

Central Narcotics Bureau Press Release

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF NEW DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2015 WERE BELOW 30 YEARS OLD

Methamphetamine is the most commonly abused drug, followed by heroin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested 1,717 drug abusers¹ in the first half of 2015. This is an increase of 10% from the 1,560 drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2014. About 37% (629) of all drug abusers arrested were new abusers. Among the new abusers, 71% (446) were below 30 years old. This is a slight increase from the corresponding period a year ago, when new abusers below 30 years of age made up 69% (338) of new abusers arrested.

2. Methamphetamine and heroin continued to be the two most commonly abused drugs, with such abusers making up over 93% (1,595) of all drug abusers arrested. Methamphetamine abusers made up slightly more than half (53% or 915) of all abusers arrested, followed by heroin (40% or 680). The number of cannabis abusers grew by 20% from the first half of 2014 (from 83 to 100). Among the new abusers, methamphetamine abusers made up the largest group at 76% (475), followed by cannabis (13% or 81) and heroin (9% or 59) abusers.

3. Seizures of cannabis, ketamine and nimetazepam increased, while seizures of heroin and 'Ice' (crystalline methamphetamine) decreased in the first half of 2015, compared to the same period last year. Notably, cannabis seizures increased by 174%, from 8.81kg to 24.12kg.

4. CNB will remain vigilant and monitor the drug situation closely. We will continue to maintain close co-operation with our regional counterparts to stem the inflow of drugs into Singapore. In line with the recommendations² of the Task Force on Youths and Drugs released in June this year, CNB will also enhance its Preventive Drug Education (PDE) efforts to spread anti-drug messages and engage youths, especially at the post-secondary level, in the fight against drugs. CNB will also work closely with our partners and key stakeholders to reach out to the general public.

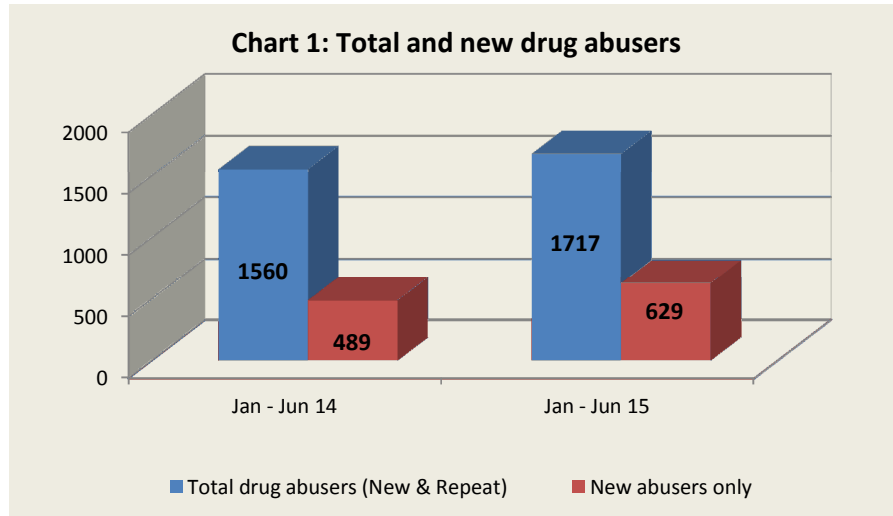
¹ Figures for the first half of 2015 are confirmed.

² The recommendations can be viewed [HERE](#).

DRUG ABUSE SITUATION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2015

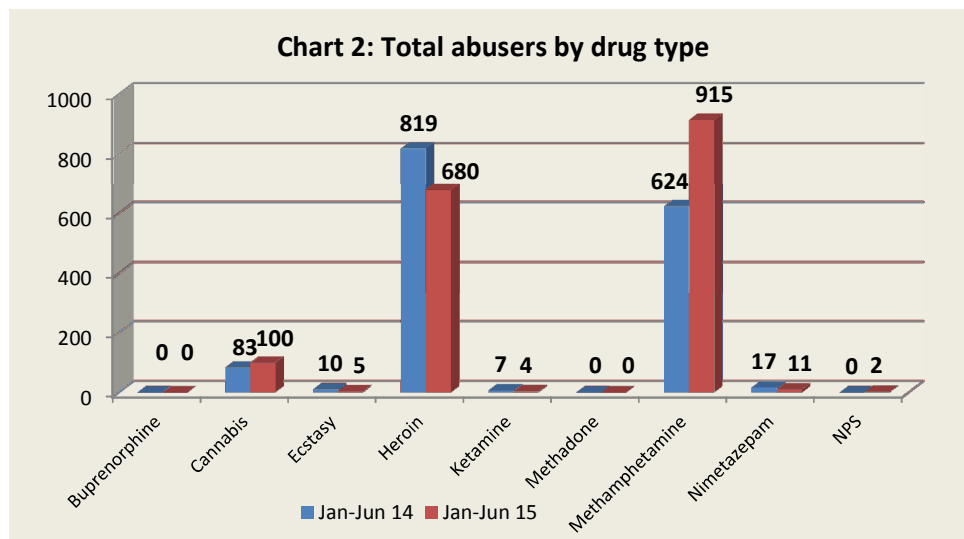
Local Drug Abusers Arrested - Overall

5. The total number of drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2015 increased by 10% (from 1,560 to 1,717) from the same period last year. The number of new abusers increased by 29%, from 489 to 629.

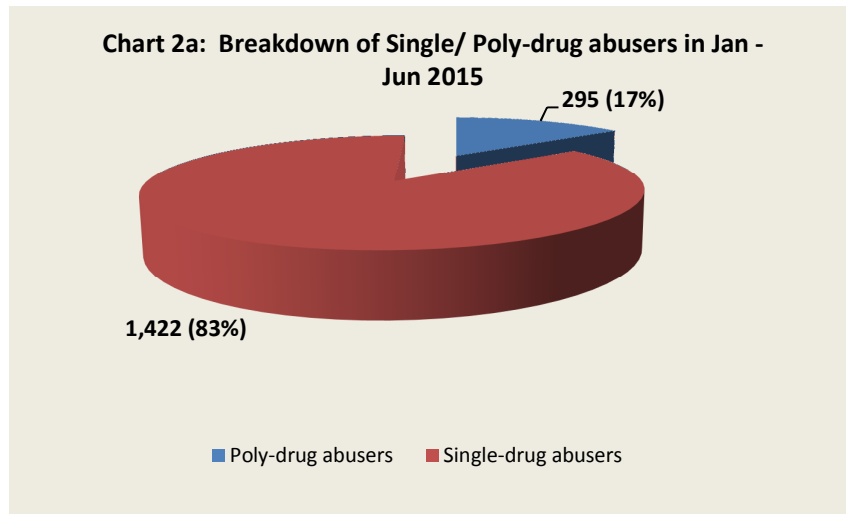


Type of Drugs Abused

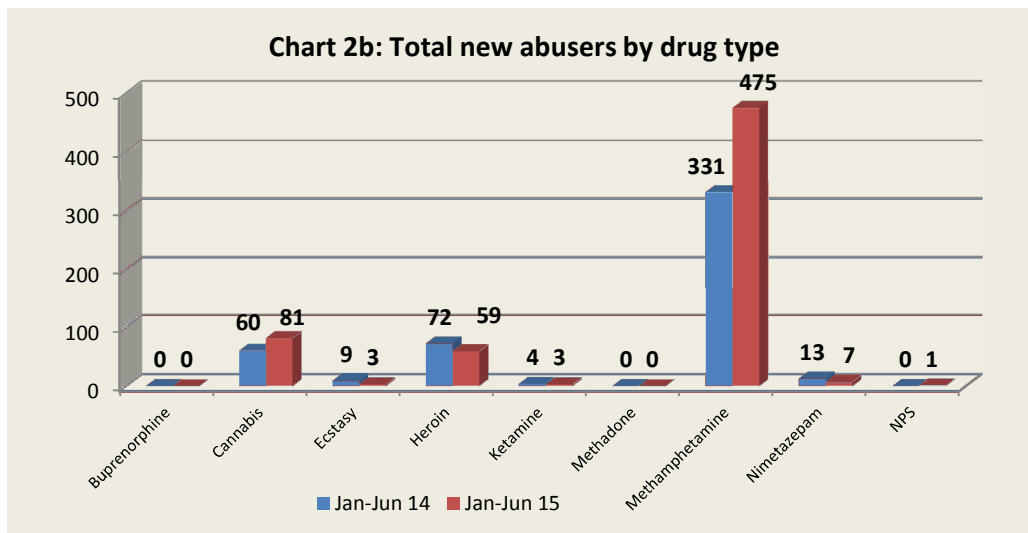
6. Methamphetamine and heroin remained the two most commonly abused drugs. About 93% (1,595) of the total drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2015 abused either methamphetamine or heroin. Methamphetamine abusers made up slightly more than half (53% or 915) of all abusers arrested, followed by heroin abusers (40% or 680). The number of cannabis abusers increased by 20% (from 83 to 100) in the first half of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.



7. Of the 1,717 drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2015, 17% (295) of them were poly-drug abusers who abused more than one type of drug. The combination of methamphetamine and heroin was the most common among these poly-drug abusers.

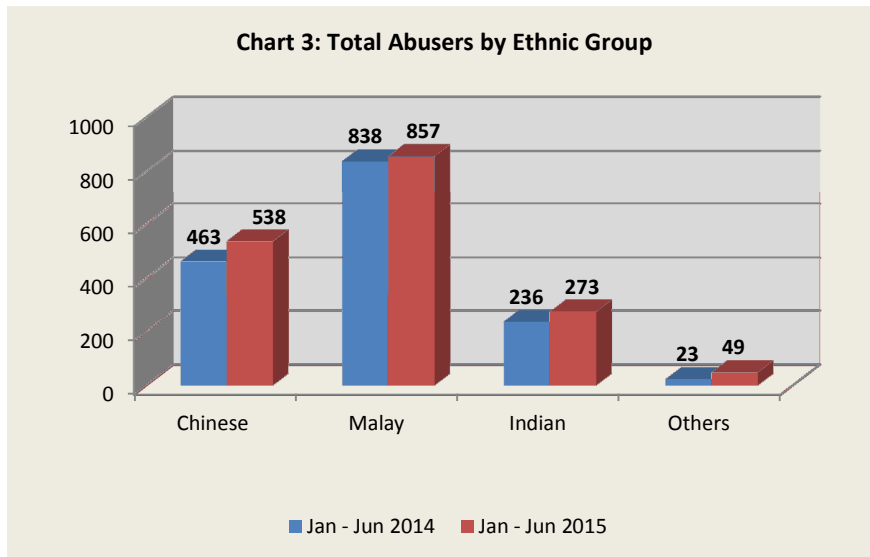


8. Among new abusers, methamphetamine was the most commonly abused drug, followed by cannabis and heroin. 76% (475) of them abused methamphetamine. The number of new cannabis abusers increased by 35% (from 60 to 81) in the first half of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

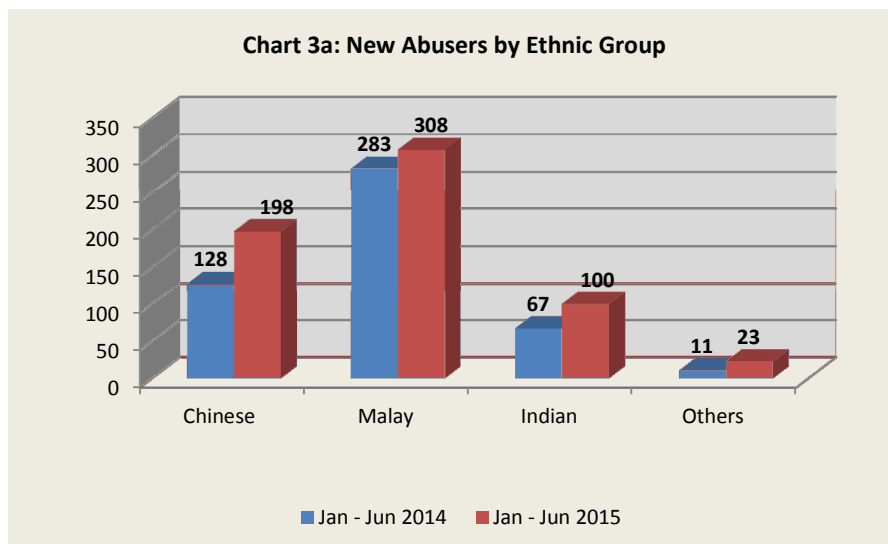


Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Ethnic Group

9. The number of total drug abusers arrested in the first half of 2015 increased across all ethnic groups when compared against the first half of 2014. The number of Chinese abusers arrested increased by 16% (from 463 to 538), the number of Indian drug abusers arrested increased by 16% (from 236 to 273), while the number of Malay drug abusers increased by 2% (from 838 to 857).

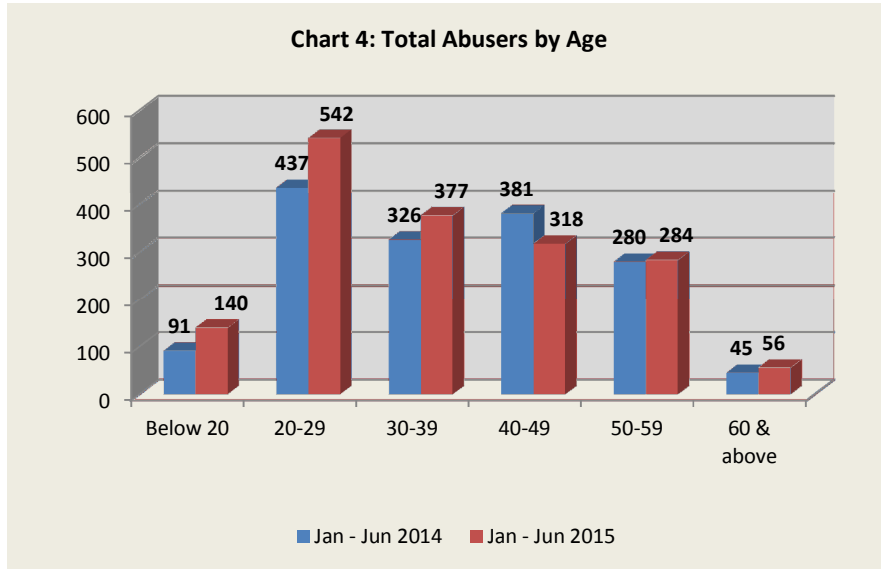


10. The number of new abusers arrested in the first half of 2015 also increased across all ethnic groups, compared to the first half of 2014. The number of new Chinese abusers arrested increased by 55% (from 128 to 198), the number of new Indian abusers arrested increased by 49% (from 67 to 100), while the number of new Malay abusers increased by 9% (from 283 to 308).

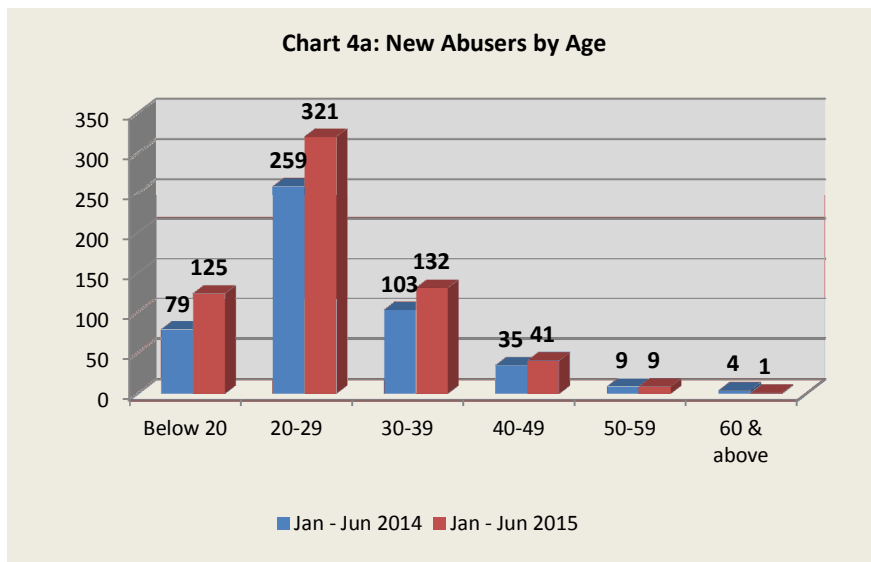


Drug Abusers Arrested – Breakdown by Age Group

11. Except for the 40 to 49 age group, there was an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested across all the age groups in the first half of 2015 compared to the same period last year. Drug abusers in the 20 to 29 age group made up the largest proportion of abusers arrested in the first half of 2015, increasing by 24% (from 437 to 542). The number of drug abusers in the Below 20 age group increased by 54% (from 91 to 140).



12. Among the new abusers arrested, those in the Below 20 age group increased by 58% (from 79 to 125), while those in the 20 to 29 age group increased by 24% (from 259 to 321) in the first half of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Collectively, new abusers below 30 years old made up 71% (446) of all new abusers arrested. This is a slight increase from the corresponding period a year ago when new abusers below 30 years of age made up 69% (338) of new abusers arrested.



Drug Seizures

13. CNB seized approximately S\$3.67 million worth of drugs in the first half of 2015. Cannabis seizures increased by 174%, from 8.81kg seized in the first half of 2014 to 24.12kg seized in the first half of this year.

14. The regional drug situation remains a concern. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2015, authorities in

East and Southeast Asia have seen an increase in heroin seizures for three consecutive years. CNB will continue to remain vigilant over the regional drug situation³ and maintain the close cooperation with our regional counterparts to disrupt syndicates' drug trafficking and production activities. For example, our joint operation with the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department of the Royal Malaysian Police led to the arrest of a Singaporean drug-syndicate leader in Malaysia⁴ this year.

Table of Seizures According to Drug Type

Drug type	Jan - Jun 14	Jan - Jun 15	% change in seizure	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 14	Estimated market value Jan - Jun 15
Heroin No.3	27.46 kg	20.35 kg	-25.89%	≈ S\$4.71 million	≈ S\$ 3.67 million
Cannabis	8.81 kg	24.12 kg	+173.78%		
Cocaine	0.5 g	0 g	-100%		
'Ecstasy'	1,612 tablets	1,319 tablets + 2.49g	-18.18% (tablets)		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	8.65 kg	6.89 kg	-20.35%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	248 tablets	25 tablets	-89.92%		
Ketamine	0.40 kg	0.97 kg	+142.50%		
Nimetazepam	8,124 tablets	15,096 tablets	+85.82%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	5 tablets	0 tablets	-100%		
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, etc.)	76.19g	3,500.73g	+4,494.74%		
	32 tablets ⁵	1,250 tablets	+3,806.25%		

Preventive Drug Education & Community Outreach

15. CNB's Preventive Drug Education (PDE) efforts continue to be crucial in spreading the anti-drug message and maintaining upstream intervention efforts against drugs. These are some of the key PDE activities that were organised in the first half of 2015.

³ Malaysian news reports of large seizures included articles in [The Star](#) and [Borneo Post](#).

⁴ The full news report can be viewed [HERE](#).

⁵ NPS were listed as a Class A controlled drug in the First Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) with effect from 1 May 2014.

Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2015

16. The Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) is held annually to commemorate World Drug Day on 26 June. This year, as part of ADAC's 20th anniversary, CNB and NCADA partnered Singapore Polytechnic to hold an anti-drug themed carnival at Suntec Convention Centre from 26 to 27 June 2015. Besides game and activity stalls promoting anti-drug messages, the carnival also featured a special timeline exhibition highlighting key PDE milestones and initiatives over the past 20 years. To reach out to more Singaporeans, this exhibition was also put up at heartland areas such as Tampines and Yio Chu Kang in July 2015.

17. The 17th edition of the annual anti-drug dance competition, DanceWorks! 2015 was held in conjunction with ADAC 2015 at Suntec Convention Centre. Targeted at youths under 25 years, the competition aims to promote an active, drug-free lifestyle. Over 330 participants from schools and organizations took part, performing dances with the theme "Dance for a Drug-Free Singapore!". 135 student volunteers distributed commemorative ez-link cardholders and anti-drug abuse ribbon collar pins to the public over the two days to raise awareness of the anti-drug cause.



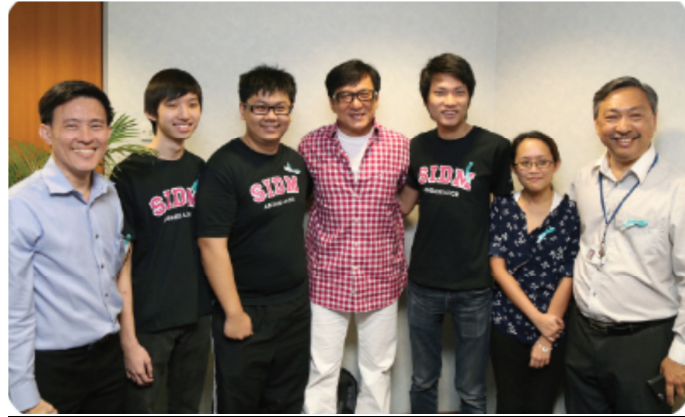
Commemorative ez-link cardholders and anti-drug abuse ribbon collar pins given to the general public for the ADAC.

Reaching out to youths

18. In line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Youths and Drugs, CNB will enhance our collaboration with stakeholders such as parents, educators and counsellors and partners such as the Ministry of Education and Health Promotion Board, to tackle the problem of drug abuse among youths below 30 years old. The initiatives, which focus on targeted prevention, upstream intervention and community engagement, will be progressively introduced in the second half of 2015, through 2016.

19. On 7 May 2015, CNB appointed international celebrity Mr Jackie Chan as Singapore's first celebrity Anti-Drug Ambassador. Two PDE mobile game applications - Aversion and Nelzon - developed by Nanyang Polytechnic students,

were launched in May and June 2015 respectively to reach out to youths through games which seeded anti-drug messages. CNB also organised anti-drug programmes and activities, including talks, exhibitions and roadshows at community events.

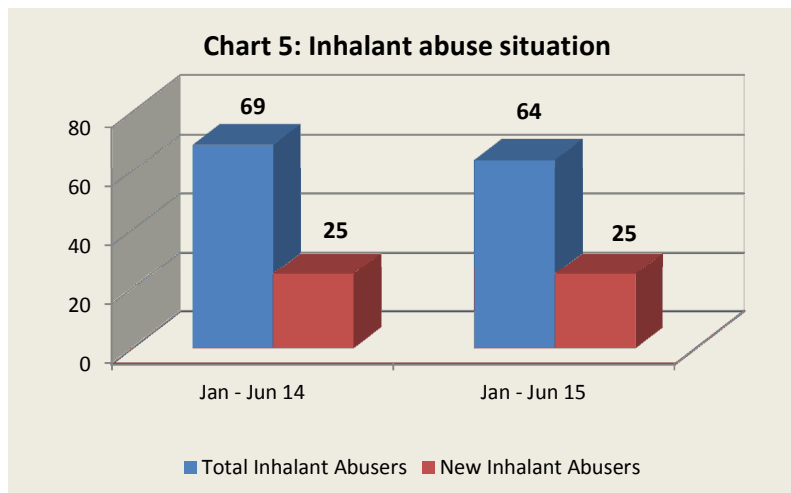


Mr Jackie Chan, Singapore's first celebrity anti-drug ambassador, with leaders and students from Nanyang Polytechnic.

INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2015

Decrease in the number of new and repeat inhalant abusers arrested

20. There was a 7% (from 69 to 64) decrease in the overall number of inhalant abusers arrested. The number of new inhalant abusers remained unchanged in the first half of 2015 compared to the same period last year.



21. The number of inhalant abusers aged below 20 decreased by 42% (from 26 to 15) in the first half of 2015 compared to the first half of 2014. Chinese and Malay inhalant abusers comprised the majority of abusers.

Chart 6: Inhalant abusers by age group

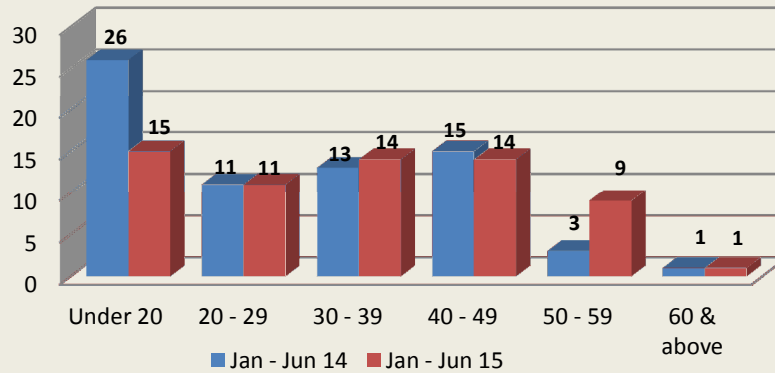
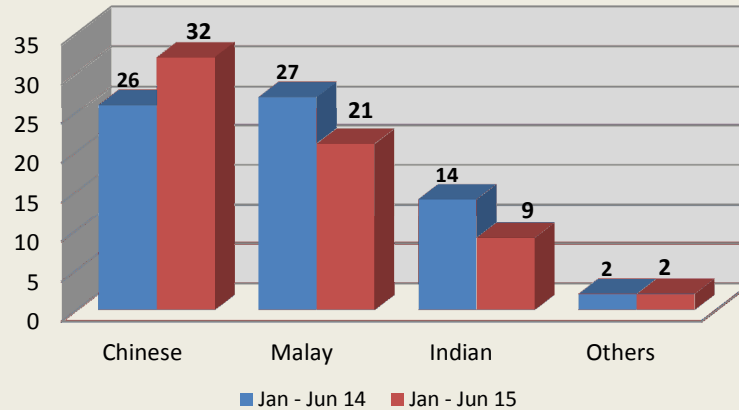


Chart 7: Inhalant abusers by ethnic group



Continuing Efforts against Inhalant Abuse

22. CNB will continue to work closely with schools and shopkeepers to combat the inhalant abuse situation in Singapore. CNB partners schools to give assembly talks to students to warn them of the dangers and harmful effects of inhalant abuse. We also engaged shopkeepers to advise them against selling inhalant products to persons showing signs of inhalant abuse. Under the Intoxicating Substances Act, Letters of Notice are issued to errant shopkeepers who persist in selling inhalant products to abusers. The Notice mandates these shopkeepers to maintain a record of the sale of inhalant products.
