



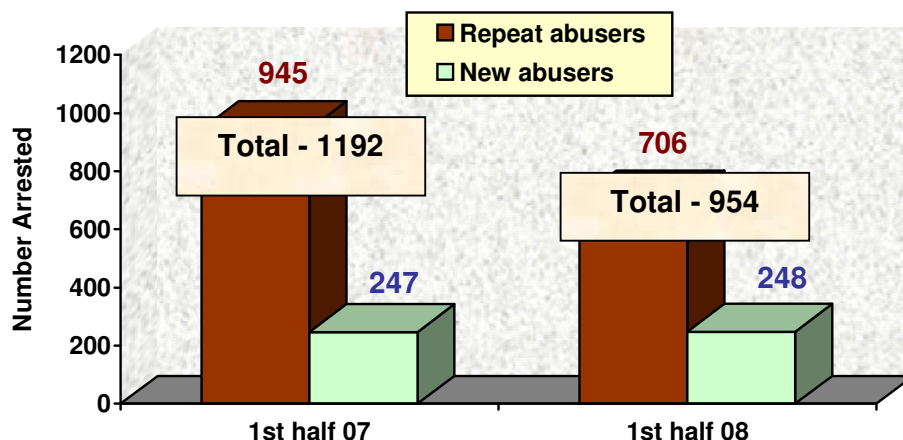
Public Affairs Division
Central Narcotics Bureau
Police Cantonment Complex
393 New Bridge Road
Singapore 088763
FAX : (65) 6224 1686

CNB NEWS RELEASE

Stable drug and inhalant abuse situation in Jan to Jun 2008

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) continues to sustain its intensive enforcement efforts in stemming the flow of drugs coming into Singapore as well as in suppressing the demand for drugs. In terms of major operations, CNB mounted 18 major operations against drug traffickers and abusers in the first six months of 2008, resulting in the breakup of 13 syndicated drug trafficking activities.

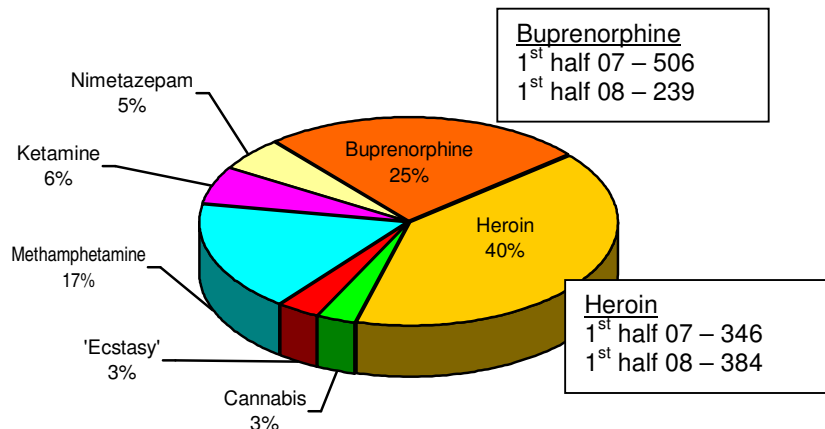
Total and New Abusers arrested



2 954 drug abusers were arrested in the first six months of 2008 as compared to 1,192 arrested in the same period last year, registering an improvement of 20%. The number of new abusers had remained stable.

3 The number of repeat abusers registered a decline of 25%. Repeat abusers continue to form the majority of abusers arrested at 74%. Amongst them, 65% are liable for long-term imprisonment, which means that they will be kept away for a long period and prevented from further abuse or contaminating others.

Abusers by Drug Type

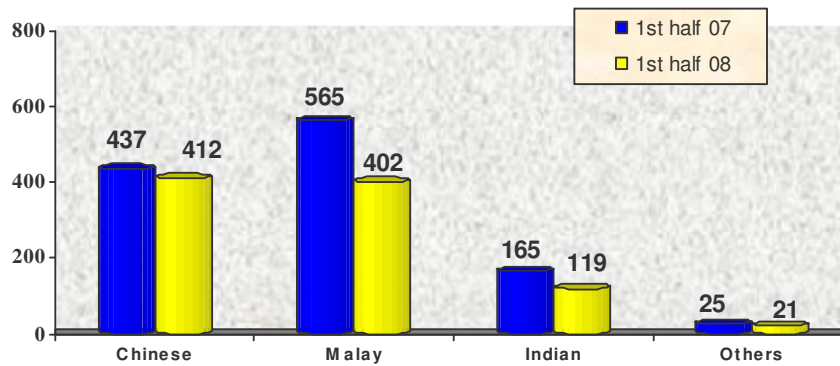


4 Rigorous enforcement and tough legislation have brought down the number of buprenorphine abusers arrested in the first half of 2008. 239 buprenorphine abusers were arrested as compared to 506 in first half 2007, a significant decline of 53%. They formed 25% of the abusers arrested, down from 42% in first half 2007.

5 While the situation has stabilised, CNB continues to keep a tight watch on the buprenorphine and heroin abuse situation. In particular, CNB has kept up its intensive enforcement to curb the demand and supply of heroin. In terms of supply, CNB seized significant amount of heroin in the first half of 2008 and prevented them from reaching the streets. The vigorous enforcement has also capped the increase in heroin abuse to a moderate increase of 38 arrests; most of who were aged 40 and above. Amongst the heroin abusers arrested in first half 2008, 93% were repeat abusers, out of which 71% are liable for long-term imprisonment.

6 Abusers of the other drug types remained relatively constant. Amongst new abusers arrested in first half 2008, a greater proportion abused methamphetamine and ketamine at 38% and 13% respectively.

Abusers by Ethnicity



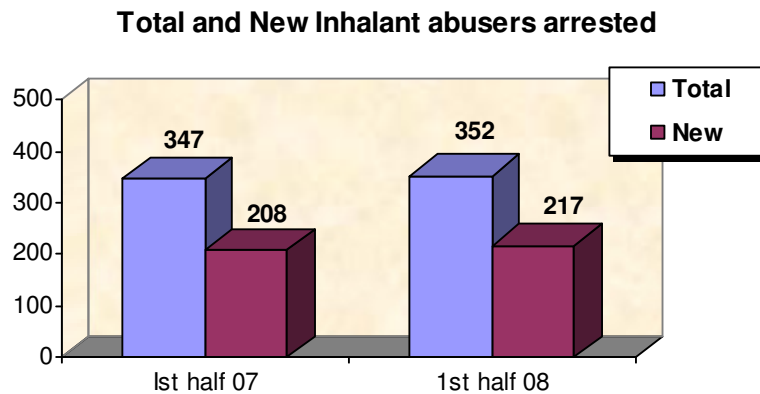
7 Abusers of all ethnic groups registered decline in first half 2008 as compared to first half 2007. Malay abusers registered the most significant decline by 29% and formed 42% of abusers arrested. Chinese abusers fell slightly by 6% and formed 43% of abusers arrested.

Drug seizures

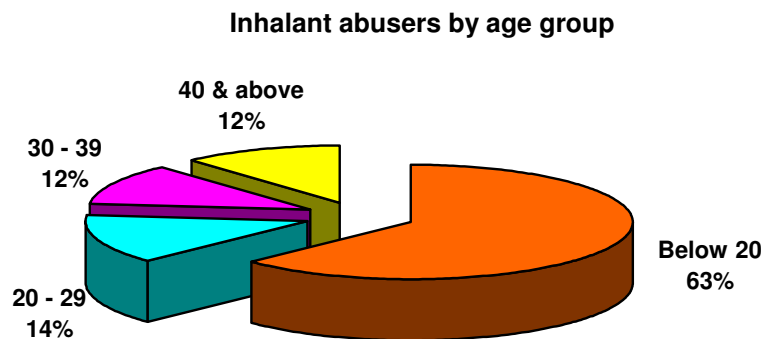
Drug type	1 st half 2007	1 st half 2008
Heroin No. 3	6.8 kg	28.6 kg
Heroin No. 4	Nil	10.8 kg
Cannabis	28.5 kg	1.2 kg
'Ecstasy'	3,985 tablets	3,553 tablets
Methamphetamine	0.8 kg	1 kg
Ketamine	2.7 kg	8 kg
Nimetazepam	11,760 tablets	12,595 tablets
Buprenorphine	1,731 tablets	1,423 tablets

8 In terms of seizures, more heroin and ketamine were seized in the first half of this year as compared to the same period last year. The increase in the seizure of heroin No. 3 is due to two large single seizures of approximately 10kg and 5kg made in operations conducted in February and June respectively. In addition, CNB also seized approximately 11kg of heroin No. 4 in June 2008. As for ketamine, the increase in seizure was due to a large single seizure of 5kg in an operation in January 2008.

Inhalant abuse situation



9 Moving on to the inhalant abuse situation, the number of inhalant abusers arrested in the first half of 2008 is similar to that of first half 2007. 352 inhalant abusers were arrested in first half 2008 as compared to 347 in first half 2007.



10 Youths below 20 years old continued to form the majority of inhalant abusers arrested at 63%. Amongst them, 72% were students.

Enhanced measures and Tougher approach against inhalant abusers

11 Since September 2007, CNB has adopted a tougher but graduated approach in dealing with youth abusers. As part of this approach, CNB has placed students and out-of-school juveniles who relapsed to inhalant abuse while under counselling on direct CNB supervision once they have been found to have abused inhalants for the second time. Tougher action such as prosecution in court will be considered for recalcitrant abusers who refuse to change. Since September 2007, 32 students and out-of-school juveniles have been placed on direct CNB supervision for inhalant abuse.

12 In terms of enforcement, CNB has kept up its island-wide anti-inhalant abuse operations as well as conducted targeted and focused enforcement against shopkeepers to clamp down on any indiscriminate sale of inhalant products to abusers. Since September 2007, CNB officers have made more than 250 site visits to advise shopkeepers to exercise caution in the sale of any inhalant products, especially to young persons.

13 With the support of key stakeholders such as the MOE, MCYS, Police and Prisons, CNB has rolled out a series of measures to fight inhalant abuse. For example, CNB shares knowledge and information on inhalant abuse with teachers and counsellors at dialogue sessions, school talks and seminars. With the support of MOE, CNB has also reached out to school management and parents to intensify its preventive education at schools on the harms of inhalant abuse.

14 CNB recognises the important role by the community in the detection and prevention of inhalant abuse. In this regard, CNB is working with Prisons and MOE to extend visits to Drug Rehabilitation Centres to parents, teachers and shopkeepers who have been served Letters of Advice for selling inhalant products to abusers to raise their awareness on the consequences of inhalant abuse.

CNB remains vigilant on Enforcement and Preventive Drug Education; Community Support continue to be critical in keeping the drug and inhalant abuse situation under control

15 Rigorous enforcement and tough legislation had brought about an overall decline in the number of abusers arrested by 20% and a significant 53% drop in the number of buprenorphine abusers.

16 While there was an increase in the number of heroin abusers arrested, the increase was slight and was confined to the repeat group of abusers. The number of new heroin abusers remained low.

17 CNB will press on with its rigorous enforcement and take recalcitrant abusers out of circulation as well as keep the number of new abusers low through enforcement and preventive drug education.

18 On the inhalant abuse situation, the enhanced measures and tougher approach adopted since September 2007 have contained the inhalant situation and ensured no further spike in the first half of 2008.

19 Nevertheless, the numbers remained close to the numbers arrested in the first half of 2007. This underscores the importance of sustained inter-agency collaboration and continued community support. CNB will keep up its rigorous enforcement and continue to work closely with the various stakeholders to keep the drug and inhalant abuse situation under control.