

## Treatment and Rehabilitation

Every year, the ONCB treatment data base receives large number of statistics on drug dependence population from treatment centers. Although these statistics may not represent the drug situation as a whole but they provide us better understanding on the people who use drug. Thus, these statistics are analyzed and then applied for a suitable intervention scheme.

The number of drug addicts who attended the treatment centers had decreased from 38,895 in 1997 to 33,633 patients in 1998. According to the ONCB data base, 235 treatment centers were taken into account.

Classifying by geographical regions, there were 45 centers in Bangkok, 73 centers in the Central region, 26 centers in the Northeastern region, 63 centers in the Northern region and 28 centers in the Southern region.

Other interesting details of these drug addicts in treatment centers are elaborated as follows:

1. Male attended the treatment center account for 32,905 patients while female account for only 725 patients.

2. The age group between 15-19 years old was the largest group that attended

the treatment center, accounting for 8,527 patients. For the group of 20-24 years old, accounting for 8,301 patients.



*Drug addicts in the treatment center are taking their medicine*

## Drug Addicts in Treatment Centers Classified by Age on Admission

Age Groups	Number of Addicts
Below 15	844
15-19	8,527
20-24	8,301
25-29	5,227
30-34	3,941
35-39	2,968
39 up	3,712

**Source:** Drug Demand Reduction Bureau, ONCB, on July 30, 1999.

3. The age group of 15-19 years old was the largest group for first drug use and the age of 20-24 years old group came the second.

### Drug Addicts Classified by Age for First Use

Age Groups	Number of Addicts
Below 15	5,209
15-19	17,453
20-24	5,288
25-29	2,116
30-34	1,093
35-39	576
39 up	461

4. According to the marital status, 22,819 of the drug addicts were single, 8,500 were married and 1,942 were widowers and those who were divorced.

5. Classifying by the employment status, the

majority of people attended the treatment centers were unemployed (9,048). Followed by the student group (8,328), the hired labor group (6,726), merchant group (2,898) and agricultural workers group (2,472)

6. Principal drugs that had been used during the last 30 days before admission to the treatment center are heroin (19,321 patients), methamphetamine (11,728 patients), opium (1,562 patients), volatile substances (616 patients), marihuana (270 patients) and others (103 patients).

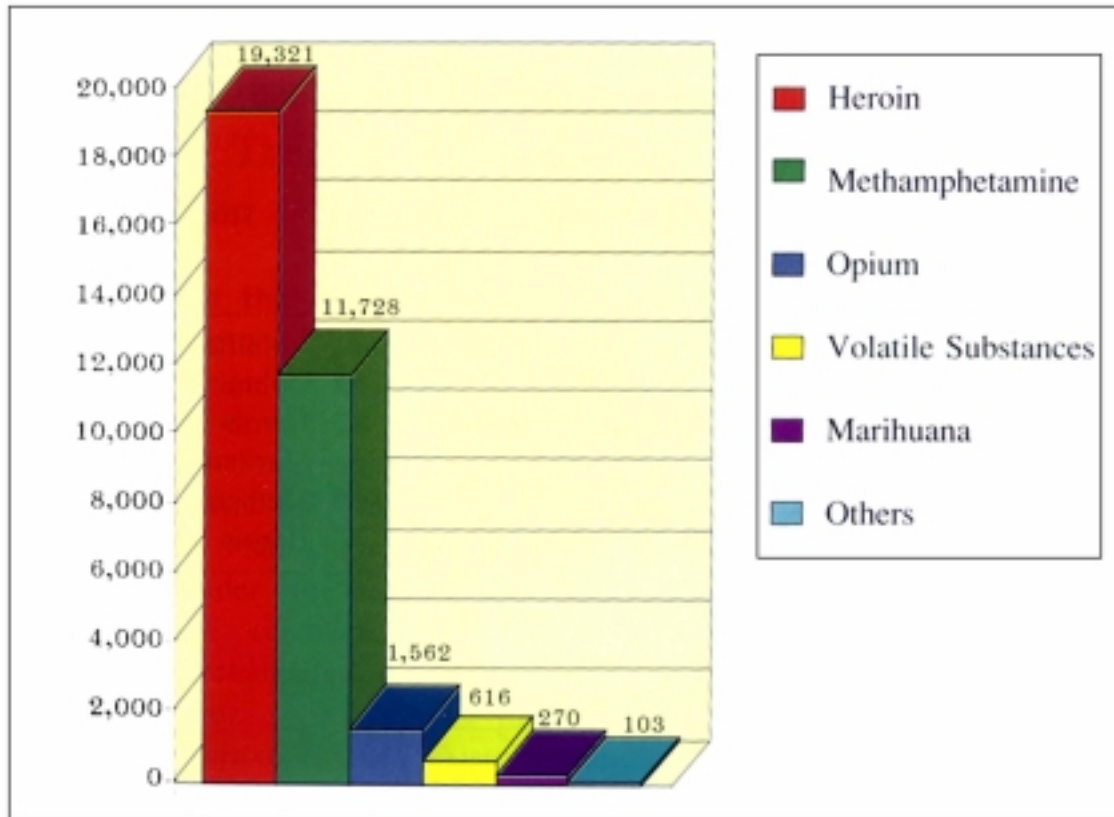
7. Most drug patients still prefer to smoke drugs (16,848) rather than injecting (14,992), inhaling (655) and eating (584).

8. Five principal drugs for first drug use were heroin (17,507 patients), methamphetamine (11,081 patients), heroin mix with marihuana (1,583 patients), opium (1,267 patients), and volatile substances (708 patients).

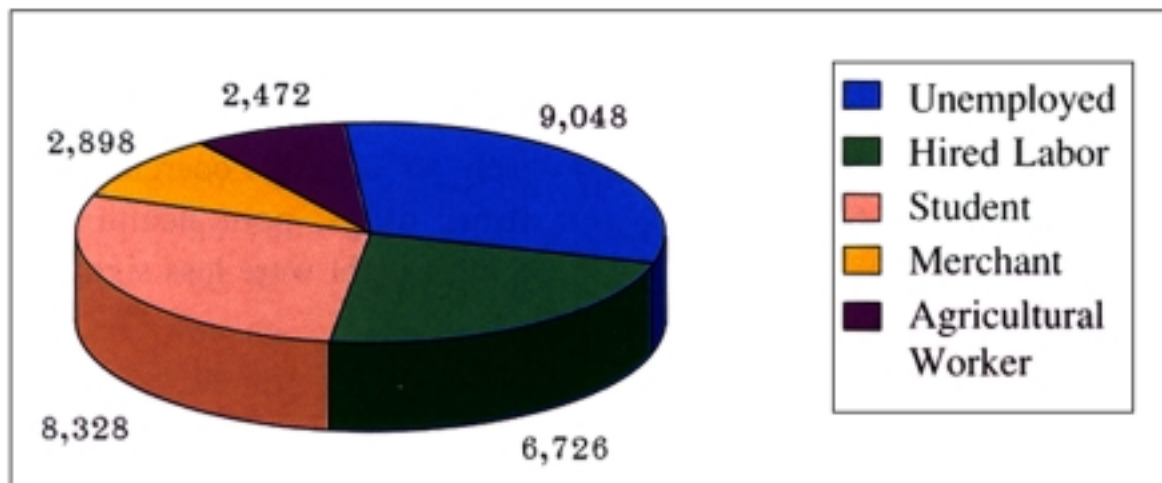
9. The reason for drug addicts to give up drugs is basically selfmotivation. However, other reasons such as family coercion, unable to afford drugs, poor health and fear of being caught were less significant.

Regarding these drug addicts classified by their present address, most of them live in Bangkok (10,060). For other regions, they live in the Central part (9,868), the Northern part (6,799), the Southern part (4,102), the Northeastern part (2,490) and those who lived abroad but come back to get treatment in Thailand (188).

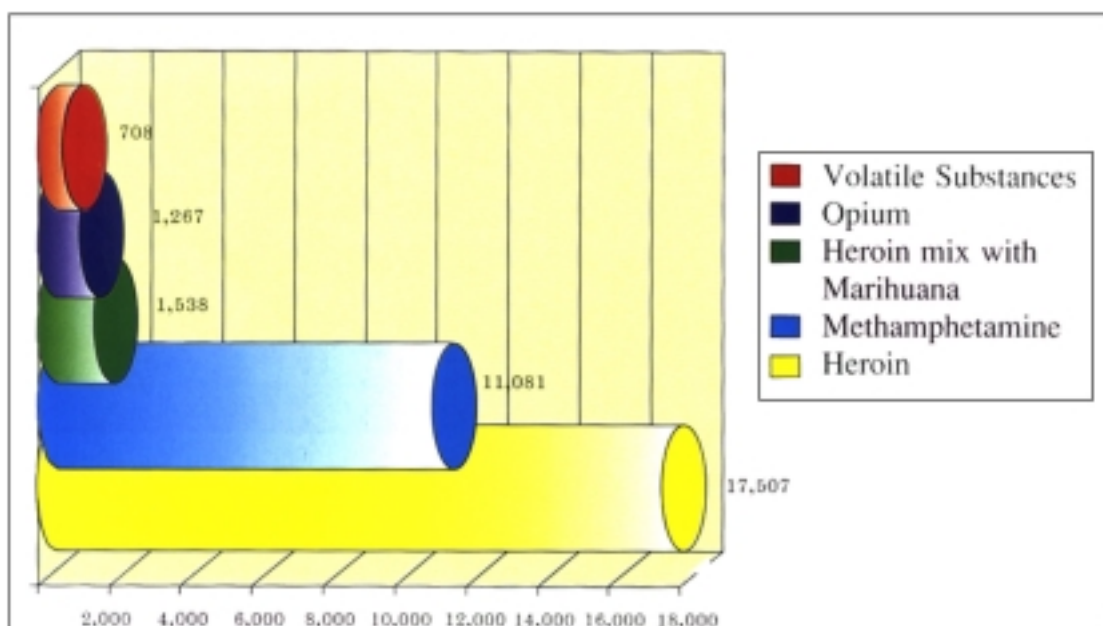
### Principal Drug Use during Last 30 Days before Admission



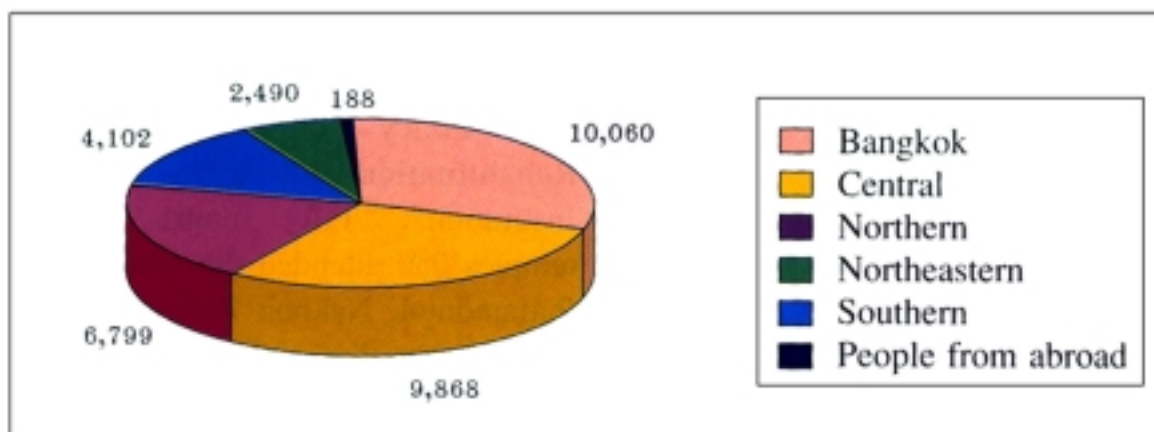
### Employment Status of Drug Addicts in Treatment Centers



### Five Principal Drugs for First Drug Use



### Drug Addicts Classified by Their Present Address



### Significant Operations of the ONCB on Treatment and Rehabilitation

1. Urge the Department of Probation, Ministry of Justice to speed up the process of treatment and rehabilitation of

the drug addicts according to Treatment and Rehabilitation Act B.E. 2534 (1991). On this matter, 8 sub-committees were set up in order to consider the regulation, the scientific detection measure, the

rehabilitation measure, shortening or extending the rehabilitation period, etc. These issues will be applied and used in the treatment and rehabilitation center according to the compulsory treatment system.

2. The ONCB has supported the academic knowledge on therapeutic community rehabilitation measure to the Department of Corrections by adapting it to comply with the Department of Corrections regulations. As a result, the therapeutic community rehabilitation measure is now using in the special rehabilitation center for young men in Ayuttaya Province.

3. Adapt the strategies on the treatment and rehabilitation measures by organizing a brainstorming session among the concerned bodies that work in the voluntary treatment system, convicted treatment system and compulsory treatment system in order to enhance the efficiency on the treatment and rehabilitation works.

4. Since 1995, Thailand has assisted Lao PDR on the narcotics control measures. The

treatment and rehabilitation measure in one of them that Thailand has given a helping hand to Lao PDR. In 1998, the ONCB had organized a study tour on treatment and rehabilitation for the Lao PDR officers during 12-24 January 1998. The study tour which aimed to enhance the knowledge and experience on the treatment and rehabilitation for the Lao PDR officers, will lead to a better cooperation on solving drug problems between the two countries.

5. Thailand is a Buddhist country. We have plenty of temples that act as an unified focal point for Thai people and help them when they have problems which include drug problems. Therefore, in order to make the role of temples on helping drug addicts and the treatment and rehabilitation measures to operate in the same direction, the ONCB in collaboration with the Religious Affairs Department and Department of Medical Services had organized a conference on "Policy on Treatment and Rehabilitation by using Religious Institution". Fifty monks from 21 temples had

attended the conference at Puttamontol, Nakhon Pathom Province on 14-15 December

1998. This conference is another way of extending the treatment and rehabilitation to the society.



*Mr.Sorasit Sangprasert, Deputy Secretary-General NCB, visted the special rehabilitation center*