

**Investigating the Relationship Between
Substance Abuse and Crime**

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Abstract

Investigating the Relationship Between Substance Abuse and Crime

The relationship between drug use and crime has not been studied much in Malaysia. Although drug issues manifest themselves at every level of the criminal justice system, from street crime to international trade in drugs, the relationship between drugs and crime is difficult to specify because most crimes result from a combination of situational, personal, cultural and economic factors. There are not enough data currently available to provide definitive evidence to law enforcement authorities, service providers, and researchers of the link between drug use and the drug trade and crime in general. The general aims of the project are to investigate the relationship between drugs and crime and to better understand to prevalence of drug use among hidden populations. The project is a 1-year pilot project with a cross-sectional design to assess the feasibility of developing a surveillance system to compliment the existing NADI system. Two hundred and twenty respondents participated in the study. We also did not find any significant difference between drug users and non-drug users in terms of age groups, ethnicity, types of crime committed, criminal record. Most of the subjects in the study were arrested for petty crimes and almost a quarter of the arrestees are repeat offenders. In terms of drug use, arrestees who admitted using drugs marijuana were the most frequently used drug followed by heroin and morphine. However since this is a pilot project and the data collected in this study was only baseline information there are still gaps and a more in-depth study need to be conducted if this kind of data collection mechanism can be implemented in the country.

Abstrak

Menyiasat hubungan di antara penyalahgunaan dadah dan jenayah

Hubungan antara penyalahgunaan dadah dan jenayah tidak banyak di kaji di Malaysia. Meskipun isu penyalahgunaan dadah timbul dalam di semua peringkat sistem keadilan jenayah, daripada jenayah kecil sehingga pengedaran dadah di peringkat antarabangsa hubungan antara dadah dan jenayah agak susah untuk dikenalpasti memandangkan kebanyakan jenayah merupakan hasil kombinasi situasi, aspek peribadi individu, kebudayaan dan juga berdasarkan faktor ekonomi. Kini tidak terdapat banyak data yang dapat memberikan bukti kepada agensi penguatkuasaan, pemberi servis dan penyelidik tentang hubungan antara penyalahgunaan dadah, pengedaran dadah dan jenayah secara am. Objektif projek ini ialah untuk menyiasat hubungan antara dadah dan jenayah dan juga untuk memahami kadar prevalen dadah di kalangan populasi yang tersembunyi ini. Projek ini merupakan berjalan selama satu tahun dan merupakan satu projek perintis dengan rekabentuk kajian keratan lintang. Projek ini juga bertujuan untuk melihat kebolehgunaannya untuk membangunkan satu sistem pemantauan yang boleh membantu sistem NADI yang sedia ada. Dua ratus dua puluh orang sampel mengambil bahagian dalam kajian ini. Tidak ada perbezaan signifikan antara penyalahguna dadah dan mereka yang tidak menyalahguna dadah daripada aspek umur, kumpulan etnik, jenayah yang dilakukan dan rekod jenayah. Kebanyakan subjek tahan untuk kesalahan yang kecil dan hampir sugu daripada subjek merupakan subjek yang pernah ditahan sebelum ini. Jika dilihat daripada aspek penggunaan dadah marijuana merupakan dadah yang paling banyak digunakan diikuti dengan heroin dan morfin. Walaubagaimanapun memandangkan projek ini merupakan satu projek perintis dan data yang dikutip untuk kajian ini merupakan maklumat awal masih terdapat ruang dan kajian lebih mendalam perlu dijalankan untuk menilai jika mekanisma pengumpulan data sebegini boleh dilaksanakan di negara kita.

Overview of Demographic Profile of Nation

Malaysia was created in 1963 through the merger of Malaya (which became independent of Britain on August 31, 1957), the former British Singapore (which later seceded from Malaysia in 1965), and the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak in Northern Borneo. The country is divided into two main regions 650 kilometers apart, separated by South China Sea: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak). Peninsular Malaysia borders Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south. Sabah and Sarawak border Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of Borneo) and Sarawak surrounds the tiny enclave of Brunei. The peninsula's west coast borders the Andaman Sea (Strait of Malacca). The east coast of the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak all adjoin the South China Sea.

Malaysia has a land area approximately the size of New Mexico and a population of more than 23 million. Its capital, Kuala Lumpur, has a population of more than 1 million. The country's three largest ethnic groups are Malaysia, Chinese and Indian and the main languages spoken there include Bahasa Malaysia (the official language), English, Chinese dialects, Tamil and indigenous dialects. Malaysia has 13 States and 2 Federal Territories one of which contains the capital. Exhibit 1 show demographic information for Malaysia.

Several decades of sustained economic growth and political stability have made Malaysia one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest countries. It ranks among the medium nations (61st) in worldwide human development. Exhibit 2 shows economic and development information for Malaysia.

Penang, a relatively small but economically developed island State located in the Andaman Sea off the northwestern coast of the Malay peninsula, was chosen as the site for Malaysia's I-ADAM pilot program. The State was chosen not only for convenience but also because it had a comparatively high rate of drug use and the crimes committed there are similar to those in Malaysia's larger cities.

As of 1998, the main drug abused in Malaysia was heroin (54.7 percent of recorded cases of drug abuse). In Penang, 557 cases of heroin abuse were reported in the first 3 months of 2000. In 1998, 4,821 cases of substance abuse¹ were reported in Penang, most of which were among 20 to 39 years olds². From January to November 1999, Penang recorded 4,959 drug users, more than any other State³. These high prevalence rates indicate the need for appropriate intervention strategies to address substance abuse.

Little is known about the prevalence of alcohol abuse in Malaysia. Only recently was a law passed against drunk driving. Enforcement agencies in Penang rarely test arrestees' alcohol levels. ADAM could help clarify the extent of the alcohol abuse by obtaining basic background information.

Description of Criminal Justice System, Arrest Process, and Detention System

Malaysia is a federal parliamentary democracy with three branches: executive, judicial, and legislative. The head of state, the Yang di Pertuan Agong (paramount ruler) is a constitutional

Exhibit 1. Basic Demographic Characteristics of Malaysia

Geographic area	330,113 km ³
Estimated population	23.26 million (as of November 22, 2000)
Ethnic distribution	Bumiputra (Malay), 58.1% ; Chinese, 24.3%; Indian, 6.9; others, 3.2%; noncitizens, 7.5%
Religious affiliation	Islam (official), Buddhism, Daoism, Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism
Gender distribution	Males, 51.2%; females, 48.8%
Age distribution	0-19 years, 43.2%; 20-39 years, 33.0%; 40-59 years, 17.7%; 60-75+ years, 6.1%
Life expectancy	70.2 years (male); 75.0 years (female); 72.2 years (average)
Population growth rate	2.3%
Birth rate	24.5 per 1,000
Total fertility rate	3.29 children per woman
Death rate	5.25 per 1,000
Literacy rate (age 15 and older)	86.4% (total); 82.0% (female); 90.7% (male)
Language	Bahasa Malaysia (official, English, Chinese dialects (principally Cantonese and Mandarin), Tamil, Telagu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai and Indigenous languages
Crime rate	820 per 100,000
Drug use rate	734 per 100,000
Urbanization rate	NA
Political subdivisions	13 states and 2 Federal Territories

Sources: *National Census Data*, Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2000; Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook: Malaysia*, Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2000; United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2000*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Monarch who is elected to a 5-year term by and from among the hereditary rulers of nine States. The Parliament (Parlimen) has two houses: the lower house, the Dewan Rakyat, to which representatives are elected, in principle, to 5-year terms, and the upper house, the Dewan Negara, to which senators are appointed by the paramount ruler and the state legislatures for 3-year terms. The leader of the party who wins a plurality of seats in the House of Representatives becomes the prime minister and head of the government, Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the paramount ruler on the advice of the prime minister.⁴

In colonial times, Malaysia was confronted with the problem of opium use. The British colonial Government introduced the Dangerous Drug Ordinance and Poisons Ordinance in 1952. Malaysia's current anti drug law, especially those dealing with drug sales, are among the world's toughest. Any more arrested with more than 15 grams of heroin faces a mandatory death sentence. Today, Malaysia has five main statutes on substance abuse:

- Dangerous Drug Act, 1952
- Poisons Act, 1952
- Drug Dependence Act (Treatment and Rehabilitation), 1983
- Dangerous Drug Act (Special Preventive Measures), 1985
- Dangerous Drug Act (Forfeiture of properties), 1988

Exhibit 2: Economic Information for Malaysia

Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$171 billion
GDP growth rate	5.8%
GDP per capita	\$3,238
GDP composition by sector	Industry, 46%; services, 42%; agriculture, 12%
Major export partners	Unites States, 23%; Singapore, 16%; Japan, 11%; Hong Kong, 5%; Netherlands, 5%; Taiwan, 5%; Thailand, 3%
Major export commodities	Electronic equipment, petroleum and liquefied natural gas, chemicals, wood and wood products, rubber, textiles
Labor force	9.3 million
Labor force composition by sector	Manufacturing, 27%^; agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, 16%; local trade and tourism, 17%; services, 15%; government, 10%; construction, 9%
Poverty rate	15.5%
Unemployment rate (as of June 2000)	3.3%
Human development index (1998)*	0.771

*The human development index measures a country's average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. The index is a composite index of three variables: life expectancy at birth; educational attainment (adult literacy and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary enrollment ratio); and per capita GDP (measured as purchasing power parity in U.S. dollars). Countries are grouped into three categories: high human development (≥ 0.500). See United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2000*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Sources: *National Census Data*. Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Home Affairs 2000; Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook, Malaysia*. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2000; United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2000*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

When someone is detained for an offense, a remand order is obtained from the court within 24 hours after the arrest to facilitate investigations. An arrestee can be detained under remand for up to 14 days, after which formal charges must be made or the arrestee released.

Most arrestees are tested for drug use. If an arrestee tests positive for drugs, a medical officer will determine whether the arrestee is drug dependent, usually

through urine tests and physical examinations. If an arrestee is found to be drug dependent, the National Narcotics Agency (NNA) recommends the most appropriate treatment to the court. The two type of treatment are community supervision and institutional rehabilitation, both of which normally last for 2 years, and both of which are discussed in more detail in Section III. First time drug offenders and those who are found to have strong family support are normally recommended for community supervision. Habitual and hardcore drug users are sent for institutional rehabilitation. After 2 years of institutional rehabilitation, the drug users is placed under community supervision for another 2 years. If the supervision rules are broken during this period, the offender can be sent to prison for not less than 3 years.

Status of National Drug Policy

In 1996, the NNA approved the new strategies of the National Drug Policy, in the following priority order:

- Prevention
- Enforcement
- Treatment and rehabilitation
- Regional and international cooperation

Prevention, enforcement and treatment and rehabilitation are the three main strategies; international cooperation is sought to support these strategies.

Prevention

Prevention is a long-term strategy aimed at protecting individuals from drugs. Prevention programs emphasize individual resistance to drug use and efforts to create an environment that will protect individuals and community from drug abuse. These efforts include:

- Encouraging young people to reject the drug lifestyle
- Changing society's perception of an attitude toward drugs
- Mobilizing the community in drug abuse prevention programs
- Providing alternatives to drugs and encouraging healthier lifestyles

This strategy has two components: primary and general prevention. Primary prevention involves developing an individual's inner strengths through education in positive religious, moral, cultural, and social attitudes and values. Programs

that have been implemented include preventive drug education in schools, teacher training, and guidance and counseling services. General prevention involves the community in drug control and prevention. General prevention strategies have been implemented through information campaigns, publicity programs, and work-place prevention initiatives.

Enforcement

Enforcement has three main components: interdiction, legislation and intelligence. Interdiction aims to reduce the supply of drugs on the market by preventing the smuggling of illicit drugs into the country. The strategy emphasizes strengthening and intensifying enforcement measures to curb the entry of illicit drugs by land, sea and air. At the same time. Aggressive efforts are carried out continuously to stop trafficking and sales of illicit drugs within the country.

Legislation implements prevention efforts by imposing severe penalties that make it dangerous to possess, supply, traffic in or abuse drugs. As noted above, Malaysia's drug laws are among the world's toughest.

Intelligence from inside and outside the country can be a major asset in combating syndicates and individuals involved in drug smuggling. Intelligence gathering has been strengthened by the establishment of a Special Intelligence Team in border areas with Thailand and in the States of Sabah and Sarawak, which can carry out joint operations with the intelligence services of other countries to curb the supply of illicit drugs at the source.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

This strategy has two goals: eliminate drug dependency and prevent recidivism. To eliminate drug dependency, addicts are ordered to participate in one of two treatment and rehabilitation programs: community supervision or institutional rehabilitation. Community supervision is rehabilitation in a community setting. Drug users under community supervision must report weekly to the district NNA officer for urine testing and counseling. Anyone found to be using drugs will be sent into institutional rehabilitation.

Institutional rehabilitation occurs at one of 25 residential drug rehabilitation centers. These centers treat drug addiction through a combination of 'cold turkey' methods, counseling, and vocational therapy. Treatment normally lasts 2 years.

Anti recidivism efforts focus on strengthening the attitudes and behavior of ex-addicts to prevent relapse and to enable them to live drug-free lives. The programs implemented include supervision, counseling, and social support programs at district-level service centers operated by the NNA.

International Cooperation

The national drug strategy needs international support and cooperation. Its objectives are to enhance regional and international cooperation in efforts to control and prevent drug abuse and trafficking and to strengthen national efforts toward international drug control and prevention.

Malaysian Drug Problem

There are 274,420 registered substance abusers in Malaysia from 1988-2004. This amounts to 1.09% of the Malaysian population. For the same period the state of Penang recorded one of the highest number of addicts (33,163) after Kuala Lumpur. More than half (64.7%) are from the Malay ethnic group followed by Chinese (18.7%) and Indian (10.2%). Majority (80.3%) of them are between 20-39 years old. The main drug abused continues to be heroin (55.6%) followed by morphine 14.7%, cannabis 21.6%, ATS 4.6% and others 3.3%. The main route of administration for heroin is "chasing the dragon" and followed by injecting. (National Drug Information System, 2005). A total of 69,461 HIV cases have been reported in Malaysia from 1986 to June 2004 and 73.5% are attributed to IDU's (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2005).

National Drug Information System (NADI)

NADI is the main drug information system administered by the National Anti-narcotics Agency. The system incorporates 3 other sub-systems. The three systems are Profile and information on addiction system (MAPP), Seizures and arrest system (STAR) and Treatment and rehabilitation system (SPAR). The system uses the National registration card number to avoid double counting (Narcotics Report, 2000). There are various government agencies responsible for providing data to the NADI system. Detection and detoxification centres in hospitals, Ministry of Health, treatment and rehabilitation centres (institutional and community), National Anti-narcotics Agency, Prisons Department, Royal Malaysian Police, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Pharmacy Division, Ministry of Health, Private Rehabilitation Centres, Anti-smuggling unit and the Armed Forces.

The data produced by the NADI system include socio-demographic information of drug users, status of drug users (new or repeat), prevalence and incidence of drug use, types of drugs used, modes of administration, drug use by geographical location, reasons for drug use and HIV infection among drug users.

Background History to I-ADAM

The relationship between alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and crime has not been studied much in Malaysia. Although drug issues manifest themselves at every level of the criminal justice system, from street crime to international trade in drugs, the relationship between AOD and crime is difficult to specify because most crimes result from a combination of situational, personal, cultural and economic factors. There are not enough data currently available to provide definitive evidence to law enforcement authorities, service providers, and researchers of the link between drug use and the drug trade and crime in general.

By measuring AOD use among arrestees, they hope to take the first steps to reduce AOD-related crimes, which is an important component to reducing crime in Penang.

Goals and Objectives

The general aims of the project are as follows:

- To investigate the relationship between alcohol and other drugs and crime.
- To better understand to prevalence of drug use among hidden populations (subsets of the general population whose membership cannot be readily distinguished or enumerated based on existing knowledge or sampling capabilities) and its relationship to crime.⁵
- To disseminate the data collected from the project to local health and law enforcement agencies.

The project's specific objectives are to:

- Identify the extent of AOD use among recent arrestees in Penang.
- Identify patterns of substances abuse among arrestees in Penang.
- Investigate the extent of alcohol and substance abuse among cases referred to the hospital by police (e.g. automobile accidents where alcohol or drugs may have contributed).
- Assess the influence of environmental condition on AOD use.

- Obtain a profile on arrestees (e.g. socio demographic data, arrest history, types of offenses).
- Investigate the correlation between AOD use and crime.

Getting Started

A. Obtaining Funding

Funds for the pilot phase were obtained through a grant application by the NNA to the national research program known as IRPA (Intensified Research in Priority Areas). IRPA supports research that it believes is a national priority and has the potential to contribute to the formation of local policies.

B. Data Collection

NNA officers and a research officer have been appointed to collect data from participating police stations. Police officers will notify the research team daily on how many arrests were made the day before, and the data collectors will visit the police station daily to collect data from arrestee.

C. Facility Access

The Center for Drug Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia, collaborated with NNA the police and PEMADAM to implement the project in Penang.

The plan is that the police stations involved in the study will call the NNA office daily to tell how many arrestees were brought into each station the day before. The research officer from the Center for Drug Research will randomly pick every 10th arrestee brought in the day before to be interviewed. The research officer will conduct the interview at the police station within 48 hours of the arrest. A voluntary urine test will also be carried out to determine whether the interviewee recently used drugs.

D. Knowing the Catchment Area

Penang has two police divisions, the northeast and southwest division. The northeast division was selected as the catchment area for this study. The division has 4 teams with a total of 12 police stations, all of which will participate in the study. Exhibit 3 lists the participating police stations.

E. Drug Testing Issues

Urinalysis

The validity of interviews and self-reported data can be verified by chemical drug testing of bio-logical specimens (urine). Litmus paper is being used for the initial test on the sample. The litmus paper used is in accordance with US. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) standards; its detection sensitivity is 50mg/mL or greater. Results are received in 5 minutes. If the litmus paper shows a positive result, the urine is sent to a Government pathologist for confirmatory tests.

Because the police collect the urine specimens, arrestees may not give the specimen voluntarily, which introduces bias into the testing. The test results of arrestees who refuse to participate in the study are not examined and hence cannot be compared with the results of those who agree to participate.

F. Instrument Issues

Questionnaire

The ADAM questionnaire to be used in this study was translated into Bahasa Malaysia, then translated back into English as a check on the accuracy of the translation. A pretest was carried out among a few arrestees to determine the clarity of the translation.

Exhibit 3. List of Police Stations Participating in Penang ADAM Project

Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D
Pulau Tikus	Petani Road	Air Itam	Sungai Nibong
Georgetown	Dato Kramat	Bandar Baru	Jelutong
Central		Kampung Baru	
Beach Street		Tanjong Tokong	

Barriers to Developing I-ADAM

The research team established a collaborative effort to ensure that administrative barriers do not hamper the implementation of the project. Because this study is a pilot project, the actual barriers can be identified only after the study is completed. Several potential problems can be noted, however, including the following:

- As noted above, the police will administer the urine testing, which may reduce participation by interviewees
- A sample of every 10th arrestee may yield too few participants to get a truly representative sample of arrestees (see section IX for a discussion of the potential sample size).
- Because the arrestees will have already been in jail for a day when the researchers are notified of the arrest, the researchers have less opportunity to interview the arrestees before 48 hours have passed since the arrest. This could become more of a problem if several stations process a larger than usual number of arrestees at once or if not enough research officers are available to handle all 12 stations at a given time.

National Stakeholders Involved in the Development of ADAM

The Center for Drug Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia, is collaborating with the NNA to implement the project in Penang. Researchers from the center and NNA officers also have met with the police to brief them and to obtain their permission to conduct the study.

Methodology

Study Design

The project is a 1-year pilot project with a cross-sectional design to assess the feasibility of developing a surveillance system to compliment the existing NADI system.

Sample Size

Two hundred and twenty respondents participated in the study.

Men 18 years of age and older were eligible to be selected for the study. Persons younger than 18 are defined as juveniles in Malaysia, so they come under a different jurisdiction. Because only a small fraction of those arrested in Penang for AOD offenses are women, it would not be practical to include women in the sample.

All arrestees in the selected police stations who have been in custody less than 48 hours and are not considered violent or mentally ill are eligible to be recruited for the study (with their consent). The 48-hour limit will ensure the validity of the urinalysis. Exhibit 4 lists the crimes that are to be included in the sample.

The following arrestees will not be eligible for inclusion in the study:

- Persons who are mentally ill
- Persons who are considered violent
- Persons who have been detailed longer than 48 hours

Training Issues

The research officer from the Center for Drug Research and the officers from NNA were trained by the principal investigators on conducting interviews and the survey methodology. In addition, police officers were briefed about the project to ensure that they understand its objectives. The research officers from the Center for Drug Research and NNA have experience dealing with the addict population and are familiar with the ADAM interview techniques.

Exhibit 4. List of Offenses to Be Sampled in ADAM Project

Abduction	Indecent assault
Arson	Intercourse with an underage girl
Assault	Kidnapping
Carjacking/truck hijacking	Malicious damage to property
Common burglary	Motor vehicle theft
Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs	Murder or attempted murder
Embezzlement	Public violence
Fraud and misappropriation of funds	Rape
Illegal possession of firearms	Robbery with aggravated circumstances
Ill treatment of children	

Results

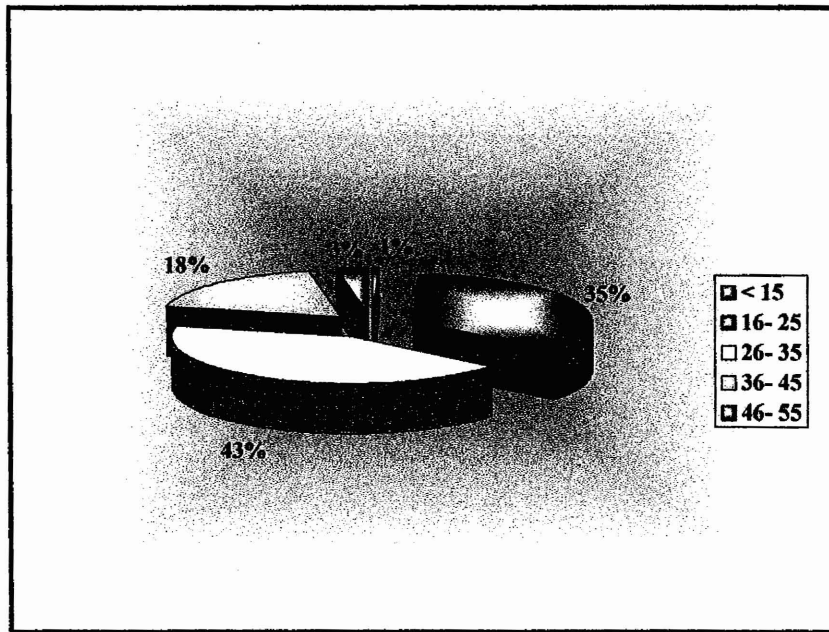


Figure 1 Age

Figure 1 show that almost half the arrestees (43%) are from 26 to 35 years old. This is followed by arrestees from the age 16-25 years old (35%) and 18% of the arrestees are from the age group of 36-45 years old.

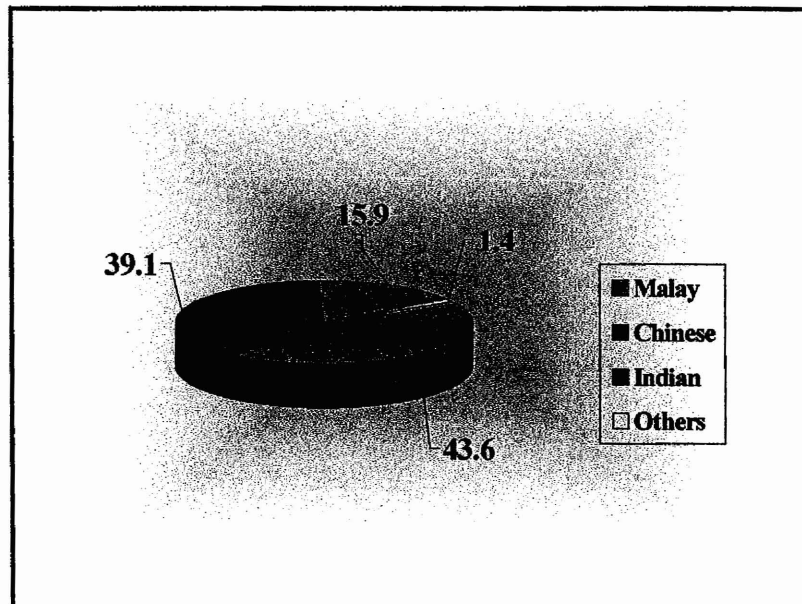


Figure 2 Ethnicity

Figure 2 show that almost half the arrestees (43.6%) in the study are from the Malay ethnic group. This is followed by Chinese (39.1%) and Indians (15.9%).

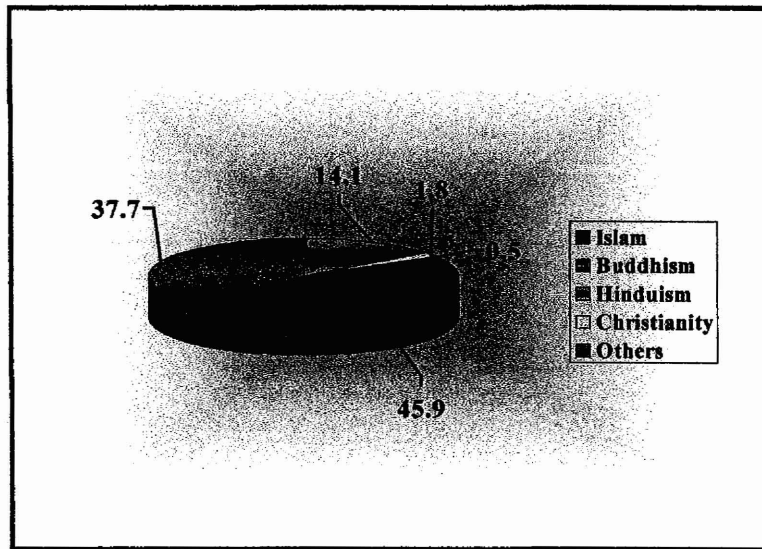


Figure 3 Religion

Majority of the arrestees are Islam (45.9%), followed by Buddhists (37.7%) and Hindus (14.1%).

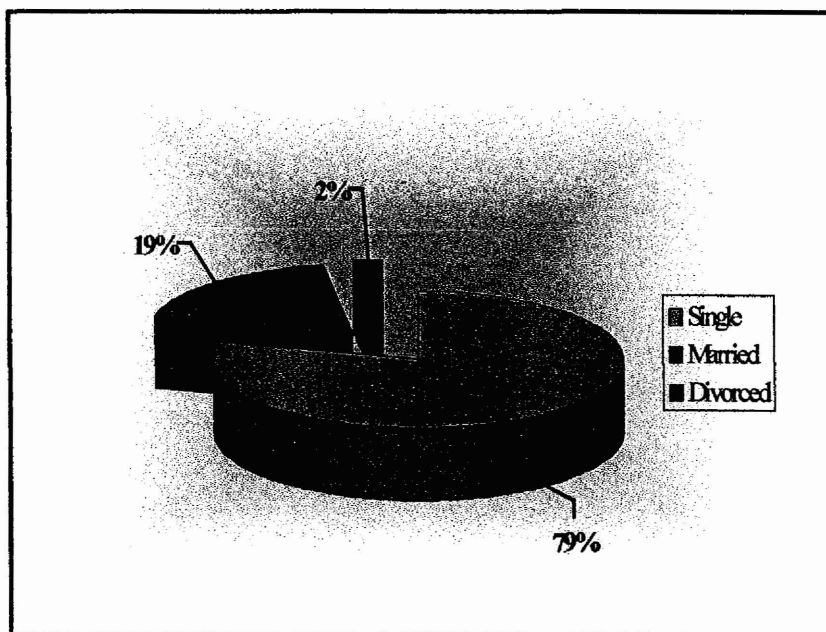


Figure 4 Marital Status

Majority of the arrestees (n= 174) are single and only 19% of the arrestees reported that they were married.

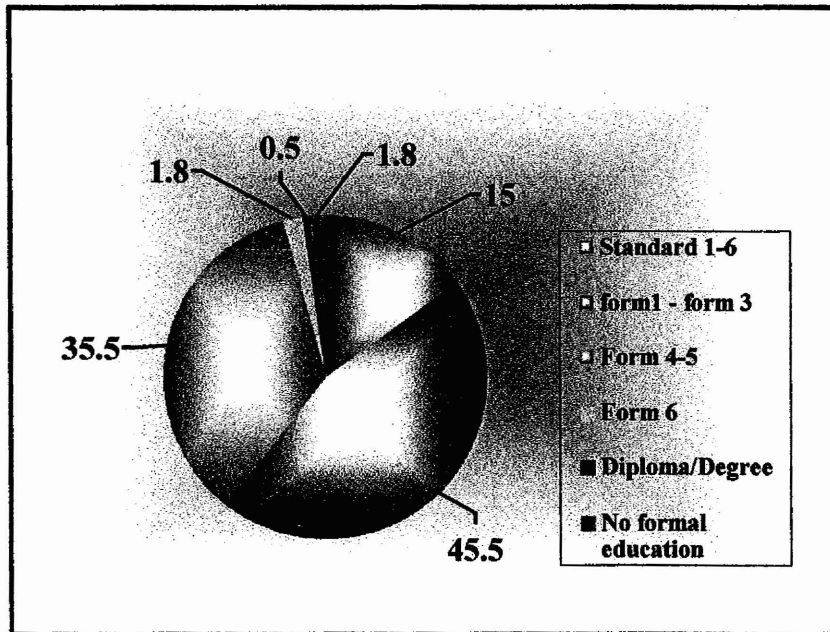


Figure 5 Highest Education Achievement

Figure 5 shows the distribution of arrestees according to the highest education level attained. Majority (45.5%) had only lower secondary education (form 1 to 3), this is followed (35.5%) by arrestees who had 10 to 11 years education (form 4 and 5).

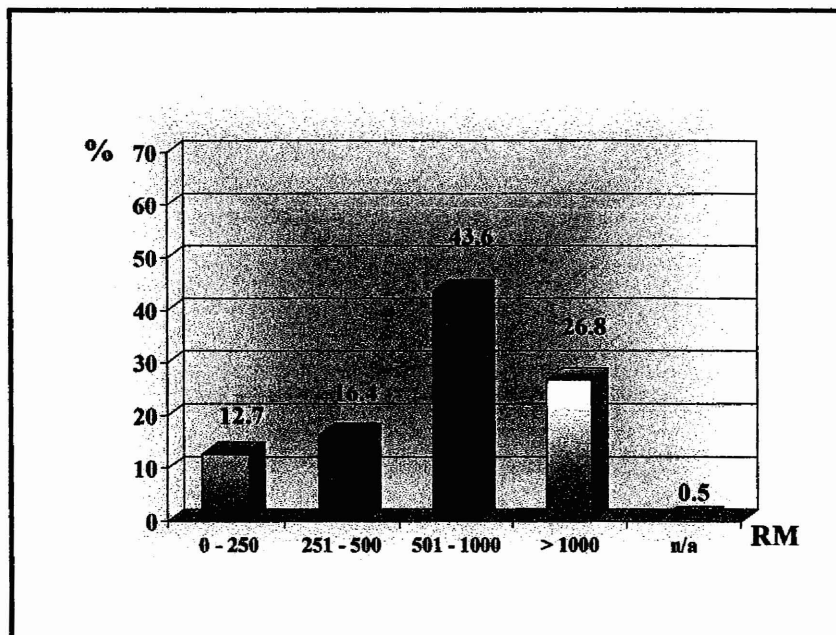


Figure 6 Income

Most of the arrestees (73.7%) are from the lower income group where there have an income of below RM1000. Only about a quarter (26.8%) of them earned more than RM 1000 a month.

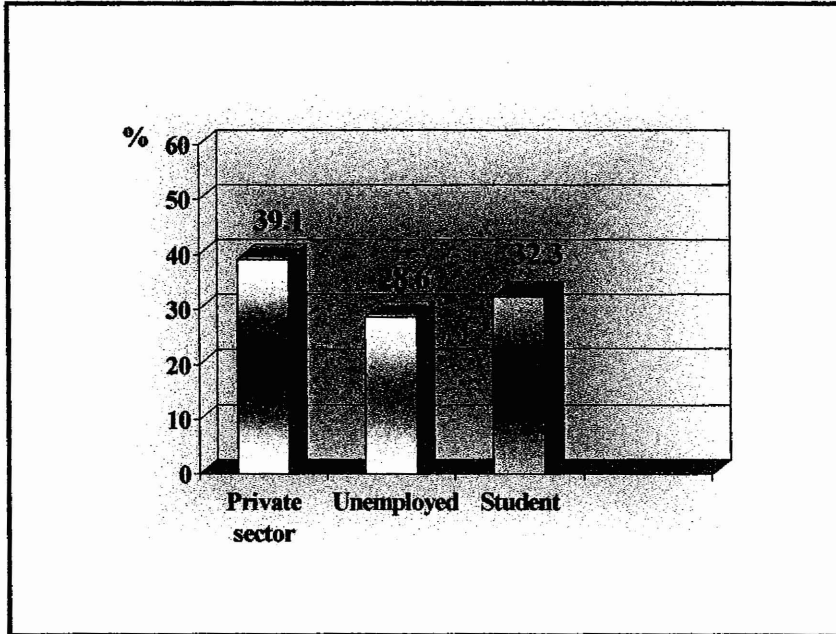


Figure 7 Occupation in the past 30 days

Most of the respondents (39.1%) are employed in the private sector followed by 28.6 who were unemployed and 32.3% were students.

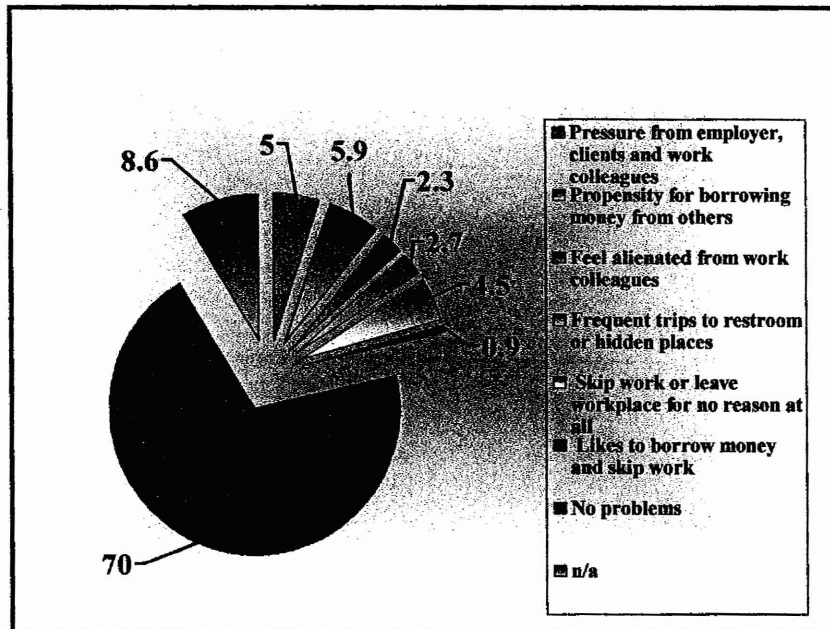


Figure 8 Problems Faced at Work

Most of the respondents (70%) do not have any problems at work.

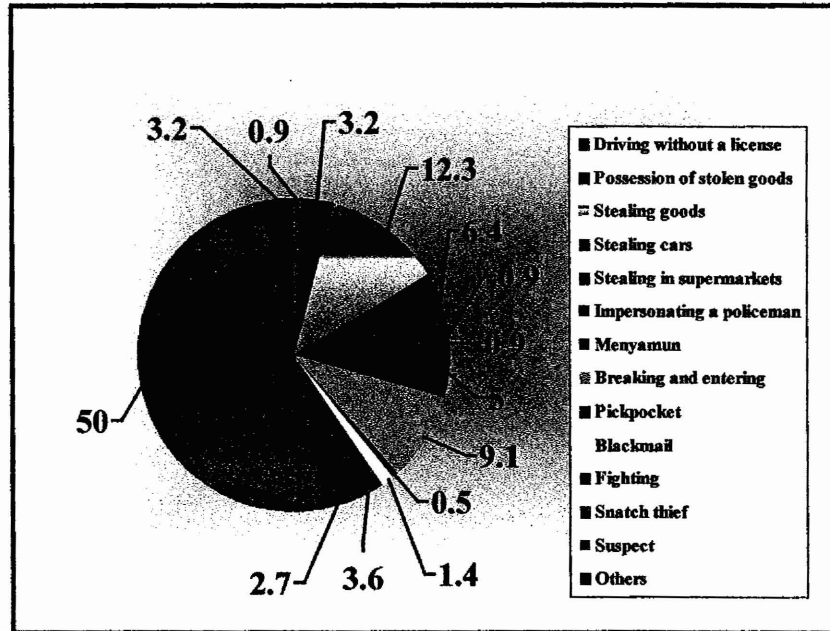


Figure 9 Arrested Crimes

Half the arrestees were arrested on suspicion of committing a crime. This is followed by stealing goods (12.3%), snatch theft (9.1%) and stealing cars (6.4%). The other crimes arrestees were arrested for is shown in figure 9.

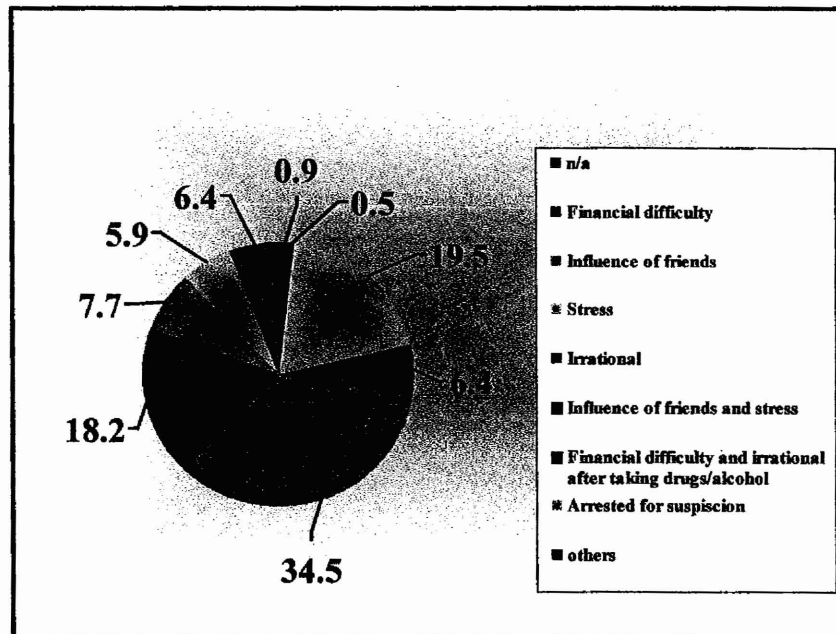


Figure 10 Contributing Factors

About 18.2% of the arrestees cited financial difficulty as the contributing factor to committing crime while only 0.9% reported that they were influenced by friends or under stress. A significant number of arrestees (34.5%) were unable too tell what the contributing factor was.

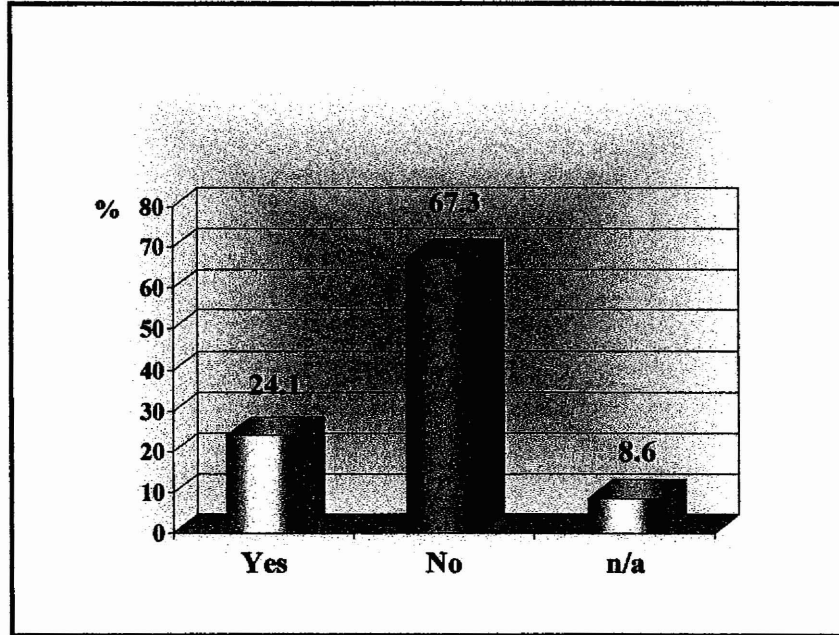


Figure 11 Arrested by the police in the past 12 months

As shown in figure 11 most of the arreseees reported that they have not been arrested in the past 12 months.

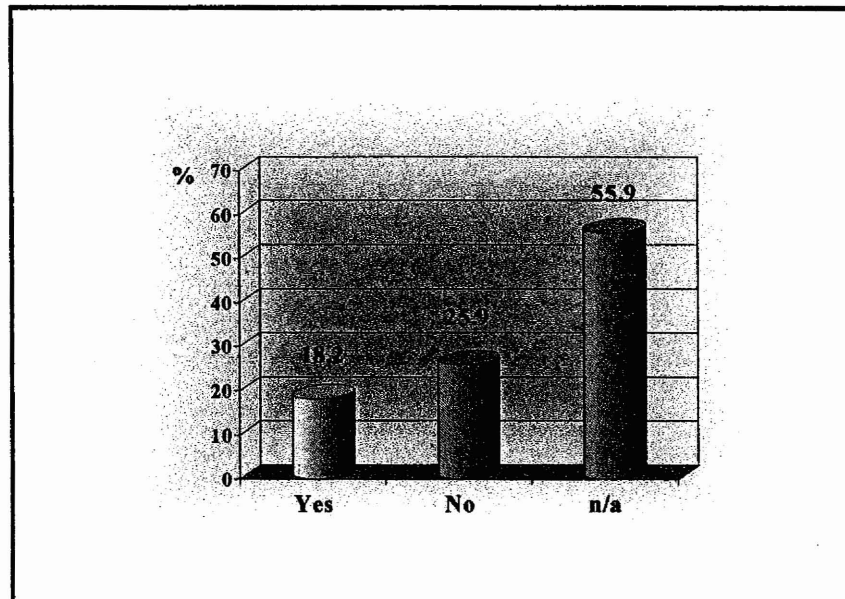


Figure 12 Drug use in the past 3 days

More than half (55.9%) of the respondents as shown in figure 12 did not answer the question if they had used drugs in the past 3 days. 18.2% mentioned that they had used drugs while 25.9% reported that they have not.

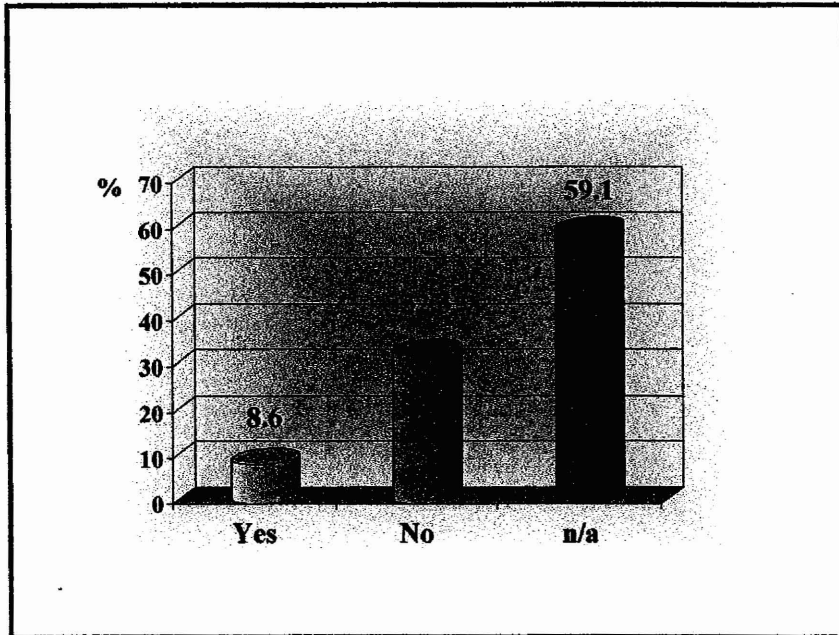


Figure 13 Drug use in the past 30 days

Similar to the previous question about half (59.1%) the arrestees did not respond to the question on drug use in the past 30 days. Only a small number (8.6%) reported to have used drugs in the past 30 days while 32.3% said no.

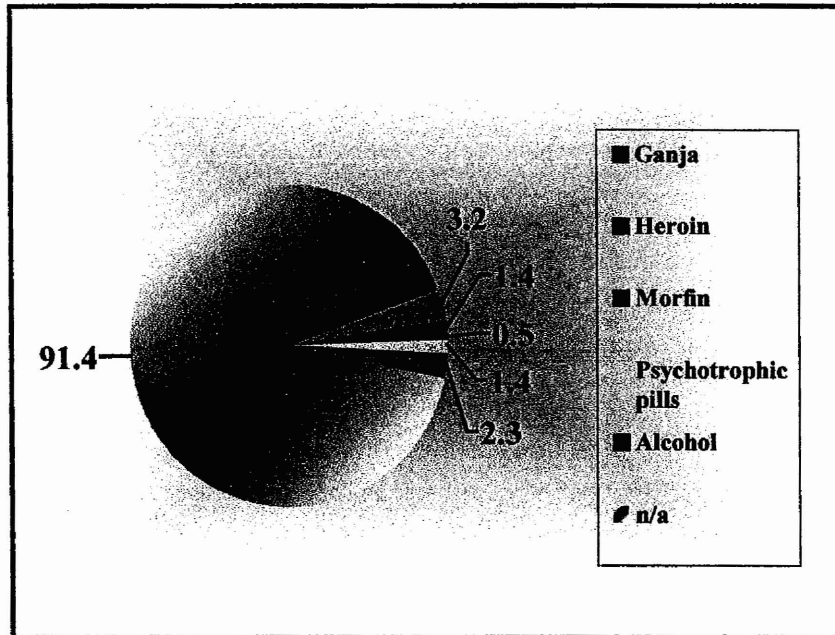


Figure 14 Type of drugs used

The most commonly used substance were ganja (3.2%), heroin (1.4%), morphine (0.5%), psychotropic pills (1.4%) and alcohol (2.3%). Data was not available for most of the arrestees.

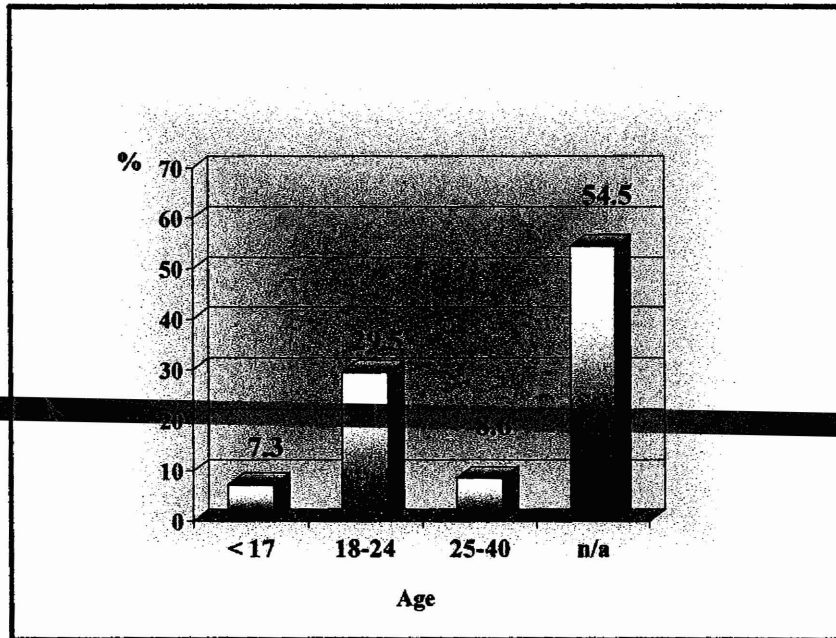


Figure 15 Age of first experimentation with drugs

Figure 15 show that 29.5% of the arrestees reported that their first age of experimentation with drugs were between 18 to 24 years old. A small number (7.3%) of the sample reported that they had experimented with drugs below the age of 17. About half (54.5%) the arrestees did not respond to the question.

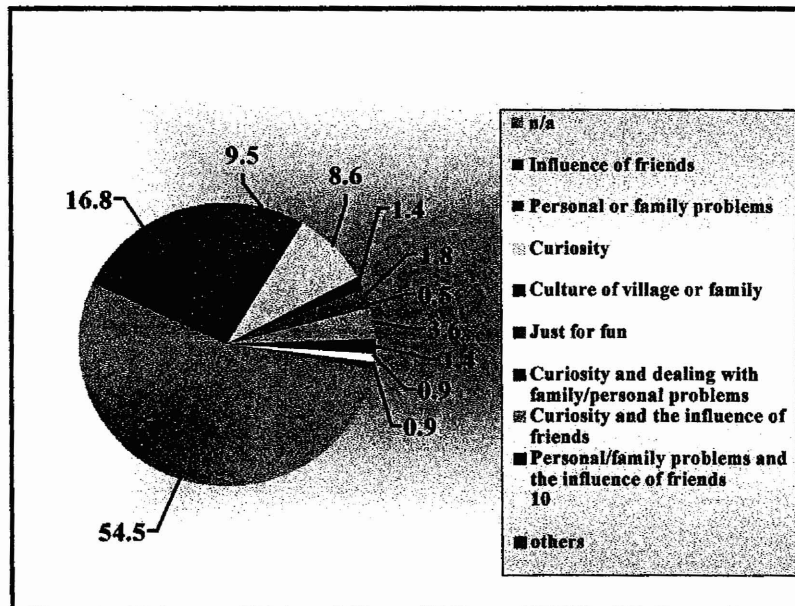


Figure 16 Factors associated with drugs use

The three main reasons arrestees reported the factors associated with their drug use is influence of friends (16.8%), personal or family problems (9.5%) and curiosity (8.6%).

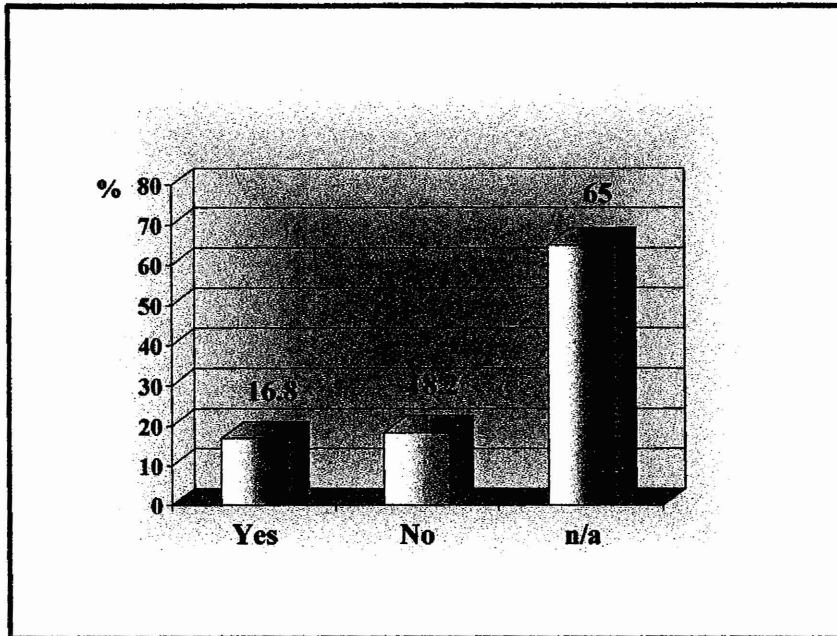


Figure 17 Drug influence to commit crime

When asked if drug influenced the arrestees to commit crime only 16.8% answered yes while 18.2% answered no. Data was not available for 65% of the arrestees.

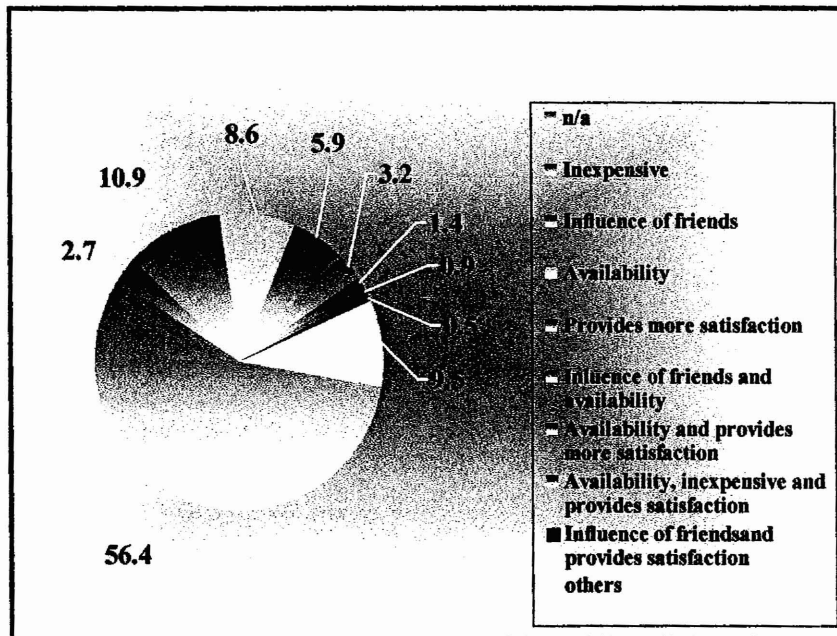


Figure 18 reasons for choosing a particular drug

The main reasons for choosing a particular drug is influence of friends (10.9%) and availability (8.6%). 9.5% also mentioned that there were other reasons for them to choose a particular drug.

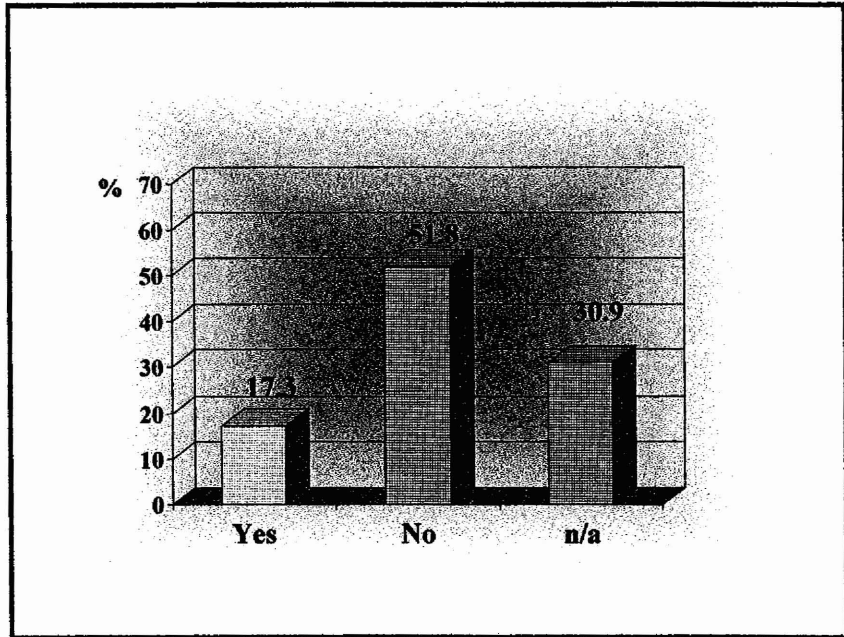


Figure 19 time in jail in the last 12 months

As shown in figure 19 only 17.3% of the arrestees were jailed in the last 12 months. More than half (51.8%) reported that they were not in jail in the last 12 months.

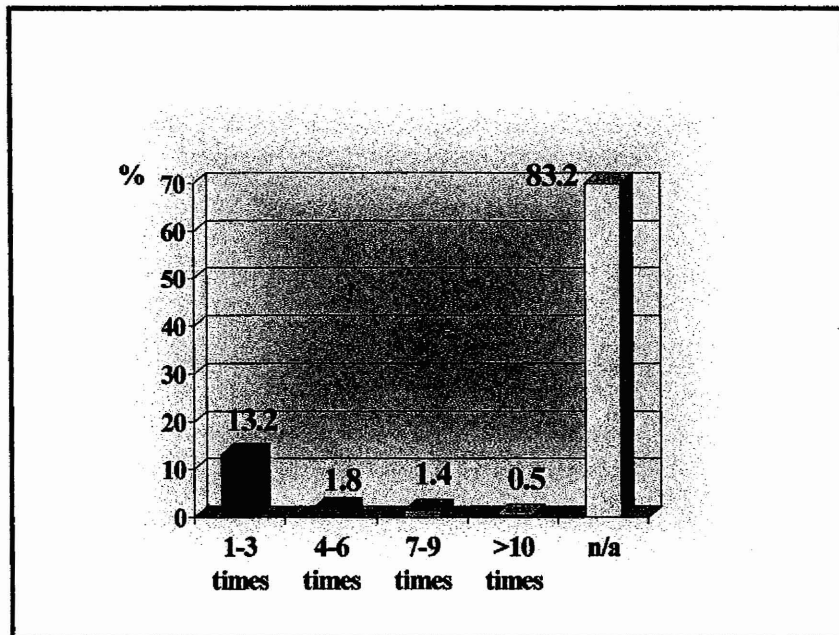


Figure 20 frequency of jail sentence in the last 12 month

Among the arrestees 13.2% were jailed between 1-3 times, 1.8% four to six times, 1.4% were jailed between 7 to 9 times and a small number (0.5%) were jailed more than 10 times. No response was available from 83.2% of the arrestees.

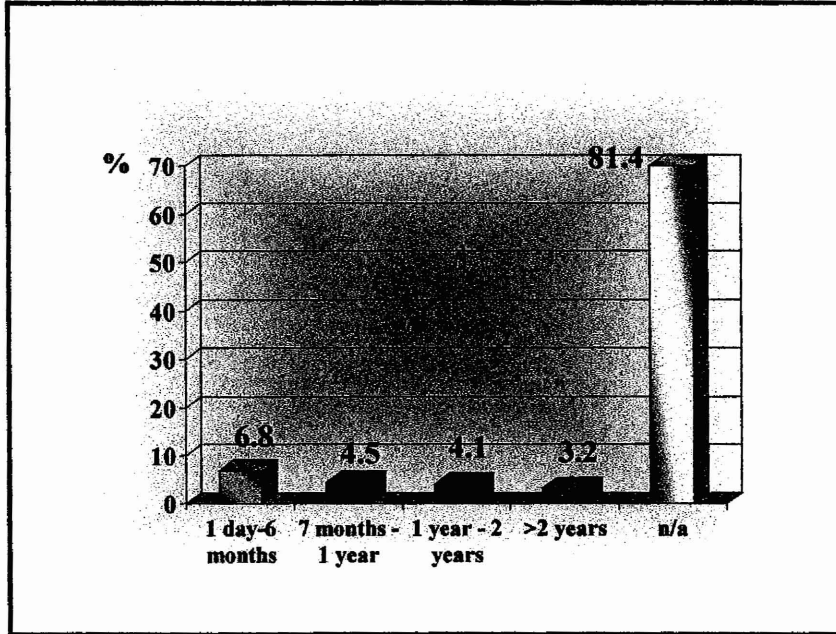


Figure 21 Length of prison sentence

As shown in figure 21, 6.8% were in jail between a day to 6 months compared to 3.2% who were sentenced for more than 2 years.

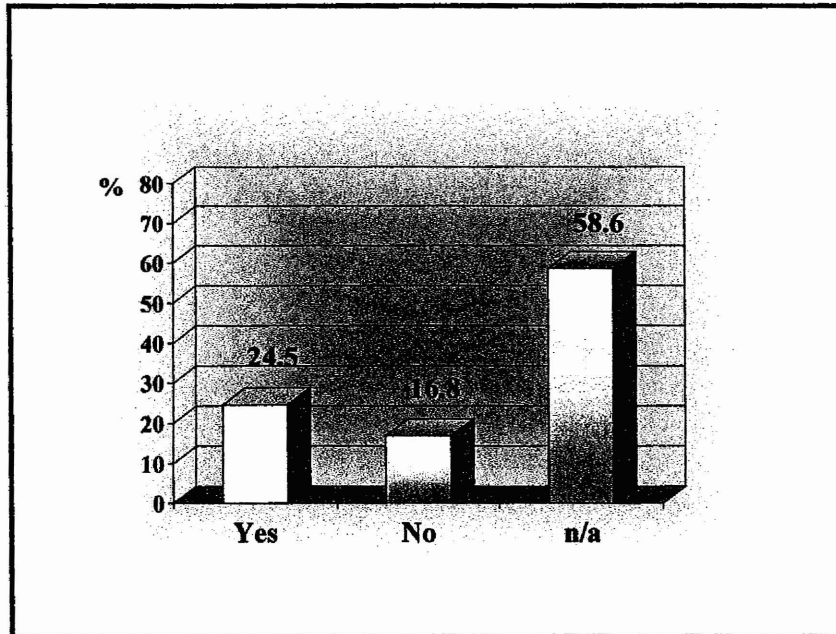


Figure 22 Need for medical help

About a quarter (24.5%) of the arrestees mentioned that they need medical help while 16.8% of them said no to the same question. More than half (58.6%) did not respond to this question.

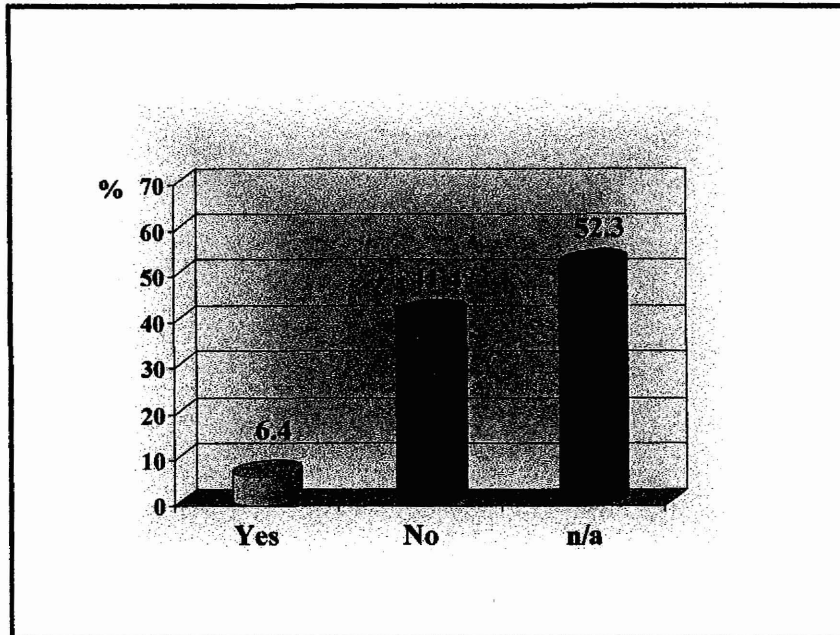


Figure 23 Hospital emergency unit care

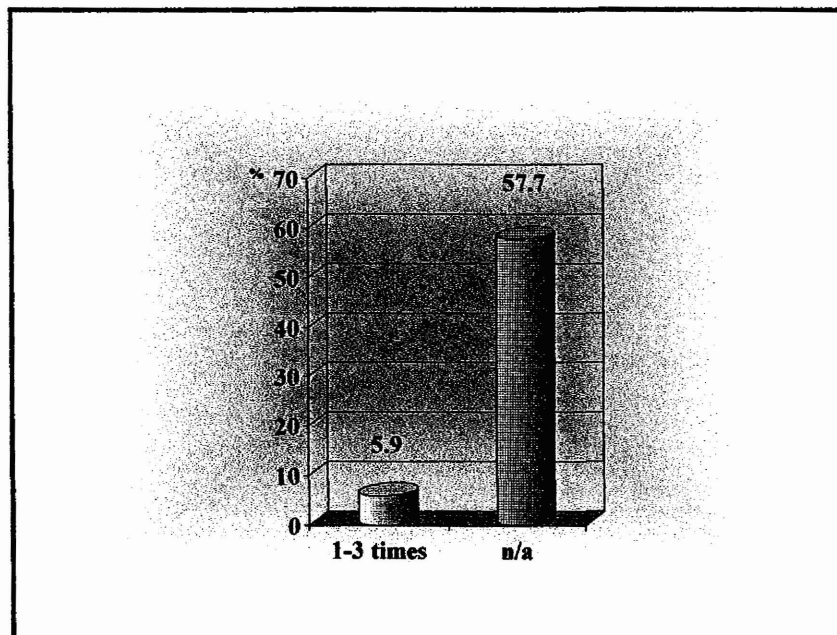


Figure 24 How many times receive emergency care

Figure 23 and 24 show if arrestees have received emergency care treatment. Only a small number (6.4%) had received emergency treatment compared to 41.4% who mentioned they have not. Response was not available from 52.3% of

the sample. Of those who have received emergency care only 5.9% received treatment between 1 to 3 times.

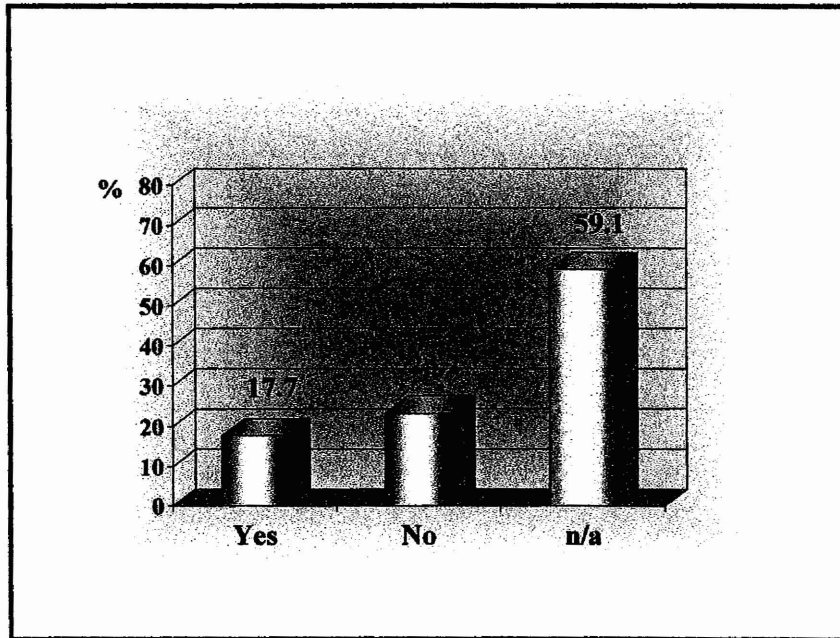


Figure 25 Treatment received

When asked about the treatment received 17.7% of the arrestees have received treatment compared to 23.2% who have not (figure 25).

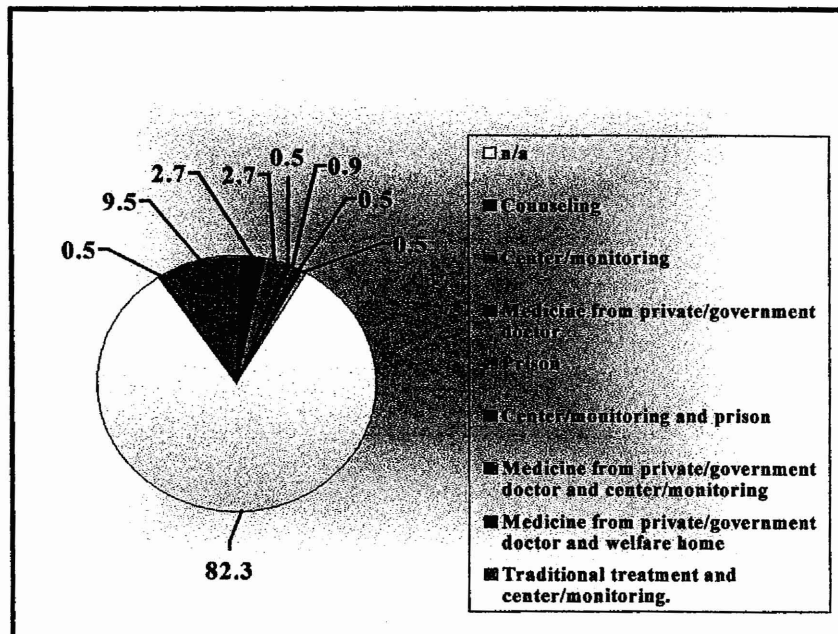


Figure 26 Type of treatment

Among the arrestees who have received treatment, a large number (82.3%) failed to specify the type of treatment received. However 9.5% received

treatment from centres or were monitored in the treatment centres. A small number (0.5%) each received counseling from treatment centres, prison, medicine from private or government doctors and welfare homes and traditional treatment centres.

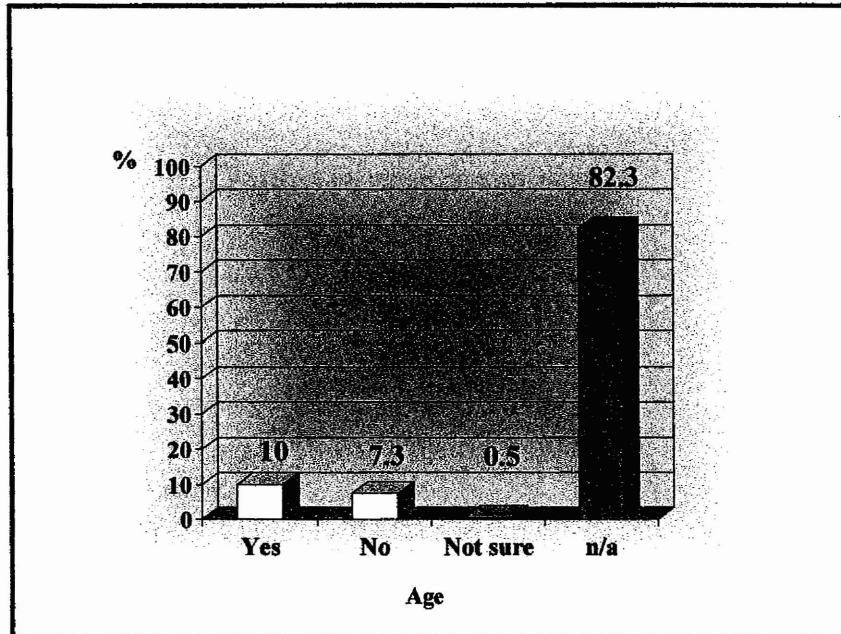


Figure 27 Did the treatment lessen the effects of drugs

On the effects of treatment on drugs, 10% mentioned that treatment lessens the effects of drugs while 7.3% mentioned that it did not. A small number (0.5%) were unsure while 82.3% of arrestees did not respond to this question.

Discussion

Most of the respondents in the study are from a younger age group. About half the subjects (43%) are from 26 to 35 years old while slightly more than one third (35%) of the respondents are from a younger age group (16 –25 years old). Almost half the respondents are from the Malay ethnic group. Eighty one percent of the respondents or arrestees have only obtained 10 to 11 years of education. If education generally is used as an indicator to measure economic standing of an individual than the results of this study supports this notion where majority of them have only an income of below RM 1000.

As mentioned above most of the subjects are from a younger age group. This is reflected in their occupation where about one third (32.3%) of them were students. About 30% (28.6%) of the arrestees were also unemployed at the time when they were arrested. Most of the subjects also mentioned that they did not

encounter any problems at work. The socio demographic characteristics of the arrestees in this study are similar to the national arrestee population and also to the national drug using population (NADI, 2004).

If we were to look at the crimes most of the respondents were arrested for one can observe that most of the crime committed are petty crimes and the contributing factor as reported by the subjects are financial difficulty, peer influence and stress. About a quarter (24.1%) of the subjects have been arrested by police in the past 12 months. In figure 19 when asked about time spent in jail in the past 12 months 17.3% of the respondents said 'yes'. When asked about the frequency, 13.2% mentioned that they have spent between 1 to 3 times in jail in the last 12 months. This would also mean that among the subjects that spent time in jail in the last 12 months they must have committed petty crimes to be given short prison sentences. This data is consistent with the type of crimes subjects were arrested for in this study where most of the subjects also reported that they were arrested for only petty crimes.

When asked about drug use in the past 3 and 30 days more than half the subjects did not respond. About one fifth (18.2%) of the subjects reported that they have used drugs in the past 3 days while 8.6% mentioned that they have used drugs in the past 30 days. The most commonly used or abused substance were ganja (3.2%) followed by heroin (1.4%) and morphine (0.5%). The main reasons cited for choosing a particular drug is friends and availability. NADI data show that most of the drug abused by drug addicts in Malaysia is heroin. One reason for this difference could be that the addicts captured in the NADI system are hard-core drug addicts while respondents in this study are from an arrestee population. This difference shows the importance of collecting data from the arrestee population.

In terms of age of first experimentation with drugs we found that most of the arrestees experimented with drugs from an early age. About 30% (29.5%) of the arrestees reported to first use at the age between 18 to 24 years old while 7.3% of them were below the age of 17. The influencing factors are peers, family problems and curiosity. All these problems are similar to the problems cited by drug users in the NADI system (NADI, 2004).

One of the aims of the study is to determine if drug influenced the arrestees to commit crime. About 17% (16.8%) of them said yes. We did not probe further to determine among the subjects who said 'yes' how many of them were in a euphoric state when they committed crime. Alternatively, did the arrestees commit crime to support their drug using behavior? We would suggest that qualitative studies among drug users who commit crime be carried out to determine this.

About quarter (24.5%) of the subjects mentioned that they need medical assistance and 17.7% of them have received some form of treatment. Only a small number of subjects (0.5%) have received psychosocial intervention as part of their treatment. Psychosocial intervention is one of the main components in the rehabilitation process. As we mentioned earlier 13.2% of the arrestees have

spent between 1 to 3 times in prison in the last 12 months. This group of repeat offenders need psychosocial intervention to ensure they do not continue to commit crime and be arrested.

In summary the study has given us an indication of what is the extent of drug use among the arrestee population in Penang. It has also given us an indication of the patterns of substance abuse among this population in Penang. The influencing environmental factors for example the influence of peers to use drugs and commit crime were identified. In addition, availability of drugs was also mentioned as an influencing factor as to what type of drugs is used. The socio-demographic characteristics of the arrestee population have also been obtained in this study. Only a small number of subjects mentioned that drug use influenced them to commit crime. As mentioned above this question needs further probing possibly using qualitative techniques that will provide us with more in-depth information.

However there are several limitations in the study that could have influenced the results. The accuracy of self-report among arrestees need to be examined carefully. Measures were taken to explain to the study subjects that the data given is only used for research purposes and they are not required to provide their names. The location of interviews in the police station and within the police station where the interviews were conducted may have also influenced the results of the study. To minimize this influence we tried to make sure that police personnel were not too close to the subjects when they were answering the questions. The issue of training among data collection staff also needs to be looked at. The experience of the research staff varied considerably and we are assuming the conditions are similar in all the police stations. This may not be the case and this is when the experience of the research staff is useful in adapting to the requirements of the local police stations. All police stations have a standard operating procedure to ensure safety but the level of security may differ among the police stations. This may have also influenced the results of the study.

Conclusion

This pilot project was aimed at assessing if data can be collected among the arrestee population in the country. This is to ensure that the arrestee data collected will complement the existing Asian Multicity Epidemiology Network and the National Drug Information System. The I-ADAM project is unique because it will provide data on drug use among the arrestee population; the two existing programs provide data from the addict population. The type of data from this study can provide an indicator to policymakers of the extent of drug and alcohol use among those arrested for crimes. However since this is a pilot project and the data collected in this study was only baseline information there are still gaps and a more in-depth study need to be conducted if this kind of data collection mechanism can be implemented in the country.

Notes

1. In Malaysia, substance abuse (known as “dadah” in Bahasa Malaysia) does not refer to alcohol abuse or dependency.
2. National Narcotics Agency, *National Narcotics Report*, Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Home Affairs, 1998.
3. National Narcotics Agency, *National Drug Information System*, Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2000.
4. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook: Malaysia*, Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2000.
5. See Weibel, W.W., “Identifying and Gaining Access to Hidden Populations,” in *The Collection and Interpretation of Data From Hidden Populations*, ed. E.Y. Lambert. NIDA Research Monograph 98. DHHS Publication No. (ADM) 90-1678. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1990. I
6. National Narcotics Agency, *National Drug Information System*, Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2004.

BORANG SOALSELIDIK KAJIAN 'ADAM'

Nama Penemuduga : _____ Masa soalselidik : _____
Lokasi/tempat soalselidik: _____ Tarikh soalselidik : _____

1. Adakah responden bersetuju untuk disoalselidik?
(1) Bersetuju
(2) Tidak Bersetuju
(3) Tiada
(4) Mempunyai alasan supaya tidak disoalselidik

Bahagian A : MAKLUMAT DIRI

Arahan : Sila tandakan (/) pada ruangan yang berkenaan.

1. Tarikh lahir.
Hr/bln/Thn : ___/___/___
2. Tempat lahir
Kod tempat lahir : ___
3. Keturunan
(1) Melayu ()
(2) Cina ()
(3) India ()
(4) Lain-lain, nyatakan _____
4. Agama
(1) Islam () (2) Buddha () (3) Hindu () (4) Kristian ()
(5) Lain-lain, nyatakan _____
5. Atas kesalahan apakah anda ditahan ?
(SILA RUJUK LAMPIRAN JENIS KESALAHAN) ___
6. Tempat anda ditahan.
(1) Rumah () (2) Tempat kejadian () (3) Tempat Kerja ()
(4) Lain-lain, nyatakan _____

7. Apakah pencapaian tertinggi anda semasa di sekolah?
- (a) Darjah 1-Darjah 6 ()
 - (b) Ting.1-Ting.3 ()
 - (c) Ting.4-Ting.5 ()
 - (d) Tingkatan 6 ()
 - (e) Tahun pertama di IPT ()
 - (f) Tamat Diploma ()
 - (g) Tamat Ijazah ()
 - (h) Tidak bersekolah ()
8. Apakah taraf perkahwinan anda ?
- (1) Bujang () (2) Berkahwin () (3) Duda ()
- (a) Jika berkahwin, berapakah bilangan anak anda ?
- (1) Tiada Anak () (2) 1 – 3 orang () (3) 4 – 6 orang () (4) 7 Keatas ()
- (b) Jika ada, adakah mereka/dia berada di bawah jagaan anda?
- (1) Ya () (2) Tidak ()
9. Di manakah tempat tinggal anda pada 3 bulan yang lalu?
- (1) Dengan keluarga ()
 - (2) Rumah sendiri ()
 - (3) Rumah saudara-mara ()
 - (4) Rumah kawan ()
 - (5) Rumah kebajikan ()
 - (6) Tidak berumah ()
- (a) Jika tidak berumah, sila nyatakan di mana, _____
- (b) Jika selain daripada itu, berapa ramaikah yang tinggal dengan anda ?
- i) 1 – 3 () ii) 4 – 6 () iii) 7 – 9 () iv) > 10 ()
- (c) Adakah mereka ini mempunyai pertalian dengan anda?
- (1) Ya () (2) Tidak ()
10. Dimanakah anda bekerja 30 hari yang lalu?
- (1) Kerajaan () (2) Swasta () (3) Bekerja sendiri () (4) Pelajar ()
 - (5) Penganggur ()
- (a) Berapakah anggaran pendapatan anda sebulan?
- (1) RM0.00 - RM250 () (2) RM251 - RM 500 () (3) RM501 - RM 1000 ()
 - (4) > RM1000 ()

Bahagian B : PEMANTAUAN PENYALAHGUNAAN DADAH

1. Pernahkah anda mencuba dadah berikut:
 - (a) Heroin (Fit, Barang, Cik Puteh) ()
 - (b) Candu (Opium) ()
 - (c) Ganja (Kanabis) ()
 - (d) Pil-pil psikotropik (cth: pil penenang / perangsang) ()
 - (e) Alkohol ()
 - (f) Lain-lain, nyatakan _____ ()
2. Berapakah umur anda semasa mula mencuba dadah (NAMA DADAH)?
 - (1) < 17 tahun ()
 - (2) 18-24 tahun ()
 - (3) 25-40 tahun ()
 - (4) > 41 tahun ()
 - (5) Tidak ingat ()
3. Selama 12 bulan yang lalu, adakah anda menggunakan (NAMA DADAH)?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
4. Dalam masa 3 hari yang lalu, adakah anda mengambil (NAMA DADAH)?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
5. Dalam masa 30 hari yang lalu, selama berapa hari anda menggunakan (NAMA DADAH)?
 - (1) Setiap hari ()
 - (2) 2-10 Kali ()
 - (3) 11-20 Kali ()
 - (4) 21-29 Kali ()
6. Dalam masa 12 bulan yang lalu, pernahkah anda cuba mengurangkan atau cuba berhenti menggunakan (NAMA DADAH) (tanpa bantuan orang lain)?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
 - (3) Tidak menjawab ()
 - (a) Jika ya, adakah anda berjaya?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
 - (3) Ya tapi tidak bertahan lama ()
7. Adakah anda merasakan (NAMA DADAH) perlu untuk diri anda dalam masa 12 bulan yang lalu?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
 - (3) Tidak pasti ()
 - (4) Tidak menjawab ()
8. Pernahkah pada masa yang lalu, anda menerima apa-apa rawatan untuk mengubati diri anda terhadap (NAMA DADAH)?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
 - (a) Jika ya, apakah jenis rawatan yang anda terima?
 - (1) Kauseling ()
 - (2) Ubat ()
 - (3) Suntikan ()
 - (4) Pusat Pemulihan ()
 - (4) Lain-lain, nyatakan _____ (5) Tiada ()
 - (b) Adakah ia dapat mengurangkan kesan dadah pada diri anda?
 - (1) Ya ()
 - (2) Tidak ()
 - (3) Tidak pasti ()

9. Berikan penjelasan tentang kesan euphoria (serta merta) yang dirasai setelah mengambil dadah & alkohol

10. Adakah anda berpendapat anda memerlukan rawatan untuk mengubati diri anda terhadap (NAMA DADAH)?

(1) Ya () (2) Tidak perlu ()

11. Adakah terdapat dadah lain anda gunakan selama 30 hari yang lepas?

(1) Ya () (2) Tiada ()

- (a) Jika ya, apakah dadah yang anda gunakan?

Nyatakan, _____

- i) Heroin ii) Morfin iii) Marijuana iv) Pil² perangsang/penenang v) Alkohol

12. Pada masa anda ditahan polis:

- (a) Adakah anda memerlukan sebarang alkohol atau dadah?

(1) Ya () (2) Tidak ()

13. Pada pendapat anda, adakah (nama Dadah & Alkohol) yang anda gunakan mempengaruhi anda melakukan kesalahan?

(1) Ya () (2) Tidak ()

Jika "ya", berikan penjelasan bagaimana ia mempengaruhi anda?

14. Pernahkah anda mendengar dadah jenis lain?

(1) Ya () (2) Tidak ()

- (a) Jika ya, di manakah anda mendengarnya?

(1) Tempat tinggal () (2) Tempat kerja () (3) Kawasan persekitaran ()

(4) Saluran Media ()

(6) Lain-lain tempat, nyatakan _____

- (b) Apakah nama dadah itu?

Nyatakan, _____

- i) Heroin ii) Morfin iii) Marijuana iv) Pil² perangsang/penenang v) Alkohol

25. Pernahkah anda mendengar Akta² tersebut dan mengetahui apakah isi kandungannya?
- a) Akta Dadah Berbahaya 1952 ()
 - b) Akta Racun 1952 ()
 - c) Akta Penagih Dadah (Rawatan & Pemulihan) 1983 ()
 - d) Akta Dadah Berbahaya (Langkah² Pencegahan Khas) 1985 ()
 - e) Akta Dadah Berbahaya (Perlucuthan Harta) 1988 ()
26. Apakah yang anda rasakan semasa melakukan jenayah?
- a) ianya hanyalah jenayah biasa yang pernah dilakukan oleh anda sebelum ini ()
 - b) ianya tidak diketahui oleh orang lain ()
 - c) mengikut perasaan ()
 - d) tidak menyedari semasa melakukannya ()
 - e) lain². Sila nyatakan _____ ()

Ujian urinalisis menunjukkan responden ini mempunyai :-

Methamphetamine:	Positif ()	Negatif ()
Marijuana :	Positif ()	Negatif ()
Opiat :	Positif ()	Negatif ()
Alkohol :	Positif ()	Negatif ()

SENARAI JENIS KESALAHAN MENGIKUT SEKSYEN POLIS

Bil	Jenis Kesalahan	Kod Dakwaan ADAM	Kategori Dakwaan ADAM	Seksyen
1	Bapa ayam	5.01		
2	Berjudi	5.05		
3	Berkelakuan lucah	5.08		
4	Berniaga tanpa lesen	3.07		
5	Bersubahat dalam kes bunuh	1.15		
6	Campur tangan ke atas penjagaan anak	1.12		
7	Cubaan membunuh	1.01		
8	Cubaan mencabul	1.07		
9	Cubaan mencuri	7.05		
10	Cubaan meogol	1.07		
11	Cubaan merompak	1.06		
12	Cubaan pecah rumah	3.03		
13	Darurat	5.09		
14	Gangguan seksual	1.02		
15	haram dalam kuantiti yang kecil	4.06		
16	Imigresen dengan niat	7.5		
17	Jenayah melibatkan perkhidmatan seks	5.01		
18	Langgar lari menyebabkan kecederaan teruk	1.01		
19	Langgar lari menyebabkan kerosakan harta benda	3.05		
20	Langgar lari tanpa menyebabkan kecederaan teruk	1.14		
21	Melanggar kod undang-undang kesihatan (berkaitan dengan pengedaran dadah)	2.02		
22	Melanggar kod undang-undang kesihatan (berkaitan dengan penggunaan dadah)	2.03		
23	Melarikan anak orang	1.03	Penculikan	
24	Melepaskan diri daripada waran tangkap	5.04		
25	Meludah	5.09		
26	Memandu dibawah pengaruh arak	2.01		
27	Memandu dibawah pengaruh dadah	2.01		

28	Memandu kenderaan dengan lesen digantung	7.07	
29	Memandu tanpa lesen	5.14	
30	Memandu tanpa menggunakan tali pinggang keledar	5.14	
31	Membahayakan kanak-kanak	1.1	
32	Membakar dengan sengaja	3.01	Membakar dgn sengaja
33	Memberi maklumat yang salah kepada polis	5.07	
34	Membuang air kencing di khalayak awam	5.09	
35	Membuat panggilan telefon palsu	1.02	
36	Membunuh secara sukarela	1.05	
37	Memiliki alkohol secara haram	4.06	
38	Memiliki bahan lucah		
39	Memiliki dadah	2.02	
40	Memiliki harta curi	3.09	
41	Memiliki tembakau secara		
42	Meminta sedekah	5.09	
43	Memukul dengan teruk		
44	Memukul pegawai polis (tanpa cacat atau cedera)	1.14	
45	Mencari pelanggan untuk pelacuran	5.01	
46	Menculik	1.03	
47	Menculik dengan niat	7.28	
48	Mencuri	3.03	
49	Mencuri barang di pasar raya	3.08	
50	Mencuri kenderaan	7.1	
51	Menembak secara haram	1.08	
52	Menerima barang curi	3.09	
53	Mengamalkan pemiagaan yg mengelirukan orang ramai	3.07	
54	Menggangu kententeraman awam	5.09	
55	Menggangu penguatkuasaan undang-undang	5.07	
56	Menghina mahkamah	5.04	
57	Mengubah tiket loteri secara haram	3.06	Penipuan
58	Mengugut untuk membunuh	1.02	
59	Menguruskan perkhidmatan jenayah (bukan dadah)	5.08	
60	Meninggalkan keluarga	1.12	
61	Menjual bahan lucah		
62	Menjual perlawanan sukan	3.07	
63	Menyamar sebagai pegawai polis	5.07	

64	Menyamun secara paksa	1.06		
65	Menyamun secara tidak paksa	3.08		
66	Menyembunyikan senjata api	1.08		
67	Menyerang dengan niat	7.11	Menyerang dengan niat	
68	Menyerang dengan teruk	1.01		
69	Menyerang menggunakan senjata berbahaya	1.01		
70	Menyerang pasangan	1.01		
71	Menyerang pasangan tanpa mencederakan.	1.14	Serangan	
72	Menyerang pegawai polis dengan sengaja	7.21	Menyerang polis dgn niat	
73	Menyumbang dalam kes dadah	2.04		
74	Meramas ('fondling')	5.11		
75	Merasuah	3.02		
76	Merasuh saksi	5.07		
77	Merempat di kawasan awam	5.09		
78	Merogol secara paksa	1.07		
79	Merompak kereta	3.03		
80	Merosakan harta benda awam	3.05		
81	Minum arak dikhalayak awam	2.05		
82	Narkotik	7.01		
83	Pecah masuk	3.03		
84	Pegawai polis mencederakan orang awam	1.01		
85	Pegawai polis mencederakan pasangan sendiri	1.11		
86	Pelacuran	5.01		
87	Pemalsuan	3.06		
88	Pemalsuan cek	3.06		
89	Pematian orang/manslaughter	1.05	Pembunuhan/homisid	
90	Pemulauan kanak-kanak	1.12		
91	Penderaan haiwan yang berat	5.08	Dan Lain-lain	
92	Penderaan kanak-kanak	1.1		
93	Penipuan kredit kad	3.07		
94	Penjenayah membahayakan individu	1.15		
95	Penyeksan binatang	5.08		
96	Penyeksan kanak-kanak	1.1		
97	Penyeluk saku	5.1		
98	Peras ugut	1.02		
99	Peras ugut	1.02		

100	Perbuatan lucah	5.06		
101	Perbuatan lucah ke atas kanak-kanak	1.1		
102	Perdagangan seks	5.01		
103	Pergaduhan	5.09		
104	Rogol	1.07	Serangan Seks	
105	Rompakan bersenjata	1.06	Rompakan	
106	Rompakan besar-besaran	1.06	Rompakan	
107	Rompakan tanpa senjata	1.06		
108	Serangan biasa	1.14		
109	Serangan dengan cubaan merogol	1.07		
110	Serangan menggunakan senjata api	1.01		
111	Serangan menggunakan senjata berbahaya	1.11	Penderaan pasangan	
112	Serangan penjenayah	1.01		