

National
Drug
Observatory
Report
2019





Prime Minister Republic of Mauritius

FOREWORD

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the National Drug Secretariat for preparing this edition of the National Drug Observatory Report.

The findings of this report go a long way towards providing an accurate picture of the drugs situation and reliable data that can be used to support evidence-informed policy-making.

The Report presents and analyses facts on an array of health related services regarding drug use disorders. It also contains information on arrests carried out by the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit, drug seizures made by the different law enforcement agencies, and drug-related convictions pronounced by our Courts.

The numerous activities conducted during the year 2019 in view of drug supply reduction, demonstrate our determination to fight drug trafficking and show how our commitment is being translated into concrete actions and results.

On the demand reduction front, several long overdue initiatives to support people and families who have been engulfed in the abyss of drug consumption have begun bearing fruit as well. These include the setting up of Addiction Units in each health region, the opening of a Suboxone/Naltrexone based detoxification residential ward as well as the opening of a dedicated ward to treat minors and adolescents with drug use disorder.

The National Drug Observatory Report is a useful information source for all those seeking comprehensive information on the key achievements of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug use and related HIV interventions.

All stakeholders will find this report to be a useful tool to devise appropriate programmes and projects to respond proactively, efficiently, and in a timely manner to drug-related problems.

To conclude, I wish to appeal to each and every one of you to stand united and to focus selflessly on concerted efforts to track illicit drug trafficking.

20 January 2021

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister

Acknowledgements

The National Drug Secretariat (NDS) extends its deep appreciation to **Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius** for his support in the successful realization of the National Drug Observatory Report 2019.

The NDS is particularly indebted to all other stakeholders who contributed immensely in providing drug-related facts and figures which was analyzed and included in the Report namely:

- Statistics Mauritius,
- Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit,
- Mauritius Prisons Service,
- Ministry of Health and Wellness,
- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology,
- Mauritius Revenue Authority,
- Forensic Science Laboratory, and
- Non-Governmental Organizations

The contribution of Mr A.K.S. Seeburn, Statistical Officer, for the extensive data analysis on drug and drug-related figures for this Report is well acknowledged. A special word of thanks goes to Ms D. Seelochun and Ms S. Sakurdeep STM Interns, Ms M. Beedassy, Management Support Officer and Ms S. Boitieux, Word Processing Officer for their contribution.

The National Drug Secretariat wishes to thank, in advance, all readers of this Report.

Acronyms

ADSU	Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit
BSHMCC	Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre
CATR	Centre D'Acceuil de Terre Rouge
CEN	Customs Enforcement Network
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CUT	Collectif Urgence Toxida
CYC	Correctional Youth Centre
FIB	Fast Interceptor Boats
FSL	Forensic Science Laboratory
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
IDU	Injecting Drug Use
MAT	Medicated Assisted Therapy
MOHW	Ministry of Health & Wellness
MRA	Mauritius Revenue Authority
NASA	National AIDS Spending Assessment
NDCMP	National Drug Control Master Plan
NDO	National Drug Observatory
NDS	National Drug Secretariat
NEP	Needle Exchange Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPS	New Psychoactive Substance
PATS	Plaisance Air Transport Services
PWIDs	People Who Inject Drugs
PWUDs	People Who Use Drugs
RHIB	Rigid Hull Interceptor Boats
RILO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices

Table of Contents

Foreword	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Acronyms	ii
List of Tables	v
List of Figures	v
Executive Summary	vi
Introduction	1
Overview of the World Drug Situation	3
Drug Supply Reduction in Mauritius	5
Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit	5
Arrests by ADSU	6
Seizures of Drugs	9
Drug Offence Indicators	10
Drug Offence Rate	10
Type of Cases of Drug Offences	10
Judiciary	12
Drug Offences convicted	12
Admissions in Prisons and Drug-related Imprisonment	14
Mauritius Revenue Authority	15
Forensic Science Laboratory	18
Drug-Related Health Services	20
Public Health institutions: Admissions due to consumption of illicit substances (including abuse medicinal products)	
Addiction Units: Attendances and New cases	25
Treatment and Rehabilitation for minors and young people	26
Suboxone-Naltrexone-based detoxification Programme	27
Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme	27
Methadone Dispensing	28
Needle Exchange Programme	
Drug Prevention Programme	
Evidence-Based Drug Prevention Programme in Educational Institutions	30
Non-Governmental Organizations	31
Codeine Treatment Programme	
Rodrigues	33
HIV/AIDS and PWIDs – NASA Report 2018	
References	36

List of Tables

Table I: Cases and Arrests by ADSU, by Type of Offence, 2019	6
Table II: Arrests by ADSU, by Type of Offence disaggregated by Gender, 2019	7
Table III: Quantity of Drugs Seized by Law Enforcement Agencies in 2019	9
Table IV: Drug offences as a percentage of total offences by type of case, 2016-2019	10
Table V: Cases and Exhibits dealt by FSL, 2019	18
Table VI: Types of Drug Cases Submitted for Analysis, January to December 2019	19
Table VII: Admissions in Public Health Institutions, 2016-2019	20
Table VIII: Screening and Induction at Methadone Day Care Centres, 2019	27
Table IX: Implementation of the 'Get Connected' Project, 2019	30
Table X: New Attendance at NGOs, disaggregated by Gender, 2019	31
Table XI: New Attendance at 9 NGOs that reported cases by Drug Type and Age Group, 2019	32
Table XII: Number of Patients who accessed Codeine Treatment Programme, 2019	33
Table XIII: Expenditure by MOHW on PWIDs regarding HIV/AIDS Response, 2018	35
Table XIV: Expenditure by NGOs on PWIDs regarding HIV/AIDS Response, 2018	35
List of Figures	
Figure I: Number of Arrests by ADSU, 2016-2019	
Figure II: Arrests by ADSU for Possession Offence, disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019	
Figure III: Arrests by ADSU for Dealing Offence, disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019	
Figure IV: Arrests by ADSU for Importation Offence, disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019	
Figure V: Drug offences disaggregated by Type of Case, 2016-2019	
Figure VI: Drug Offences Convicted, 2015-2019	
Figure VII: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019	
Figure VIII: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Offence, 2019	
Figure IX: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Sentence, 2019	
Figure X: Admissions in Prisons, Republic of Mauritius, 2016-2019	
Figure XI: Number of Cases of Drug Seizures by MRA Customs, 2015-2019	17
Figure XII: Proportion of Drug Cases submitted for Analysis, 2019	
Figure XIII: Admissions in Public Health Institutions due to Consumption of Illicit Drugs by Gende	
Age Group	
Figure XIV: Admissions in Public Health Institutions disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019	
Figure XV: Trend of inpatient treatment cases in Public Health Institutions disaggregated by Ty	-
Drug, 2016-2019	
Figure XVI: Admissions in Public Health Institutions due to consumption of drugs disaggregate	-
district of residence, 2019	
Figure XVII: Inpatient Cases due to mental and behavioural disorders following drug use, B	
Sequard Mental Health Care Centre, 2016-2019	
Figure XVIII: Attendances and new cases at Addiction Units, 2019	25
Figure XIX: New Cases at Addiction Units disaggregated by Age Groups, 2019	
Figure XX: New Cases at Addiction Units disaggregated by type of Drug	
Figure XXI: Admissions at Nenuphar Ward, Long Mountain Hospital disaggregated by Type of O	Case.
Type of Drug and by Age Group, 2019	
Figure XXII: Syringes distributed, 2017-2019	
Figure XXIII: Number of New cases attended 9 NGOs that reported cases by Drug Type	32

Executive Summary



World Drug Situation

More than a quarter of a billion people worldwide that is, an estimated 269 million people had used drugs at least once in the previous year (2018). This corresponds to 5.4 per cent of the global population aged 15-64 representing nearly 1 in every 19 people.

[Source: World Drug Report 2020]



Arrests by Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit

In 2019, ADSU arrested 3,064 persons related to drug offences, which includes 14 persons arrested for Obstruction to Police and 5 persons arrested for Money Laundering. Over the last 4 years, there has been a continuous increase in the number of arrests by ADSU with an average

increase of 21% year after year in the number of arrests (excluding money laundering, obstruction to police and others).

The principal drug offence resulting in the highest proportion of arrests (59.6%) made by ADSU in 2019 is possession of drugs. Dealing of drugs represented 32.4% of total arrests made by ADSU, while cultivation of cannabis and importation of drugs represented 3.8% and 3.5% respectively of the 3,064 arrests.



Drug Seizures

It is to be highlighted that the largest quantity of seizure in terms of weight, in 2019, is associated to Cocaine (93 kg), which is generally considered much more expensive compared to other drugs available on the Mauritian market.

Year after year, the number of cases of drug seizures undertaken by the Mauritius Revenue Authority is increasing. In 2015, the MRA Customs effected 38 seizures of Drugs, while in 2019 the number of drug related seizures was 126, representing a hike of 232% compared to 2015.



Drug Offences Convicted

The majority of convictions, that is, 92% of a total of 2,231 convictions for drug offences in 2019 were for either Possession (81%) or Consumption of Drugs (11%). The remaining 8% of convictions were for Cultivation (4%), Dealing (3%) and Importation (1%).



Admissions to Prison

In 2019, out of 3,898 admissions in prisons 326 (including 4 in Rodrigues) were related to drug offences, representing 8.3% of total admissions as compared to 9% that is in 327 out of 3,654 admissions 2018.



Health Response towards Drug Use

For the year 2019, 93% of the 834 admissions in Public Health Institutions due to consumption of drugs were males amounting to 775 while the remaining 7% were females.

Most of the admissions (85%) were among the age group 15 to 39. People aged from 20 to 29 years accounted for 49% of the admissions and those between 30 and 39 years old accounted for 20% of the admissions. The younger age group represented by 15 to 19 years accounted for 16% of the admissions while the proportion of admissions for those aged below 14 years represented 2%.

Synthetic Drugs remain the main cause of admissions in public health institutions due to consumption of drugs, with 520 out of 834 cases representing 62% of the total admissions in 2019.



Harm Reduction Programme

In December 2019, there were 5,496 persons on the Methadone Maintenance Therapy programme, out of which 203 were females. Daily methadone dispensing was conducted at 44 different sites across the island, including 4 points with the prison services.

The Needle Exchange Programme is conducted by MOHW and NGO CUT at 47 sites across the country.



Non-Governmental Organizations

Treatment and Rehabilitation services for drug dependents in Mauritius is also provided by several registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

They use different therapeutic models, from drug free to medically assisted therapies, coupled with psycho-social support and rehabilitation and support services. NGOs reported a total of 2,588 new cases in 2019.

Introduction

In the 30th Special Session convened in 2016 in its General Assembly, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to address and counter the world drug problem through the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach.

Taking into consideration, the 17 Goals and 169 Targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda, global drug control policies are a cross-cutting development issue that impact upon a number of the SDGs. The SDGs and UNGASS 2016 presented key opportunities to ensure that development policies and drug control efforts work side by side to meet common goals.

In view to effectively respond to the threat of illicit drugs and its repercussions, Mauritius endorsed a National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2019-2023 to ensure safer and healthier nation, with effective policies for drug control.

In line with the Strategic Pillar 4 of the NDCMP, which stipulates *Coordination Mechanism, Legislation, Implementation Framework, Monitoring & Evaluation and Strategic Information*, a National Drug Secretariat (NDS) was set up at the Prime Minister's Office in 2019 with amongst others, the following objectives:

- To ensure Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of the NDCMP and other drug control activities; and
- To generate strategic information on drug use and related consequences through the National Drug Observatory (NDO) to ensure a robust Monitoring & Evaluation system.

Consequently, the National Drug Observatory, which was established in 2015 under the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, has been shifted under the purview of the National Drug Secretariat as from 2020. This NDO Report is the first under the NDS and its purpose is to provide an overview of the drug related facts and figures for the year 2019 in Mauritius.

The annual NDO Report aims at becoming the cornerstone of the drug monitoring system in Mauritius. As such, collaboration and coordination among national authorities and other stakeholders is a pre requisite. Different sectors like justice and law enforcement, health and education, act as a major driver, in their respective areas of competence to respond effectively to the drug scourge and to promote a heathier and a safer society and their contribution to ensure an effective monitoring system in place is essential.

Monitoring patterns and trends in a hidden and stigmatised behaviour like drug use is both practically and methodologically challenging, and that is why multiple sources of data are used to try to comprehend the situation. Caution is therefore required in interpretation of

these data as other related factors need to be taken into consideration. This report is based on data for the year 2019 generated from routine monitoring and which are provided to the NDS by different stakeholders namely MOHW, the Drug Enforcement Agencies, the Judiciary and NGOs amongst others.

The report covers the period January to December 2019 when the COVID-19 epidemic was yet to become a pandemic. However, it is worth mentioning that the outbreak and rapid spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic throughout the world has undoubtedly impacted all areas of life including drug use, drug markets as well as drug-related law enforcement and health services.

Providing continuity of care in Harm Reduction programmes, including sterile injecting equipment and drug treatment services while reducing face-to-face contact and other social distancing measures has been a major challenge faced by voluntary or civil society organisations, which provide services to people who use drugs. In future, the inclusion of community-based services for PWUDs within the health services spectrum needs to be considered in case of occurrence of unprecedented situations similar to COVID-19 lockdown.

Overview of the World Drug Situation

World Drug report 2020

More than a quarter of a billion people worldwide, that is, an estimated 269 million people had used drugs at least once in the previous year (2018). This corresponds to 5.4 per cent of the global population aged 15 – 64 representing nearly 1 in every 19 people.

Between 2009 and 2018, the estimated number of users of any drug globally increased from 210 million to 269 million.

Over the past decade, there has been a diversification of the substances available on the drug markets. In addition to traditional plant-based substances – cannabis, cocaine and heroin – the past decade has witnessed the expansion of a dynamic market for synthetic drugs and the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs and prescription medicines. The availability of more potent drugs, the increasing number of substances and their consecutive or sequential use among occasional or regular users poses an even greater challenge to the prevention of drug use and the treatment of drug use disorders than in the past.

New Psychoactive Substance (NPS)

In recent years, hundreds of NPS have been synthesized. The majority of those are stimulants, followed by synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, while an increasing number of NPS are opioids (fentanyl analogues or research opioids). NPS within the same effect group – for example, stimulants – comprise a wide range of chemical substances; thus, their effects remain unpredictable and they sometimes have severe adverse health consequences, including death. Most NPS tend to be transient and, other than their use among some marginalized groups of people who use drugs, have not carved out a niche of their own on the drug markets. However, patterns of NPS use, in particular the use of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists among marginalized, vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups, including homeless people and those in prisons or on probation, have been observed.

Drug Use Disorders

Some 35.6 million people are estimated to suffer from drug use disorders, meaning that their pattern of drug use is harmful, or they may experience drug dependence and/or require treatment. This corresponds to a global prevalence of drug use disorders of 0.7 per cent among the population aged 15–64.

Cannabis

Cannabis remains by far the most commonly used drug. Worldwide, there were an estimated 192 million users of cannabis in 2018, corresponding to 3.9 per cent of the global population aged 15–64.

Source: World Drug Report 2020

Use of Drug among Adolescents and Young People

Adolescence and early adulthood are an important period of transition. It is a time of physical and psychological development, with changes occurring in the brain, and of cognitive and emotional development. For some, it is also a time of increased vulnerability to the initiation of drug use. Adolescence (12–17 years of age) is the critical risk period for the initiation of substance use.

Within the population aged 15–64, peak levels of drug use are seen among those aged 18–25. This situation is observed in countries in most regions and for most drug types. Cannabis is the most widely used drug among young people. Globally, it is estimated that there were 13 million past-year users of any drug among students aged 15–16 in 2018, with an estimated 11.6 million past-year users of cannabis. This corresponds to an annual prevalence of cannabis use of 4.7 per cent among this age group – a rate that is higher than the rate among the general population aged 15–64 (3.9 per cent). The risk of developing dependence on cannabis among those who have ever used the drug (even once) has been estimated at 9 per cent by studies in the United States. That rate rose to 17 per cent among lifetime users who started using cannabis in adolescence, according to studies in the United States, New Zealand and Australia.

Global Production of Drugs

Global illicit opium production has shown a long-term upward trend, although it remained stable at 7,610 tons in 2019 compared with the previous year (7,620 tons in 2018) and was 26 per cent lower than the peak reported in 2017 (10,270 tons).

On the basis of preliminary estimates, the global manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride may have reached its highest level ever in 2018, at 1,723 tons (expressed at 100 per cent purity). Global cocaine manufacture increased by 37 per cent between 2015 and 2016, by 23 per cent between 2016 and 2017, and by 4.6 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

Qualitative information on trends reported by Member States suggests there was an expansion of global cannabis cultivation over the period 2010–2017, most notably from 2015 to 2017, before a decline in 2018. The reported overall net decline in 2018 is the result of 13 countries reporting a decrease, 8 reporting a stable situation and 9 reporting an increase.

Source: World Drug Report 2020

Drug Supply Reduction in Mauritius

In response to the challenges represented by the drug scourge, the National Drug Control Master Plan 2019 -2023 identifies the Drug supply reduction strategy as one of the main pillars alongside drug demand reduction, harm reduction and the cross-cutting areas of coordination, international cooperation, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Challenges to tackle or disrupt the supply chain of illicit drugs are manifold. These include the dynamic nature of illicit drugs markets, changes in trafficking routes, new technologies in the trafficking of illicit drugs and the new psychoactive substances (NPS) phenomenon. In Mauritius, the responsibilities to cut supplies of drugs in the country relies on the Drug Enforcement Agencies namely the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit of the Police Force and the Customs Anti- Narcotic Section (CANS) of the MRA.

Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit

Following the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Drugs and also based on the activities recommended in the National Drug Control Masterplan 2019-2023, the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit, has undertaken the acquisition of the following Technological Tools during the year 2019 to enhance the operational capabilities of ADSU, namely:

- Action cameras
- Portable radios Motorola
- Hand held radio make Huawei EP820
- Laptops
- High performance vehicles
- Drones

These tools have facilitated the operations with regard to:

- Surveillance of suspects
- Surveillance of suspected vessels
- Controlled Delivery Operations
- Reconnaissance of locus
- Cannabis operations in difficult terrain

In addition, inter-agencies networking and sharing of information between agencies at both local and national level has been enhanced.

Furthermore, ADSU personnel, which was 389 in 2018 has been reinforced in view to raise its operational capabilities and reached 450 in 2019.

Arrests by ADSU

With the increase of ADSU personnel in 2019, tracking of people suspected to be involved in drug related offences continued with more determination. Figure I below shows the number of persons arrested by ADSU with regard to drug related matters between 2016 to 2019.

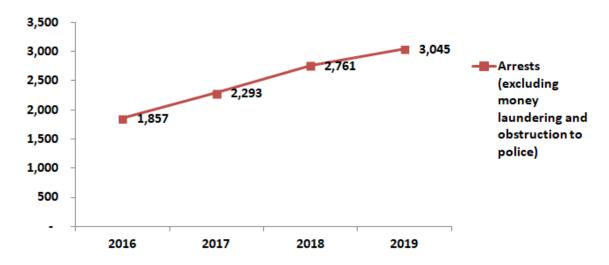


Figure I: Number of Arrests by ADSU, 2016-2019

In 2019, ADSU made 3,064 arrests for drug-related offences, which includes 14 for Obstruction to Police and 5 arrests for Money Laundering. Over the last 4 years, there has been a constant increase in the number of arrests by ADSU with an average increase of 21% year after year in the number of arrests (excluding money laundering, obstruction to police and others).

Type of Offence	Number of Cases	Number of Cases Unknown Accused	Number of Arrests	Percentage of Arrest (%)
Possession	1,813	-	1,826	59.6
Dealing	934	-	993	32.4
Cultivating	454	339	118	3.8
Importation	102	48	108	3.5
Obstruction to Police	2	-	14	0.5
Money Laundering	2	-	5	0.2
Total	3,307	387	3,064	100

Table I: Cases and Arrests by ADSU, by Type of Offence, 2019

Out of a total number of 3,307 drug-related cases in 2019, ADSU effected 3,064 arrests, as shown in Table I above.

1,826 arrests were for possession of drugs for a total of 1,813 cases. While, in the case of importation of drugs, there were 108 arrests for 102 cases. Furthermore, 118 arrests were made concerning cultivation of cannabis, out of a total of 454 cases.

The principal offence resulting in the highest proportion of arrests (59.6%) made by ADSU in 2019 is possession of drugs. Dealing represented 32.4% of total arrests made by ADSU, while cultivation of cannabis and importation of drugs represented 3.8% and 3.5% respectively of the 3,064 arrests.

Type of Offence	Male	Female	Juvenile Male	Juvenile Female	Total Number of Arrests
Possession	1,766	39	21	-	1,826
Dealing	901	70	20	2	993
Cultivating	113	4	1	-	118
Importation	74	31	3	-	108
Obstruction to Police	10	4	-	-	14
Money Laundering	5	-	-	-	5
Total	2,869	148	45	2	3,064
Percentage (%)	93.6	4.8	1.5	0.1	

Table II: Arrests by ADSU, by Type of Offence disaggregated by Gender, 2019

Out of the total number of arrests, 93.6% represented adult male arrests whereas adult females accounted for 4.8 % of the arrests. The remaining 1.6%, that is, 47 arrests precisely, accounted for Juvenile arrests, including 2 female persons.

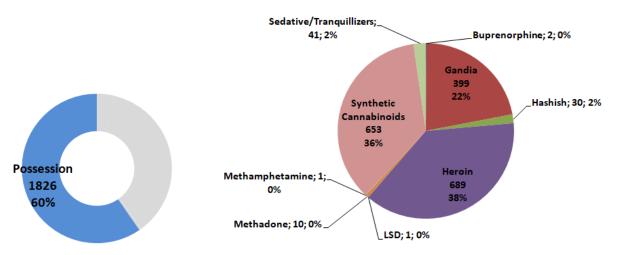


Figure II: Arrests by ADSU for Possession Offence, disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019

Most of the arrests made by ADSU with regard to possession of drugs were mainly related to Heroin, Synthetic Cannabinoids or Gandia representing 38%, 36% and 22% respectively.

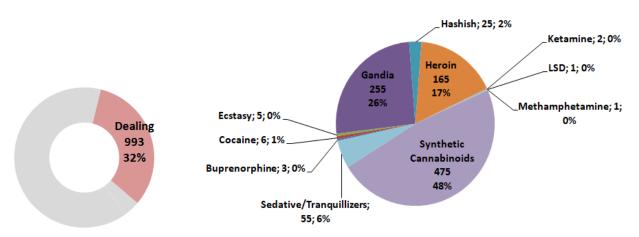
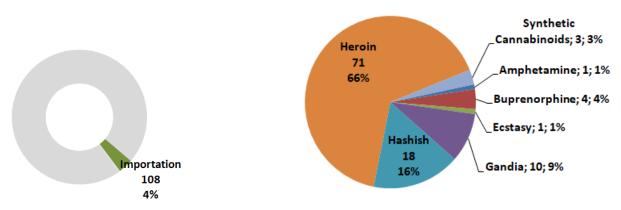


Figure III: Arrests by ADSU for Dealing Offence, disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019

Out of 993 arrests made by ADSU for dealing, 48% related to Synthetic Cannabinoids while arrests for Gandia represented 26 % that is 255 arrests. Arrests with regard to dealing in Heroin represented 17%.





There was a total of 108 arrests in the category of Importation. Out of this figure, 71 arrests effected by ADSU were for importation of Heroin and only 3 arrests were related to importation of Synthetic Cannabinoids in the year 2019.

Most of the arrests in the Importation Category of offence is related to Heroin, representing 66% of the arrests, while arrests for the same drug in the Dealing Category is 17%. Still in the importation category of offence, only 3% of arrest carried out by ADSU is attributed to Synthetic Drugs, while 48% of arrests was effected for the same drug in the dealing category.

On the other hand, the proportion of arrest related to Gandia in the Importation and Dealing categories, were 9% and, 26% respective and 1% of arrest were related to Amphetamine.

Seizures of Drugs

Table III: Quantity of Drugs Seized by Law Enforcement Agencies in 2019

Drug-Type	Quantity Seized
Cannabis	23 kg 678 g
Heroin	46 kg 631 g
Synthetic Cannabinoids	7 kg 412 g
Synthetic Cannabinoids (Pure Form)	1 kg 734 g
Cocaine	93 kg 760 g
Hashish	44 kg 089 g
Sedatives/Tranquillizers	11,307 Tablets
Buprenorphine	2,321 Tablets
Methamphetamine	32 g
LSD	15 Patches
Ecstasy	116 Tablets

It is to be highlighted that the largest quantity of seizure in terms of weight is associated to Cocaine (93.7 kg), which is a much more expensive substance compared to other drugs available on the Mauritian market. The amount of Cocaine seized in 2019 was twice the quantity of Heroin seized (46 kg) in the same year. This was followed by Hashish and Cannabis, with 44 kg and 23 kg of seizures respectively.

According to the Crime, Justice and Security Statistics 2019, some 46,318 plants of cannabis were uprooted by ADSU in 2019.

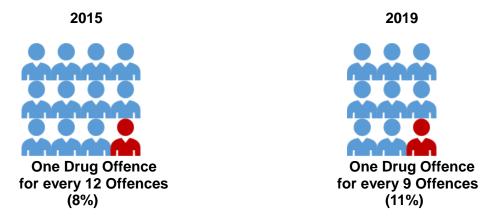
Drug Offence Indicators

Drug Offence Rate

Drug offences are as spelt out under the Dangerous Drug Act 2000. They relate mainly to drugs like Gandia, Heroin, Hashish, Opium, Cocaine and other psychotropic substances.

The drug offence rate which was 3.4 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2018 was found to be 3.9 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2019.

Ratio of Drug Offence on total offences (excl. road traffic contraventions) in 2015 compared to the year 2019



In 2015, out of a total of 44,498 offences reported by the Police (excl. road traffic contraventions) drug offences amounted to 3,468 representing 8% of the total offences. In 2019, out of a total of 45,004 offences reported by the Police, 4,906 were drug-related offences, representing 11% of the total offences.

Type of Cases of Drug Offences

Drug offences are reported by 2 types of cases – Crime cases and Misdemeanours.

Table IV: Drug offences as a percentage of total offences by type of case, 2016-2019

Drug Offence Indicators	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Drug-related Crime Offences as a percentage of Total Crime Offences	10.42	11.96	18.02	24.62
Drug-related Misdemeanours as a percentage of Total Misdemeanours	6.89	7.13	7.93	8.58

Source: Crime, Justice and Security and Statistics, 2019

In 2019, out of 45,004 offences reported by the Police, 6,516 were classified as Crime cases, out of which 24.62%, that is 1,604 were drug-related offences. Likewise, misdemeanors for the year 2019 amounted to 38,488 offences, out of which 8.58% were drug related Misdemeanors, that is 3,302 drug-related offences.

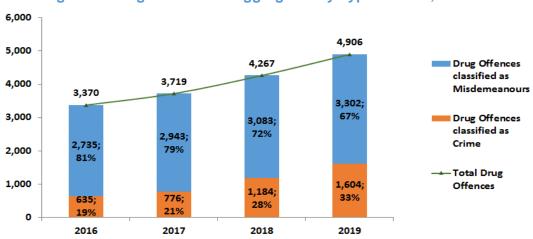


Figure V: Drug offences disaggregated by Type of Case, 2016-2019

Over the last 4 years, the proportion of drug offences classified as Crime has been increasing. From 19% of the total drug offences in 2016, drug related crime cases increased year after year to reach 33% of the drug related offences in 2019, that is 1,604 offences, as shown in Figure V above.

Judiciary

Drug Offences convicted

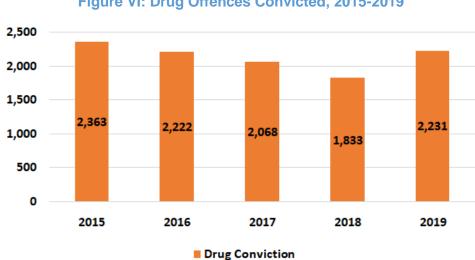
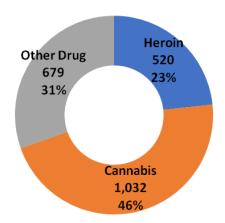


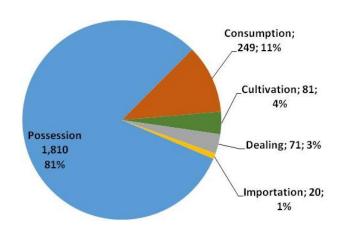
Figure VI: Drug Offences Convicted, 2015-2019

Figure VII: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019



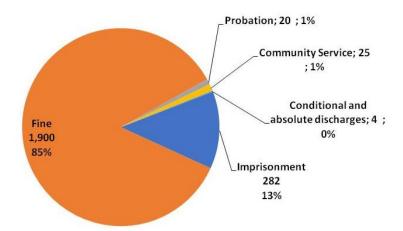
In 2019, there have been 2,231 convictions for drug related offences, compared to 1,833 convictions in 2018, representing a percentage increase of 21.7% compared to 2018. Cannabis was the main drug of concern with 46% of total convictions, that is 1,032 followed by Heroin with 520 conviction representing 23% of total convictions.

Figure VIII: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Offence, 2019



The majority of convictions, that is, 92% of a total of 2,231 convictions for drug offences in 2019 were for either Possession (81%) or Consumption of Drugs (11%). Out of the remaining 8% of convictions, 4% were for Cultivation, while conviction for Dealing represented 3% and conviction for Importation was 1%.

Figure IX: Drug Offences Convicted disaggregated by Type of Sentence, 2019



Out of 2,231 Convictions for drug offences, 25 cases were sentenced to Community Service. Sentence to imprisonment represented 13% of the drug related convictions in 2019.

A correlation between the type of drug-related offences and the type of sentence has been observed. In fact, 92% of the drug offences were either for Possession (81%) or for Consumption (11%) and in terms of Type of Sentence, it is observed that most of the convictions for drug offences, that is 85%, have been sentenced to pay a fine and 2% sentenced to either Community Service or Probation.

This indicates that only a relatively low percentage of drug related convictions for Possession and Consumption of drugs were sentenced to Imprisonment, considering the fact that out of 13% of convictions for Imprisonment, 8% are related to either Cultivation, Dealing or Importation.

Admissions in Prisons and Drug-related Imprisonment

4.272 4,500 3,913 4,000 3,698 3,654 3,500 3,000 ■ Total 2,500 2,000 Drug-Related 1,500 1,000 334 327 326 295 500 0 2016 2017 2018 2019

Figure X: Admissions in Prisons, Republic of Mauritius, 2016-2019

Source: Statistics Mauritius

In 2019, 3,913 convicts were admitted in Prisons as compared to 3,654 in 2018 and 4,272 in 2017. Out of the 3,913 convicts in 2019, 15 convicts were juvenile pertaining to the age group 14-17 who were sent to Correctional Youth Centres (CYC). Among the 3,898 adult admissions, 96.5% were male convicts.

The proportion of drug related admissions for imprisonment has fluctuated between 7% to 9% during the years 2016 to 2019.

334 out of 3,698 admissions in 2016 were related to drug offences, representing 9% of total admissions. In 2017, the proportion of admissions related to drug offences was 7%, that is 295 out of 4,272 admissions, while in 2018, the proportion of admissions was 9%, that is 327 out of 3,654.

In 2019, there were 326 admissions in prisons, including 4 in Rodrigues for drug-related offences, representing 8.3% of total admissions.

Mauritius Revenue Authority

The MRA Customs has a dedicated Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) responsible for drug interdiction at the various points of entry which is operational for surveillance and intelligence purposes on a 24/7 basis. Several measures have been taken by the MRA Customs to identify and stop the smuggling of illicit drugs through the Port, Airport, Parcel Port Office as well as Courier Services.

Fast Interceptor Boats (FIB) & Rigid Hull Interceptor Boats (RHIB)

The MRA Customs make use of Fast Interceptor Boats (FIB) and Rigid Hull Interceptor Boats (RHIB), which are tailored to patrol along the coast and outside the harbour where vessels are anchored for bunkering, trans-shipment or crew change. The FIBs & RHIBs facilitates intervention and surveillance in and outside harbour on matters pertaining to drugs and other contraband activities.

Vessel Tracking System

MRA Customs also use the Vessel Tracking System for gathering of information regarding vessels real-time positioning, better targeting and scheduling of appropriate actions essential for Enforcement.

With this measure, MRA Customs is proactive in profiling and anticipating arrival of high-risk vessels to plan enforcement actions.

Use of non-intrusive tools (Scanners)

Twenty-four (24) X-Ray scanners have been installed and are in use at the various strategic points such as the SSR International Airport Passenger Terminal, Parcel Post Office, Plaisance Air Transport Services (PATS) warehouse, Mauritius Container Terminal in the Port, Courier services and Aurelie Perrine Passenger Terminal at Quay D to enhance detection of contraband. Additionally, MRA has procured a mobile scanner van and a mobile container scanner, which is being deployed around the island.

Other technological tools

In addition to scanners, the following tools are being used to enhance the MRA Drug Interdiction Programme:

- (i) **Portable contraband buster**, which can indicate the difference in density between the contraband article and the object in which it is hidden.
- (ii) **Fiberscope** used for searching and detecting concealments by viewing in real time images of angles, tubes and difficult access points on vessels, aircrafts, vehicles and cargo.

- (iii) Trace detectors for drugs/explosives.
- (iv) Hand held trace detection devices for narcotics.

Sniffer dogs

The MRA K-9 Unit comprises of fifteen (15) narcotics sniffer dogs for detection of narcotics (hard and synthetic), currencies and tobacco, which are deployed at the Port, Airport, Parcel Post, Courier Services and Container Terminal.

Advance Electronic Information for Courier and Postal Packets

MRA Customs receives timely advance electronic information of all manifested packets and parcels from airlines, courier services and the Parcel Post. This exchange of information has enhanced MRA risk management, which resulted in the effective targeting of suspicious consignments.

Gathering and sharing of Intelligences

The MRA makes use of the various networks available for gathering, sharing and dissemination of drug related data on the local and international level. These include the following:

- (i) The Customs Enforcement Network (CEN), which is a global enforcement system to support an enhanced Customs' fight against transnational organised crimes.
- (ii) The World Customs Organisation Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO), which enables the global exchange of information on trafficking/smuggling of all sorts between the 180 Member States, including Mauritius, of the World Customs Organization.
- (iii) A dedicated link stopdrug@mra.mu on the MRA website and a hotline 8958 have been put in place to enable the public to anonymously report cases of drug trafficking.

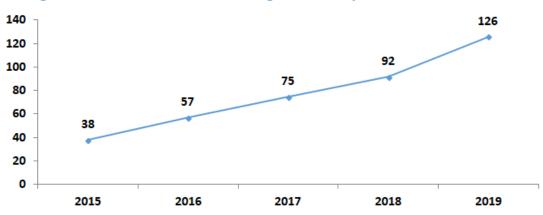


Figure XI: Number of Cases of Drug Seizures by MRA Customs, 2015-2019

Year after year, the number of cases of drug seizures undertaken by the Mauritius Revenue Authority is increasing. In 2015, the MRA Customs effected 38 seizures of Drugs, while in 2019 the number of drug related seizures was 126, representing a hike of 232% compared to 2015.

Forensic Science Laboratory

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) is an autonomous body operating under the aegis of Prime Minister's office with a mandate to provide scientific services to the Criminal Justice System and expert evidence to courts of Law.

FSL is the sole provider of forensic and advisory service to law enforcement agencies in Mauritius and is fast becoming an increasingly prominent forensic service provider in the region. The Republic of Seychelles avails itself of FSL Forensic Services under a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

The FSL Drug Unit analyses and identifies suspected controlled substances which include products manufactured clandestinely as well as legitimately manufactured pharmaceutical products that are commonly abused.

Drug case submission is increasing to include complex drug mixtures, big seizures as well as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) which present major analytical challenges.

FSL has acquired state of art equipment including Ultra-High Resolution Mass Spectrometer for the Analysis of Drugs in body fluids (Ante-Mortem) in line with the implementation of Drug Driving Screening as per the recently amended Road Traffic Act.

FSL has also acquired additional equipment to improve turnaround time for analysis and reporting of drug cases.

FSL drugs unit received ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation in 2011 and has successfully maintained compliance since.

Table V: Cases and Exhibits dealt by FSL, 2019

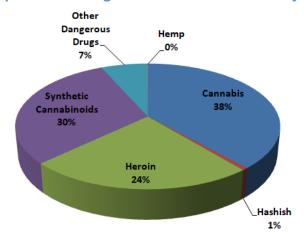
Cases	Total Number of cases	Total Number of Exhibits
Drugs	4,236	4,931
Drug Driving	11	13
Drug Determination in Body Fluid	31	52

A total of 4,931 exhibits were submitted to FSL for analysis, with regard to 4,278 cases.

Table VI: Types of Drug Cases Submitted for Analysis, January to December 2019

Month	Cannabis	Hashish	Heroin	Synthetic Cannabinoids	Other Dangerous Drugs	Hemp	Total
January	165	5	90	100	18	-	378
February	166	1	84	91	26	-	368
March	129	2	83	100	26	-	340
April	94	-	85	129	33	-	341
May	109	1	82	98	17	1	308
June	135	1	83	113	27	1	360
July	136	-	88	112	42	-	378
August	148	3	93	119	30	-	393
September	133	1	89	132	13	-	368
October	137	7	112	117	18	1	392
November	116	4	74	83	11	-	288
December	156	-	57	91	18	-	322
Total	1,624	25	1,020	1,285	279	3	4,236

Figure XII: Proportion of Drug Cases submitted for Analysis, 2019



38% of the 4,236 drug cases submitted to FSL for analysis in 2019 concerned Cannabis, while Synthetic cannabinoids and Heroin represented 30% and 24% respectively.

Drug-Related Health Services

Drug addiction is a complex, biopsychosocial brain disease often taking the course of a chronic and relapsing disorder. The addictive process leading to dependence or drug use disorder is due to both exogenous as well as endogenous factors, which contribute to long-term changes in brain function that constitute the neurobiological basis for the development of addictive behaviour.

Treatment and support services can help people experiencing harms from substance use or addiction. Such services encompass basic intervention like counseling, Medicated Assisted Therapy (MAT), harm reduction approaches, relapse prevention, psychosocial therapies, continuing care and more. In Mauritius, most of the services are available through public health care system as well as through non-governmental organizations.

Understanding that there is no one-size-fits-all, treatment options are essential to reach the desired outcome. Matching people with services that fit their needs increases a better chance of recovery.

Data from the different health service providers in the field of substance abuse helps to understand to some extent the pattern and trend of drug situation in the country. Most of the data are collected from the different drug related services of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Public Health institutions: Admissions due to consumption of illicit substances (including abuse of medicinal products)

Table VII: Admissions in Public Health Institutions, 2016-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of Admissions in Public Health Institutions	914	1,089	854	834

In 2019, the number of admissions related to drug use in Public Health institutions amounted to 834 compared to 854 in 2018 and 1,089 in 2017.

A decrease of 23.4% has been noted in the number of inpatient cases due to consumption of drugs in 2019 compared to 2017.

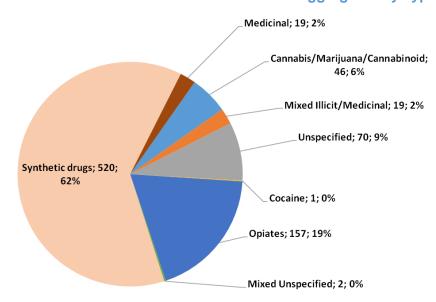
Figure XIII: Admissions in Public Health Institutions due to Consumption of Illicit Drugs by Gender and Age Group



In 2019, there were 834 admissions in public health institutions due to complications following consumption of drugs, the majority of which were males, representing 93% of admissions, while 59 admissions were females, representing 7%.

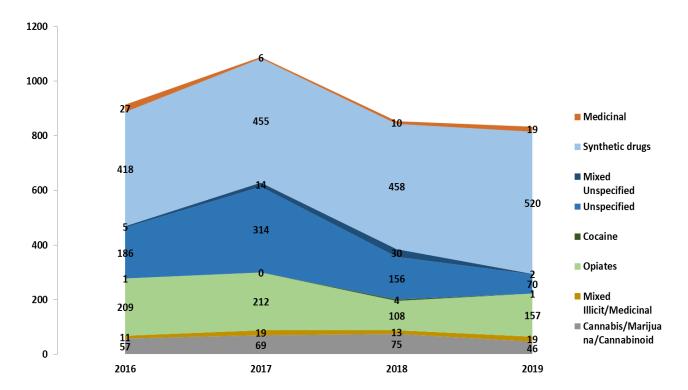
Most of the admissions were found in the age group 15 to 39. People aged from 20 to 29 years accounted for 49% of the admissions and those between 30 and 39 years old accounted for 20% of the admissions. The younger age group represented by the years 15 to 19 accounted for 16% of the admissions while the proportion of admissions for those aged between 10 to 14 years was 2%.

Figure XIV: Admissions in Public Health Institutions disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2019



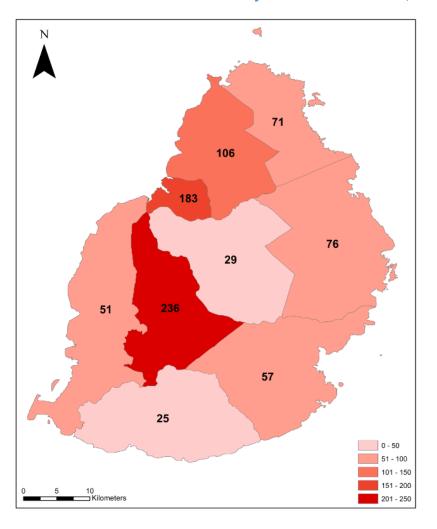
Synthetic Drugs remain the main cause of admissions in public health institutions due to consumption of drugs, with 520 out of 834 cases representing 62% of the total admissions. With a rate of 19%, consumption of opiates is the second main cause of inpatient treatment, followed by Cannabis and related substances accounting for 6% of admissions.

Figure XV: Trend of inpatient treatment cases in Public Health Institutions disaggregated by Type of Drug, 2016-2019



Unspecified substances are generally considered to be Synthetic Drugs. A decreasing trend in the number of admission related to Synthetic Drugs combined with Mixed Unspecified and Unspecified Substances is being observed with 644 cases in these groups in the year 2018 and 592 cases for the year 2019, compared to 783 cases in 2017.

Figure XVI: Admissions in Public Health Institutions due to consumption of drugs disaggregated by district of residence, 2019



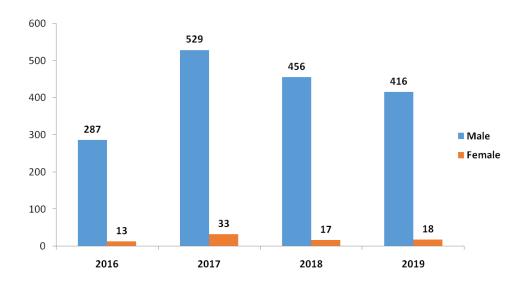
834 Admissions due to
consumption of drugs in 2019

Plaines Wilhems	236	28%
Port Louis	183	22%
Pamplemousses	106	13%
Flacq	76	9%
Riviere du Rempart	71	9%
Grand Port	57	7%
Black River	51	6%
Moka	29	3%
Savanne	25	3%

50% of admissions in Public Health Institutions due to consumption of drugs are from the district of Plaines Wilhems (28%) and Port Louis (22%), followed by 13% of admissions from the district of Pamplemousses.

The district of Flacq and Riviere du Rempart both represented 9% admissions respectively. The lowest proportion of drug-related admissions in 2019 were from the district of Moka and Savanne, both with 3% of total admissions.

Figure XVII: Inpatient Cases due to mental and behavioural disorders following drug use, Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre, 2016-2019



There were 434 admissions recorded at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre (BSHMCC) due to mental and behavioural disorders following drug use in 2019, out of which 96% were male. A notable decrease of 22.8% was observed from 2017 to 2019 in the number of drug-related inpatient cases at the BSHMCC.

Admissions for drug problems at BSHMCC accounted for nearly 52% of all reported drug related admissions in the public health institutions.

Addiction Units: Attendances and New cases

There are five addiction units in Mauritius, one in each health region. Each of the Addiction Unit operates under the care of a Psychiatrist, offering outpatient services for substance use disorder. The Addiction Units are found at the Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital, Flacq Hospital, Victoria Hospital, Mahebourg Hospital for the southern region, and for the northern region, it is found at Long Mountain Hospital.

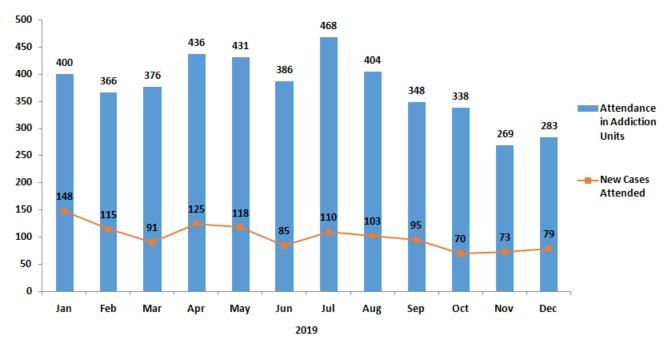


Figure XVIII: Attendances and new cases at Addiction Units, 2019

As shown in Figure XVIII above, a total of 4,505 attendances were recorded in the five addiction units of MOHW from January to December 2019, out of which 1,212 were new cases representing 26.9% of total attendance.

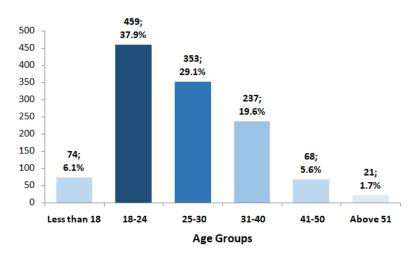


Figure XIX: New Cases at Addiction Units disaggregated by Age Groups, 2019

Out of the 1,212 new cases that attended the five Addiction Units in 2019, 6.1% was below 18 years, while 37.9% was associated with young adults between 18 and 24 years followed by the age group 25 to 30 years constituting 29.1% of new cases and 19.6% of new cases pertaining to the age group 31 to 40.

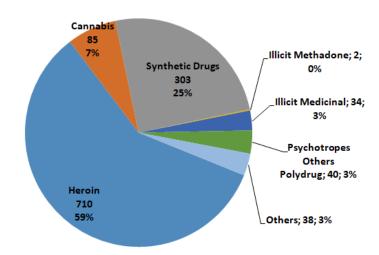


Figure XX: New Cases at Addiction Units disaggregated by type of Drug

The polydrug use nature of the Mauritian drug user is well known. Information gathered were related to the main drug of concern for seeking healthcare. It has been found that nearly 60% of the new cases that attended the five addiction units was related to Heroin while 25% that is 303 cases were due to Synthetic drugs. It is also noted that 7% of the new cases that attended the five addiction units was related to Cannabis as the prime drug of concern.

Treatment and Rehabilitation for minors and young people

Nenuphar ward is a dedicated ward catering for minors and young people up to the age of 23 years with drug-related problems. It was set up in the year 2018 and operates on a residential basis to provide treatment and rehabilitation services to vulnerable young people.

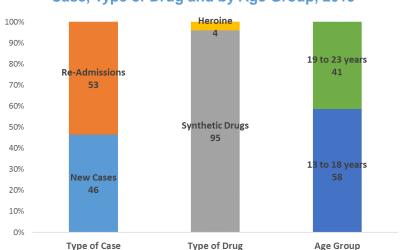


Figure XXI: Admissions at Nenuphar Ward, Long Mountain Hospital disaggregated by Type of Case, Type of Drug and by Age Group, 2019

During the year 2019, a total of 99 young people aged up to 23 years followed inpatient treatment at Nenuphar ward at Long Mountain Hospital, out of which 58 were within the age group 13 to 18 years. Out of the 99 admissions, 46 cases were new cases, while the remaining 53 have already been admitted in the ward at least once previously.

The main drug of concern was predominantly Synthetic drugs. The concomitant use of cannabis was also noted among over 50% of those admitted at Nenuphar Ward

Suboxone-Naltrexone-based detoxification Programme

A Suboxone-Naltrexone-based detoxification programme is provided by the MOHW to adults with drug use disorder at Mahebourg Hospital on a residential basis since 2016.

For the year 2019, there was a total of 169 admissions, out of which 80% were related mainly to Heroin consumption, while 20% were due to Synthetic drugs.

Cumulatively, over 700 admissions have been recorded for the programme at Mahebourg Hospital as at end of 2019.

Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme

The Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme was introduced in 2006 in view to curb the escalating trend of HIV infection among People Who Inject Drugs. The programme is implemented in two main phases namely the Induction phase and the Maintenance and Follow-up phase.

Induction consists of initiating methadone therapy under close medical supervision for People Who Use Drugs until they are stabilized on a specific dose. This is conducted on a day care basis at 3 methadone centres in the island. Cumulatively, around 9,000 people have been induced on methadone since 2006. **Table VIII** below shows the number of screening and methadone induction carried out at 3 methadone centres in 2019.

Table VIII: Screening and Induction at Methadone Day Care Centres, 2019

	Screening			Induced on Methadone			Induction Rate
Methadone Daycare Centre	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	%
Bouloux Drop In Centre - Cassis	269	79	348	68	44	112	32.1
Mahébourg Drop In Centre	728	20	748	430	3	433	57.9
Sainte Croix Drop In Centre	867	24	891	397	-	397	44.6
Grand Total	1,864	123	1,987	895	47	942	47.4

In 2019, a total of 1,987 people who use drugs attended the 3 Methadone Centres, situated at Sainte Croix, Bouloux (Cassis) and at Mahebourg respectively for the Methadone Programme. Out of this figure, 942 were induced on methadone, representing an induction rate of 47%. A majority of the total new inductions, that is, 95% were male, while only 47 females inducted on methadone in the year 2019.

Methadone Dispensing

In December 2019, there were 5,496 persons on the Methadone Maintenance Therapy programme, out of which 203 were females. Daily methadone dispensing was conducted at 44 different sites across the island, including 4 points within the prison services.

In 2019, there were 24 dispensing caravans involved to serve 34 dispensing sites on a daily basis. Out the 24 caravans, 14 conducted dispensing at one methadone dispensing site for 2 hours between 6 and 8 a.m. and the remaining caravans conducted dispensing at two different methadone sites for around 1 hour for each site.

There were six fixed methadone dispensing sites operating in 2019 out of which 3 were found at methadone centres namely St Croix, Bouloux Cassis and Mahebourg, 1 at Dr A.G. Jeetoo Regional Hospital, 1 at Yves Cantin Community Hospital and 1 at Plaine Verte Mediclinic.

Needle Exchange Programme

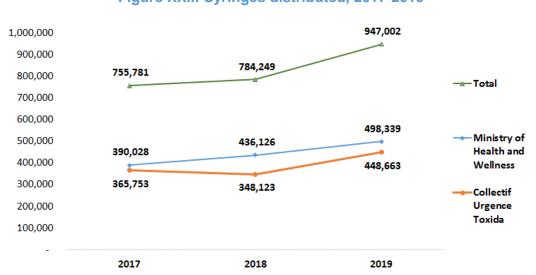


Figure XXII: Syringes distributed, 2017-2019

The Needle Exchange Programme is implemented by the MOHW in collaboration with NGO Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT). In 2019, around 947,000 syringes were distributed among PWIDs.

Drug Prevention Programme

The Harm Reduction Unit of the Ministry of Health and Wellness implements a Drug Sensitization Programme targeting mainly students of Educational and Training Institutions, employees of both, the public and the private sector, as well as members of the community.

- A total of 15,982 students around the island participated in Drug Sensitization Programme in 2019.
- A total of 481 sessions have been conducted at the level of workplace and in the community by the Harm Reduction Unit.

Media Campaign against Drugs

The Ministry of Health and Wellness conducted a nationwide media campaign against drugs, particularly Synthetic Drugs in 2019. This was done through several communication tools as hereunder:

- TV Spots broadcasted at prime time on the different channels of the MBC,
- Audio prevention messages on the different channels of the MBC Radio, as well as Private Radio channels, that is Radio Plus, Radio One and Top FM,
- 120 Billboards at strategic points throughout the country,
- 600 Rear Bus messages against drugs,
- Social Media posts, and
- Posters

Evidence-Based Drug Prevention Programme in Educational Institutions

In line with the National Drug Control Master Plan 2019-2023, the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (MOE) has introduced a Drug Use Prevention Programme ('Get Connected' Programme) in all secondary schools across the island in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Police and NGOs.

The objective is to maintain a safe and supportive environment for the School community. This evidenced based prevention programme was launched with students of the Grade 8 in January 2019.

Table IX: Implementation of the 'Get Connected' Project, 2019

D	ATE	PROGRAMMES
	January	Implementation of the pilot project in 47 secondary schools.
2019	September & October	Workshop conducted to empower Trainers.
	November	Capacity Building to extend the Programme/ Workshops conducted for the training of 170 educators from both public and private secondary schools.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Treatment and Rehabilitation services for drug dependents in Mauritius is also provided by several registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). They use different therapeutic models, from drug free to medically assisted therapies, coupled with psycho-social support and rehabilitation and support services. Some of these centres offer residential based services, while others operate on a day-care basis.

Nine NGOs reported new cases that attended their centres in 2019, disaggregated by Age Group and main drug of concern. The number of new cases for the year 2019 at the 9 NGOs was 2,109, out of which 89% were males, as shown in Table X below. Out of the remaining 11% of female attendance, 170 new cases, representing 78% of new cases among female, attended Chrysalide, a female-dedicated centre, which is found at Bambous.

Table X: New Attendance at NGOs, disaggregated by Gender, 2019

NGOs	New Male Attendance	New Female Attendance	Total New Attendance
Actresa	7	-	7
AILES	226	-	226
Centre de Solidarité PUNV	295	-	295
Chrysalide	-	170	170
Dr Idrice Goomany	338	12	350
Help De Addiction	300	25	325
Lakaz A	159	14	173
Sangram Seva Sadan	85	3	88
Groupe Renaissance	471	4	475
Total	1,881	228	2,109
Percentage	89.2%	10.8%	100%

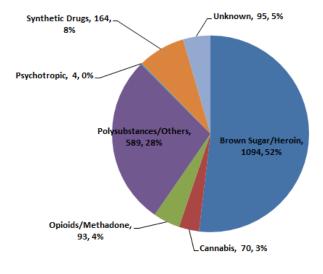
 Centre D'Acceuil de Terre Rouge (CATR) offers residential treatment and rehabilitation services at Terre Rouge and day care services at Flacq to PWUD. The NGO reported a total of 408 new clients attending Terre Rouge and 71 at Flacq, for the year 2019.

Table XI: New Attendance at 9 NGOs that reported cases by Drug Type and Age Group, 2019

Age Group							
Drug Type	Less than 18 years	19 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	Above 50 years	Total	%
Brown Sugar / Heroin	24	562	327	115	66	1,094	51.9
Cannabis	4	38	16	7	5	70	3.3
Opioids / Methadone	10	54	20	8	1	93	4.4
Polysubstance/ Others	14	286	180	74	35	589	27.9
Psychotropic	-	3	-	1	-	4	0.2
Synthetic Drugs	10	101	35	17	1	164	7.8
Unknown	7	43	34	8	3	95	4.5
Total	69	1,087	612	230	111	2,109	100
Percentage	3.3	51.5	29.0	10.9	5.3	100	

Minors that is those less than 18 years of age represented 3.3% of the total new cases that attended the different NGOs in 2019. The majority of attendance that is 80.5% was related to the 19 to 39 age group. The remaining 16.2% were those above 40 years of age.

Figure XXIII: Number of New cases attended 9 NGOs that reported cases by Drug Type



Over 50% of the new cases that attended NGOs in 2019 were related to Opiates (Heroin/Brown Sugar), amounting to 1,094 out of a total of 2,109 cases. Polysubstance use, which often includes opiates alongside other substances, represented 28% of new cases. 5% of the new cases representing the Unknown group most probably should be added with the 8% of the new cases related to Synthetic Drugs.

Codeine Treatment Programme

A Codeine-based treatment programme is offered to PWUDs at five NGOs in collaboration with the MOHW, as shown in the Table XII below.

Table XII: Number of Patients who accessed Codeine Treatment Programme, 2019

NGOs	Male		Fem	ale	Both Sexes	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Idrice Goomany	286	44.3%	14	2.2%	300	46.4%
Chrysalide	-	-	30	4.6%	30	4.6%
Solidarite Rose- Hill	125	19.3%	1	0.2%	126	19.5%
Help De Addiction	101	15.6%	10	1.5%	111	17.2%
SSS St Paul	76	11.8%	3	0.5%	79	12.2%
Total	588	91.0%	58	9.0%	646	100.0%

588 people who use drugs accessed the Codeine Therapy Programme in 2019. The largest proportion of patients who accessed the Codeine Therapy Programme in 2019 were from Idris Goomany Centre, with a share of 44.3%, that is, 286 patients out of the total number of 588 patients.

Services offered at the NGOs are as follows:

- Counselling/Referral;
- Individual and Family Counselling:
- Motivational Interviewing;
- Psychosocial Support;
- Codeine Substitution Therapy;

- After Care Services;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Yoga, Meditation & Relaxation;
- Massage Therapy; and
- Shirodhara, Ayurvedic Medicine.

Rodrigues

Centre D'Accueil et de Rehabilitation found at St. Gabriel in Rodrigues reported 13 drug related cases for the year 2019, out of which 11 cases were residents of Mauritius.

6 cases were linked to Heroin/Brown Sugar, while 3 cases were linked to Synthetic Drugs. The remaining 4 cases were equally divided between Polysubstance users and Unspecified substances.

HIV/AIDS and PWIDs – NASA Report 2018

People who use drugs, particularly those who inject them, are at risk of contracting infections such as HCV and the HIV through the sharing of drug use material. These infections typically cause chronic diseases that may result in severe health harms, including death.

The European Drug Report 2020 state that, in 2018, an estimated 966 new HIV diagnoses attributable to IDU were notified in the European Union. This represents a 4.8% share of all new HIV diagnoses for which the route of transmission is known. Most of these cases were males (82%), typically 35 years or older. Despite notifications of newly diagnosed HIV infections among PWID declined in most European countries between 2009 and 2018, IDU remains an important mode of transmission in some countries.

In 2018, according to the data reported to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, IDU was linked to 40 % of newly diagnosed HIV cases in Lithuania and 35 % in Latvia.

The linkage between HIV/AIDS and PWIDs remains a matter of concern. The Ministry of Health and Wellness conducted a National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) that measured spending directly earmarked for HIV and AIDS as well as some general health spending that indirectly supports the HIV and AIDS response for the period January to December 2018.

NASA is an internationally standardized framework developed by the UNAIDS to track the resources spent on the HIV and AIDS response from all sources to beneficiary populations in a given year.

The NASA Report 2018 reveals that in the year 2018, the Ministry of Health and Wellness spent an estimated amount of Rs 41.94 million (USD 1.23 million) on Adults (>18 years) who inject drugs (PWIDs) and their sexual partners regarding HIV/AIDS Response.

Table XIII shows the different AIDS Spending Categories on which the amount was spent by the MOHW.

Source: European Drug Report 2020 National AIDS Spending Assessment 2018

Table XIII: Expenditure by MOHW on PWIDs regarding HIV/AIDS Response, 2018

AIDS Spending Categories on PWIDs	Amount Spent in 2018 (Rs '000)
Condom and lubricant programme as part of programmes for PWID	2,234.3
Behaviour change communication (BCC) as part of programmes for PWID	2,193.0
Sterile syringe and needle exchange as part of programmes for PWID	3,481.2
Provision of drug substitution treatment for PWID	26,560.6
Social and psychological support for PWID on Opioid substitution therapy	5,916.5
HIV testing and counselling for PWID	1,555.0
Total	41,940.0

Along with the MOHW, civil society organizations (NGOs) are also engaged as providers of service to PWIDs. The NASA Report 2018 shows that, in 2018, NGOs spent an estimated amount of Rs 14.33 million (USD 420,218) on on Adults (>18 years) who inject drugs (PWIDs) and their sexual partners regarding HIV/AIDS Response. Products and services on which the amount was spent by NGOs is illustrated in **Table XIV** below.

Table XIV: Expenditure by NGOs on PWIDs regarding HIV/AIDS Response, 2018

AIDS Spending Categories on PWIDs	Amount Spent in 2018 (Rs '000)
Behaviour change communication (BCC) as part of programmes for PWID	419.8
Sterile syringe and needle exchange as part of programmes for PWID	48.6
Drug substitution treatment and social support not disaggregated	48.6
Other programmatic activities for PWID not disaggregated by type	12,892.1
Care and Treatment services not disaggregated	920.2
Total	14,329.4

References

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs, Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD-OAS), 2010, Building a National Drugs Observatory: A joint handbook, Publications Office of the European Union Luxembourg. Available at https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications (Accessed on 25 August 2020)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), 2019, Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019, Washington, D.C., Organization of American States (OAS). Available at http://www.oas.org/en/information_center/publications.asp (Accessed on 15 September 2020)

International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies, 2017, Situational analysis of national drug observatories in Latin America and The Caribbean, Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) Madrid. Available at http://sisco.copolad.eu/web/uploads/documentos (Accessed on 05 October 2020)

Ministry of Health and Wellness, 2018, Fourth Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance [IBBS] survey Among People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) 2017 Available at https://health.govmu.org/Pages/Services/Publications_Page.aspx (Accessed on 02 October 2020)

Ministry of Health and Wellness, 2018, National Drug Observatory (NDO) Report 2018, Available at https://health.govmu.org/Pages/Services/Publications_Page.aspx (Accessed on 02 September 2020)

Ministry of Health and Wellness, 2020, National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) 2018, Available at https://health.govmu.org/Pages/Services/Publications Page.aspx (Accessed on 02 September 2020)

Observatoire National de Drogues et Addictions, 2014, Annual report of the National Observatory on Drugs and Addiction, Morocco. Available at https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/drugs-library (Accessed on 01 October 2020)

Statistics Mauritius, 2019, *Crime, Justice and Security Statistics* 2019 Police, Prosecution, Judiciary, Prisons and Probation. Available at https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Pages/Statistics/By_Subject/CJS/SB_CJS.aspx (Accessed on 02 September 2020)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2019, Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health PEP19-5068, NSDUH Series H-54, Centre for Behavioural Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Rockville MD 20857. Available at https://www.samhsa.gov/data/ (Accessed on 11 September 2020)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020, *World Drug Report* 2020 United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.20.XI.6, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs Vienna. Available at https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2020/index.html (Accessed on 05 October 2020)