



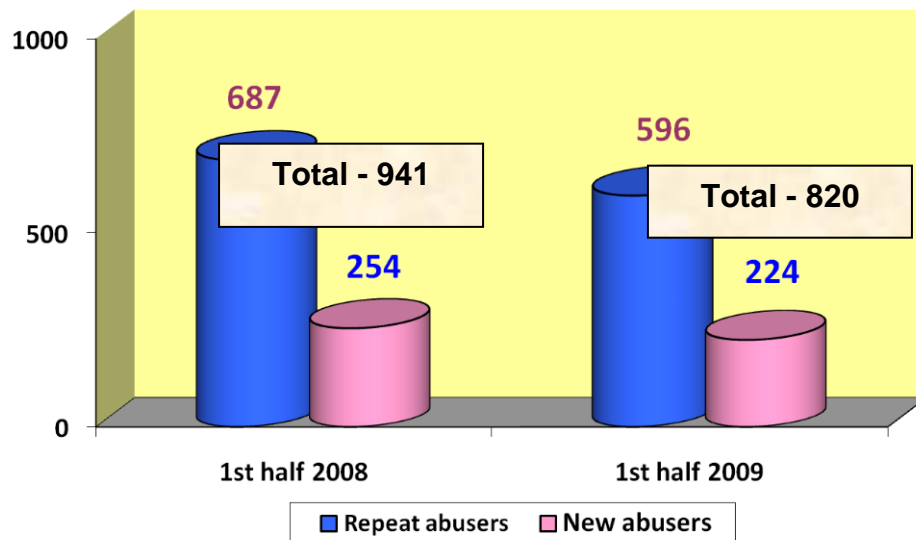
Public Affairs Unit
Communications Division
Central Narcotics Bureau
Police Cantonment Complex
393 New Bridge Road
Singapore 088763
FAX : (65) 6224 1686

CNB NEWS RELEASE

Stable drug and inhalant abuse situation from Jan to Jun 2009

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 32 night spot and major operations against drug traffickers and abusers in the first six months of 2009, resulting in the breakup of 11 drug trafficking syndicates.

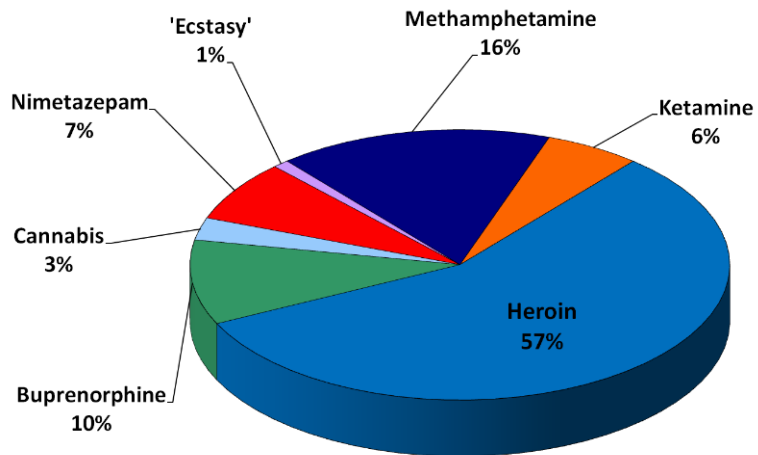
Drug Abusers Arrested



2 820 drug abusers were arrested in the first six months of 2009 as compared to 941 arrested in the same period last year, which translates to a 13% drop. The number of new abusers remained low, comprising 27% of the total abusers arrested, and registered a decline of 12%.

3 The number of repeat abusers registered a decline of 13%. Repeat abusers continue to form the majority of abusers arrested at 73%. Amongst them, 70% were liable for long-term imprisonment of between five to thirteen years, which means that they will be kept away and prevented from further abuse or contaminating others for a long period of time.

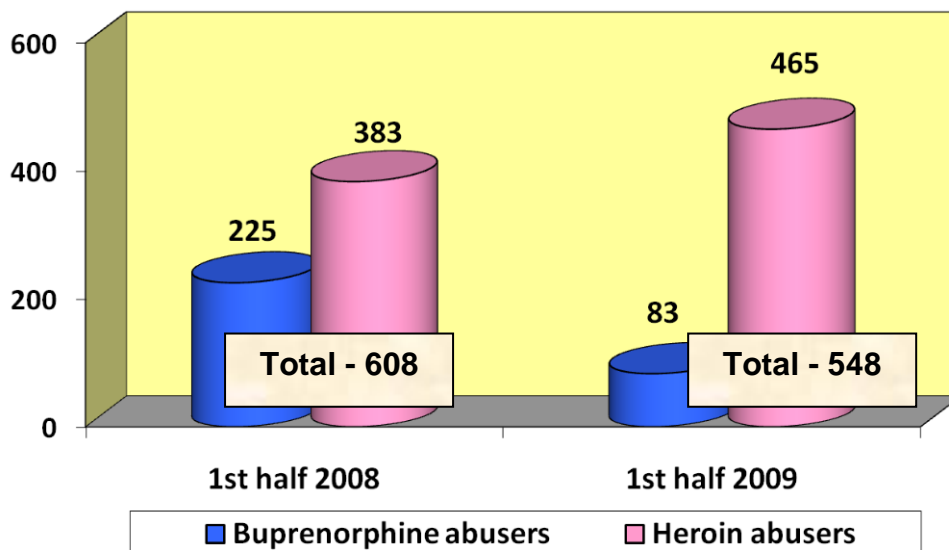
Abusers by Drug Type



* Due to rounding off, the percentages may not total up to 100%.

4 The number of buprenorphine abusers arrested showed a significant improvement by falling 63% when compared to the same period last year. The clampdown on buprenorphine has since led to a scarcity of the drug in the illicit drug market, prompting some of its abusers to switch back to heroin, which contributed to a 21% increase in the number of heroin abusers arrested.

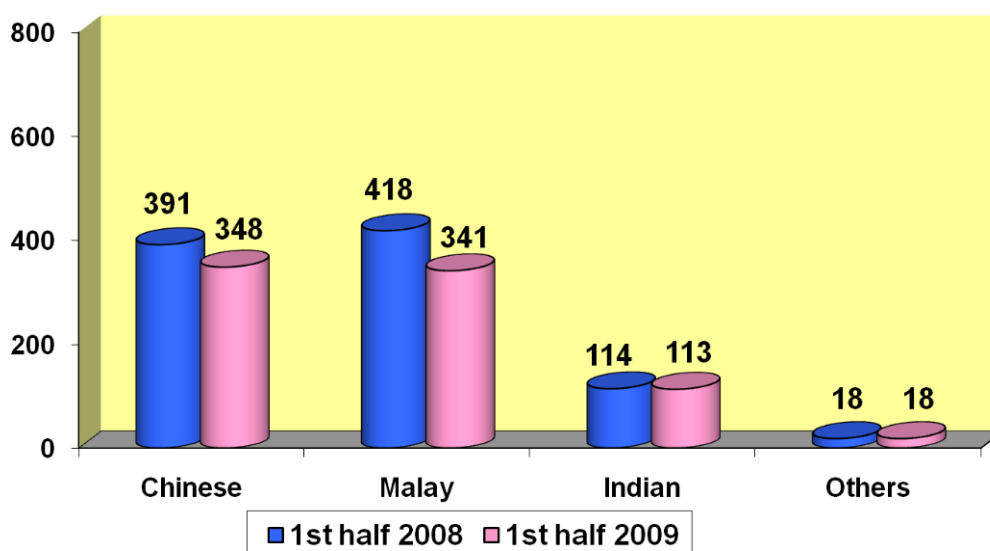
Opioid (Heroin & Buprenorphine) Abusers



5 CNB continues to keep a tight watch on the buprenorphine and heroin situation. Heroin and buprenorphine belong to a group of drugs known as 'opioids'. 82% of the buprenorphine abusers arrested in first half 2009 had previous heroin consumption records and similar profiles as heroin abusers. Though heroin remained the main drug of abuse, the abuse of opioid drugs decreased by 10% in first half 2009, falling from 608 in first half 2008 to 548 in first half 2009.

6 The next most commonly abused drug is methamphetamine. Methamphetamine abusers formed 16% of all drug abusers arrested.

Abusers by Ethnicity



7 The number of drug abusers fell across all ethnic groups. In particular, the Malay community showed the greatest improvement, registering a 18% drop in the number of drug abusers arrested.

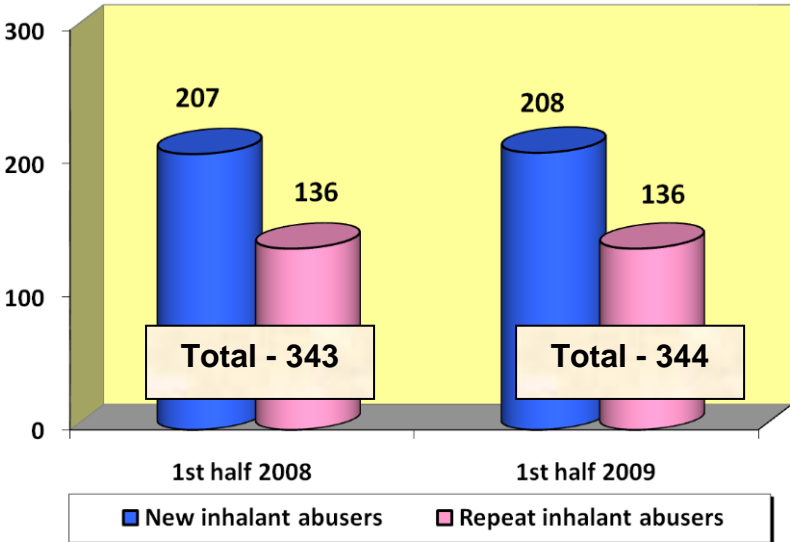
Drug Seizures

Drug type	1st half 2008	1st half 2009
Heroin No.3	28.57 kg	14.3 kg
Heroin No.4	10.77 kg	2.21 kg
Cannabis	1.27 kg	2.74 kg
'Ecstasy'	3,734 tablets	6,534 tablets
Methamphetamine (Ice)	0.98 kg	1.47 kg
Methamphetamine tablets (Yaba)	963 tablets	496 tablets
Ketamine	8.24 kg	4.87 kg
Nimetazepam	14,091 tablets	20,833 tablets
Buprenorphine	1,435 tablets	874 tablets

8 Compared to the same period last year, larger quantities of cannabis, Ecstasy, Ice and nimetazepam were seized in the first half of 2009. CNB will continue to monitor the situation closely and continue to co-operate with our regional counterparts to disrupt the supply of drugs into Singapore.

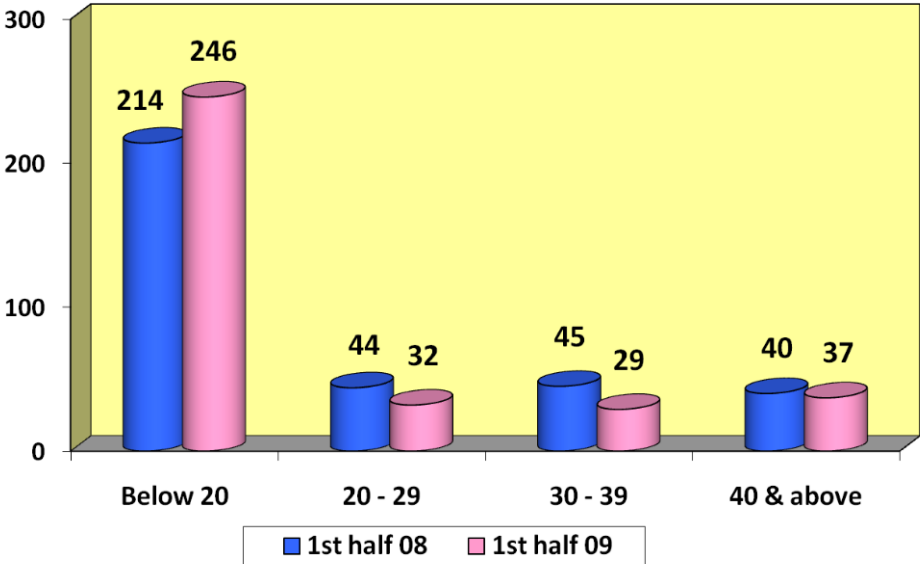
9 Besides mounting intensive enforcement efforts, CNB is intensifying and broadening our preventive education outreach to youths. Our preventive education projects in the pipeline include enriching our resources for educators and counsellors, developing engaging materials for youths and collaborations with the National Council Against Drug Abuse and other community partners.

Inhalant Abuse Situation



10 The inhalant abuse situation was stable in the first half of 2009. A total of 344 inhalant abusers were arrested, which is one person more compared to first half 2008. New abusers continued to form the majority of inhalant abusers arrested at 60%. The number of repeat inhalant abusers remained the same.

Inhalant abusers by age-group



11 The age composition of inhalant abusers arrested remained similar. Youth inhalant abusers, i.e. those under 20 years of age made up the majority, comprising 72% of all inhalant abusers arrested. This is a 15% increase when compared to first half 08. Inhalant abusers from the other age groups registered decreases.

12 CNB collaborated with the National Council Against Drug Abuse to roll out an inhalant abuse media campaign in early 2009. Continuing with our efforts to combat inhalant abuse, in 2009 we highlighted the dangers of inhalants in our various preventive education initiatives such as anti-drug Ambassador Activity, Essay Writing and Art Competition.

13 CNB will keep a close watch of the inhalant abuse situation and continue to press on with our enforcement and preventive education efforts to address any change in the trend or abuse patterns amongst inhalant abusers. The support of key stakeholders such as MOE and MCYS has been vital to allow the inhalant abuse problem to be handled holistically.

CNB remains Vigilant

14 Although the drug and inhalant abuse situation is stable, CNB remains vigilant and does not rest on our laurels. We will press on with our enforcement and are stepping up on our focused anti-drug checks to stop the flow of drugs into Singapore by working closely with our Home Team partners, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority and the Singapore Police Force.

15 We will continue to work closely with our partner agencies and the community to explore ways to deepen and extend our preventive education outreach to the youths, ex-abusers and their families to keep the drug and inhalant abuse situation under control.

Central Narcotics Bureau
6 August 2009