CNB MAINTAINS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN 2014

Overview of the Local Drug Situation

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested a total of 3,158 drug abusers in 2014, a decrease of 12% from the 3,581 drug abusers arrested in 2013. The number of new drug abusers arrested in 2014 was 1,093, a 2% drop from 2013 when 1,110 new abusers were arrested. However, the proportion of new drug abusers has increased over 2013. About two-thirds of the new drug abusers were below 30 years of age.

2. Heroin and methamphetamine (or ‘Ice’) remained the two most commonly abused drugs, with about 92% of all drug abusers arrested having abused one or the other. Cannabis was the third most commonly abused drug in Singapore. While most abusers arrested generally abused one drug type, about 15% (or 478) of abusers arrested in 2014 were poly-drug abusers i.e. they consumed more than one drug type. The combination of heroin and methamphetamine was the most common among poly-drug abusers.

3. CNB continued with its intensive enforcement efforts to prevent drugs from entering and making their way to the streets of Singapore. In 2014, CNB conducted 52 major operations.

“The Central Narcotics Bureau maintained our intensive enforcement efforts against drug offenders. 2014 saw a decrease in the number of drug abusers arrested and drugs seized. However, it is premature to think that the drug situation has improved.

Locally, we are concerned that about two-thirds of new abusers are below the age of 30. This means more of our young people are trying drugs. Externally, the drug situation remains challenging. We see increased production and seizures of drugs, such as heroin and methamphetamine. We see some jurisdictions lobbying for cannabis legalisation or decriminalisation. We are also keeping a close watch on the fast evolving new psychoactive substances situation. All the above developments may have an impact on our local supply and demand situation.

We must remain steadfast in our zero-tolerance approach towards drugs and drug abuse; to ensure that our children grow up in a drug-free society. CNB calls on the community to continue to support us in the fight against the drug scourge.”

Mr Ng Ser Song (黄思松)
Director, Central Narcotics Bureau
including 20 island-wide operations, taking out 21 drug syndicates. The island-wide operations targeted middle-level drug traffickers, street-level pushers and drug abusers, and were supported by the Singapore Police Force (SPF). CNB also conducted 1,747 operations at the checkpoints with our Home Team counterparts, such as the SPF and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

4. The drugs seized in 2014 were estimated to be worth S$8.17 million. This is approximately 60% lower than that seized in 2013. Of note however, is that cannabis seizures have increased by about 125%, from 15.57 kg in 2013 to 35.03 kg in 2014. While overall methamphetamine (‘Ice’) seizures decreased by about 72%, from 44.06 kg in 2013 to 12.53 kg in 2014, the amount of ‘Ice’ meant for the local market increased from 8.85 kg to 9.18 kg. The 9.18 kg of ‘Ice’ is enough to sustain the addiction of about 1,200 abusers for one month.

5. Preventive drug education continues to be a key focus of CNB’s strategy. We organised large-scale events such as “DanceWorks!” and the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign to spread the anti-drug message to students and the general public. We also increased outreach to youths through various platforms such as forum-theatre style skits, roadshows and a collaboration with Nanyang Polytechnic to organise an anti-drug games creation competition for secondary schools. These outreach efforts remind youths to stay away from drugs.

Regional Drug Situation Remains Challenging

6. The regional drug situation remains challenging. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), opium poppy cultivation in the region as a whole has nearly tripled since 2006, reaching over 60,000 hectares\(^1\). Cannabis cultivation also remains widespread, from personal cultivation to large-scale farm and indoor warehouse operations\(^2\). Finally, seizures of methamphetamine in the region remain significant.

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Seizures of methamphetamine pills and crystal methamphetamine have tripled to at least 36 tonnes over the last five years (2009-2013)\textsuperscript{3}.

7. CNB continued to work closely with our regional partners to tackle the challenging regional drug situation. In 2014, CNB conducted 19 joint operations with our foreign counterparts to curb the activities of transnational drug syndicates and stem the flow of drugs into Singapore. One example was the joint operation with Malaysia’s Narcotics Crime Investigation Department in November 2014 where three suspected drug offenders were arrested and drugs worth RM5.2 million were seized in Johor Baru\textsuperscript{4}.

\textsuperscript{3} News article can be obtained here: \url{http://www.cbsnews.com/news/meth-seizures-in-asia-tripled-over-past-5-years-u-n-says/}

\textsuperscript{4} News article can be obtained here: \url{http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/courts-crime/story/drugs-worth-s2-million-seized-joint-operation-singapore-and-malays}
Drug Seizures in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug type</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% change in seizure</th>
<th>Estimated market value 2013</th>
<th>Estimated market value 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heroin No.3</td>
<td>72.37 kg</td>
<td>67.54 kg</td>
<td>- 6.67%</td>
<td>≈ S$20.5 million</td>
<td>≈ S$8.17 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine ('Ice')</td>
<td>44.06 kg</td>
<td>12.53 kg</td>
<td>- 71.56%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>15.57 kg</td>
<td>35.03 kg</td>
<td>+124.98%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>4.11 kg</td>
<td>0.0005kg</td>
<td>-99.99%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Ecstasy'</td>
<td>7,327 tablets +49.9g</td>
<td>3,874 tablets</td>
<td>-47.13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')</td>
<td>22,020 tablets</td>
<td>248 tablets</td>
<td>-98.87%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketamine</td>
<td>4.27 kg</td>
<td>2.45 kg</td>
<td>-42.62%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nimetazepam</td>
<td>62,943 tablets</td>
<td>17,682 tablets</td>
<td>-71.91%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buprenorphine ('Subutex')</td>
<td>47 tablets</td>
<td>12 tablets</td>
<td>-74.47%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>470 tablets + 114.36g</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 The large number of Yaba seizures was contributed by a single seizure of 21,910 Yaba tablets at the Woodlands Checkpoint in Nov 2013.
LOCAL DRUG ABUSERS - OVERALL

8. CNB arrested 3,158 drug abusers in 2014. This was a 12% decrease from 2013. New abusers decreased by 2%, from 1,110 in 2013 to 1,093 in 2014.
DRUG ABusers – by drugs abused

9. Heroin and methamphetamine remained the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 1,560 heroin abusers (49%) and 1,348 methamphetamine abusers (43%) were arrested in 2014. Cannabis was the third most commonly abused drug, with 187 cannabis abusers being arrested in 2014. Please refer to Chart 2 for more information.
10. Of the 3,158 drug abusers arrested in 2014, 478 (15%) abusers arrested were found to be poly-drug abusers who abused more than one type of drug. Please refer to Chart 2a.

11. New methamphetamine abusers made up the largest proportion of all new abusers. Of the 1,093 new abusers arrested in 2014, 70% or 760 had abused methamphetamine. New cannabis abusers saw an increase of 8%, from 129 arrested in 2013 to 139 arrested in 2014. Please refer to Chart 2b.
DRUG ABUSERS – BY ETHNIC GROUP

12. There was a decrease in the number of abusers arrested across all ethnic groups. In 2014, the number of Chinese abusers arrested saw a decrease of 23%, with 971 Chinese abusers arrested, as compared to 1,259 Chinese abusers arrested in 2013. Malay abusers arrested saw a decrease of 5%, from the 1,710 Malay abusers arrested in 2013 to 1,624 in 2014. Indian abusers fell by 7%, from 541 in 2013 to 505 in 2014. Please refer to Chart 3.

13. The situation for new abusers was slightly different. The number of new Chinese abusers arrested in 2014 saw a decrease of 24%, with 314 new Chinese abusers arrested in 2014 as compared to 411 in 2013. However, new Malay abusers arrested increased by 17%, from 513 in 2013 to 600 in 2014. Indian abusers fell by about 3%, from 155 in 2013 to 150 in 2014. Please refer to Chart 3a.
14. Drug abusers in the 20 to 29 age group formed the largest group of abusers arrested in 2014, at 29%. Drug abusers in the 40 to 49 age group formed the second-largest group at 23%. Those aged below 20 increased by about 5%, from 181 in 2013 to 190 in 2014. Drug abusers aged 20 to 29 also increased by about 5%, from 880 in 2013 to 920 in 2014. Please refer to Chart 4.
15. New abusers made up 35% of all abusers arrested. New abusers in the below 20 age group saw an increase of 12%, from 153 arrested in 2013 to 172 arrested in 2014. About 53% (or 578) of all new abusers arrested in 2014 belong to the 20 to 29 age group. In total, the proportion of new abusers aged below 30 made up about two-thirds of new abusers arrested. Please refer to Chart 4a.

![Chart 4a: New Abusers by Age](image-url)
PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

16. In 2014, CNB continued to spread the anti-drug message with its Preventive Drug Education (PDE) outreach and collaborations with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and various community partners. Through key programmes and activities, CNB actively educated the public on useful anti-drug tips and the harms of drugs. Here are some of the key activities that were held in 2014:

DanceWorks!/Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2014

17. DanceWorks! 2014, the annual anti-drug dance competition, was co-organised by CNB and NCADA to promote an active drug-free lifestyle targeted at youths under 25 years. Held from 19 to 21 June at Joyden Hall, Bugis+, the 16th edition of the competition attracted more than 600 participants from schools and organisations who formed a total of 62 teams as they danced to the theme, “Life Does Not Rewind. Say ‘No’ to Drugs”. 462 participants and supporters also successfully broke Singapore’s record for the number of people performing the mass dance, “Cupid Shuffle”, as they showed their support for the anti-drug cause. To commemorate the World Drug Day on 26 June, the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) was held concurrently with DanceWorks! 2014 at Bugis+ where there was an exhibition featuring exciting and educational anti-drug games and activities. More than 100 youth volunteers also fanned out across the island on 26 and 28 June to give out commemorative stylus wristbands carrying the anti-drug message to the public.

Participants performing at the DanceWorks! Members of public at the ADAC 2014.
Singapore Games Creation Competition 2014

18. To further spread the anti-drug message among youths, the 2014 edition of the Singapore Games Creation Competition (SGCC), also took on an anti-drug theme. Jointly organised by CNB and Nanyang Polytechnic’s (NYP) School of Interactive and Digital Media from 16 May 2014 to 17 October 2014, the competition saw more than 420 participants taking up the challenge to weave the anti-drug theme in their game designs to showcase the theme, “Life Does Not Rewind. Say ‘No’ to Drugs”. Team CHIMMICHANGA from Methodist Girls’ School was crowned the overall champion team for their first person role-playing game which followed a character as his tries to overcome his drug addiction.

Outreach to Youths in post-secondary institutions and full-time National Servicemen

19. Following the recommendations from the Task Force on Drugs to enhance outreach efforts to youths from post-secondary institutions and full-time National Servicemen, in 2014, CNB stepped up its PDE efforts targeted at these groups to spread the anti-drug message. Anti-drug talks, road shows, skits and sharing sessions were held at the various post-secondary institutions including ITEs and polytechnics. CNB also produced PDE collaterals to be distributed to these youths to reinforce the anti-drug message. Anti-drug talks and customised PDE collaterals were also delivered to full-time national servicemen to spread the message on the dangers of drugs.

Collaborations with Home Team Departments and Community Partners

20. In 2014, CNB also continued with the supporting of community partners’ events and programmes through conducting anti-drug talks, holding exhibitions and sponsoring of PDE materials including brochures, publications and souvenirs. An example is the Singapore Police Force’s (SPF) Youth Engagement Programme in which CNB integrates the anti-drug message and educated youths on the dangers of drugs. A total of 994 youths participated in the programme.
INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION 2014

INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION REMAINED STABLE

21. There has been a decrease in the number of new and repeat inhalant abusers arrested. The number of inhalant abusers arrested decreased by 13%, from 135 in 2013 to 118 in 2014.

22. There were no significant changes in the profile of inhalant abusers arrested. Those aged below 20 continued to form the biggest group of abusers.
23. The majority of inhalant abusers arrested continued to comprise abusers from the Chinese and Malay ethnic groups, with Chinese inhalant abusers remaining the majority.

![Chart 7: Inhalant abusers by ethnic group](image)

**CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST INHALANT ABUSE**

24. Preventive education and enforcement action remain key strategies in our fight against inhalant abuse. To spread the anti-inhalant abuse message, CNB works with schools to give assembly talks to students to warn them of the dangers and harmful effects of inhalant abuse. In 2014, about 550 anti-drug and inhalant abuse programmes and activities (including talks, exhibitions, skit performances, road shows, etc) were conducted.

25. To combat the inhalant abuse situation in Singapore, CNB will also continue to visit shopkeepers to seek their assistance to avoid selling inhalant products to persons who might abuse them. CNB will continue to work with stakeholders to eradicate inhalant abuse activities in Singapore.

END

**ISSUED BY:**
**CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU | 26 JANUARY 2015**
**UPDATED AS OF 2 JUN 2015**

NOTE: All figures in this report are confirmed. In this report, 2014 refers to the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.