



RESEARCH
REPORT
SERIES

14

Women Involved in Drug
Dependence in Malaysia —
A Preliminary Study

WOMEN INVOLVED IN DRUG DEPENDENCE IN MALAYSIA

- A PRELIMINARY STUDY

K. Foong
V. Navaratnam
P.C. Wong

RESEARCH REPORT SERIES NO. 14

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Minden, Pulau Pinang
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ISBN 967 - 9979 - 18 - 0

Printed by USM's Central Printing Unit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study could not have been completed without the kind assistance of many persons, of whom only some have been mentioned here:

- (i) Y.A.B. Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister and Chairman Anti-Dadah Committee, National Security Council.
- (ii) Y.B. Encik Anwar Ibrahim, Minister of Education, Malaysia.
- (iii) Y.B. Datuk Chan Siang Sun, Minister of Health, Malaysia.
- (iv) Y.B. Datuk Megat Junit Megat Ayob, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (v) Y.Bhg. Datuk Azizan Zainul Abidin, Secretary-General of Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (vi) Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Datuk (Dr.) Abdul Khalid Sahan, Director-General of Health.
- (vii) Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Hanif Omar, Inspector-General of Police.
- (viii) Y.Bhg. Datuk Haji Musa bin Mohamad, Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Sains Malaysia.
- (ix) Y.Bhg. Dato' Ibrahim Haji Mohamed, Director-General of Prisons Department, Malaysia.
- (x) Y.Bhg. Dato' Wan Ismail Wan Mahmood, Prime Minister's Department.

* U.N./W.H.O. Research and Training Centre On Drug
Dependence and Psychotropic Drug Use

- (xi) Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Datuk Wira Abdul Rahman Arshad,
Director-General of Education.
- (xii) Encik Khairuddin Ibrahim, Director of Anti-Dadah Task
Force.
- (xiii) Staff of all General and District Hospitals, the Police
Headquarters, Bukit Aman and all Police Stations, all
Prisons, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Home
Affairs and PEMADAM who have assisted in the collection
of information.
- (xv) Statistical/computer and secretarial staff of the
Centre for Drug Research.

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PENDAHULUAN

Sehingga masa sekarang, kajian-kajian mengenai penagihan dadah di Malaysia tertumpu ke atas penagih-penagih lelaki sahaja. Perhatian yang cukup tidak diberikan kepada masalah penagih-penagih wanita di negara ini. Walaupun mereka mewakili satu bahagian yang sangat kecil daripada jumlah penyalahguna dadah yang dikesan namun begitu kumpulan ini haruslah tidak diabaikan. Satu kajian epidemiologikal penyalahgunaan dadah di kalangan penagih wanita akan menghasilkan maklumat-maklumat yang dapat digunakan untuk perancangan program-program pencegahan dan pemulihan dadah yang sesuai untuk keperluan-keperluan wanita.

Dalam Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Anti-Dadah, Majlis Keselamatan Kebangsaan pada 1 Julai, 1986, Y.A.B. Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir Mohamad selaku Pengerusi telah menarik perhatian kepada suatu hakikat bahawa pada masa kini kurang daripada 3% daripada penagih-penagih dadah yang dikesan adalah wanita. Beliau mengarahkan satu kajian dijalankan untuk mengenalpasti latarbelakang mereka yang terlibat dan seterusnya untuk menentukan faktor-faktor pelindung yang menyebabkan penglibatan yang minimum di kalangan wanita.

Laporan ini menyampaikan penemuan-penemuan suatu kajian pendahuluan mengenai penagih-penagih wanita yang dikesan oleh agensi-agensi melapor di Malaysia. Data yang dianalisis di

dalam laporan ini berdasarkan kepada maklumat yang dikutip buat kali pertama dari semua penagih wanita yang dilaporkan pada setiap tahun dari tahun 1978 hingga 1986. Laporan ini meliputi:

- i. satu analisis ke atas aliran profil sosio-demografik dan corak penyalahgunaan dadah penagih-penagih wanita yang dikesan dari tahun 1978 - 1986;
- ii. satu analisis perbandingan ke atas sifat-sifat sosio-demografik penagih-penagih wanita menurut kaum dan agensi-agensi yang melapor;
- iii. analisa korelefan angkubah-angkubah penyalahgunaan dadah;
- iv. satu analisis perbandingan ke atas sifat sosio-demografik dan cara-cara penyalahgunaan dadah di antara penagih-penagih lelaki dan wanita.

Kajian pendahuluan ini diikuti pula oleh kajian kes yang mendalam ke atas penagih-penagih wanita di dalam institusi dan juga mereka di dalam masyarakat. Kajian-kajian kes ini bertujuan untuk memeriksa dengan lebih mendalam lagi sejarah semulajadi penyalahgunaan dadah di antara penagih-penagih wanita, kesan-kesan ketagihan dadah dan profil psikologi penagih-penagih wanita dengan tujuan menentukan faktor-faktor yang melindungi (protective).

RINGKASAN

Di antara tahun 1978 ke 1986 sejumlah 1,272 penagih wanita telah didaftarkan pada Sistem Kawalan Penyalahgunaan Dadah Kebangsaan. Daripada jumlah penagih wanita yang dilaporkan, 49.1 peratus ditangkap oleh polis, 21.0 peratus dikesan oleh pihak penjara, 20.3 peratus oleh pihak hospital dan 9.6 peratus lagi oleh Kementerian Kebajikan dan Kementerian Dalam Negeri. Hampir kesemua (98.4%) daripada penagih-penagih ini adalah dari Semenanjung Malaysia. Penagih Cina merupakan kumpulan terbesar yang dilaporkan (44.1%) diikuti oleh penagih Melayu (39.7%) dan India (11.8%). Sebanyak dua pertiga daripada penagih yang dilaporkan berumur kurang daripada 30 tahun dan pernah berkahwin. Sebilangan besar penagih-penagih ini (71.9%) mempunyai hanya sedikit ataupun tidak ada pendidikan langsung. Lebih kurang setengah (42.6%) penagih-penagih ini adalah penganggur manakala yang lain pula mempunyai pekerjaan. Di antara mereka yang bekerja, 75.0 peratus berpendapatan kurang daripada 601.00 ringgit sebulan. Satu di antara empat penagih wanita yang dilaporkan pernah ditangkap, manakala 16.3 peratus pernah dihukum dan 14.5 peratus pernah dipenjarakan.

Analisis ke atas aliran profil sosio-demografik penagih wanita yang dilaporkan bagi setiap tahun menunjukkan adanya perbezaan yang bermakna di dalam beberapa sifat. Pada amnya, penagih wanita Cina tercatat sebagai kumpulan yang terbesar sekali di dalam kebanyakan tahun. Ini diikuti oleh penagih Melayu dan India.

Penaburan umur penagih-penagih wanita yang dikesan setiap tahun tidak berubah. Kumpulan terbesar penagih-penagih wanita yang dilaporkan setiap tahun terdiri daripada mereka yang berusia dalam lingkungan umur dua-puluhan. Pada tujuh daripada sembilan tahun yang dirangkumi oleh kajian ini, didapati bahawa wanita yang berkahwin mewakili kumpulan terbesar di antara semua penagih-penagih wanita yang dilaporkan setiap tahun. Berkenaan pencapaian pendidikan pula, ternyata bahawa baru-baru ini sebahagian yang semakin besar daripada wanita yang lebih berpendidikan turut terlibat di dalam penyalahgunaan dadah. Terdapat juga variasi yang bermakna di dalam pekerjaan yang dijalankan oleh penagih wanita yang dilaporkan setiap tahun. Pada amnya, terdapat aliran berkurangan mengenai penagih wanita yang menganggur dalam tahun-tahun yang lepas. Satu aliran peningkatan dalam pendapatan bulanan dalam tahun-tahun yang lepas juga diperhatikan. Aliran yang meningkat juga diperhatikan di dalam peratusan penagih-penagih wanita yang mempunyai rekod jenayah.

Heroin merupakan dadah utama yang disalahgunakan di antara penagih-penagih wanita yang dilaporkan di Malaysia. Tiga perempat daripada penagih wanita yang dilaporkan adalah penagih heroin. Sebahagian kecil daripada penagih-penagih ini melaporkan penggunaan alkohol, ganja dan candu. Tranquiliser, ubat tidur, pil Mandrax (methaqualone), amfetamin, LSD dan morfin jarang disalahgunakan. Corak penggunaan dadah seperti yang diterangkan di atas tidak berubah bagi jangkamasa sembilan tahun yang diliputi oleh kajian ini.

Sebahagian besar (89.8%) daripada penagih wanita yang dikesan dari tahun 1978 ke 1986 adalah pengguna dadah tunggal. Analisis ke atas corak penggunaan dadah semasa, menunjukkan satu aliran yang meningkat terhadap penyalahgunaan dadah berbagai jenis dalam tahun-tahun yang lepas. Pada tahun 1986, terdapat 5 kali ganda banyaknya penyalahguna dadah berbagai jenis, dibandingkan dengan tahun 1978.

Pengaruh rakan sebaya, keseronokan dan masalah emosi merupakan sebab-sebab yang seringkali dilapor untuk menerangkan kali pertama penggunaan dadah. Lain-lain sebab seperti keinginan tahu, tidak sengaja, dan masalah kewangan merupakan sebab-sebab yang tidak sebegitu penting. Pengaruh rakan sebaya adalah satu faktor sosial utama yang menyebabkan penggunaan dadah di kalangan wanita semenjak tahun 1978. Terdapat juga satu aliran yang meningkat pada penagih wanita yang mula menggunakan dadah kerana keseronokan yang diperolehi dari dadah tersebut. Juga diperhatikan pada awal tahun lapan puluhan bahawa terdapat peratusan yang lebih tinggi di kalangan penagih-penagih wanita yang menggunakan dadah sebagai alat untuk mengatasi masalah emosi.

Berhubungan dengan jangkamasa penggunaan dadah pula, didapati bahawa tiga perempat penagih wanita yang dilapor mempunyai jangkamasa penyalahgunaan dadah selama 4 tahun atau kurang. Variasi di dalam taburan jangkamasa penggunaan dadah bagi setiap tahun semenjak tahun 1978 tidak wujud.

Dua daripada tiga penagih yang dilapor mula menggunakan dadah sebelum berusia 25 tahun. Aliran ini tidak berubah semenjak tahun 1978.

Pada amnya, sebahagian besar (57.2%) daripada penagih wanita yang dilapor, membelanjakan kurang daripada 11 ringgit sehari untuk dadah. Sebahagian yang agak besar (32.5%) juga membelanjakan lebih daripada 15 ringgit sehari. Tidak ada perubahan bermakna di dalam corak perbelanjaan seharian untuk dadah dalam tahun-tahun yang lampau. Sebilangan besar daripada penagih-penagih dadah membelanjakan kurang dari 11 ringgit sehari untuk dadah.

Penjual dadah yang juga menagih, merupakan sumber dadah yang utama bagi semua penagih-penagih wanita yang dilapor di dalam jangkamasa ini. Rakan-rakan juga merupakan sumber dadah yang penting. Situasi ini tidak berubah semenjak tahun 1978.

Sebahagian yang agak besar daripada penagih-penagih yang dilapor menghentikan penggunaan dadah biasanya untuk kesejahteraan keluarga, tekanan undang-undang dan sebab-sebab peribadi. Walau bagaimanapun, tekanan undang-undang ketara menjadi satu sebab yang semakin penting untuk menghentikan penggunaan dadah dalam tahun-tahun yang lepas.

Perbezaan-perbezaan statistik yang bermakna didapati di dalam beberapa aspek profil sosio-demografik ketiga-tiga kaum utama. Pada amnya penagih-penagih Melayu yang dilapor adalah lebih muda dibandingkan dengan penagih Cina dan India. Penagih Cina merupakan kumpulan yang tertua sekali. Penagih-penagih Cina dan India yang dilapor mempunyai kemungkinan sudah berkahwin yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan penagih Melayu. Berhubungan dengan pencapaian pendidikan pula, penagih wanita Melayu pada amnya mempunyai lebih pendidikan daripada kumpulan ethnik yang lain. Tidak terdapat perbezaan yang bermakna dari aspek pekerjaan, dan penaburan gaji bulanan di antara ketiga-tiga kaum ethnik. Dari segi penjenayahan pula, perbezaan bermakna wujud di antara ketiga-tiga kaum. Penagih-penagih India berkemungkinan mempunyai rekod-rekod jenayah yang lebih, berbanding dengan penagih-penagih Melayu dan Cina.

Profil sosio-demografik penagih wanita yang dilapor oleh agensi-agensi melapor juga menunjukkan perbezaan yang bermakna. Penagih-penagih wanita yang dilapor oleh Polis dan Penjara berkemungkinan lebih tua dan sudah berkahwin berbanding dengan mereka yang dilapor oleh pihak Hospital dan Kementerian-kementerian Kebajikan dan Dalam Negeri. Sebahagian besar dari penagih-penagih wanita yang dilapor oleh Hospital dan Polis adalah pengganggur berbanding dengan agensi-agensi lain. Walau bagaimanapun, tidak terdapat perbezaan bermakna dalam

pendapatan bulanan. Pada amnya, penagih-penagih wanita dari Penjara mempunyai paras penjenayahan yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan penagih-penagih dilapor oleh agensi-agensi lain.

Analisis korelasi angkubah-angkubah penyalahgunaan dadah menunjukkan kewujudan pertalian atau perhubungan di antara angkubah-angkubah ini dengan angkubah-angkubah sosio-demografik. Pertalian-pertalian telah didapati di antara jenis dadah yang pernah dan masih digunakan sekarang dengan lain-lain angkubah seperti bangsa, jenis penagih (berdasarkan kepada agensi yang melapor), umur penagih, taraf perkahwinan, pekerjaan, umur mula menggunakan dadah, jangkamasa menggunakan dadah dan perbelanjaan harian untuk dadah.

Beberapa daripada sebab yang dilaporkan bagi kali pertama menggunakan dadah didapati mempunyai perhubungan dengan angkubah bangsa penagih, jenis penagih, umur penagih, taraf perkahwinan, pekerjaan dan umur mula menggunakan dadah. Tambahan lagi, jangkamasa penggunaan dadah juga didapati mempunyai perhubungan dengan bangsa, jenis penagih, umur semasa, dan taraf perkahwinan.

Berhubungan dengan umur mula menggunakan dadah, didapati bahawa angkubah ini mempunyai pertalian dengan angkubah bangsa penagih, jenis penagih, taraf perkahwinan penagih dan tahap pendidikan.

Perbezaan bermakna di dalam perbelanjaan harian didapati wujud di antara penagih yang dilapor oleh agensi-agensi yang berlainan, kumpulan umur, taraf perkahwinan, pekerjaan, pendapatan bulanan dan jangkamasa penggunaan dadah. Sebaliknya, tidak ada perbezaan bermakna pada kebanyakan daripada sebab-sebab yang diberikan untuk berhenti penggunaan dadah oleh penagih-penagih dari latarbelakang sosio-demografik dan corak penggunaan dadah yang berlainan.

Perbandingan profil penagih lelaki dan wanita di Malaysia menunjukkan perbezaan-perbezaan bermakna di dalam sifat-sifat demografik dan corak penyalahgunaan dadah di kalangan penagih-penagih ini. Penagih-penagih wanita berkemungkinan lebih tua, sudah berkahwin dan menganggur apabila dibanding dengan penagih-penagih lelaki. Mereka juga cenderung kepada paras pendapatan yang lebih tinggi. Di sebaliknya, penagih-penagih lelaki didapati mempunyai tahap pendidikan dan penjenayahan yang lebih tinggi dari penagih-penagih wanita.

Berhubungan dengan corak penggunaan dadah pula, sebahagian yang besar daripada penagih-penagih lelaki didapati menyalahgunakan alkohol, ganja, morfin dan heroin berbanding dengan penagih-penagih wanita. Penagih-penagih wanita sebaliknya, lebih berkemungkinan menggunakan ubat tidur dan candu.

Perbezaan bermakna di dalam sebab-sebab mula menggunakan dadah juga diperhatikan di antara kaum lelaki dan wanita. Penagih lelaki lebih berkemungkinan memulakan penggunaan dadah disebabkan oleh keseronokan, pengaruh rakan sebaya dan keinginan untuk tahu. Sebaliknya, penagih wanita cenderung kepada menyalahgunakan dadah kerana masalah-masalah emosi dan kewangan dan sebab lain-lain.

Pada amnya, penagih-penagih wanita mempunyai jangkamasa penggunaan dadah yang lebih pendek berbanding dengan penagih-penagih lelaki. Mereka juga cenderung mula menggunakan dadah pada umur yang lebih lewat berbanding dengan penagih lelaki. Berhubung dengan perbelanjaan harian untuk dadah pula penagih-penagih wanita pada amnya, membelanjakan lebih banyak wang untuk dadah berbanding dengan penagih-penagih lelaki. Terdapat juga perbezaan bermakna di dalam sumber-sumber dadah di antara penagih-penagih lelaki dan wanita. Sebaliknya, tidak ada perbezaan bermakna di antara penagih lelaki dan wanita pada sebab-sebab menghentikan penggunaan dadah.

PREFACE

To date studies on drug dependence in Malaysia have focused exclusively on male drug dependents. Inadequate attention has been given to the problem of women drug dependents in the country. Although they represent an insignificant proportion of the total identified drug abusers they must not be ignored. An epidemiological study of female drug addiction will provide useful information for the planning of suitable treatment and prevention programmes which will respond to the needs of women.

At the meeting of Anti-Dadah Committee, National Security Council on 1st July 1986 Y.A.B. Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir Mohamad as Chairman drew attention to the fact that currently less than 3% of identified drug addicts were females. He directed a study be carried out to assess the background of those who became involved and subsequently determine those factors that were protective in keeping their involvement so minimal.

This report present findings of a preliminary study on women drug dependents identified by reporting agencies in Malaysia. The data analysed in this report is based on information collected on the first-time report of all women drug dependents identified each year over the period 1978 to 1986. The report entails:

- i) a trend analysis of the socio-demographic profile and pattern of drug use of women addicts identified over the years from 1978 to 1986;
- ii) a comparative analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics of women addicts for race and reporting agency differences;
- iii) correlate analyses of patterns of drug use variables
- iv) a comparative analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics and patterns of drug use between men and women addicts.

This preliminary study is being followed by in-depth case studies of women addicts in institutions as well as those in the community. These case studies aim to examine in greater depth the natural history of drug addiction among women drug addicts, the effects of drug addiction and the psychological profile of female drug addicts, with the view to determining those factors that are "protective".

SUMMARY

Over the period 1978 to 1986, a total of 1,272 women addicts are registered with the National Drug Abuse Monitoring System. Out of the total women addicts reported, 49.1 percent were arrested by the police, 21.0 percent were identified by the prison authorities, 20.3 percent by the hospitals and 9.6 percent by the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Almost all (98.4%) of these addicts were from West Malaysia. The Chinese are the largest group reported (44.1%) followed by the Malays (39.7%) and Indians (11.8%). Two in three addicts are below 30 years of age and have ever married. An overwhelming majority (71.9%) had little or no education at all. About half (42.6%) of the addicts were unemployed, while the rest were employed. Among those who were employed, 75% earned below 601 ringgit a month. One in four of the women addicts were ever arrested, while 16.3% were ever convicted and 14.5% were ever incarcerated.

Trend analysis of the socio-demographic profile of women addicts reported each year indicate significant variations in some characteristics. Generally, Chinese women addicts have dominated most of the years followed by the Malays and Indians. There is no variation in the age distribution of women addicts identified each year.

The largest proportion of women addicts reported annually are those in their twenties. Married women account for the largest proportion of women addicts reported annually for seven of the nine years. Where educational attainment is concerned, it is evident that an increasing proportion of more educated women are involved in drug dependence over the years. There is a significant variation in the occupation of women addicts reported each year. Generally, there is a declining trend of unemployed women addicts over the years. A trend of increase in monthly income over the years has been observed. There is also a rising trend in percentage of women addicts identified each year who have previous criminal records.

Heroin is the primary drug of abuse among reported women addicts in Malaysia. Three out of four women addicts are dependent on heroin. Fairly small proportions of addicts have reported the use of alcohol, marihuana and opium. Tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills (methaqualone), amphetamines, LSD and morphine were rarely abused. This pattern of drug use remained similar for the whole duration of the nine years.

An overwhelming proportion (89.8%) of women addicts identified from 1978 through 1986 were single drug users.

Analysis on current drug use pattern indicates an increasing trend of multiple or poly drug users over the years. By 1986, there was about five times more poly drug users when compared to that of 1978.

Peer influence, pleasure and emotional problems were the most commonly cited reasons for initial drug use. Other reasons such as curiosity, accidental and financial problems are minor reasons. Peer influence is a major social factor contributing to initiation of drug use among women since 1978. There is a rising trend of women addicts who took to drugs because of pleasure derived from the drugs. A higher percentage of women addicts is noted to use drugs as a means of escapism from emotional problems in the early eighties.

Where duration of drug use is concerned about three out of four reported women addicts had a duration of drug use of 4 years or less. There is no variation in the distribution of duration of drug use of women addicts reported each year since 1978. Two out of every three women addicts reported over the whole period had begun to use drugs before 25 years of age. This trend persisted since 1978.

Generally, a large proportion (57.2%) of reported women addicts spent less than 11 ringgit a day on drugs. A sizeable proportion (32.5%) spent above 15 ringgit daily. There is no significant change in pattern of daily expenditure on drugs over the years. A majority had spent below 11 ringgit on drugs daily.

Pushers who were also drug addicts were the most frequently reported source of drugs among all women addicts reported over the period. Friends represent the other major drug source. This has not changed since 1978.

A sizeable proportion of the reported addicts discontinued drug use mainly for the well-being of the family, due to pressure of the law and for personal reasons. However, 'pressure of the law' has increasingly become an important reason for discontinuing drug use over the years.

There are statistically significant differences in certain aspects of the socio-demographic profile of the three races. Generally, reported Malay addicts are younger than the Chinese and Indian addicts. Chinese addicts are the oldest group. Reported Chinese and Indian addicts are more likely to be married when compared to the Malays. Where educational attainment is concerned, Malay women addicts are generally more educated than the other ethnic groups. There are no significant

differences in occupation and monthly income distributions among the three races. Criminality is statistically significantly different among the three races. Indian addicts are more likely to have previous criminal records than Malays and Chinese.

Socio-demographic profile of women addicts reported by the various reporting agencies are significantly different. Women addicts identified by the police and prisons are more likely to be older and married compared to those contacted by the hospital and the Welfare and Home Affairs Ministries. A significantly larger proportion of women addicts reported by the hospital and police are unemployed compared to the other agencies. There is however, no significant difference in monthly income earnings. Generally, the women addicts from the prison have a higher level of criminality compared to addicts of the other agencies.

The correlate analyses of drug abuse variables indicate the existence of association or relationship between these variables and the socio-demographic variables. Associations are found between the types of drugs ever and currently abused and other variables, such as race, type of addict (based on reporting agency), age of the addict, marital status, occupation, age at first drug use, duration of drug use and daily expenditure on drugs.

Some of the reasons reported for initial drug use are found to be related to the race of the addict, the type of addict, current age of the addict, marital status, occupation and age at first drug use. In addition, the duration of drug use is also observed to be associated with race, type of addict, current age and marital status.

Where the age at first drug use is concerned, it is found to be related to the race of the addict, the type of addict, marital status and level of education. The daily expenditure on drugs is observed to differ significantly between addicts of the various reporting agencies, age groups, marital status, occupation, monthly income and duration of drug use.

There are significant differences in some sources of drugs reported between addicts of the different races, reporting agencies, age groups, occupations and duration of drug use. There is on the other hand, no significant difference in most of the reasons reported for discontinuing drug use among the addicts of different socio-demographic background and pattern of drug use.

A comparison of the profile of men and women addicts in Malaysia indicate significant differences in demographic characteristics and pattern of drug use between them. Women addicts are more likely to be older in age, married and unemployed, when compared to the men addicts. They also tend to earn a higher level of income. On the other hand, men addicts are found to have a higher level of education and level of criminality when compared to the women addicts.

Where the pattern of drug use is concerned, a larger proportion of men addicts are found to abuse alcohol, marihuana, morphine and heroin compared to women addicts. Women addicts on the other hand are more likely to use barbiturates and opium.

There are also significant differences in reasons for initial drug use between the two sexes. Men are more likely to initiate drug use because of pleasure, peer influence and curiosity. On the contrary, women tend to abuse drugs because of emotional and financial problems and other unspecified reasons.

Generally, women addicts have a shorter duration of drug use compared to men addicts. They also tend to initiate drug use at an older age compared to the men. Where daily expenditure on drugs is concerned, women addicts generally spend

more on drugs than men addicts. There is also significant differences in sources of drugs between the men and women addicts. On the other hand, the reasons for discontinuing drug use do not vary significantly between the two sexes.

CHAPTER 1

PROBLEM OF DRUG DEPENDENCE AMONG WOMEN

I.1 Introduction

Over the period from 1978 to 1986, a range of between 1.6 and 3.2 percent of total known addicts identified by drug abuse reporting agencies in Malaysia each year are women. A total of 1,272 women addicts are registered with the National Drug Abuse Monitoring System (NDAMS). They account for only 2.2 percent of total addicts identified over the whole period. Although they represent an insignificant proportion of the total identified drug abusers they must not be ignored. The costs of drug abuse by women to both individual and society are complex and far-reaching. Because the majority of women who abuse drugs are of child-bearing age, drug dependencies may seriously affect not only this generation of adult women but also future generations. Recent scientific findings (based on studies conducted in the United States) indicate that drug abuse by women leads to problems in female physiological functioning, poor pregnancy outcomes and inadequacies in fulfilling the parental role.

Many women addicts display a high incidence of medical problems such as viral hepatitis, venereal diseases, tetanus abscesses, bacterial endocarditis, undernourishment and menstrual abnormalities. This is often associated with the

adverse environmental conditions in which they live. Studies have also shown that pregnant women addicts experience a high incidence of obstetric complications from premature labour, breach presentation, premature rupture of membranes, toxemia, abortions to a high incidence of abnormalities in aborted fetuses (especially those who have taken LSD either before or during pregnancy). Still birth and low birth weight were also common.

The problem of the pregnant woman addict unfortunately does not end here. The infant is often born addicted. Convulsions and deaths have resulted in infants who have undergone withdrawal. Infants of addict mothers have been observed to be small for gestational age and it is believed that development of all organs is affected. Drug use during and before pregnancy has resulted in deficient growth hormones leading to fetal growth retardation. Furthermore, chromosomal damage in both parents who are drug users and the fetus have been recorded. However, this remains inconclusive.

The early mother-infant relationship will be negatively affected by the hyper-irritability (which is an aspect of withdrawal) of the neonate. This is further compounded by the fact that the mother herself is undergoing similar withdrawal experience which makes it all the more difficult for her to have

a close interpersonal relationship with her child. In the final analysis, the outcome of the addicted infant would depend on the successful treatment and rehabilitation of the addicted mother. Until then, the child remains a potential victim of child abuse.

Often compulsive drug users' lives revolve solely around their addiction careers. They are usually socially and economically dysfunctional. Mothers who are involved in drug addiction will find it very difficult to perform their functions as mothers. Relationships with their children and spouses will be affected adversely. This is a potential threat to a happy marriage and family.

All these point to the severity of the problem of women involved in drug dependence. The problem is encased in what is commonly called the vicious cycle trap.

To break into this trap, support systems are required for mother and child. These include prenatal counselling, counselling on relationship of drug addiction to serious complications of pregnancy, counselling on withdrawal problems, nutrition, fetal and maternal changes, and the processes of labour delivery and anaesthesia.

So far studies in Malaysia have focused exclusively on male drug dependents. Inadequate attention has been given to the problems of women drug dependents in Malaysia. There is a need to identify the range of problems associated with the onset of drug addiction among women and the nature of their drug use. The attitudes, personality and demographic characteristics of women addicts should be identified. An epidemiological study of female drug addiction will provide useful information for improved understanding of the problem of female addiction. It will provide relevant information for the planning of suitable treatment and prevention programmes which will respond to the needs of women. Therefore, a systematic and comprehensive study of women involved in drug dependence in Malaysia is necessary and timely.

1.2 Objectives of Study

The proposed study aims to determine the socio-demographic profile of women addicts and their pattern of drug use. It also aims to establish certain aspects of the psychological profile of women addicts, i.e., their level of self esteem, anxiety and neuroticism. Women's drug-related criminality will also be examined in the study. Further, it will include a comparison of the nature of male and female addiction.

The study will be conducted in two phases. Phase one involves a secondary analysis of information collected from female addicts identified by drug abuse reporting agencies. The next phase will concentrate on case studies of women addicts in institutions as well as those in the community (non-institutionalised). These case studies aim to examine in greater depth the natural history of drug addiction among women drug addicts, the effects of drug addiction and the psychological profile of female drug addicts.

This report (from the findings of the first phase of the study) presents a discussion of data about women drug dependents identified by all drug abuse reporting agencies, such as the police, prison, hospitals, Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs which were reported to the National Drug Abuse Monitoring System (NDAMS). Because information is collected on a regular basis, NDAMS data are useful in monitoring national trends and patterns of the social and demographic characteristics and the pattern of drug use of known women addicts.

The data analysed in this report is based on information collected on the first time report of all women drug dependents identified each year over the period 1978 to 1986. Subsequent reports of the cases have been left out. Socio-demographic

variables analysed in this report include age, race/ethnicity, state of identification or contact, marital status, highest level of education attained, occupation, monthly income and if, ever arrested, convicted, or incarcerated. The drug use variables analysed are: drugs ever abused, drugs currently abused, age at first drug use, reasons for initial drug use, duration of drug use, sources of drugs, daily expenditure on drugs, and reasons for discontinuing drug use.

1.3 Structure of Report

The structure of this report entails: firstly, a trend analysis of characteristics of women drug addicts identified over the years from 1978 to 1986. This provides a comparative description of the demographic characteristics and patterns of drug use among women addicts identified over the years 1978 - 1986. Although the samples of known addicts upon which the analysis is based is rather small, nevertheless, it does provide useful information on the probable trends over the period studied.

The trend analysis will be followed by an analysis of each demographic variable for all the women addicts identified over the whole period. In addition, the demographic characteristics will also be examined for race and reporting agency differences.

A similar format of analysis will be carried out for all patterns of drug use variables. Besides including an analysis for race and reporting agency differences, each pattern of drug use variable will be analysed bivariately, with all demographic characteristics and also other drug use variables, to determine the existence or non-existence of any relationship between the variables. The Chi-Square test will be used to establish any statistically significant (at the 0.05 significance level) relationship between any two variables.

This study of women addicts will also seek to identify variations in the patterns of drug use between men and women addicts. A comparison of demographic characteristics between the two sexes will also be made.

CHAPTER 2

TRENDS IN PROFILE OF REPORTED WOMEN DRUG
ADDICTS IN MALAYSIA: 1978 - 1986

This chapter presents trend analyses of the socio-demographic characteristics and patterns of drug use of women drug addicts identified over the period 1978 to 1986 inclusive. Out of the total women addicts contacted, 49.1 percent were arrested by the police, 21.0 percent were identified by the prison authorities, 20.3 percent by the Hospital and 9.6 percent by the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2.1 TRENDS IN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.1.1 State of Identification

An overwhelming proportion of the reported women addicts were from the Peninsula (98.4%) (See Table 2.1). Only 1.6 percent were from the East Malaysian states of Sabah (0.6%) and Sarawak (1.0%).

In the Peninsula, the Northern States (Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis) reported the highest proportion (44.7%) of women addicts, followed by the Central States (Federal Territory, Selangor, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan (36.9%), Eastern States (Kelantan, Trengganu and Pahang) (8.9%) and finally the Southern State of Johore (7.9%).

TABLE 2.1
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY STATE OF IDENTIFICATION: 1978 - 1986

States of Identification	Year										ALL Years (1272)
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1986	
Perlis	0.9	1.3	-	-	4.1	2.9	1.7	1.9	0.9	1.8	
Kedah	6.8	1.3	0.8	3.4	3.1	3.6	12.1	11.4	2.8	4.2	
Penang	15.2	22.0	10.7	10.9	18.2	14.5	15.5	26.7	23.6	17.3	
Perak	6.8	19.5	33.6	17.7	15.1	23.2	22.4	22.9	45.3	21.4	
Selangor	11.8	8.8	6.6	22.9	15.5	5.8	10.3	6.7	1.1	11.2	
Federal Territory	24.6	27.7	27.9	21.7	18.6	10.1	12.1	2.8	1.9	17.8	
Negeri Sembilan	5.1	3.8	1.6	2.3	1.4	-	1.7	5.7	2.8	2.5	
Malacca	3.4	2.5	9.8	6.9	5.2	2.9	5.2	5.7	7.5	5.4	
Johore	11.0	6.9	2.5	8.0	10.7	14.5	5.2	1.9	2.8	7.9	
Pahang	2.5	1.9	2.5	0.6	1.0	4.3	1.7	6.7	-	2.1	
Trengganu	5.9	1.2	0.8	1.1	3.4	4.4	1.7	2.9	4.7	2.9	
Kelantan	3.4	1.9	2.4	1.1	2.7	10.9	5.2	4.7	6.6	3.9	
Sabah	1.7	1.2	-	0.6	1.0	-	1.7	-	-	0.6	
Sarawak	0.9	-	0.8	2.8	-	2.9	3.5	-	-	1.0	
All States	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

The states of Perak (21.4%), Federal Territory (17.8%), Penang (17.3%), Selangor (11.2%) and Johore (7.9%) reported the majority (75.6%) of detected cases. Reports from other states were comparatively lower.

There is a significant fluctuation in the percentage of women addicts reported from each state over the years. However, generally a few states, which include Penang, Perak, Federal Territory and Selangor have dominated the total number of cases reported over most of the years.

2.1.2 Race

The Chinese are the largest group reported (44.1%) followed by Malays (39.7%) and Indians (11.8%). Other races are reported in small proportion (4.4%) (See Table 2.2).

Overall the Chinese women addicts have dominated the total number of reports for five of the nine years, i.e. with the largest proportion of total addicts reported. These years include 1979 to 1981, and again in 1985 and 1986. On the other hand, Malay women addicts are reported in larger proportions in 1983 and 1984. In 1978 and 1982,

TABLE 2.2
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY RACE: 1978 - 1986

Race	Year									ALL Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Malay	45.7	31.4	42.6	38.2	41.0	51.8	44.8	27.6	34.6	39.7
Chinese	44.1	49.1	50.0	47.4	40.3	39.3	34.5	43.8	47.1	44.1
Indian	8.5	16.4	6.6	9.2	11.1	6.7	6.9	26.7	15.4	11.8
Others	1.7	3.1	0.8	5.2	7.6	2.2	13.8	1.9	2.9	4.4
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)

Chinese and Malay addicts were reported in almost equal proportions. The percentages of Indians reported over the years are relatively minor, except for the year 1985, whereby almost a similar proportion of Malays and Indians were reported.

2.1.3 Current Age

The largest group of reported addicts are aged between 20 to 29 years (48.4%) (See Table 2.3). Addicts in their thirties (30 - 39 years) and 40 years and above accounted for 18.7 percent each respectively. Addicts of school age or teenagers (10 - 19 years), accounted for 14.2 percent of the total reported cases.

There is no variation in the age distribution of women addicts identified each year. The largest proportion of addicts reported annually are those in their twenties. Addicts who are in their thirties formed the next largest group reported each year. A sizeable proportion contacted each year are teenagers.

TABLE 2.3
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY CURRENT AGE: 1978 - 1986

Current Age (in years)	Year									All Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Less than 20	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
	16.5	17.7	10.7	10.9	9.7	20.6	19.0	20.0	11.4	14.2
20 - 24	36.5	24.7	32.0	33.3	32.9	30.9	29.3	21.0	19.0	29.7
25 - 29	15.6	21.5	18.9	21.3	15.9	19.1	22.4	19.0	18.1	18.7
30 - 34	9.6	8.2	9.8	10.9	12.1	13.2	13.8	14.0	16.2	11.7
35 - 39	6.1	7.0	5.7	6.9	7.3	5.2	8.6	9.0	8.6	7.0
40 - 44	7.0	3.8	7.4	5.2	4.5	5.1	3.4	5.0	8.6	5.4
45 - 49	3.5	5.7	5.7	4.0	5.5	2.2	-	3.0	3.8	4.2
50 and above	5.2	11.4	9.8	7.5	12.1	3.7	3.5	9.0	14.3	9.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.1.4 Marital Status

A large proportion of the reported women addicts were married (47.2%) and a relatively smaller proportion were single (34.4%) (See Table 2.4). Divorced or separated (7.7%) and widowed (10.7%) addicts accounted for only a small proportion of the total reported cases.

An examination of the marital status of the women addicts reported each year indicates that married women account for the largest proportion of women addicts reported annually for almost all of the years, except for 1978 and 1983. In 1978, single women dominated, while the proportion of married and unmarried women is almost similar in 1983. Generally, divorced or widowed women account for a lesser but sizeable proportion of total addicts reported each year.

2.1.5 Level of Education

Women addicts with little or no education accounted for the largest group (71.9%) of reported addicts (See Table 2.5). In this group, those with only primary education accounted for 42.7 percent while those with no

TABLE 2.4
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MARITAL STATUS: 1978 - 1986

Marital Status	Year											All Years								
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986											
Single	58.3	34.3	39.4	33.5	28.7	44.0	34.6	35.5	21.4	34.4	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
Married	29.2	47.1	42.6	49.8	49.8	42.5	49.1	43.0	59.2	47.2										
Divorced	10.4	7.8	9.8	4.7	8.7	6.0	10.9	7.5	6.8	7.7										
Widowed	2.1	10.8	8.2	12.4	12.8	7.5	5.4	14.0	12.6	10.7										
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0										

education accounted for 29.2 percent of the total reported cases. As the level of education advances, the proportion of reported addicts decreases. Addicts with lower secondary education accounted for 16.1 percent, higher secondary education 10.1 percent, college or university education 1.1 percent and others 0.8 percent.

There is a significant difference in the level of educational attainment of women addicts identified over the years. Generally, the data show that an increasing proportion of more educated women are involved in drug addiction over the years. The percentage of women with secondary education increased from zero percent in 1980 to 26.4 percent in 1981, and as high as 43.4 percent by 1986. However, the proportion of primary school educated women addicts is consistently the largest over almost the whole period (except for 1981). A sizeable proportion reported each year have no formal education.

TABLE 2.5
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: 1980 - 1986

Level of Educational Attainment	Year							All Years
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
No education	(4)	(53)	(114)	(29)	(17)	(27)	(23)	(267)
Primary	50.0	39.6	29.0	20.7	17.6	29.6	21.8	29.2
Lower Secondary (Form 1 - 3)	50.0	34.0	44.7	55.2	41.2	44.5	34.8	42.7
Upper Secondary (Form 4 - 6)	-	13.2	14.9	10.3	17.6	22.2	30.4	16.1
Tertiary Level	-	13.2	8.8	13.8	11.8	3.7	13.0	10.1
Others	-	-	2.6	-	-	-	-	1.1
All Categories	-	-	-	-	11.8	-	-	0.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Information on level of education attained is obtained from only a small proportion of total addicts.

2.1.6 Occupation

Almost half (42.6%) of the reported women addicts are unemployed (See Table 2.6). Employed addicts are mostly working in unspecified activities or in the others category (29.5%). White-collared professionals and clerical workers (2.9%) are reported in larger proportions than blue-collared skilled workers (1.8%). The proportion of female students identified is small (2.7%).

There is a significant variation in the occupation of women addicts contacted each year. Generally, there is a declining trend of unemployed women addicts over the years. During the years 1978 and 1980, as high as between 55 and 67 percent of addicts were unemployed. However, since 1981 there is a severe drop in percentage of unemployed, i.e. from 63.9 percent in 1980 to 33.7 percent in 1981. This group accounted for about one-third of total women addicts identified from 1981 to 1985. In 1986, there was a slight increase in percentage, i.e. to 44.2 percent.

While the proportion of unemployed declined, that of women involved in other unspecified occupation indicated a significant increase, from a low 14.8 percent in 1980 to as high as 45.0 percent in 1985.

TABLE 2.6
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY OCCUPATION: 1978 - 1986

Occupation	Year									ALL Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Student	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
	1.7	1.9	-	1.1	2.2	3.1	1.8	3.0	3.9	2.7
Unemployed	55.9	66.8	63.9	33.7	31.0	27.8	33.9	34.0	44.2	42.6
Labourer	9.3	7.6	10.7	11.4	15.8	15.8	12.5	13.0	8.7	12.1
Shop Assistant	5.1	3.8	4.9	10.3	11.9	14.3	8.9	4.0	6.7	8.4
Clerk	1.7	0.7	-	1.1	1.1	-	1.8	-	1.0	0.8
Skilled Worker	2.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.8	4.5	1.8	1.0	2.9	1.8
Professional	-	0.7	4.9	5.2	3.2	1.5	-	-	-	2.1
Others	23.7	17.8	14.8	36.6	33.0	33.0	39.3	45.0	32.6	29.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportion of women who are employed as labourers and shop-assistants is observed to be larger in the early eighties. The proportion of white-collared workers also fluctuated significantly over the years.

2.1.7 Monthly Income

Almost half (49.2%) of the reported addicts are of the lower income group earning 350.00 ringgit or less per month (See Table 2.7). A total of 43.2 percent are from the middle income group of 351 - 1,000 ringgit and 7.6 percent are from the higher income group of 1,001 ringgit and above.

The data indicate a trend of increase in monthly income over the years. The percentage of addicts who earned below 251 ringgit declined from 50 percent in 1978 to as low as 18.5 percent in 1984. A significant increase is noted for those who earned above 600 ringgit. It increased from 12.5 percent in 1978 to as high as 30.7 percent in 1985.

TABLE 2.7
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MONTHLY INCOME: 1978 - 1986

Monthly Income	Year							All Years		
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984		1985	1986
Less than \$251	(16)	(30)	(35)	(99)	(136)	(74)	(27)	(52)	(43)	(512)
\$251 - \$350	50.0	43.4	45.7	37.4	34.6	27.0	18.5	21.2	30.2	33.2
\$351 - \$600	12.5	13.3	11.4	13.1	14.0	18.9	22.2	28.9	11.6	16.0
\$601 - \$1000	25.0	20.0	20.0	29.3	23.5	28.4	33.4	19.2	32.6	25.8
\$1001 and above	12.5	13.3	14.3	17.2	17.7	20.3	22.2	17.3	16.3	17.4
		10.0	8.6	3.0	10.2	5.4	3.7	13.4	9.3	7.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.1.8 Criminality

About one quarter (24.4%) of the identified addicts reported having been arrested before (See Table 2.8). The percentage of those who were ever convicted (16.3%) and ever incarcerated was smaller (14.5%). About 2 out of 3 (66.7%) of the addicts ever arrested were convicted for an offence. Furthermore, 88.8 percent of addicts ever convicted and 59.2 percent ever arrested were imprisoned.

There is a rising trend in percentage of women addicts identified each year who have previous criminal records. Slight fluctuations however, are noted in the proportion of those who were ever arrested over the years. The percentage of women who were ever convicted increased slightly from 13.8 percent in 1978 to 18.3 percent by 1986. A similar trend is observed in the proportion of those who were ever imprisoned.

An overwhelming majority (80.9%) of the women with previous criminal records have committed the crime of drug possession. About 13 percent were arrested for pushing drugs (See Table 2.9). Thus, more than 90 percent of the crimes committed by women addicts are also drug-related. This trend persisted over the whole period.

TABLE 2.8

TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS WITH SPECIFIC TYPES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS: 1978 - 1986

Type of Criminal Record	Year								ALL Years	
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985		1986
Ever Arrested	19.7	25.8	22.2	28.1	28.4	19.3	21.1	25.3	20.4	24.4
Ever Convicted	13.8	15.2	17.3	19.3	17.1	14.1	15.8	14.7	18.3	16.3
Ever Incarcerated	9.5	12.9	13.6	17.9	17.5	14.1	17.5	10.5	12.0	14.5
	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)

2.2 TRENDS IN PATTERN OF DRUG USE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS:

1978 - 1986

2.2.1 Drugs Ever Abused

Heroin ranks as the drug most often abused in the history of women's drug addiction (See Table 2.10). Among the total reported cases, it's most likely that three out of four (75.8%) women addicts have abused heroin. The use of alcohol (11.1%) is not popular among the women addicts. Marihuana (12.6%) and opium (13.3%) are abused by only a fairly small proportion of these addicts. Tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD, morphine and other drugs were rarely ever abused. The report on ever abuse of cigarettes was only 42.8 percent. This probably is due to under reporting.

The pattern of drug use among women addicts remained similar for the whole duration of the nine years. Heroin use is most frequently reported by an overwhelming majority of addicts contacted each year. Drugs such as marijuana, opium, morphine and alcohol are used by a small proportion of addicts. Although there are fluctuations in percentages, the changes are insignificant and there is

TABLE 2.9
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY TYPE OF CRIMINAL OFFENCE COMMITTED: 1978 - 1986

Type of Criminal Record Offence	Year									All Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Possession of Drugs	(81)	(99)	(79)	(139)	(224)	(76)	(24)	(70)	(80)	(872)
Pushing Drugs	88.9	87.9	89.9	82.0	75.9	81.6	54.2	75.7	78.7	80.9
Stealing	9.9	10.1	6.3	9.4	19.2	9.2	25.0	15.7	16.3	13.3
Others	-	-	-	5.0	1.8	-	4.2	-	-	1.4
	1.2	2.0	3.8	3.6	3.1	9.2	16.6	8.6	5.0	4.4
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

basically no clear trend of any increase or decrease in the use over the whole period. The use of other psychoactive drugs such as tranquillisers, barbiturates and mandrax pills (methaqualone) are rare. Among these latter group of drugs, barbiturates is more frequently reported.

2.2.2 Drugs Currently Abused

Heroin (75.8%) emerges as the drug currently most abused by women addicts (See Table 2.11). In other words there has been no change in the abuse of heroin. It was mostly prominently abused previously and it still remain so. Cigarettes appear to be the second most currently abused drug (40.9%). However, the percentage of reported cases on cigarette smoking is smaller than anticipated and this is because information on cigarette smoking was not consistently collected. Alcohol (5.3%) remains unpopular among women addicts. Marihuana (6.6%), opium (4.0%) and morphine (11.0%) are currently abused by only a small proportion of the women addicts. Other drugs like tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills and LSD are rarely abused.

TABLE 2.10
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED: 1978 - 1986

Drug Ever Abused	Year										All Years									
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986											
Cigarette	29.9	31.9	32.0	43.9	50.2	50.4	61.4	44.1	48.6	42.8	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
Alcohol	7.7	4.5	5.7	14.6	16.0	14.4	20.7	7.5	8.3	11.1	0.9	1.3	1.6	4.1	-	0.8	1.7	2.1	5.9	1.5
Tranquillisers	0.9	1.3	1.6	4.1	-	0.8	1.7	2.1	5.9	1.5	6.0	4.5	5.7	9.4	13.6	11.3	5.2	6.5	5.6	8.3
Barbiturates	6.0	4.5	5.7	9.4	13.6	11.3	5.2	6.5	5.6	8.3	0.9	1.3	2.5	1.9	1.6	-	-	-	-	1.6
Mandrax pills	0.9	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6
Amphetamines	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
LSD	-	1.3	-	-	0.5	0.8	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4
Marijuana	9.4	9.6	13.1	15.2	15.7	14.5	12.1	7.5	11.1	12.6	9.4	9.6	13.1	15.2	15.7	14.5	12.1	7.5	11.1	12.6
Opium	18.0	15.9	15.6	11.7	12.9	8.0	13.8	9.7	15.3	13.3	18.0	15.9	15.6	11.7	12.9	8.0	13.8	9.7	15.3	13.3
Morphine	3.4	5.1	4.1	5.3	7.4	9.7	1.7	11.8	5.6	6.2	3.4	5.1	4.1	5.3	7.4	9.7	1.7	11.8	5.6	6.2
Heroin	84.6	79.0	80.3	75.4	78.2	70.0	69.0	63.4	72.2	75.8	84.6	79.0	80.3	75.4	78.2	70.0	69.0	63.4	72.2	75.8
Others	-	-	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.6	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6

There is no significant difference in the pattern of drug use among women addicts over the whole period studied. Heroin has remained the major drug of abuse each year. An overwhelming majority of women addicts were using heroin when they were contacted by the reporting agencies. Among to the rest of the other drugs, opium use was more frequently reported by the women addicts. The use of marihuana, morphine and alcohol is minor over the years. Other psychoactive substances such as tranquillisers, barbiturates and mandrax pills are irregularly used over the period.

2.2.3 Total Number of Drugs Consumed Currently

An overwhelming majority (89.8%) of women addicts identified over the period are single drug users, i.e. users of only one drug at one time (See Table 2.12). In this analysis, cigarette smoking (or use of nicotine) is left out as a drug. This is because cigarette smoking was inconsistently collected by the reporting agencies*. The analysis indicates an increasing trend of multiple or poly drug users, i.e. users of two or more drugs at one time.

* The Police agencies did not collect information on cigarette smoking.

TABLE 2.11
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DRUGS CURRENTLY ABUSED: 1978 - 1986

Drug Currently Abused	Year								All Years	
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985		1986
Cigarette	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
Alcohol	29.9	28.2	27.3	41.0	50.9	49.6	62.1	38.0	49.3	40.9
Tranquillisers	-	3.2	0.8	5.4	8.1	9.6	13.8	3.3	5.6	5.3
Barbiturates	-	0.6	-	1.2	-	0.8	1.7	-	16.7	0.5
Mandrax pills	0.9	1.9	1.7	3.0	8.2	4.8	3.5	3.3	1.4	3.6
LSD	-	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.6	-	-	-	0.6
Marijuana	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Opium	2.6	3.9	7.4	7.8	8.2	5.7	10.3	6.5	8.5	6.6
Morphine	12.0	13.5	12.4	10.2	10.1	7.2	13.8	7.6	14.1	11.0
Heroin	2.6	2.6	1.7	2.4	4.8	8.1	1.7	7.6	5.6	4.0
Others	83.8	78.2	79.3	74.7	78.7	70.0	69.0	66.3	73.2	75.8
	-	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.0	7.7	-	-	-	1.1

In 1978, only 2.6 percent of women addicts contacted that year were multiple drug users. The proportion of poly drug users increased gradually from 4.4 percent in 1979 to 7.7 percent in 1981, and 17.3 percent by 1983. However, in 1984, there was a very steep increase to 31.2 percent of multiple drug users. This was followed by a significant decline in the two subsequent years.

Thus, the trend is towards an increase in poly drug using behaviour among women addicts over the years.

2.2.4 Reasons for Initial Drug Use

The most commonly cited reasons for initial drug use are peer influence (44.1%), pleasure (35.0%) and emotional problems (21.2%) (See Table 2.13). Only a small proportion of the reported addicts cited curiosity, accident, financial problems or other reasons as the reasons for initial drug use.

Peer influence is a major social factor contributing to initiation of drug use among women since 1978. A comparatively larger proportion of women succumbed to this influence. Where pleasure seeking is concerned, there is a

TABLE 2.12
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUGS CONSUMED (EXCLUDING NICOTINE): 1978 - 1986

Number of Drugs Consumed	Year										All Years									
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986											
1	97.4	95.6	95.0	92.3	86.4	82.7	68.8	89.3	88.4	89.8	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
2	2.6	3.7	4.2	4.6	9.6	14.5	25.0	6.7	10.2	7.7										
3	-	-	0.8	1.9	1.8	0.9	4.2	2.7	1.4	1.3										
4	-	-	-	0.6	1.4	-	2.0	1.3	-	0.6										
5	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.1										
> 5	-	0.7	-	0.6	0.4	1.9	-	-	-	0.5										
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0										

rising trend of women addicts who started drug taking because of the pleasure that could be derived from drugs. In 1978 only 16.3 percent of addicts reported pleasure as the motivation to drug use. However, by 1986 the percentage reporting this reason has reached to slightly more than half (53.7%) of total addicts identified in the year. A minor proportion of the women were aroused by curiosity to use drugs. Yet, another small percentage have used drugs as an instrument to ease their emotional stress. In the early eighties (i.e. from 1981 to 1983) a higher percentage of women addicts is noted to use drugs as a means of escapism from emotional problems, when compared to the other years. Other reasons have remained relatively minor over the years.

2.2.5 Duration of Drug Use

About 3 out of 4 (75.2%) of the reported addicts had a duration of drug use of 4 years or less (See Table 2.14). The largest proportion of reported addicts had a duration of drug use of 1 year or less (36.6%), followed by 2.1 to 4 years (21.2%) and 1.1 to 2 years (17.4%). A relatively smaller proportion are reported in other categories of duration of drug use.

TABLE 2.13
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY REASONS FOR DRUG USE: 1978 - 1986

Reasons for Drug Use	Year										All Years									
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986											
Pleasure	16.3	33.0	28.0	31.9	41.8	31.8	37.9	37.5	53.7	35.0	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
Peer influence	57.1	45.0	50.0	38.2	36.4	48.1	43.1	48.9	50.0	44.1										
Curiosity	8.2	4.0	9.3	10.8	13.1	13.0	20.7	13.6	16.7	11.7										
Accidental	4.1	9.0	3.4	7.0	11.0	5.7	8.6	5.7	5.6	7.2										
Emotional Problems	10.2	19.0	11.0	24.8	38.3	20.5	17.2	6.8	13.0	21.2										
Financial Problems	-	6.0	6.8	3.2	4.6	4.8	3.5	3.4	5.6	4.4										
Other Reasons	4.1	5.0	7.7	7.6	14.7	17.5	8.6	17.1	22.2	11.7										

Generally, there is no variation in the distribution of duration of drug use of women addicts identified each year since 1978. The largest proportion of women addicts each year reported a one year or less duration of drug use. The percentage of those with 1.1 to 2 years of drug taking did not vary much. However, there is a slight decline in proportion of women addicts with 2.1 to 4 years of drug use experience. The other categories of duration of drug use continued to account for a small proportion of total addicts.

2.2.6 Age at First Drug Use

One in every three women addicts identified over the whole period, i.e. from 1978 to 1986 had begun to use drugs before the age of twenty (See Table 2.15). Another one-third (32.1%) of addicts were in their early twenties when they used drugs for the first time. Smaller proportions of addicts have begun drug use at an older age. Only 14.3 percent began use of drugs in their late twenties. Another 13.3 percent were in their thirties when they began drug taking.

TABLE 2.14
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DURATION OF DRUG USE: 1978 - 1986

Duration of Drug Use (in Years)	Year										All Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986		
Less than 1.1	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)	
1.1 - 2	39.6	40.4	27.8	33.6	33.1	38.7	45.8	36.6	50.0	36.6	
2.1 - 4	16.6	18.2	16.6	17.2	17.1	19.8	16.6	21.2	11.7	17.4	
4.1 - 6	27.1	17.2	31.5	22.4	22.8	21.7	16.6	15.5	6.6	21.2	
6.1 - 10	12.5	11.1	11.1	11.9	10.4	5.7	6.3	9.9	10.0	10.0	
10.1 - 15	4.2	7.1	6.5	8.2	10.4	10.4	14.7	5.6	11.7	8.8	
15 and above	1.0	1.0	2.8	3.0	3.1	0.9	-	5.6	1.7	2.3	
	5.0	3.7	3.7	3.1	2.8	-	5.6	8.3	3.7		
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Generally, there is no significant variation in the distribution of age at first drug use among women addicts identified each year. An overwhelming majority of addicts contacted each year had begun use of drugs before reaching 25 years of age. In fact, a large proportion were teenagers when they begun using drugs. Smaller percentages of women addicts started at an older age.

2.2.7 Daily Expenditure

Overall, a large proportion of reported women addicts spent less than 11 ringgit a day on drugs (See Table 2.16). About 25 percent spent between 1 and 5 ringgit daily, while another 32.8 percent spent between 6 and 10 ringgit. A smaller percentage (10.3%) had an expenditure of between 11 and 15 ringgit. One in every three addicts spent above 15 ringgit daily on drugs.

There is no significant change in the pattern of daily expenditure on drugs over the years. An increasing proportion of addicts who spent between 6 and 10 ringgit daily is noted over the years. It increased from 19.2 percent in 1978 to 46.6 percent by 1986. On the other

TABLE 2.15
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE: 1978 - 1986

Age at First Drug Use (in Years)	Year										All Years										
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986												
Less than 15	8.3	3.0	1.8	2.2	3.1	1.8	-	4.4	7.4	3.2	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)	
15 - 19	33.4	30.3	30.9	25.4	28.7	34.6	30.6	24.2	19.1	28.5											
20 - 24	39.6	28.3	23.6	40.6	34.9	32.7	38.8	25.3	23.5	32.1											
25 - 29	8.3	11.1	15.5	13.0	15.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	14.3											
30 - 34	8.3	8.1	9.1	6.5	6.1	7.3	10.2	11.0	17.7	8.6											
35 - 39	-	6.1	6.4	5.1	4.1	1.8	2.0	8.8	5.9	4.7											
40 and above	2.1	13.1	12.7	7.2	7.7	5.4	2.0	9.9	13.2	8.6											
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0											

hand, there is also a general decline in percentage of those who spent less than 6 ringgit daily. Similarly the percentage of those spending more than 10 ringgit indicated a decline over the years.

2.2.8 Sources of Drugs

Pushers who are also drug addicts were the most frequently reported source of drugs among all the women addicts reported over the period (See Table 2.17). Slightly more than half (53.3%) of the women addicts obtained their drug supplies from this source. Friends are another important drug source as reported by 31.2 percent of the women addicts. A sizeable proportion (22.0%) have reported pushers who are non-addicts as a drug source. Generally, the other sources are uncommon.

Drug addicted pushers represent the most common source of drugs over the whole period. 'Friends' has gained importance over the years with an increasing proportion of addicts who have reported this source. Non-addicted pushers is a comparatively less common drug source. Other sources such as other shops and opium dens are very uncommon. There is however, a slight increase in the report of other unspecified sources over the years.

TABLE 2.16
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS: 1978 - 1986

Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Year										All Years									
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986											
1 - 5	34.0	32.3	10.5	25.2	24.3	21.4	36.2	24.3	22.4	24.4	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
6 - 10	19.2	27.3	38.1	28.3	32.3	35.9	29.8	37.1	46.6	32.8	19.2	27.3	38.1	28.3	32.3	35.9	29.8	37.1	46.6	32.8
11 - 15	10.6	9.1	10.5	14.2	10.6	7.7	10.6	12.9	3.4	10.3	10.6	9.1	10.5	14.2	10.6	7.7	10.6	12.9	3.4	10.3
16 and above	36.2	31.3	40.9	32.3	32.8	34.8	23.4	25.7	27.6	32.5	36.2	31.3	40.9	32.3	32.8	34.8	23.4	25.7	27.6	32.5
All Categories	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

2.2.9 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use

A large proportion of the reported addicts discontinued drug use mainly for the well-being of the family (25.4%), due to pressure of the law (41.9%) and for personal reasons (22.8%) (See Table 2.18). Only a small proportion of these addicts discontinued drug use because of increasing cost (10.0%), forced by family (12.3%), health reasons (5.2%), decreasing supply of drugs (1.2%) and other reasons (4.3%).

An obvious variation in reasons for discontinuing drug use is the proportion of addicts who have reported the reason 'pressure of the law'. The period 1982 to 1984 recorded the largest proportion (between 67 and 71 percent) of total women addicts who were pressured by law to discontinue their habit. The period prior to 1982 did not indicate this as an outstanding factor. Familial and personal reasons were quite commonly reported in the period prior 1982. However, there was a decline in percentage of women addicts who stopped use for the well-being of the family and personal reasons in the later years. It is noted that an increasing proportion of women addicts were forced by their family to 'kick the habit' over the years. It increased from 5.4 percent in 1978 to 20.0 percent by 1986.

TABLE 2.17
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY SOURCES OF DRUGS: 1978 - 1986

Sources of Drugs	Year										All Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986		
Friends	13.7	35.4	26.7	35.6	40.7	40.5	43.1	41.8	41.1	31.2	
Pusher (Non-Addict)	16.2	12.7	15.8	25.6	34.4	12.7	17.2	29.7	26.0	22.0	
Pusher (Addict)	62.4	49.4	64.2	43.1	51.5	55.0	46.6	52.8	60.3	53.3	
Coffee Shops	1.7	1.3	0.8	9.4	8.1	-	-	2.2	2.7	3.8	
Other Shops	0.9	1.9	-	11.3	6.3	-	-	1.1	-	3.3	
Opium Dens	4.3	4.4	5.8	5.0	4.1	-	-	-	2.7	3.3	
Other Sources	2.6	1.9	3.3	6.3	9.5	16.0	10.3	14.3	11.0	7.8	
	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)	

The other reasons such as health reasons, increasing cost and decline in supply of drugs are irregularly reported over the years.

TABLE 2.18
TRENDS IN PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE: 1978 - 1986

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Year									All Years
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Increasing cost	(118)	(159)	(122)	(175)	(291)	(138)	(58)	(105)	(106)	(1272)
For well being of the family	2.7	21.7	14.0	5.7	9.5	6.7	3.2	14.8	-	10.0
Forced by the family	24.3	28.3	27.9	20.0	31.9	25.0	19.4	25.9	13.3	25.4
Pressure of the law	5.4	8.3	14.0	14.3	14.6	8.3	22.6	14.8	20.0	12.3
Health reasons	27.0	16.7	11.6	31.4	70.2	67.2	71.0	37.0	46.7	41.9
Decline in supply of drugs	13.5	8.3	2.3	11.4	-	3.3	-	3.7	-	5.2
Personal reasons	2.7	1.7	2.3	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	1.2
Other reasons	27.0	33.3	30.2	25.7	31.4	6.7	12.9	14.8	13.3	22.8
	-	3.3	7.0	2.9	4.9	3.3	-	11.1	13.3	4.3

CHAPTER 3

RACE AND REPORTING AGENCY DIFFERENTIALS IN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN ADDICTS IN MALAYSIA

A comparison of the socio-demographic characteristics of women addicts of the three major race/ethnic groups, that is, the Malays, Chinese and Indians, is presented in this chapter. Due to the very small number of addicts of the other races (less than 60), they are left out in the comparative analysis. The analyses control for the reporting agencies which include the hospital, police, prison and the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3.1 SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND RACE

3.1.1 State of Identification

Malay addicts were comparatively more widely distributed than the Chinese and Indian addicts (See Table 3.1). Numerous Malay addicts were reported in each of the regions whereas Chinese and Indian addicts were reported mainly in the Northern and Central regions. The largest proportion of Malay addicts were in the Central Region (40.2%), followed by the Northern Region (29.4%), Eastern Region (18.4%) and Southern Region (11.4%). On the other hand, 88.7 percent of the Chinese and 98.7 percent of the Indian addicts were reported in the Northern and Central Regions.

Reports by individual states showed that Malay addicts were concentrated mainly in the Federal Territory (19.2%), Selangor (13.6%), Penang (12.6%), Perak (11.4%) and Johore (11.4%). Chinese addicts were found mainly in Perak (30.5%), Penang (18.7%), Federal Territory (16.8%) and Selangor (8.1%). Indian addicts were located mainly in Penang (28.2%), Perak (26.9%), Federal Territory (18.8%) and Selangor (16.8%).

TABLE 3.1
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY STATE OF IDENTIFICATION AND RACE

State	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Northern Region	(29.4)	(53.9)	(60.5)	(44.5)
Perlis	1.8	0.4	0.7	1.0
Kedah	3.6	4.3	4.7	4.0
Penang	12.6	18.7	28.2	17.4
Perak	11.4	30.5	26.9	22.1
Central Region	(40.2)	(34.8)	(38.2)	(37.5)
Selangor	13.6	8.1	16.8	11.5
Federal Territory	19.2	16.8	18.8	18.0
Negeri Sembilan	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.6
Malacca	5.0	7.0	0.6	5.4
Southern Region	(11.4)	(7.0)	(-)	(8.0)
Johore	11.4	7.0	-	8.0
Eastern Region	(18.4)	(2.5)	(1.3)	(8.9)
Pahang	3.0	1.8	1.3	2.2
Trengganu	6.4	0.2	-	2.7
Kelantan	9.0	0.5	-	4.0
East Malaysia	(0.6)	(1.8)	-	(1.1)
Sabah	0.4	0.4	-	0.3
Sarawak	0.2	1.4	-	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.1.2 Current Age

There is a statistical difference in the current age of reported addicts of different ethnic groups. Reported Malay addicts are generally younger than Chinese and Indian addicts. Reported Chinese addicts are the oldest group (See Table 3.2).

Almost three out of four (72.1%) reported Malay addicts are aged less than 30 years compared to 61.7 percent among the Indians and 53.8 percent among the Chinese. Furthermore, a larger proportion of Chinese (28.3%) compared to Malay (10.3%) and Indian (13.7%) addicts are aged 40 years and above. Teenage addicts are of special concern. The highest incidence was found among the Malays (19.8%) where the proportion reported was almost twice as large as that of the Chinese (9.9%) and Indians (11.0%).

3.1.3 Marital Status

The reported data show a statistical difference in the marital status of reported addicts of different ethnic groups. A large proportion of reported Chinese (51.6%) and Indian (53.2%) compared to Malay (39.4%) addicts are married (See Table 3.3).

TABLE 3.2
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY CURRENT AGE AND RACE

*Current Age (in years)	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Less than 20	19.8	9.9	11.0	14.1
20 - 24	32.5	26.6	32.2	29.7
25 - 29	19.8	17.3	18.5	18.5
30 - 34	11.5	10.3	17.1	11.6
35 - 39	6.1	7.6	7.5	7.0
40 and above	10.3	28.3	13.7	19.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level in current age between reported addicts of different races.

On the other hand, about 1 out of 4 (24.6%) reported Malay addicts are divorced or separated and widowed as compared to 12.7 percent among the Chinese and 18.6 percent among the Indians.

A relatively smaller proportion of Indian (28.2%) compared to Malay (36.0%) and Chinese (35.7%) addicts are single.

3.1.4 Level of Education

There is a statistical difference in the education levels of reported addicts of different ethnic groups. Malay addicts are generally more educated than Chinese and Indian addicts. Indian addicts being the least educated group (See Table 3.4). Malay addicts with little or no education (61.4%) account for a much smaller proportion when compared to the Chinese (82.2%) and Indians (91.4%). Similarly, Malay addicts with secondary education (38.6%) are reported in much larger proportions than the Chinese (17.8%) and Indian (8.6%) addicts.

TABLE 3.3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MARITAL STATUS AND RACE

*Marital Status	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Single	36.0	35.7	28.2	34.9
Married	39.4	51.6	53.2	46.8
Divorced/Separated	10.5	5.1	8.9	7.8
Widowed	14.1	7.6	9.7	10.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level in marital status between reported addicts of the different races.

TABLE 3.4

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND RACE

*Level of Educational Attainment	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(114)	(90)	(35)	(239)
No Education	24.6	37.8	31.4	30.5
Primary	36.8	44.4	60.0	43.1
Secondary (Form 1-6)	38.6	17.8	8.6	26.4
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level in level of educational attainment between reported addicts of the different races.

3.1.5 Occupation

A large proportion of reported Malay (40.4%), Chinese (45.4%) and Indian addicts (42.5%) are unemployed (See Table 3.5). A large proportion of employed addicts, Malay (30.2%), Chinese (27.6%) and Indian (34.2%) are working in unspecified activities. The proportion of reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts who are students, labourers, shop assistants, white - collared workers and skilled workers is considerably less than those who are unemployed and working in unspecified activities. Statistical differences exist among reported addicts of the three races in these occupational types. For instance, Malay addicts are more likely to be students (4.3%) and shop assistants (10.7%) compared to Chinese and Indian addicts. Indian addicts (19.2%) are more likely to be labourers compared to Malay (9.5%) and Chinese addicts (12.8%).

TABLE 3.5
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY OCCUPATION AND RACE

*Occupation	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(484)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Student	4.3	0.7	-	2.1
Unemployed	40.4	45.4	42.5	43.0
Labourer	9.5	12.8	19.2	12.2
Shop Assistant	10.7	8.4	1.4	8.5
White-Collared Worker	3.5	2.4	2.7	2.9
Skilled Worker	1.4	2.7	-	1.9
Others	30.2	27.6	34.2	29.4
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level in occupation between reported addicts of different races.

3.1.6 Monthly Income

No statistical difference was observed in the monthly income of reported addicts of different ethnic groups (See Table 3.6). About one half of reported Malay (49.8%), Chinese (46.1%) and Indian (58.6%) addicts earned a monthly income of 350.00 ringgit or less. Conversely, 50.2 percent of Malay, 53.9 percent of Chinese and 41.4 percent of Indian addicts earn a monthly income of 351.00 ringgit or more.

TABLE 3.6
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MONTHLY INCOME AND RACE

Monthly Income (in ringgit)	Race			
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	All Races
	(209)	(217)	(58)	(484)
Less than 251	34.0	31.8	34.5	33.1
251 - 350	15.8	14.3	24.1	16.1
351 - 600	27.8	24.9	20.7	25.6
601 - 1,000	17.7	20.3	10.4	18.0
1,001 and above	4.7	8.7	10.3	7.2
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.1.7 Criminality

Criminality is statistically significantly different (See Table 3.7) among the three races. Indian addicts are more likely than Malay and Chinese to have police records. A larger proportion of Indian (34.1%) compared to Malay (29.3%) and Chinese (18.1%) were ever arrested. Similarly, a larger proportion of Indian compared to Malay and Chinese addicts were ever convicted and ever incarcerated.

Generally, the Chinese addicts are found to have a lower level of criminality when compared to the other two races.

TABLE 3.7

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SPECIFIC
TYPES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS AND RACE

*Type of Criminal Record	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Ever arrested	29.3	18.1	34.1	24.9
Ever convicted	18.7	11.7	27.1	16.6
Ever incarcerated	18.2	9.5	23.4	14.9

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level in level of criminality between reported addicts of the different races.

3.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND REPORTING AGENCY3.2.1 Current Age

The data show that women addicts who are identified by the Police and Prison are generally older when compared to those contacted by the Hospital and the two Ministries. About one-quarter of addicts identified by the Hospitals and Ministries are teenagers when compared to less than 10 percent among those contacted by the two law enforcement agencies, i.e. the Police and Prison (See Table 3.8). Conversely, the proportion of women addicts above 35 years of age is significantly higher among those reported by the Police (35.4%) and Prison (26.6%) when compared to these reported by the Hospital (11.3%) and Ministries (5.9%).

3.2.2 Race

There is a significant difference in the proportion of women addicts of different race groups identified by the various agencies. Except for the Police, all the other three agencies reported a larger proportion of Malays (See Table 3.9). Almost half of the total addicts identified

TABLE 3.8
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY CURRENT AGE AND REPORTING AGENCY

*Current Age (in years)	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Less than 15	1.2	0.2	0.4	1.7	0.6
15 - 19	23.4	9.7	8.4	24.4	13.6
20 - 24	33.6	25.3	30.4	42.0	29.7
25 - 29	19.9	17.4	19.0	21.8	18.7
30 - 34	10.6	12.0	15.2	4.2	11.7
35 - 39	5.1	7.1	10.3	3.4	7.0
40 and above	6.2	28.3	16.3	2.5	18.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level in current age between reported addicts of different agencies.

TABLE 3.9
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY RACE AND REPORTING AGENCY

Race	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Malay	50.2	33.6	48.1	50.0	41.5
Chinese	38.3	53.7	37.4	42.2	46.1
Indian	11.5	12.7	14.5	7.8	12.4
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level in race between reported addicts of different agencies.

by these three agencies are Malays. On the other hand, the Police reported a larger percentage of Chinese (53.7%). The Indians are the smallest proportion contacted by all four agencies, with the Ministries indentifying the smallest proportion.

3.2.3 Marital Status

One out of two women addicts contacted by the law enforcement agencies, i.e. the Police and Prison is married. A significantly smaller percentage of addicts contacted by the Police (28.1%) and Prison (23.7%) are unmarried when compared to the Hospital (47.8%) and Ministries (54.6%). Almost a similar proportion of addicts from each agency are either separated/divorced or widowed (See Table 3.10).

3.2.4 Occupation

A significantly larger percentage of women addicts reported by the Hospital (47.6%) and Police (50.1%) are unemployed when compared to the Prison (22.7%) and the two Ministries (36.5%) (See Table 3.11). The Hospital and two Ministries have identified a larger proportion of students as compared to the law enforcement agencies. The prisons have identified a larger proportion of white-collared workers compared to the other agencies.

TABLE 3.10
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MARITAL STATUS AND REPORTING AGENCY

*Marital Status	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Single	47.8	28.1	23.7	54.6	34.4
Married	33.5	55.3	55.7	25.2	47.2
Separated/ Divorced	9.2	5.7	10.1	7.6	7.7
Widowed	9.5	10.9	10.5	12.6	10.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level in marital status between reported addicts of different agencies.

TABLE 3.11
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY OCCUPATION AND REPORTING AGENCY

Occupation	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Student	5.2	1.0	0.4	4.3	2.7
Unemployed	47.6	50.1	22.7	36.5	42.6
Labourer	13.6	8.7	17.1	15.7	12.1
Shop Assistant	6.0	5.9	18.2	4.3	8.4
Clerk	0.8	0.3	2.3	-	0.8
Skilled Worker	2.4	1.2	2.3	2.6	1.8
Professional	2.0	0.8	6.1	0.9	2.1
Others	22.4	32.0	30.9	35.7	29.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.2.5 Monthly Income

There is no significant difference in distribution of level of income between the employed addicts from the various reporting agencies (See Table 3.12). The largest proportion of the addicts from all the agencies earned less than 351 ringgit a month. A sizeable proportion from each agency earned above 600 ringgit a month. Comparatively, a larger proportion (33.4%) of addicts identified by the Welfare and Home Affairs Ministries earned a higher income of above 600 ringgit when compared to the proportion of addicts from the other agencies who earned the same amount.

3.2.6 Criminality

Generally the women addicts from the Prison have a higher level of criminality compared to the addicts of the other agencies (See Table 3.13). Compared to the other agencies almost twice as many addicts from the prison were ever incarcerated. A larger proportion of prison addicts had previous convictions when compared to those of the other agencies. Although the hospital has contacted a larger proportion (33.9%) of addicts who were previously arrested, it has on the other hand, the smallest proportion of addicts who were ever incarcerated.

TABLE 3.12
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY MONTHLY INCOME AND REPORTING AGENCY

Monthly Income (in ringgit)	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(102)	(174)	(176)	(60)	(512)
Less than 251	39.2	36.2	31.2	20.0	33.2
251 - 350	15.7	17.2	14.2	18.3	16.0
351 - 600	23.5	24.7	27.3	28.3	25.8
601 - 1000	10.8	16.7	18.2	28.3	17.4
1001 and above	10.8	5.2	9.1	5.1	7.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 3.13
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SPECIFIC
TYPE OF CRIMINAL RECORD AND REPORTING AGENCY

Type of Criminal Record	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Ever Arrested	33.9	18.8	26.3	24.4	24.4
Ever Convicted	14.3	14.7	21.2	16.0	16.3
*Ever Incarcerated	10.4	13.0	22.4	12.6	14.5

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between the reporting agencies.

CHAPTER 4

WOMEN ADDICTS IN MALAYSIA

This chapter examines the patterns of drug use of women addicts contacted by all the various reporting agencies. Each drug abuse variable will be cross-tabulated with each socio-demographic variable (such as race, current age, marital status, level of education, occupation and monthly income) as well as other drug abuse variables. This is to determine the existence of any association or relationship between any two variables.

4.1 DRUGS EVER ABUSED

4.1.1 Drugs Ever Abused and Race

Table 4.1 presents the percentage of addicts from each ethnic group who have reported the use of each drug in their lifetime. Although heroin is the major drug abused by an overwhelming majority of addicts of each race, there is a statistical difference in the proportion of addicts of each race who have reported its use. A larger proportion of Indians (86.9%) used heroin when compared to Malays (77.9%) and Chinese (71.7%).

The extent of use of other drugs are significantly less among all ethnic groups when compared to heroin use. However, there are also significant differences in extent of use of most of the drugs between the three races. For example, the use of opium is found to be more popular among the Chinese than the Malays or Indians. About 23 percent of the Chinese used opium as compared to only 5.8 percent of Malays and 3.8 percent of Indians. In contrast, marihuana use is more common among the Malays (21.1%) than the Indians (12.0%) or Chinese (3.5%). Malays and Indians are more likely to drink as compared to the Chinese. About 16 percent of Malays and 12.0 percent of Indians reported ever drinking of alcohol as compared to only 6.3 percent of Chinese addicts.

The use of barbiturates is significantly more frequently reported by the Malays (12.0%) when compared to the Chinese (5.7%) and Indian (4.5%) addicts. A higher percentage of Malay addicts have reported the use of mandrax pills (methaqualone) as well as morphine when compared to the other two races.

There are no significant differences among reported Malay, Chinese and Indian women addicts in the ever abuse of tranquillisers, amphetamines, LSD and other unspecified types of drugs.

TABLE 4.1
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED AND RACE

Drugs Ever Abused	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
*Cigarettes	48.8	37.1	42.7	42.7
*Alcohol	16.3	6.3	12.0	11.2
Tranquillisers	2.2	0.8	0.8	1.4
*Barbiturates	12.0	5.7	4.5	8.2
*Mandrax Pills	3.1	0.6	-	1.6
Amphetamines	0.2	-	-	0.1
LSD	0.4	-	-	0.2
*Marihuana	21.1	3.5	12.0	11.9
*Opium	5.8	23.2	3.8	13.5
*Morphine	9.1	4.5	3.0	6.2
*Heroin	77.9	71.7	86.9	76.2
Others	0.7	0.8	-	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different races.

4.1.2 Drugs Ever Abused and Reporting Agency

Heroin is the drug of abuse most frequently reported by an overwhelming majority of women addicts identified by each reporting agency (See Table 4.2). The use of other drugs was comparatively less than heroin. However, significant differences are evident with the use of alcohol, tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, marihuana and morphine. Women addicts reported by the hospitals and prisons are more likely to use alcohol (16.3% and 29.9% respectively), barbiturates (15.7% and 20.9% respectively), marihuana (19.3% and 21.4% respectively) and morphine (13.5% and 10.3% respectively).

The use of tranquillisers are more likely among women addicts in hospitals. Prison women addicts are more likely to use mandrax pills (methaqualone).

TABLE 4.2
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER
ABUSED AND REPORTING AGENCY

Drugs Ever Abused	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
*Cigarettes	67.4	8.3**	84.9	72.6	42.8
*Alcohol	16.3	0.9	29.9	13.5	11.1
*Tranquillisers	5.3	-	1.4	0.9	1.5
*Barbiturates	15.7	0.7	20.9	5.4	8.3
*Mandrax Pills	1.6	-	5.6	1.8	1.6
Amphetamines	-	-	0.5	-	0.1
LSD	0.4	-	0.9	0.9	0.4
*Marihuana	19.3	7.2	21.4	8.1	12.6
Opium	13.8	16.0	9.4	6.3	13.3
*Morphine	13.5	1.6	10.3	5.4	6.2
Heroin	76.1	72.5	77.3	88.9	75.8
Others	0.4	0.4	0.5	2.7	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.01 significance level among reported addicts of different agency groups.

** Information on cigarette smoking was not collected by most of the police stations.

4.1.3 Drugs Ever Abused and Current Age

In all age groups, the drug most commonly ever abused is heroin (See Table 4.3.). However, quite a large proportion of reported teenage (22.0%) addicts and those aged 40 years and above (43.1%) have also abused marijuana and opium respectively. Drugs other than those mentioned were generally not popular. Significant differences in drugs ever abused by reported addicts of different age groups are observed in the following drugs: alcohol, more likely among those aged below 20 (12.7%), 20 - 24 (11.0%), 25 - 29 (18.1%), 30 - 34 (10.1%), 35 - 39 (12.0%), than those aged 40 years and above (3.1%); tranquillisers, more likely used among those aged less than 20 years (4.3%) than the other age groups; barbiturates, more likely among those aged less than 20 (16.4%) and those between 20 - 24 years (11.3%) than in other age groups; marijuana, more likely among those aged less than 20 years (22.0%) than in other age groups; opium, more likely among those aged 40 years and above (43.1%) than in other age groups; morphine, more likely among those aged less than 20 years (9.8%), between 25 - 29 (7.9%) and 30 - 34 years (8.6%) than in other age groups; heroin, more likely among those aged less than

20 (72.7%), between 20 - 24 (88.9%), 25 - 29 (85.5%) and 30 - 34 (82.1%) years than between 35 - 39 (57.3%) and 40 years and above (47.9%) and; other types of drugs, more likely among those aged less than 20 years (2.4%) than in other age groups. No significant differences are observed in ever abuse of mandrax pills, amphetamines and LSD.

TABLE 4.3
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED
AND CURRENT AGE

Drugs Ever Abused	Current Age						All Categories
	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥40	
	(181)	(378)	(238)	(141)	(89)	(245)	(1272)
Cigarettes	48.8	50.4	48.4	39.6	38.7	23.2	42.8
* Alcohol	12.7	11.0	18.1	10.1	12.0	3.1	11.1
* Tranquillisers	4.3	1.2	0.9	1.6	2.7	-	1.5
* Barbiturates	16.4	11.3	7.4	5.3	1.3	2.1	8.3
Mandrax Pills	1.8	2.3	1.4	2.3	-	0.5	1.6
Amphetamines	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	0.1
LSD	0.6	0.6	-	0.8	-	-	0.4
* Marihuana	22.0	14.2	9.3	9.4	12.0	7.7	12.6
* Opium	4.3	6.4	8.4	6.9	14.7	43.1	13.5
* Morphine	9.8	4.7	7.9	8.6	4.0	3.1	6.2
* Heroin	72.7	88.9	85.5	82.1	57.3	47.9	75.8
* Others	2.4	0.6	0.5	-	-	-	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age groups.

4.1.4 Drugs Ever Abused and Marital Status

In all marital status, heroin is the drug most commonly ever abused by the reported women addicts (See Table 4.4). Ever abuse of other drugs is considerably lower when compared to ever abuse of heroin. Significant differences exist in drugs ever abused among reported addicts of different marital status. For instance, alcohol is more likely to have been abused by divorced or separated (26.9%) addicts; barbiturates, more likely to have been abused by single (14.1%), divorced or separated (11.7%) and widowed (11.2%) addicts, marihuana, more likely to have been abused by single (16.9%), divorced or separated (16.9%) and widowed (15.0%) addicts; opium, more likely to have been abused by widowed (21.5%) addicts and; heroin, more likely to have been abused by single (82.4%), married (71.3%) and divorced or separated (85.2%) addicts. There are no significant differences among reported addicts with different marital status in the ever abuse of tranquillisers, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD, morphine and other types of drugs.

TABLE 4.4
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
EVER ABUSED AND MARITAL STATUS

Drugs Ever Abused	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
Cigarettes	53.8	40.3	61.7	44.1	42.8
*Alcohol	14.7	7.6	26.9	14.7	11.1
Tranquillisers	2.2	1.2	-	3.7	1.5
*Barbiturates	14.1	4.8	11.7	11.2	8.3
Mandrax Pills	2.2	1.2	3.9	1.9	1.6
Amphetamines	-	0.2	-	-	0.1
LSD	0.6	-	-	0.9	0.4
*Marihuana	16.9	9.9	16.9	15.0	12.6
*Opium	7.7	16.1	9.1	21.5	13.3
Morphine	9.2	4.6	5.2	5.6	6.2
*Heroin	82.4	71.3	85.2	67.0	75.8
Others	1.7	0.2	-	-	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

4.1.5 Drugs Ever Abused and Level of Education

A large proportion of reported addicts with different levels of education have abused heroin (See Table 4.5). There is no statistical difference in abuse of heroin among these addicts. The proportion of reported addicts with different level of education reporting ever abuse of other drugs is considerably lower when compared to ever abuse of heroin. However, significant differences exist among addicts of different education levels in ever abuse of certain drugs. For instance, reported addicts with lower and upper secondary education are more likely than addicts with primary or no education to have ever abused barbiturates and marihuana. There are no significant differences among reported addicts with different levels of education in ever abuse of alcohol, tranquillisers, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD, opium, morphine, heroin and other types of drugs.

TABLE 4.5

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED
AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Drugs Ever Abused	Level of Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary School	Lower Sec. (F1-F3)	Upper Sec. (F4-F6)	
	(77)	(112)	(42)	(31)	(262)
Cigarettes	84.5	83.2	83.8	88.0	84.2
Alcohol	19.3	30.8	36.8	41.7	30.0
Tranquillisers	-	2.2	-	4.2	1.4
* Barbiturates	7.0	22.6	32.4	33.3	21.3
Mandrax Pills	1.7	6.4	5.6	8.3	5.2
Amphetamines	1.7	-	-	-	0.5
LSD	-	2.2	-	-	1.0
* Marihuana	10.5	18.3	27.0	54.2	21.8
Opium	8.8	14.0	2.8	4.2	9.5
Morphine	5.3	14.0	5.6	16.7	10.5
Heroin	72.4	76.8	81.6	76.0	76.4
Others	-	-	-	4.2	0.5

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different education levels.

Note: Information on level of education attained is obtained from only a small proportion of total addicts.

4.1.6 Drugs Ever Abused and Occupation

In each occupational group a large proportion of the reported addicts have abused heroin (See Table 4.6), although to a lesser degree among students (47.6% only). The extent of ever abuse of other types of drugs among reported addicts in each occupation group is comparatively lower than that of heroin use. However, significant differences exist among addicts of different occupational groups in ever abuse of certain drugs. For instance, students are more likely than addicts in other occupational groups to have ever abused tranquillisers (20.0%), barbiturates (35.0%), mandrax pills (10.0%), marihuana (45.0%) and morphine (35.0%). White-collared workers are more likely than blue-collared skilled worker addicts to have ever abused alcohol and marihuana. Blue-collared addicts (13.6%), on the other hand, are more likely than white-collared addicts (8.3%) to have ever abused morphine. There are no significant differences among reported addicts in different occupation groups in ever abuse of alcohol, amphetamines, opium, heroin and other types of drugs.

4.1.7 Drugs Ever Abused and Monthly Income

There is little difference among reported addicts with different monthly incomes in drugs ever abused except among addicts earning a monthly income of between 351 and 600 ringgit and more than 1,000 ringgit (See Table 4.7). A large proportion of the reported addicts have abused heroin. However, quite a large proportion of reported addicts earning a monthly income of between 351 - 600 ringgit have also abused alcohol (27.6%) and marihuana (22.4%). Similarly, quite a large proportion of reported addicts earning above 1000 ringgit have also abused alcohol (23.5%) and barbiturates (20.6%). Only a small proportion of the reported addicts have abused tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD, marihuana, opium, morphine and other types of drugs. In all income groups, a large proportion of the reported addicts have also abused cigarettes.

TABLE 4.6
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED
AND OCCUPATION

Drugs Ever Abused	Occupation						All Categories	
	Student	Unemployed	Labourer	Shop Assistant	White-Collared Worker	Skilled Worker		Others
Cigarettes	61.9	38.7	41.1	53.3	75.7	54.5	42.6	
Alcohol	25.0	7.0	8.7	16.7	36.1	18.2	13.1	
* Tranquillisers	20.0	1.9	1.6	-	-	-	0.6	
* Barbiturates	35.0	6.3	7.8	16.7	16.7	13.6	6.7	
* Mandrax pills	10.0	0.8	0.8	3.3	8.3	4.5	1.2	
* Amphetamines	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	
* LSD	5.0	0.2	-	1.1	-	-	0.3	
* Marihuana	45.0	10.3	11.0	16.7	33.3	9.1	11.4	
Opium	10.0	16.8	10.2	5.6	9.1	12.3	13.5	
* Morphine	35.0	3.5	4.7	7.8	8.3	13.6	7.4	
Heroin	47.6	77.0	78.6	73.6	89.2	86.4	75.7	
Others	-	0.4	1.6	-	2.9	-	0.6	
	(34)	(542)	(154)	(107)	(37)	(23)	(375)	(1272)

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different occupations.

TABLE 4.7

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER
ABUSED AND MONTHLY INCOME

Drugs Ever Abused	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	<251	251-350	351-600	601-1000	>1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
Cigarettes	52.9	51.3	63.1	53.9	68.6	56.7
*Alcohol	13.0	14.7	27.6	18.4	23.5	18.7
Tranquil- lizers	1.3	1.3	-	1.4	3.0	1.1
Barbitu- rates	12.3	12.0	10.3	10.8	20.6	12.1
Mandrax Pills	2.0	1.3	5.2	2.7	3.0	2.9
Ampheta- mines	-	1.3	-	-	-	0.2
LSD	-	-	1.7	-	-	0.4
Marihuana	16.2	10.7	22.4	13.5	15.2	16.4
Opium	12.4	8.0	7.8	6.8	8.8	9.3
Morphine	6.5	9.3	12.1	8.1	12.1	9.1
*Heroin	71.8	79.0	85.6	82.1	91.4	79.8
Others	-	-	0.9	2.7	-	0.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of the different income categories.

4.1.8 Drugs Ever Abused and Age at First Drug Use

Heroin is the drug most commonly ever abused among the reported addicts with different age at first drug use (See Table 4.8). However, the ever abuse of heroin was lesser among addicts who initiated drug use at ages 30 - 34 (66.7%), 35 - 39 (50.0%) and 40 years and above (49.3%) when compared to those who initiated drug use at a younger age. Conversely, a larger proportion of these "late beginners" are found to have abused opium instead.

A sizeable proportion of addicts who initiated drug use before 20 years of age have abused barbiturates (18.7%) and marihuana (23.5%), in addition to heroin (83.1%). The ever abuse of drugs other than those indicated is not widespread.

Significant differences in drugs ever abused by reported addicts of different age at first drug use is observed in the following drugs: alcohol, more likely among those who initiated drug use before 20 (15.8%),

between 20 - 24 (14.1%) and 25 - 29 (20.0%) years than in later age groups; barbiturates, more likely among those who initiated drug use before 20 years (18.7%) than in later age groups; marihuana, more likely among those who initiated drug use before 20 years (23.5%) than in later age groups; opium, more likely among those who initiated drug use between 30 - 34 (23.7%), 35 - 39 (28.6%) and 40 years and above (41.6%) than in earlier age groups and; heroin, more likely among those who initiated drug use before 20 (83.1%), between 20 - 24 (89.3%) and 25 - 29 (84.6%) years than in later years. A large proportion of reported addicts have also abused cigarettes.

TABLE 4.8

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED AND AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE

Drug Ever Abused	Age at First Drug Use						All Categories
	<20	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	≥40	
	(403)	(408)	(182)	(109)	(60)	(110)	(1272)
* Cigarettes	62.9	55.4	51.5	45.3	40.5	22.1	42.8
* Alcohol	15.8	14.1	20.0	12.0	7.1	1.3	11.1
Tranquillisers	3.6	0.7	1.6	2.7	2.4	-	1.5
* Barbiturates	18.7	9.0	7.9	-	4.8	1.3	10.3
Mandrax Pills	4.0	1.4	0.8	1.3	2.4	-	1.6
Amphetamines	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.1
LSD	0.7	0.4	0.8	-	-	-	0.5
* Marihuana	23.5	12.7	7.3	8.0	16.7	5.2	12.6
* Opium	7.9	5.8	14.4	23.7	28.6	41.6	13.3
Morphine	10.5	5.1	8.1	4.0	7.1	2.6	6.2
* Heroin	83.1	89.3	84.6	66.7	50.0	49.3	75.8
Others	1.8	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age at first drug use.

4.1.9 Drugs Ever Abused and Duration of Drug Use

A large proportion of the reported addicts irrespective of duration of drug use have abused heroin (See Table 4.9). However, the proportion of reported addicts who have abused heroin and with a duration of 10 years or more (40.4%) is comparatively smaller than those with a shorter duration of drug use. On the other hand, a large proportion of these addicts have reported the abuse of opium (66.7%). Significant differences in drugs ever abused by reported addicts with different duration of drug use is observed in the following drugs: alcohol, more likely among those with a duration of drug use of 1 - 2 (21.1%), 4 - 6 (23.5%) and 6 - 10 years (24.7%); barbiturates, more likely among those with a duration of 2 - 4 (14.9%) and 4 - 6 (17.4%) years; mandrax pills, more likely among those with a duration of 4 - 6 (7.1%) and 6 - 10 (4.2%) years; opium, more likely among those with a duration of 4 - 6 (17.6%), 6 - 10 (28.4%) and 10 years or more (66.7%); morphine, more likely among those with a duration of 1 - 2 (11.0%) and 6 - 10 (13.9%) and; heroin, more likely among those with a duration of drug use of

less than 1 year (77.6%), between 1 - 2 (84.8%), 2 - 4 (90.2%), 4 - 6 (88.5%) and 6 - 10 (85.1%) years than 10 years or more (40.4%). Also, a large proportion of these reported addicts have ever abused cigarettes.

TABLE 4.9
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS EVER ABUSED AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

Drugs Ever Abused	Duration of Drug Use (in years)						All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	>10	
	(466)	(221)	(270)	(127)	(112)	(76)	(1272)
*Cigarettes	49.7	51.0	60.0	65.1	62.2	50.0	42.8
*Alcohol	9.0	21.1	11.5	23.5	24.7	9.6	11.5
Tranquillisers	1.6	1.4	4.0	-	4.2	-	1.5
*Barbiturates	7.7	9.6	14.9	17.4	10.8	5.9	8.3
*Mandrax Pills	0.6	1.4	2.3	7.1	4.2	2.0	1.6
Amphetamines	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	0.1
LSD	-	1.4	0.6	-	1.4	-	0.1
Marihuana	14.3	15.7	12.6	17.6	23.3	7.8	12.6
*Opium	6.5	4.1	12.6	17.6	28.4	66.7	13.3
*Morphine	3.9	11.0	8.6	5.9	13.9	2.0	6.2
*Heroin	77.6	84.8	90.2	88.5	85.1	40.4	75.8
Others	0.6	1.4	1.2	-	-	-	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different duration of drug use.

4.1.10 Drugs Ever Abused and Daily Expenditure On Drugs

In all expenditure groups, a large proportion of the reported addicts have abused heroin (See Table 4.10). However, the proportion of addicts spending between 1 - 5 ringgit daily on drugs and who have ever abused heroin is relatively smaller than in other expenditure groups. Conversely, a larger proportion of the addicts in this expenditure category have abused opium (21.6%) and marihuana (18.1%).

Quite a large proportion of addicts spending more than 15 ringgit per day have also abused alcohol (23.0%), marihuana (19.5%) and barbiturates (18.5%). In all expenditure groups, the abuse of cigarettes is common. Only a small proportion of the reported addicts have ever abused tranquillisers, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD, morphine and other types of drugs. Significant differences in drugs ever abused by daily expenditure are observed. For example, reported addicts with a daily expenditure of more than 15 ringgit are more likely than addicts of other expenditure groups to have ever abused alcohol (23.0%), barbiturates (18.5%), marihuana (19.5%), morphine (11.1%) and heroin (94.5%).

Similarly, addicts with a daily expenditure of between 1 - 5 ringgit are more likely than addicts of other daily expenditure groups to have abused opium (21.6%) and least likely compared to addicts of other expenditure groups to have abused heroin (53.9%). There are no significant differences among addicts with different daily expenditures in the ever abuse of tranquillisers, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD and other types of drugs.

TABLE 4.10
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY
 DRUGS EVER ABUSED AND DAILY EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS

Drugs Ever Abused	Daily Expenditure				All Categories
	\$1 - \$5	\$6 - \$10	\$11 - \$15	>\$15	
	(310)	(417)	(132)	(413)	(1272)
* Cigarettes	48.8	44.8	58.6	68.5	42.8
* Alcohol	8.8	8.7	16.5	23.0	11.1
Tranquillisers	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.9	1.5
* Barbiturates	10.8	3.8	9.4	18.5	8.3
Mandrax Pills	-	1.1	1.2	4.2	1.6
Amphetamines	-	-	-	0.4	0.1
LSD	-	0.4	-	1.1	0.4
* Marihuana	18.1	9.1	11.8	19.5	12.6
* Opium	21.6	12.8	15.3	10.3	13.3
* Morphine	3.4	7.6	3.5	11.1	6.2
* Heroin	53.9	84.1	93.1	94.5	75.8
Others	1.0	0.4	-	1.1	0.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different daily expenditure groups.

4.2 Drugs Currently Abused

4.2.1 Drugs Currently Abused and Race

Heroin is the primary drug currently abused by addicts of the three different ethnic groups (See Table 4.11). The use of other drugs are generally minor, when compared to heroin use. This pattern is consistent among all races.

However, the use of each individual drug differs significantly between the three ethnic groups in some instances. Indian addicts are more likely than Chinese and Malay addicts to have currently abused heroin. Eighty-eight percent of Indian addicts reported using heroin as compared to 71.6 percent of Chinese and 78.2 percent of Malay addicts. There is also a significant difference in the use of opium. A substantially larger proportion (20.4%) of Chinese are opium users as compared to less than 5 percent of Indian and Malay addicts. On the other hand, the use of marihuana and alcohol are less popular among Chinese.

Malay addicts are more likely than Chinese and Indian addicts to abuse drugs such as barbiturates and mandrax pills. The use of tranquillisers, LSD, morphine and other unspecified drugs do not differ between the ethnic groups.

TABLE 4.11

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND RACE

Drugs Currently Abused	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Cigarettes	45.8	36.0	39.4	40.5
*Alcohol	6.7	3.3	7.0	5.2
Tranquillisers	0.2	0.6	-	0.4
*Barbiturates	5.2	1.9	1.5	3.2
Mandrax Pills	1.3	-	-	0.6
Amphetamines	-	-	-	-
LSD	0.2	-	-	0.1
*Marihuana	9.7	1.7	10.9	6.1
*Opium	2.7	20.4	3.9	11.0
Morphine	5.2	3.7	1.5	4.1
*Heroin	78.2	71.6	88.0	76.4
Others	1.2	1.3	-	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between reported addicts of different races.

4.2.2 Drugs Currently Abused and Reporting Agency

Three out of four women addicts from each agency was on heroin at the time of first contact with the agency concerned (See Table 4.12). The use of the other drugs are comparatively very uncommon. However, there are statistically significant differences in the use of certain drugs among addicts reported by the agencies. Alcohol was more likely to be used by women addicts contacted by the prisons (13.8%) and the Ministries of Welfare and Home Affairs (13.5%). Prison women addicts are more likely to use barbiturates. On the other hand, opium is more common among women addicts arrested by the police, while morphine is more common among hospital addicts.

There are insignificant differences in the use of other drugs such as tranquillisers, mandrax pills and marihuana.

TABLE 4.12
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND REPORTING AGENCY

Drugs Currently Abused	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Cigarettes	59.6	8.2**	83.6	74.4	40.9
*Alcohol	3.7	0.9	13.8	13.5	5.3
** Tranquillisers	1.6	0.5	-	0.9	0.5
*Barbiturates	2.1	0.7	12.5	4.5	3.6
Mandrax Pills	0.4	-	1.9	1.8	0.6
LSD	-	-	-	0.9	0.1
Marihuana	4.9	6.6	9.6	4.5	6.6
*Opium	6.9	16.1	4.8	5.4	11.0
*Morphine	9.0	1.6	5.3	2.7	4.0
Heroin	76.5	71.9	77.5	89.7	75.8
Others	1.1	0.6	-	7.3	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between reported addicts of different agency groups.

** This very low percentage is a result of underreporting.

4.2.3 Drugs Currently Abused and Current Age

In all age groups the drug most currently abused is heroin (See Table 4.13). However, the proportion of reported heroin abusers between the ages 35 - 39 years (57.5%) and 40 years and above (48.7%) is relatively smaller compared to other age groups. On the other hand, quite a large proportion of reported addicts currently aged between 35 - 39 years (13.7%) and 40 years and above (41.7%) have currently abused opium. Drugs other than those mentioned above were not popular.

Significant differences in drugs currently abused by reported addicts of different age groups are observed in the following drugs: alcohol, more likely among those aged below 20 (5.6%), between 20 - 24 (5.6%), 25 - 29 (8.4%) and 35 - 39 (8.2%) years than among those aged between 30 - 34 (4.7%) and 40 years and above (0.5%); opium, more likely among those aged between 35 - 39 (13.7%) and 40 years and above (41.7%) than in other age groups; heroin, more likely among those aged below 20 (73.0%), between 20 - 24 (89.0%),

25 - 29 (84.9%) and 30 - 34 (80.4%) than those currently aged between 35 - 39 (57.5%) and 40 years and above (48.7%) and; other types of drugs, more likely among those aged below 20 years (5.4%) than in other age groups.

No significant differences were observed in current abuse of tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana and morphine. Quite a large proportion of reported addicts in each age group have also currently abused cigarettes.

TABLE 4.13
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DRUGS CURRENTLY ABUSED AND CURRENT AGE

Drugs Currently Abused	Current Age						All Categories
	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥40	
	(181)	(378)	(238)	(141)	(89)	(245)	(1272)
*Cigarettes	47.2	48.7	44.7	39.1	35.6	22.5	40.9
*Alcohol	5.6	5.6	8.4	4.7	8.2	0.5	5.3
Tranquillisers	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.8	-	-	0.5
Barbiturates	5.6	5.0	3.8	2.4	1.4	1.0	3.6
Mandrax Pills	1.2	1.2	0.5	-	-	-	0.6
LSD	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Marihuana	9.9	6.8	3.8	6.3	8.2	5.8	6.6
*Opium	1.8	4.1	4.2	4.7	13.7	41.7	11.0
Morphine	7.4	3.0	4.7	6.3	2.7	1.6	4.0
*Heroin	73.0	89.0	84.9	80.4	57.5	48.7	75.8
*Others	5.4	0.4	0.6	-	-	1.2	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age groups.

4.2.4 Drugs Currently Abused and Marital Status

Among the reported addicts of different marital status the drug most currently abused is heroin (See Table 4.14). However, the proportion of reported married (72.6%) and widowed (65.1%) addicts who currently abused heroin, is relatively lower than reported single (81.3%) and divorced or separated addicts (84.0%). In contrast, a larger proportion of the married (14.7%) and widowed (19.2%) addicts currently abused opium. Alcohol and barbiturates are more likely used by the separated or divorced and widowed women addicts. The married and widowed women addicts are more likely to use opium compared to the single and separated or divorced addicts. There are no significant differences in the use of other drugs, such as tranquillisers, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana and morphine between the addicts of different marital status. In all marital status, abuse of cigarettes was also reported in large proportions.

TABLE 4.14

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS CURRENTLY ABUSED AND MARITAL STATUS

Drugs Currently Abused	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
Cigarettes	50.7	39.5	58.0	46.8	40.9
*Alcohol	6.4	3.3	14.1	9.4	5.3
Tranquillisers	1.1	0.5	-	-	0.5
*Barbiturates	4.7	2.4	6.5	7.7	3.6
Mandrax Pills	1.1	0.2	1.3	1.0	0.6
LSD	0.3	-	-	-	0.1
Marihuana	7.0	6.4	6.5	9.6	7.0
*Opium	3.6	14.7	7.8	19.2	11.0
Morphine	6.7	2.9	3.9	1.9	4.0
*Heroin	81.3	72.6	84.0	65.1	75.8
Others	1.9	0.6	-	2.4	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

4.2.5 Drugs Currently Abused and Level of Education

In all education levels, a large proportion of the reported addicts currently abused heroin (See Table 4.15). Except for cigarettes, current abuse of drugs other than heroin is minor. There are no significant differences in drugs currently abused by reported addicts of different education levels.

TABLE 4.15

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Drugs Currently Abused	Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary School	Lower Sec. (F1-F3)	Upper Sec. (F4-F6)	
	(77)	(122)	(42)	(31)	(262)
Cigarettes	84.2	82.2	84.2	82.6	83.2
Alcohol	8.9	15.7	21.0	9.1	14.1
Tranquillisers	-	1.1	-	-	0.5
Barbiturates	5.4	14.8	18.9	13.6	12.8
Mandrax Pills	-	3.4	2.8	-	2.0
Marihuana	7.1	7.9	16.2	13.6	9.8
Opium	5.4	6.8	2.8	-	4.9
Morphine	3.6	9.1	2.8	-	5.4
Heroin	70.2	80.0	81.6	73.9	76.9

4.2.6 Drugs Currently Abused and Occupation

In each occupational group, a large proportion of the reported addicts currently abused heroin (See Table 4.16). However, current abuse of heroin is more likely to be in other occupational groups than among students (47.6%). The extent of current abuse of other drugs by different occupational groups is not as widespread as that of heroin. Still, significant differences exist among the different occupation groups in some of the drugs currently abused. For instance, students are more likely than addicts in other occupation groups to have currently abused alcohol (10.0%), barbiturates (15.0%) and morphine (30.0%). White-collared workers (8.6%) are more likely than the blue-collared skilled worker addicts (4.5%) to have currently abused barbiturates. The blue-collared skilled worker addict (9.1%) is more likely than the white-collared addict (2.9%) to have currently abused morphine. There are no significant differences among addicts of different occupation groups in current abuse of tranquillisers, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana, opium and other unspecified types of drugs.

TABLE 4.16
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS CURRENTLY
ABUSED AND OCCUPATION

Drugs Currently Abused	Occupation						All Categories
	Student (Pri./Sec.)	Unemployed	Labourer	Shop Assistant	White Collared Worker	Skilled Worker	
* Cigarettes	(34)	(542)	(154)	(107)	(37)	(23)	(1272)
* Alcohol	42.9	36.6	40.8	52.9	72.2	54.5	40.9
Tranquillisers	10.0	3.5	2.4	6.9	11.4	9.1	5.3
* Barbiturates	5.0	0.6	0.8	-	-	-	0.5
Mandrax Pills	15.0	2.5	1.6	8.0	8.6	4.5	3.6
Amphetamines	10.0	0.2	-	2.3	2.9	-	0.6
LSD	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Marihuana	5.3	-	-	-	-	-	6.6
Opium	15.0	5.4	5.6	9.2	11.4	-	11.0
* Morphine	-	13.9	9.4	8.0	2.9	9.1	4.0
* Heroin	30.0	2.1	2.4	3.4	2.9	9.1	75.8
Others	47.6	77.0	78.5	76.1	88.9	86.4	1.1
	7.7	0.5	3.1	-	-	-	1.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different occupations.

4.2.7 Drugs Currently Abused and Monthly Income

In all monthly income groups, a large proportion of the reported addicts currently abused heroin (See Table 4.17). Only a small proportion of the reported addicts currently abused alcohol, tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, marihuana, opium, morphine and other types of drugs. Current abuse of cigarettes is also fairly common.

Reported addicts with a monthly income higher than 600 ringgit are more likely than addicts in lower income groups to have currently abused alcohol. On the other hand, reported addicts with a monthly income of less than 251 ringgit (72.2%) are least likely compared to addicts in higher income groups to have currently abused heroin.

TABLE 4.17
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND MONTHLY INCOME

Drugs Currently Abused	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	< 251	251 - 350	351 - 600	601 - 1000	>1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
Cigarettes	50.7	50.0	58.5	51.3	68.6	54.2
*Alcohol	4.7	8.2	8.7	14.9	17.7	9.0
Tranquillisers	0.7	1.4	-	-	-	0.5
Barbiturates	6.7	5.5	4.4	6.9	6.1	5.9
Mandrax Pills	1.4	-	1.7	-	3.0	1.1
Marihuana	10.1	5.5	9.6	6.9	6.1	8.4
Opium	8.1	6.9	4.4	5.6	3.0	6.1
Morphine	4.1	4.1	7.0	6.9	6.1	5.4
*Heroin	72.2	81.1	84.7	81.6	91.4	80.0
Others	0.8	-	-	5.8	-	1.2

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between addicts of different income levels.

4.2.8 Drugs Currently Abused and Duration of Drug Use

A large proportion of the reported addicts, in each duration of drug use category currently abused heroin (See Table 4.18). However, among addicts with a duration of drug use of more than 10 years the abuse of opium (64.0%) is more prominent than heroin (43.1%). Hence, current abuse of heroin is more likely among those with a duration of drug use of 10 years or less. Conversely, current abuse of opium is more likely among those with a duration of more than 10 years. Only a small proportion of the reported addicts currently abused alcohol, tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana, morphine and other types of drugs.

However, significant differences exist among current abusers of alcohol whereby these addicts would more likely have a duration of 1 - 2 (11.8%), 4 - 6 (10.7%) and 6 - 10 (12.3%) years of drug use. Similarly, addicts with a

duration of drug use of 2 - 4 (7.5%) and 4 - 6 (10.7%) years are more likely to have currently abused barbiturates than other addicts. There are no significant differences among addicts with different duration of drug use in the current abuse of tranquillisers, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana, morphine and other types of drugs.

TABLE 4.18
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

Drugs Currently Abused	Duration of Drug Use (in years)						All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	>10	
	(466)	(221)	(270)	(127)	(112)	(76)	(1272)
*Cigarettes	47.8	46.6	55.9	63.5	62.2	49.0	40.9
*Alcohol	3.9	11.8	5.2	10.7	12.3	2.0	5.3
Tranquillisers	1.0	-	1.7	-	-	-	0.5
*Barbiturates	2.3	2.1	7.5	10.7	4.1	2.0	3.6
Mandrax Pills	0.7	0.7	0.6	3.6	-	-	0.6
LSD	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	0.1
Marihuana	9.2	7.0	4.0	8.3	9.6	2.0	6.6
*Opium	4.9	2.8	7.5	14.3	16.4	64.0	11.0
Morphine	3.3	8.4	4.6	3.6	5.6	-	4.0
*Heroin	77.1	84.5	90.2	89.5	83.8	43.1	75.8
Others	0.9	3.6	-	-	-	-	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different categories of duration of drug use.

4.2.9 Drugs Currently Abused and Age at First Drug Use

A large proportion of the reported addicts currently abused heroin irrespective of age at first drug use (See Table 4.19). However, reported addicts who currently abused heroin and who initiated drug use between the ages 30 - 34 (68.9%), 35 - 39 (50.0%) and 40 years and above (50.7%) are markedly smaller in proportion in comparison to those who initiated drug use at earlier ages. The "late beginners" tend to abuse opium more compared to the earlier beginners. Current abuse of drugs other than heroin and opium is not widespread in each age at first drug use category.

Significant differences in drugs currently abused by reported addicts of different age at first drug use is observed in the following drugs: barbiturates, more likely among those who initiated drug use before 20 years (7.2%) of age than at later ages; marihuana, more likely among those who initiated drug use between the ages 35 - 39 years (14.3%) than in other age of first drug use category; opium, more likely among those who initiated drug use

between the ages 30 - 34 (24.0%), 35 - 39 (26.2%) and 40 years and above (40.0%) than among those who initiated drug use at earlier ages and; heroin, more likely among those who initiated drug use at earlier ages of less than 20 years (83.3%), between 20 - 24 (89.2%) and 25 - 29 (83.6%) years than at later ages. A large proportion of reported "early" and "late" beginners have also currently abused cigarettes.

TABLE 4.19
 PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS CURRENTLY
 ABUSED AND AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE

Drugs Currently Abused	Age at First Drug Use (in years)						All Categories
	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥40	
	(403)	(408)	(182)	(109)	(60)	(110)	(1272)
*Cigarettes	60.1	52.8	48.4	44.6	38.1	21.3	40.9
Alcohol	6.2	8.1	8.9	4.0	4.8	1.3	5.3
Tranquillisers	1.1	0.4	0.8	1.3	-	-	8.5
*Barbiturates	7.2	4.0	2.5	-	4.8	-	3.6
Mandrax Pills	1.8	0.7	-	-	-	-	0.6
LSD	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
*Marihuana	9.4	6.6	2.5	4.0	14.3	5.3	6.6
*Opium	3.6	3.3	8.2	24.0	26.2	40.0	11.0
Morphine	6.5	3.3	4.9	4.0	2.4	-	4.0
*Heroin	83.3	89.2	83.6	68.9	50.0	50.7	75.8
Others	2.9	0.5	-	-	-	-	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age at first drug use categories.

4.2.10 Drugs Currently Abused and Daily Expenditure on Drugs

In all expenditure groups, a large proportion of the reported addicts currently abused heroin (See Table 4.20). However, the proportion of addicts spending between 1 - 5 ringgit daily on drugs and who currently abused heroin is relatively smaller than in other expenditure groups. This is probably because quite a large proportion of these addicts currently also abused opium (19.7%). A large proportion of the reported addicts currently also abused cigarettes. Only a small proportion reported current abuse of alcohol, tranquillisers, barbiturates, mandrax pills, LSD, marihuana, morphine and other types of drugs.

Significant differences among reported addicts with different daily expenditures are observed for certain drugs abused currently. For instance, reported addicts with a daily expenditure of more than 15 ringgit are more likely than addicts of other expenditure groups to have currently abused alcohol (11.3%). Addicts with a daily expenditure of between 1 - 5 ringgit are more likely than reported addicts of other expenditure groups to have currently abused marihuana (12.8%), opium (19.7%) and less likely to abuse heroin (55.1%) when compared to addicts of other expenditure groups.

TABLE 4.20
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DRUGS CURRENTLY ABUSED AND DAILY EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS

Drugs Currently Abused	Daily Expenditure				All Categories
	\$1 - \$5	\$6 - \$10	\$11 - \$15	>\$15	
*Cigarettes	46.1	43.2	58.6	63.9	40.9
*Alcohol	3.9	4.5	5.9	11.3	5.3
Tranquillisers	1.5	0.8	-	0.4	0.5
Barbiturates	4.9	1.9	4.7	6.7	3.6
Mandrax Pills	-	0.8	-	1.2	0.6
LSD	-	0.4	-	-	0.1
*Marihuana	12.8	4.9	3.5	6.7	6.6
*Opium	19.7	10.6	7.1	5.5	11.0
Morphine	3.0	4.9	2.3	6.3	4.0
*Heroin	55.1	84.1	93.1	93.6	75.8
Others	1.3	1.4	-	1.0	1.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different daily expenditure groups.

4.3 REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE

4.3.1 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Race

Among the addicts reported in each ethnic group, the main reasons for initial drug use are similar and they are peer influence, pleasure and emotional problems (See Table 4.21). There are no statistically significant differences in reason for initial drug use with regard to pleasure, peer influence, accidental use of drugs and financial problems among reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts. However, Malay (16.3%) addicts are more likely than Chinese (8.2%) and Indian (8.7%) addicts to initiate drug use out of curiosity. Similarly, Malay (25.3%) and Indian (21.1%) addicts are more likely than Chinese (16.8%) addicts to initiate drug use in the face of emotional problems. Chinese (13.6%) and Indian (16.3%) addicts are more likely than Malay (8.5%) addicts to initiate drug use for other reasons.

TABLE 4.21

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND RACE

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
Pleasure	35.7	32.1	34.6	34.0
Peer influence	46.7	41.5	50.5	44.8
*Curiosity	16.3	8.2	8.7	11.7
Accidental	8.8	6.2	6.7	7.4
*Emotional problems	25.3	16.8	21.1	21.0
Financial problems	4.7	3.7	5.8	4.4
*Other reasons	8.5	13.6	16.3	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between reported addicts of different races.

4.3.2 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Reporting Agency

Pleasure seeking and peer influence were the two most frequently reported motives for initiating drug use among women addicts identified by each reporting agency (See Table 4.22). Among the other reasons for drug use, curiosity and emotional problems are more common. However, significant differences in motives are observed between women addicts of the different agencies. Women addicts who were arrested by the police (29.3%) are less likely to be influenced by peers into drug use when compared to addicts identified by the other agencies. Women addicts contacted by the prisons (43.0%) are more likely to resort to drugs as a means of escapism from emotional problems when compared to the addicts identified by hospitals (13.8%), police (15.1%) and the two Ministries (18.6%). A larger proportion of addicts arrested by the police have cited "financial problems" as a motive for drug use. A sizeable proportion (26.7%) of addicts in prison have mentioned other unspecified reasons for drug use.

TABLE 4.22
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND REPORTING AGENCY

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
Pleasure	36.5	35.0	36.5	29.9	35.0
*Peer Influence	58.9	29.3	49.3	53.0	44.1
*Curiosity	11.3	6.2	17.6	20.7	11.7
Accidental	6.3	5.4	7.9	13.4	7.2
*Emotional Problems	13.8	15.1	43.0	18.6	21.2
*Financial Problems	2.5	8.2	1.0	1.8	4.4
*Others	2.1	10.8	26.7	8.1	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between reported addicts of different agency groups.

4.3.3 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Current Age

Among the reported addicts in each age category, the predominant reasons for initial drug use are peer influence and pleasure (See Table 4.23). Emotional problems is the next contributory factor for initiating drug use. The other reasons are less frequently reported.

Generally, there are significant differences in the percentage of addicts who have reported some of the reasons between the various age groups. Using drugs for the pleasure derived is more frequently reported among the younger addicts (below 30 years old) as compared to the older addicts (above 30 years of age).

A similar observation is noted for peer influence and curiosity. The proportion of addicts who have reported these reasons decreased with the advance in age.

TABLE 4.23
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND CURRENT AGE

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Current Age (in years)						All Categories
	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40	
	(181)	(378)	(238)	(141)	(89)	(245)	(1272)
*Pleasure	34.0	38.4	42.3	29.4	30.0	26.1	35.0
*Peer Influence	47.3	51.1	48.7	42.5	33.3	26.6	44.1
*Curiosity	17.7	17.2	8.7	7.5	8.3	2.8	11.7
Accidental	6.1	9.9	6.0	7.5	-	6.4	7.2
Emotional Problems	14.3	24.0	22.9	26.9	16.7	18.4	21.2
Financial Problems	6.1	2.0	3.2	4.7	10.0	7.1	4.4
Other Reasons	6.1	8.6	9.7	11.9	11.7	27.1	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age categories.

4.3.4 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Marital Status

There are significant differences in the percentage of addicts of different marital status who have reported peer influence, curiosity, emotional and financial problems as reasons for initial drug use (See Table 4.24). Addicts who are single are more likely to be influenced by their peers as compared to their other ever married counterparts. On the other hand, a larger proportion of addicts who are either divorced or separated or widowed have reported emotional and financial problems as reasons for initial drug use. Married addicts are less likely to be aroused by curiosity to start using drugs when compared to addicts who are unmarried.

Using drugs for the pleasure derived from them is equally common among all addicts regardless of their marital status. There is also no significant variation in reported reasons such as accidental or other unspecified reasons between addicts of different marital status.

TABLE 4.24

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND MARITAL STATUS

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
Pleasure	37.1	32.1	41.6	40.6	35.0
*Peer influence	54.7	37.8	46.2	33.0	44.1
*Curiosity	15.6	7.8	13.5	14.3	11.7
Accidental	8.0	6.8	8.1	6.1	7.2
*Emotional problems	16.2	21.3	36.4	28.3	21.2
*Financial problems	2.8	4.0	10.8	7.2	4.4
Other reasons	6.2	16.2	11.8	15.5	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

4.3.5 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Level of Education

A large proportion of the reported addicts with different levels of education consistently cited peer influence, pleasure and emotional problems as the reasons for initial drug use (See Table 4.25). The other reasons mentioned are minor.

Generally, the level of education of the addicts does not appear to be related to the motives for initiating drug use.

TABLE 4.25
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Level of Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary School	Lower Sec. (F1 - F3)	Upper Sec. (F4 - F6)	
	(77)	(122)	(42)	(31)	(262)
Pleasure	33.9	34.4	44.4	34.8	36.1
Peer Influence	42.9	50.0	47.2	58.3	48.5
Curiosity	10.9	16.9	26.5	21.7	17.4
Accidental	5.5	6.8	11.8	13.0	8.0
Emotional Problems	41.8	42.7	41.7	45.8	42.6
Financial Problems	-	2.3	-	4.4	1.5
Other Reasons	25.0	28.4	31.4	20.8	27.1

4.3.6. Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Occupation

A large proportion of the reported addicts from each occupational category have consistently cited peer influence and pleasure as the motivations for initiating drug use (See Table 4.26). Students, shop assistants and white-collared workers are more likely than other occupation groups to initiate drug use out of curiosity.

A significantly larger proportion (48.5%) of white-collared workers and shop assistants (34.9%) used drugs to escape from their emotional problems, when compared to the other occupational groups. The unemployed (3.4%) and white-collared workers (3.2%) are least likely compared with other occupational groups to initiate drug use because of financial problems.

There are no statistically significant differences in the other reasons reported by all groups. Generally, they are less important.

TABLE 4.26

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND OCCUPATION

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Occupation						All Categories (1272)	
	Student (34)	Unemployed (542)	Labourer (154)	Shop Assistant (107)	Skilled Worker (23)	White Collared Worker (37)		Others (375)
Pleasure	15.6	33.9	27.2	41.7	42.1	34.4	38.5	35.0
Peer Influence	50.0	47.3	48.3	45.8	42.1	60.6	36.8	44.1
*Curiosity	26.3	11.4	9.0	20.5	5.3	19.5	10.0	11.7
Accidental	15.8	7.2	7.2	3.6	-	12.9	7.9	7.2
*Emotional Problems	15.8	16.2	18.9	34.9	26.3	48.5	23.0	21.2
*Financial Problems	5.3	3.4	5.4	4.8	-	3.2	6.1	4.4
Other Reasons	.	9.3	17.9	9.6	21.1	6.3	14.6	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different occupations.

4.3.7 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Monthly Income

There is no difference among reported addicts of different income groups in their reasons for initial drug use (See Table 4.27). The predominant reasons are peer influence, pleasure and emotional problems. Only a small proportion of the reported addicts have initiated drug use for reasons of curiosity, accident, financial problems and other reasons.

TABLE 4.27
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND MONTHLY INCOME

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	<251	251-350	351-600	601-1000	>1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
Pleasure	31.7	34.7	48.8	37.1	58.8	39.8
Peer Influence	46.9	45.8	52.5	43.1	45.7	47.5
Curiosity	11.8	11.3	16.8	13.0	17.7	13.7
Accidental	5.6	11.3	6.1	5.8	3.0	6.5
Emotional Problems	31.0	19.7	28.5	31.0	24.2	28.0
Financial Problems	5.6	8.5	6.1	2.9	-	5.3
Other reasons	10.4	12.7	8.8	11.3	15.2	10.9

4.3.8 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Duration of Drug Use

A large proportion of the reported addicts with different duration of drug use consistently cited peer influence and pleasure as the reasons for initial drug use (See Table 4.28). Although peer influence is the most common reason mentioned by all addicts, it is however, noted to be a less important reason among addicts with above 10 years of drug use experience. This latter group on the other hand, has more frequently reported other unspecified reasons for beginning the use of drugs.

Using drugs to escape from emotional stress is common among a sizeable proportion of all addicts regardless of their duration of drug use. Other reasons such as curiosity, accident and financial problems are less frequently reported.

TABLE 4.28

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Duration of Drug Use (Years)						All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	>10	
	(466)	(221)	(270)	(127)	(112)	(76)	(1272)
Pleasure	39.1	37.9	30.7	41.7	41.9	37.1	35.0
*Peer Influence	50.2	52.7	57.1	45.9	42.7	31.4	44.1
Curiosity	12.9	11.3	15.0	16.9	13.9	8.0	11.7
Accident	6.6	6.4	8.1	15.5	5.6	10.0	7.2
Emotional Problems	17.9	27.0	25.4	27.4	31.5	23.5	21.2
Financial Problems	3.3	3.6	2.9	2.4	11.1	4.0	4.4
*Other Reasons	7.3	5.0	12.6	13.4	15.3	31.4	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different duration of drug use.

4.3.9 Reasons for Initial Drug Use and Age at First Drug Use

The reasons for initiating drug use differed substantially depending on the age of the addict when he first used drugs. Peer influence is the most common motive for drug use among the young addicts who are below 30 years of age, and less important among the older aged groups (i.e. those above 40) (See Table 4.29). More than half of the addicts who started using drugs when they were below 30, cited peer influence as compared to only 22.9 percent of those above 40 years old. Individuals above 40 years old have other unspecified reasons for drug use.

Younger addicts who are below 30 years of age are also more likely to take drugs for the pleasure derived from the drugs, than the older addicts. Teenagers and individuals in their early twenties are more easily aroused by curiosity to drug use as compared to the older women.

There are no significant differences in the other reasons reported between the addicts of varying age groups.

TABLE 4.29

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Age at First Drug Use (in years)						All Categories
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	≥40	
	(403)	(408)	(182)	(109)	(60)	(110)	(1272)
*Pleasure	34.5	42.8	42.3	32.9	26.2	24.3	35.0
*Peer Influence	55.8	51.1	54.8	39.7	35.7	22.9	44.1
*Curiosity	18.3	15.2	4.2	11.1	-	4.3	11.7
Accident	9.8	7.4	7.5	5.6	4.8	4.3	7.2
Emotional Problems	23.8	22.8	20.7	25.0	21.4	20.0	21.2
Financial Problems	3.7	3.0	4.2	4.2	7.1	10.0	4.4
*Other Reasons	7.7	6.7	13.1	12.5	12.2	28.6	11.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age at first drug use.

4.4 DURATION OF DRUG USE

4.4.1 Duration of Drug Use and Race

There is a statistical difference in the duration of drug use by reported addicts of the different ethnic groups. Malay addicts have the shortest duration of drug use while Chinese addicts have the longest. Duration of drug use of Indian addicts falls in between the two other races (See Table 4.30). A larger proportion of reported Malay (78.9%) compared with Chinese (72.3%) and Indian (74.5%) addicts have a duration of drug use of 4 years or less. Furthermore, the proportion of reported Chinese (11.0%) addicts with a duration of drug use of more than 10 years is almost 5 times more than that of reported Malay (2.2%) and Indian (2.0%) addicts.

TABLE 4.30

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND RACE

*Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
< 1	38.2	34.5	31.6	35.8
1 - 2	18.1	16.2	24.5	18.0
2 - 4	22.6	21.6	18.4	21.6
4 - 6	10.3	9.0	14.3	10.2
6 - 10	8.6	7.7	9.2	8.3
> 10	2.2	11.0	2.0	6.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different races.

4.4.2 Duration of Drug Use and Reporting Agency

Women addicts identified by the prisons are more likely to have a longer duration of drug use when compared to addicts identified by the other agencies (See Table 4.31). The reverse is the case with addicts identified by the two ministries and the hospital. Thirty-six percent of prison addicts have above 4 years of drug taking as compared to only 11.3 percent of addicts contacted by the two ministries and 21.5 percent by the hospitals. On the other hand, these two latter agencies recorded the highest percentage of addicts with less than one year of drug use experience.

TABLE 4.31
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND REPORTING AGENCY

*Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
< 1.1	41.1	36.9	26.9	41.7	36.6
1.1 - 2	17.1	17.7	14.0	23.5	17.4
2.1 - 4	20.3	20.2	23.1	23.5	21.2
4.1 - 6	9.4	8.2	16.1	6.1	10.0
6.1 - 10	8.5	8.5	12.4	3.5	8.8
> 10	3.6	8.5	7.5	1.7	6.0
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between reported addicts of different reporting agencies.

4.4.3 Duration of Drug Use and Current Age

A large proportion of reported addicts in each age group have a duration of drug use of 4 years or less, except for those aged 40 years and above (See Table 4.32). It is observed that the older addicts will have a longer duration of drug use compared to the younger addicts. Addicts aged 40 years and above have the longest duration of drug use, while addicts in their teens have the shortest duration of drug use. A substantial percentage (36.8%) of addicts aged 40 and above have used drugs for 10 years or more. In contrast, addicts in their early teens (83.6%) have less than 2 years of drug use experience. There is an association between the duration of drug use and the age of the addict. The duration of use lengthens with the advance in age.

TABLE 4.32
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND CURRENT AGE

*Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Current Age						All Categories
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	≥ 40	
	(181)	(378)	(238)	(141)	(89)	(245)	(1272)
< 1	59.0	43.0	27.1	20.2	41.3	20.2	36.6
1 - 2	24.6	16.1	19.3	20.2	8.7	10.5	17.4
2 - 4	14.2	24.5	28.2	24.5	10.9	11.4	21.2
4 - 6	1.5	12.0	12.7	10.6	15.2	7.9	10.0
6 - 10	0.7	4.4	11.1	19.2	19.6	13.2	8.8
> 10	-	-	1.6	5.3	4.3	36.8	6.0
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different ages.

4.4.4 Duration of Drug Use and Marital Status

There is a statistical difference in the duration of drug use between the various marital status groups (See Table 4.33). Generally, addicts who are single have a shorter duration of drug use as compared to those who are married, divorced or separated or widowed. About 86 percent of single addicts have a duration of drug use of 4 years or less compared to 69.2 percent of married, 64.1 percent of divorced or separated and 68.2 percent of widowed addicts.

Widowed addicts are more likely to have the longest duration of drug use. About 16 percent have a duration of 10 years or more as compared to only 0.8 percent of single addicts.

TABLE 4.33
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION
OF DRUG USE AND MARITAL STATUS

*Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
< 1	42.0	32.8	25.6	37.4	36.6
1 - 2	21.0	15.7	18.0	11.0	17.4
2 - 4	22.7	20.7	20.5	19.8	21.2
4 - 6	8.2	12.4	14.1	4.4	10.0
6 - 10	5.3	10.7	12.8	11.0	8.8
> 10	0.8	7.7	9.0	16.4	6.0
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

4.4.5 Duration of Drug Use and Level of Education

Table 4.34 presents the distribution of duration of drug use of addicts with different educational levels. There is no significant difference in the duration of drug use between addicts with different levels of educational attainment. About two-thirds of addicts from each group have 4 or less years of drug use. The other one-third have above 4 years of drug use experience

TABLE 4.34
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Level of Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary	Lower-Sec. (F1 - F3)	Upper-Sec. (F4 - F6)	
	(77)	(122)	(42)	(31)	(262)
< 1	28.3	25.0	27.3	18.2	25.4
1 - 2	17.4	11.3	15.2	18.2	14.4
2 - 4	17.4	25.0	21.2	31.8	23.2
4 - 6	6.5	20.0	18.2	22.7	16.6
6 - 10	17.4	11.2	12.1	9.1	12.7
> 10	13.0	7.5	6.0	-	7.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.4.6 Duration of Drug Use and Occupation

There is little difference among reported women addicts in each occupation group in their duration of drug use (See Table 4.35). A large proportion of the reported addicts in each occupational category have a duration of drug use of 4 years or less. Students have the shortest duration. A hundred percent have 4 years or less duration of drug use.

TABLE 4.35
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION
OF DRUG USE AND OCCUPATION

Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Occupation					All Categories		
	Student	Un- Employed	Labourer	Shop Assistant	Skilled Worker		White Collared Worker	Others
	(34)	(542)	(154)	(107)	(37)	(23)	(375)	(1272)
< 1	60.0	36.1	33.3	37.8	47.1	27.3	36.0	36.3
1 - 2	30.0	16.7	20.6	14.9	17.7	15.2	16.9	17.4
2 - 4	10.0	22.4	18.6	21.6	17.7	27.3	21.1	21.3
4 - 6	-	10.8	13.7	9.5	5.8	15.2	8.3	10.0
6 - 10	-	6.5	8.8	14.9	-	9.0	12.0	8.9
> 10	-	7.5	5.0	1.3	11.7	6.0	5.7	6.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.4.7 Duration of Drug Use and Monthly Income

There is little difference among reported addicts of different income groups in their duration of drug use except among reported addicts earning a monthly income of more than 1000 ringgit (See Table 4.36). An overwhelming majority (70% and above) of the various income categories have 4 years or less duration of drug use. Among the highest income group, 63.6 percent have 4 years or less duration of drug use. This group, on the other hand, has the largest proportion with 6 years or more duration of drug use (27.3%).

TABLE 4.36

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND MONTHLY INCOME

Duration of Drug Use (in years)	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	< 251	251 - 350	351 - 600	601 - 1000	> 1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
< 1	35.8	35.9	31.9	36.6	30.3	34.5
1 - 2	14.9	18.8	19.5	26.8	9.1	18.3
2 - 4	19.4	26.6	20.4	18.3	24.2	21.0
4 - 6	11.2	9.4	13.3	5.6	9.1	10.4
6 - 10	12.0	6.2	13.2	9.9	12.1	11.1
> 10	6.7	3.1	1.7	2.8	15.2	4.7
ALL Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.5 AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE

4.5.1 Age at First Drug Use and Race

There is a statistical difference in age at first drug use among reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts. Malay addicts are more likely to initiate drug use at an earlier age compared to Chinese and Indian addicts. Chinese addicts, on the other hand, reported "latest" age at first drug use whereas for Indian addicts it is between the two other races (See Table 4.37). A larger proportion of reported Malay (86.3%) compared with Chinese (69.7%) and Indian (75.2%) addicts initiated drug use before 30 years of age. Furthermore, a larger proportion of Chinese (14.5%) compared with Malay (3.2%) and Indian (6.7%) addicts initiated drug use at ages 40 and above. Also of special concern are addicts who initiated drug use in their teens. A larger proportion are Malays (39.8%) compared to 24.8 percent and 28.6 percent among reported Chinese and Indian addicts, respectively.

TABLE 4.37

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE AND RACE

*Age at First Drug Use (in years)	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
< 20	39.8	24.8	28.6	31.7
20 - 24	30.6	32.8	31.4	31.7
25 - 29	15.9	12.1	15.2	14.1
30 - 34	6.7	10.1	12.4	8.9
35 - 39	3.8	5.7	5.7	4.9
≥ 40	3.2	14.5	6.7	8.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different ethnic groups.

4.5.2 Age at First Drug Use and Reporting Agency

Women addicts who were contacted by the hospitals and the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs tend to initiate drug use at a young age. Slightly over 40 percent of addicts reported by these agencies started using drugs when they were teenagers, as compared to only 18.0 percent among addicts arrested by the police (See Table 4.38). In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of addicts who were arrested by the police had started drug use at age 35 and above (24.1%) as compared to only 5.6 percent among hospital addicts and 3.5 percent of women addicts contacted by the two Ministries.

TABLE 4.38

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE AND REPORTING AGENCY

*Age at First Drug Use (in years)	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
< 15	6.0	0.9	2.1	6.0	3.2
15 - 19	37.1	17.1	31.8	38.5	28.5
20 - 24	29.5	33.0	32.8	33.3	32.1
25 - 29	15.1	13.6	13.5	15.4	14.3
30 - 34	6.7	11.3	9.3	3.3	8.6
35 - 39	2.8	7.3	4.2	2.6	4.7
≥ 40	2.8	16.8	6.3	0.9	8.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.001 significance level between addicts of different reporting agency.

4.5.3 Age of First Drug Use and Marital Status

There are significant differences in age at first drug use by reported addicts of different marital status. Among the addicts reported, single addicts are most likely to have initiated drug use at an age earlier than married, divorced or separated and widowed addicts (See Table 4.39). A larger proportion (51.7%) of the reported single addicts initiated drug use before 20 years of age compared to married (21.3%), divorced or separated (16.5%) and widowed (14.9%) addicts. On the other hand, married (14.4%) and widowed (16.4%) addicts are more likely than single (0.8%) and divorced or separated (7.6%) addicts to initiate drug use at ages 40 years and above. In each marital status category, a large majority of the reported addicts initiated drug use before 30 years of age.

TABLE 4.39

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE AND MARITAL STATUS

*Age at First Drug Use (in years)	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
< 20	51.7	21.3	16.5	14.9	31.7
20 - 24	36.6	26.9	31.6	30.3	32.1
25 - 29	9.7	15.5	26.6	16.0	14.3
30 - 34	0.9	14.1	13.9	12.8	8.6
35 - 39	0.3	7.8	3.8	9.6	4.7
≥ 40	0.8	14.4	7.6	16.4	8.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

4.5.4 Age at First Drug Use and Level of Education

There are statistical differences in age at first drug use among reported addicts of different education levels. Addicts with more education are more likely to initiate drug use at an earlier age than addicts of lower education levels (See Table 4.40). Slightly more than one-half (54.5%) of the reported addicts with an upper secondary education initiated drug use before 20 years of age compared to 38.9 percent among those with lower secondary education, 37.0 percent with primary school education and 12.5 percent with no education.

TABLE 4.40
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY AGE
AT FIRST DRUG USE AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

*Age at First Drug Use (in years)	Level of Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary School	Lower Sec. (F1 - F3)	Upper Sec. (F4 - F6)	
	(77)	((122)	(42)	(31)	(262)
< 20	12.5	37.0	38.9	54.5	33.2
20 - 24	27.1	30.9	38.9	40.9	32.6
25 - 29	12.5	17.3	13.9	4.6	13.9
≥ 30	47.9	14.8	8.3	-	20.3
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between addicts with different levels of education.

4.5.5 Age at First of Drug Use and Monthly Income

There is little difference among reported addicts with different monthly incomes in the age at first drug use (See Table 4.41). A large proportion of the reported addicts earning a monthly income of less than 251 ringgit (75.6%), between 251 - 350 ringgit (82.4%), 351 - 600 ringgit (77.2%), 601 - 1000 ringgit (95.8%) and 1001 ringgit and above (84.4%) initiated drug use between the ages 15 - 29 years.

TABLE 4.41
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY AGE AT FIRST DRUG USE AND MONTHLY INCOME

Age at First Drug Use	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	< 251	251 - 350	351 - 600	601 - 1000	>1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
< 15	2.2	1.5	0.9	-	-	1.2
15 - 19	33.1	17.7	20.2	27.8	31.3	26.1
20 - 24	28.8	45.6	43.0	45.8	40.6	39.1
25 - 29	13.7	19.1	14.0	22.2	12.5	16.0
30 - 34	9.4	7.4	12.3	2.8	15.6	9.2
35 - 39	5.8	1.5	6.1	-	-	3.8
≥ 40	7.0	7.2	3.5	1.4	-	4.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.6 DAILY EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS

4.6.1 Daily Expenditure and Race

There is no significant difference between reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts, in their daily expenditure on drugs (See Table 4.42). An almost equivalent proportion of reported Malay (57.4%), Chinese (55.5%) and Indian (56.2%) addicts spent 10 ringgit or less daily on drugs. Conversely, 42.6 percent of Malay, 44.5 percent of Chinese and 43.8 percent of Indian addicts spent 11.00 ringgit or more daily on drugs.

TABLE 4.42

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND RACE

Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
1 - 5	23.3	24.6	26.0	24.2
6 - 10	34.1	30.9	30.2	32.2
11 - 15	10.5	11.3	9.4	10.8
16 or more	32.1	33.2	34.4	32.8
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.6.2 Daily Expenditure on Drugs and Reporting Agency

Women addicts identified by the hospitals and prisons tend to spend more on drugs daily compared to addicts of other agencies (See Table 4.43). More than half (56.9%) of prison addicts and 46.0 percent of hospital addicts spent above 10 ringgit a day on drugs. Smaller proportions from Police (32.7%) and the two Ministries (41.5%) spent above 10 ringgit daily. Generally, the women addicts arrested by the Police spent less compared to addicts of the other agencies.

TABLE 4.43

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY DAILY
EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS AND REPORTING AGENCY

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(310)	(417)	(132)	(413)	(1272)
1 - 5	24.9	25.9	19.9	26.1	24.4
6 - 10	29.1	41.4	23.2	32.4	32.8
11 - 15	6.2	10.4	14.9	11.7	10.3
16 or more	39.8	22.3	42.0	29.8	32.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different reporting agencies.

4.6.3 Daily Expenditure and Current Age

There is a significant difference in daily expenditure on drugs between addicts of different age groups (See Table 4.44). Addicts in their teens and those aged 40 years and above spent less on drugs per day than addicts in their twenties and thirties.

About three-quarters of total addicts in their teens and those aged 40 years and above, spent less than 11 ringgit on drugs daily as compared to about half of addicts in their twenties and thirties who have a similar expenditure. Generally the latter addicts are more likely to spend more on drugs, i.e. above 11 ringgit per day.

4.6.4 Daily Expenditure and Marital Status

A comparison of the expenditure on drugs between the addicts of different marital status indicates a significant difference in expenditure between them (See Table 4.45). Generally, divorced or separated (61.5%) addicts are more likely to spend above 11 ringgit on drugs daily as compared to the single (44.7%) married (40.4%) or widowed (30.7%) addicts. Widowed addicts spent the least comparatively. There is little difference in the expenditure patterns of single and married addicts.

TABLE 4.45
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND MARITAL STATUS

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
1 - 5	26.4	21.9	16.7	32.9	24.4
6 - 10	28.9	37.7	21.8	36.4	32.5
11 - 15	9.9	11.2	11.5	6.8	10.2
16 or more	34.8	29.2	50.0	23.9	32.9
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different marital status.

TABLE 4.44
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND CURRENT AGE

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Current Age						All Agencies
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	≥ 40	
1 - 5	(181)	(378)	(238)	(141)	(89)	(245)	(1272)
6 - 10	40.5	20.4	15.0	10.8	36.4	37.1	24.4
11 - 15	33.6	32.3	30.2	34.4	18.2	41.6	32.8
16 or more	5.3	8.0	12.3	17.2	22.7	8.0	10.3
All Categories	20.6	39.3	42.5	37.6	22.7	13.3	32.5
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age categories.

4.6.5 Daily Expenditure and Occupation

There is a significant difference in the daily expenditure on drugs between addicts of the various occupational categories (See Table 4.46). Addicts who are employed in white-collared jobs and skilled workers spent the most on drugs compared to addicts in other occupational groups. About 61 percent of white-collared workers and 47.1 percent of skilled workers spent above 15 ringgit daily on drugs. Student addicts, on the other hand, spent the least on drugs compared to addicts in other occupational groups. About 73 percent of these addicts spent less than 11 ringgit on drugs daily. The unemployed are more likely to spend less on drugs too. About 64 percent spent less than 11 ringgit each day. Addicts in the other occupations such as labourers, shop assistants and other unspecified occupations have almost a similar expenditure pattern.

TABLE 4.46
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND OCCUPATION

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Occupation						All Categories (1272)	
	Student (34)	Unemployed (542)	Labourer (154)	Shop Assistant (107)	Skilled worker (37)	White Collared Worker (23)		Others (375)
1 - 5	36.8	27.2	27.5	22.2	17.6	12.1	20.2	24.4
6 - 10	36.8	36.4	32.4	29.2	35.3	18.2	30.3	32.8
11 - 15	5.3	8.4	11.7	12.5	-	9.1	13.4	10.3
16 or more	21.1	28.0	28.4	36.1	47.1	60.6	36.1	32.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different occupation categories.

4.6.6 Daily Expenditure and Monthly Income

There is an association between daily expenditure on drugs and the amount of monthly income earnings (See Table 4.47). Addicts with higher monthly incomes generally tend to spend more on drugs per day than addicts with lower monthly incomes. About 65 percent of reported addicts earning a monthly income of 601 - 1,000 ringgit per month spent 16 ringgit or more daily on drugs compared to addicts earning between 351 - 600 ringgit (41.5%), 251 - 350 ringgit (30.7%) and less than 251 ringgit per month (24.4%). On the contrary, those who earned less generally spent less than on drugs (i.e. less than 11 ringgit per day).

TABLE 4.47
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND MONTHLY INCOME

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Monthly Income (in ringgit)				ALL Categories	
	< 251	251-350	351-600	600-1000 > 1000		
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
1 - 5	31.3	22.5	9.9	5.8	12.1	18.2
6 - 10	35.9	30.7	31.5	18.0	12.1	28.1
11 - 15	8.4	16.1	17.1	11.6	15.2	13.1
16 or more	24.4	30.7	41.5	64.6	60.6	40.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significant level between reported addicts with different monthly incomes.

4.6.7 Daily Expenditure and Duration of Drug Use

A relationship exist between the amount spent on drugs and the duration of drug use. Generally, addicts with a longer duration of drug use spend more on drugs daily (See Table 4.48). About 60 percent of addicts with between 4 and 10 years of drug use, spent above 10 ringgit daily. A smaller proportion of those with a shorter duration spent above 10 ringgit per day on drugs.

Addicts with less than one year of drug use experience spent the least on drugs. Seventy-five percent of these addicts spent less than 11 ringgit, while only 25 percent spent above 11 ringgit. However, this pattern is also found among those with the longest duration, i.e. 10 years and above, of drug use. This implies that addicts tend to reduce their drug spending after being 'hooked' on the drugs for more than 10 years.

TABLE 4.48

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Duration of Drug Use (Years)						All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10	
	(466)	(221)	(270)	(127)	(112)	(76)	(1272)
1 - 5	38.2	18.1	12.1	15.7	9.5	37.3	24.4
6 - 10	36.8	34.0	30.8	24.1	29.7	31.4	32.8
11 - 15	7.9	11.8	13.1	9.6	12.2	7.8	10.3
16 or more	17.1	36.1	44.0	50.6	48.6	23.5	32.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts with different duration of drug use.

4.7 SOURCES OF DRUGS

4.7.1 Sources of Drugs and Race

A large proportion of reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts obtained their drugs from addict pushers, friends and non-addict pushers (See Table 4.49). Coffee shops, other shops, opium dens and other sources are not popular sources of drugs. However, significant differences in some sources of drugs are reported among the three races. Malay and Indian addicts are more likely than Chinese addicts to obtain drugs from the following sources: - friends, 39.2% and 35.0% versus 29.9% and; other sources, 9.2% and 11.1% versus 5.7% . Indian (67.6%) addicts are more likely than Malay (53.9%) and Chinese (50.0%) addicts to obtain drugs from addict pushers. Chinese (5.6%) addicts, on the other hand, are more likely than Malay (1.8%) and Indian (0.7%) addicts to obtain drugs from opium dens.

TABLE 4.49
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS
BY SOURCES OF DRUGS AND RACE

Sources of Drugs	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(483)	(536)	(197)	(1216)
* Friends	39.2	29.9	35.0	34.4
Pusher (Non-Addict)	19.6	24.0	21.2	21.8
* Pusher (Addict)	53.9	50.0	67.6	53.9
Coffee Shops	4.7	2.9	1.5	3.5
Other Shops	4.0	2.9	3.0	3.4
* Opium Dens	1.8	5.6	0.7	3.4
* Other Sources	9.2	5.7	11.1	7.9

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts from the three ethnic groups.

4.7.2 Sources of Drugs and Reporting Agency

There are significant differences in the reported sources of drugs between women addicts identified by the various reporting agencies (See Table 4.50). Women addicts reported by the hospitals, prisons and the two Ministries are more likely to obtain their drug supplies from their friends and addict pushers. The prison addicts are more likely to obtain their drug supplies from non-addict pushers, coffee shops, other shops, as well as other unspecified sources when compared to the addicts of the other agencies.

TABLE 4.50
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES
OF DRUGS AND REPORTING AGENCY

Sources of Drugs	Reporting Agency				All Agencies
	Hospital	Police	Prison	Welfare/ Home Affairs	
	(258)	(625)	(267)	(122)	(1272)
* Friends	41.7	27.0	39.8	51.3	31.2
* Pusher (Non-addict)	10.4	21.9	38.4	14.7	22.0
* Pusher (Addict)	63.9	44.4	59.2	59.8	53.3
* Coffee Shops	1.3	1.3	13.9	-	3.8
* Other Shops	-	0.9	14.0	-	3.3
Opium Dens	1.7	4.5	3.9	-	3.3
* Other Sources	6.7	2.8	22.9	3.6	7.8

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of the different agencies.

4.7.3 Sources of Drugs and Current Age

There are significant differences between reported addicts of different age groups in their sources of drugs (See Table 4.51). A larger proportion (about 50%) of the younger addicts (i.e. those below 25 years) obtained their drug supplies from friends compared to a smaller proportion of older addicts. Non-addicted pushers are more popular sources among the older addicts, i.e. those aged 30 years and above. Pushers who are also addicts are the most common source of drugs among addicts who are below 35 years of age.

Older addicts who are aged 40 years and above tend to obtain their drugs through opium dens compared to addicts in other age groups. Other shops and other sources of drugs are not popular sources among all age groups.

TABLE 4.51
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF DRUGS
AND CURRENT AGE

Sources of Drugs	Current Age					All Categories	
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39		≥ 40
* Friends	(181) 49.7	(378) 42.8	(238) 34.0	(141) 26.2	(89) 25.3	(245) 21.8	(1272) 31.2
* Pusher (Non-addict)	15.3	14.9	21.9	34.4	27.3	31.1	22.0
* Pusher (Addict)	49.4	61.8	60.2	58.2	39.0	36.4	53.3
Coffee Shops	1.8	5.3	2.8	3.1	6.5	3.1	3.8
Other Shops	1.8	4.5	4.2	3.1	6.5	0.5	3.3
* Opium Dens	0.6	1.2	2.4	.	3.9	12.4	3.3
Other Sources	5.5	8.9	10.9	9.2	2.6	6.2	7.8

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different current age groups.

4.7.4 Sources of Drugs and Marital Status

There is little difference between reported addicts of different marital status in their sources of drugs (See Table 4.52). A large proportion of the reported single, married, divorced or separated and widowed addicts obtained their drugs through addict pushers, friends and non-addict pushers. However, a comparatively larger proportion of divorced or separated addicts (17.7%) also obtained their drugs through other sources compared to reported single (7.0%), married (9.0%) and widowed (7.9%) addicts. Only a small proportion of reported addicts obtained their drugs through coffee shops, other shops and opium dens.

TABLE 4.52
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF
 DRUGS AND MARITAL STATUS

Sources of Drugs	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(438)	(600)	(98)	(136)	(1272)
Friends	46.1	31.2	43.0	37.1	31.2
Pusher (Non-Addict)	18.1	26.0	19.0	29.8	22.0
Pusher (Addict)	57.8	47.0	61.0	48.6	53.3
Coffee Shops	4.5	3.2	3.9	6.9	3.8
Other Shops	4.5	3.4	3.9	2.0	3.3
Opium Dens	1.1	3.9	5.2	7.9	3.3
Other Sources	7.0	9.0	17.7	7.9	7.8

4.7.5 Sources of Drugs and Level of Education

There is little difference, between reported women addicts of different educational levels, in their sources of drugs (See Table 4.53). A large proportion of the reported addicts obtained drugs through addict pushers, friends and non-addict pushers. However, a relatively large proportion of reported addicts with primary (26.5%) and lower secondary education (30.8%) also obtained drugs through other sources.

TABLE 4.53
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF DRUGS AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Sources of Drugs	Level of Education				All Categories
	No Education	Primary School	Lower Sec (F1-F3)	Upper Sec (F4-F6)	
	(77)	(122)	(42)	(31)	(262)
Friends	32.8	41.0	38.5	54.2	39.7
Pusher (Non-Addict)	47.7	34.7	37.5	40.0	39.5
Pusher (Addict)	47.7	63.0	64.1	56.0	58.1
Coffee Shops	15.6	11.1	18.0	12.5	13.7
Other Shops	15.6	13.3	12.8	12.5	13.8
Opium Dens	3.1	5.1	2.6	4.2	4.0
Other Sources	15.4	26.5	30.8	16.0	22.9

4.7.6 Sources of Drugs and Occupation

In each occupation group, friends and addict pushers are consistently the main sources of drugs (See Table 4.54). However, there are significant differences in the proportion of addicts in each occupation group who reported obtaining drugs from the following sources: non-addicted pushers, addicted pushers, coffee shops and other shops. Shop assistants, skilled workers and those employed in other unspecified jobs are more likely to obtain their drugs from non-addict pushers compared to the other occupation groups.

A substantially larger proportion of skilled workers and white-collared workers obtained their drugs from pushers who are also addicts. White-collared workers tend to resort to coffee shops and other shops for drugs compared to the addicts in other occupations.

TABLE 4.54
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF
DRUGS AND OCCUPATION

Sources of Drugs	Occupation					All Categories		
	Student	Unemployed	Labourer	Shop Assistant	Skilled Worker		White-Collared Worker	Others
Friends	(34)	(542)	(154)	(107)	(23)	(37)	(375)	(1272)
	57.9	31.3	39.4	36.8	42.9	38.2	37.4	35.4
* Pusher (Non-Addict)	10.5	16.8	22.2	37.2	28.6	17.7	27.0	22.3
* Pusher (Addict)	55.0	57.5	53.5	45.3	66.7	71.4	48.0	53.8
* Coffee Shops	.	1.0	4.0	8.5	9.5	15.2	4.6	3.6
* Other Shops	.	1.2	4.8	8.5	4.8	18.2	3.1	3.4
Opium Dens	.	5.4	1.6	1.1	4.8	3.0	1.9	3.4
Other Sources	.	4.1	9.5	9.6	14.3	5.9	12.4	7.8

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different occupation groups.

4.7.7 Sources of Drugs and Monthly Income

There is little difference between reported addicts of different income groups in their sources of drugs (See Table 4.55). The main sources of drugs are addict pushers, friends and non-addict pushers. Only a small proportion of the reported addicts obtained drugs through coffee shops, other shops, opium dens and other sources.

TABLE 4.55
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF DRUGS
AND MONTHLY INCOME

Sources of Drugs	Monthly Income (in ringgit)					All Categories
	< 251	251-350	351-600	601-1000	> 1000	
	(169)	(82)	(132)	(89)	(40)	(512)
Friends	44.1	52.1	45.5	35.9	40.5	44.1
Pusher (Non-Addict)	23.7	29.2	28.1	25.0	30.6	26.5
Pusher (Addict)	47.7	48.0	67.7	54.9	56.8	55.0
Coffee Shops	10.5	2.8	7.8	3.9	8.1	7.3
Other Shops	10.5	2.8	7.8	2.6	8.3	7.1
Opium Dens	4.0	1.4	2.6	-	-	2.2
Other Sources	9.3	11.1	8.6	10.0	16.7	10.1

4.7.8 Sources of Drugs and Duration of Drug Use

Generally, friends and pushers who are also addicts, are the most common sources of drugs among reported addicts of different duration of drug use (See Table 4.56). The other sources are less important.

However, there are significant differences in the percentage of addicts of different duration of drug use who have reported friends non-addict pushers, addict pushers and opium dens as their sources of drugs. A larger percentage of addicts (about 45%) with 2 years or less duration of drug use obtained their drugs from friends as compared to a smaller proportion of addicts with a longer duration of use, i.e. 6 years and above who have reported this source. Non-addict pushers, on the other hand, are more popular among the addicts with more than 10 years of drug use.

A larger proportion of addicts having between 1 and 10 years duration of drug use have turned to addicted pushers for their drug supplies. A smaller percentage of the groups with the shortest and longest duration reported this source. Opium dens are most popular among the addicts with above 10 years of drug use history. One in four addicts with above 10 years of drug use reported obtaining drugs from opium dens.

TABLE 4.56
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF DRUGS AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

Sources of Drugs	Duration of Drug Use						All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10	
* Friends	(466) 48.7	(221) 46.6	(270) 41.7	(127) 37.7	(112) 31.1	(76) 23.5	(1272) 42.7
* Pusher (Non-Addict)	14.6	20.6	17.5	19.3	24.3	32.7	18.8
* Pusher (Addict)	52.6	61.7	64.6	66.7	66.7	48.1	59.1
Coffee Shops	4.9	4.9	2.3	6.0	5.4	3.9	4.5
* Opium Dens	1.0	1.4	2.3	6.0	6.8	25.5	3.9
Other Sources	8.2	4.9	11.0	14.3	13.7	11.5	9.5

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different duration of drug use categories.

4.7.9 Sources of Drugs and Drugs Currently Abused

Addict pushers are the most common source for all the drugs, with the exception of tranquillisers, mandrax pills and other unspecified drugs. For these latter categories of drugs, friends are the most frequently reported source (See Table 4.57).

Except for opium, 'friends' is the second most frequently reported source of drugs for most of the drugs. The other most frequently reported source of tranquillisers are not specified, i.e. under other sources. Opium is also obtained from sources such as friends, non-addict pushers and opium dens.

TABLE 4.57
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY SOURCES OF DRUGS AND
DRUGS CURRENTLY ABUSED

Sources of Drugs	Drugs Currently Abused								
	Alcohol	Tran- quillisers	Barbiturates	MX pills	Marijuana	Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Others
	(57)	(6)	(39)	(7)	(71)	(115)	(44)	(822)	(10)
Friends	49.1	50.0	48.7	85.7	43.7	25.2	43.2	38.6	40.0
Pusher (Non-addict)	19.6	-	23.7	33.3	28.6	25.4	27.9	19.4	10.0
Pusher (Addict)	68.4	16.7	65.8	71.4	51.4	43.1	66.4	63.9	30.0
Coffee Shops	8.9	-	5.3	16.7	5.7	2.6	2.3	3.3	-
Other Shops	18.2	-	5.3	16.7	4.3	-	-	3.2	-
Opium Dens	1.9	16.7	5.4	-	1.5	24.6	-	1.4	-
Other Sources	7.3	33.3	13.5	-	5.8	0.9	4.7	9.3	20.0

4.8 REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE

4.8.1 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use and Race

The main reasons for discontinuing drug use among reported Malay, Chinese and Indian addicts are pressure of the law, for the benefit of the family and personal reasons (See Table 4.58). However, there is a significant difference in pressure of the law as a reason for discontinuing drug use among the reported addicts. Malay (46.8%) and Indian (58.8%) addicts are more likely than Chinese (31.4%) addicts to discontinue drug use for that reason. There are no significant differences among the different races in the following reasons for discontinuing drug use: increasing cost, for the benefit of the family, forced by the family, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs, personal reasons, and other reasons.

TABLE 4.58
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS
 FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE AND RACE

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Race			All Races
	Malay	Chinese	Indian	
	(173)	(140)	(34)	(347)
Increasing cost	7.6	13.6	9.4	10.2
For the benefit of family	21.4	28.4	27.3	24.8
Forced by the family	14.1	13.0	3.1	12.6
* Pressure of the law	46.8	31.4	58.8	41.8
Health reasons	7.1	3.6	-	5.0
Decreasing supply of drugs	0.6	2.2	-	1.2
Personal reasons	17.3	27.6	27.3	22.5
Others reasons	5.3	4.3	-	4.4
Does not know	2.4	-	-	1.2

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of the three ethnic groups.

4.8.2 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use and Current Age

Addicts in their teens discontinued drug use mainly for the benefit of the family (23.4%), forced by family (19.4%), pressure of the law (43.0%) and for personal reasons (18.3%) (See Table 4.59). Reported addicts aged 40 years and above discontinued drug use mainly because of increasing cost (23.5%) and pressure of the law (38.9%). For addicts aged between 20 - 39 years the main reasons for discontinuing drug use are similar and they are for the benefit of the family, pressure of the law, and personal reasons. Only a small proportion of the addicts discontinued drug use because of decreasing supply of drugs, health reasons, and for other reasons.

Significant differences in reasons for discontinuing drug use by reported addicts of different age groups exist. For instance, addicts in their teens (19.4%) are more likely than addicts of other age groups to be forced by the family to discontinue drug use. Similarly, addicts aged 40 years and above (11.8%) are more likely than

addicts of other age groups to discontinue drug use because of decreasing supply of drugs. There are no significant differences among reported addicts of different age groups in the following reasons for discontinuing drug use: increasing cost, for the benefit of the family, pressure of the law, health reasons, personal reasons and other reasons.

TABLE 4.59

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR
DISCONTINUING DRUG USE AND CURRENT AGE

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Current Age						All Categories
	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40	
	(93)	(120)	(75)	(29)	(16)	(17)	(350)
Increasing cost	3.2	11.7	14.7	6.9	6.3	23.5	10.0
For the benefit of the family	23.4	30.9	20.0	30.0	31.3	5.9	25.4
* Forced by the family	19.4	13.3	5.3	17.9	-	-	12.3
Pressure of the law	43.0	36.8	50.0	35.7	50.0	38.9	41.9
Health reasons	4.3	5.8	5.3	7.1	-	5.9	5.2
* Decreasing supply of drugs	1.1	0.8	-	-	-	11.8	1.2
Personal reasons	18.3	25.4	18.7	28.1	43.8	17.7	22.8
Other reasons	3.2	4.2	2.7	14.3	-	5.9	4.3

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different age groups.

4.8.3 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use and Marital Status

Single, married and divorced or separated addicts discontinued drug use mainly for the benefit of the family, due to pressure of the law and for personal reasons (See Table 4.60). Widowed addicts, on the other hand, discontinued drug use mainly for the benefit of the family (21.6%) and due to pressure of the law (61.5%). Increasing cost, forced by the family, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs and other reasons are not prominent reasons for discontinuing drug use.

Significant differences exist among reported addicts of different marital status in reasons for discontinuing drug use. For instance, married addicts (34.1%) are more likely than addicts of other marital status to discontinue drug use for the benefit of the family. Similarly, divorced or separated addicts (57.1%) and widowed addicts (61.5%) are more likely than single (37.5%) and married (26.1%) addicts to discontinue drug use because of pressure of the law. There are no significant differences among reported addicts of different marital status in the following reasons for discontinuing drug use: increasing cost, forced by the family, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs, personal reasons and other reasons.

TABLE 4.60

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE AND MARITAL STATUS

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Marital Status				All Categories
	Single	Married	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed	
	(214)	(129)	(35)	(36)	(414)
Increasing cost	7.5	12.4	14.3	5.6	9.4
* For the benefit of the family	20.6	34.1	22.2	21.6	25.1
Forced by the family	16.4	7.8	8.6	11.1	12.6
* Pressure of the law	37.5	26.1	57.1	61.5	37.9
Health reasons	8.4	9.3	-	2.8	7.5
Decreasing supply of drugs	0.9	1.5	-	-	1.0
Personal reasons	25.2	21.2	33.3	13.5	23.6
Other reasons	3.8	4.6	5.7	5.6	4.4

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported addicts of different marital status.

4.8.4 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use and Duration of Drug Use

Reported addicts with a duration of drug use of between 1-2, 2-4 and more than 6 years, discontinued drug use mainly for the benefit of the family, due to pressure of the law and for personal reasons (See Table 4.61). Addicts with a duration of drug use of less than 1 year discontinued drug use mainly for the benefit of the family (27.8%) and due to pressure of the law (45.4%). Similarly, addicts with a duration of drug use of 4-6 years discontinued drug use mainly because of increasing cost (25.0%), for the benefit of the family (31.0%) and for personal reasons (31.0%). Forced by the family, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs and other reasons are not prominent reasons for discontinuing drug use.

Significant differences exist among reported addicts of different duration of drug use in their reasons for discontinuing drug use. For instance, reported addicts with a duration of drug use of 4-6 years (25.0%) are more likely to discontinue drug use due to increasing cost. There are no significant differences between reported addicts in the following reasons for discontinuing drug use: for the benefit of the family, forced by the family, pressure of the law, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs, personal reasons and other reasons.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PROFILE OF MEN AND WOMENADDICTS IN MALAYSIA

This chapter examines the socio-demographic characteristics and drug use pattern of men and women addicts in Malaysia. The data analysed is based on information collected from the first report of all drug addicts contacted by the various reporting agencies for the period 1978 through 1986, and reported to the National Drug Abuse Monitoring System. Each of the socio-demographic and the pattern of drug use variables will be discussed in turn with focus placed on differences between the men and women addicts. The chi-square test is used to determine any statistical difference in pattern between the two sexes.

TABLE 4.61

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED WOMEN ADDICTS BY REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE AND DURATION OF DRUG USE

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Duration of Drug Use (Years)					All Categories
	< 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	> 6	
	(143)	(64)	(74)	(28)	(35)	(344)
* Increasing cost	4.2	10.9	13.5	25.0	14.3	10.2
For the benefit of the family	27.8	22.7	25.3	31.0	20.0	25.8
* Forced by the family	12.7	9.4	16.2	14.3	8.6	12.5
Pressure of the law	45.4	44.8	39.5	17.9	47.2	42.0
Health reasons	6.3	3.1	2.7	3.6	8.6	5.0
Decreasing supply of drugs	0.7	1.6	1.4	-	2.9	1.2
Personal reasons	17.7	28.8	25.3	31.0	25.0	23.2
Other reasons	4.2	7.8	2.7	7.1	-	4.4

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between reported addicts of different duration of drug use groups.

5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REPORTED ADDICTS AND SEX

5.1.1 Region/State

The difference in the distribution of men and women addicts by region is marginal, except perhaps in the Southern State of Johore (See Table 5.1). Men addicts reported in this state were almost twice in proportion to that of women.

The distribution of reported men and women addicts by state also showed little difference, except in the state of Johore and the Federal Territory. Addicts reported in the Federal Territory are more likely to be women (17.7%) than men (11.0%). In the state of Johore, addicts reported are more likely to be men (15.1%) than women (7.9%).

TABLE 5.1
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY REGION/STATE AND SEX

Region/State	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
<u>Northern Region</u>	(46.0)	(44.7)	(45.9)
Perlis	1.6	1.8	1.6
Kedah	7.0	4.2	6.9
Penang	18.4	17.3	18.4
Perak	19.0	21.4	19.1
<u>Central Region</u>	(27.5)	(36.8)	(27.7)
Selangor	8.7	11.2	8.8
Federal Territory	11.0	17.7	11.1
Negeri Sembilan	4.1	2.5	4.1
Malacca	3.7	5.4	3.7
<u>Southern Region</u>	(15.1)	(7.9)	(14.9)
Johore	15.1	7.9	14.9
<u>Eastern Region</u>	(10.2)	(8.9)	(10.2)
Pahang	3.9	2.1	3.8
Trengganu	3.0	2.9	2.9
Kelantan	3.3	3.9	3.4
<u>East Malaysia</u>	(1.2)	(1.7)	(1.3)
Sarawak	0.9	1.0	0.9
Sabah	0.3	0.7	0.4
All Region/States	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.1.2 Race

The proportion of reported women addicts is larger than men among the Chinese (See Table 5.2). On the other hand, the proportion of men addicts is larger than women among the Malays and Indian. Hence reported Chinese addicts are more likely to be women (44.1%) than men (37.7%). Conversely, reported Malay addicts are more likely to be men (47.2%) than women (39.7%). The difference in the proportion of reported men and women Indian addicts is marginal.

TABLE 5.2
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY RACE AND SEX

*Race	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
Malay	47.2	39.7	47.0
Chinese	37.7	44.1	37.9
Indian	13.3	11.8	13.2
Others	1.8	4.4	1.9
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.3 Current Age

Reported women addicts are more likely to be older than the men (See Table 5.3). A smaller proportion of women (62.6%) compared to men (74.4%) addicts are aged below 30 years. Also, the proportion of women (9.1%) addicts aged 50 years and above is almost 3 times as large as men (2.9%).

TABLE 5.3
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY CURRENT AGE AND SEX

*Current Age (years)	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
< 15	0.2	0.6	0.2
15 - 19	10.5	13.6	10.6
20 - 24	34.4	29.7	34.3
25 - 29	29.3	18.7	29.0
30 - 34	13.9	11.7	13.9
35 - 39	5.2	7.0	5.2
40 - 44	2.3	5.4	2.4
45 - 49	1.3	4.2	1.3
> 50	2.9	9.1	3.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.4 Occupation

There are significant differences among men and women addicts in types of occupation held (See Table 5.4). Women (42.7%) addicts are more likely than men (23.1%) addicts to be unemployed, and if employed, women (30.1%) addicts are most likely to be in the others category. Men addicts, on the other hand, are employed mainly as labourers (46.1%). Significant differences also exist among skilled workers where the addict is more likely to be male (4.5%) than female (1.8%). There is only a marginal difference in the proportion of reported men and women addicts who are students, shop assistants and white collared workers.

TABLE 5.4
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY OCCUPATION AND SEX

*Occupation	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
Student	4.7	2.0	1.2
Unemployed	23.1	42.7	23.8
Labourer	46.1	12.1	45.3
Shop Assistant	6.8	8.4	6.8
White Collared Worker	2.1	2.9	2.0
Skilled Worker	4.5	1.8	4.4
Others	12.7	30.1	16.5
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.5 Marital Status

Reported women addicts are more likely than reported men addicts to be married, separated or divorced and widowed. Men (72.6%) addicts, on the other hand, are more likely than women (34.4%) addicts to be single. (See Table 5.5)

TABLE 5.5
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX

*Marital Status	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
Single	72.6	34.4	71.8
Married	25.3	47.2	25.8
Separated/ divorced	1.8	7.7	1.9
Widowed	0.3	10.7	0.5
All categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.6 Level of Education

There are significant differences among men and women addicts in the level of education. Men addicts reported are generally more educated than women addicts (See Table 5.6). Only 51.4 percent of the men addicts received little or no education compared with 71.9 percent among the reported women addicts. Furthermore, men addicts with secondary education are reported at 48.1 percent compared with 26.2 percent among the women addicts.

TABLE 5.6
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND SEX

*Level of Education	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(17359)	(267)	(17626)
No education	6.2	29.2	6.6
Primary	45.2	42.7	45.1
Secondary 1 - 3	34.3	16.1	34.0
Secondary 4 - 6	13.8	10.1	13.8
Tertiary Level	0.4	1.1	0.4
Others	0.1	0.8	0.1
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.7 Monthly Income

There are significant differences among reported men and women addicts in their monthly incomes (See Table 5.7). Addicts earning a monthly income of \$601 - \$1,000 and \$1,001 and above are more likely to be women than men. On the other hand, addicts earning less than \$601.00 per month are more likely to be men (89.1%) than women (75.0%).

TABLE 5.7
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY MONTHLY INCOME AND SEX

*Monthly Income (in ringgit)	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(38509)	(703)	(39212)
Less than 251	21.3	33.2	21.4
251 - 350	30.0	16.0	29.8
351 - 600	37.8	25.8	37.7
601 - 1,000	9.3	17.4	9.4
1001 and above	1.6	7.6	1.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.1.8 Criminality

Men addicts are more likely than women addicts to have more police or prison records (See Table 5.8). A larger proportion of men than women addicts were ever arrested, ever convicted and ever incarcerated.

TABLE 5.8
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY CRIMINALITY AND SEX

Criminality	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
* Ever Arrested	41.8	24.4	41.4
* Ever Convicted	32.9	16.3	32.5
* Ever Incarcerated	30.5	14.5	30.1

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported men and women addicts.

5.2. PATTERNS OF DRUG USE OF REPORTED ADDICTS AND SEX

5.2.1 Drugs Ever Abused

A large proportion of reported men (79.9%) and women (75.8%) addicts have abused heroin (See Table 5.9). Ever abuse of other drugs by both reported men and women addicts is significantly smaller in proportion when compared to ever abuse of heroin. From Table 5.9, it can be observed that there are significant differences among men and women addicts in ever abuse of certain drugs. Male addicts are more likely than female to have ever abused alcohol, marihuana, morphine and heroin. Female addicts, on the other hand, are more likely than male addicts to have ever abused barbiturates and opium. There are no significant differences among reported men and women addicts in ever abuse of tranquillisers, mandrax pills, amphetamines, LSD and other types of drugs.

TABLE 5.9
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY DRUGS
EVER ABUSED AND SEX

Drugs Ever Abused	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
* Cigarettes	56.2	42.8	55.9
* Alcohol	18.4	11.1	18.2
Tranquillisers	1.0	1.5	1.0
* Barbiturates	6.5	8.3	6.5
Mandrax Pills	1.8	1.6	1.8
Amphetamines	0.2	0.1	0.2
LSD	0.4	0.4	0.4
* Marihuana	28.1	12.6	27.8
* Opium	11.1	13.3	11.2
* Morphine	8.3	6.2	8.2
* Heroin	79.9	75.8	79.8
Others	0.6	0.6	0.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported men and women addicts.

5.2.2. Drugs Currently Abused

A large proportion of reported men (78.5%) and women (75.8%) addicts currently abuse heroin (See Table 5.10). The extent of current abuse of other drugs by reported men and women addicts is significantly less when compared to current abuse of heroin. Significant difference among reported men and women addicts in drugs currently abused exist. Men addicts are more likely than women addicts to have currently abused alcohol, marihuana, morphine and heroin. Women addicts, on the other hand, are more likely than men addicts to have currently abused barbiturates and opium. There are no significant differences among reported men and women addicts in current abuse of tranquillisers, amphetamines, LSD and other types of drugs.

TABLE 5.10
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY DRUGS
CURRENTLY ABUSED AND SEX

Drugs Currently Abused	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
* Cigarettes	51.4	40.9	51.2
* Alcohol	7.8	5.3	7.7
Tranquillisers	0.4	0.5	0.4
* Barbiturates	2.5	3.6	2.5
Mandrax Pills	0.3	0.6	0.3
Amphetamines	0.1	-	0.1
LSD	0.1	0.1	0.1
* Marihuana	13.0	6.6	12.9
* Opium	6.5	11.0	6.6
* Morphine	6.3	4.0	6.3
* Heroin	78.5	75.8	78.4
Others	0.9	1.1	1.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported men and women addicts.

5.2.3 Reasons for Initial Drug Use

There are significant differences in reasons for initial drug use among men and women addicts. Men addicts were more likely than women addicts to initiate drug use for reasons of peer influence, pleasure and curiosity (See Table 5.11). A larger proportion of male (49.2%) than female (35.0%) addicts initiated drug use for pleasure.

Also, a larger proportion of male (54.5%) than female (44.1%) addicts initiated drug use due to peer influence. The proportion of male (26.8%) addicts who initiated drug use out of curiosity is slightly more than twice that of reported women (11.7%) addicts.

Women addicts on the other hand, are more likely than reported men addicts to initiate drug use due to emotional and financial problems, accidental use and for other reasons.

TABLE 5.11

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR INITIAL DRUG USE AND SEX

Reasons for Initial Drug Use	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
* Pleasure	49.2	35.0	48.9
* Peer Influence	54.5	44.1	54.3
* Curiosity	26.8	11.7	26.5
* Accidental	5.3	7.2	5.4
* Emotional Problems	13.8	21.2	14.0
* Financial Problems	2.0	4.4	2.1
* Other Reasons	8.8	11.7	8.8

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among men and women addicts.

5.2.4 Duration of Drug Use

There are significant differences between reported men and women addicts in the duration of drug use. Women addicts generally have a shorter duration of drug use compared to men addicts (See Table 5.12). The proportion of reported women (75.2%) addicts is higher than men (72.6%) where duration of drug use is 4 years or less. Conversely, the proportion of male (27.4%) addicts with a duration of drug use of 4 years or more is higher than that of female (24.8%) addicts.

TABLE 5.12

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY DURATION OF DRUG USE AND SEX

*Duration of Drug Use (Years)	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
Less than 1 year	30.2	36.6	30.3
1.1 - 2	19.8	17.4	19.7
2.1 - 4	22.6	21.2	22.6
4.1 - 6	11.7	10.0	11.7
6.1 - 10	9.7	8.8	9.7
10.1 - 15	3.2	2.3	3.2
15 and above	2.8	3.7	2.8
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.2.5. Age at First Drug Use

There are significant differences in age at first drug use among reported men and women addicts. Women addicts generally initiated drug use at a later age compared to reported men addicts (See Table 4.3). A smaller proportion of reported women (78.1%) addicts compared to men (87.3%) initiated drug use before 30 years of age. Also, a larger proportion of reported women (8.6%) addicts compared to men (2.5%) initiated drug use at ages 40 years and above.

TABLE 5.13

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY AGE
AT FIRST DRUG USE AND SEX

*Age at First Drug Use (Years)	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
Less than 15	2.0	3.2	2.0
15 - 19	28.0	28.5	28.0
20 - 24	38.0	32.1	38.0
25 - 29	19.3	14.3	19.2
30 - 34	7.6	8.6	7.6
35 - 39	2.6	4.7	2.6
40 and above	2.5	8.6	2.6
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.2.6 Daily Expenditure

There are significant differences in daily expenditures on drugs among reported men and women addicts (See Table 5.14). Women addicts generally spend more on drugs than men addicts. A larger proportion of men addicts (67.1%) spend \$10.00 or less per day on drugs compared to women addicts (57.2%). Conversely, a larger proportion of women addicts (42.8%) spend more than \$10.00 per day on drugs compared to men addicts (32.9%).

TABLE 5.14

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED ADDICTS
BY DAILY EXPENDITURE AND SEX

*Daily Expenditure (in ringgit)	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
1 - 5	25.9	24.4	25.9
6 - 10	41.2	32.8	41.0
11 - 15	12.4	10.3	12.4
16 and above	20.5	32.5	20.7
All Categories	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level between men and women addicts.

5.2.7 Sources of Drugs

A large proportion of reported men and women addicts obtained drugs from addict pushers, friends and non-addict pushers (See Table 4.7). Only a small proportion of reported men and women addicts obtained drugs from coffee-shops, other shops, opium dens and other sources. Significant differences in sources of drugs among reported men and women addicts exist. Men addicts are more likely than women addicts to have obtained drugs from friends, addict pushers and other sources. Women addicts on the other hand, are more likely than men addicts to have obtained drugs from non-addict pushers and opium dens. There are no significant differences among reported men and women addicts in obtaining drugs from coffee shops and other shops.

TABLE 5.15
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY SOURCES
OF DRUGS AND SEX

Sources of Drugs	Sex		Total
	Men	Women	
	(53336)	(1272)	(54608)
* Friends	41.9	35.2	41.8
* Pusher (non-addicts)	17.9	22.0	18.0
* Pushers (Addicts)	64.9	53.3	64.6
Coffee-shops	4.3	3.8	4.3
Other shops	3.1	3.3	3.1
* Opium Dens	2.2	3.3	2.3
* Other Sources	9.7	7.8	9.6

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported men and women addicts.

5.2.8 Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use

A large proportion of reported men and women addicts discontinued drug use for the following reasons: (i) for the benefit of family (ii) pressure of the law and (iii) personal reasons (See Table 5.16). A relatively small proportion of men and women addicts discontinued drug use for reasons of increasing cost, forced by family, health, decreasing supply of drugs and other reasons. Significant differences in reasons for discontinuing drug use among reported men and women addicts exist. Men addicts are more likely than women to discontinue drug use after being forced by family and for other reasons. There are no significant differences among reported men and women addicts in the following reasons for discontinuing drug use: increasing cost, for the benefit of the family, pressure of the law, health reasons, decreasing supply of drugs and personal reasons.

TABLE 5.16
PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED ADDICTS BY REASONS
FOR DISCONTINUING DRUG USE AND SEX

Reasons for Discontinuing Drug Use	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
	(16831)	(349)	(17180)
Increasing Cost	8.3	10.0	8.3
For the benefit of the family	22.0	25.4	22.1
* Forced by family	16.7	12.3	16.7
Pressure of the law	43.3	41.9	43.2
Health reasons	6.9	5.2	6.9
Decreasing supply of drugs	1.3	1.2	1.3
Personal reasons	24.7	22.8	24.6
* Other reasons	7.3	4.3	7.2
Does not know	0.6	1.1	0.7

* Statistically significant difference at the 0.05 significance level among reported men and women addicts.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Admission

This refers to cases of drug abusers who were admitted for treatment.

2. Age

This refers to age (in years) at last birthday or on date of contact.

3. Age of Initial Drug Abuse

This refers to the age of a drug abuser at the time when he first used any illicit drugs or other substances illicitly.

4. Case

This refers to a drug abuser who comes in contact and is registered by the reporting agency.

5. Contacts/Reports of Drug Abusers

This refers to the event of contacting or reporting to an agency about/by a drug abuser. Hence, an individual drug abuser may have several reports especially if he contacts more than one agency or an agency more than once.

6. Drugs Abused Currently

This refers to all the types of drugs abused in the last one month prior to/at the time of contact or admission.

7. Drug Abuse Pattern

A pattern of drug abuse is a description of the non-medical use of drugs in terms of the types of drugs taken, the frequency, quantity and the duration of their use, age of initiation, the route of administration and the circumstances of use.

8. Drugs Ever Abused

This refers to all the types of drugs abused by an individual ever since his initial drug use of first drug use.

9. Drug Seizures

This refers to the interdiction of illicit drug supplies awaiting or in the process of being marketed. Usually referred to in terms of g/kg.

10. Drug Types Abused

This refers to the classification and categorisation of drugs. Please refer to WHO Offset Publication, No. 56, Annex 8. Drug types abused are classified into 8 general types.

- . Cannabis
- . Hallucinogens
- . Barbiturates
- . Opiates
- . Cocaine
- . Amphetamine
- . Antidepressants
- . Others, mixed or unspecified substances.

11. Duration of Drug Use

This refers to the length of time a drug abuser has been using drugs since he first started abusing them.

12. Education

This refers to the level of education in terms of number of school years or the highest grade or standard.

13. Ethnicity

This refers to the ethnic/racial group of the drug abuser.

14. First Admission

This refers to cases of drug abusers who were admitted for the first time ever for treatment. In other words, these cases do not have any records of previous registrations/admissions into any formal treatment programmes.

15. Marital Status

This refers to the civil status of a drug abuser i.e., whether he/she was never married (single), married, separated, divorced, widowed, remarried, cohabiting, etc.

16. Monthly Income

This refers to the total amount of money received from all sources in a month.

17. Multiple/Poly Drug Users

This refers to drug abusers who abuse more than one drug or multiple drugs at the same time, in a given period of time prior to contact or registration (for example in the last one month).

18. New Cases

New cases refers to drug abusers who have not been registered before with any agency be it treatment, law enforcement, welfare or any other reporting agency which registers drug abusers.

19. Occupation

This refers to the type of work done by a drug abuser in the last one week prior to contact with agency.

20. Reasons for Initial Drug Use

This refers to the reason/reasons or why a drug abuser consumed a drug/drugs for the first time ever in his drug use history.

21. Reporting Agency

This term refers to medical, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation agencies who provide required data on drug abusers.

22. Socio-demographic Data

This refers to personal data of the drug abuser, reflective of his social, economic and functional background in society such as age, sex, schooling, employment, income, etc.

23. Type of Criminal Record/Activity

This refers to the type of crime committed by a drug abuser, i.e., whether it is drug-related or not drug-related, passive or active, etc.

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