



NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



NATIONAL COUNCIL
AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Building A Strong National Consensus On Anti-Drug Advocacy

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



NCADA is proud to be a member of the Taskforce on Drugs led by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs. The Taskforce reaffirmed Singapore's zero tolerance against drug abuse and recommended measures to strengthen our anti-drug policy framework. In particular, NCADA will focus on engaging the community to support our zero tolerance stance against drugs.

While Singapore's drug situation is under control, there is no room for complacency. Domestically, an estimated 2,000 repeat drug abusers will be released from Long Term (LT) imprisonment in 2013 and 2014. We also need to guard against the acceptance of more liberal attitudes by our youths towards drugs. Externally, the regional proliferation of drugs and emergence of new psychoactive substances remain grave threats.

This year, NCADA commissioned the Youth Perception Survey (YPS) involving 2,075 youths aged between 13 and 21. It found that while our youths still regard drugs and drug abuse negatively, the older youths appear more susceptible to liberal attitudes towards drugs. Parents and teachers are the strongest anti-drug influencers for youths. NCADA intends to use the YPS findings to fine-tune preventive drug education (PDE) efforts and foster greater community involvement, especially of parents, to entrench awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

We continued to partner Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) in DanceWorks!, which is an exciting stage for youths to perform and demonstrate how they can lead a fun and drug-free lifestyle. This year, about 700 youths participated in Danceworks! and fringe activities such as the specially choreographed mass dance, Instagram contest, '15-Word Collection' contest and 'DanceWord' activity.

Singapore's fight against drug abuse depends on concerted efforts of government, communities, grassroots and voluntary welfare organisations, non-government agencies and individuals. In 2013, 3 individuals and organisations were honoured with NCADA Awards for exemplary contributions to the anti-drug cause at the DanceWorks! finale.

To engage older youths and young adults, NCADA organised the "Clubs Against Drugs Campaign" for the 13th consecutive year. Reminding club goers to stay drug-free while partying, the participation of 230 clubs and pubs in the campaign was at its highest. NCADA will collaborate with the entertainment industry to disseminate the anti-drug message and promote a drug-free clubbing culture in Singapore.

As an advisory body on national anti-drug strategies and programmes, NCADA needs strong support and active participation from its partners. In particular, NCADA will continue to work closely with CNB to fight drug abuse. This

year, Council members visited the CNB Heritage Gallery and gained deeper appreciation of the invaluable work of CNB and its officers over the years.

Going forward, NCADA will sharpen its advocacy and research capabilities to resist any softening in our people's attitudes towards drugs and drug abuse. The Council will reach out and rally like-minded organisations and government agencies in Asia to unite against those working to promote "harm reduction" and dismantling of prohibitive drug laws. NCADA believes that it is better to "prevent harm" and we will uphold Singapore's zero tolerance against drug abuse.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Lye'.

Mr Victor Lye PBM
Chairman
National Council Against Drug Abuse

ABOUT NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

The National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) was formed in January 1995 to serve as a citizens' advisory body on national anti-drug strategies and programmes.

The Council's roles are to:

- Advise the Government on measures and strategies to curb drug abuse.
- Harness community support for anti-drug programmes.
- Promote preventive drug education programmes.

The Council's objectives are to:

- Promote and uphold Singapore's zero tolerance stance against drugs.
- Build and entrench public awareness of the dangers of drugs and drug abuse.
- Conduct international advocacy and anti-drug research.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of our anti-drug strategies.

The Council's focal areas are:

- Research & Advocacy
- Communications & Publicity
- Strategic Partnerships & Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN



MR. VICTOR LYE PBM

Chairman

Chief Executive, Shenton Insurance Pte Ltd
Chairman, Bedok Reservoir Punggol Citizens'
Consultative Committee

VICE CHAIRMAN



DR CHEW TUAN CHIONG

Vice Chairman

Chief Executive,
Frasers Centrepoint Trust

NCADA, as a citizens' advisory committee, comprises key members from the community, and serves as a link between the community and the Government. Through their extensive background and diverse networks, NCADA members help the Government gather feedback and ideas from the community to enhance and strengthen the national anti-drug strategy.

MEMBERS



MR. KONG MUN KWONG
Special Advisor
to the Board
WaterTech Pte Ltd.

MR. CHEW HOCK YONG
Chief Executive
Land Transport
Authority

MRS. ERIKA HUI
Commissioner for
Narcotics
Hong Kong

MR. FOO SIANG-TSE
Senior Director
Policy Development Division,
Ministry of
Home Affairs

DR. ISMAIL MUHAMMAD HANIF
Vice-President
Singapore
Anti- Narcotics
Association

ASSOC. PROF. NARAYANAN GANAPATHY
Associate Professor
Sociology Department
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

ASSOC. PROF. CHAN CHENG LENG
Deputy Group Director
Health Products
Regulation Group,
Health Sciences
Authority

MDM LOW KHAH GEK
Deputy Director-
General of Education (Schools) cum
Director of Schools
Ministry of Education

MR. EUGENE PAUL LAI LOOK
Partner
Southern Capital Group

MEMBERS



MR. THANGAVELU RAJA SEGAR
Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Indian
Development Association

MS. ONG TOON HUI
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Social and
Family Development

MRS. SALLY ANG
Deputy Director
Emergency
Preparedness Division
People's Association

MR. SAZALI WAHID
Director
Youth Development,
Yayasan MENDAKI

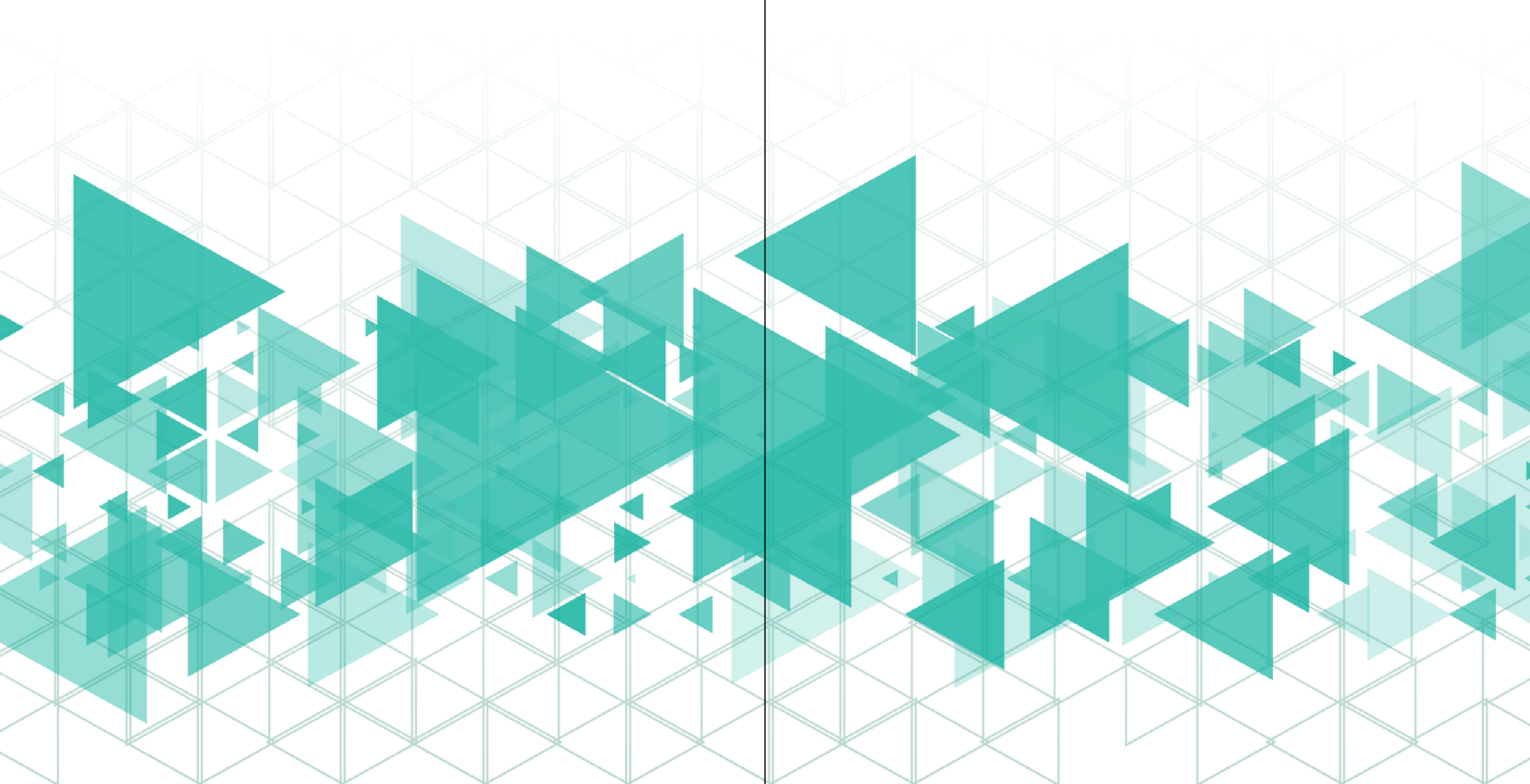
MR. CHNG HWEE HONG
Chairman
Singapore Corporation
of Rehabilitative
Enterprises

MR. GOH CHIM KIM
Executive Director
Chinese Development
Assistance Council

MS. ALLISON LIM
Associate Partner
WATATAWA Consulting
Pte Ltd

MR. HUDZAIFAH ALYAMAN BIN ADAM
Assistant Manager Finance,
RC Hotels Pte Ltd

MR. POH GEOK EK
President
Singapore
Anti-Narcotics
Association (Served as
member till Jun 2013)

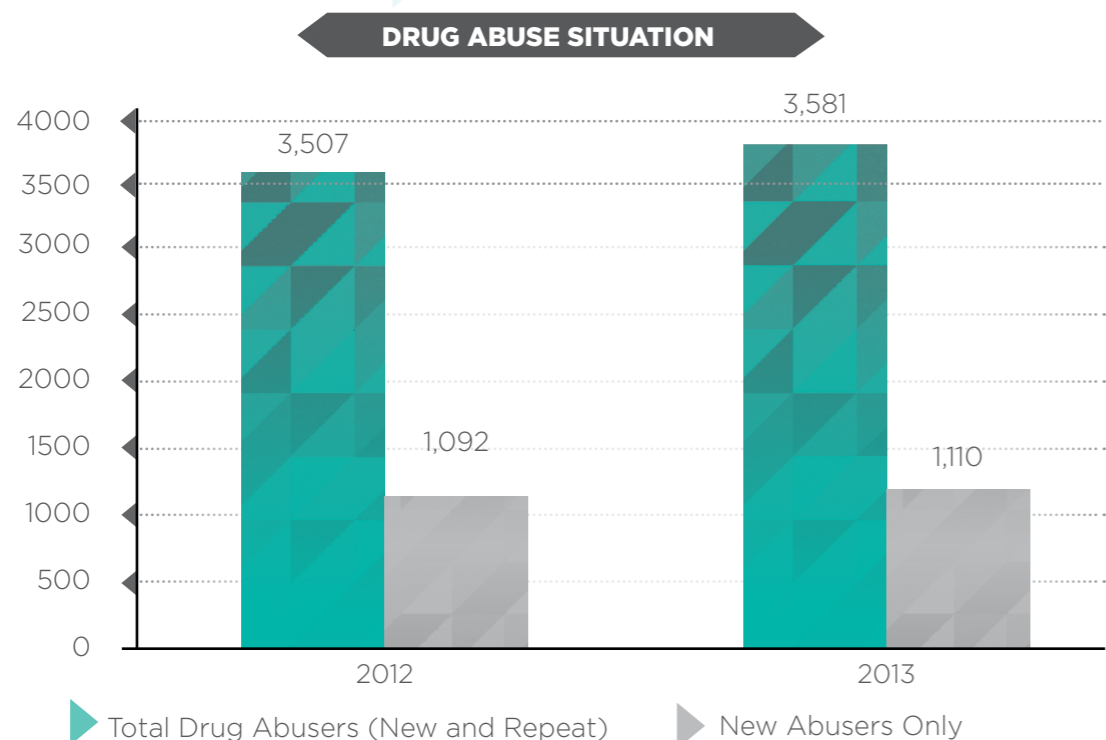


LOCAL DRUG SITUATION

DRUG & INHALANT ABUSE SITUATION 2013

Drug Abuse Situation

CNB arrested 3,581 drug abusers in 2013. Compared to 3,507 in 2012, this is a 2% increase. New abusers increased by 2%, from 1,092 arrests in 2012 to 1,110 arrests in 2013.



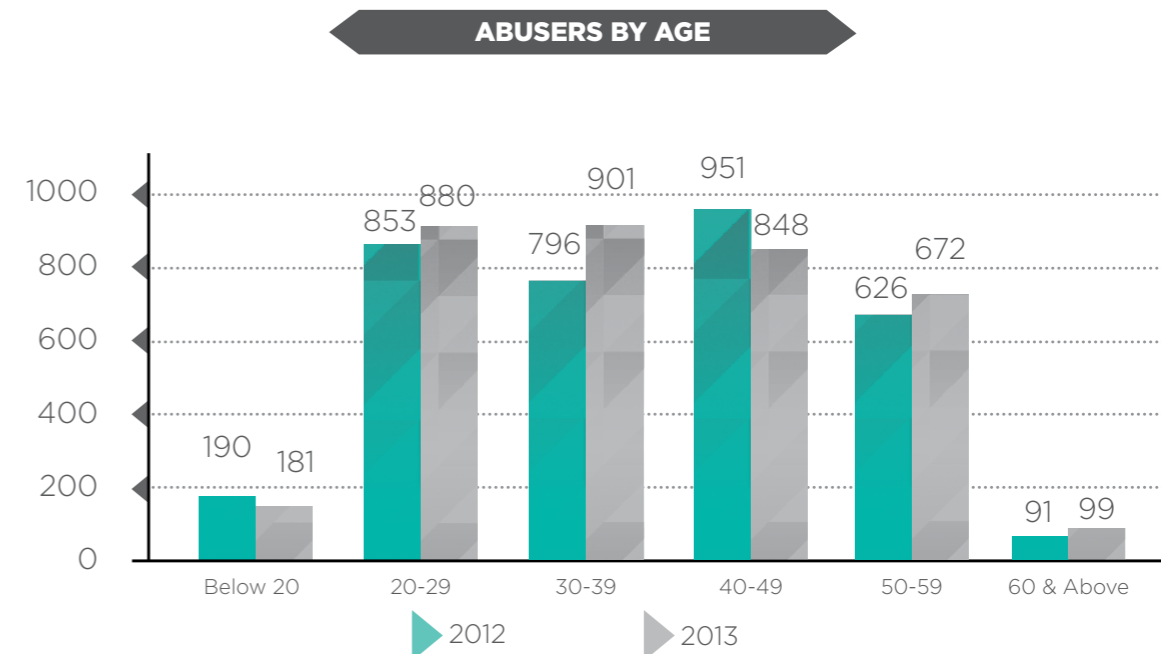
The 2013 drug statistics are set against the backdrop of a worsening regional drug situation. Methamphetamine production in the region continues to set new highs, as does opium cultivation. These drugs continue to make their way throughout the region and destroy many in their deathly embrace.

As compared to 2012, there was an increase in the number of repeat abusers arrested in 2013 from 2,415 arrests to 2,471 arrests. The number of new abusers arrested has also seen an increase from 1,092 in 2012 to 1,110 in 2013.

Abusers by Age

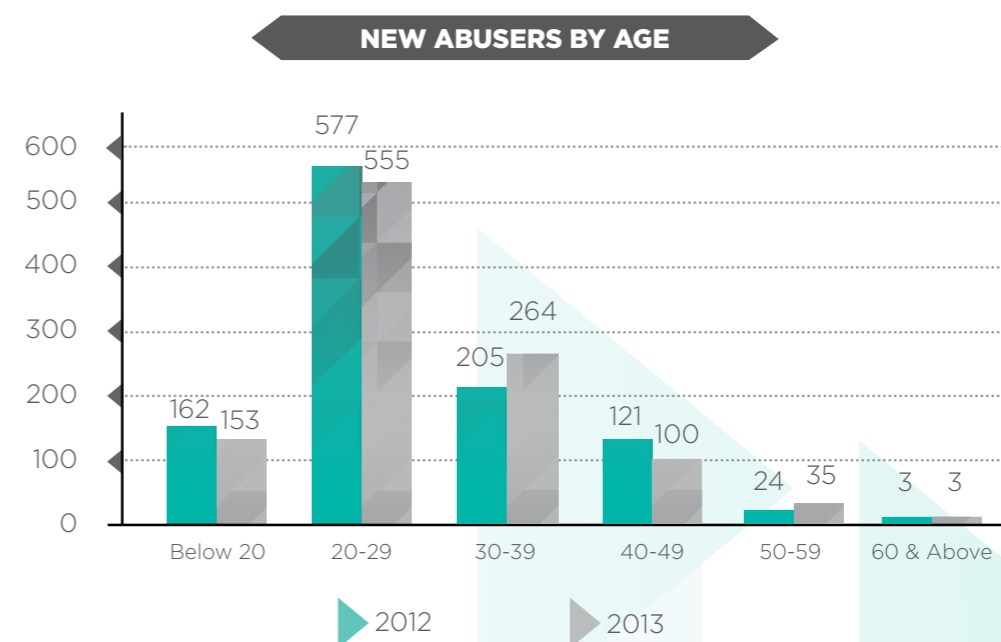
Drug abusers in the 20 to 29, 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 age groups each formed around one-quarter of the drug abusers arrested in 2013.

Drug abusers aged below 20 made up 5% of the total abusers arrested, which decreased from 190 in 2012 to 181 in 2013. The number of arrests of drug abusers aged 40 and above has decreased by 3%, from 1,668 in 2012 to 1,619 in 2013.



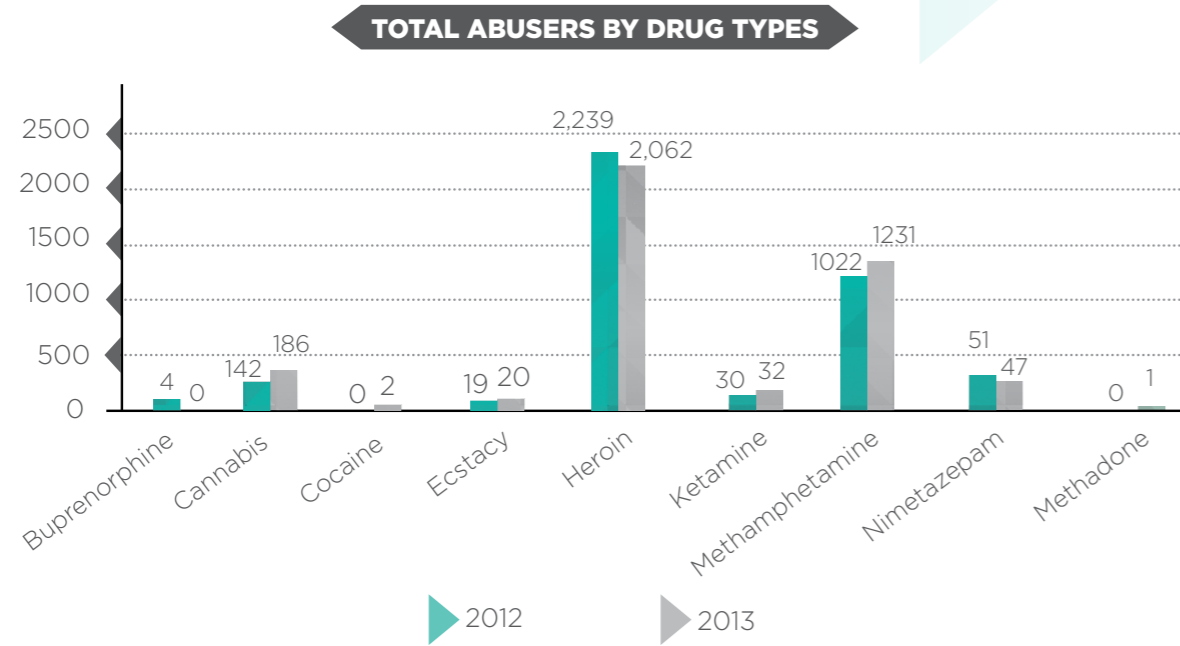
New Abusers by Age

For new abusers arrested in 2013, 50% were aged 20 to 29. This number dropped from 577 arrests in 2012 to 555 in 2013. The number of new abusers below the age of 20 saw a decline of 6%, from 162 in 2012 to 153 in 2013.



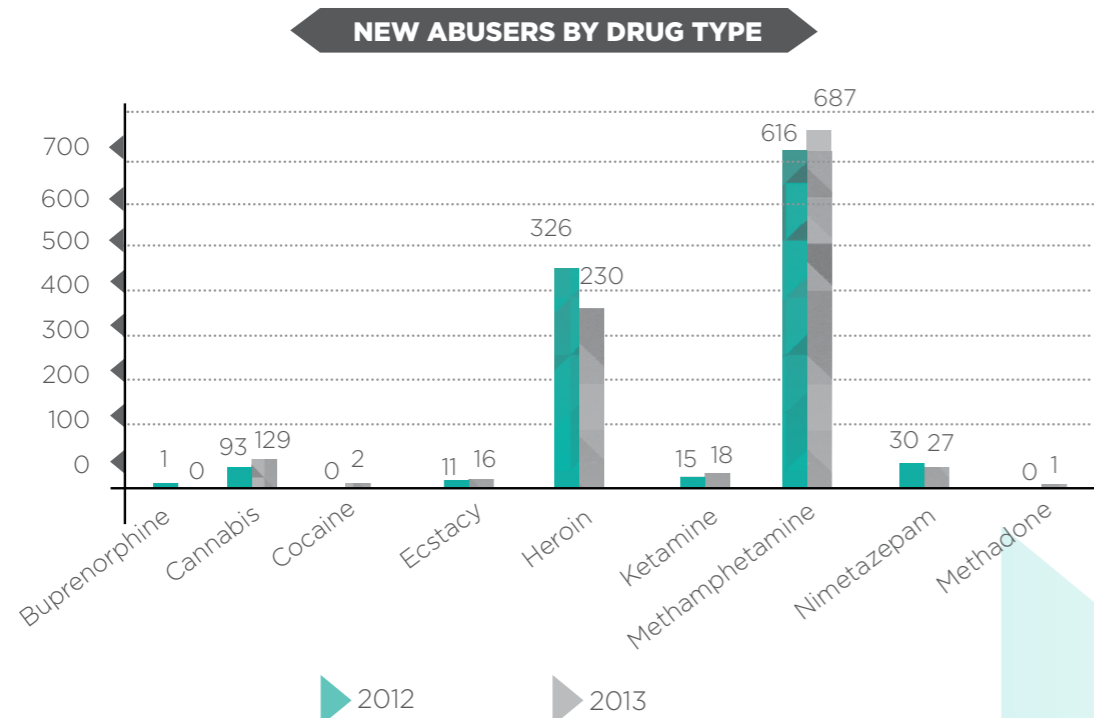
Total Abusers by Drug Types

Heroin and methamphetamine are still the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 2,062 heroin abusers (58%) and 1,231 methamphetamine abusers (34%) were arrested in 2013. Together, heroin and methamphetamine abusers make up about 92% of all abusers arrested. In 2013, 186 cannabis abusers were arrested. This is an increase of 31% from the 142 arrested in 2012.



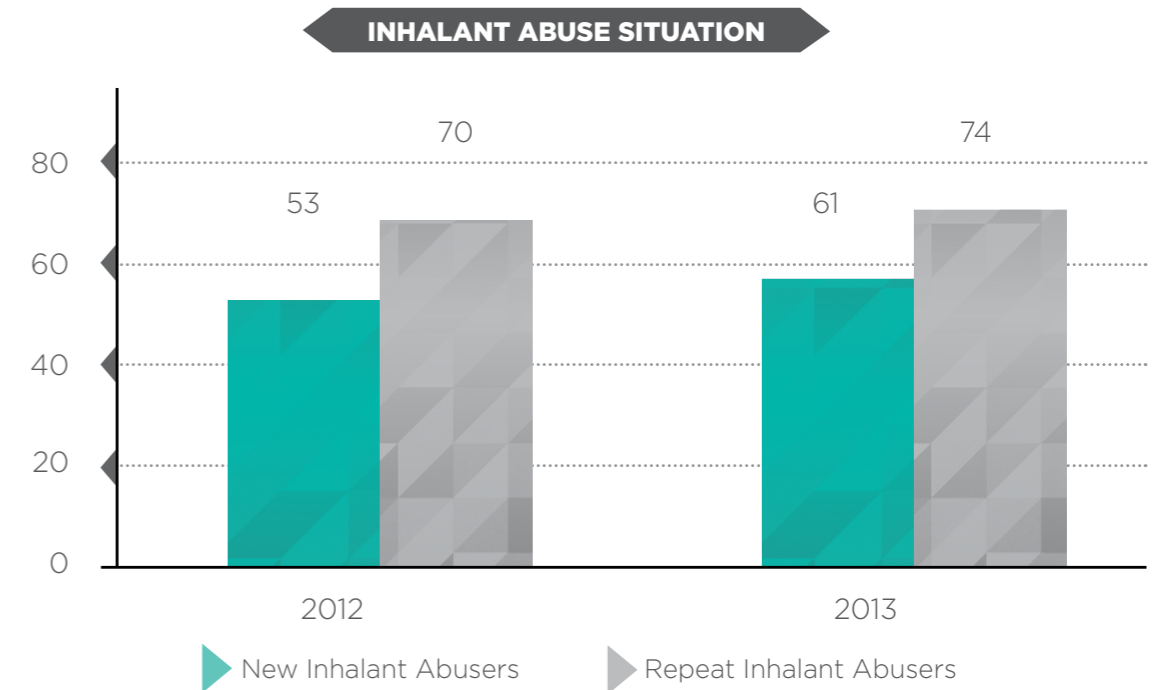
New Abusers by Drug Type

Methamphetamine and heroin are also the two most popular drugs amongst new, or first-time arrested abusers. Of the 1,110 new abusers arrested in 2013, 62% had abused methamphetamine, while 21% abused heroin. In 2013, 129 new cannabis abusers were arrested. This is a 39% increase from the 93 arrested in 2012.



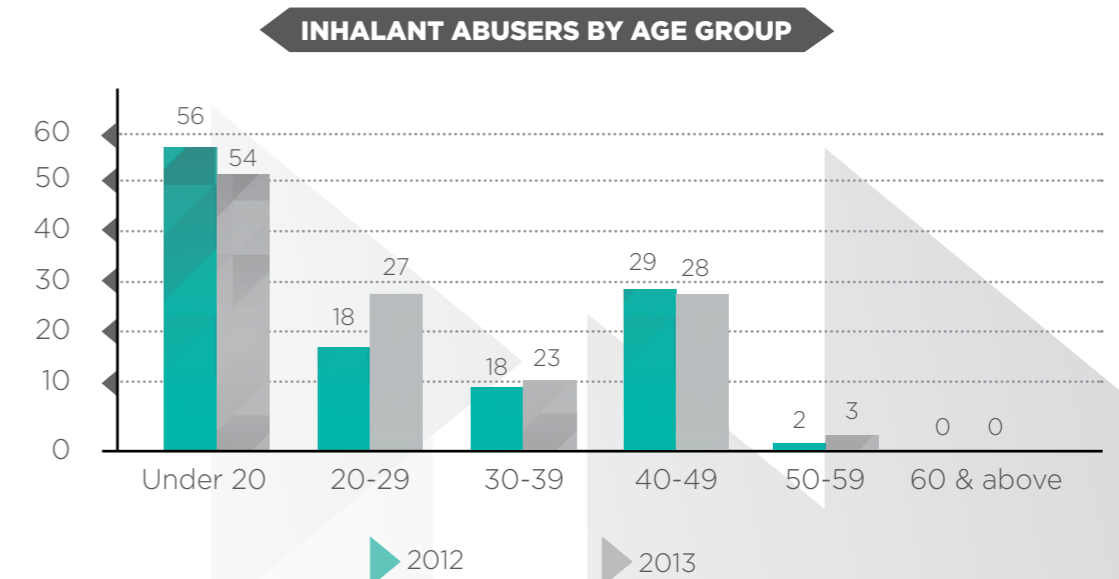
Inhalant Abuse Situation

There has been an increase in the number of new and repeat inhalant abusers arrested. The number of inhalant abusers arrested increased by 10%, from 123 in 2012 to 135 in 2013.



Inhalant Abusers By Age Group

There were no significant changes in the profile of inhalant abusers arrested. Those aged below 20 continued to form the biggest group of abusers.



Challenges Ahead

Although the drug situation in Singapore is contained, the unfavourable regional drug situation continues to pose a significant threat to the local drug scene. The pressures exerted by an increase in the supply of drugs will have an impact on the local drug situation.

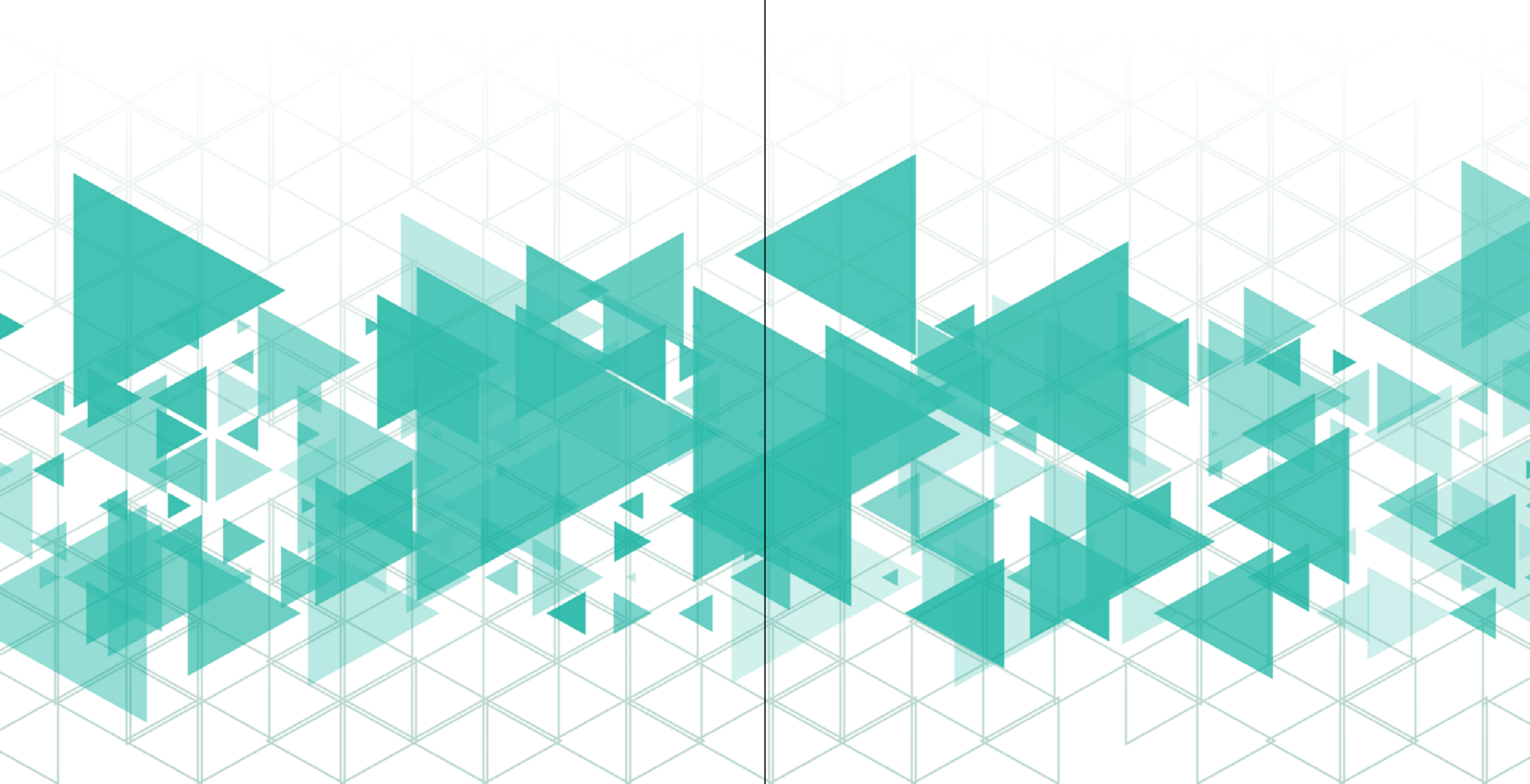
Globally, some jurisdictions have relaxed their stance on the abuse of cannabis, with many seeing it as something relatively harmless. They cannot be more wrong. Cannabis use is not only associated with adverse physical effects, but also with mental, emotional and behavioural changes.

We are also seeing an increase in the number of drug abusers arrested for the last few years. The large number of repeat abusers who will be released from the Prisons in the coming years may exert a greater contaminating influence on other abusers and the general population.

Continuing Efforts against Drug Abuse

NCADA will continue to work with CNB and various community partners to actively engage and educate the public on the dangers of drugs through its key programmes and activities.

Measures recommended by the Taskforce on Drugs led by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, were also progressively implemented in 2013 to tackle the drug situation. Together with the amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, these enhanced measures, the continuing intensive enforcement efforts, coupled with the strong support from the community, will help to strengthen our capacity to improve the local drug situation.



PERCEPTION OF YOUTHS ON DRUGS

PERCEPTION OF YOUTHS ON DRUGS 2013

The Youth Perception Survey was commissioned by NCADA in 2013 and had involved 2,075 youths aged between 13 and 21.

NCADA had shared the findings with the media at a press conference on 13 Feb 2014. The panellists for the press conference were: Mr Victor Lye, Chairman NCADA, A/P Narayanan Ganapathy, Vice-Chairperson of Research Committee and Ms Allison Lim, Chairperson of Communications Committee. We have also shared the findings with our partners in the anti-drug ecosystem so as to keep them abreast of the youths' perception towards drug abuse, anti-drug laws in Singapore and the current preventive drug education efforts.

The key findings from the Survey were:

- ▶ Parents and teachers continue to be strong influencers in dissuading young people from experimenting with drugs;
- ▶ Youths view drugs and drug abuse negatively but older youths are more likely to accept liberal attitudes towards drugs; and
- ▶ Current anti-drug laws are effective.

Harnessing the influence of parents and teachers

The Survey found that television remains an important source of information about drugs, with 63.1% of youths surveyed listing the television as a source of information about drugs. However, parents and teachers continue to be effective in dissuading youths from drug abuse. About one in two youths surveyed indicated that they would approach their family, in particular parents, if they had any questions about drugs. Two in five youths surveyed also look to their teachers and counsellors for information.

Underscoring the influence parents have, the Survey found that 96.5% of youths whose parents had spoken to them about drugs and drug abuse reported that those conversations have deterred them from taking drugs.

A/P Narayanan Ganapathy, Chairperson of NCADA's Research Committee said: "There are some television programmes that normalise drug abuse. As youths, especially those who are younger, are still highly impressionable, parents and guardians should monitor their media consumption and guide them to evaluate the information which they have obtained from the mass media."

He added that as parents and teachers appear to be the first source of information, it was crucial for them to keep informed in matters relating to drug abuse so as to effectively advise youths on drug related matters.

Only 40.6% of all Survey respondents said that they have had conversations with their parents on drugs. A/P Ganapathy urged more parents to initiate conversations with their children about drug abuse and its dangers.

Nurturing anti-drug values is key

When the youths were asked what would happen if they were offered drugs, 97.3% were confident that they would decline. Most respondents expressed strong objections to drug abuse in their responses to the following statements:

Statement	Percentage of respondents who agreed
I believe taking drugs will harm one's health	89.1%
I believe taking drugs will affect my education	87.6%
I would try taking drugs if it was not illegal	8.1%

Similarly, when asked what they associated "drugs" with, 68.4% of them chose "An illegal/harmful/dangerous substance" (43.3%) or "A substance that can be addictive" (25.1%). 87.3% of the youths also said they felt that Singapore's laws against drugs are effective in controlling the local drug situation.

However, the Survey found that a small percentage of youths (about 4.4%) display liberal attitudes towards drugs and were more likely to agree with the statement "It's alright to try drugs for a new experience". This group consisted of older youths aged 17 to 21.

A/P Ganapathy said: "Although this group is small, we will not ignore them and will factor their attitudes into the development of our PDE programmes and initiatives."

Overall, the Survey results are reassuring. Singaporean youths view drugs negatively and believe that our drug laws are effective. NCADA and our partners in the anti-drug ecosystem will continue to nurture these anti-drug values in them", he added.

Importance of maintaining a zero-tolerance policy on drug abuse

Mr Victor Lye, Chairman, NCADA said: "Findings from the Survey will be used to guide how we develop preventive drug education programmes and ensure that they remain relevant. For example, the finding that older youths tend to hold more liberal attitudes towards drugs and that younger youths are more susceptible to peer pressure, suggest that we need to adapt our current preventive education strategies to address these groups more effectively. NCADA will engage our anti-drug ecosystem partners in developing a more targeted approach in our ongoing fight against drug abuse."

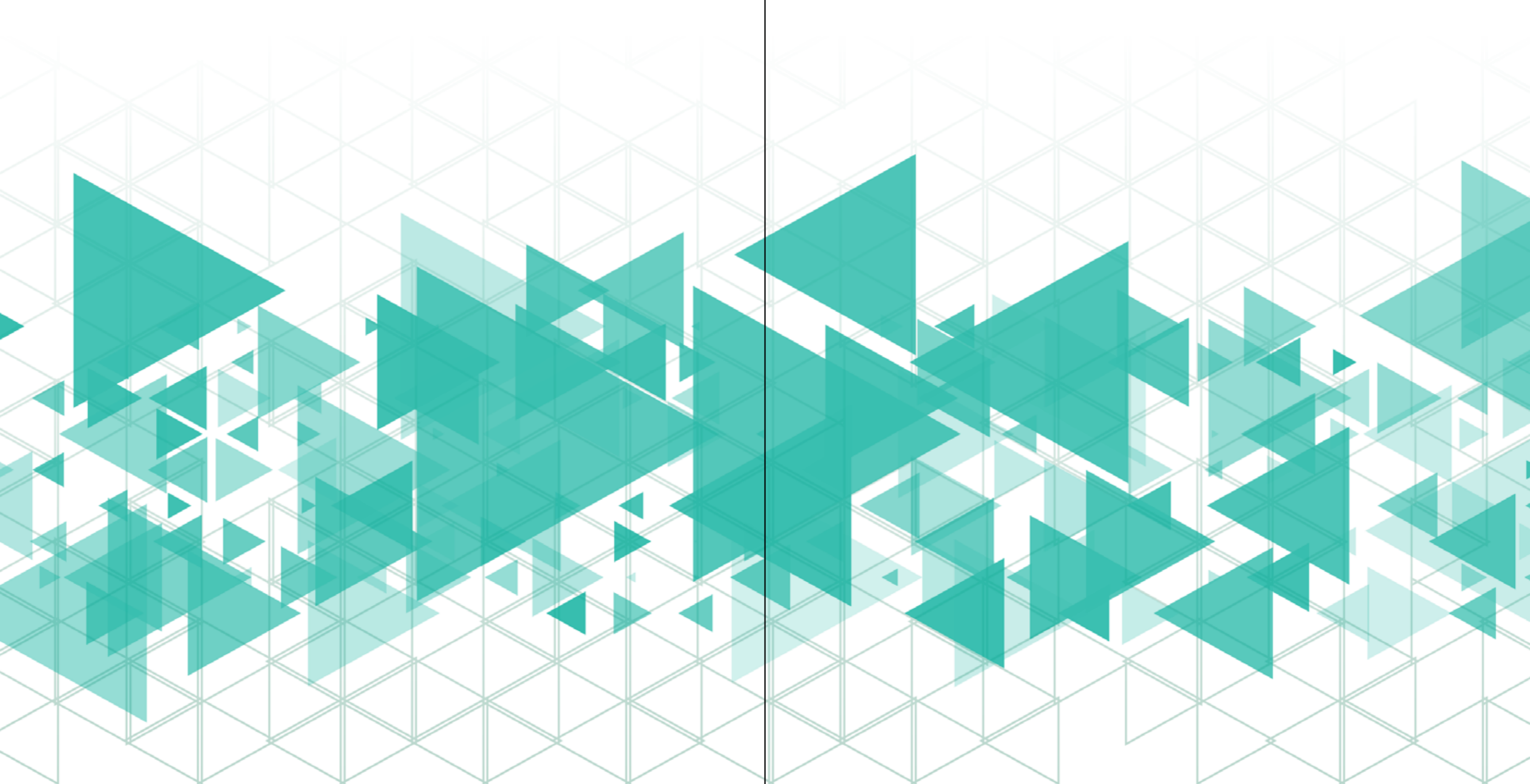
He also said that NCADA will continue to conduct such surveys to track attitudes and perceptions towards drugs and drug abuse.

"More countries are giving in to liberal positions on drugs due to shifting societal attitudes in containing disease transmission and the uphill fight against drug abuse. In Singapore, we are fortunate to have contained drug abuse despite external challenges. Singapore must maintain a "zero-tolerance" stance against drug abuse. While the number of drug abusers arrested in Singapore remains low, we cannot take this situation for granted. The responsibility of protecting our future generations from the scourge of drugs requires the concerted effort of parents, educators and community leaders," he added.

For a detailed report on the survey findings, please refer to the survey materials which are available on the CNB PDE Portal (http://www.cnb.gov.sg/PDE_PDFs/Key_Findings_of_Youth_Perception_Survey_2013.pdf).



*Panellists at the Youth Perception Survey 2013 Press Conference on 13 Feb 2014.
From left to right: A/P Narayanan Ganapathy, Mr Victor Lye and Ms Allison Lim.*



COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

RALLYING SUPPORT FOR NCADA'S EFFORTS

IN THE ANTI-DRUG CAUSE

NCADA AWARDS 2013

NCADA recognises that the vision of a drug-free Singapore can only be realised through the concerted efforts of the various communities, grassroots organisations and individuals, working together hand-in-hand to eradicate the drug scourge.

The NCADA Awards was established in January 1998 to recognise the individuals and organisations who have made significant contribution to the anti-drug cause.

For this year, the award recipients are:

Merit Award

1) Ms Meera Ramachandra

Ms Meera Ramachandra is a Volunteer Guidance Officer with the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) since April 2001. She has worked with several out-of-school youths (OSY) and under her guidance, many had successfully completed their programme in SANA. As the Secretary of SANA Hindu Aftercare Counselling Service from 2008 to 2012, she has also contributed significantly to anti-drug related events and activities such as fund raising for SANA and Yellow Ribbon Project events. Ms Meera is currently involved in the Community Reintegration Programme (CRP), or Coping Skills, which is a compulsory pre-release programme that aims to help inmates reintegrate back to society. She has been serving on this programme since 2010 and has devoted much of her time to help inmates involved in this programme.



Mr. Victor Lye, Chairman NCADA, with Ms. Meera Ramachandra

Special Recognition Award (Organisation)

2) Singapore Polytechnic

NCADA and CNB had collaborated with students from the Singapore Polytechnic to conceptualise and organise the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC) 2012 and Clubs Against Drugs Campaign (CAD) 2012. The students had conceptualised and successfully organised the ADAC event, including a record-breaking attempt to construct Singapore's largest binder clip structure and a variety of anti-drug activities for last years' ADAC. The students had also helped to come up with a proposed concept for the CAD Campaign 2012. The roaring success of these two events was a testimony to the full commitment by Singapore Polytechnic in ensuring the outreach to our target audience in an effective manner, relevant to youths.



Mr. Victor Lye, Chairman NCADA, with a representative from Singapore Polytechnic

Special Recognition Award (Individual)

3) Mr Chin Jenn Keng

Mr Chin Jenn Keng is a full-time lecturer specialising in Integrated Event and Project Management with the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Singapore Polytechnic since 2000. He had led his students to be part of the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign activities with NCADA and CNB for two consecutive years (2011 and 2012). His commitment to the projects and guidance to the students have been an inspiration and the award would also serve to recognise his contribution to preventive drug education efforts and the national anti-drug cause.



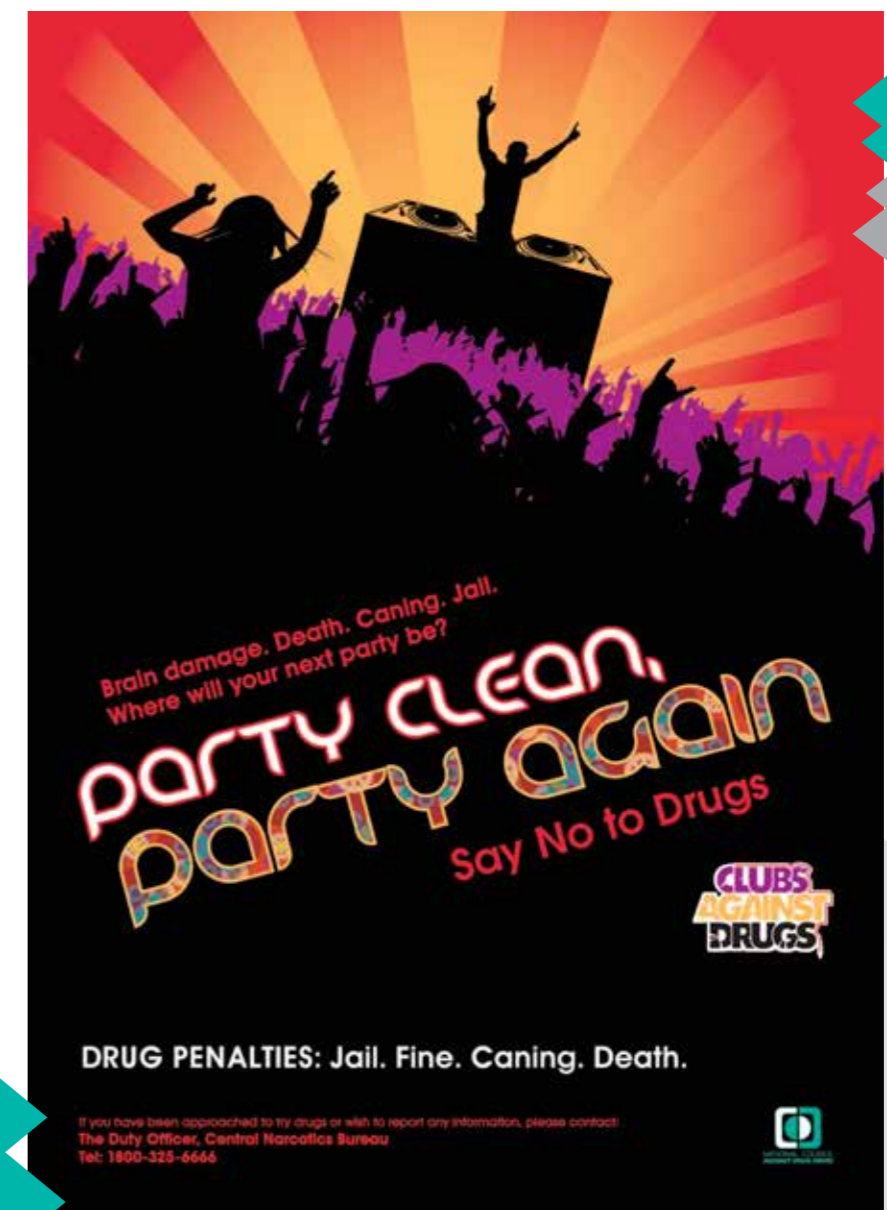
Mr. Victor Lye, Chairman NCADA, with Mr. Chin Jenn Keng

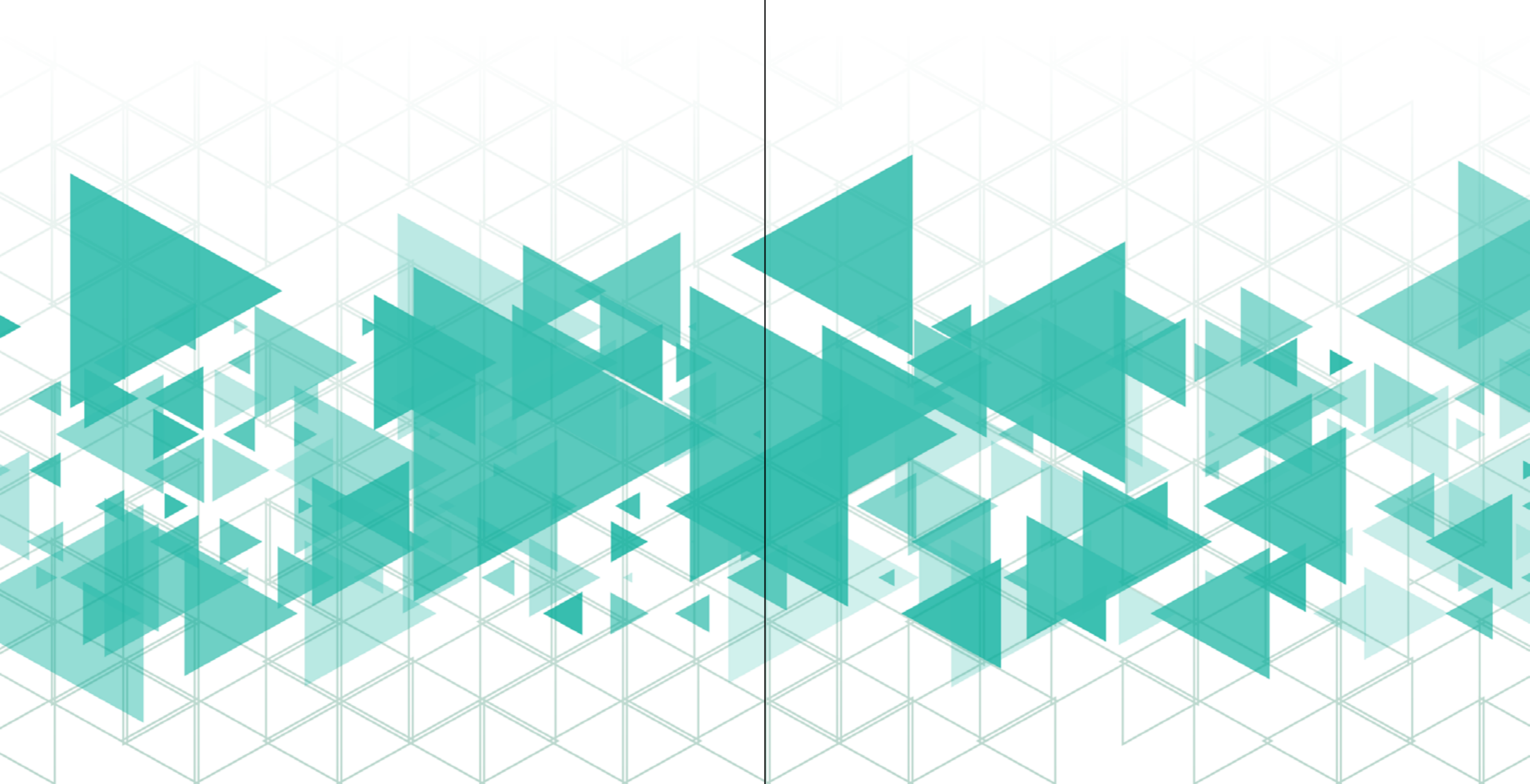
CLUBS AGAINST DRUGS 2013

The annual Clubs Against Drugs Campaign commenced on 18 Jan 2014 with the theme "Party Clean, Party Again. Say No to Drugs!". Anti-drug collaterals carrying this theme were distributed to various clubs and pubs. Held for the 13th consecutive year, the Clubs Against Drugs Campaign aimed to convey the anti-drug message to youths and young adults and encouraged them to stay drug-free while having a good time with their peers.

This year, the participation rate of invited night entertainment outlets in the campaign was at its highest - totalling 230 clubs and pubs. The campaign also saw continued support from clubs and pubs that had previously participated in the campaign - one of which is The St. James Pte Ltd which made a strong commitment to the anti-drug stance by involving 13 of its night entertainment outlets.

NCADA is pleased with the continued support from the club operators. The Council will explore new ways to spread the anti-drug message and promote a drug-free clubbing culture in Singapore.





COLLABORATIONS

LEVERAGING ON & WORKING WITH

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

DANCEWORKS 2013



1



2



3



4

- 1) [Supporters cheering for their team at one of the competition rounds.]
- 2) [Tanglin Motley Crew, Second Runner-up of Category II Finals says "Live it Loud, Choreograph Your Life!"]
- 3) [Group photo of Categories II and III finalists with Guest-of-honour, Ms Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education.]
- 4) [Awesome performance by Moda, Champion of the Category III Finals.]

"Live It Loud. Choreograph Your Life!" was the theme for DanceWorks! 2013. Organised for the 15th year, the anti-drug dance competition continued to engage youths aged 25 and below in the anti-drug cause.

A total of 68 teams comprising close to 700 participants from various schools and organisations took part in the dance competition, organised annually by NCADA and CNB.

A DanceWorks! Instagram account was set up to engage a wider audience through the social media platform. Dancers and non-dancers were invited to hashtag their photos related to the competition and stood to win attractive prizes. Youths were also invited to participate in an online fringe activity, '15-Word Collection', where they had to 'collect' and submit 15 dance or Danceworks-related words from five blog entries written by popular youth bloggers.

The Danceworks! team also roamed the streets in an offline fringe activity, 'DanceWords' which saw close to 2,000 youths forming their own anti-drug messages using 15 placards bearing words like 'kNOw', 'Drugs', 'love', 'life', etc.

To commemorate the 15th anniversary of DanceWorks!, a professional choreographer was engaged to create a mass dance, which was taught to the participants and supporters at all competition rounds. The mass dance segment will be carried forward as a tradition in future DanceWorks!.

Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza witnessed a dance battle showdown from the 12 finalists of Category II and Category III of the competition on 6 April 2013. In the end, the New Breakers from Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) and Moda brought the house down with their energetic yet creative anti-drug dance moves and were crowned champions in their respective categories.

Once again, NCADA would like to congratulate all winners and express our heartfelt thanks to participants for their highly-energised performances and to supporters who were there to lift the atmosphere. NCADA will continue collaborating with CNB to explore new and exciting ways to engage youths to live a healthy drug-free lifestyle through dance. See you at next year's DanceWorks!

ANTI-DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN 2013

Singapore joins the world in observing the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' (also known as 'World Drug Day') on 26 June every year. In 2013, 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-drug activities to increase awareness of and support for the anti-drug cause.

A two-day commemorative event themed 'Life Does Not Rewind. Say No to Drugs' was held on 21 and 22 June 2013 at Bugis+ to commemorate World Drug Day. The event featured an exhibition maze inspired by the true story of a former drug abuser, Mr Johnny Chin. The maze allowed visitors to personally imagine the harmful physical effects of drugs and the pain suffered from drug abuse.

To raise public awareness, a series of anti-drug activities was conducted from June to August 2013. Commemorative sticky notepad dispensers packaged with information on the Anti-Drug Abuse Day and the Anti-Drug Ribbon were distributed to all students. School leaders across primary and secondary schools in Singapore were also encouraged to read out an anti-drug message from NCADA Chairman on 12 July 2013. The message urged students to take a stand against drug abuse. The inspiring message, told through the story of an ex-abuser, reminded students on the importance of making the choice to live a healthy life free from the damaging effects of drugs. Over 200 student volunteers helped to distribute the commemorative notepad dispensers island-wide on 13 July 2013 to spread the anti-drug message.

An online photo voting contest on Facebook, open to the public, was held from 21 June to 7 August 2013 as part of the campaign to garner publicity and raise awareness. Each participant had to submit a photo that best represented the campaign theme. The photos were then displayed at an online gallery on Facebook for public voting. A total of 70 entries were received and more than 300 people cast votes for their favourite photos.



FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

To better understand the anti-drug ecosystem, Council members visited the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) Heritage Gallery on 31 Jul 2013.

The visit allowed Council members to experience the evolution of the Singapore drug scene, and to learn about CNB's efforts in combating the drug menace over the past decades, significant seizures and operations, and preventive education efforts. This visit gave Council members a good understanding of the work of CNB.



Council members at the CNB Heritage Gallery

Acknowledgements

NCADA would like to thank the organisations that have partnered
and supported NCADA in the year 2013

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB)

Singapore Cooperative of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE)

Singapore Prison Service (SPS)

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)

Singapore Totalisator Board

People's Association (PA)

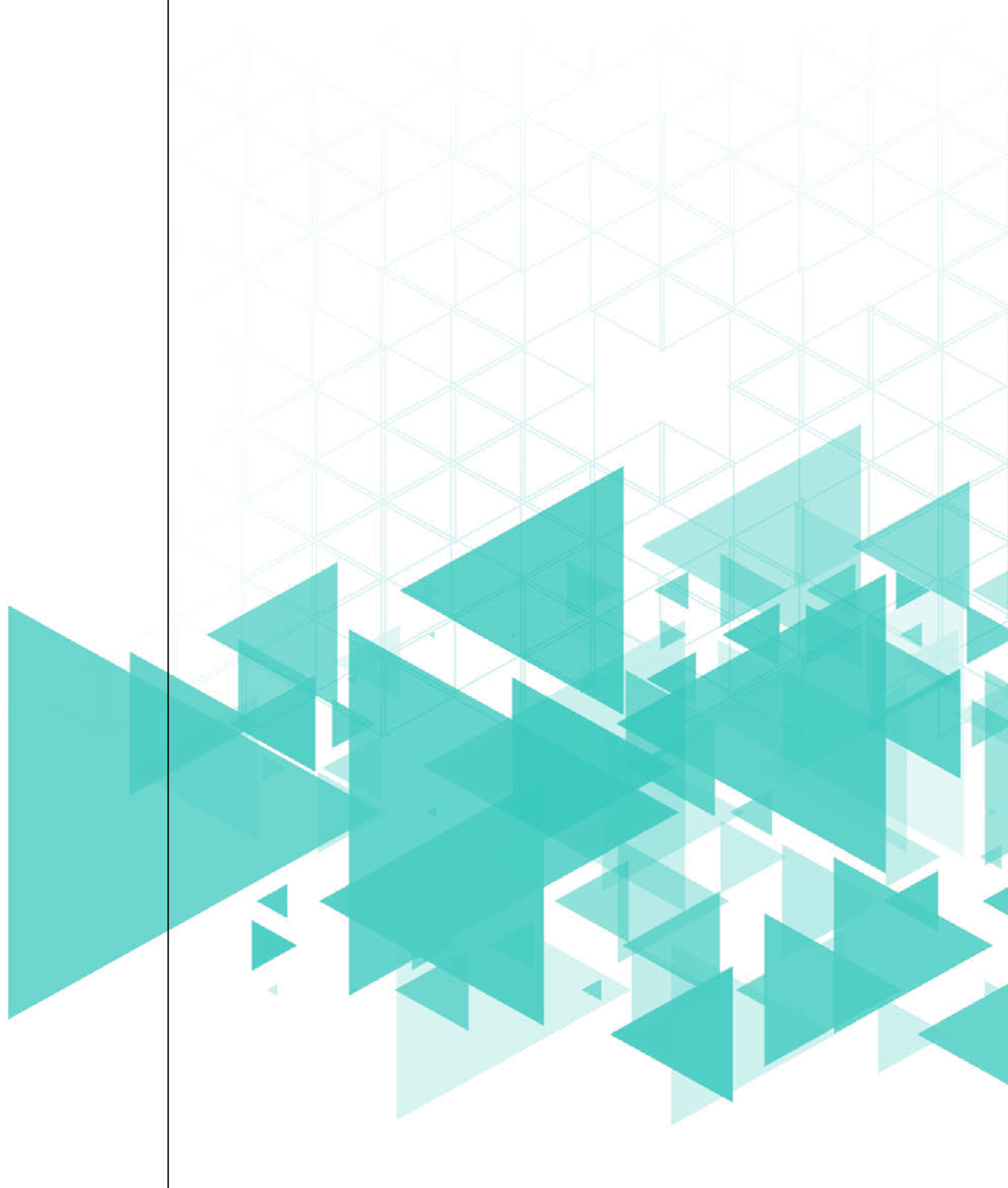
Ministry of Education (MOE)

Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)

Central Youth Guidance Office (CYGO)

Project Partners

Singapore Polytechnic - Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2013





NATIONAL COUNCIL
AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

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