

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

PRESS RELEASE



MORE DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED AND DRUGS SEIZED AS CNB INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN 2011

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested 3,265 drug abusers in 2011 – an increase of 13% from the 2,887 persons arrested in 2010.

While the new abusers arrested has dropped 17% from 1,327 in 2010 to 1,104 in 2011, new youth abusers below the age of 20 has increased from 155 in 2010 to 225 in 2011.

Heroin and methamphetamine remain the most commonly abused drugs – about 93% of all drug abusers arrested abused heroin or methamphetamine. Methamphetamine remains the most commonly abused drug amongst new abusers in Singapore.

On the supply front, CNB intensified enforcement against drug syndicates and checks at the checkpoints in 2011 resulting in more drugs seized – the estimated value of drugs seized in 2011 amounted to S\$16.0 million, 54% higher than the drugs seized in 2010. In particular, CNB seized 14 kg of crystal methamphetamine ('Ice') in 2011 which is the highest ever recorded in CNB's history.

The drug numbers for 2011 are against a changing drug landscape of worsening regional drug situation and increasingly liberal attitude towards drugs amongst youth.

CNB will continue to intensify its enforcement efforts to tackle both the supply and demand dimension of the drug problem. In addition, CNB is working closely with the Task Force on Drugs led by Minister-of-State (Home Affairs) Masagos Zulkifli, to ensure that our drug control measures remain relevant and effective in the changing landscape.

"The Central Narcotics Bureau has been arresting a steadily increasing number of drug abusers in the past few years. We are facing a changing drug landscape with challenges in both the drug supply and demand front.

CNB will continue with its tough approach towards drugs to ensure that drug abusers are detected early so that prompt treatment and rehabilitation can be rendered to them. I also want to send a strong message to the drug syndicates that CNB will come after you swiftly for peddling drugs and harming society.

Apart from tough enforcement, CNB will also deepen our Preventive Drug Education outreach to prevent our young from becoming the next generation of drug offenders.

CNB cannot fight this battle against drugs alone. We need the full support of the public, community and parents, and only with this support, can we preserve Singapore's cherished zero tolerance philosophy against drug abuse."

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

DRUG SITUATION REPORT 2011ⁱ

DRUG SEIZURESⁱⁱ

CNB seized more drugs in 2011 as it intensified its enforcement against drug syndicates and checks at the border checkpoints. This was done against the backdrop of a worsening regional drug situation. A total of 24 major operations against drug syndicates were conducted in 2011. At the border checkpoints, a total of 914 operations were conducted together with Home Team partners such as the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). Drugs seized by CNB in 2011 were estimated to be worth S\$16 million – approximately \$5.6 million or 54% higher than that seized in 2010.

Seizures of the most commonly abused drugs in Singapore, heroin, methamphetamine and cannabis increased significantly. Heroin seizures amounted to 72.6kg in 2011, 48% higher than the 49.02kg seized in 2010. Seizures of crystal methamphetamine, or 'Ice,' saw a 151% increase – from 5.59kg in 2010 to about 14.01kg in 2011. The seizure of 'Ice' in 2011 was the highest ever recorded in CNB's history. Cannabis seizures increased 51% to 12.88 kg in 2011.

Seizures of less commonly abused drugs declined. Seizures of 'Ecstasy', ketamine and 'Subutex' dropped 60%, 35% and 88% respectively.

Drug Type	2010	2011	% change in seizure	Estimated Market Value 2010	Estimated Market Value 2011
Heroin No.3	49.02 kg	72.60 kg	+48%	≈ S\$10.4 million	≈ S\$16.0 million
Cannabis	8.53 kg	12.88 kg	+51%		
'Ecstasy'	8,085 tablets	3,213 tablets	-60%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	5.59 kg	14.01 kg	+151%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	352 tablets	771.5 tablets	+119%		
Ketamine	12.15 kg	7.93 kg	-35%		
Nimetazepam	43,504 tablets	39,923 tablets	-8%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	296 tablets	35 tablets	-88%		

WORSENING REGIONAL DRUG SITUATION

Regional presence of heroin and methamphetamine remains significant. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2011 reported 42 metric tonnes of heroin seized in Asia in 2009, constituting 56% of global seizures that yearⁱⁱⁱ. The report also remarked that Asia has “developed into a major production and trafficking hub for ATS (Amphetamine-Type Stimulants),” with methamphetamine seizures increasing 36% from 2005 to 2009. The potential production yield of opium in South East Asia, the raw material for heroin, also increased some 75% from 341mt in 2009 to 598mt in 2010^{iv}.

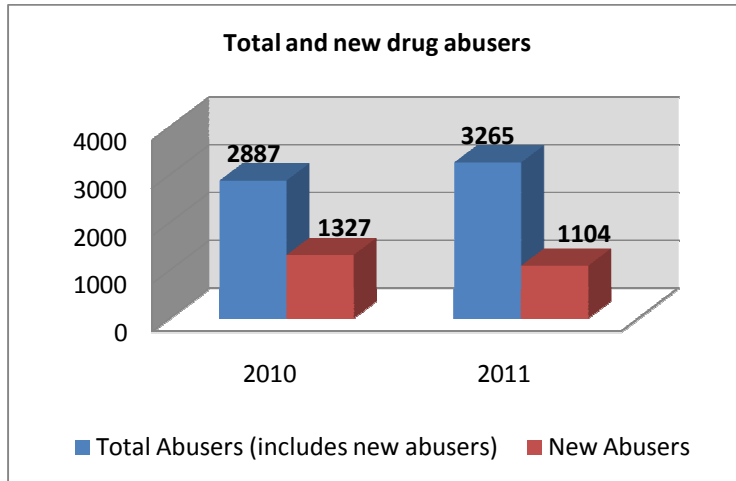
DEEPENING REGIONAL COOPERATION

To combat the drug threat up-stream, CNB collaborates with our key regional partners in two key areas - joint operations and enforcement capacity building. CNB regularly exchange intelligence and initiate joint investigations with regional drug enforcement agencies. Arising from these exchanges, CNB conducted three cross-border joint operations with our regional counterparts in 2011 targeting at drug syndicates known to supply drugs into Singapore.

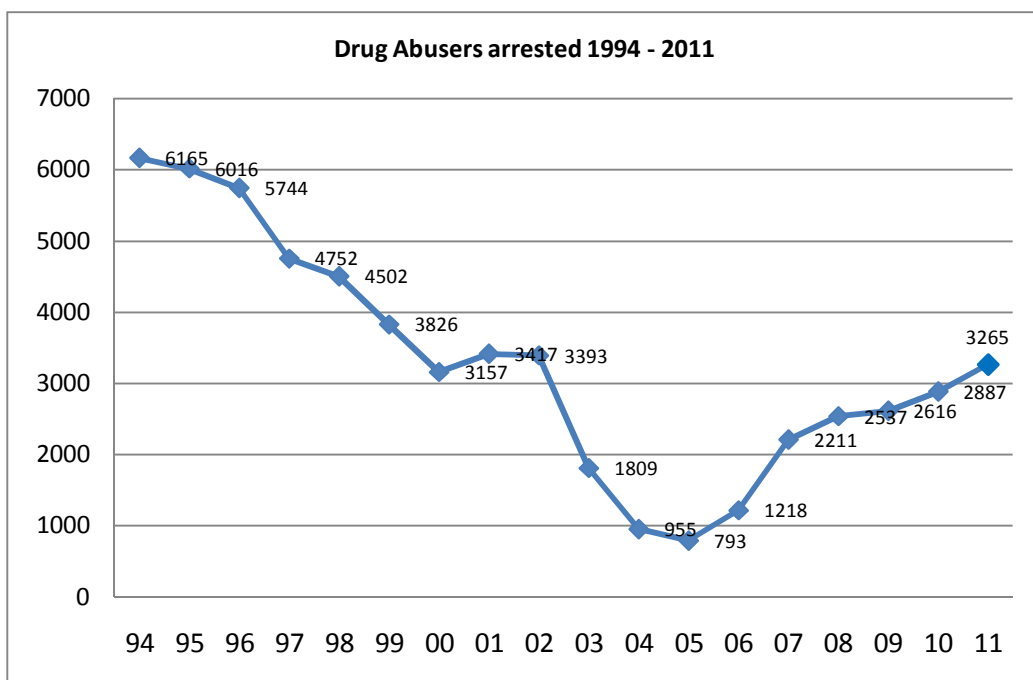
Another key thrust for regional collaboration is capacity building. Such capacity building facilitates understanding between agencies and raise capacity for drug law enforcement in the region. In 2011, CNB collaborated with our partners, such as the Australia Federal Police (AFP) and the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme, in the conduct of two training programs for 39 drug law enforcement officials from 17 countries in the region.

LOCAL DRUG ABUSERS – OVERALL

In addition to major operations against drug syndicates, CNB conducted another 17 island-wide operations targeting at street level drug demands. These efforts contributed to an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested. Some 3,265 drug abusers were arrested in 2011 compared to 2,887 in 2010 – a 13% increase. While total numbers have increased, the number of new drug abusers arrested registered a 17% decrease of 223 abusers.

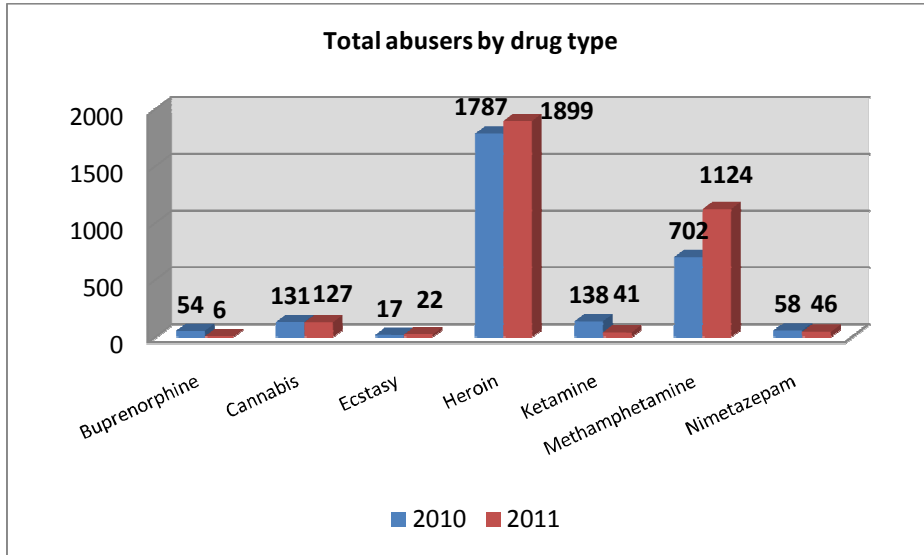


CNB has observed a steady increase in the number of drug abusers arrested in the last few years. While this is below the peak of 6,165 abusers arrested in 1994, CNB remains concerned about the rising numbers. This is against a changing drug landscape of worsening regional drug situation, increased number of repeat drug abusers expected to be released from the Long Term (LT) imprisonment in the coming years which historically showed a higher recidivism rate and increasingly liberal attitude towards drugs amongst local youth.



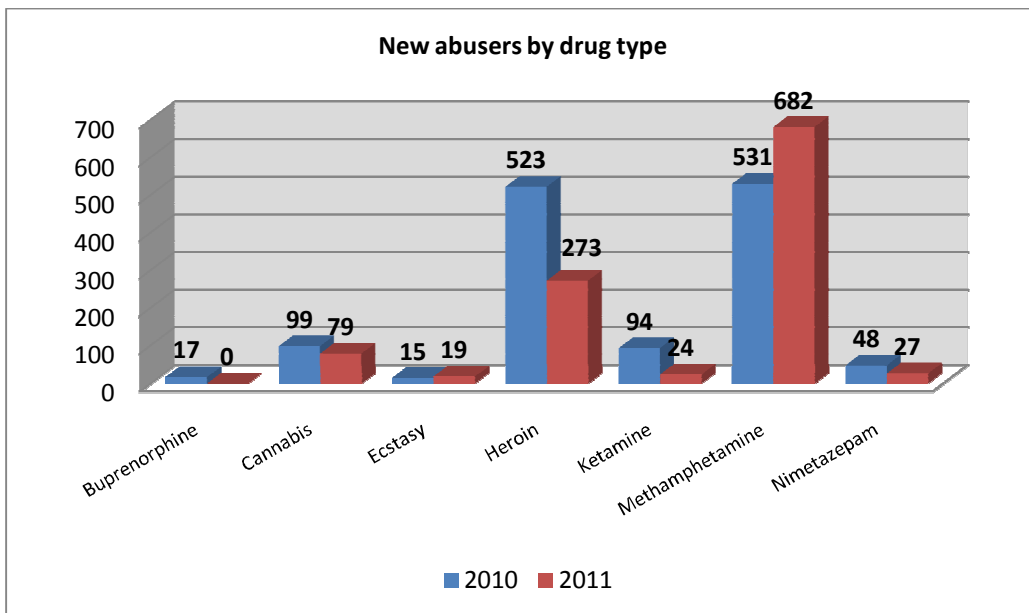
DRUG ABUSERS – BY DRUGS ABUSED

Heroin and methamphetamine remain the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. Close to 93% of all drug abusers arrested in 2011 had abused heroin or methamphetamine.



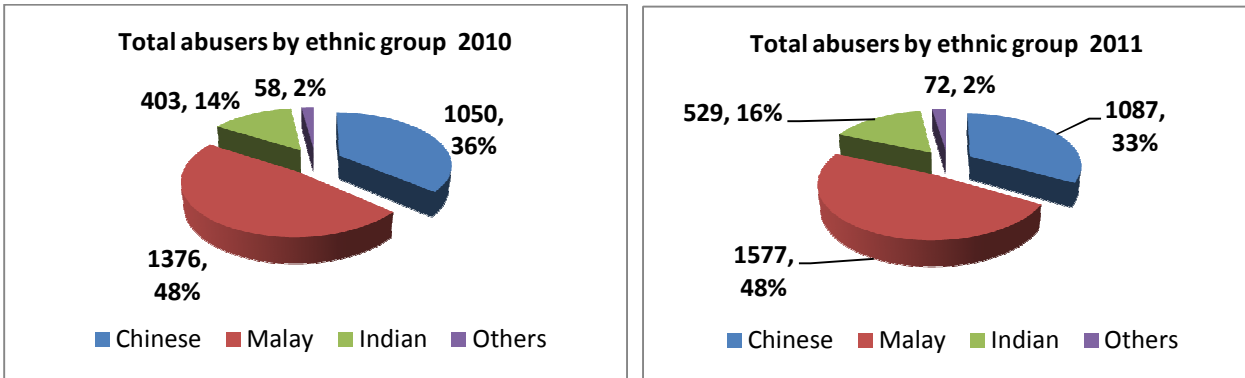
Some 1,899 heroin abusers were arrested in 2011, 112 or 6% more than in 2010. Of note, the number of methamphetamine abusers arrested in 2011 (1,124) increased significantly by 60% over 2010 (702).

Methamphetamine remains the most popular drug amongst new, or first-time arrested abusers. Amongst the 1,104 new abusers arrested in 2011, close to 62% had abused methamphetamine while 25% had abused heroin. The popularity of methamphetamine amongst new abusers is a key area of concern for CNB, moving ahead.



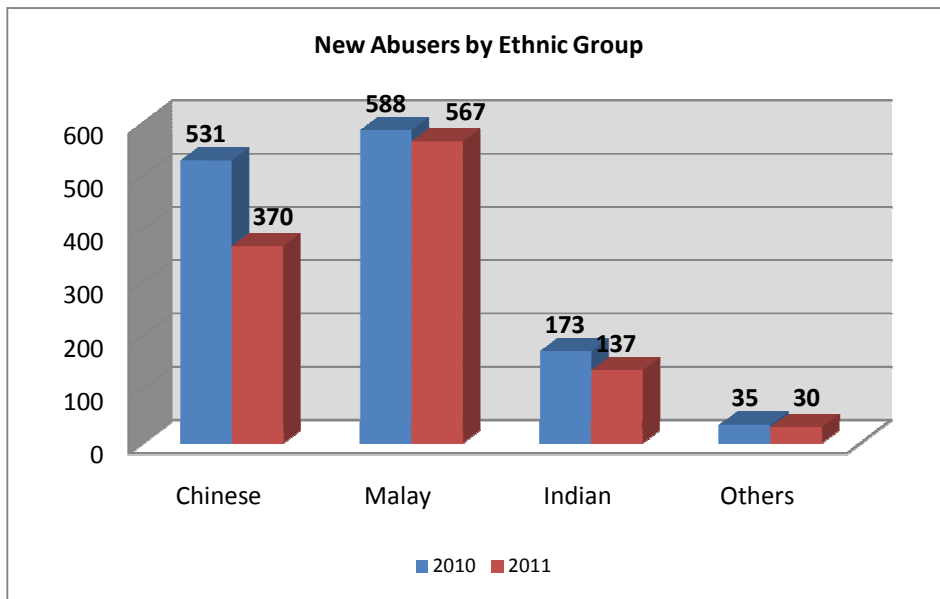
DRUG ABUSERS – BY ETHNIC GROUP

The increase in number of abusers arrested was seen across all major ethnic groups in Singapore. Similar to the ethnic profile shown in 2010, Malay and Chinese abusers make up the majority of 2011 arrests at 48% and 33% respectively.



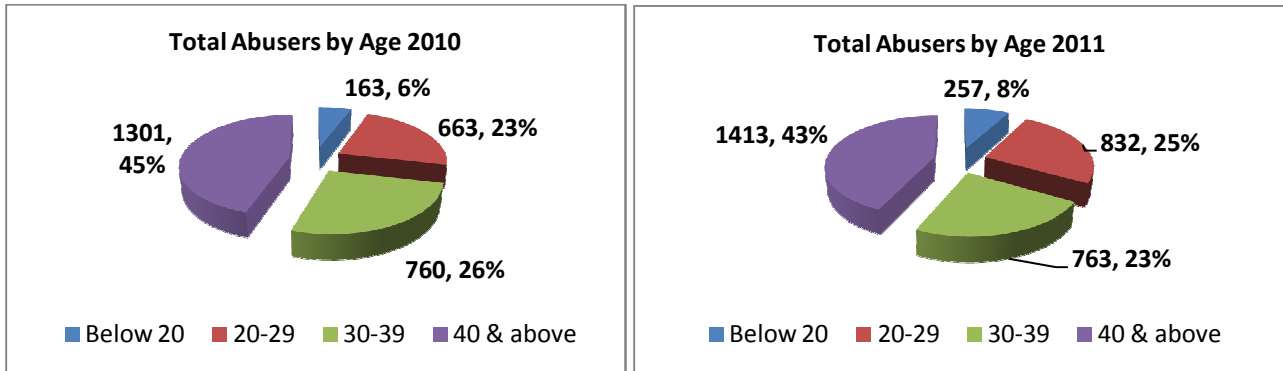
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

As there were fewer new abusers arrested in 2011, this decline was also seen across the board amongst the ethnic groups.



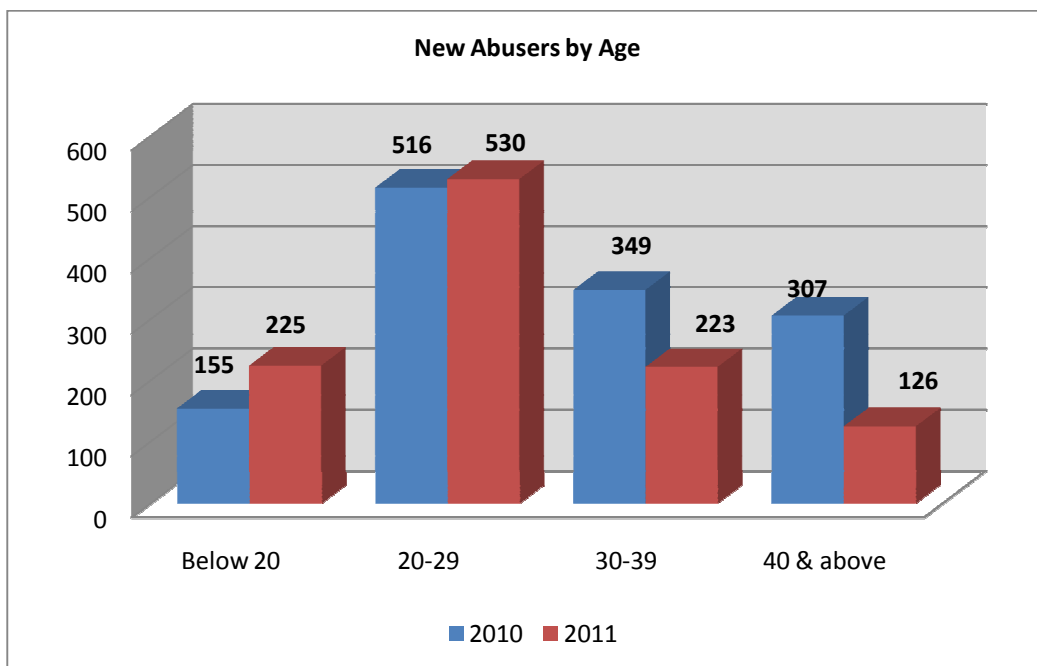
DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED – BY AGE

The age distribution of drug abusers arrested in 2011 remains similar to that in 2010. Drug abusers in the '40 and above' age group form the largest group at 43%. Drug abusers in the '20 to 29' and '30 to 39' age group were evenly distributed at 25% and 23% respectively.



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding off

Majority of the new abusers were aged 20 to 29 at 48%. While there were a decline in the number of new drug abusers aged 30 and above, the number of new young abusers below the age of 20 have increased from 155 in 2010 to 225 in 2011.



PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Complementing vigorous enforcement, Preventive Drug Education (PDE) is critical as a first line of defence to inculcate anti-drug awareness amongst youth and at-risk groups, as well as preserving our zero-tolerance philosophy against drug abuse within the society. In 2011, CNB continued to organise and support a range of PDE events to spread the anti-drug message to youth and at-risk groups. Following are highlights of CNB's PDE initiatives in 2011.

DanceWorks! 2011

A stalwart amongst CNB's PDE initiatives, the 13th annual DanceWorks! attracted more than 500 participants from 54 teams. Participants had to incorporate an anti-drug message in their dance routines as well as in pre-event "fringe activities," such as the designing of a T-shirt or production of an anti-drug short video.

As part of our constant efforts to improve our PDE initiatives, this year's DanceWorks! saw two firsts – the competition was broadcast on the Okto Channel from May to June 2011, establishing a reach of 215,000 people between 4 and 25 years old. To engage the IT-savvy, a new competition component was introduced. iPhone users could vote for the 'Most Supported Team' via an iPhone application, sponsored by local company FW Tech Pte Ltd.

DanceWorks! Cat I @ Toa Payoh Hub



DanceWorks! Cat I Winners – NV Groove Crew



DanceWorks! Cat 11 Winners – Nutz Crew



DanceWorks! Grand Finals at Titanium

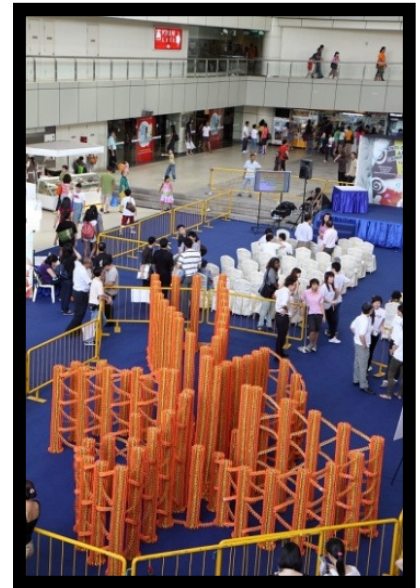
Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2011

Co-organised by the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and CNB, the annual ADAC was launched in conjunction with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2011. This year, the organisers partnered students from Singapore Polytechnic's School of Architecture and the Built Environment in the planning of activities, in a bid to make the activities more relevant and appealing to youths.

These efforts culminated in the successful record making held during the event launch – about 100 students from various secondary schools came together to build Singapore's largest sculpture made



of binder clips, shaped as a windmill to symbolise the campaign theme 'Life Does Not Rewind. Make The Right Choice'. The event included an anti-drug exhibit and game booths featuring anti-drug elements at the event venue over three days, which saw both the young and old learning about the dangers of drugs in a fun way.

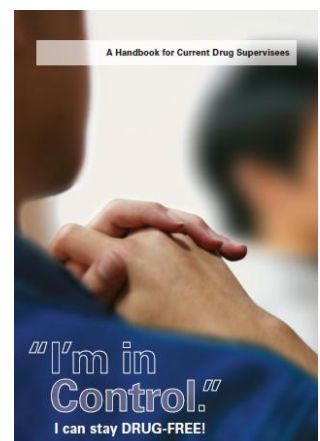


Reaching Out to Ex-Abusers and Their Families

"I'm in Control" information booklet for ex-abusers

While CNB serves a role in enforcing the law against drug offenders, we have also taken steps to reach out to ex-drug abusers to encourage them to stay off drugs. Together with the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE), customised materials were developed to better complement overall rehabilitation efforts.

Educational videos have been produced and are screened to ex-abusers and drug supervisees, featuring interviews with a doctor and reformed drug abusers. The videos aim to inspire and motivate viewers to remain drug-free, and at the same time, drive home a deterrent message on the consequences of drug abuse. A booklet on the LT regime, penalties for repeat offenders, anti-addiction programmes and useful helplines were printed in the four official languages as a source of information for ex-offenders and their families.



Digitising the Anti-Drug Message: Online Gaming Challenge – iChoozeflife iPhone App

2011 marked the launch of various new initiatives targeted at tech-savvy youth. Building on the foundations of the inaugural Flash Games Competition: Games Against Drug Abuse in 2010, NCADA and CNB launched the *Anti-Drug Online Gaming Challenge* in December 2011. Featuring three “anti-drug” Flash-based games developed by the student winners of the earlier Flash Games Competition, players compete to achieve high scores on the games, accessible on our “Life Does Not Rewind” Facebook page.

A media preview was held on in November 2011 where 17 popular youth bloggers were engaged to publicise the challenge in the medium relevant to the subject and audience. The competition will run up to February 2012 but the games will remain accessible to all on our Facebook page for a year.



Apart from forays into social media, CNB’s PDE outreach has also moved onto the mobile platform. In November 2011, CNB’s first anti-drug game application for the iPhone was launched by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, in conjunction with the opening of CNB’s Heritage Gallery. Named “iChoozeLife,” and targeted at youth between 13 and 20 years, the game features a “virtual pet” concept – players “raise” an avatar by engaging it in healthy activities, and through this, learn about the ill effects, dangers and legal penalties of drug abuse.

Reaching Out to At-risk Youth

In 2011, CNB has also reached out to at-risk youth more susceptible to drug abuse. Specialised and higher intensity programmes have been developed for a deeper engagement and stronger impact of the anti-drug message.

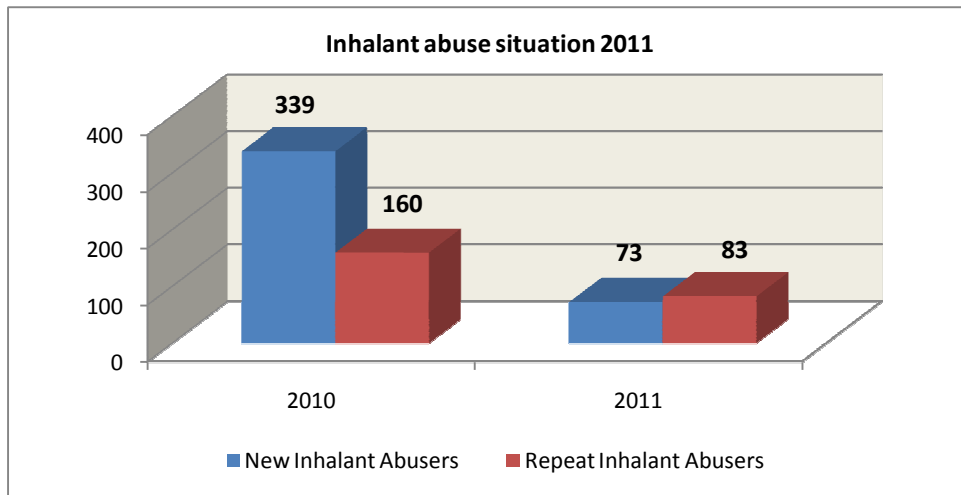
In the first half of 2011, CNB cooperated with the Singapore Police Force Ang Mo Kio Division to conduct 15 anti-drug talks to at-risk youths under the SPF’s ‘Project Green Leaf,’ where the dangers of drug and inhalant substance abuse were explained.

CNB also piloted a new PDE programme targeted at at-risk and out-of-school youths. Ten pilot half-day sessions ran from July to October 2011 at the National Servicemen Recreational Country Club (NSRCC) Sea Sports Centre. Open to youths aged below 20 years, the programmes included an anti-drug talk, quizzes, ice-breakers and laser tag games. Apart from the anti-drug messages subtly incorporated within the activities, the programme aimed for the youth to learn team work and build self-confidence. A total of 245 participants from two schools and 14 other organisations (including Family Service Centres, Voluntary Welfare Group) joined the pilot programme.

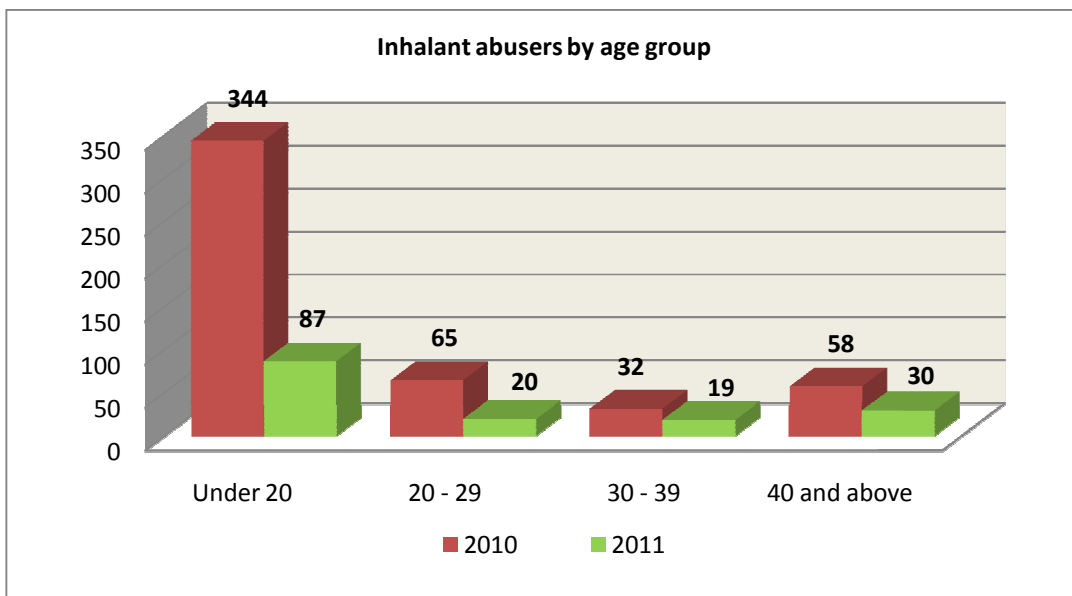
INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION 2011

INHALANT ABUSE SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

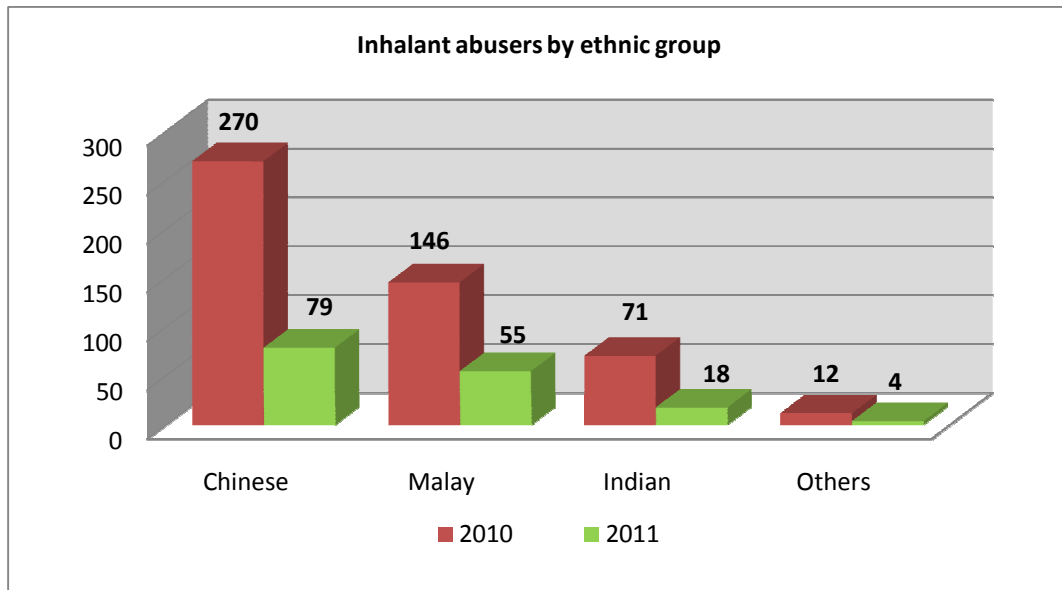
There was a significant decline in the numbers of inhalant abusers arrested – from a total 499 in 2010 to only 156 in 2011. CNB will continue to monitor the inhalant abuse situation moving ahead for any increasing trend.



There were fewer arrests of both new and repeat inhalant abusers. 73 new inhalant abusers were arrested in 2011 compared to 339 in 2010, a 78% decrease. Similarly arrests of repeat inhalant abusers declined about 48% from 160 in 2010 to 83 in 2011. There were less inhalant abusers arrested in 2011 across all age groups compared to 2010. Youths under the age of 20 continue to make up the majority at approximately 56% of all inhalant abusers arrested in 2011.



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



CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE

CNB has enacted several measures over the years to combat inhalant abuse in Singapore. These measures ranged from anti-inhalant abuse publicity to conducting of anti-drug and inhalant abuse school assembly talks, as well as focused talks to high risk youth. Since 2007, CNB has conducted more than 100 school assembly talks every year targeting at the general student population – with 144 such talks delivered in 2011.

As inhalant products such as glue are easily available with common and legitimate usage, CNB seeks the assistance of shopkeepers to avoid selling such products to persons who may be abusing them. Since 2010, CNB has adopted a clustering method of issuing letters of advice and letters of notice to shopkeepers who sell inhalants. When CNB receives information that inhalant abusers are purchasing from a particular shop, all shops in the vicinity selling similar inhalant products are alerted to exercise more caution when selling these products.

In 2011, CNB checked 337 such shops and issued a total of 22 Letters of Advice or Letters of Notice. CNB also earlier obtained the cooperation of a major contact cement producer to include a warning label on the dangers of inhalant abuse on their products. CNB is optimistic that such measures have contributed to the decline of inhalant abuse and will continue with these initiatives.

THE DANGERS OF INHALANT ABUSE IF LEFT UNCHECKED

Youths under the age of 20 comprised almost 56% of all inhalant abusers arrested in 2011. Many youths may be under the impression that compared to controlled drugs, inhalants cause less harm to the body. This misconception coupled with the fact that most inhalants are considerably inexpensive and easily available, may lead to youths finding easy escape routes from their problems through inhalant abuse.

Early detection is the key to prevention of inhalant abuse. Everyone has a role to play in this prevention effort including parents, caregivers, teachers and friends. Anyone who suspects that a loved one is engaging in inhalant abuse or has information pertaining to the indiscriminate selling or distribution of inhalants is advised to alert CNB by calling our hotline at 1800-3256666.

END OF NEWS RELEASE

ISSUED BY:

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

3 February 2012

ⁱ All figures in this report are provisional and will be revised at a later date due to ongoing cases. In this report, 2011 refers to the period 1 Jan 2011 to 31 Dec 2011.

ⁱⁱ Drug seizures in this report are for the most significantly abused controlled drugs listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act, and are not an exhaustive list of CNB's seizures. For instance, small amounts of Opium (175 grams), LSD (2 stamps) and Heroin No.4 (150 grams) were seized in 2011. 11.6g of Ecstasy – from crushed tablets was also seized. Heroin No. 4 is a different grade of heroin from the predominant type of heroin abused in Singapore - Heroin No.3.

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011*, pp 42

^{iv} *ibid*, pp 60