



National Drug Observatory Report 2022

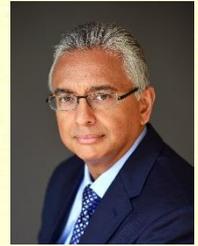
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November 2023



Prime Minister
Republic of Mauritius



FOREWORD

When we came to government, we brought a Vision of a new policy to win the war against drugs. Since then, we have been steadfastly moving towards our goal. Today, the results we have achieved show that we are on the right path.

To guide our national response to the problem, we have been collecting and analysing drug-related data from different stakeholders in the fields of supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. This challenging exercise is conducted by the National Drug Secretariat (NDS), which operates under the aegis of my office.

The findings and conclusions reached by the NDS are summarised in the present National Drug Observatory Report. It presents data that highlight the success of our evidence-informed policy-making and indicates a well-executed implementation of strategic plans.

However, the present report is, at the same time, a stark reminder that, despite recent progress, much remains to be done. We need to continually adapt our approach in confronting new modalities of drug trafficking and in supporting people who have been engulfed in the abyss of drug consumption.

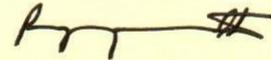
The national monitoring system was set up by the NDS in 2021 to facilitate collection, compilation, and reporting of data related to measures taken to counter the drug threat. The monitoring system has been performing quite effectively at the different service points of government bodies and NGOs dedicated to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Not everyone in the society is equally impacted by the drug phenomenon. Social and economic factors are amongst the crucial determinants leading people to drug use. High quality data that match this ground reality will lead to better decision-making, improved interventions and optimal use of available resources.

This NDO report goes beyond the achievements of authorities and actions undertaken in response to the drug threat. It also illustrates the devastating effects of drugs on human life and emphasises the responsibility of each and every one in combatting illicit production, trafficking and distribution of drugs.

The drug problem is multifaceted. Implementation of policies will require partnerships among a whole range of actors. I urge all relevant actors to make use of the Monitoring and Evaluation tools that will provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

I have no doubt that these tools will help us all to advance, together, in the fight against illicit drugs.



*Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister*

04 December 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The National Drug Secretariat also wishes to extend its thanks to Mrs Bilkiss Rajahbalee-Cader, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity Division) as well as to the Statistics Mauritius for its collaboration in the formulation of the National Drug Observatory Report 2022.

The collective effort of the team of the National Drug Secretariat is also acknowledged.

Our thanks also go to all other stakeholders who contributed through provision of data generated by the respective services as listed below:

- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology;
- Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- Mauritius Police Force;
- Statistics Mauritius/The Judiciary;
- Mauritius Revenue Authority;
- Forensic Science Laboratory; and
- Non-Governmental Organisations.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As at December 2022, the population of the Republic of Mauritius stood at 1.26 million inhabitants. The population of children aged less than 15 years represented 16% of the total population, while the adult population aged 15-64 years accounted for 71% of the total population.

Drug offence and drug related conviction

In 2022, with 4,502 reported drug offences, the drug offence rate stood at 3.6 per 1,000 population. From 2021 to 2022, the number of reported drug offences decreased by 6.7% from 4,826 to 4,502.

In 2022, out of the 4,502 drug offences reported, 43.0% were cannabis-related offences, followed by 30.0% for heroin-related offences, while 17.8% of drug offences were attributed to synthetic cannabinoids. Other drugs, comprising mainly methadone and hashish, stood at 5.5% while sedatives/tranquilizers accounted for only 3.7%.

In 2022, the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) of the Mauritius Police Force reported 3,860 drug offence cases, out of which, there were 3,027 arrests. During the period 2018-2022, the average annual number of cases and arrests by the ADSU were 3,518 and 3,107 respectively.

In 2022, ADSU drug-related arrests were mainly due to opioids (43.0%), mostly heroin and few buprenorphine cases. Secondly, cannabis products, consisting mainly of herbs and few hashish (cannabis resin), represented 34.4% of arrests. The remaining arrests were due to: new psychoactive substances (22.7%), CNS depressants (2.3%) and CNS stimulants, namely cocaine and methamphetamine (0.2%).

During the period 2018-2022, the reported street value of drugs seized by the ADSU amounted to 11.0 billion rupees, out of which, around 8.3 billion rupees (75.5%) were associated to seizures of heroin.

During the period 2018-2022, MRA Customs has performed 351 seizure cases, out of which 161 (45.9%) were associated with cannabis products (seeds, herbs and hashish). Some 29.6% were for opioids, 13.7% were new psychoactive substances, 5.4% were hallucinogens and CNS stimulants, psychotropic substances and other unspecified drugs seizure cases were 3.1%, 0.6% and 1.7% respectively. Number of drug seizures by MRA Customs in 2022 were 55 compared to 126 cases in 2019 which was the highest number of seizures for the 5 year's period.

In 2022, 86.5% of convicted drug offences were sentenced with fines, against 12.9% imprisonment. Some 0.6% was sentenced to conditional and absolute discharges.

Health effects of drug use in Mauritius

From 2021 to 2022, admissions in public health institutions following complications due to drug use increased by 8.7% from 927 in 2021 to 1,008 in 2022. For the same period, male drug-use-related admissions increased by 4.5% from 864 to 903 while those of female went up by 66.7% from 63 to 105 in female.

The cumulative number of admissions for the 5-year period 2018-2022 amounted to 4,607 out of which 7.0% were female and the average annual number of admissions was 921.

In 2022, some 59.8% admissions in public hospitals were in the age group of 20-34 years. Those aged less than 20 years represented 6%, predominantly teenagers in the age group of 15-19 years.

The urban region represented 50.5% of all drug-related admissions in public hospitals against 49.5% for the rural region. An analysis by district shows that Moka had the least reported number of admissions compared to Port Louis with the highest figure.

In 2022, 80.8% of drug-use-related admissions were reported due to presumable use of new psychoactive substances and/or heroin. However, consumption of new psychoactive substances was the leading reported presumable cause necessitating inpatient treatment in public hospitals, with 50.1% of the drug-use-related admissions.

The health programmatic response to drug use

In 2022, some 789,167 needles and 766,394 syringes were distributed to people who inject drugs. Out of the 766,394 syringes, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) distributed 53.1% against 46.9% for the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW).

In 2022, 60.1% of the persons registered in the Needle Exchange Programme were at the MOH&W and the remaining 39.9% were at NGOs. Overall, there were 88.1% male and 11.9% female clients accessing the Needle Exchange Programme.

In 2022, the five Addiction Units under MOHW registered 1,030 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment due to drug use. Follow-up cases at the five Addiction Units amounted to 4,663 with an average monthly number of 389. Among the new cases at Addiction Units, the majority (83.1%) were between 18 and 39 years and 13.4% aged 40 years and above. In 2022, some 82.6% of all new patients seeking rehabilitative treatment were using primarily heroin compared to 72.4% in 2021.

New cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at Non-Government Organisations

In 2022, the majority (78.7%) of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at NGOs aged between 18 and 39 years. New cases under 18 represented only 2.2% while those aged 40 years and above stood at 19.1%.

From 2021 to 2022, there were decreases in new cases for all age groups, with a particular high drop (-55.4%) for the age group under 18 years while the overall decrease was 21.6% for all other age group.

In 2022, at NGO rehabilitative centres, women represented 22.0% among new psychoactive-substance-use patients and 33.6% among polydrug use patients, as compared to new heroin-use patients among whom women represented only 18.3%, whereby among cannabis use patients it represented 13.3%. Overall, female patients represented 18.9% of all new clients attending NGOs in 2021.

The distribution of primary substance of use among the total of 1,862 new patients attending NGO centres in 2022 was as follows: heroin (75.1%), new psychoactive substances (4.9%), cannabis (5.6%), polydrug use (6.1%) and unspecified substances (5.3%).

CHAPTER 1

ADMISSIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS FOLLOWING COMPLICATIONS DUE TO DRUG USE

In 2022, among the 1,008 admissions in public health institutions 903 (89.6%) were male. Compared to year 2021, admissions increased by 4.5% from 864 to 903 among males and 66.7% from 63 to 105 among females.

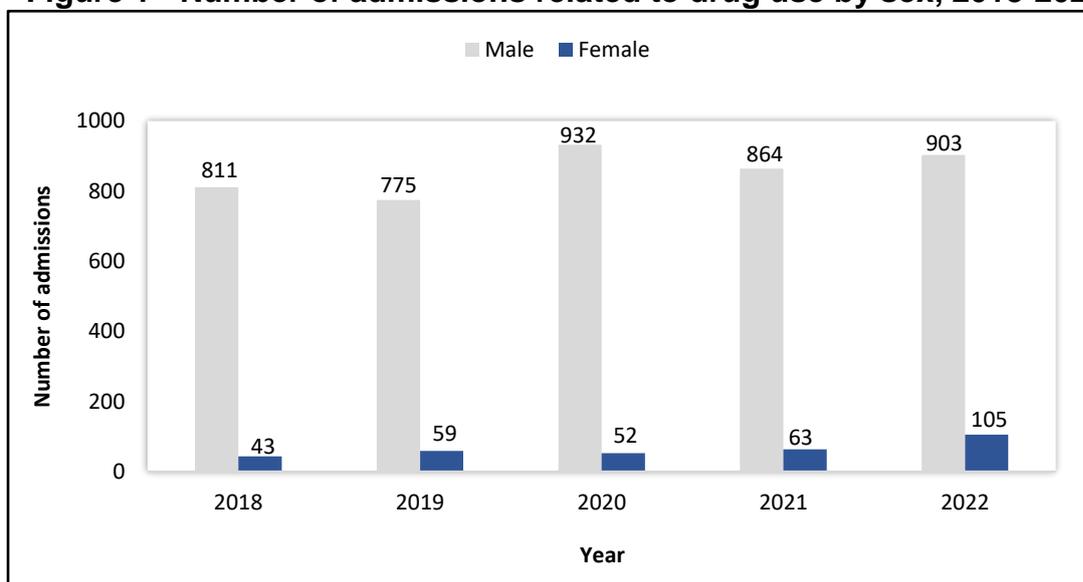
The cumulative number of admissions for the 5-year period 2018-2022 amounted to 4,607 out of which 7.0% were female and the average annual number was 921 (Table 1).

Table 1 - Number of admissions related to drug use, 2018 – 2022

Sex	Number of admissions					% change 2022 over 2021	Yearly average no. of admissions
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Male	811	775	932	864	903	4.5	857
Female	43	59	52	63	105	66.7	64
Both sexes	854	834	984	927	1,008	8.7	921

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 1 - Number of admissions related to drug use by sex, 2018-2022



In 2022, the age distribution of drug-related inpatient treatment cases in public health institutions was as follows; Under 15 years (0.6%), 15-19 years (5.4%), 20-24 years (19.1%), 25-34 years (40.7%), 35-49 years (23.3%) and 50 years and above (10.9%).

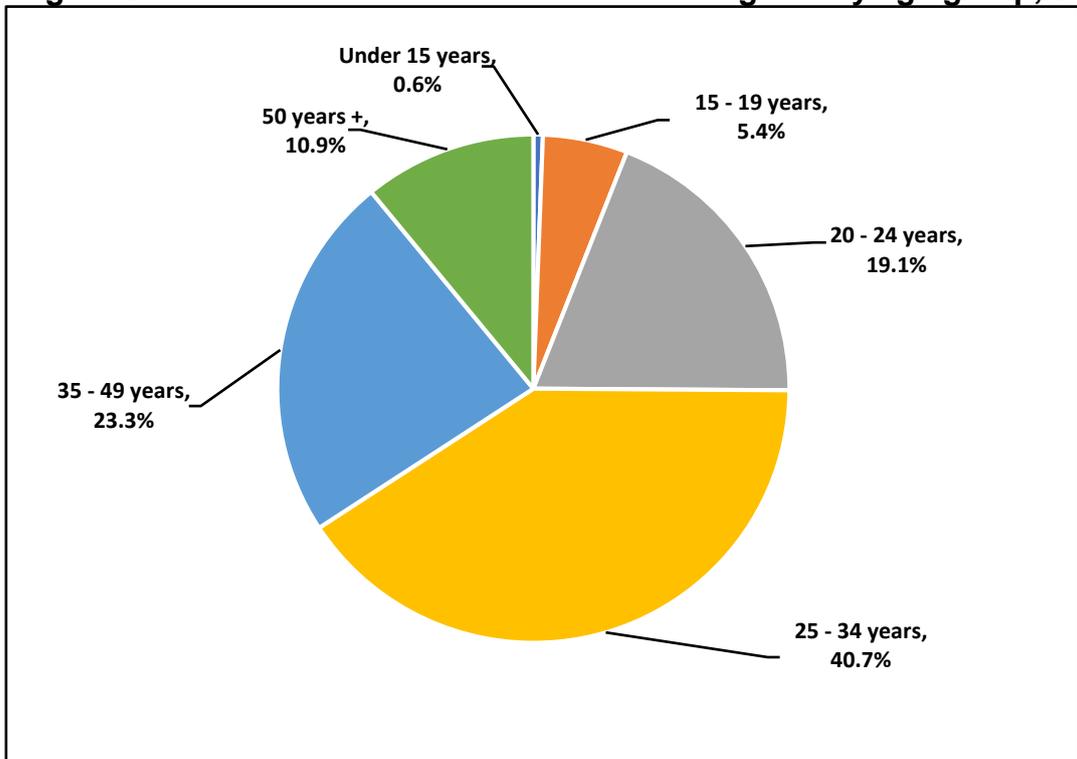
Male admissions related to drug use were highest in the age group 25-29 years with 24.7% while for female, admissions were highest in the age group 20-24 years with 21.0%. Admissions in the age group 20-49 years represented 83.4% for male and 80.9% for female (Table 2).

Table 2 - Number of admissions related to drug use by age group and sex, 2022

Age group (Years)	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Both Sexes	Percentage (%)
0 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10-14	5	0.6	1	1.0	6	0.6
15 - 19	43	4.8	11	10.5	54	5.4
20 - 24	171	18.9	22	21.0	193	19.1
25 - 29	223	24.7	20	19.0	243	24.1
30 - 34	155	17.2	12	11.4	167	16.6
35 - 39	71	7.9	18	17.1	89	8.8
40 - 49	133	14.7	13	12.4	146	14.5
50 - 59	62	6.9	5	4.8	67	6.6
60+	40	4.4	3	2.9	43	4.3
Total	903	100.0	105	100.0	1,008	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 2 – Number of admissions related to drug use by age group, 2022



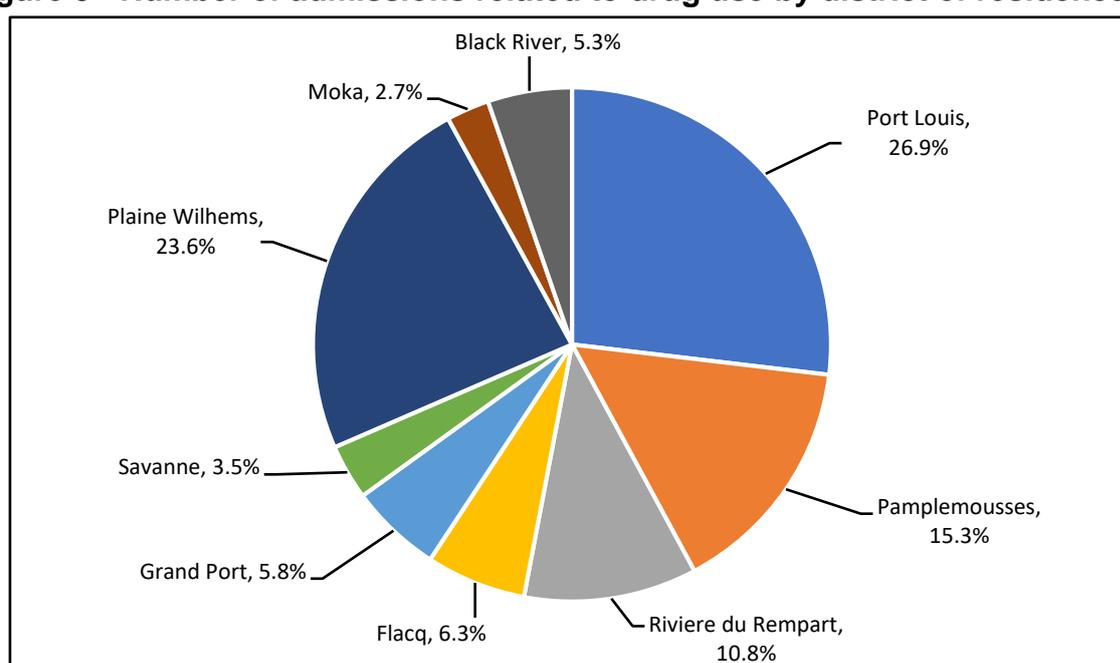
An analysis of admissions in Public Health Institutions following complications due to drug use by district of residence shows that Port Louis (26.9%) had the highest number of admissions followed by Plaine Wilhems (23.6%) while Moka (2.7%) had the lowest number of admissions (Table 3).

Table 3 - Number of admissions related to drug use by district of residence and sex, 2022

District	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Both Sex	Percentage (%)
Port Louis	236	26.1	35	33.3	271	26.9
Pamplemousses	135	15	19	18.1	154	15.3
Rivière du Rempart	97	10.7	12	11.4	109	10.8
Flacq	61	6.8	2	1.9	63	6.3
Grand Port	54	6	4	3.8	58	5.8
Savanne	32	3.5	3	2.9	35	3.5
Plaine Wilhems	215	23.8	23	21.9	238	23.6
Moka	25	2.8	2	1.9	27	2.7
Black River	48	5.3	5	4.8	53	5.3
Total	903	100.0	105	100.0	1,008	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 3 - Number of admissions related to drug use by district of residence, 2022



New psychoactive substances continue to be the most consumed presumed illicit substances responsible for drug-use-related admissions in public health institutions. In 2022, some 50.1% of these admissions were reportedly attributed to complications following use of New Psychoactive substances followed by opioids with 30.7%. Abuse of medicinal products and cannabis had a percentage admission of 6.9% and 6.0% respectively. The remaining 6.4% were cases of admissions due to use of other unspecified drugs including the use of cocaine. New psychoactive substances were the mostly used drug among male with 50.7% compared to female with 44.8%.

Opioids related admissions were higher among female (35.2%) compared to male (30.1%) (Table 4).

Table 4 – Number of cases of Inpatient treatment related to drug use by presumed illicit substance used, and by sex, 2022

Presumed illicit substance used	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Both Sexes	Percentage (%)
New psychoactive substances ¹	458	50.7	47	44.8	505	50.1
Opioids	272	30.1	37	35.2	309	30.7
Cocaine	2	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.2
Cannabis	54	6.0	6	5.7	60	6.0
Abuse of Medicinal Products ²	65	7.2	5	4.8	70	6.9
Other Unspecified ³	52	5.8	10	9.5	62	6.2
Total	903	100.0	105	100.0	1,008	100.0

¹ also known as Synthetic drugs which comprise Specified, Mixed and Unspecified Synthetic drugs

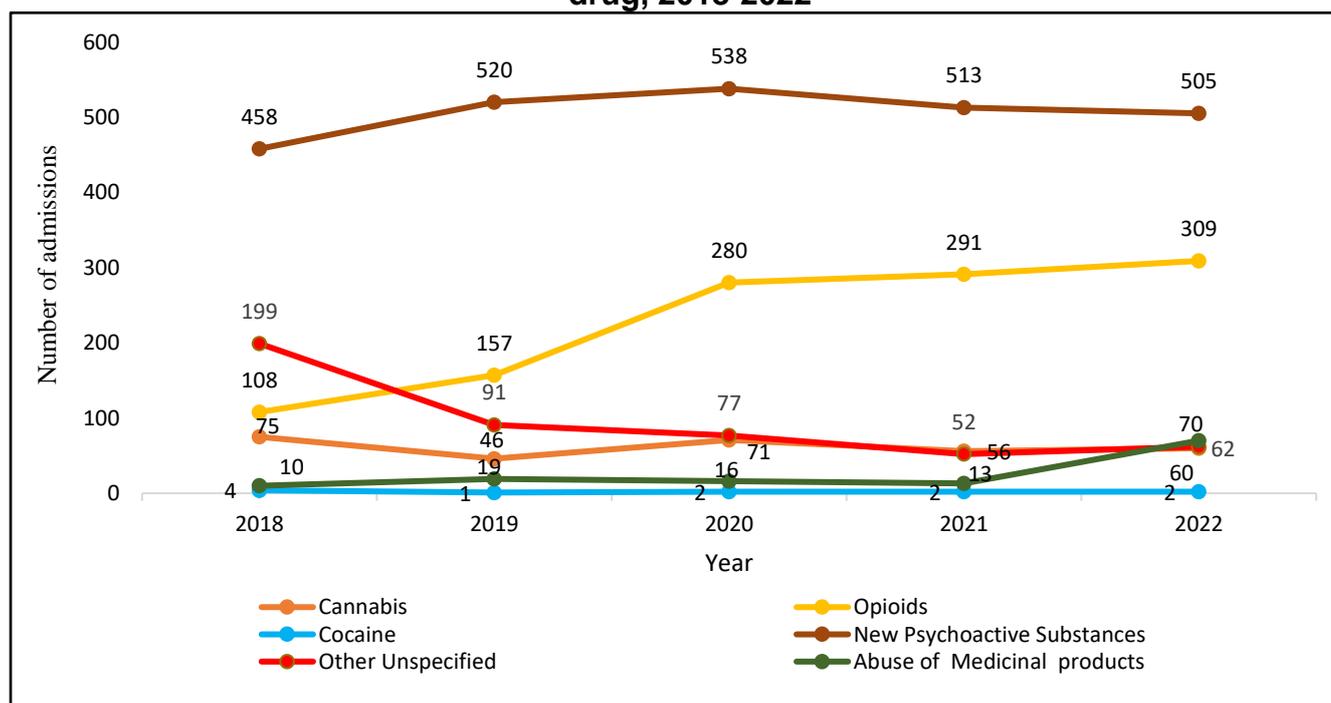
² comprises of Subutex, Methadone, Valium and Other Medicinal products

³ comprises of Mixed Illicit / Medicinal, Mixed Unspecified drugs and Unspecified drugs

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 4 shows a trend in the distribution of presumed drugs used among drug-use-related inpatients in public hospitals from 2018 to 2022. It clearly depicts the persistent trend about opioids and new psychoactive substances as being the two mostly reported drugs consumed among cases of admissions.

Figure 4 – Number of cases of Inpatient treatment in Public Health Institutions by type of drug, 2018-2022



Admissions due to cannabis, opioids and new psychoactive substances are higher in the age group 25-29 years for both sexes. As regards to abuse of medicinal products, 48.6% were aged 50 years and above. (Table 5)

Table 5 – Percentage distribution of drug-use-related admissions by age group in 2022

Age Group (Years)	Cannabis /Marijuana			Opioids			Cocaine			New psychoactive substances			Abuse of medicinal Products			Other Unspecified			All Drugs			
	(%)			(%)			(%)			(%)			(%)			(%)						
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	
Under 15	0.0	16.7	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.6
15 - 19	7.4	33.3	10.0	4.4	5.4	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	14.9	6.3	1.5	0.0	1.4	1.9	0.0	1.6	4.8	10.5	5.4	
20 - 24	14.8	16.7	15.0	19.9	21.6	20.1	5.0	0.0	50.0	20.3	25.5	20.8	4.6	0.0	4.3	23.1	10.0	21	18.9	21.0	19.1	
25 - 29	29.6	0.0	26.7	30.5	29.7	30.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.2	17.0	23.6	10.8	0.0	10.0	11.5	10.0	11.3	24.7	19.0	24.1	
30 - 34	18.5	16.7	18.3	21.0	16.2	20.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.6	0.0	15.8	7.7	0.0	7.1	13.5	10.0	12.9	17.2	11.4	16.6	
35 - 39	1.9	0.0	1.7	7.4	18.9	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5	21.3	9.7	4.6	0.0	4.3	15.4	10.0	14.5	7.9	17.1	8.8	
40 - 49	20.4	16.7	20.0	10.3	2.7	9.4	50.0	0.0	50.0	15.3	12.8	15	23.1	40.0	24.3	15.4	30.0	17.7	14.7	12.4	14.5	
50 - 59	7.4	0.0	6.7	4.4	2.7	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	5.0	26.2	60.0	28.6	7.7	10.0	8.1	6.9	4.8	6.6	
60+	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	3.0	21.5	0.0	20.0	11.5	20.0	12.9	4.4	2.9	4.3	
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of cases	n = 54	n = 6	n = 60	n = 272	n = 37	n = 309	n = 2	n = 0	n = 2	n = 458	n = 47	n = 505	n = 65	n = 5	n = 70	n = 52	n = 10	n = 62	n = 903	n = 105	n = 1008	

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In all the age groups, it is noted that the number of admissions is mostly predominant for those who are using synthetic drugs with the lowest proportion (36.4%) in the age group 50 years and above. On the other hand, the highest proportion (66.7%) using synthetic drugs were aged less 15 years (Table 6).

Table 6 – Percentage distribution of admissions by type of presumed substance used, age group and sex, 2022

Type of presumed substance used	Under 15			15 - 19			20 - 24			25 - 29			30 - 34			35 - 39			40 - 49			50 +			Total			
	%			%			%			%			%			%			%			%						
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes				
Cannabis/Marijuana	0.0	100.0	16.7	9.3	18.2	11.1	4.7	4.5	4.7	7.2	0.0	6.6	6.5	8.3	6.6	1.4	0.0	1.1	8.3	7.7	8.2	3.9	0.0	3.6	6.0	5.7	6.0	
Opioids	20.0	0.0	16.7	27.9	18.2	25.9	31.6	36.4	32.1	37.2	55.0	38.7	36.8	50.1	37.7	28.2	38.9	30.3	21.1	7.7	19.9	16.7	25.0	17.3	30.1	35.2	30.7	
Cocaine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	
New Psychoactive substances	80.0	0.0	66.6	58.2	63.6	59.2	54.3	54.6	54.4	49.8	40.0	48.9	49.0	33.3	47.9	54.9	55.5	55.1	52.5	46.1	52.1	39.2	0.0	36.4	50.7	44.8	50.0	
Abuse of Medicinal products	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.9	1.8	0.0	1.6	3.1	0.0	2.9	3.2	0.0	3.0	4.2	0.0	3.4	11.3	15.4	11.6	30.4	37.5	30.9	7.2	4.8	6.9	
Other Unspecified	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.9	7.0	4.5	6.7	2.7	5.0	2.9	4.5	8.3	4.8	11.3	5.6	10.1	6.0	23.1	7.5	9.8	37.5	11.8	5.8	9.5	6.2	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of cases	n = 5	n = 1	n = 6	n = 43	n = 11	n = 54	n = 171	n = 22	n = 193	n = 223	n = 20	n = 243	n = 155	n = 12	n = 167	n = 71	n = 18	n = 89	n = 133	n = 13	n = 146	n = 102	n = 8	n = 110	n = 903	n = 105	n = 1008	

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

CHAPTER 2

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS & NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

2.1 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2.1.1 ADDICTION UNITS

In 2022, the five Addiction Units under the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) registered 1,030 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment for drug use. The average monthly number of cases was 86. Monthly new cases were the lowest (74) in March and highest in January (103). Follow-up cases at these units amounted to 4,663 with a monthly average of 389. The minimum number of follow-up cases registered in one month was 311 in February, against a maximum of 438 cases in June. (Table 7 and Figure 5)

Figure 5 – Monthly number of new cases and follow up cases, 2022

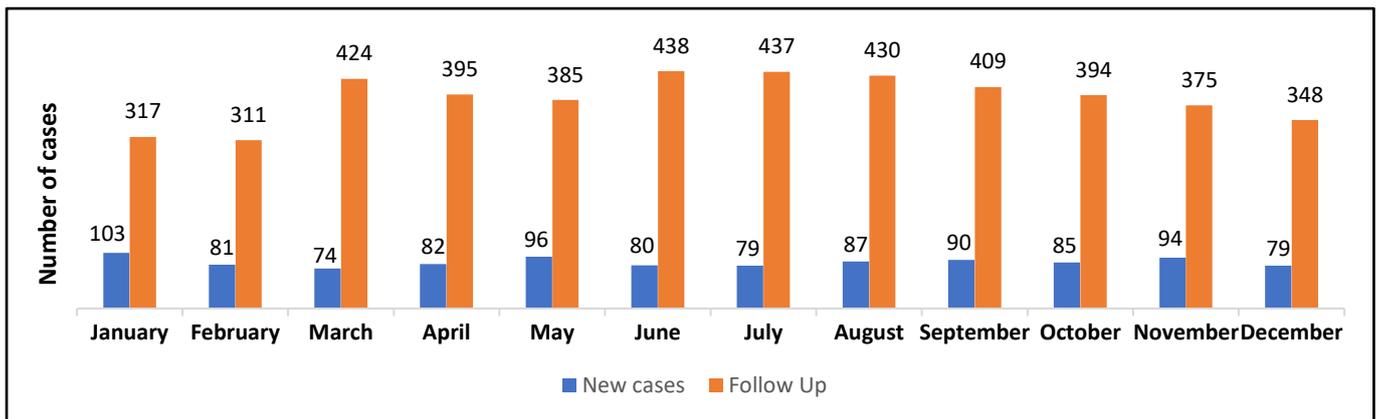


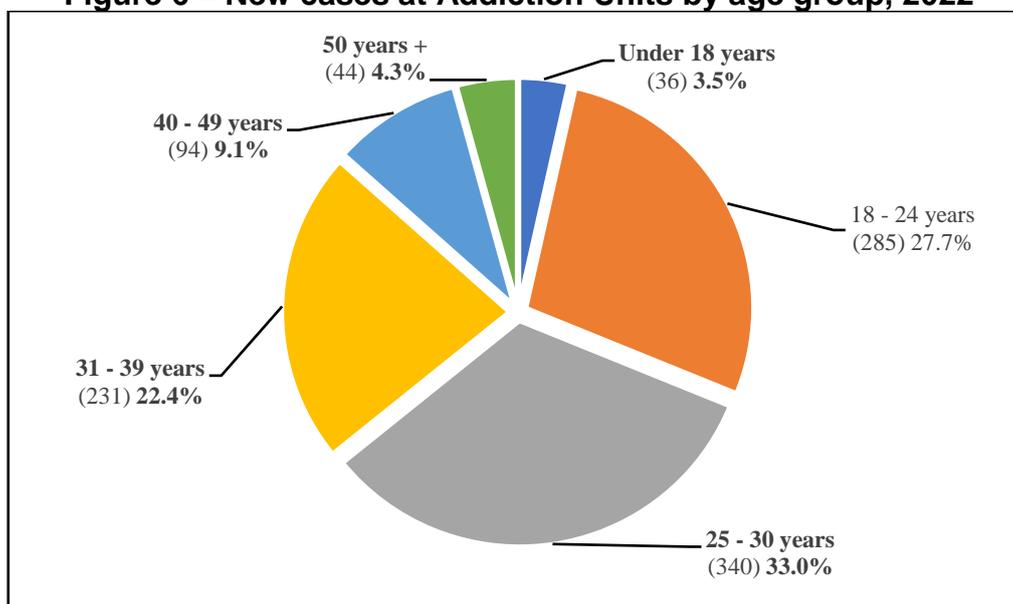
Table 7 – Number of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment due to drug use by age group, 2022

Age group (years)	Number	Percentage (%)
Under 18	36	3.5
18 - 24	285	27.7
25 - 30	340	33
31 - 39	231	22.4
40 - 49	94	9.1
50 & over	44	4.3
Total	1,030	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2022, among those admitted in public hospitals for drug use problems 25.1% were aged less than 25 years. Similarly, within Addiction Units, 31.2% of all the new cases of patients seeking rehabilitative treatment were aged less than 25 years. New cases aged less than 18 years accounted for only 3.5% at Addiction Units. In fact, most new cases at Addiction Units aged between 18 and 39 years (83.1%) and 13.4% aged 40 years and above. (Figure 6)

Figure 6 – New cases at Addiction Units by age group, 2022



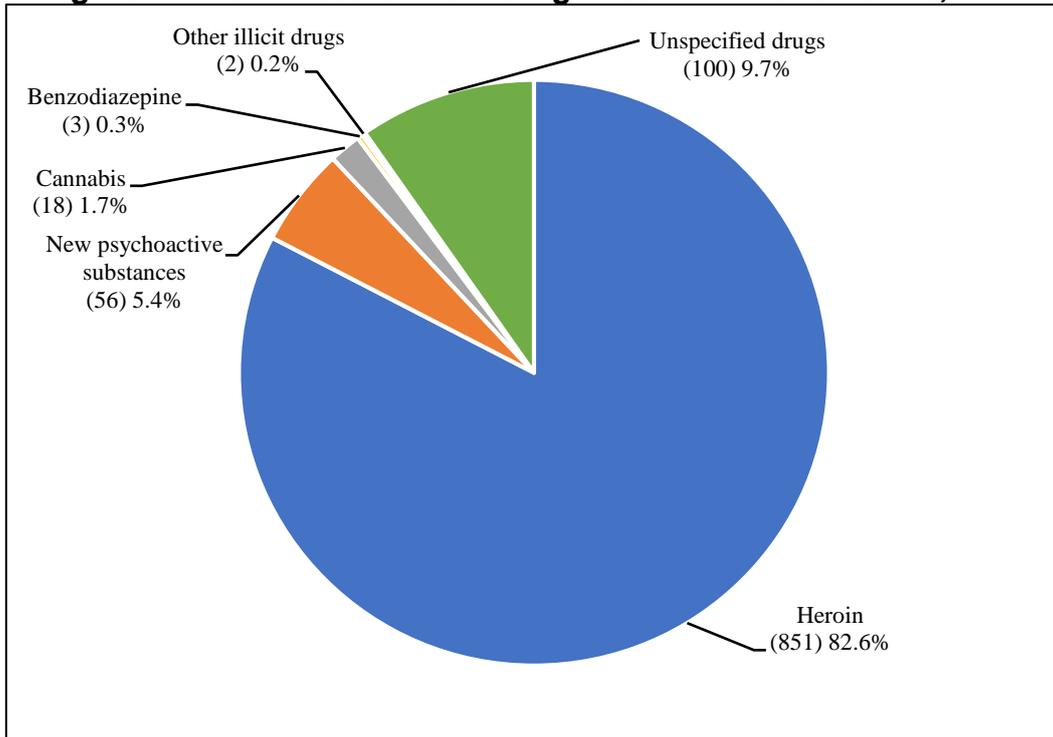
In 2022, at the Addiction Units, among the new patients seeking rehabilitative treatment due to drug use, the majority (82.6%) were primarily using heroin compared to 72.4% in 2021. Some 5.4% of new cases were due to new psychoactive compared to 9.8% in 2021 and 9.9% of new cases reported using other Illicit and unspecified substances in 2022. (Table 8)

Table 8 – New cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at Addiction Units by main drug of use, 2021-2022

Main drug	2021		2022	
	Number	%	Number	%
Heroin	990	72.4	851	82.6
New psychoactive substances	134	9.8	56	5.4
Cannabis	29	2.1	18	1.7
Benzodiazepine	10	0.7	3	0.3
Other illicit drugs	8	0.6	2	0.2
Unspecified drugs	197	14.4	100	9.7
Total	1,368	100.0	1,030	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 7 – New cases of main drug used at Addiction Units, 2022



2.1.2 METHADONE SUBSTITUTION THERAPY PROGRAMME

In 2022, out of 2,082 new cases attending the Methadone Substitution Therapy (MST) centres, some 1,575 cases were induced on methadone with 1,463 (92.9%) males against 112 (7.1%) females (Table 9).

Table 9 – Number of induction cases for Methadone Substitution Therapy (MST) programme, 2022

NEW CASES REGISTERED	2082 (1940 MALE, 142 FEMALE)
INDUCTION	1575 (1463 Male, 112 Female)

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2022, out of 2,082 new cases attending the MST centres, the majority (95.2%) were aged between 18 and 49 years followed by 3.9% aged 50 years and over and 1.0% less than 18 years (Table 10).

Table 10 – Number of new cases attending MST centres by age group, 2022

Age group (years)	Number	Percentage (%)
Less than 18	20	1.0
18 - 24	491	23.6
25 - 29	691	33.2
30 - 39	541	26.0
40 - 49	258	12.4
50 & over	81	3.9
Total	2,082	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2022, some 7,275 clients were on methadone maintenance programme and were daily administered doses through 48 dispensing sites. Male clients constituted 95.7% against 4.3% female ones (Table 11).

Table 11 – Number of beneficiaries accessing methadone dispensing daily by health region, as at December 2022

Health region	Name	Number of dispensing sites	Number of clients
1	Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital	12	2,433
	Brown Sequard Hospital Health Care Centre	8	1,236
2	SSRN Hospital	9	858
3	Dr Bruno Cheong Hospital	7	742
4	J. Nehru Hospital	3	359
	Mahebourg Hospital	2	460
5	Victoria Hospital	7	1,187
All health regions		48	7,275

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

2.1.3 SUBOXONE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME

The total number of admissions for suboxone detoxification programme in Mahebourg hospital has increased steadily from 142 in 2018 to 207 in 2021 and then dropped to 163 in year 2022. During the period 2018-2022, new admissions represented around 79% compared to 21% for re-admissions (Table 12).

Table 12 – Admissions for Suboxone Detoxification Programme at Mahebourg Hospital, 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New admission	108 (76.1%)	141 (83.4%)	136 (76.0%)	169 (81.6%)	124 (76.1%)
Re-admission	34 (23.9%)	28 (16.6%)	43 (24.0%)	38 (18.4%)	39 (23.9%)
All admissions	142 (100.0%)	169 (100.0%)	179 (100.0%)	207 (100.0%)	163 (100.0%)

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

2.1.4 ADMISSIONS AT NENUPHAR WARD, LONG MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL

Total number of admissions at Nenuphar Ward between 2019 and 2022 stood at 329 with an average annual number of around 80 admissions. New admissions represented 66.2% in 2020 and 62.5% in 2021 while re-admissions were 33.8% and 37.5% respectively. However, in 2019 and 2022, re-admissions were higher compared to new admissions (Table 13).

Table 13 – Number of minors/young adults aged < 24 years admitted at Nenuphar Centre, 2018–2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New admissions	NA	46 (46.5%)	43 (66.2%)	50 (62.5%)	32 (37.6%)
Re-admissions	NA	53 (53.5%)	22 (33.8%)	30 (37.5%)	53 (62.4%)
Total admissions		99 (100.0%)	65 (100.0%)	80 (100.0%)	85 (100.0%)

¹ Nenuphar Centre was set up in August 2018.

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

2.1.5 NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In 2022, 60.1% of persons who registered for Needle Exchange Programme were at the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the remaining 39.9% at NGOs. Some 88.1% were male and 11.9% were female (Table 14).

Table 14 – Number of persons registered for Needle Exchange Programme by institution, 2022

Institution	Male	Female	Both sexes
MOHW	1,204	179	1,383
NGOs	823	94	917
Total	2,027	273	2,300

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2022, a total of 789,167 needles and 766,394 syringes were distributed to people who inject drugs. Out of the 766,394 syringes, non-governmental organisations distributed 53.1%, against 46.9% for the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Overall, the MOHW and NGOs' Needle and syringe Program combined, the average monthly distribution of needles was 65,764 and the average monthly number of syringes was 63,866 (Table 15).

Table 15 – Number of syringes and needles distributed by MOHW and NGOs, Needle Exchange Programme, 2022

	Syringe		Needle	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
MOHW	359,625	46.9	374,214	47.4
NGOs	406,769	53.1	414,953	52.6
Total	766,394	100.0	789,167	100.0

Sources: Ministry of Health and Wellness; and Non-Governmental Organisation

2.1.6 DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMME

2.1.6.1 HARM REDUCTION UNIT – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In 2022, the Harm Reduction Unit of the MOHW conducted drug prevention programme at Educational Institutions, in the Community and at the Workplace reaching out to 2,788 students, 683 members of the community and 2322 workers respectively. Through the Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs (YEPAD) 290 participants were trained. The number of persons reached through the different prevention programmes has dropped significantly during the past few years. It is to be noted that there was a lockdown period related to the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. (Table 16).

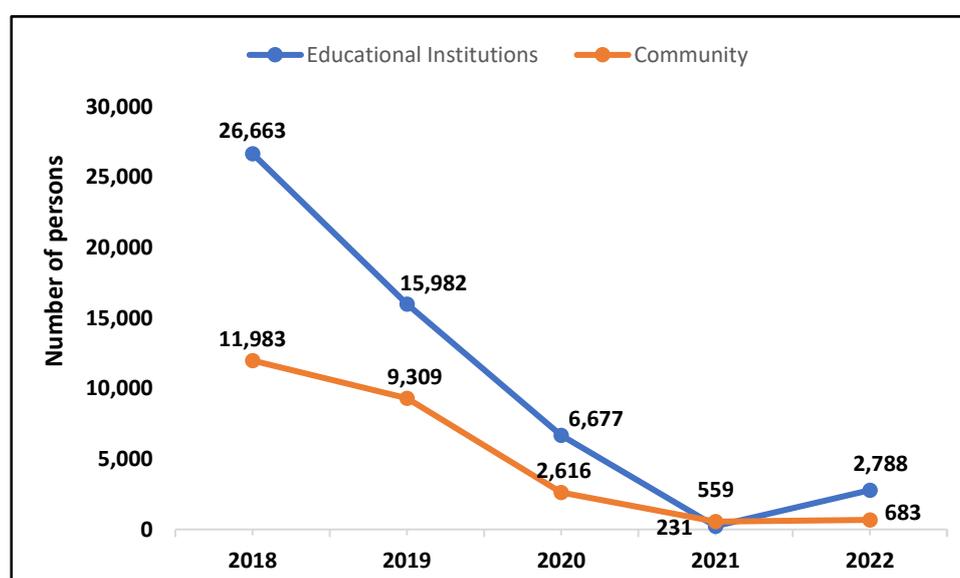
Table 16 – Number of sessions and number of persons reached 2018-2022

Target group	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Sessions	Persons reached								
Educational Institutions	995	26663	521	15982	247	6677	8	231	97	2788
Community	306	11983	271	9309	78	2616	20	559	22	683
Workplace (public & private sectors)	266	7,637	210	5,575	63	1,568	20	377	104	2,322
Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs (YEPAD) ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	312	10	290

¹ The YEPAD was launched in 2021

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 8 – Number of persons reached in Educational Institutions and in the Community for drug prevention programme, 2018 -2022



2.1.6.2 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In 2022, the 'Get connected' programme was implemented in 63 State Secondary Schools in all the 4 zones and 44 schools falling under the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) and 5,381 students were reached (Table 17). The average number of students reached in each of the 63 state secondary schools was 36% while the average number of students of the PSEA reached 70%.

Table 17 – Number of schools¹ and students reached by zone, 'Get Connected' programme, 2022

Zone	Number of schools	Number of students reached
1	20	811
2	18	686
3	10	386
4	15	378
PSEA	44	3,120
Total	107	5,381

¹ State Secondary Colleges and Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA)

Source: Ministry of Education, tertiary education, science and technology

2.1.6.3 ANTI DRUG SMUGGLING UNIT (ADSU) EDUCATION CELL

In 2022, drug prevention programme of the ADSU education cell targeted students of educational institutions, the population in general at community level and employees at their workplace. The total number of sessions carried out was 255 reaching 16,853 participants. (Table 18).

Table 18 – Number of sessions and participants, ADSU Education Cell, 2022

Educational / Vocational Institutions		Community		Workplace		Total	
No. of sessions	No. of participants	No. of sessions	No. of participants	No. of sessions	No. of participants	No. of sessions	No. of participants
95	3,679	16	8,938	144	4,236	255	16,853

Source: Mauritius Police Force

2.1.6.4 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (NGO)

In 2022, 6 NGOs reported having conducted drug Prevention Activities. (Table 19). Out of the 10,970 people reached, 8,259 were reached at the level of the community and 543 through online platform. Only three NGOs implemented prevention activities at Educational Institutions reaching 680 students. Youth targeted programs of NGOs involved 1,488 youngsters. It is to be noted that most of the awareness sessions of NGO ACTRESA were conducted during religious and cultural events.

Table 19 – Number of prevention activities by NGO and target group, 2022

NGO	Youth	Online	Educational institutions	Community	All target groups
ACTRESA	325	-	-	4,597	4,922
Centre Dr Idriss Goomany	386	-	533	264	1,183
Centre D'Accueil de Terre Rouge	100	-	100	740	940
Group A de Cassis	677	543	47	1,601	2,868
Groupe Renaissance de Mahebourg	-	-	-	278	278
Help de Addiction	-	-	-	604	604
Chrysalide	-	-	-	175	175
All NGOs	1,488	543	680	8,259	10,970

Source: Non-Governmental Organisations

Additional prevention activities by NGOs were done through radio, social media platform and other means, namely:

- 'SANGRAM SEWA SADAN' (SSS) conducted a pacific walk in the context of the "International Day Against Drugs". (Itinerary: Long Mountain Village Council to Long Mountain Social Welfare Centre).
- 'AILES' conducted secondary prevention through testing and counselling of **People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs)**.
- 'CENTRE DE SOLIDARITÉ POUR UNE NOUVELLE VIE' (CDS) conducted prevention activities through social media
- Help-De Addiction Centre implemented a drug prevention programme with young sports person in collaboration with a martial art federation.

2.2 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (REHABILITATION CENTRES)

The majority of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at NGOs in 2022, (78.7%), were in the age group 18-39 years. New cases under 18 years represented only 2.2%, while those aged 40 years and above represented 19.1%.

From 2021 to 2022, there were decreases in all age groups, with a particular high drop (-55.4%) for the age group 'Under 18 years' and the overall decline was 21.6% for all age groups.

During the period 2019-2022, the average annual number of new cases at NGOs was 69 for those aged less than 18 years, 1,092 among those aged between 18 and 29 years, and 545 for the age group 30-39 years. There were 227 and 124 new cases in the age groups '40-49 years' and '50 years and above' respectively (Table 20).

Table 20 – Number of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at NGOs by age group, 2019–2022

Age group (years)	2019		2020		2021		2022		% change over 2021
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Under 18	69	3.3	73	3.9	92	3.9	41	2.2	-55.4
18 - 29	1,087	51.5	1,025	54.5	1,272	53.6	984	52.8	-22.6
30 - 39	612	29	462	24.6	621	26.1	483	25.9	-22.2
40 - 49	230	10.9	157	8.4	278	11.7	243	13.1	-12.6
50 and over	111	5.3	163	8.7	112	4.7	111	6	-0.9
All age groups	2,109	100	1,880	100	2,375	100	1,862	100	-21.6

Source: Non-Governmental Organisations

In 2022, the distribution of new patients at NGO centres by primary substance used among a total of 1,862 was as follows: heroin (75.1%), polydrug use (6.1%) and cannabis (5.6%). An analysis by sex shows that heroin was predominant among both males (75.6%) and females (73.2%) (Table 21).

Table 21 – Number of new cases seeking treatment by primary substance of use and by sex, 2022

Primary drug	Male	%	Female	%	Both sexes	%
Heroin/Brown Sugar	1,142	75.6	257	73.2	1,399	75.1
Cannabis	91	6.0	14	4.0	105	5.6
Cocaine	3	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.2
Methadone	11	0.7	0	0.0	11	0.6
Subutex	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Unknown	9	0.6	0	0.0	9	0.5
Alcohol & Smoking	40	2.6	6	1.7	46	2.5
New Psychoactive Substances	71	4.7	20	5.7	91	4.9
Polydrug	75	5.0	38	10.8	113	6.1
Other and Psychotropics	68	4.5	16	4.6	84	4.5
Total	1,511	100	351	100	1,862	100

Source: Non-Governmental Organisations

2.3 POLICE MEDICAL UNIT

In 2022, the Police Medical Unit reported 29 deaths due to drug use of which 1 was female. Out of the 29 deaths, 17 were aged 25-34 years, 6 in each of the age-groups 18-24 years and 35-64 years. Opioids analgesics were detected in 23 cases while benzodiazepines were detected in 4 cases and anti-depressant in 2 other cases. (Table 22).

Table 22 – Number of deaths disaggregated by sex, age group and class of drugs detected, 2022

Drug class	Male	Female	Both sexes	Age group (years)				
				< 18	18 -24	25 - 34	35 - 64	65+
Opioids Analgesics	23	0	23	0	6	15	2	0
Benzodiazepines	3	1	4	0	0	1	3	0
Antidepressant	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Total	28	1	29	0	6	17	6	0

Source: Mauritius Police Force

CHAPTER 3

DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED BY THE MAURITIUS POLICE FORCE, ADSU, & MRA

3.1 MAURITIUS POLICE FORCE

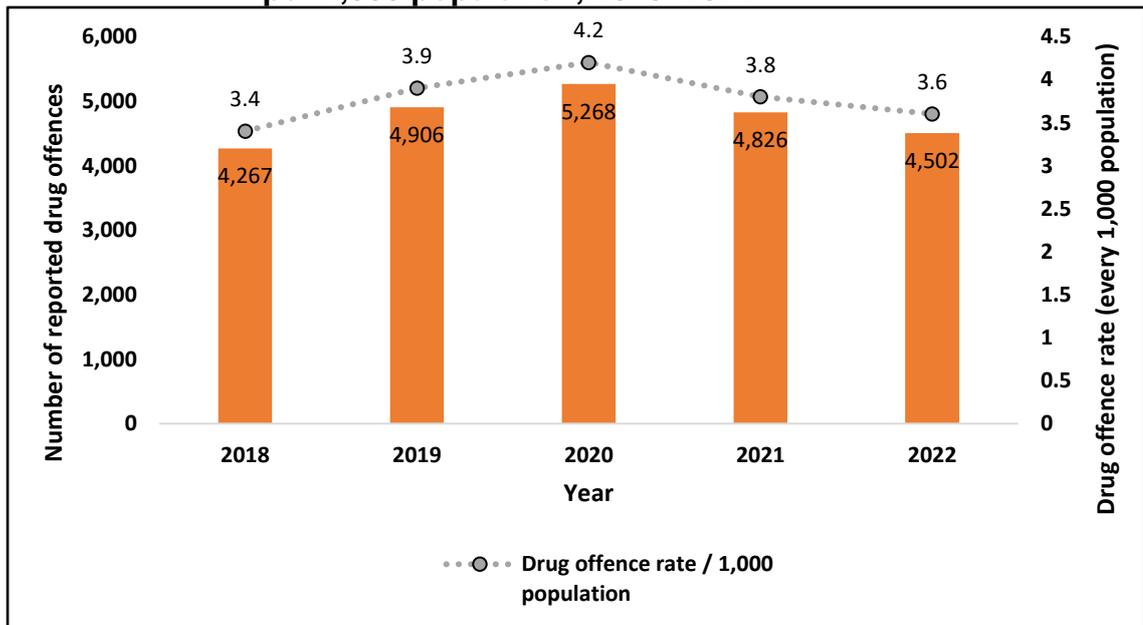
From 2021 to 2022, the number of registered drug offences decreased by 6.7% from 4,826 to 4,502 resulting in a decrease in the drug offence rate per 1,000 population from 3.8 to 3.6 persons (Table 23).

Table 23 – Number of cases of drug offence and drug offence rate per 1,000 population, 2018–2022

Year	Drug Offences		Percentage change (%)	
	Number of drug cases	Rate / 1,000 population	Drug cases	Rate/ 1,000 Population
2018	4,267	3.4		
2019	4,906	3.9	15.0	14.7
2020	5,268	4.2	7.4	7.7
2021	4,826	3.8	-8.4	-9.5
2022	4,502	3.6	-6.7	-5.3

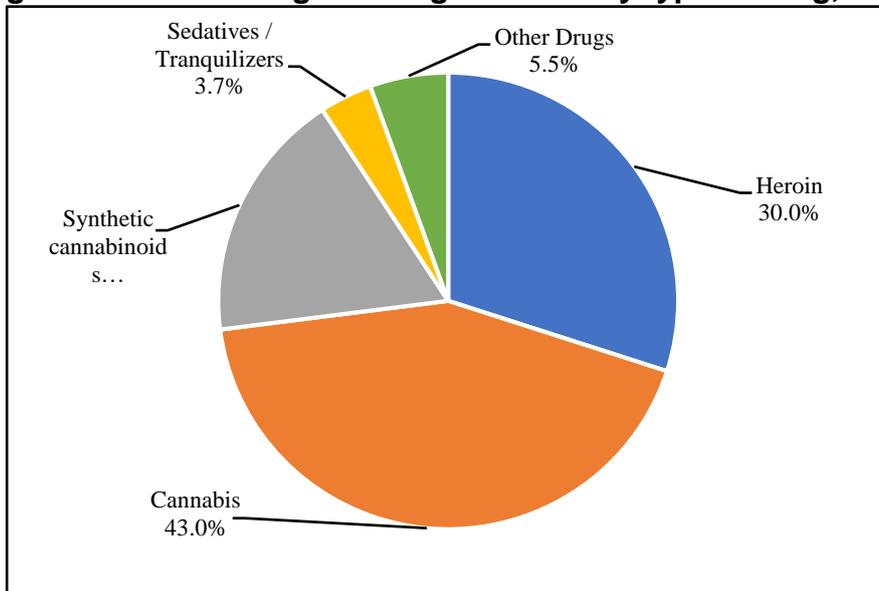
Source: Statistics Mauritius

Figure 9 – Number of cases of drug offences and drug offence rate per 1,000 population, 2018–2022



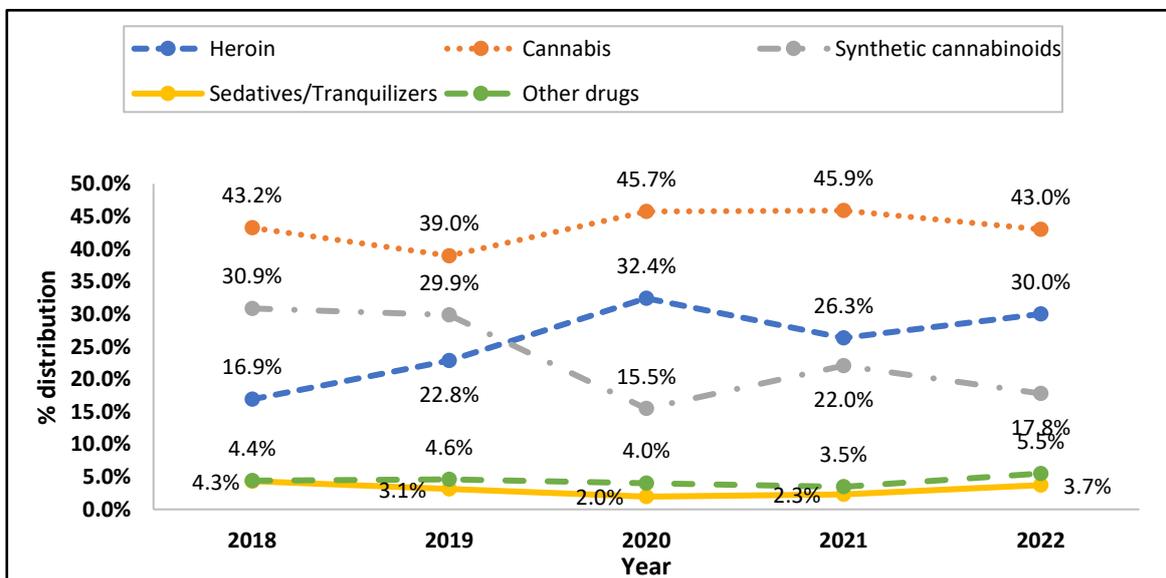
In 2022, out of the 4,502 drug offences reported, 43.0% were cannabis (commonly known as “gandia”) related offences, 30.0% for heroin, 17.8 % for synthetic cannabinoids and 3.7% for sedatives/tranquilizers. Other type of drugs, comprising mainly methadone and hashish, represented 5.5% of drug offences (Figure 10).

Figure 10 – Percentage of drug offences by type of drug, 2022



During the period 2018-2022, the percentage of annual cannabis-related offences, over all drug-related offences, was 43.2% in 2018, 39.0% in 2019, 45.7% in 2020 and 43.0% in 2022. Offences related to synthetic cannabinoids which stood at 30.9% in 2018 has decreased to 17.8% in 2022. On the other hand, heroin related offences which was 16.9% in 2018 has increased to 30.0% in year 2022. Sedatives and tranquilisers continued to increase as from year 2020 to reach 3.7% in 2022. (Figure 11).

Figure 11 – Distribution of drug offences by drug type as a percentage of all drug offences, 2018–2022



From 2021 to 2022, the number of reported drug offences decreased by 6.7% from 4,826 to 4,502. Some 7.8% of the total offences reported in 2022 were linked to crimes due to drugs (3.5%) and misdemeanours (4.3%). Between 2021 and 2022, the general level of crime and misdemeanour, excluding contraventions, decreased from 72,935 to 57,846 (-20.7%) (Table 24).

Table 24 – Number of drug offences and all offences (excluding road traffic contraventions), 2018–2022

Year	Offences reported (excluding road traffic contraventions)		% drug offence on total offences (excluding road traffic contraventions)
	Drug offences	All offences (including drug)	
2018	4,267	45,457	9.4
2019	4,906	45,004	10.9
2020	5,268	55,402	9.5
2021	4,826	72,935	6.6
2022	4,502	57,846	7.8

Source: Statistics Mauritius

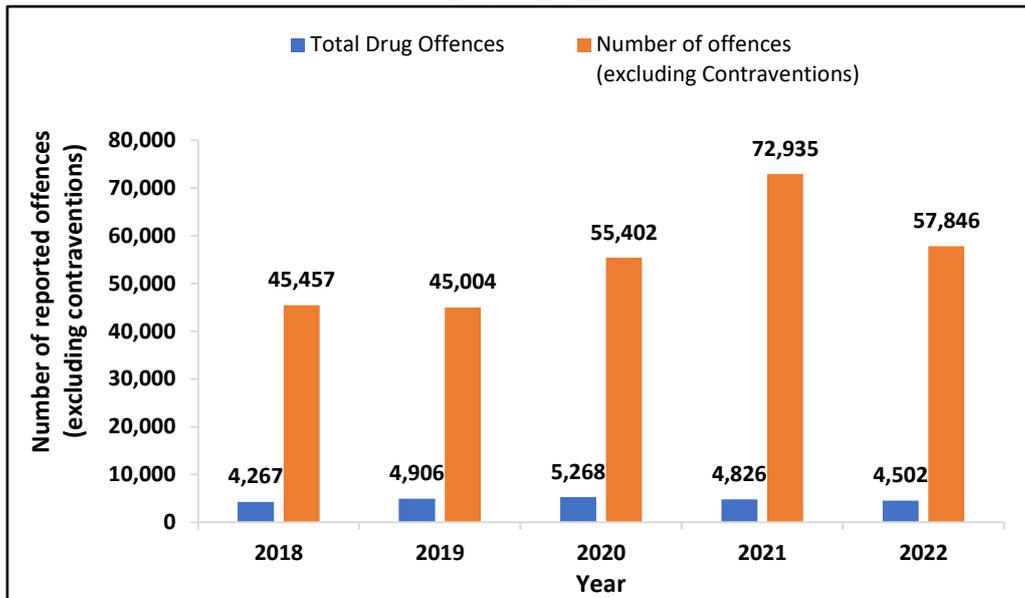
While from 2018 to 2021, crime related drug offences on all drug offences increased significantly, a slight decrease has been noted in 2022. On other hand, a significant decrease had been noted for drug related misdemeanour between 2019 - 2022. (Table 25).

Table 25 – Number of reported cases related to drug offences by classification of offence, 2018–2022

Reported cases related to drug offences	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crimes	1,184	1,604	2,133	2,200	2,034
Misdemeanours	3,083	3,302	3,135	2,626	2,468
Total Drug Offences	4,267	4,906	5,268	4,826	4,502
Number of offences (excluding contraventions)	45,457	45,004	55,402	72,935	57,846

Source: Statistics Mauritius

Figure 12 – Total number of drug offences and all offences (excluding contraventions), 2018–2022

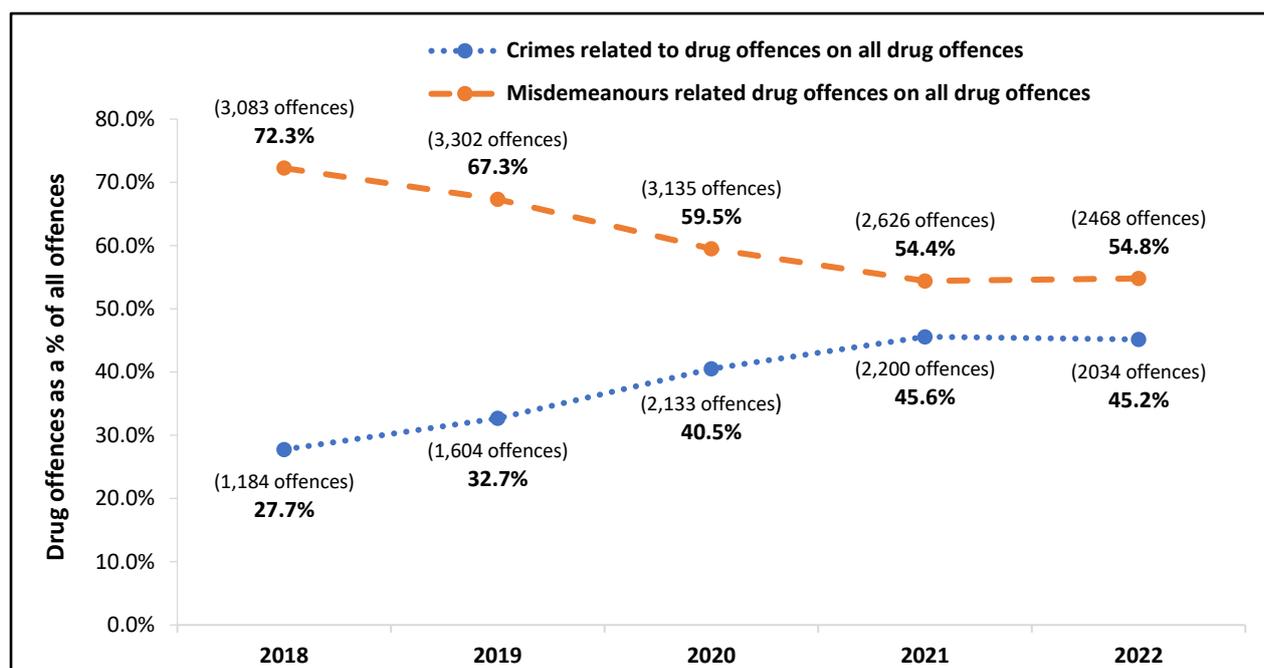


In 2022, crime-related drug offences represented 3.5% of all offences (excluding road contraventions) and represented 45.2% of all drug offences. Misdemeanour-related drug offences stood at 4.3% of all offences. From 2018-2022, annual drug offences as a proportion of all offences (drug + non-drug offences) have oscillated from 9.4% in 2018 and 6.6% in 2021, with a peak of 10.9% observed in 2019. For the same period, annual percentage of crime-related drug offences on all offences (drug + non-drug offences) was 2.6% in 2018 and has increased slightly to 3.6% in 2019. In 2021 it was 3.0% and increased to 3.5% in 2022. For misdemeanour related drug offences it increased from 6.8% to 7.3% from year 2018 and 2019 and then decreased to 3.6 in 2021. For the year 2022 it was 4.3% (Table 26).

Table 26 – Number of reported cases related to drug offences, 2018 -2022

Reported cases related to drug offences	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Total Drug Offences	% on all Offences (excl. contraventions)	Total Drug Offences	% on all Offences (excl. contraventions)	Total Drug Offences	% on all Offences (excl. contraventions)	Total Drug Offences	% on all Offences (excl. contraventions)	Total Drug Offences	% on all Offences (excl. contraventions)
Crimes	1,184	27.7	1,604	32.7	2,133	40.5	2,200	45.6	2,034	45.2
Misdemeanours	3,083	72.3	3,302	67.3	3,135	59.5	2,626	54.4	2,468	54.8
Total drug offences	4,267	100.0	4,906	100.0	5,268	100.0	4,826	100.0	4,502	100.0
Number of offences (excluding contraventions)	45,457	-	45,004	-	55,402	-	72,935	-	57,846	-

Figure 13 – Trend of crime and misdemeanour-related drug offences, 2018–2022



Drug offences on total offences among juveniles were predominantly among males except for 2019 whereby 2 cases of drug offences were registered among female juvenile. Table 27

Table 27 – Number of juvenile offenders reported by type of offence and sex, 2019–2022

Drug offence	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Crimes	24	2	26	25	0	25	23	0	23	23	0	23
Misdemeanours	30	0	30	24	0	24	13	0	13	9	0	9
Total crime and misdemeanours related to drug offences among juveniles	54	2	56	49	0	49	36	0	36	32	0	32
Total crime and misdemeanours offences among juveniles	678	77	755	457	64	521	391	45	436	418	44	462
% Drug offences on Total offences among juveniles	8	2.6	7.4	10.7	0	9.4	9.2	0	8.3	7.7	0	6.9

Source: Statistics Mauritius

3.2 PROSECUTION FOR DRUG OFFENCES

The increasing trend in the number of adults prosecuted under drug offences which was noted between 2019 (11.3%) and 2021 (20.5%), declined to 15.0% in 2022. As for juvenile it oscillated between 5.6% in 2018 to 3.1% in 2022 with a peak of 8.1% in 2021 (Table 28).

Table 28 – Number of persons prosecuted under drug offences by classification of offence, 2019–2022

Drug offence	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Adults	Juveniles	Total									
Crimes	557	3	560	616	9	625	1,222	4	1,226	780	4	784
Misdemeanours	1,098	9	1,107	1,029	8	1,037	1,726	12	1,738	1,575	1	1,576
Total drug offences	1,655	12	1,667	1,645	17	1,662	2,948	16	2,964	2,355	5	2,360
Total offences (excl. contravention)	14,628	213	14,841	12,806	420	13,226	14,359	197	14,556	15,740	163	15,903
% Drug offences on Total offences	11.3	5.6	11.2	12.8	4	12.6	20.5	8.1	20.4	15	3.1	14.8

Source: Statistics Mauritius

3.3 ANTI DRUG SMUGGLING UNIT (ADSU)

In 2022, the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) of the Mauritius Police Force has reported 3,860 drug offence cases, out of which, there were 3,027 arrests. For the period 2018-2022, the average annual number of cases and arrests by the ADSU was respectively 3,518 drug offence cases per year, against 3,107 drug-related arrests per year. In 2022, it can be observed that the nature of drug offences reported is characterised by possession of drugs, 43.6%, followed by dealing of drugs, 39.0%, cultivation of cannabis plant, 11.9%, importation of drugs, 1.4%, while pickup of drug and money laundering stood equally at 0.6%. Arrests for possession increased from 1,775 in 2018 to 1,826 in 2019 followed by a decreasing trend to reach 1,434 arrests in 2022. With regard to offence of drug dealing, it increased from 774 in 2018 to 1,521 in 2020 and as from 2021 the number of arrests decreased to reach 1,403 in 2022 (Table 29).

Table 29 – Number of drug cases and arrests reported by type of drug offence, 2018–2022

Type of drug offence	Number of cases					% Year 2022	Number of arrests					% Year 2022
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Possession / Consumption ¹	1,754	1,813	1,671	1,572	1,684	43.6	1,775	1,826	1,678	1,571	1,434	47.4
Dealing	681	934	1,479	1,437	1,507	39.0	774	993	1,521	1,496	1,403	46.3
Cultivating	557	454	518	536	460	11.9	133	118	148	182	129	4.3
Importation	68	102	41	37	54	1.4	79	108	23	23	43	1.4
Obstruction to police	1	2	7	10	3	0.1	4	14	9	10	5	0.2
Money laundering	3	2	4	3	24	0.6	8	5	8	2	5	0.2
Pickup	-	-	17	28	23	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Failing to keep DDR ²	-	-	-	-	56	1.5	-	-	-	-	3	0.1
Others ³	1	-	-	-	49	1.3	1	-	-	-	5	0.2
Total	3,065	3,307	3,737	3,623	3,860	100.0	2,774	3,064	3,387	3,284	3,027	100.0

Source: Mauritius Police Force

¹ refers to 'Smoking' and 'Administering' of illicit substances

² refers to **Dangerous Drug Register**

³ includes 'Holding equipment or material for manufacture of dangerous drugs' and 'Prohibited goods'

For year 2022, no direct arrest corresponding to cases for 'Holding equipment or material for manufacture of dangerous drugs' as concerned was already arrested in relation to other drug offences.

Out of the 3,860 reported drug offence cases in 2022, 347 cases (9.0%) were cases involving unknown suspects. Among these unknown suspect cases, the majority, (87.9%) was related to cultivation of cannabis plants, while offences related to other substances including cannabis herbs accounted for 12.1% (Table 30).

Table 30 – Number of cases of drug offence by type reported for known and unknown suspects, 2022

Drug offence for known / unknown suspects	Number of cases	%
Total of known suspects	3,513	91.0
Total of unknown suspects	347	9.0
Total drug offence cases	3,860	100.0
<i>Drug offence¹ for unknown suspects by type of drugs</i>		
<i>Cultivating cannabis plant</i>	304	87.9
<i>Heroin</i>	11	3.2
<i>Cannabis herb</i>	14	4.0
<i>Cocaine</i>	2	0.6
<i>New Psychoactive Substances</i>	6	1.7
<i>LSD</i>	1	0.3
<i>Amphetamine</i>	1	0.3
<i>Ecstasy</i>	2	0.6
<i>Poppy seeds</i>	3	0.9
<i>Hashish</i>	2	0.6
Total	346	100.0

¹ excluding **one** case for '**Prohibited goods**'

Source: Mauritius Police Force

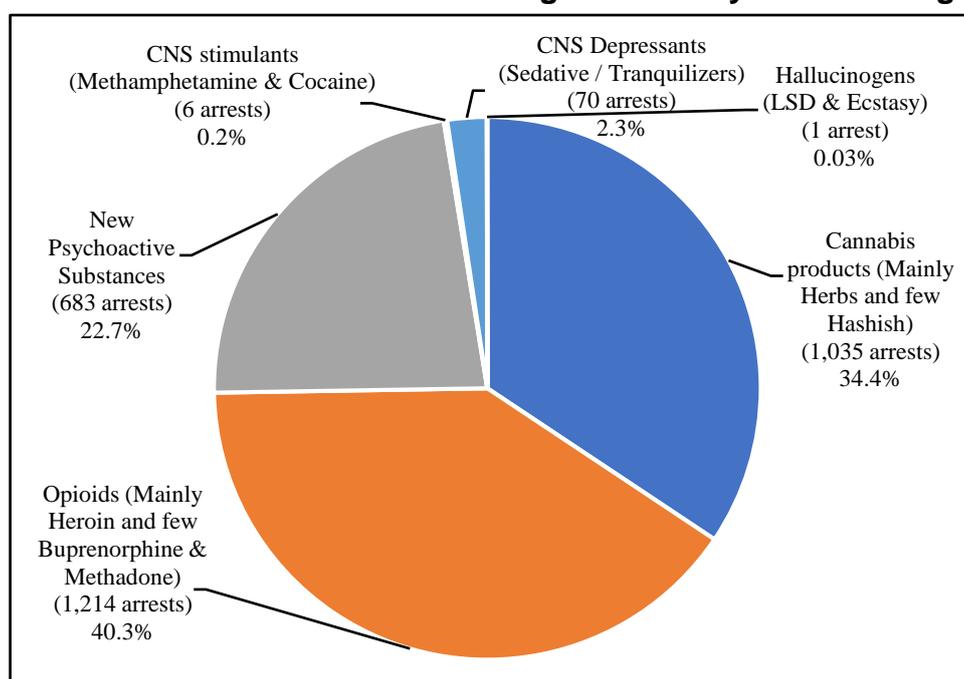
The distribution of ADSU drug-related arrests in 2022, examined by class of drugs, showed that arrest for opioids, with mainly heroin and few Buprenorphine and methadone cases, accounted for 40.3% of arrests. The second most important class of drugs, namely, cannabis products, with mainly herbs and few cases of hashish (cannabis resin), accounted for 34.4% of arrests. New psychoactive substances accounted for 22.7% of ADSU arrests, while CNS depressants was at 2.3% and the remaining 0.2% of arrests included CNS stimulants namely cocaine and methamphetamine (Table 31).

Table 31 – Number of arrests for drug offences by class of Illicit substances, 2022

Class of Illicit substances	Number of arrests	%
Cannabis products (<i>Mainly Herbs and few Hashish</i>)	1,035	34.4
Opioids (<i>Mainly Heroin and few Buprenorphine & Methadone</i>)	1,214	40.3
New Psychoactive Substances	683	22.7
CNS stimulants (<i>Methamphetamine & Cocaine</i>)	6	0.2
CNS Depressants (<i>Sedative / Tranquilizers</i>)	70	2.3
Hallucinogens (<i>LSD</i>)	1	0.03
Total	3,009	100.0

Source: Mauritius Police Force

Figure 14 – Distribution of arrests for drug offences by class of drugs, 2022



In 2022, arrest by ADSU for other drug related offences was due to obstruction, money laundering and prohibited goods with 27.8% equally. Failing to keep dangerous drug register stood at 16.7% (Table 32).

Table 32 – Number of arrests by ADSU for other drug related offences, 2022

Other drug related offences	Number of arrests	%
Money laundering	5	27.8
Obstruction to police	5	27.8
Failing to keep Dangerous Drug Register	3	16.7
Prohibited goods	5	27.8
Total	18	100.0

Source: Mauritius Police Force

In 2022, the total street value of drugs seized as reported by ADSU, amounted to around 1.3 billion Mauritian Rupees, out of which, 822 million rupees (65.5%) were associated to seizures of opioids (essentially heroin). Street value of cannabis products involving cannabis and hashish, represented 27.3% of the total street value of drugs seized, while new psychoactive substances stood at 4.8% (Table 33).

Table 33 – Number of drug seizures by class and weight of drug street value, 2022

Drug Class	Illicit substance	Units	Weight (Kilograms)	Street value (Million Rupees)
Opioids	Heroin	-	54.78	821.65
	Buprenorphine (Tablet)	675	-	1.62
Cannabis products	Cannabis	-	143.16	85.89
	Hashish	-	51.44	257.20
New psychoactive substances	Synthetic cannabinoids	-	14.04	21.06
	Synthetic cannabinoids - Import	-	0.11	1.61
	Synthetic cannabinoids - Import - Liquid form (ml)	2,500	-	37.50
CNS stimulants	Cocaine	-	0.06	0.96
	Methamphetamine	-	0.31	4.63
CNS depressants	Sedatives / Tranquilizers (Tablet)	307,566	-	23.07
Hallucinogens	LSD (Patch)	70	-	0.14
	Ecstasy (Tablet)	2	-	0.004
Total street value				1,255.34

Source: Mauritius Police Force

For the last five years 2018-2022, the reported street values of drugs seized by the ADSU amounted to 11.0 billion rupees, out of which, an estimated street value of roughly 8.3 billion rupees (74.9%) were associated to seizures of heroin.

For the same last five-year period, street value of cocaine was the second most important drug value seized, that is, 1.5 billion rupees (13.9%) followed by hashish 0.6 billion rupees (5.0%) Cannabis herbs seized amounted to nearly 0.3 billion rupees (2.9%) and Synthetic cannabinoids accounted for 0.3 billion rupees (2.1%) of the total street value seized between 2018 and 2022 (Table 34).

Table 34 – Street value of drug seized by class of illicit substance, 2018–2022

Drug Class	Illicit substance	Street value (Million rupees)					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Opioids	Heroin	1,978.93	699.47	342.23	4,463.45	821.65	8,305.73
	Buprenorphine (<i>Tablet</i>)	1.48	5.57	0.33	0.00	1.62	9.00
Cannabis products	Cannabis	59.50	14.21	43.58	113.60	85.89	316.78
	Hashish	28.47	132.27	9.26	124.97	257.20	552.16
New psychoactive substances	Synthetic cannabinoids	13.37	11.12	12.72	12.84	21.06	71.10
	Synthetic cannabinoids – Import	58.93	26.02	53.68	61.98	1.61	202.21
	Synthetic cannabinoids - Import - Liquid form (<i>ml</i>)	-	-	-	-	37.50	37.50
CNS stimulants	Cocaine	125.72	1,406.41	7.09	0.01	0.96	1,540.20
	Methamphetamine	15.60	0.49	0.84	0.02	4.63	21.58
CNS depressants	Sedatives / Tranquilizers (<i>Tablet</i>)	0.30	0.85	1.05	0.38	23.07	25.64
Hallucinogens	LSD (<i>Patch</i>)	-	0.02	0.03	0.09	0.14	0.28
	Ecstasy (<i>Tablet</i>)	1.18	0.17	0.05	0.003	0.004	1.41
Total street value		2,283.48	2,296.60	470.86	4,777.34	1,255.33	11,083.59

Source: Mauritius Police Force

In 2022, 40.6% of the total number of cases for possession of drugs were related to heroin followed by cannabis with 32.1% and synthetic cannabinoids 23.1%. For cases dealing, 35.6% were related to heroin, cannabis 35.5%, synthetic cannabinoids represented 22.8%. With regard to importation 33.3% was related to cannabis followed by 22.2% for heroin. 47.8% of pick up cases were related to heroin and 26.1% were for synthetic cannabinoids (Table 35).

Table 35 – Number of drug offence cases by type of offence, 2022

Type of drug offence	Cannabis	Hashish	Synthetic cannabinoids	Heroin	Cocaine	Methamphetamine/Amphetamine	LSD	Ecstasy	Sedatives / Tranquilizers	Buprenorphine	Poppy seeds	Methadone	Morphine	Other ¹	Total
Possession / Consumption	541	20	389	683	1	-	1	1	36	-	-	8	4	-	1,684
Dealing	535	25	344	537	-	2	2	2	59	-	-	1	-	-	1,507
Cultivating	460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460
Importation	18	6	6	12	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	54
Obstruction to police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Money laundering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	24
Pickup	2	-	6	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	23
Holding equipment	37	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Prohibited goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Total	1,593	51	748	1,247	3	3	4	5	97	1	3	9	4	36	3,804

Source: Mauritius Police Force

¹ refers to cases not related to any specific substance and also excluding **56 cases for 'FAILING TO KEEP DANGEROUS DRUG REGISTER UP TO DATE SECT 23'**

In 2022, among those who were in possession of drugs and were arrested by ADSU it was observed that 45.0% were due to heroin followed by cannabis with 26.8%, and synthetic cannabinoids at 25.0%. For dealing, 38.6% of arrests were due to Heroin, 33.1% were for cannabis, synthetic cannabinoids represented 22.8%. Regarding arrest for importation 39.5% were related to heroin followed by cannabis 30.2%, Hashish were 14.0% and synthetic cannabinoids 9.3%.

3.4 FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY (FSL)

In 2022, 4,149 confirmed cases of illicit substances were reported by the FSL, that is, on average around a thousand cases every 3 months. For the whole year 2022, cannabis was the most popular substance confirmed, with 44.9% of cases. Heroin cases constituted 31.6%, followed by new psychoactive substances, 18.1% and the remaining 5.4% of cases were attributed to other unspecified drugs (Table 36).

Table 36 – Quarterly number of confirmed cases of illicit substances, 2022

Illicit substance	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Year 2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cannabis	458	43.7	450	42.2	391	42.7	563	50.4	1,862	44.9
Heroin	317	30.2	365	34.2	304	33.2	324	29.0	1,310	31.6
New psychoactive substances	232	22.1	215	20.2	159	17.4	146	13.1	752	18.1
Other drugs	42	4.0	36	3.4	62	6.8	85	7.6	225	5.4
Total	1,049	100.0	1,066	100.0	916	100.0	1,118	100.0	4,149	100.0

Source: Forensic Science Laboratory

3.5 MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY (MRA)

For period 2018 up to 2022, the MRA Customs has made 351 drug seizure cases. During the same period, the least annual number of seizure cases occurred in the year 2020 with 38 cases while the peak annual seizure cases was reported in the year 2019 with 126 cases. In 2022, there were 55 seizure cases.

Out of the 351 seizure cases effected by MRA for period 2018-2022, 45.9% (161 seizure cases) were associated with cannabis products (Seeds+herbs+hashish). There were on average 32 seizure cases of cannabis products per year between 2018 and 2022.

For the period 2018-2022, seizures of opioids amounted to a cumulative total of 104 cases, that is, 29.6% of the 351 seizure cases (all drugs) reported by MRA Customs. During the same period, on average there were 21 opioids related seizure cases per year. Between 2018 and 2022, MRA Customs has made 48 seizures cases of new psychoactive substances, with an average of 10 seizure cases per year. New psychoactive substance seizure cases represented 13.7% of the total 351 seizure cases (all drugs) occurring during 2018-2022.

For the period 2018-2022, there were 19 seizure cases of hallucinogens, representing 5.4% of the total 351 seizure cases (all drugs). Seizure cases of hallucinogens were on average 4 cases per year over the period 2018-2022. CNS stimulants, psychotropic substances and other

unspecified drugs seizure cases occurring between 2018 and 2022 totalled up to 11 (3.1%), 2 (0.6%) and 6 (1.7%) cases respectively (Table 37).

Table 37 – Number of drug seizure cases by Mauritius Revenue Authority, 2018-2022

Class of drugs	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2018 - 2022	
	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%
Cannabis Products (Seeds, herbs & resins)	45	48.9	52	41.3	18	47.4	20	50.0	26	47.3	161	45.9
Opioids (Narcotic analgesics)	25	27.2	48	38.1	5	13.2	9	22.5	17	30.9	104	29.6
New Psychoactive Substances	10	10.9	20	15.9	10	26.3	6	15.0	2	3.6	48	13.7
Hallucinogens	5	5.4	4	3.2	3	7.9	5	12.5	2	3.6	19	5.4
CNS Stimulants	2	2.2	1	0.8	2	5.3	0	0.0	6	10.9	11	3.1
Psychotropic Subs	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6	2	0.6
Other unspecified	5	5.4	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.7
TOTAL	92	100.0	126	100.0	38	100.0	40	100.0	55	100.0	351	100.0

Note : Cannabis products (Seeds, herbs & resins) includes 'Hashish' also.

Opioids were 'Heroin (Powder)' seizures.

New Psychoactive Substances were 'Synthetic Drugs'

Hallucinogens were essentially 'Ecstasy'.

CNS Stimulants were 'Cocaine' and 'Other(Crystal Meth and D-Amphetamine)'

Source: Mauritius Revenue Authority

Figure 15 – Number of cases of illicit drug seizures by MRA Customs, 2018–2022

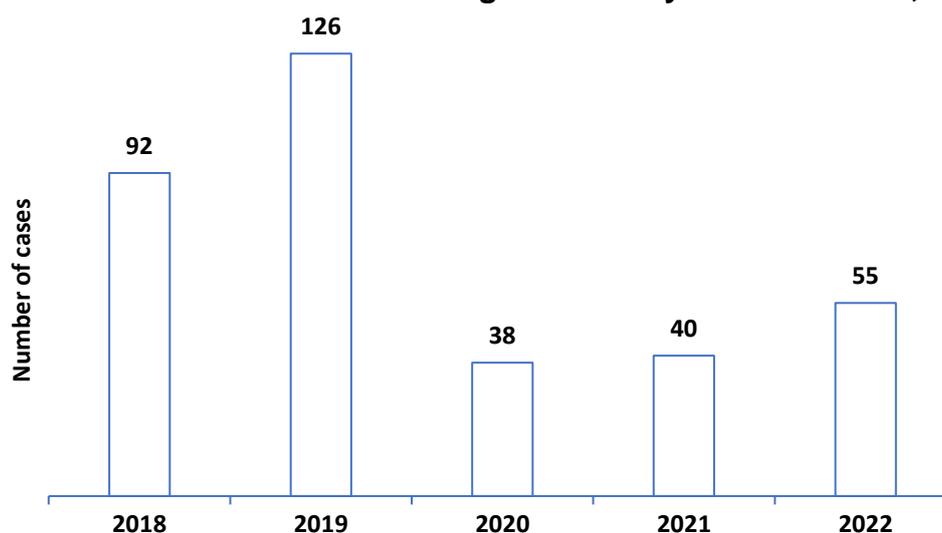
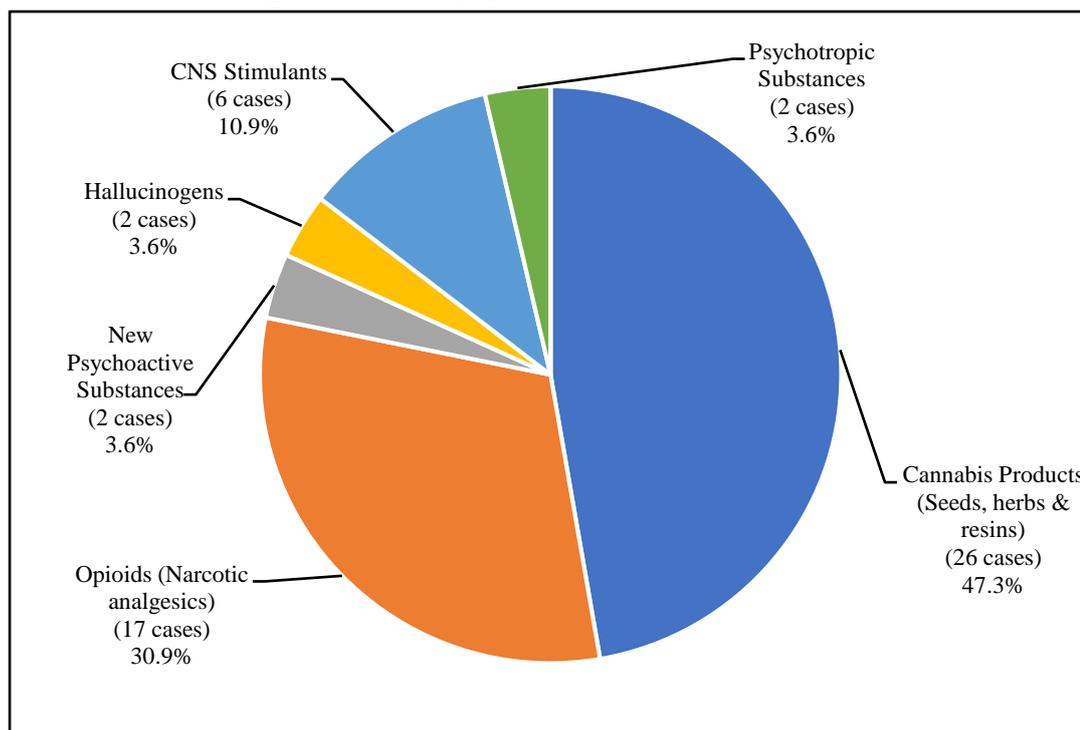


Figure 16 – Number of drug seizures by type of substances, 2022 – MRA Customs



For the last five years from 2018 up to 2022, the Mauritius Revenue Authority Customs has seized 112.3 kilograms of cannabis herbs, 267,843 cannabis seeds and 52.8 kilograms of hashish.

During the same period 2018-2022, a total of 4.0 kilograms of cocaine and 1,022 tablets of ecstasy were seized.

As regards seizure cases of heroin, a total of 105.1 kilograms of this illicit substance were reported for the period 2018-2022, giving an average quantity of 21.0 kilograms seized per year. New psychoactive substances seized between 2018 and 2022 amounted to a 5-year total of 18.7 kilograms, which is equivalent to an annual average quantity of 3.7 kilograms seized per year.

On the other hand, for the same 5-year period, 1,706 tablets of psychotropic substances were seized.

Buprenorphine presents a particular pattern with respect to other seized drugs in the sense that, during the period 2019-2022, there were seizures for this drug only in 2019. In fact, in 2019, 2,310 tablets of buprenorphine were seized (Table 38).

Table 38 - Drug seizures and quantity by type, 2018-2022

Illicit substance	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cannabis	<i>Kg</i>	49	7	42.2	6.2	7.89
Cannabis Seeds	<i>Units</i>	281	339	0	225	266,998
Hashish	<i>Kg</i>	7.2	35.9	0.4	4.5	4.8
Ecstasy (Tablets)/MDMA	<i>Tablets/ Patches/ Powder</i>	730 + 50g	70 + 32.6g	37 +	185	0.054
				9 patches		
Cocaine	<i>Kg</i>	3.4	0.0002	0.5	0	0.06 + 3,250ml
Heroin	<i>Kg</i>	31.3	38.5	5.8	16.5	12.96
New Psychoactive Substances	<i>Kg</i>	4.7	4.5	2.1	7.3	0.11
Buprenorphine	<i>Tablets</i>	0	2,310	0	0	0
Psychotropic Substances (tabs)	<i>Tablets</i>	1,180	64	0	0	462
Crystal Meth and D-Amphetamine	<i>Kg</i>	0	0	0	0	1.28

Source: Mauritius Revenue Authority

CHAPTER 4

THE JUDICIARY

In 2022, the number of convicted drug offences was 2,177 against 1,817 in 2021, that is, an increase of 19.8%. In 2022, 86.5% of convicted drug offences were sentenced with fines, against 12.9% imprisonment and 0.6% being attributed conditional and absolute discharges (Table 39).

Table 39 – Drug offences convicted by type of sentence, 2018– 2022

Type of sentence	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	No.	%								
Imprisonment	275	15.0	282	12.6	204	13.0	238*	13.1	280	12.9
Fines	1,532	83.6	1,900	85.2	1,330	84.5	1,575	86.7	1,884	86.5
Probation	9	0.5	20	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Community service	1	0.1	25	1.1	38	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Conditional and absolute discharges	16	0.9	4	0.2	2	0.1	4	0.2	13	0.6
All sentences	1,833	100.0	2,231	100.0	1,574	100.0	1,817	100.0	2,177	100.0

* Include 1 from RYC & other institutions and CYC

Source: Annual Report of The Judiciary 2022

In 2022, out of the 2,177 convicted drug offences reported by the Judiciary, 84.7% were associated to possession of drugs, 5.7% to consumption of drugs, 4.1% to dealing of drugs, 4.6% to cultivation of cannabis and 0.9% to importation of drugs (Table 40).

Table 40 - Drug offences convicted by type of offence, 2018–2022

Type of drug offence	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	No.	%								
Possession	1,401	76.4	1,810	81.1	1,217	77.3	1,509	83.0	1,843	84.7
Dealing	87	4.7	71	3.2	70	4.4	118	6.5	90	4.1
Consumption	237	12.9	249	11.2	187	11.9	102	5.6	125	5.7
Cultivation of cannabis	99	5.4	81	3.6	89	5.7	80	4.4	100	4.6
Importation	9	0.5	20	0.9	11	0.7	8	0.4	19	0.9
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All types of drug offences	1,833	100.0	2,231	100.0	1,574	100.0	1,817	100.0	2,177	100.0

Source: Annual Report of The Judiciary 2022

The distribution of convicted offences by type of drugs was as follows, 41.8% of convicted drug offences were associated with cannabis, against 23.2% for heroin, while 35.0% of convicted drug offences were related to other unspecified drugs (Table 41).

CONVICTED DRUG OFFENCES DUE TO HEROIN

The evolution of drug convicted offences with respect to the type of drugs involved, showed that the percentage of convicted offences with regard to heroin was 29.9% in 2018 and was 23.2% in 2022. The average annual percentage of convicted offences related to opioids (Heroin) for the year 2019-2022 has remained around 23%.

CONVICTED DRUG OFFENCES DUE TO CANNABIS

Drug convicted offences related to cannabis, showed that the percentage of convicted cannabis-offences was 41.8% in 2022 compared to 49.6% in 2018. The average annual percentage of convicted offences related to Cannabis for the year 2019-2022 is around 45%.

CONVICTED DRUG OFFENCES DUE TO OTHER ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

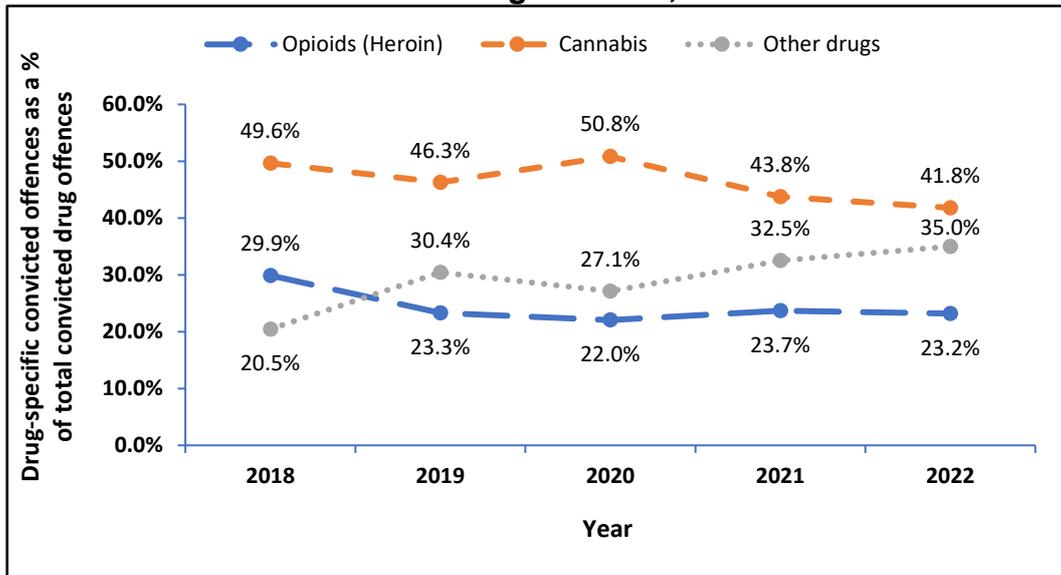
In 2018, drug convicted offences due to other drugs, excluding heroin and cannabis, which stood at 20.5% was 35.0% in 2022. The annual average percentage of convicted offences related to other illicit substances (excluding Heroin and Cannabis) for the year 2019-2022 is around 30% (Table 41).

Table 41 - Drug offences convicted by class and type of drug offence, 2018–2022

Class of drug	Type of offence	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
		No.	%								
Opioids (Heroin)	Importation	1		9		1		6		10	
	Dealing	17		9		7		20		13	
	Possession (heroin & articles)	482		469		316		385		470	
	Consumption	48		33		23		20		12	
	Other	0		0		0		0		0	
	Sub Total	548	29.9	520	23.3	347	22.0	431	23.7	505	23.2
Cannabis	Importation	5		10		5		2		8	
	Cultivation	99		81		89		80		100	
	Dealing	48		45		40		60		55	
	Possession (gandia & articles)	580		701		513		577		646	
	Consumption	178		195		153		76		101	
	Other	0		0		0		0		0	
Sub Total	910	49.6	1,032	46.3	800	50.8	795	43.8	910	41.8	
Other drugs	Importation	3		1		5		0		1	
	Dealing	22		17		23		38		22	
	Possession (drug & articles)	339		640		388		547		727	
	Consumption	11		21		11		6		12	
	Other	0		0		0		0		0	
	Sub Total	375	20.5	679	30.4	427	27.1	591	32.5	762	35.0
Total (All drug offences)		1,833	100.0	2,231	100.0	1,574	100.0	1,817	100.0	2,177	100.0

Source: Annual Report of The Judiciary 2022

Figure 17 - Trend of drug-specific convicted offences as a percentage of total convicted drug offences, 2018– 2022



ADMISSIONS OF DRUG OFFENCE CONVICTS TO PRISON

In 2018, the number of admissions of convicts to prisons for all offences have increased from 3,654 to reach 5,019 in 2022. Admissions due to drug offences was 8.9% in 2018 while in 2022 it was 6.8% with an annual average of around 8% for the past four years. (Table 42).

Table 42 – Number of admissions of convicts to prison by drug offence and non-drug offence, 2018–2022

Offence	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	No.	%								
Drug	327	8.9	326	8.3	249	7.4	312	9.4	340	6.8
Other	3,327	91.1	3,587	91.7	3,096	92.6	3,007	90.6	4,679	93.2
All offences	3,654	100.0	3,913	100.0	3,345	100.0	3,319	100.0	5,019	100.0

Source: Statistics Mauritius