



Central Narcotics Bureau Press Release

CNB MAINTAINS INTENSIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2013¹: INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED AND DRUGS SEIZED

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) continues to intensify enforcement efforts in the fight against drugs. The number of drug abusers arrested increased by 9%, from 1,731 in the first half of 2012 to 1,893 in the same period in 2013.

Heroin and methamphetamine continue to be the most commonly abused drugs, with 93% of all drug abusers arrested being heroin or methamphetamine abusers. Cannabis was the third most commonly abused drug, and the number of new cannabis abusers arrested increased by 42%, from 38 in the first half of 2012 to 54 in the same period in 2013.

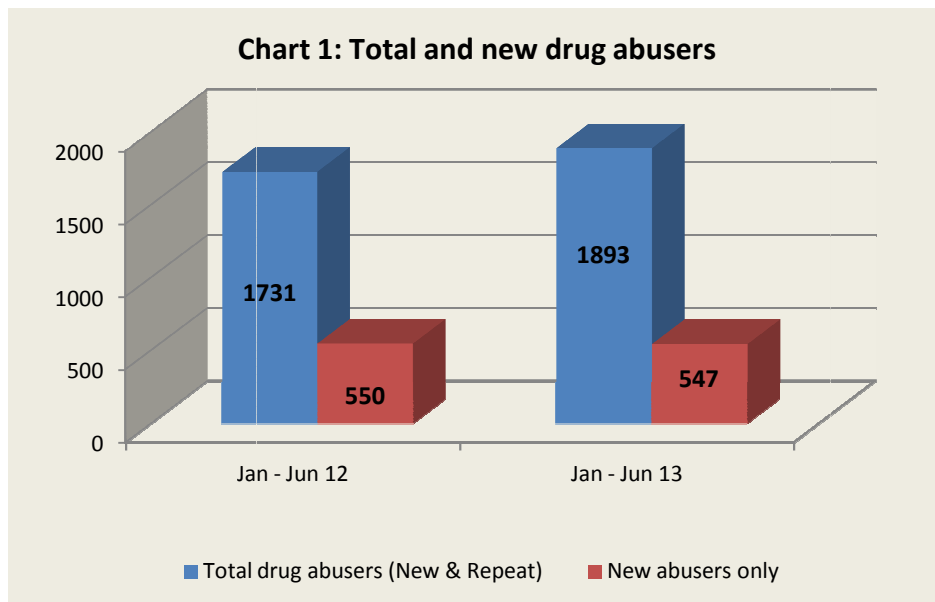
There was also an increase in drug seizures in the first half of 2013 compared to the same period last year, with the estimated street value of drug seizures in the first half of 2013 amounting to about S\$9.4 million. Seizures of both heroin and methamphetamine remained high, with an estimated 36kg and 22.5kg seized respectively. Of the 22.5kg of 'Ice' seized, about 17.7kg or 79% was not intended for the local market.

While CNB continues with intensive enforcement operations to keep Singapore free from drugs, upstream efforts also play a pivotal role in preventing the next generation from abusing drugs. As part of preventive drug education (PDE) efforts, CNB continued its outreach to youths through a myriad of platforms including exhibitions, anti-drug school assembly talks, a PDE blog, and high-profile events such as DanceWorks!, which entered its 15th year in 2013. Building on the theme for this year's Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2013 – 'Life Does Not Rewind, Say 'No' To Drugs', CNB, together with partners and key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and the National Council Against Drug Abuse, continued to reach out to engage and educate youths and their parents on the dangers of drug abuse and its severe consequences.

¹ Figures for 2013 have been finalised.

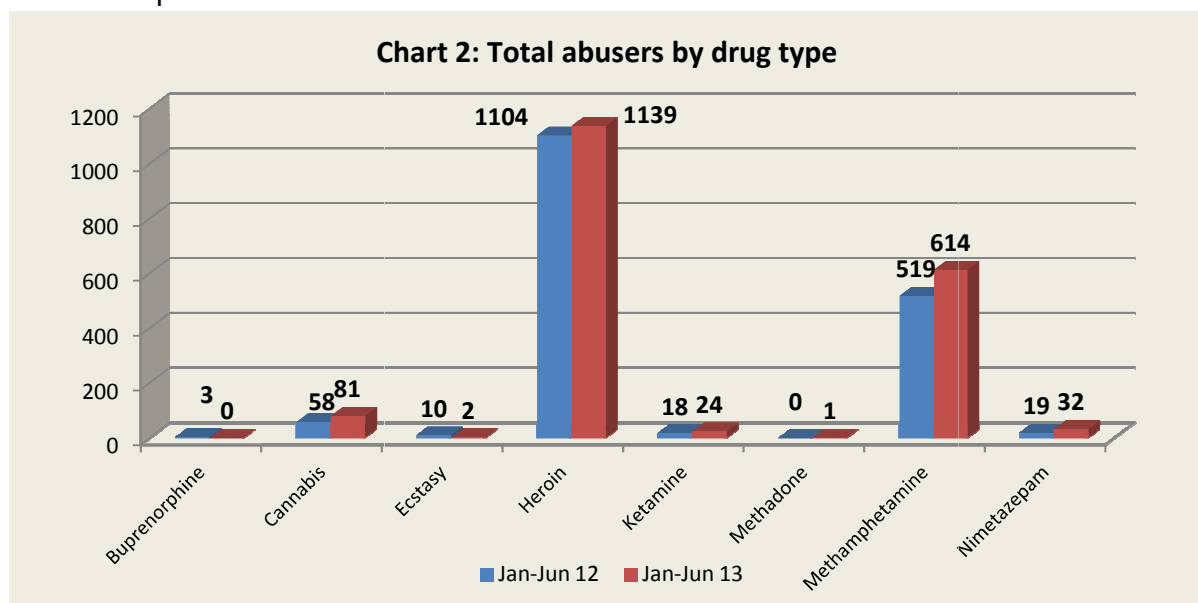
Local Drug Abusers Arrested - Overall

The number of drug abusers arrested increased by 9%, from 1,731 in the first half of 2012 to 1,893 in the same period in 2013. Repeat abusers continue to form the majority of drug abusers arrested. The number of new drug abusers arrested decreased by 1%, from 550 to 547.

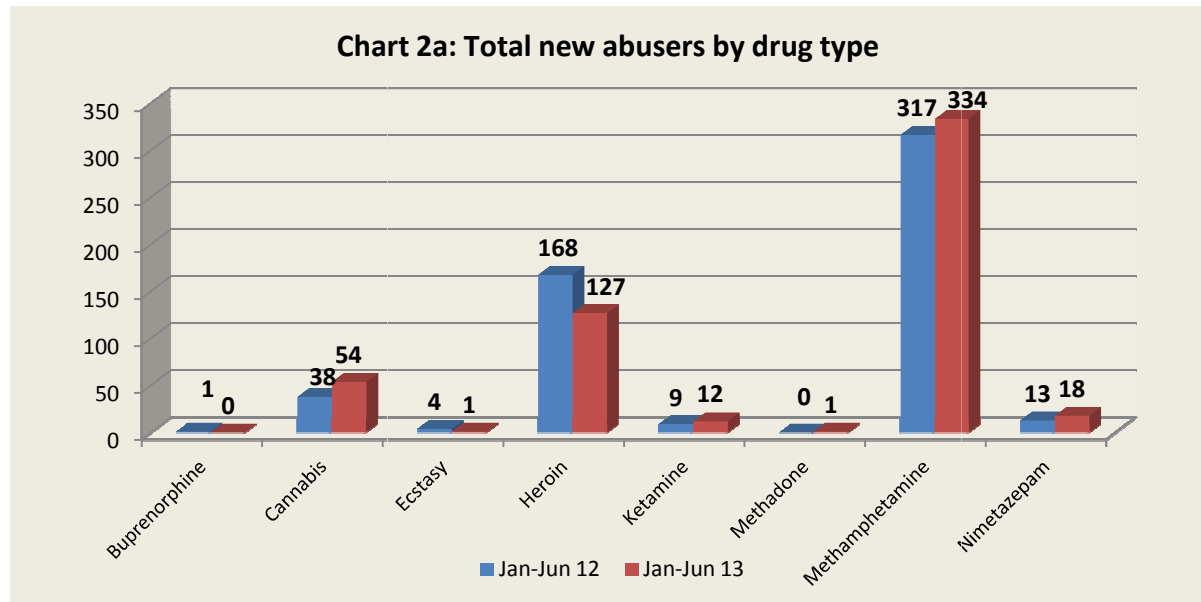


Type of Drugs Abused

Heroin and methamphetamine continued to be the two most commonly abused drugs. About 93% of the drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2013 were heroin or methamphetamine abusers.

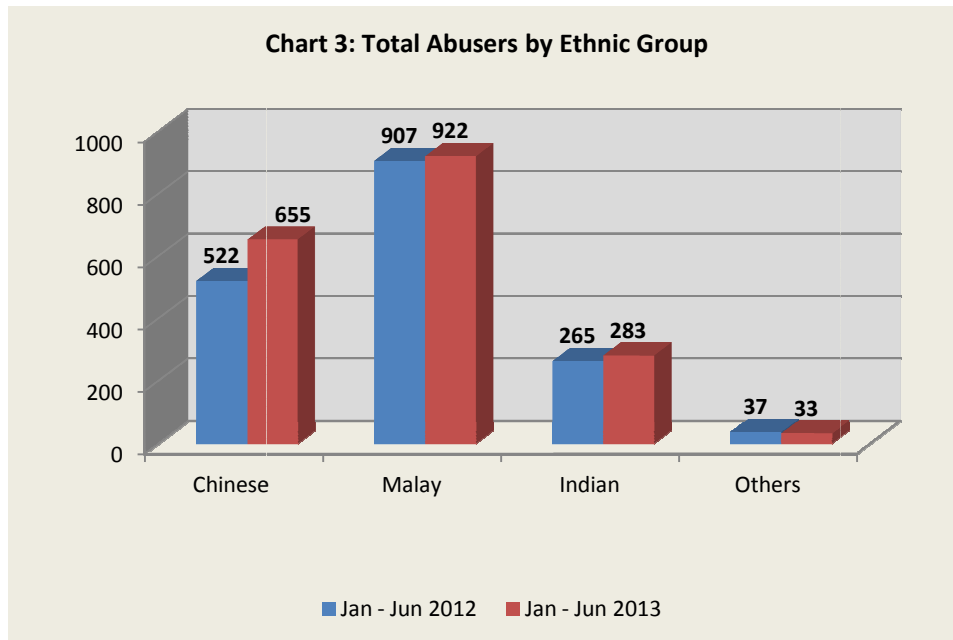


Among the new abusers arrested, heroin and methamphetamine were also the two most commonly abused drugs. New methamphetamine and new heroin abusers constituted about 61% and 23% of new abusers arrested, respectively. Cannabis was the third most commonly abused drug among new drug abusers, with cannabis abusers comprising about 10% of new abusers arrested.

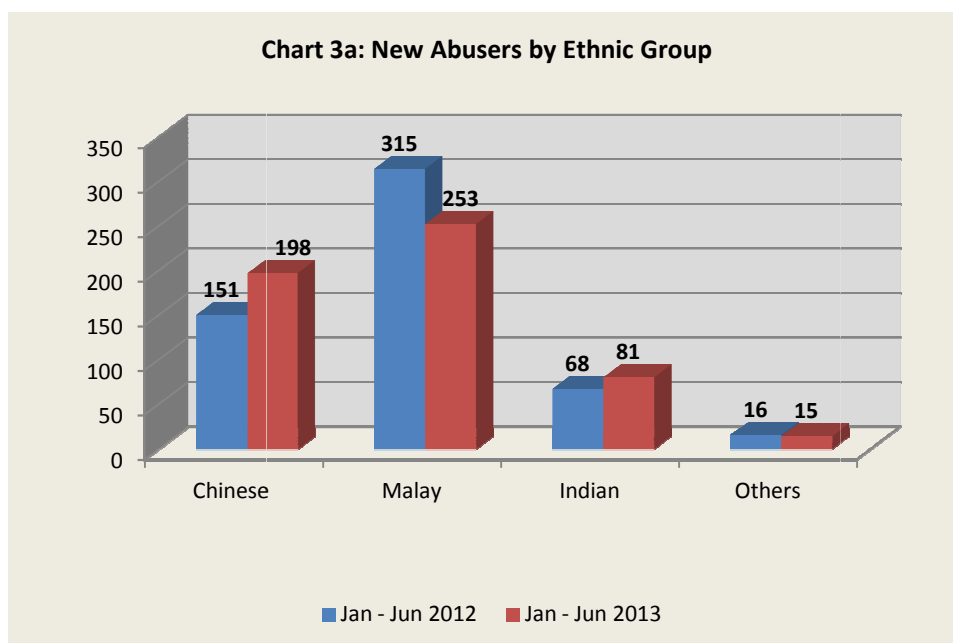


Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Ethnic Group

Overall, the number of Chinese drug abusers arrested increased by 25%, from 522 to 655 while the number of Malay drug abusers arrested increased by 2% to 922, in the first half of 2013, compared to the same period in 2012.

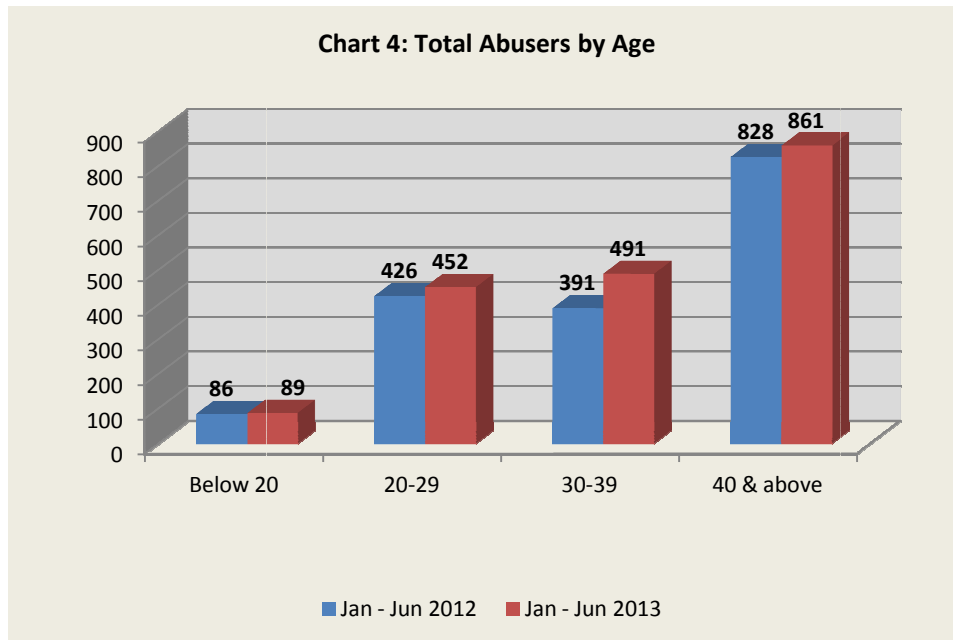


The number of new Chinese drug abusers increased by 31% from 151 to 198, while the number of new Malay drug abusers arrested decreased by 20%, from 315 in the first half of 2012 to 253 in the same period in 2013.

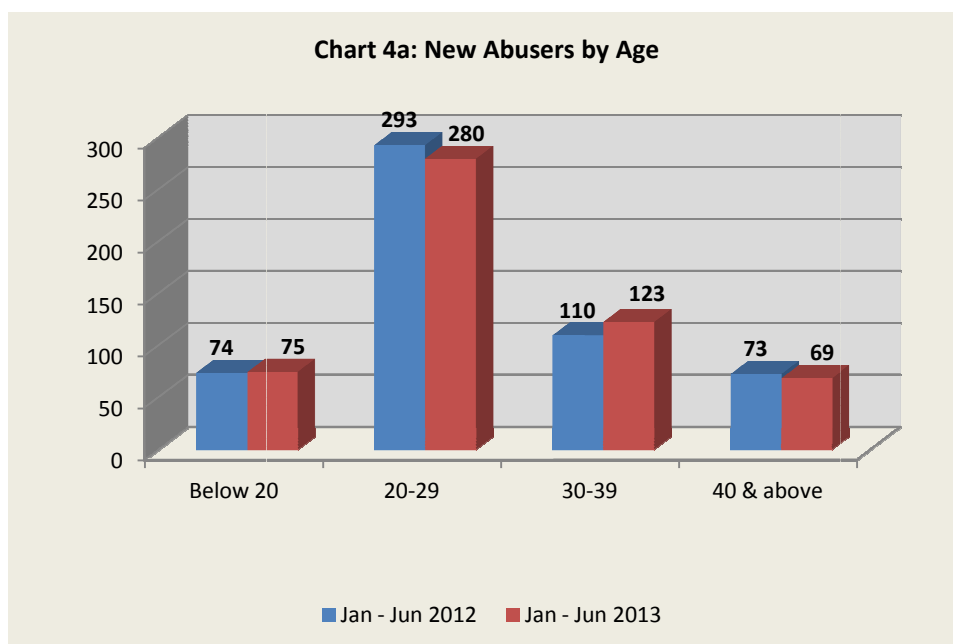


Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Age Group

In the first half of 2013, 861 drug abusers arrested (45% of all arrested) belonged to the '40 and above' age group. Drug abusers in the '20 to 29' and '30 to 39' age groups respectively constituted about 24% and 26% of all drug abusers arrested.



There were 280 new abusers arrested in first half of 2013 who were from the '20 to 29' age group. They made up about 51% of the number of new abusers arrested. The number of new abusers below the age of 20 increased by 1%, from 74 in the first half of 2012 to 75 in the same period in 2013.



Drug Seizures – First Half 2013

CNB seized approximately S\$9.4 million worth of drugs in the first half of 2013. Of the 22.5kg of crystal methamphetamine seized during this period, about 79% (or 17.7kg) was meant for the overseas market.

The overall increase in seizures is an indication of the challenging regional drug situation especially with the increased production of drugs in the region. CNB will continue to work closely with our regional counterparts to disrupt syndicates' drug trafficking and production activities.

Drug type	Jan - June 12	Jan - June 13	% change in seizure	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 12	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 13
Heroin No.3	44.99 kg	35.95 kg	- 20%	≈ S\$9.3 million	≈ S\$9.4 million
Cannabis	9.03 kg	10.42 kg	+ 15.4%		
Cocaine ²	Nil	1.5kg	-		
'Ecstasy'	2,074 tablets	4,303 tablets	+107.5%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	9.5 kg	22.49 kg	+ 136.7%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	624 tablets	95 tablets	-84.8%		
Ketamine	1.87 kg	3.04 kg	+62.6%		
Nimetazepam	24,600 tablets	46,176 tablets	+87.7%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	131 tablets	44 tablets	-66.4%		

² The 1.5kg of cocaine seized was meant for overseas markets. Due to the zero base figure, the percentage change value cannot be derived.

PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Preventive Drug Education (PDE) remains a key strategy in CNB's fight against drugs. CNB continues to work with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and various community partners to spread the anti-drug message to the young and the general public. Here are some of the key PDE activities that took place in the first half of 2013:



Group photo of DanceWorks! 2013 Category II & III finalists, with Guest-of-Honour Ms Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State for Education.

Danceworks! 2013

Co-organised by NCADA and CNB and in collaboration with students from the Singapore Polytechnic (SP), DanceWorks! 2013 attracted more than 600 dancers who represented various schools and organisations and formed a total of 68 teams. The dance competition is targeted at youths under 25 years and aims to promote an active drug-free lifestyle.

With the theme, "Live It Loud. Choreograph Your Life!", dance participants had to weave the anti-drug theme into their dance routines. The audience was treated to energetic and entertaining performances as the teams battled to reach the Grand Finals. To commemorate the 15th anniversary of DanceWorks!, a mass dance was specially choreographed for participants to kick start the tradition of passing on this mass dance routine to future DanceWorks! participants.

Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2013

To commemorate the World Drug Day on 26 June, NCADA and CNB launched the ADAC 2013 on 21 June 2013 with an exhibition maze at Bugis+. Titled “Sam’s Journey” and inspired by the true story of a former drug abuser, the maze allowed visitors to witness how Sam fell into the drug addiction cycle and the physical effects from abusing drugs. The two-day event aimed to spread the anti-drug message and educate the dangers of drugs abuse to the public. To encourage Singaporeans to take a firm stand against drug abuse, commemorative sticky notepad dispensers with the tagline “Life Does Not Rewind, Say No to Drugs’ were also distributed to the public to spread the anti-drug message.

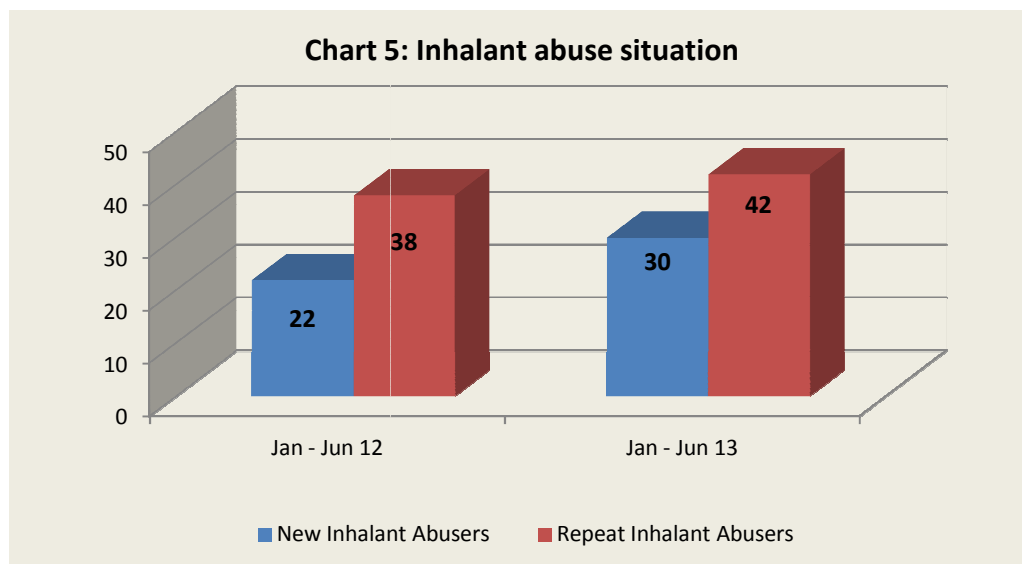
The two-month campaign also included an online photography contest that was held in July 2013, and the Anti-Drug School Corner Competition that will run from July to August 2013. The activities were organised in collaboration with a team of five students from the SP, School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE).

In addition, CNB identified teachers, counsellors, parents and community organisations as strategic partners who could help CNB spread its anti-drug messages more effectively among the different target groups. CNB will continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with the various groups to enable us to more effectively tap on various platforms to reach out to our target audiences.

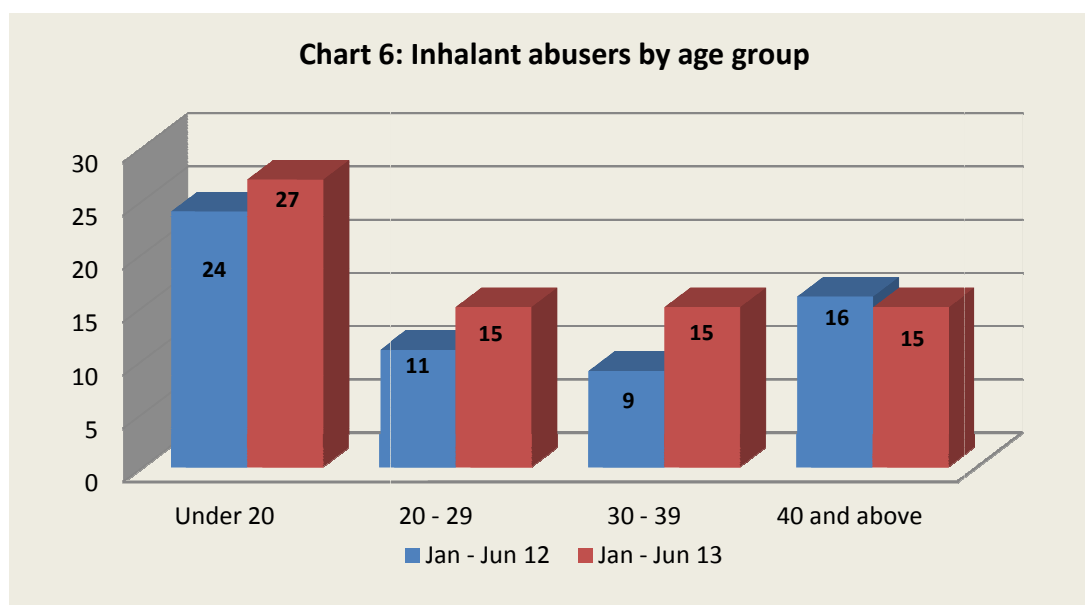
INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION JAN TO JUN 2013

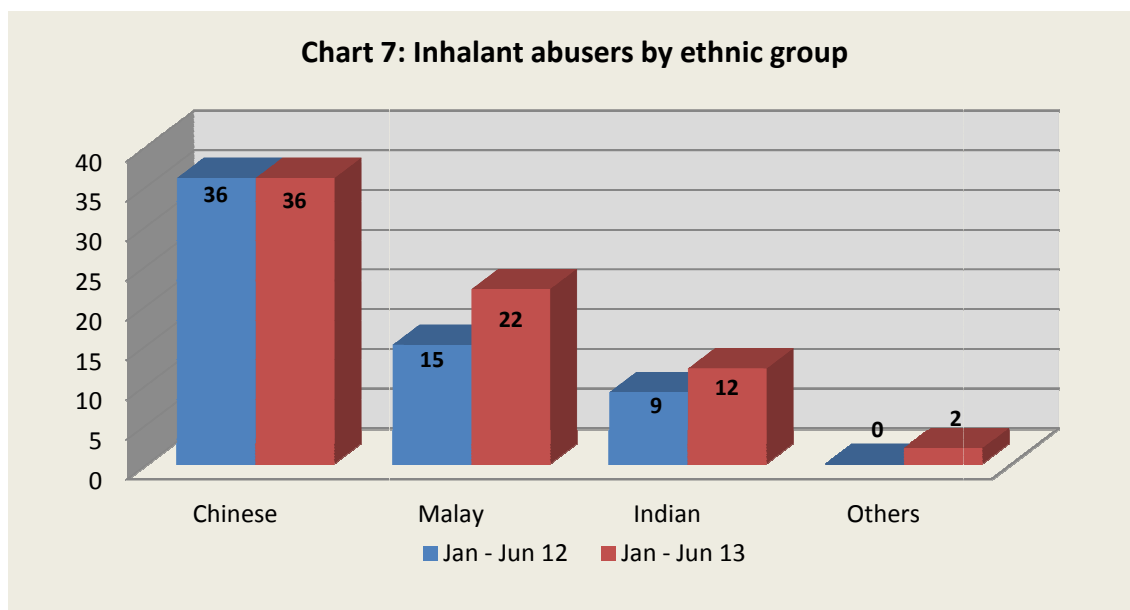
INCREASE IN NUMBER OF NEW AND REPEAT INHALANT ABUSERS ARRESTED

There has been an increase in the number of new and repeat inhalant abusers arrested. The number of inhalant abusers arrested increased by 20%, from 60 in the first half of 2012 to 72 in the first half of 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. Chinese inhalant abusers remained the majority.





CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE

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. 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.

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 2013, 57 anti-drug and inhalant abuse assembly talks were delivered to schools.

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

[end of press release]