

# CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

PRESS RELEASE - UPDATED AS OF 7 JUNE 2013



## CNB'S INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN 2012 SEE INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED AND DRUGS SEIZED

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested 3,507 drug abusers in 2012, an increase of 5% from the 3,326 drug abusers arrested in 2011.

In 2012, repeat abusers continued to form the majority of abusers arrested at 69%. The 2,415 repeat abusers arrested in 2012 represent an increase of 10% from 2011.

On the other hand, the number of new abusers arrested dropped 3% to 1,092. Nevertheless, the proportion of new abusers still makes up 31% of the total number of drug abusers arrested. This remains a concern for CNB as 68% of the new abusers arrested are 29 years old and below. Amongst new abusers arrested, new youth abusers below the age of 20 dropped 29% to 162 arrests in 2012.

Heroin and methamphetamine remain the most commonly abused drugs – about 93% of all drug abusers arrested abused either heroin or methamphetamine.

Stemming the supply of drugs from making its way into Singapore and intensive enforcement efforts inland remain key priorities for CNB. In 2012, CNB conducted 49 major operations, dismantling 22 drug syndicates. The intensive all-round enforcement efforts saw a record seizure of drugs in 2012. The estimated street value of the drugs seized in 2012 amounted to S\$18.3 million, 14% higher than the estimated S\$16 million in 2011. In particular, CNB seized a record 50.84kg of crystal methamphetamine ('Ice') in 2012, of which, about 43kg or 85% of it was not intended for the local market.

**“To prevent drug contamination from taking hold on the ground, the Central Narcotics Bureau has been keeping up with our intensive enforcement efforts, both inland and at the checkpoints, to remove drug abusers and peddlers alike from the streets as early as possible. 2012 saw an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested and drugs seized. This is an ongoing battle.**

**The regional drug situation remains unfavourable, with no signs that regional drug production will ease off. Methamphetamine production in the East and Southeast Asia region continue to set record highs, as with poppy cultivation. If left unchecked, all these drugs will flow throughout the region and destroy many.**

**To the drug syndicates out there who may entertain the idea of making use of Singapore's excellent transport connectivity to ship drugs through Singapore, they are sorely mistaken. CNB will continue to work closely with our counterparts to hit them hard and deter them from doing so.”**

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

CNB also did not let up on the preventive drug education (PDE) front. In 2012, 'DanceWorks!', the flagship event of the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign, entered its 14th year. Together with many other PDE events year-round, CNB aims to reach out to more youths and inculcate in them the zero-tolerance approach towards drugs and drug abuse.

The 2012 drug statistics are set against the backdrop of a worsening regional drug situation. Drug production figures in the region continue to set record highs and international syndicates have also made inroads into the region, even as regional countries continue to seek enforcement efforts against the drug scourge.

CNB will continue with its intensive enforcement efforts targeting both the supply and demand side of the drug problem. The amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, which includes enhanced penalties for drug traffickers targeting young persons and recalcitrant drug traffickers, as well as the temporary listing of possible new substances of abuse, will further strengthen CNB's ability to fight against the drug scourge.

Beyond prevention and enforcement, the new measures that will be introduced in the rehabilitation and aftercare of drug abusers, such as the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS), will help CNB to control the local drug situation.

## **DRUG SITUATION REPORT 2012**

### **DRUG SEIZURES**

CNB seized more drugs in 2012 as it stepped up its all-round enforcement efforts. A total of 49 major operations were conducted in 2012. At the checkpoints, a total of 1,309 operations were conducted with our Home Team partners such as the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The drugs seized in 2012 were estimated to be worth \$18.3 million, approximately \$2.3 million or 14% higher than that seized in 2011.

Of the three most commonly abused drugs in Singapore, seizures of methamphetamine and cannabis have increased, while seizure of heroin saw a slight decrease. 66.38kg of heroin were seized in 2012, 9% lower than the 72.67kg seized in 2011. Seizures of crystal methamphetamine ('Ice') saw a 261% increase, from 14.08kg in 2011 to 50.84kg in 2012. The 'Ice' seizure in 2012 was the largest ever recorded in CNB's history. Cannabis seizures increased 15%, from 12.88kg in 2011 to 14.86kg in 2012.

About 43kg of the 50.84kg of 'Ice' seized, or 85% of it, were not intended for the local market. They were to be brought to other countries in the region.

Drug Type	2011	2012	% change in seizure	Estimated Market Value 2011	Estimated Market Value 2012
Heroin No.3	72.67kg	66.38kg	-9%	≈ S\$16.0 million	≈ S\$18.3 million
Cannabis	12.88kg	14.86kg	+15%		
'Ecstasy'	3,213 tablets + 11.6g	4,102.5 tablets + 1.27g	+28%		
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	14.08kg	50.84kg	+261%		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	771.5 tablets	765 tablets	-1%		
Ketamine	7.93kg	3.89kg	-51%		
Nimetazepam	40,078 tablets	46,421 tablets	+16%		
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	35 tablets	276 tablets	+689%		

## UNFAVOURABLE REGIONAL DRUG SITUATION

The regional drug production situation continues to remain unfavourable, with record production reported. In a presentation report by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), '2012 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs, Asia and the Pacific', methamphetamine production in the East and Southeast Asia region soared, with 401 clandestine drug laboratories busted in 2011, as compared to just 83 in 2006. The same report also noted that seizures of 'Ice' in the East and Southeast Asia region have also been increasing, from 7.2 metric tonnes in 2010, to 8.8 metric tonnes in 2011.

The record 'Ice' seizure in 2012, at 50.84kg, of which about 43kg was not meant for the local market, is a reflection of the record 'Ice' production and seizure figures for the region. Singapore is in the heart of the Southeast Asia region and the effects of such record regional 'Ice' production will inevitably be felt in Singapore.

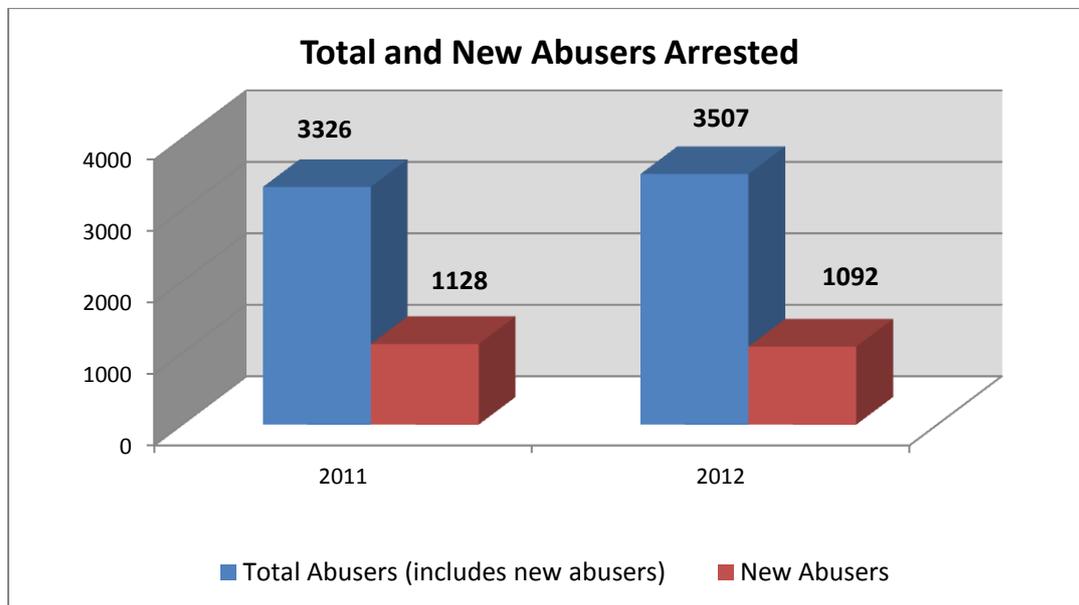
## REGIONAL COOPERATION – KEY TO COMBATING UNFAVOURABLE REGIONAL SITUATION

Drug syndicates operate with no concern for geographical boundaries and continue to find new markets and expand them. To combat the drug problem effectively, CNB collaborates with our key regional partners through joint operations and enforcement capacity-building. CNB regularly exchanges intelligence and initiates joint operations with regional drug enforcement agencies. For example, in 2012, CNB conducted two major operations with our counterparts in Malaysia, targeting drug syndicates known to supply drugs into Singapore.

Assisting our counterparts to enhance their capacities to battle the drug scourge is another key to ensuring an effective regional response against the drug problem. In 2012, CNB collaborated with our partners, such as the Australian Federal Police and the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme, in the conduct of two training programmes for 54 drug law enforcement officials from 19 countries in the region.

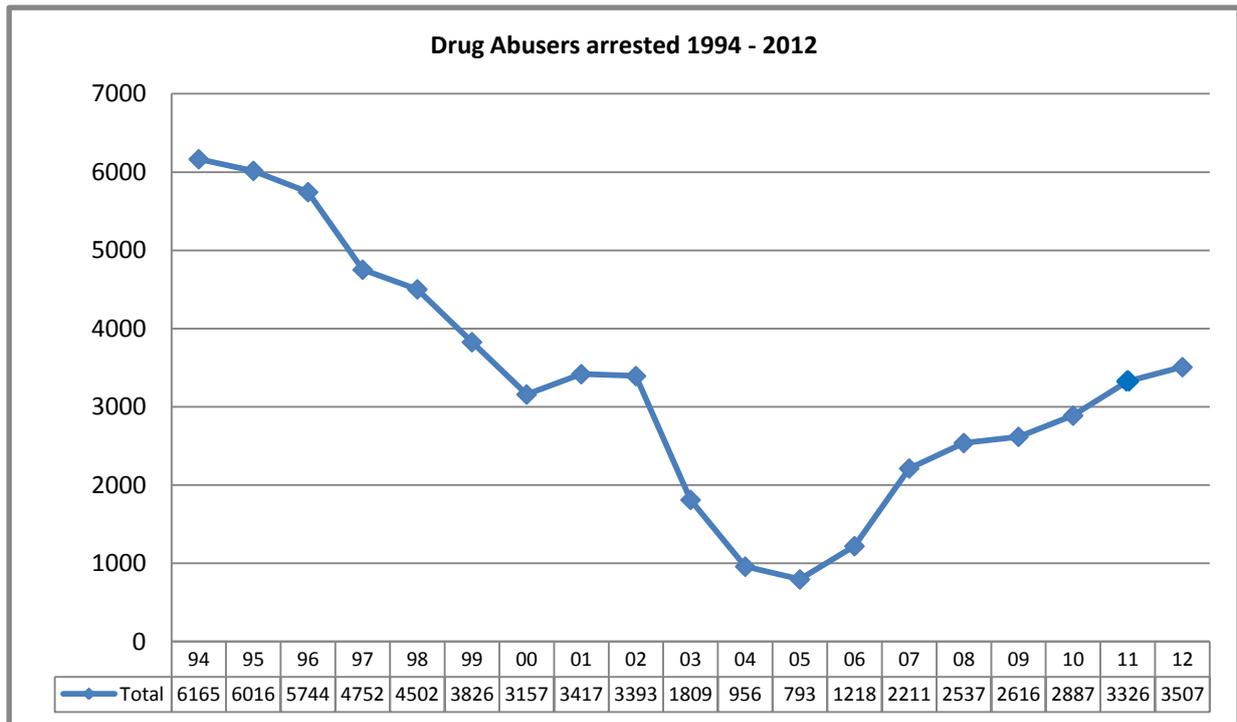
## LOCAL DRUG ABUSERS – OVERALL

In 2012, CNB conducted 19 island-wide operations targeting abusers and street-level peddlers. These efforts saw an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested. 3,507 drug abusers were arrested in 2012 compared to 3,326 in 2011, a 5% increase. New abusers saw a slight decrease of 3%.



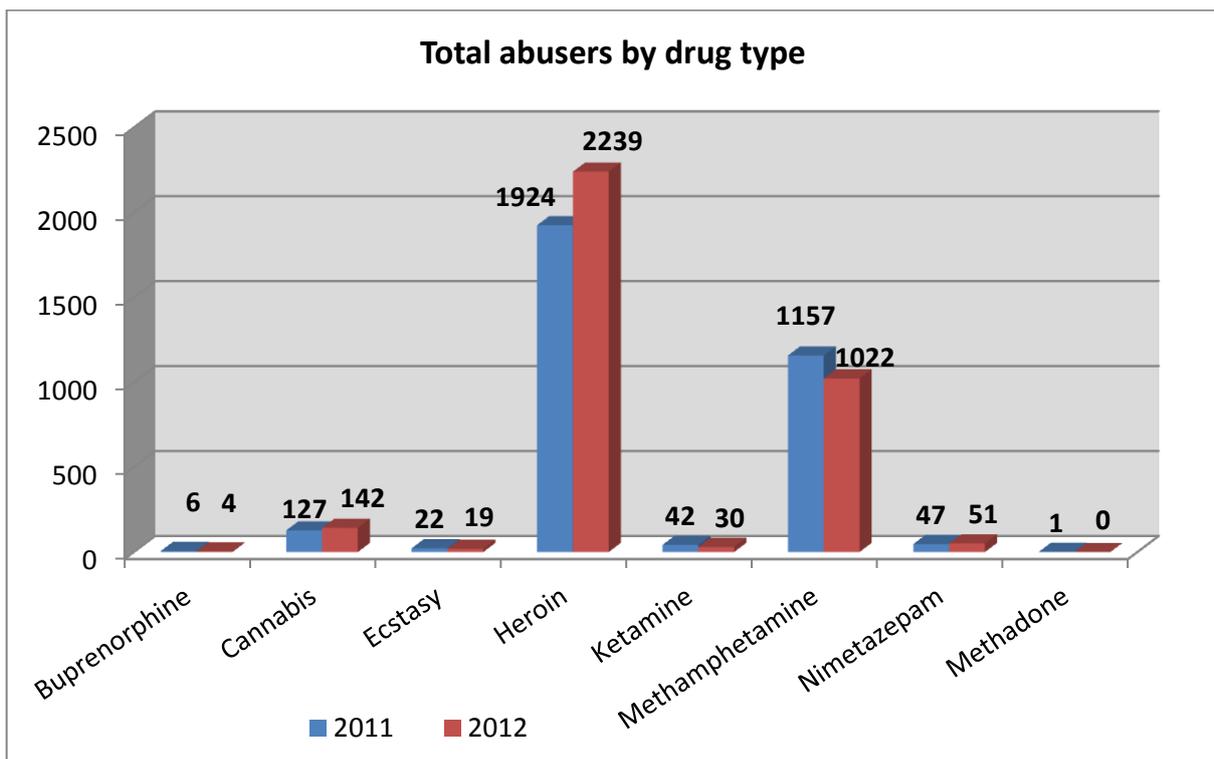
While the number of drug abusers arrested in 2012 is below the peak of 6,165 abusers arrested in 1994, one drug abuser arrested is one too many. Set against the continuing unfavourable regional drug situation, the estimated 2,000 repeat drug abusers expected to be released from Long Term (LT) imprisonment in 2013 and 2014, and the changing attitudes of the population towards drugs, CNB expects the drug situation to remain challenging in the near future.

In 2013, the measures recommended by the Taskforce on Drugs led by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, will be progressively introduced. The amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act will also kick in. We are hopeful that these enhanced measures, coupled with the support of the community, will improve the local drug situation.

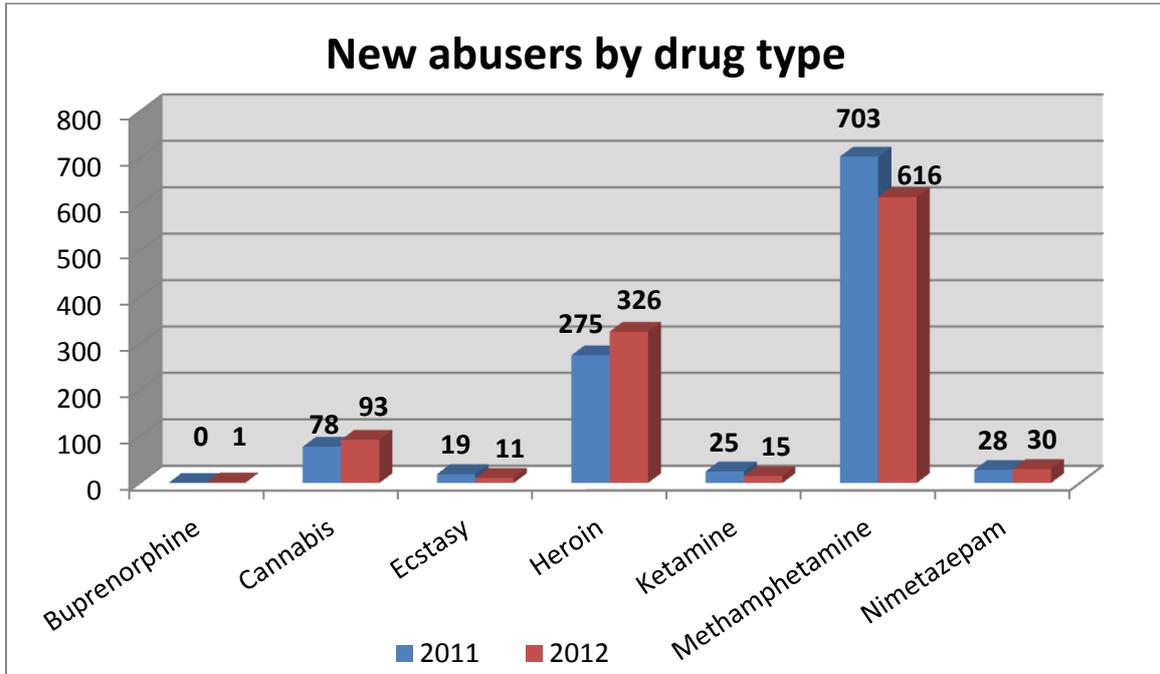


## DRUG ABUSERS – BY DRUGS ABUSED

Heroin and methamphetamine remain the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 2,239 heroin abusers (64%) and 1,022 methamphetamine abusers (29%) were arrested in 2012. Together, heroin and methamphetamine abusers make up around 93% of all abusers arrested.

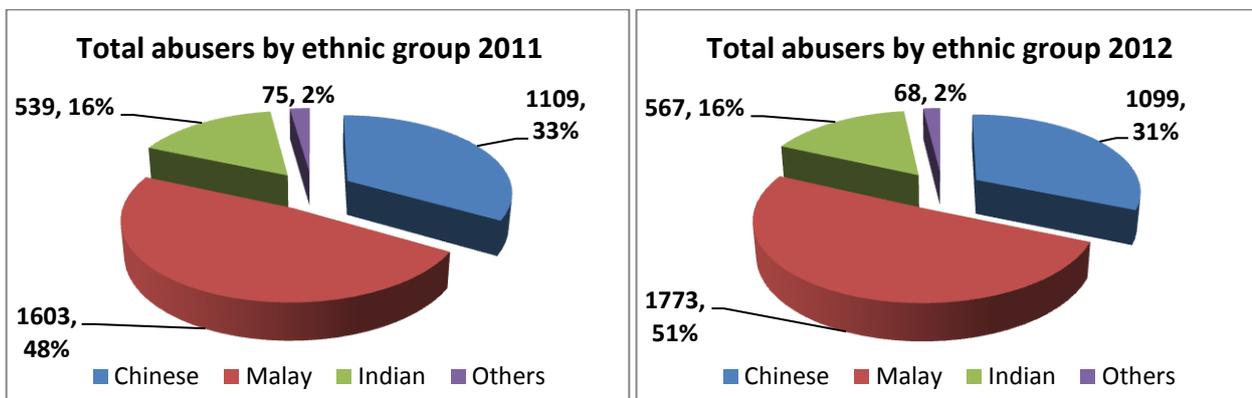


Methamphetamine and heroin are also the two most popular drugs amongst new, or first-time arrested abusers. Of the 1,092 new abusers arrested in 2012, 616 (56%) had abused methamphetamine, while 326 (30%) had abused heroin. This is broadly similar to the situation in 2011, where methamphetamine and heroin were also the two most popular drugs amongst new abusers arrested.



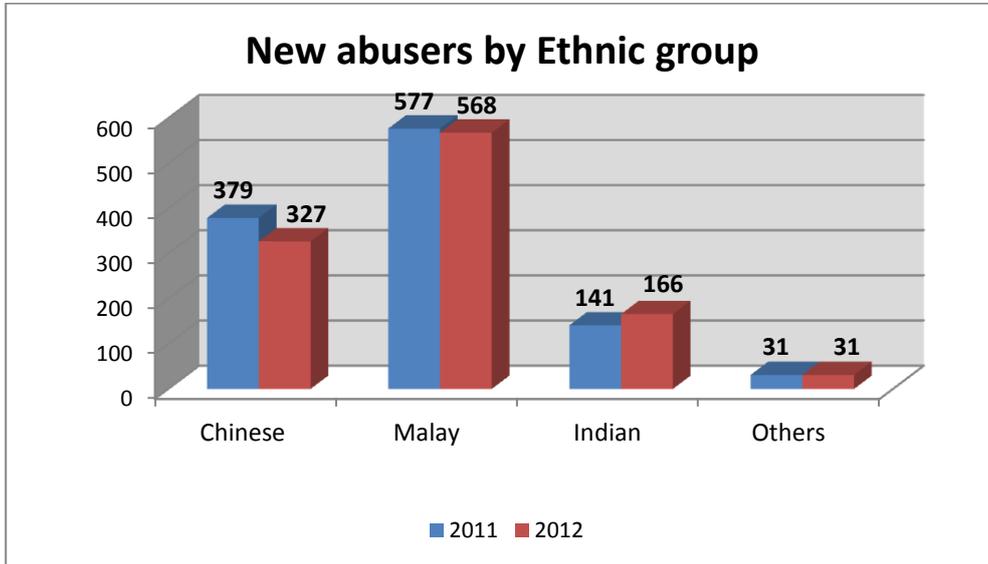
### DRUG ABUSERS – BY ETHNIC GROUP

Overall, the number of Chinese abusers arrested remained about the same at 1,099 in 2012. Malay abusers saw an increase of 11%, with 1,773 Malay abusers arrested.



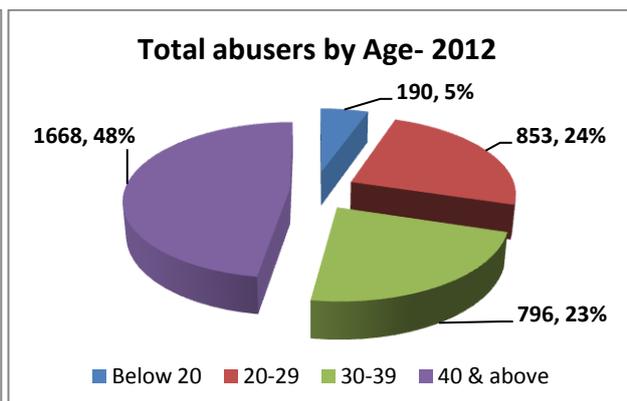
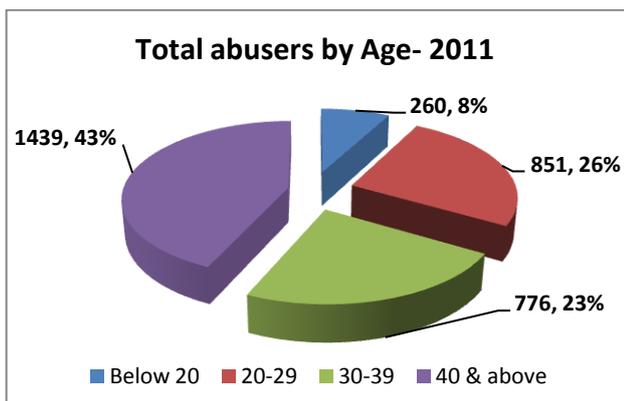
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Amongst new abusers arrested, Chinese and Malay new abusers saw a decline of 14% and 2% respectively, while new Indian abusers arrested increased.

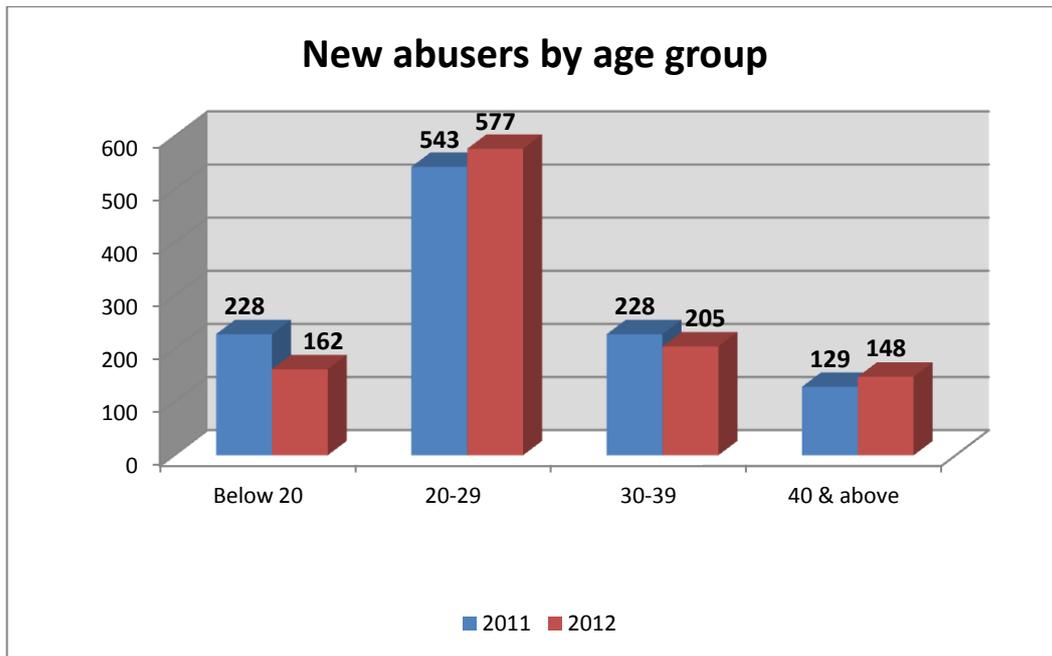


**DRUG ABUSERS ARRESTED – BY AGE**

In 2012, 1,668 drug abusers (48%) arrested belong to the '40 and above' age group. Drug abusers in the '20 to 29' and '30 to 39' age group were evenly distributed at 24% and 23% respectively.



Slightly more than half of the new abusers arrested in 2012 were aged 20 to 29, at 53%. The number of new abusers below the age of 20 saw a decline of 29%, from 228 in 2011 to 162 in 2012.



NOTE: In this report, 2012 refers to the period 1 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2012.

## PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

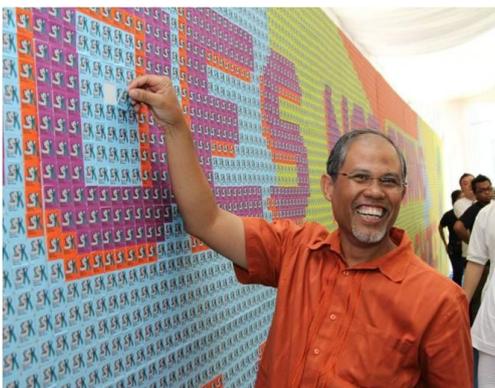
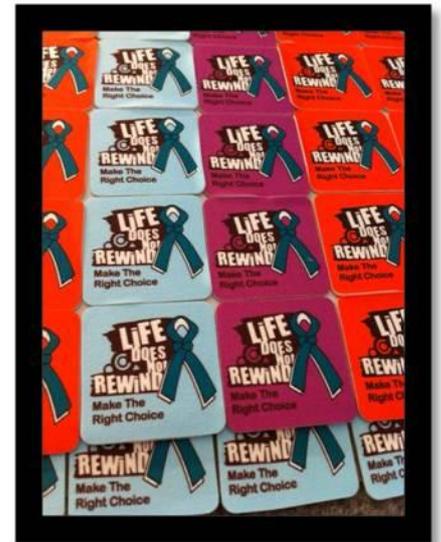
In 2012, CNB continued to organise and implement a variety of Preventive Drug Education (PDE) events in partnership with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and various community partners. PDE remains a core strategy for CNB to spread the anti-drug message, inculcate anti-drug awareness and reinforce our zero-tolerance stance against drug abuse in our society. Here are some key PDE initiatives and events that took place in 2012.

### Key PDE initiatives in 2012

#### Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign Activities

To commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June, NCADA and CNB collaborated with students from the Singapore Polytechnic's School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) to conceptualise and organise a series of anti-activities to raise awareness on the anti-drug cause for 2012.

One of the highlights of the campaign was a two-day event held on 23 and 24 June 2012 at The Cathay, where student volunteers attempted to build Singapore's largest mosaic from more than 20,000 commemorative phone wipes. Themed 'Life Does Not Rewind. Make the Right Choice', over 200 student volunteers also helped to distribute the phone wipes to members of the public to spread the anti-drug message.



The launch of the Drug Buster Academy, a new anti-drug mobile drug exhibition bus by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, during the event on 24 June 2012, was also another notable highlight of the campaign. The mobile bus exhibit aimed to educate a wider audience on the dangers and consequences of drug and inhalant abuse through interesting and novel exhibits which included an autopsy table where visitors could view the effects of drug abuse on the various human organs.

## DanceWorks! 2012

DanceWorks! 2012 attracted more than 900 youths from 85 schools and non-school teams in an annual dance competition to encourage youths to lead a healthy, drug-free lifestyle through fun and wholesome activities. Cheered on by their families and friends, the competition brought together youths with a passion for dance and was a showcase for them to display their dazzling and energetic dance moves infused with their own interpretation of the anti-drug theme.



With the tagline 'Live it Loud with Dance! Stay Cool. No Drugs', DanceWorks! 2012 also introduced a series of fringe activities for dancers and non-dancers between November 2011 and April 2012 on the Live it Loud Facebook page, including the *DanceWorks! Logo Design Contest*, the *Fastest Fingers Challenge* and the *My Favourite DanceWorks! Moment Contest*.

## Reaching out to at-risk youths

Recognising the need to reach out to at-risk youths, CNB partnered community partners and self-help groups to educate them on the dangers of drug abuse. For example, CNB worked with the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) to conduct a series of four 'Youth Against Drugs' workshops where there were sharing sessions by CNB officers and interactive activities for them to learn of the ill effects of drug abuse.

Continuing its collaboration with the Ang Mo Kio Police Division, a series of ten anti-drug talks were conducted for at-risk youths under the Division's 'Project Green Leaf' while in a first collaboration with the Jurong Police Division, anti-drug talks were also conducted for at-risk youths.

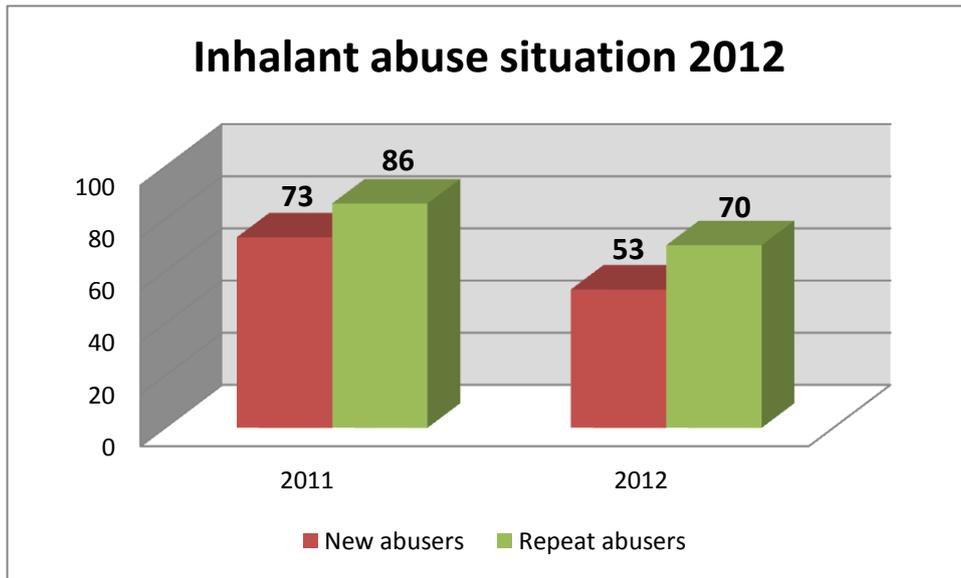
## More PDE outreach in 2013

As the drug landscape continues to evolve, CNB will focus its PDE efforts on youths and students as well as their parents and teachers. Large-scale events and activities such as DanceWorks! and the commemoration of the Anti-Drug Abuse Day will continue to be key events for CNB in 2013 to spread the anti-drug message to students and the general public. CNB will also continue to conduct PDE talks to reach out to students, youths, working adults and also parents on a regular basis throughout the year.

## INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION 2012

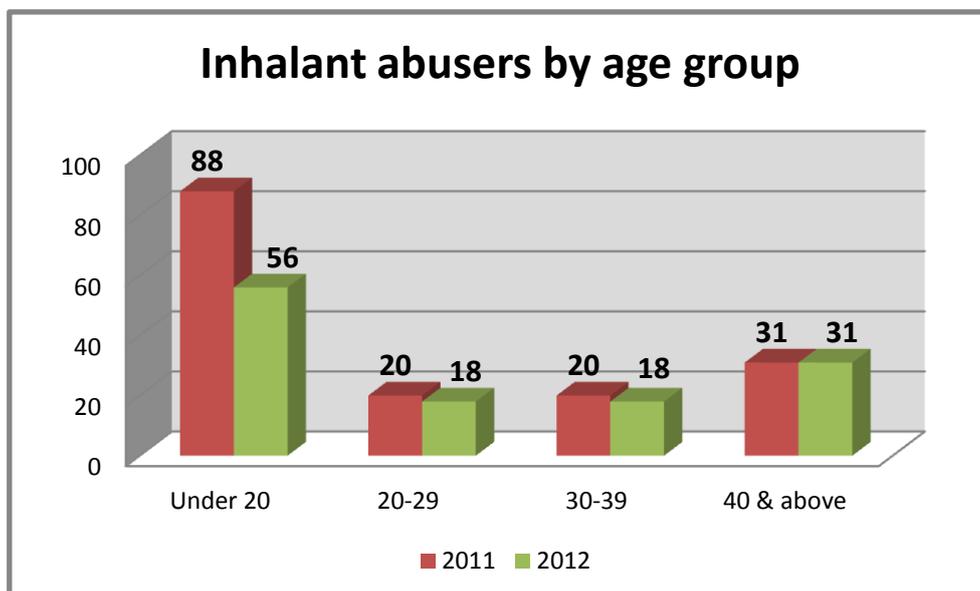
### INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION CONTINUED TO IMPROVE

The inhalant abuse situation in Singapore continued to improve, with 123 inhalant abusers arrested in 2012 compared to 159 in 2011.

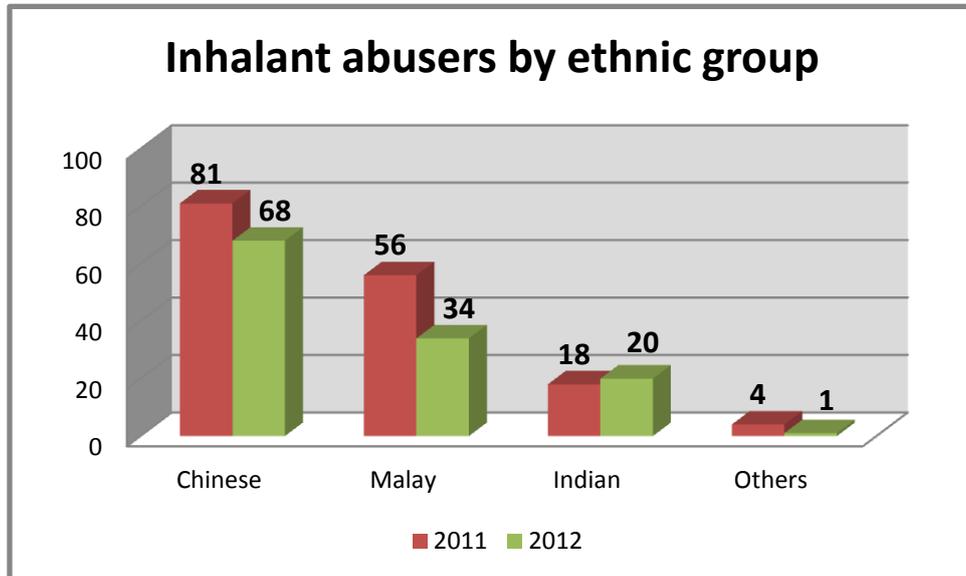


There were fewer arrests of both new and repeat inhalant abusers. The number of new inhalant abusers arrested decreased by 27%, with 53 new inhalant abusers arrested in 2012 compared to 73 in 2011. For repeat abusers, there was a 19% decrease, with 70 repeat abusers arrested in 2012 as compared to 86 in 2011.

Youths under 20 continued to form the largest proportion amongst the total number of inhalant abusers arrested at approximately 46%, with 56 arrested in 2012.



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



## SUSTAINING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE

As inhalant products such as glue and paint thinner are easily available, CNB continues to seek the assistance of the community to ensure that these harmful products are not easily sold to persons who may be abusing it. The cluster approach is adopted by CNB, whereby warnings in the form of letters of advice and letters of notice will be issued to shops situated around the particular shop that is selling inhalant products to inhalant abusers. 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 to prevent inhalant abusers from shop-hopping in getting their supply of inhalant products.

CNB also partners schools in reaching out to students and educating them on the harmful consequences of inhalant abuse. While the inhalant abuse situation may be on the decline, CNB remains vigilant and continues to target its outreach efforts to students. In 2012, CNB conducted 118 anti-drug and inhalant abuse assembly talks to schools.

The community has a collective responsibility to keep Singapore a safe and drug-free home for our loved ones. Anyone who has information on drug trafficking activities or knows of persons engaging in drug or inhalant abuse is advised to alert CNB by calling our 24-hour toll-free hotline at 1800-3256666.

**END**

ISSUED BY:

**CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU**

**4 FEBRUARY 2013**

**UPDATED AS OF 7 JUNE 2013**

NOTE: All figures in this report have been finalised. In this report, 2012 refers to the period 1 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2012.