself but also your loved ones.

The regional drug situation has continued to worsen. Methamphetamine production in the region continues to set new highs, as does poppy production. These drugs continue to make their way throughout the region and destroy many in their deathly embrace.

CNB calls upon the community to continue to give us your unwavering support in the fight against the drug scourge. We must remain steadfast in our zero-tolerance approach towards drug abuse and not let our guard down."

**Mr Ng Ser Song (黄思松)
Director, Central Narcotics Bureau**

than in 2012 (66.38kg). The quantity of 'Ice' seized in 2013 remained high, at 44.06kg. Of the 44.06kg of 'Ice' seized in 2013, about 80%, or 35.21kg of it, was not intended for the local market.

On the preventive drug education (PDE) front, CNB continued to press on with our PDE efforts. We continued to organise annual large-scale events such as 'DanceWorks!' and the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign to serve as public reminders of the anti-drug message. At the same time, CNB also widened our outreach to older youths and parents, to emphasise the anti-drug message and share the harmful effects of drugs and drug abuse.

DRUG SITUATION REPORT 2013

CNB RAMPS UP ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, DRUG SEIZURES REMAINS HIGH

CNB conducted 46 major operations and 1,526 operations at the checkpoints with our Home Team partners such as the SPF and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The drugs seized in 2013 were estimated to be worth S\$20.5 million, approximately S\$2.2 million more or 12% higher than that seized in 2012.

The three most commonly abused drugs in Singapore are heroin, crystal methamphetamine ('Ice') and cannabis. Of the three drugs, heroin and cannabis seizures increased, while seizures of crystal methamphetamine ('Ice') decreased. About 72.37kg of heroin were seized in 2013, 9% higher than the 66.38kg seized in 2012. Cannabis seizures increased about 5%, from 14.86kg in 2012 to 15.57kg in 2013. Although crystal methamphetamine seizures decreased by 13%, from 50.84kg in 2012 to 44.06 kg in 2013, the amount seized remained high. About 35.21kg (or 80%) of 'Ice' seized in 2013 was not intended for the local market.

Table 1: Overview of drug situation in 2013

Drug type	2012	2013	% change in seizure	Estimated market value 2012	Estimated market value 2013
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	276 tablets	47 tablets	-83%	≈ S\$18.3 million	≈ S\$20.5 million
Cannabis	14.86 kg	15.57 kg	+ 5%		
Cocaine ¹	Nil	4,105.7g	-		
'Ecstasy'	4,102.5 tablets + 1.27g	7,327 tablets + 49.9g	+79%		
Heroin No.3	66.38 kg	72.37kg	+ 9%		
Ketamine	3.89 kg	4.27 kg	+10%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	50.84 kg	44.06 kg	- 13%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	765 tablets	22,020 ² tablets	+ 2,778%		
Nimetazepam	46,421 tablets	62,943 tablets	+36%		

REGIONAL DRUG SITUATION CONTINUES TO WORSEN

The regional drug production situation continues to worsen. In a report released in November 2013 by The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), 'Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and Other Drugs – Challenges for Asia and the Pacific 2013', seizures of methamphetamine in the region for both pill and crystal forms have reached record highs in 2012, with 11.6 metric tonnes of crystal meth seized in 2012, a 12% increase from 2011. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, "South East Asia Opium Survey 2013 – Lao PDR and Myanmar", opium cultivation in South East Asia's Golden Triangle region rose for the seventh consecutive year. This was led by a 13 per cent increase in opium cultivation in Myanmar – from 51,000 hectares in 2012 to 57,800 hectares in 2013.³

IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

The drug problem is transnational in nature, and drug syndicates operate across borders, seeking profit at the expense of society. Recognising this, CNB has stepped up collaboration with our regional counterparts. In 2013, CNB conducted 18 joint operations with our foreign partners to curb the flow of drugs into Singapore.

On the training front, CNB has also played a role in strengthening drug enforcement capabilities in the region. In 2013, CNB collaborated with the Australian Federal Police and the Singapore Ministry

¹ The bulk of the cocaine seized at 99.9% were meant for overseas markets. Due to zero base figure, the percentage change value cannot be derived.

² Of the 22,020 Yaba tablets seized, 21,910 tablets were from a single case on 19 November 2013.

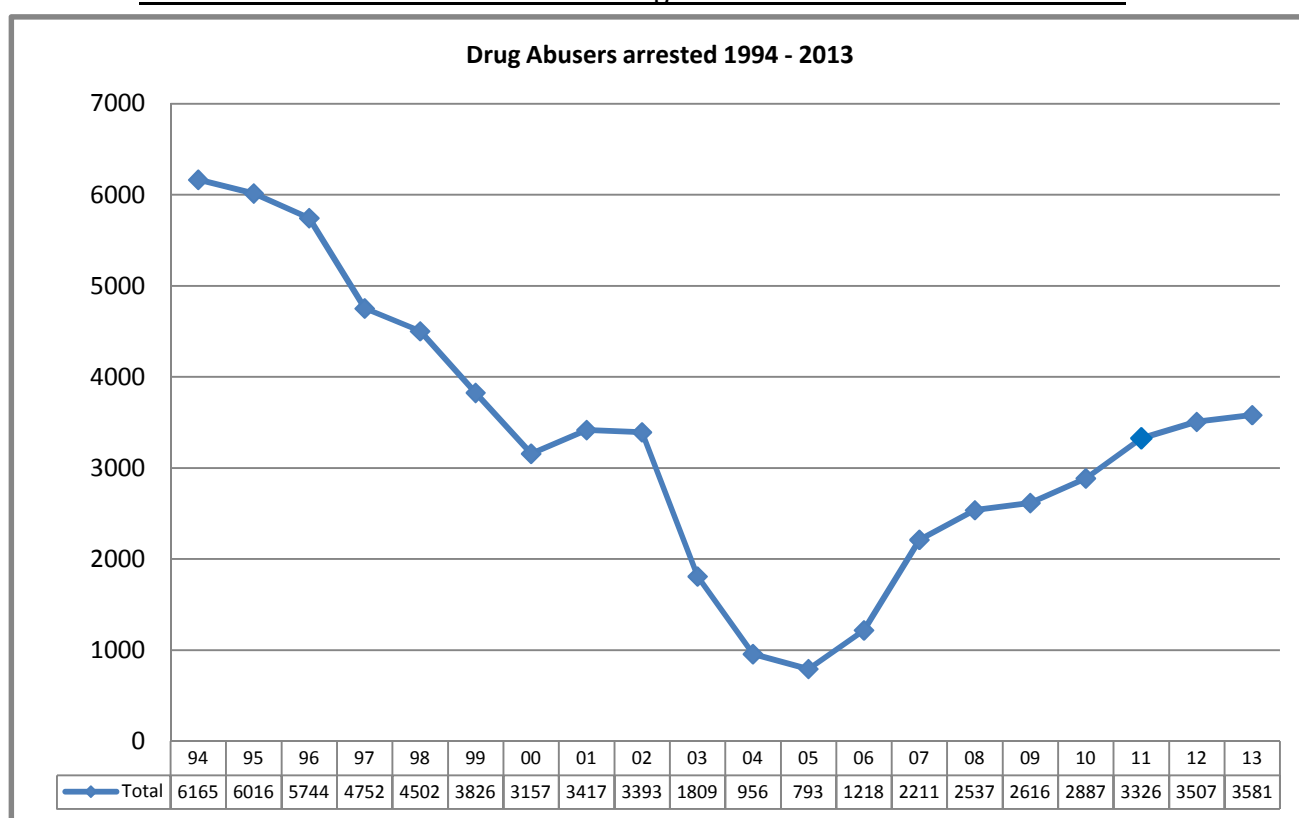
³ The UNODC report – "South East Asia Opium Survey 2013 – Lao PDR and Myanmar" can be obtained from this link: <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/2013/12/opium-survey-report/story.html>

of Foreign Affairs in the conduct of one training programme for 22 drug law enforcement officials from 9 countries in the region. Representatives from Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, were represented.

Overview of the Drug Situation 1994 to 2013

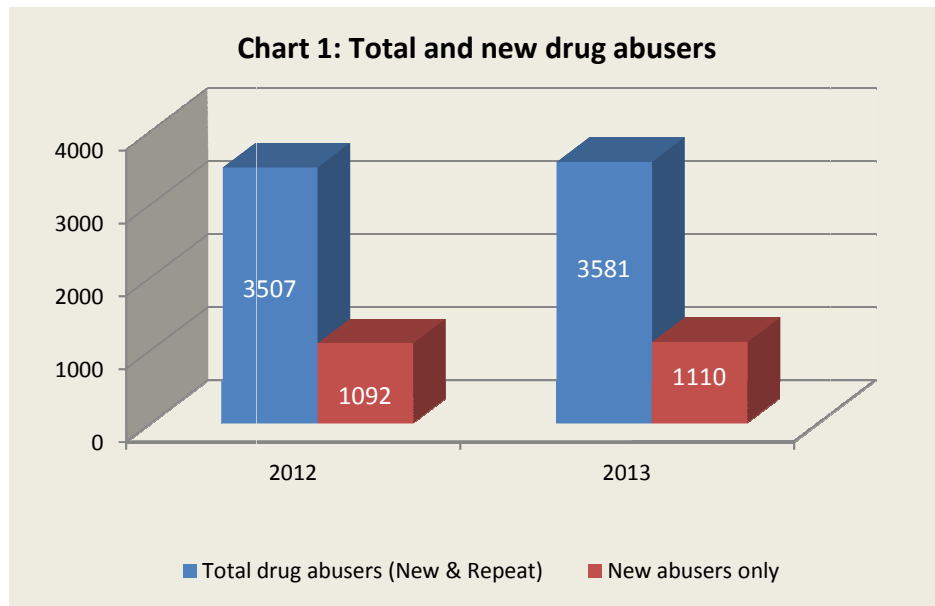
In 2013, measures recommended by the Taskforce on Drugs led by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, were progressively implemented to tackle the drug situation. Together with the amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, these enhanced measures, the continuing intensive enforcement efforts, coupled with the strong support from the community, will help to strengthen our capacity to improve the local drug situation.

Table 2: Overview of the number of drug abusers arrested from 1994 - 2013



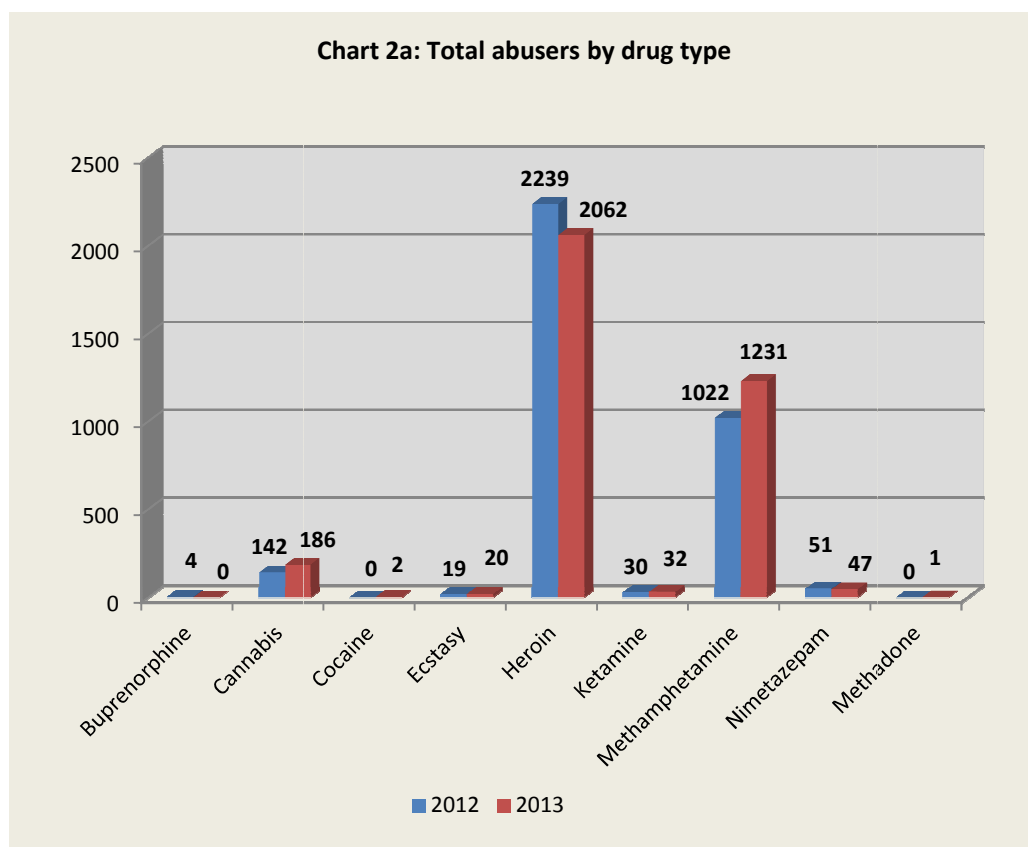
LOCAL DRUG ABUSERS – OVERALL

CNB arrested 3,581 drug abusers in 2013. Compared to 3,507 in 2012, this is a 2% increase. New abusers increased by 2%, from 1,092 arrests in 2012 to 1,110 arrests in 2013.



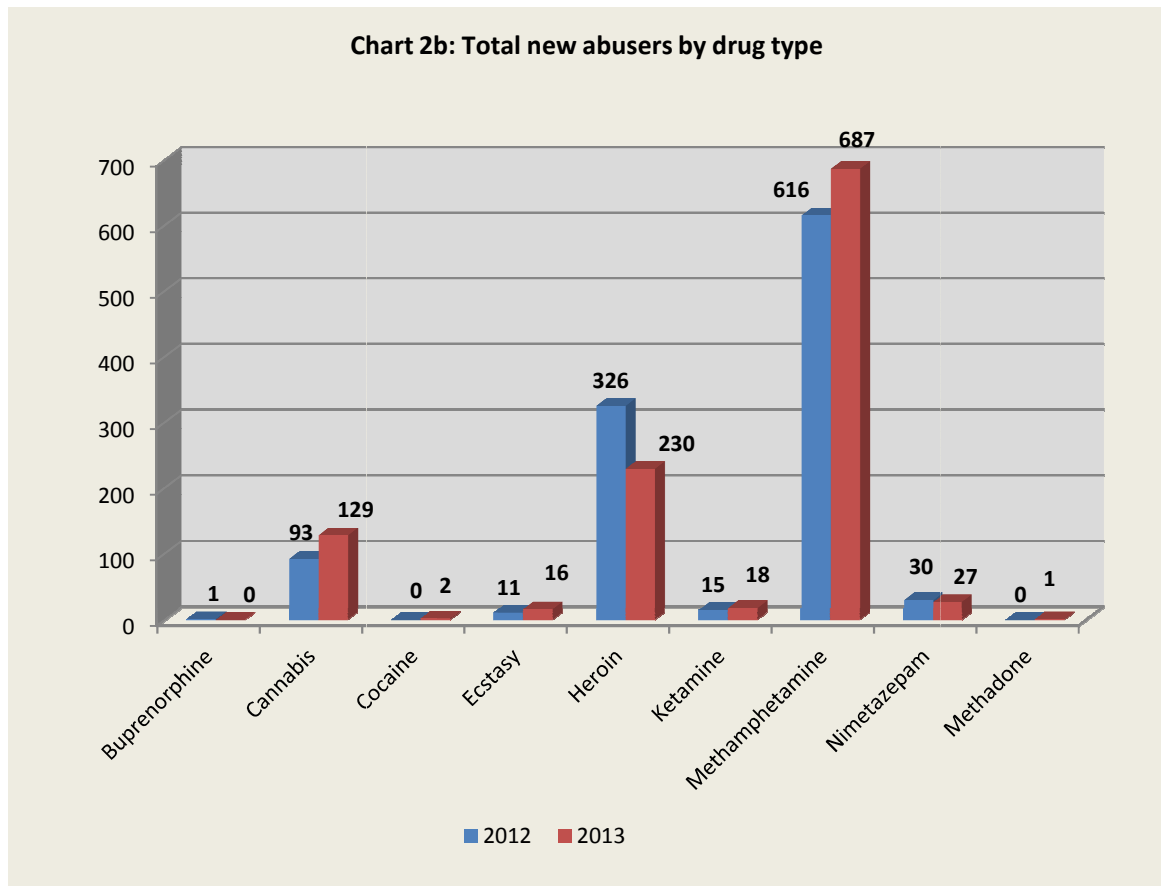
DRUG ABUSERS – BY DRUGS ABUSED

Heroin and methamphetamine are still the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 2,062 heroin abusers (58%) and 1,231 methamphetamine abusers (34%) were arrested in 2013. Together, heroin and methamphetamine abusers make up about 92% of all abusers arrested. In 2013, 186 cannabis abusers were arrested, an increase of 31% from the 142 arrested in 2012.



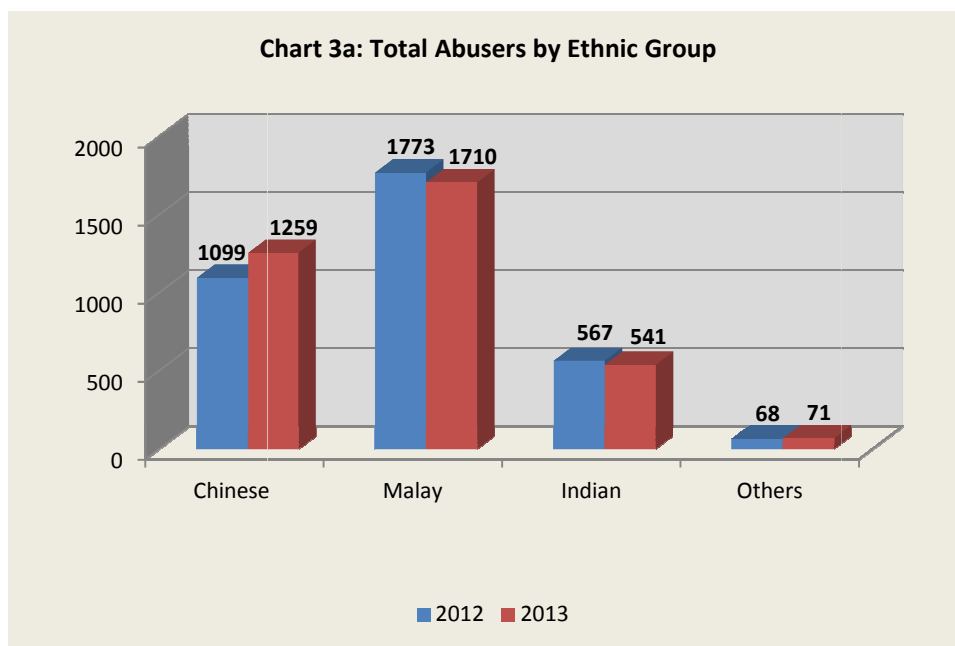
Methamphetamine and heroin are also the two most popular drugs amongst new, or first-time arrested abusers. Of the 1,110 new abusers arrested in 2013, 62% had abused methamphetamine,

while 21% abused heroin. In 2013, 129 new cannabis abusers were arrested, an increase of 39% from the 93 arrested in 2012.

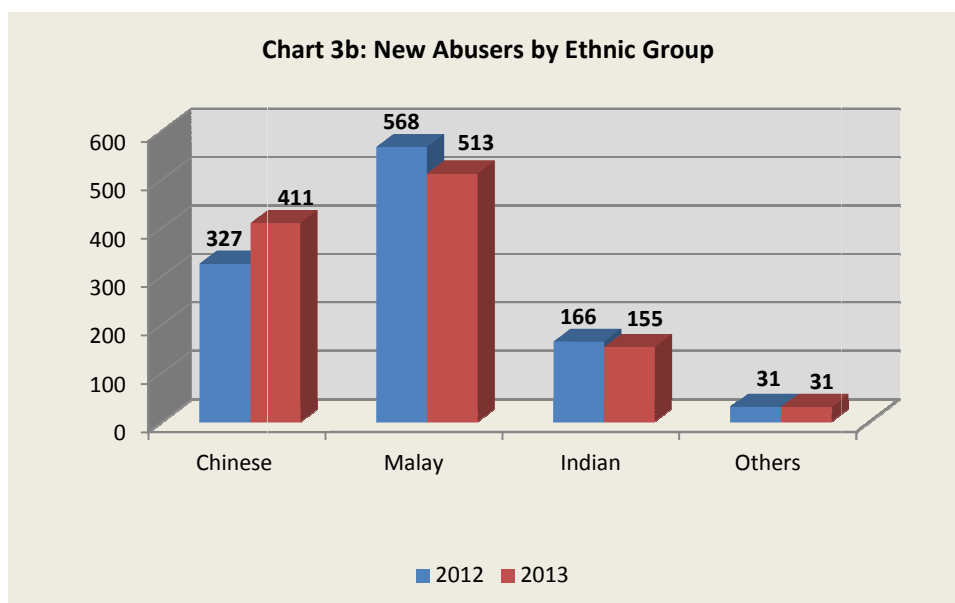


DRUG ABUSERS – BY ETHNIC GROUP

In 2013, the number of Chinese abusers arrested increased by 15%, with 1,259 Chinese abusers arrested compared to 1,099 arrested in 2012. Malay abusers decreased 4%, with 1,710 Malay abusers arrested in 2013 compared to 1,773 arrested in 2012. Indian abusers decreased 5%, with 541 Indian abusers arrested in 2013 compared to 567 arrested in 2012.



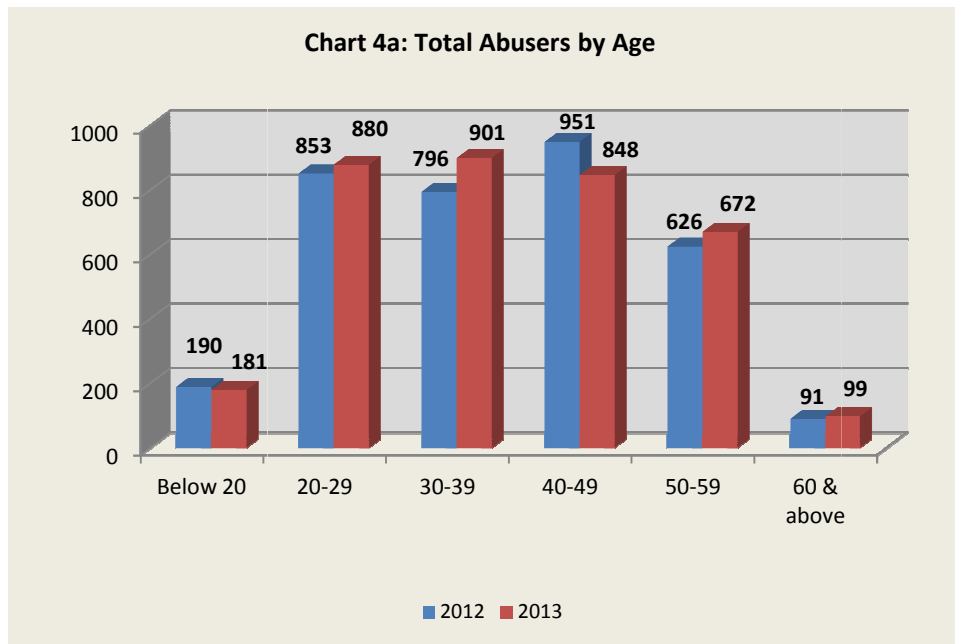
The situation amongst new abusers mirrored that of the overall abusers arrested. The number of new Chinese abusers arrested in 2013 increased by 26%, with 411 new Chinese abusers arrested. New Malay abusers saw a decrease of 10%, from 568 in 2012 to 513 in 2013. The number of new Indian new abusers arrested decreased by 7%, from 166 in 2012 to 155 in 2013.



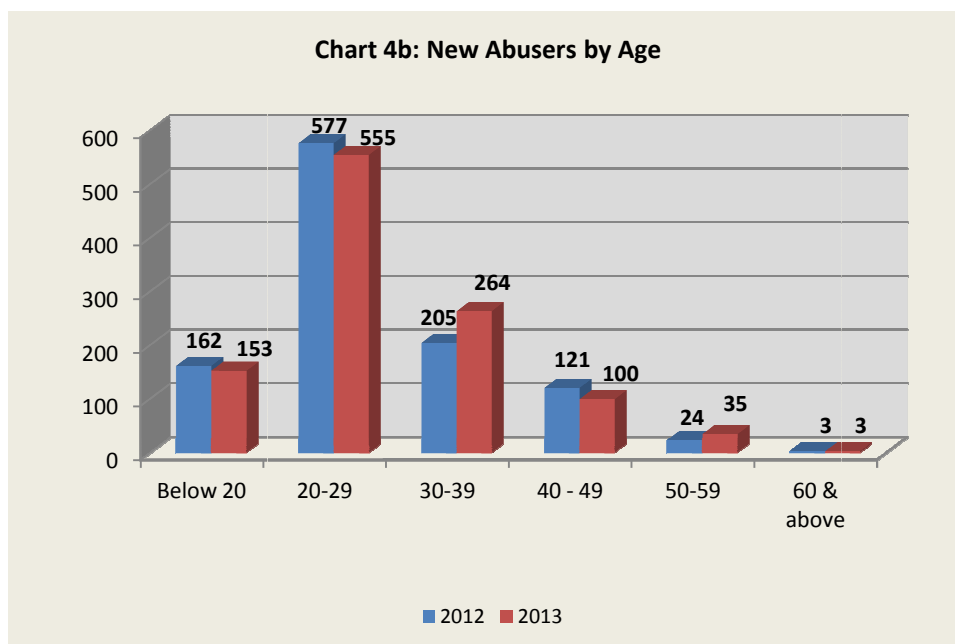
DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED – BY AGE

Drug abusers in the 20 to 29, 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 age groups each formed around 25% of the drug abusers arrested in 2013.

Drug abusers aged below 20 made up 5% of the total abusers arrested, which decreased from 190 in 2012 to 181 in 2013. The number of arrests of drug abusers aged 40 and above has decreased by 3%, from 1,668 in 2012 to 1,619 in 2013.



For new abusers arrested in 2013, 50% were aged 20 to 29. This number dropped from 577 arrests in 2012 to 555 in 2013. The number of new abusers below the age of 20 saw a decline of 6%, from 162 in 2012 to 153 in 2013.



PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2013, CNB continued to spread the anti-drug message with its Preventive Drug Education (PDE) outreach. In addition to regular talks conducted in schools, CNB collaborated with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and various community partners to actively engage and educate the public on the dangers of drugs through its key programmes and activities. Here are some of CNB's key PDE efforts in 2013:

DanceWorks! 2013



Group photo of DanceWorks! 2013 Category II & III finalists, with Guest-of-Honour Ms Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State for Education. DanceWorks! is one of CNB's flagship preventive drug education initiatives, and is now in its 15th year.

DanceWorks! 2013 was co-organised by NCADA and CNB and in collaboration with students from the Singapore Polytechnic (SP). A total of 68 teams comprising more than 600 participants from various schools and organisations took part in the annual dance competition. Targeted at youths under 25 years, the dance competition aimed to promote an active and drug-free lifestyle. Already in its 15th run, more than 16,000 youths have participated in the competition since its inception; and continues to remain a popular and effective way to reach out to youths.

Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2013



Visitors at the exhibition maze pledging their support for the anti-drug cause.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2013 was launched by NCADA and CNB on 21 June 2013 to commemorate the World Drug Day on 26 June. An exhibition maze titled “Sam’s Journey”, was inspired by a true story of a former drug abuser. The two-day event was held at Bugis+ where visitors learned more about the drug addiction cycle and the physical effects from drug abuse. The two-month campaign also included an online photography contest that was held in July 2013, and the Anti-Drug School Corner Competition from July to August 2013. The activities were organised in collaboration with a team of five students from the SP, School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE).

LiveltLoud.SG blog



A screenshot of the LiveltLoud.Sg blog.

To spread the anti-drug message to youths who are internet-savvy, CNB launched a blog, LiveltLoud.SG, on 24 April 2013. The blog aimed to educate youths on the dangers of drugs and to promote an anti-drug lifestyle through a fun and vibrant social media platform. Youths were also encouraged to contribute blog entries and to discuss on youth-related topics. Well-known guest bloggers were also invited to write entries for the blog to encourage more youths to the blog. The blog also hosts multimedia content and is linked to CNB’s Life Does Not Rewind and Live It Loud Facebook pages to draw visitorship to our various online platforms.

Handbook for parents of youth drug supervisees

STAYING DRUG-FREE

A PARENTAL GUIDE TO A CHILD'S RECOVERY FROM DRUG ABUSE



The cover page of the handbook for parents of youth drug supervisees launched by CNB in November 2013.

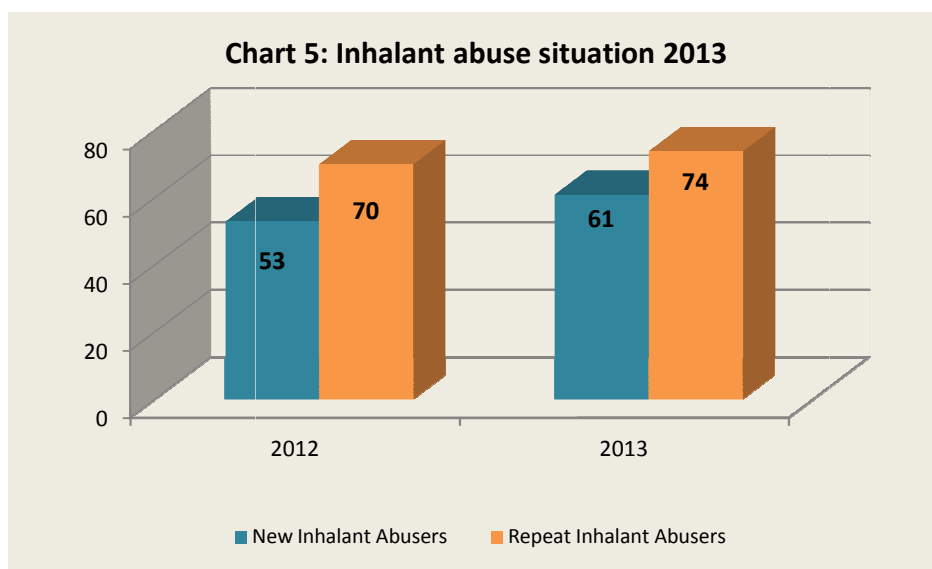
Parents is also another key target audience in the fight against drugs. A handbook was launched by CNB in November 2013 for parents of youth drug supervisees. Available at the Young Persons Reporting Centre and the National Addictions Management Services in Institute of Mental Health (IMH), the handbook contained useful information and tips to help them guide their children to a drug-free path. The handbook is also available on CNB's PDE online portal. (http://www.cnb.gov.sg/PDE_PDFs/Staying_Drug_Free_English.pdf)

We will continue to explore new initiatives and adapt our approaches in promoting a drug-free lifestyle amongst the youths in Singapore.

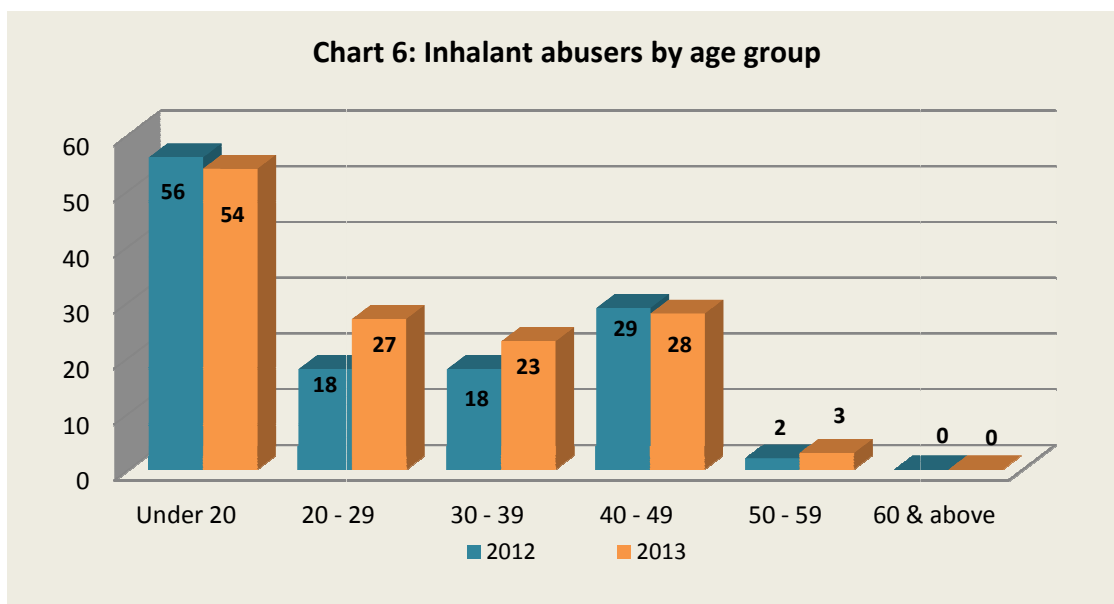
INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION 2013

INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION REMAINED STABLE

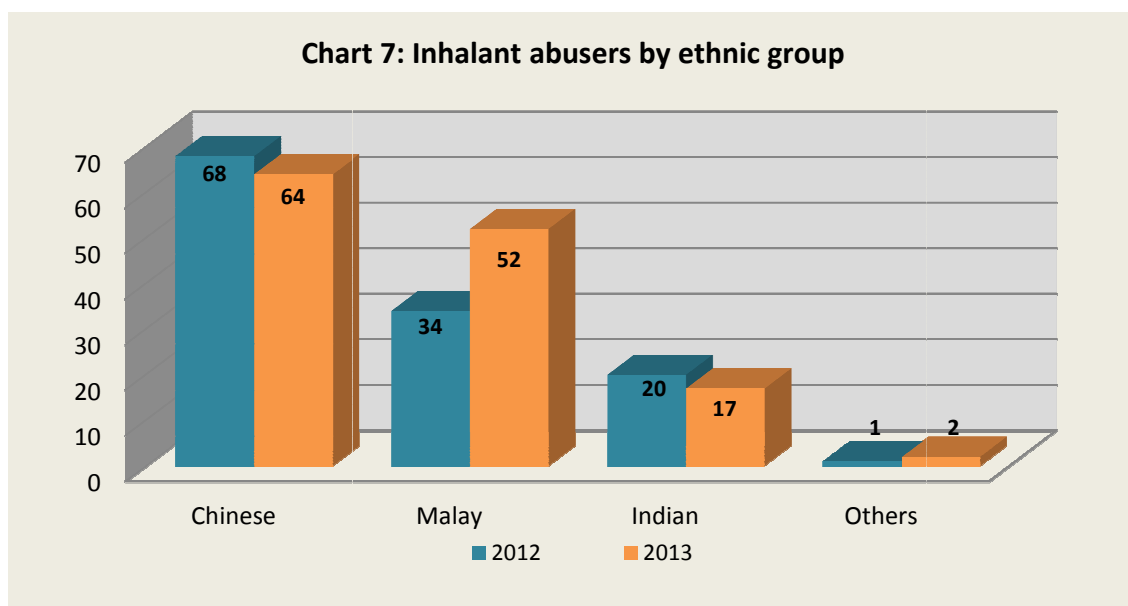
There has been an increase in the number of new and repeat inhalant abusers arrested. The number of inhalant abusers arrested increased by 10%, from 123 in 2012 to 135 in 2013.



There were no significant changes in the profile of inhalant abusers arrested. Those aged below 20 continued to form the biggest group of abusers.



The majority of inhalant abusers arrested continued to comprise abusers from the Chinese and Malay ethnic groups, with Chinese inhalant abusers remained the majority.



CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE

Preventive education and enforcement action remain key prongs in our fight against inhalant abuse. 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 2013, 93 anti-drug and inhalant abuse assembly talks were delivered to schools.

To combat the inhalant abuse situation in Singapore, CNB will also continue to visit shopkeepers to seek their assistance to avoid selling inhalant products to persons who might abuse them. 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.

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

END

ISSUED BY:

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU
7 FEBRUARY 2014
UPDATED AS OF 15 MAY 2014

NOTE: All figures in this report are confirmed. In this report, 2013 refers to the period 1 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2013.