

## **SINGAPORE DRUG SITUATION REPORT 2024**

### **Message from Acting Director, Central Narcotics Bureau**

The global drug situation continues to worsen. Around the world, drug production has increased. In our region, we have seen a surge of methamphetamine production, further increasing the supply of synthetic drugs.<sup>1</sup> Drug producers and those with vested interests continue to lobby for wider legalisation and normalisation of drugs, particularly cannabis. Transnational syndicates have also expanded their illegal drug dealings online, exploiting digital platforms to profit from drug trafficking and drug money laundering activities.

The World Drug Report 2024 reported that drug abuse continues to increase. In 2022, one in 18 people had used a drug in the past year, a 20% increase compared to a decade earlier.<sup>2</sup> More countries are now struggling to control the escalating drug and crime situation due to the overwhelming supply of drugs.

Against this backdrop, CNB continues its relentless fight against the scourge of drugs. In 2024, CNB dismantled 25 drug syndicates and arrested numerous traffickers, including drug syndicates operating on Telegram to target young people, and others operating in foreign countries to supply drugs into Singapore. These operations led to substantial drug seizures with a street value of more than S\$13 million. CNB remains steadfast in its mission to keep Singapore drug-free, including investigating drug offenders for laundering their financial gains and confiscating such ill-gotten assets.<sup>3</sup>

While Singapore's drug situation generally remains under control, worrying trends in youth drug abuse persist, particularly the early onset of drug abuse. In 2024, the youngest abuser arrested was a 13-year-old, far younger than the average onset age of drug abuse of 16 years old, as indicated in the 2022 Health and Lifestyle Survey.<sup>4</sup> For two years now, more than half of the new abusers arrested were below 30 years old. The number of new drug abusers below the age of 20 arrested, increased by 30%. Methamphetamine continued to be the most commonly abused drug last year, followed by heroin and cannabis. However, we observe that more than half of the new cannabis abusers arrested were below 30 years old, suggesting a growing trend of permissiveness towards cannabis among our youths.<sup>5</sup>

The harms of drugs are far-reaching. Beyond the damage done to a drug abuser's health and well-being, the families and loved ones of drug abusers are often the ones suffering silently and invisibly as they shoulder the emotional, financial and sometimes even physical fallout of their loved one's drug addiction. The community also bears the consequences of

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<sup>1</sup> Key Findings and Conclusions, World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

<sup>2</sup> Key Findings and Possible Responses (Part 2: Drug use harms and impacts), World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

<sup>3</sup> News Release: Eight Convicted for Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Offences, Central Narcotics Bureau, February 2025

<sup>4</sup> The "2022 Health and Lifestyle Survey" was conducted by the Institute of Mental Health and included questions on consumption of illicit drugs. The drug related findings from the study can be found [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> 2023 National Drug Perception Survey, National Council Against Drug Abuse, February 2024

the fallout. We have seen cases where innocent members of the community become victims of drug-related crimes committed by abusers under the influence of drugs. We cannot, and must not, allow the drug problem to take root and fester.

As we continue to uphold our tough enforcement stance and collaborate with our DrugFreeSG advocates and partners on preventive drug education programmes, we call on the public to take a strong stand against drugs. Parents especially, have a crucial role to play - by actively engaging their children in conversations about the harms of drugs, we can better safeguard them from misinformation and misleading ideas that normalise drug-taking behaviours. We need to work together for a healthier and drug-free future for our children.

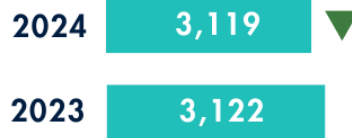
**Leon Chan**  
**Acting Director, Central Narcotics Bureau**

# KEY DRUG STATISTICS 2024

## New Drug Abusers Arrested



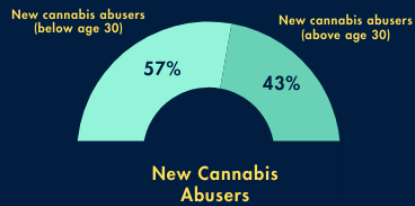
## Total Drug Abusers Arrested



31% of arrested abusers were new abusers.  
About 52% of new drug abusers arrested were below the age of 30

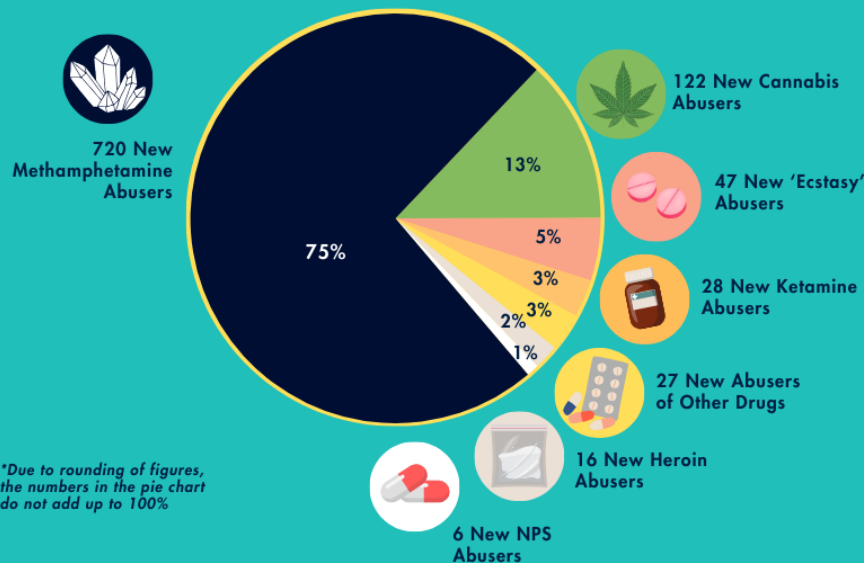


61% of **cannabis** abusers arrested were new abusers, of which 57% were below the age of 30



## New Abusers by Drug Type

Methamphetamine, Cannabis and Ecstasy were the three most commonly abused drugs by new drug abusers arrested in 2024



**NOTE:**  
2023 figures are confirmed and 2024 figures are provisional.  
In this report, 2024 refers to the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

## OVERVIEW

### 1. Areas of concern

- The number of new drug abusers below 20 years old arrested in 2024 increased by 30% from 2023, with more than half under the age of 30.
- 75% of the new drug abusers arrested in 2024 were methamphetamine abusers, up from 63% in 2023.
- The number of cannabis abusers arrested in 2024 remained higher than the annual average recorded over the past 10 years. 61% of cannabis abusers arrested in 2024 were new cannabis abusers.

### 2. Relentless enforcement to curb drug supply and demand, and to deprive offenders of illicit financial gains

- CNB dismantled 25 drug syndicates in 2024, including syndicates using the Telegram platform.
- CNB made significant drug seizures with an estimated market value of about S\$13.5 million.
- CNB took decisive actions against drug activities and deprived offenders of illicit financial gains derived from drug dealings.<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Preventive drug education (PDE) outreach and engagement

- In 2024, CNB intensified our PDE efforts with our partners, including government agencies, community groups and DrugFreeSG advocates, to educate and engage different segments of the community on the harms of drugs, empowering Singaporeans to stay drug-free.
- For example, as part of the initiatives by the Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC) on Drug Prevention for Youths, Singapore has designated every third Friday of May as Drug Victims Remembrance Day, to drive across the strong message that the harms of drugs are far-reaching, and require a strong, collective response from society.

### 4. Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA)

- CNB continues to review our laws to ensure they remain effective against emerging drug trends.
- The statutory framework to deal with psychoactive substances commenced on 1 June 2024. This allows CNB to address substances that mimic the effects of harmful and dangerous controlled drugs listed in the MDA, even if these substances are not yet classified as controlled drugs.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> News Release: Eight Convicted for Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Offences, Central Narcotics Bureau, February 2025

<sup>7</sup> Commencement of the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2023 [Second Tranche] and Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 2023, Ministry of Home Affairs, May 2024

## I. GLOBAL DRUG SITUATION

Globally, the number of drug abusers continues to increase and remains high. According to the World Drug Report (WDR) 2024, the number of drug abusers has risen to 292 million, marking a 20% increase from just a decade ago.<sup>8</sup> There are now 566 New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) on the market, of which, 44 are newly identified NPS. There is the emergence of nitazenes, a group of synthetic opioids, in several high-income countries. Some nitazenes are more potent than fentanyl and have led to fatal outcomes and a surge in overdose deaths.

2. Cannabis remains the most widely used drug globally with an estimated 228 million abusers, accounting for 79% of total drug abusers worldwide.<sup>9</sup> The harmful effects of cannabis use among adolescents remain a concern in many regions. For example, in Canada and the state of Colorado, hospitalisations related to cannabis use have increased, particularly for cannabis-induced psychosis and withdrawal, with young people being disproportionately affected.<sup>10</sup>

3. As of January 2024, Canada, Uruguay and 27 jurisdictions in the United States have enacted legal provisions allowing the production and sale of cannabis for non-medical use. In jurisdictions in Canada and the United States where the supply chain for non-medical cannabis has been legalised, data shows an increase in hospitalisations, psychiatric disorders and suicide attempts associated with regular cannabis use. Some jurisdictions in the United States which previously decriminalised the possession of cannabis or other drugs for personal use are now either reconsidering or reversing their earlier decisions.<sup>11</sup>

## II. LOCAL DRUG SITUATION IN 2024

4. In 2024, CNB arrested 3,119 drug abusers, comparable to the 3,122 drug abusers arrested in 2023.

5. The number of new drug abusers arrested increased by 1%, from 952 in 2023 to 966 in 2024. The number of repeat drug abusers arrested decreased by 1% from 2,170 in 2023 to 2,153 in 2024. 52% of new drug abusers arrested in 2024 were under 30 years old, compared to 51% in 2023.

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<sup>8</sup> Press Release, World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

<sup>9</sup> Key Findings and Conclusions, World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

<sup>10</sup> Special Points of Interest, World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

<sup>11</sup> Key Findings and Conclusions, World Drug Report 2024, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2024

6. CNB made significant drug seizures in 2024. The drugs seized were estimated to have a street value of about S\$13.5 million. The breakdown of drug seizures is as follows:

- Methamphetamine seizures increased by 35.2%, from 24.38kg in 2023 to 32.96kg in 2024.
- Cannabis seizures rose by 3.1%, from 70.19kg in 2023 to 72.36kg in 2024.
- Heroin seizures declined by 21.0%, from 83.00kg in 2023 to 65.55kg in 2024.

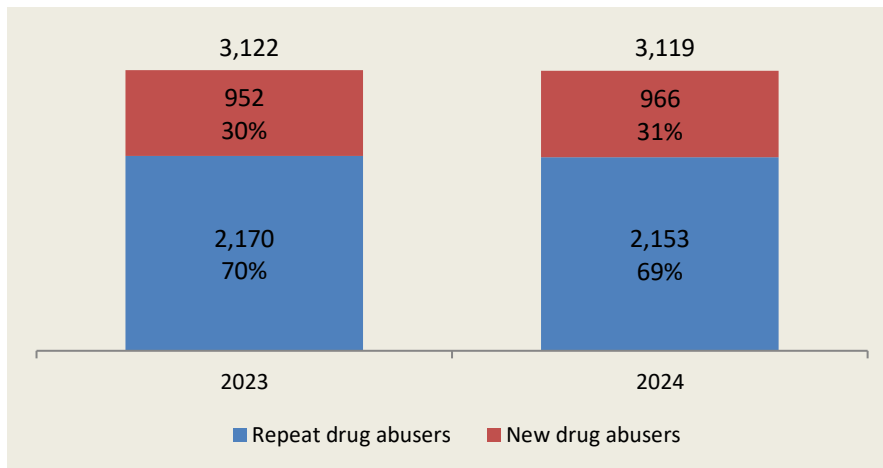
7. Methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis were the three most commonly abused drugs in 2024; 95% of drug abusers were arrested for abusing at least one of these substances. For new drug abusers, methamphetamine, cannabis, and 'Ecstasy' were the three most commonly abused drugs; 92% of them had abused at least one of these three drugs.

Local Drug Seizures in 2024					
Drug type	2023	2024	% change in seizure	Estimated market value 2023	Estimated market value 2024
Heroin No.3	83.00kg	65.55kg	-21.0%	≈S\$15.58 million	≈S\$13.50 million
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	24.38kg	32.96kg	+35.2%		
Cannabis	70.19kg	72.36kg	+3.1%		
Cocaine	117.37g	186.86g	+59.2%		
'Ecstasy'	7,899 tablets + 3,082.48g	2,799 tablets + 1,820.64g	-64.6% (tablets) -40.9% (weight)		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	197 tablets	199 tablets	+1.0%		
Ketamine	5.96kg + 1,247 tablets	8.49kg + 3,537 tablets	+42.4% (weight) +183.6% (tablets)		
Erimin-5	8,260 tablets	26,596 tablets	+222.0%		
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones)	3,289 tablets + 616.21g + 57 bottles	227 tablets + 1,509.02g + 129 bottles	-93.1% (tablets) +144.9% (weight) +126.3% (bottles)		

### III. Local Drug Abusers – Overall

8. CNB arrested 3,119 drug abusers in 2024. New drug abusers arrested increased by 1% from 952 in 2023 to 966 in 2024 (refer to Chart 1).

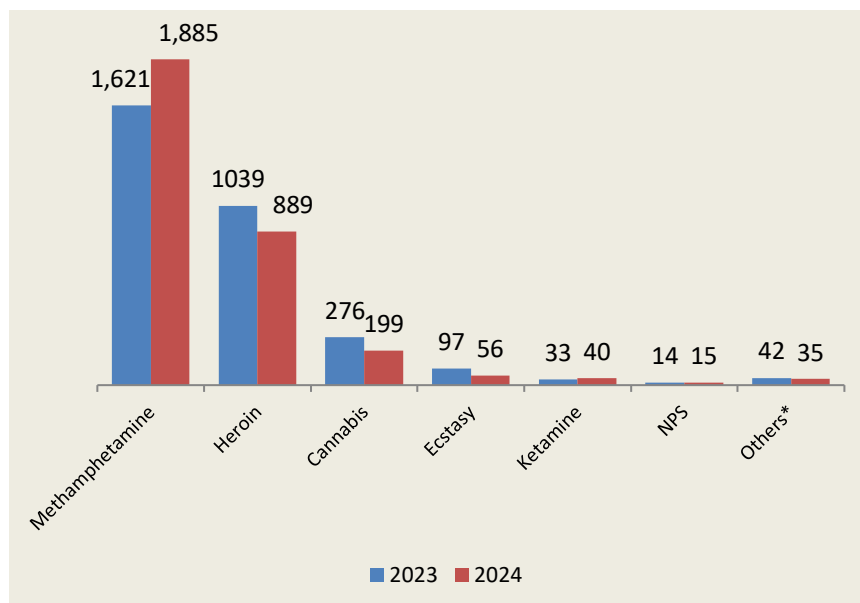
**Chart 1: Total and new drug abusers**



### IV. Local Drug Abusers – By Drug Type

9. Methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis were the three most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 1,885 methamphetamine abusers (60%), 889 heroin abusers (29%), and 199 cannabis abusers (6%) were arrested in 2024 (refer to Chart 2).

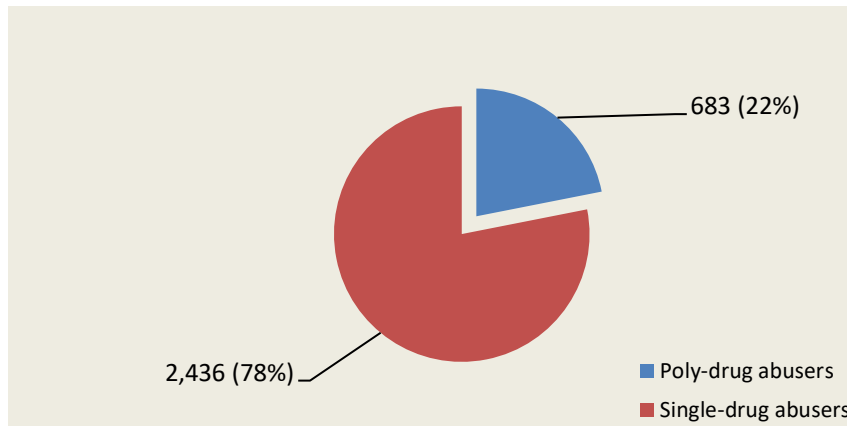
**Chart 2: Total abusers by drug type**



\*Others include Cocaine, GHB, LSD, Methadone, Methylphenidate, and Nimetazepam

10. Of the 3,119 drug abusers arrested in 2024, 683 (22%) were poly-drug abusers, i.e., persons who abused more than one type of drug (refer to Chart 2a).

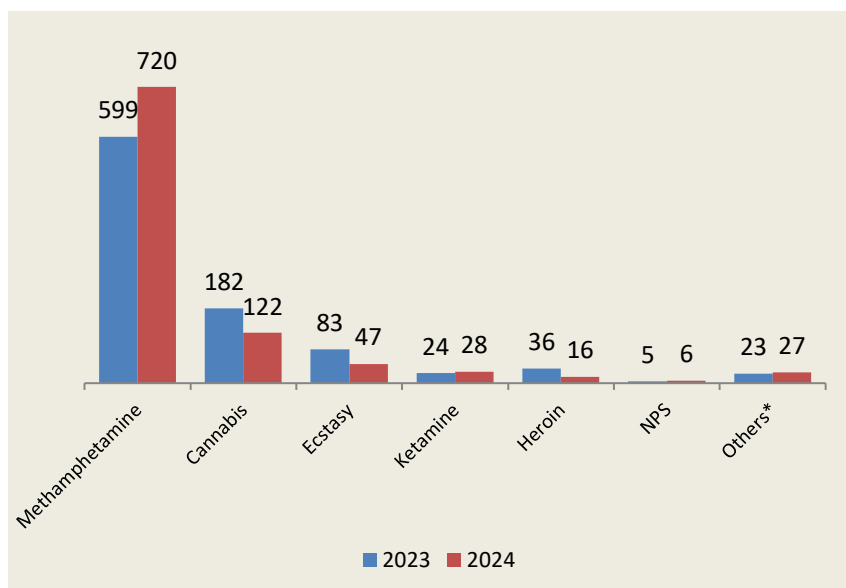
**Chart 2a: Breakdown of single/poly-drug abusers in 2024**



11. Methamphetamine abusers made up the largest proportion of all new drug abusers arrested. Of the 966 new drug abusers arrested, 720 (75%) abused methamphetamine; a 20% increase from the 599 arrested in 2023 (refer to Chart 2b). Of the 720 new methamphetamine abusers arrested, 53% were below 30 years old.

12. 61% of cannabis abusers arrested were new cannabis abusers. Those below 30 years old continued to form the largest proportion among both total cannabis abusers arrested and new cannabis abusers arrested, at 49% and 57%, respectively.

**Chart 2b: Total new abusers by drug type**



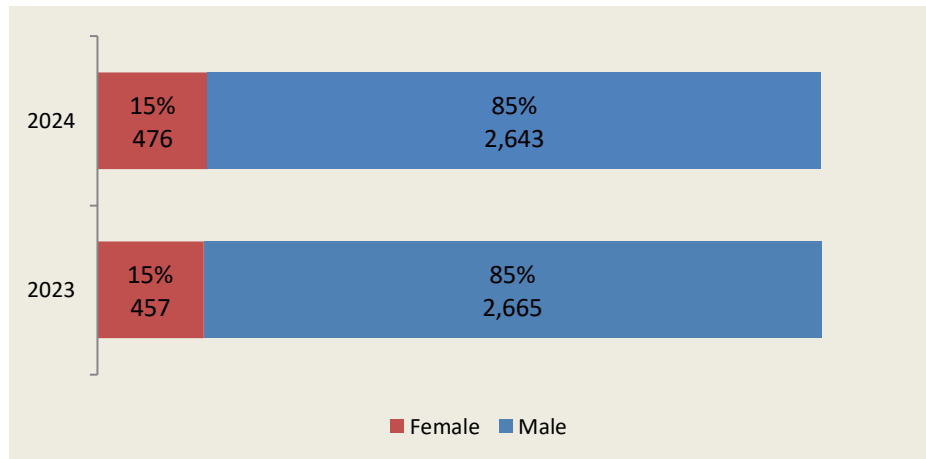
\*Others include Cocaine, GHB, LSD, Methylphenidate, and Nimetazepam



## V. Local Drug Abusers – By Sex

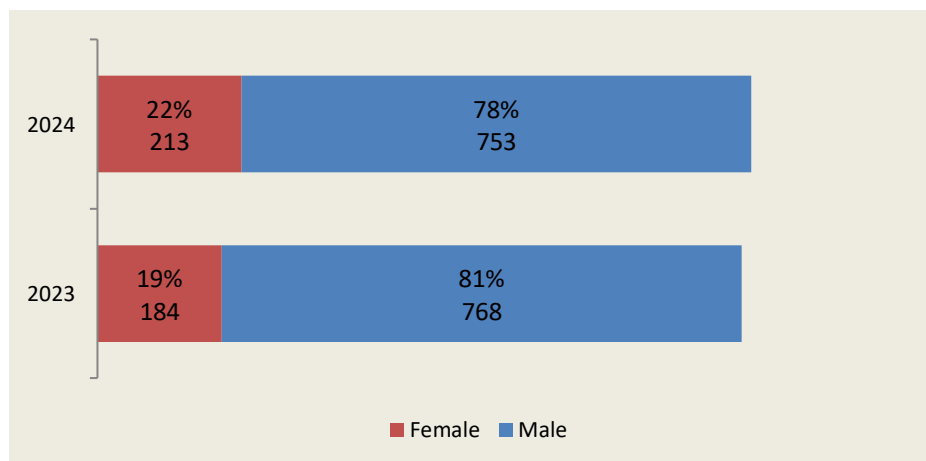
13. The number of female drug abusers arrested increased by 4%, from 457 in 2023 to 476 in 2024. Male drug abusers continue to form the majority of those arrested (85%) (refer to Chart 3).

**Chart 3: Total abusers by sex**



14. In 2024, 213 (22%) of all new drug abusers arrested were female (refer to Chart 3a).

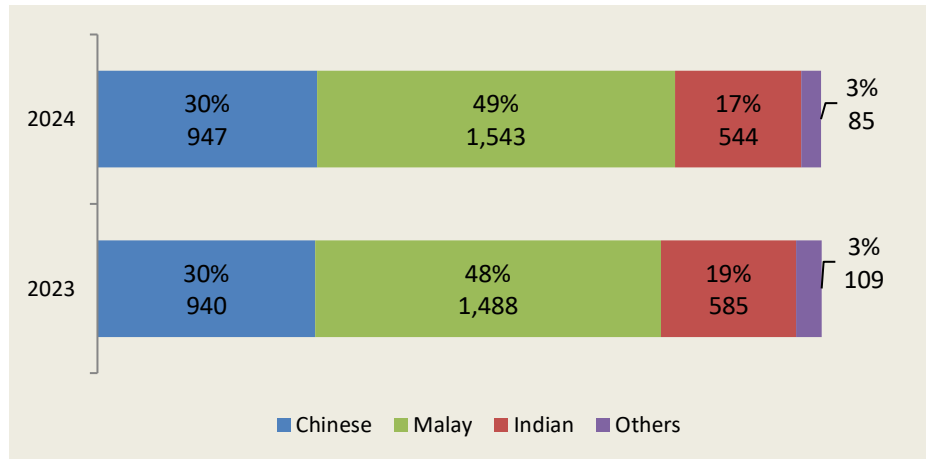
**Chart 3a: Total new abusers by sex**



## VI. Local Drug Abusers – By Ethnic Group

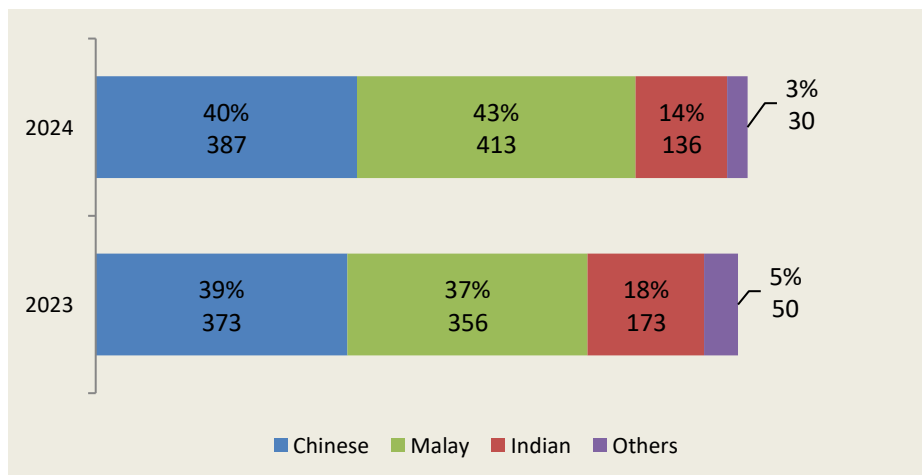
15. In 2024, the number of Chinese and Malay drug abusers arrested increased, while the number of Indian drug abusers arrested decreased. The proportion of drug abusers by ethnic group remained similar to that of 2023 (refer to Chart 4).

**Chart 4: Total abusers by ethnic group**



16. Similarly, the number of Chinese and Malay new drug abusers arrested increased, while the number of Indian new drug abusers arrested decreased in 2024 (refer to Chart 4a).

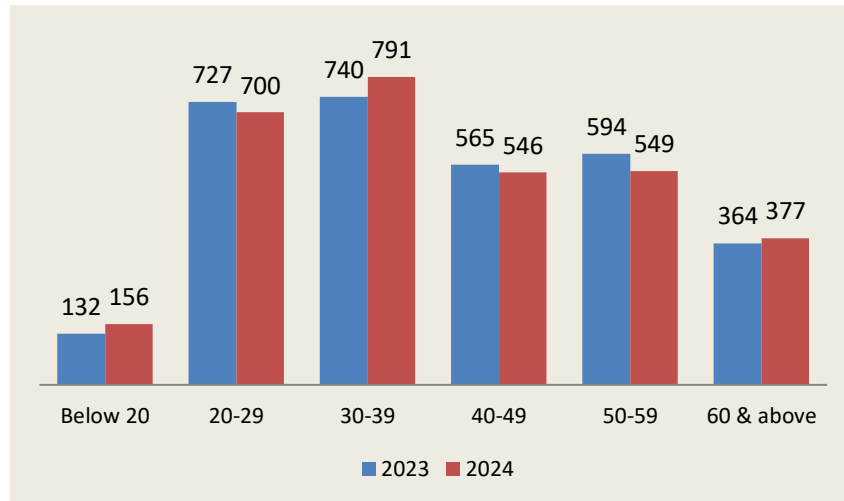
**Chart 4a: New abusers by ethnic group**



## VII. Local Drug Abusers – By Age

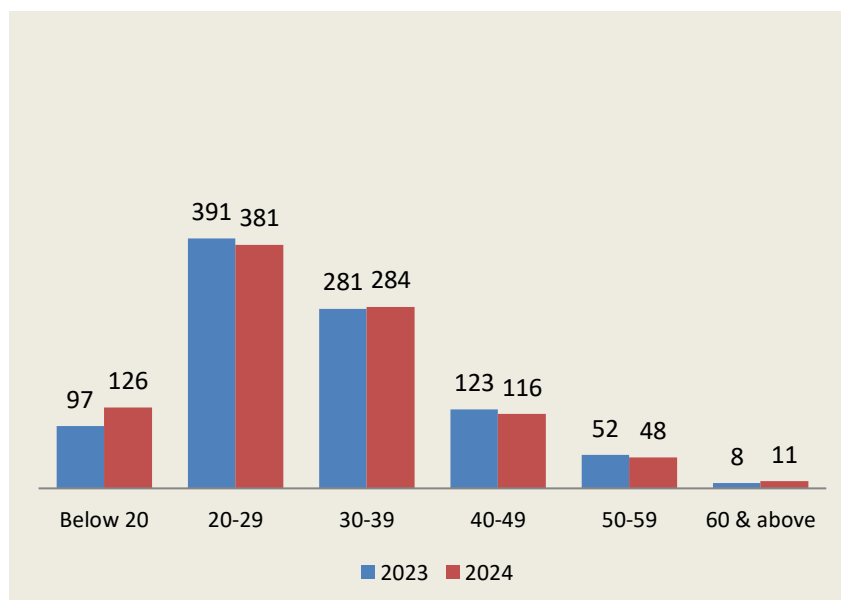
17. In 2024, 856 (27%) of all drug abusers arrested were below 30 years old. The number of arrested drug abusers below 20 years old increased by 18%, from 132 in 2023 to 156 in 2024, and continued to increase for the second consecutive year (refer to Chart 5).

**Chart 5: Total abusers by age**



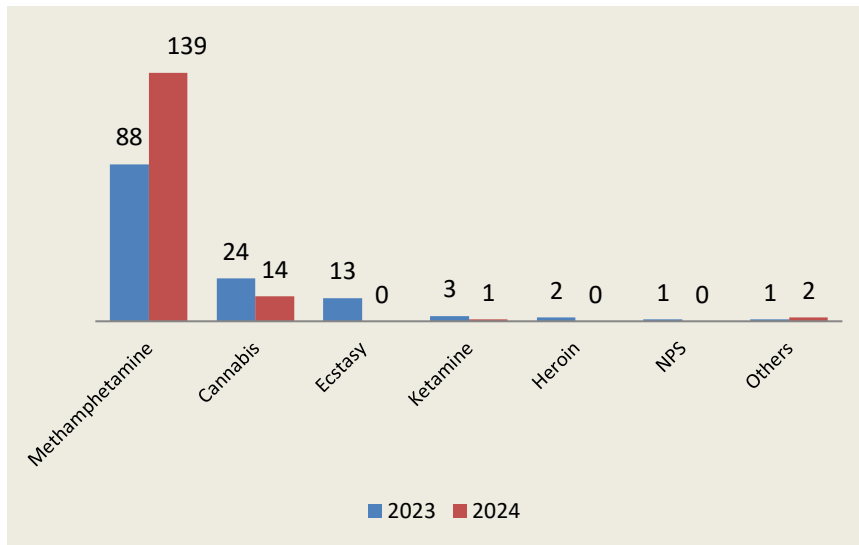
18. In 2024, 507 (52%) of all new drug abusers arrested were aged below 30. The number of arrested new drug abusers below 20 years old increased by 30%, from 97 in 2023 to 126 in 2024 (refer to Chart 5a).

**Chart 5a: Total new abusers by age**



19. Methamphetamine abusers continued to form the majority (139 out of 156 or 89%) of the drug abusers below 20 years old arrested (refer to Chart 6).

**Chart 6: Abusers below 20 years old by drug type**



\*Others include Cocaine

## **IX. PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION (PDE) IS A KEY COMPONENT OF OUR STRATEGY**

20. PDE is a key tenet in our harm prevention approach and serves as the first line of defence in Singapore's drug control strategy. Through a whole-of-government approach, strong community partnerships and a dedicated network of volunteers, CNB aims to equip youths and the public with accurate information about drugs, teach them how to stay drug-free, and empower them to make informed choices while positively influencing their loved ones and peers.

21. Strong support from the community, especially parents and schools, is crucial in Singapore's fight against drugs. We encourage more organisations, partners and members of the public who are passionate about the anti-drug cause to join us in speaking out against drug abuse, and in building a drug-free future for our children.

22. The highlights of our PDE initiatives in 2024 are at [Annex](#).

**ISSUED BY:  
CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU  
12 February 2025**

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