



# NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORY REPORT 2024

A Publication of the  
Prime Minister's Office  
(Rodrigues & Outer Islands Division)



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## Acronyms

|               |                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>AILES</b>  | Aide-Infos-Liberté-Espoir-Solidarité       |
| <b>ADSU</b>   | Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit               |
| <b>AIRCOP</b> | Airport Communication Programme            |
| <b>ATS</b>    | Amphetamine-type stimulants                |
| <b>BSMHCC</b> | Brown Sevard Mental Health Care Centre     |
| <b>CANS</b>   | Customs Anti-Narcotics                     |
| <b>CATR</b>   | Centre D'accueil De Terre Rouge            |
| <b>CCP</b>    | Container Control Programme                |
| <b>CDS</b>    | Centre de Solidarité Pour Une Nouvelle Vie |
| <b>CNS</b>    | Central Nervous System                     |
| <b>CUT</b>    | Collectif Urgence Toxida                   |
| <b>ESI</b>    | Economic and Social Indicators             |
| <b>FSL</b>    | Forensic Science Laboratory                |
| <b>HRU</b>    | Harm Reduction Unit                        |
| <b>LSD</b>    | Lysergic Acid Diethylamide                 |
| <b>MDMA</b>   | Methylenedioxymethamphetamine              |
| <b>MoEHR</b>  | Ministry of Education and Human Resource   |
| <b>MoHW</b>   | Ministry of Health and Wellness            |
| <b>MRA</b>    | Mauritius Revenue Authority                |
| <b>MST</b>    | Methadone Substitution Therapy             |
| <b>NEP</b>    | Needle Exchange Programme                  |
| <b>NGOs</b>   | Non-Governmental Organisations             |
| <b>NPS</b>    | New Psychoactive Substances                |
| <b>NSP</b>    | Needle and Syringe Programmes              |
| <b>SOS</b>    | Stop Overdose Safely                       |
| <b>UNODC</b>  | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime   |
| <b>WHO</b>    | World Health Organisation                  |

## Introduction

The fight against drugs in Mauritius is a major national priority, characterized by heightened law enforcement efforts, the development of new prevention and rehabilitation programs, and significant collaboration with international bodies like the UNODC.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) addresses the global drug scourge through a comprehensive, balanced, and evidence-based approach that targets both public health and criminal justice aspects. This strategy is built on three main pillars: research and analysis, setting international standards, and providing technical assistance.

### Key UNODC Strategies and Initiatives:

- **Research and Analysis:** The UNODC monitors global drug trends and patterns, most notably through its annual World Drug Report.
- **Norms and Standards:** The office supports Member States in implementing the three foundational international drug control conventions (1961, 1971, and 1988). It provides legal and legislative advice to help countries establish effective national control systems in line with international human rights standards.
- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building:** The UNODC works with governments, civil society, and other partners to build capacity for addressing the drug problem through various programs and field offices worldwide.
- **Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Care:** The UNODC promotes science-based prevention programs and supports accessible, voluntary treatment and rehabilitation services for people with drug use disorders. This includes initiatives like the Stop Overdose Safely (SOS) program with the WHO (World Health Organisation) to expand access to life-saving naloxone and the "Family UNited" parenting skills program in Mauritius.
- **Law Enforcement Cooperation:** The office coordinates global efforts to disrupt illicit drug supply chains and transnational organized crime. Key initiatives include:
  - The Global SMART Programme, which provides real-time intelligence and early warning on new synthetic drugs.
  - The Container Control Programme (CCP) and AIRCOP, which work with the World Customs Organization to stop drug trafficking via maritime and air cargo routes.
- **Alternative Development:** In areas where illicit drugs are cultivated, the UNODC assists farmers in developing sustainable alternative livelihoods to address the root causes of illicit crop cultivation like poverty and insecurity.
- **Addressing Vulnerabilities:** The UNODC emphasizes specific attention to vulnerable populations, including women and youth, ensuring their needs and rights are addressed in drug policies and programs.

Ultimately, the UNODC's approach calls for collective, coordinated action among all stakeholders to reduce demand, limit supply, and mitigate the health and social harms associated with the global drug problem.

The National Drug Observatory Report 2024 presents factual data generated by the different institutions, ministries, departments and non- governmental organisations through their respective drug related activities.

## Executive Summary

### Mauritius Police Force

The number of registered drug offences in 2024 was 4,373 against 4,205 in 2023, resulting in an increase in the drug offence rate per 1,000 population from 3.3 to 3.5 persons for the same period.

In 2024, of the 4,373 drug offences registered, 40.9% were cannabis (commonly known as “gandia”) related offences, 27.6 % were for synthetic cannabinoids, 15.4% were heroin related offences, and 1.7% were for sedatives/tranquilizers. Other type of drugs, comprising mainly methadone and hashish, represented 14.4% of drug offences.

### Anti-Drug Smuggling Unit (ADSU)

In 2024, the ADSU of the Mauritius Police Force has reported 3,451 drug offence cases, with 2,520 arrests. For the period 2020-2024, the average annual number of cases and arrests effected by the ADSU was respectively 3,600 for drug offences, against 2,964 drug-related arrests.

### Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)

In 2024, some 3,268 confirmed cases of illicit substances seized were reported by the FSL. Cannabis was the main substance confirmed, with 46.1% of cases. New Psychoactive Substances cases constituted 28.8%, followed by heroin, 17.9% and the remaining 7.2% of cases were attributed to other drugs. In addition, the FSL conducted drug-driving tests, with a total of 1,104 cases reported in 2024.

### Mauritius Revenue Authority – Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS)

For period 2020 up to 2024, the MRA-CANS has made 258 drug seizure cases. During the same period, the least annual number of seizure cases occurred in the year 2020 with 38 cases while the peak annual seizure cases was reported in the year 2024 with 72 cases.

In 2024, of the 72 seizures of MRA-CANS, 55.6% were cannabis related products, followed by NPS with 27.8%. CNS stimulants and opioids each represented 5.6% of seizure cases.

### The Judiciary

In 2024, the number of convicted drug offences was 1,747 against 1,422 in 2023. Out of the 1,747 convicted drug offences reported by the Judiciary, 81.2% were associated to possession of drugs, 8.2% to consumption, 6.0% to cultivation of cannabis, 4.0% to dealing of drugs, and 0.6% to importation of drugs.

### Admissions in Public Health Institutions (Regional Hospitals and Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre)

In 2024, among the 1,081 admissions in Public Health Institutions 985 (91.1%) were male. Compared to year 2023, admissions increased by 5.6% from 933 to 985 in male and decreased by 9.4% from 106 to 96 in female.

In 2024, the age distribution of drug-related inpatient treatment cases in public health institutions was as follows; Under 15 years (0.9%), 15-17 years (3.7%), 18-24 years (20.7%), 25-29 years (22.4%), 30-39 years (30.2%), 40-49 years (15.3%) and 50 years and above (6.8%). Admissions related to drug use were highest in the age group 30-39 years with 29.0% for male and 42.7% for female. Overall admissions were highest in the age group 18-39 years (73.3%) with 72.2% in male and 84.3% in female.

Drug related inpatient cases by district of residence indicates that the highest number of admissions were from Plaine Wilhems with 274 cases representing 25.3%, followed by Port Louis with 214 admissions (19.8%). Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart catered for 16.7% and 11.9% of admissions respectively, while Moka district had the least number of admissions with 1.8%

### Addiction Units-Outpatient Services (MoHW)

In 2024, the four addiction units falling under the MoHW had registered 500 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment services for drug use. The average monthly number of new cases was 42. Monthly new cases ranged between only 23 cases in April and 69 cases in January 2024. Follow-up cases at these units amounted to 2,590 with a monthly average of 216. The minimum number of follow-up cases registered in one month was 182 in November, against a maximum of 243 cases in March.

### **Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme (MoHW)**

In 2024, out of 1,849 new cases attending the Methadone Substitution Therapy (MST) centres, some 1,710 cases were induced on methadone with 1,529 (89.4%) males against 181 (10.6%) females.

In 2024, out of 1,849 new cases attending the MST centres, the majority (91.4%) were aged between 18 and 49 years with 7.0% aged 50 and above. Only 1.6% was less than 18 years with 29 cases.

### **Suboxone Detoxification Programme (MoHW)**

In 2024, admissions for suboxone detoxification were highest in the age group 18-24 and 31-39 years (33.3% equally), followed by the 40-49 years (16.7%). Frangipane centre has 88.9% of admissions for suboxone detoxification while for Orchidée Centre it is 11.1%.

### **Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy (MoHW)**

In 2024, new case of admissions for Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy were highest in the age group 31-39 years, with 34.3% followed by the age group 25-30 years (25.7%). Frangipane centre and Orchidée centre has 85.7% and 14.3% of new cases of admissions for Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy.

### **Nenuphar Ward (MoHW)**

In 2024, nearly 95.1% of the admissions at the Nenuphar centre for minors and young adults were in the age group 15-17 years.

The proportion of new admissions was highest in the age group 15-17 years (80.0%), while those in age group 10-14 years was 20.0% with only 2 cases. Re-admissions was only in the age group 15-17 years.

### **Rehabilitative, Care and Support Services by Non-Governmental Organisations**

In 2024, among the 991 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment, care and support at the different NGOs, 307 attended AILES, 164 Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge (CATR), 142 at the Dr Idrice Goomany Centre, 118 cases were at HELP De-Addiction and Centre de Solidarité Pour Une Nouvelle Vie (CDS) equally, 53 at Chrysalide, 41 at Sangram Sewa Sadan and 39 at Groupe A de Cassis.

### **Needle Exchange Programme**

The Needle Exchange Programme (NEP) is implemented mainly by the HRU of the MoHW and NGO Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT).

In 2024, some 827,329 needles and 798,261 syringes were distributed to people who inject drugs. Out of the 827,329 needles, NGO accounted for 60.2% of the distribution, against 39.8% for the MoHW.

### **Death Related to Drug Use - Police Medical Unit**

The Police Medical Unit reported 36 direct deaths related to drug use based on toxicology results received up to July 2024. The majority of the death cases was male with 34 death cases and 2 female death cases. Out of the 36 deaths, 21 were aged between 25-34 years, 11 were 35 years and above, while 4 death cases were within the younger age group of 18-24.

### **Drug Use Prevention Programme**

Prevention Programmes against drugs are conducted mainly at educational institutions, at the workplace as well as in the community at large mainly through events, talks and exhibitions amongst others.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource (MoEHR) has introduced an evidence-based drug prevention programmes comprising of 12 modules implemented with grade 8 students known as "Get Connected".

Among the 10 NGOs, only Dr Idrice Goomany Centre is involved in the "Get Connected" Programme, while of the remaining nine NGOs only three have conducted talks on drug prevention with students in educational institutions.

The Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) - MoHW and the Education Cell of the ADSU conducted regular sensitisation programmes at schools, the workplace and at the level of the community.

## 1. Reducing Supply and Availability of Drugs

The first chapter provides data related to drug supply reduction interventions namely arrests, seizures, prosecutions as well as convictions.

Drug supply reduction through drug seizures and arrests are ensured by the Mauritius Police Force, the - Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU), as well as by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)-Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS).

In view of providing an overall picture of the trend and pattern, of the different aspects of drug offences, over the recent years, namely the drug offence rate, the type of illicit substances involved as well as the category of offence amongst others, data from the ESI report of Statistics Mauritius 2024 and previous years have been referred to.

With regards to convictions, the annual report of the Judiciary (2024) has been referred to.

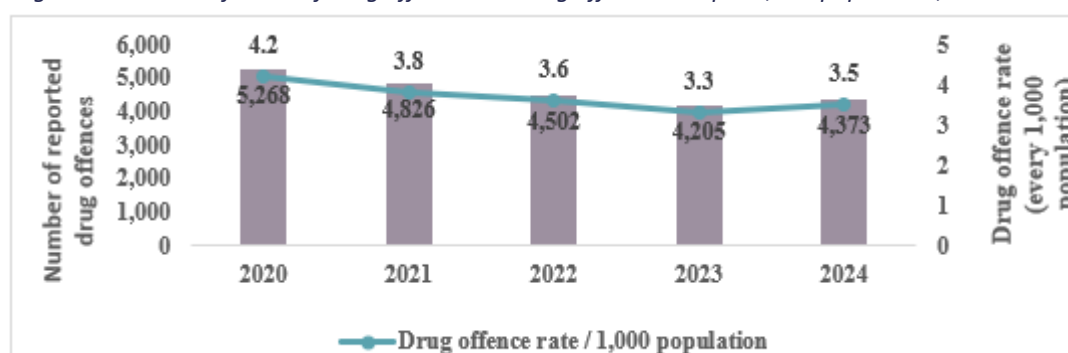
### 1.1. Mauritius Police Force

The number of registered drug offences in 2024 was 4,373 against 4,205 in 2023, resulting in an increase in the drug offence rate per 1,000 population from 3.3 to 3.5 persons for the same period (Table 1).

*Table 1-Number of cases of drug offence and drug offence rate per 1,000 population, 2020 – 2024*

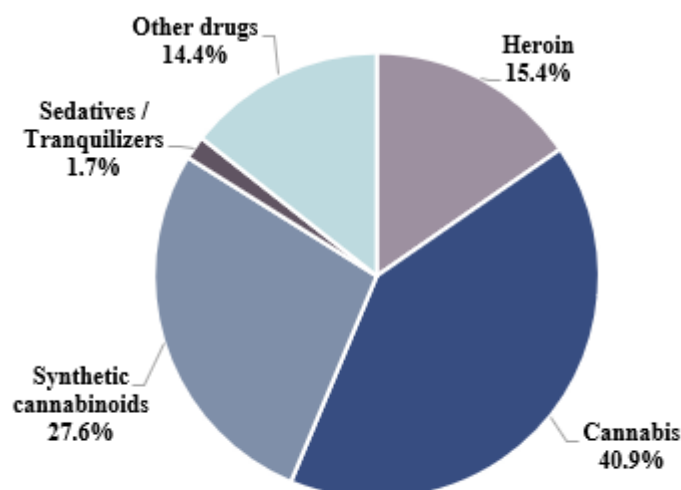
| Year | Drug offences        |                         | Percentage change (%) |                         |
|------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|      | Number of drug cases | Rate / 1,000 population | Drug cases            | Rate / 1,000 population |
| 2020 | 5,268                | 4.2                     | -                     | -                       |
| 2021 | 4,826                | 3.8                     | -8.4                  | -9.5                    |
| 2022 | 4,502                | 3.6                     | -6.7                  | -5.3                    |
| 2023 | 4,205                | 3.3                     | -6.6                  | -8.3                    |
| 2024 | 4,373                | 3.5                     | +4.0                  | +6.1                    |

*Figure 1- Number of cases of drug offence and drug offence rate per 1,000 population, 2020 – 2024*



In 2024, of the 4,373 drug offences registered, 40.9% were cannabis (commonly known as “gandia”) related offences, 27.6 % were for synthetic cannabinoids, 15.4% were heroin related offences, and 1.7% were for sedatives/tranquilizers. Other type of drugs, comprising mainly methadone and hashish, represented 14.4% of drug offences (Figure 2).

Figure 2- Percentage of drug offences by type of drug, 2024



Source: ESI 2024 – Statistics Mauritius

The percentage of drug offence on total offences excluding road traffic contraventions was 8.2% in 2024, slightly higher than 2023, whereby it was 7.2%.

During the five-year period 2020-2024 the highest proportion of drug offences over all offences was observed in 2020 with 5,268 drug offences representing 9.5% of the total offences (Table 2).

Table 2-Number of drug offences and all offences (excluding road traffic contraventions), 2020 – 2024

| Year | Offences reported<br>(excluding road traffic contraventions) |                                  | % drug offences on total offences<br>(excluding road traffic contraventions) |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | Drug offences                                                | All offences<br>(Including drug) |                                                                              |
| 2020 | 5,268                                                        | 55,402                           | 9.5                                                                          |
| 2021 | 4,826                                                        | 72,935                           | 6.6                                                                          |
| 2022 | 4,502                                                        | 57,846                           | 7.8                                                                          |
| 2023 | 4,205                                                        | 58,794                           | 7.2                                                                          |
| 2024 | 4,373                                                        | 53,331                           | 8.2                                                                          |

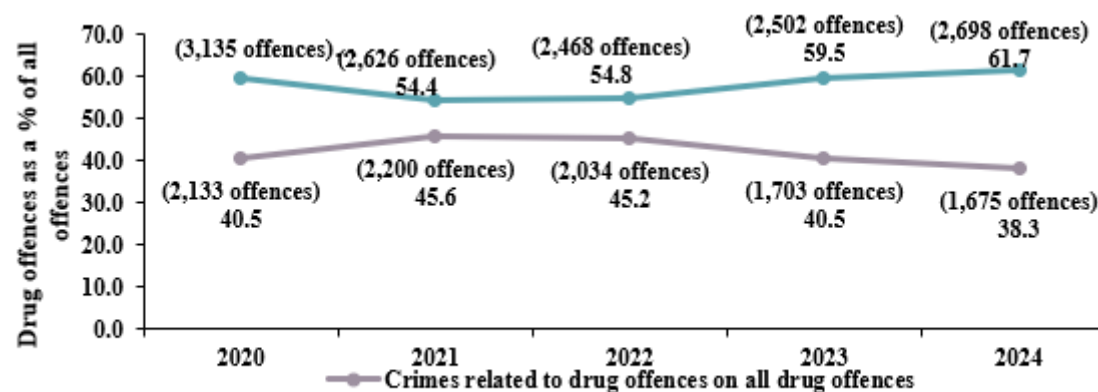
With regard to the category of drug offence, it has been observed that the annual average percentage of drug offence for the past five-year period 2020-2024, related to crimes was 42.1% while for the misdemeanour category of drug offence, it was 57.9%.

In 2024, the number of crime related drug offence was 1,675 (38.3%), while for misdemeanour, it was 2,698 representing 61.7% of drug offences (Table 3).

Table 3- Number of reported cases related to drug offences by category of offences, 2020 – 2024

| Reported cases related to drug offences       | 2020   | % on total drug offence | % on all offences (excl. contraventions) | 2021   | % on total drug offence | % on all offences (excl. contraventions) | 2022   | % on total drug offence | % on all offences (excl. contraventions) | 2023   | % on total drug offence | % on all offences (excl. contraventions) | 2024   | % on total drug offence | % on all offences (excl. contraventions) |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Crimes                                        | 2,133  | 40.5                    | 3.9                                      | 2,200  | 45.6                    | 3.0                                      | 2,034  | 45.2                    | 3.5                                      | 1,703  | 40.5                    | 2.9                                      | 1,675  | 38.3                    | 3.1                                      |
| Misdemeanours                                 | 3,135  | 59.5                    | 5.7                                      | 2,626  | 54.4                    | 3.6                                      | 2,468  | 54.8                    | 4.3                                      | 2,502  | 59.5                    | 4.3                                      | 2,698  | 61.7                    | 5.1                                      |
| Total drug offences                           | 5,268  | 100.0                   | 9.5                                      | 4,826  | 100.0                   | 6.6                                      | 4,502  | 100.0                   | 7.8                                      | 4,205  | 100.0                   | 7.2                                      | 4,373  | 100.0                   | 8.2                                      |
| Number of offences (excluding contraventions) | 55,402 | -                       | 100                                      | 72,935 | -                       | 100                                      | 57,846 | -                       | 100                                      | 58,749 | -                       | 100                                      | 53,331 | -                       | 100                                      |

Figure 3- Trend of crime and misdemeanour-related drug offences, 2020 – 2024



Source: ESI 2020 – 2024 – Statistics Mauritius

It is noted that in 2024, there were 56 juveniles' drug offenders of which 9 were female.

For the years 2021-2024, the average annual number of juvenile offenders was 460 with the highest number in 2023 with 492 offenders. The average annual juvenile drug offenders for the same period were 38 of which 3 were female juveniles.

The percentage of drug offence on total offence among juveniles which was 8.3% in 2021, decreased to 5.7% in 2023 and then increased to 12.5% in 2024 (Table 4).

*Table 4- Number of juvenile drug offenders reported by category of offence and sex, 2021 – 2024*

| Drug offences                                                          | 2021 |        |            | 2022 |        |            | 2023 |        |            | 2024 |        |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|------------|------|--------|------------|------|--------|------------|------|--------|------------|
|                                                                        | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes |
| Crimes                                                                 | 23   | -      | 23         | 23   | -      | 23         | 8    | -      | 8          | 24   | -      | 24         |
| Misdemeanours <sup>1</sup>                                             | 13   | -      | 13         | 9    | -      | 9          | 19   | 1      | 20         | 23   | 9      | 32         |
| Total crime and misdemeanours related to drug offences among juveniles | 36   | -      | 36         | 32   | -      | 32         | 27   | 1      | 28         | 47   | 9      | 56         |
| Total crime and misdemeanours offences among juveniles                 | 391  | 45     | 436        | 418  | 44     | 462        | 438  | 54     | 492        | 377  | 71     | 448        |
| % Drug offences on total offences among juveniles                      | 9.2  | -      | 8.3        | 7.7  | -      | 6.9        | 6.2  | 1.9    | 5.7        | 12.5 | 12.7   | 12.5       |

In 2024, the number of persons prosecuted for drug offences was 2,058, representing 8.0% of the total prosecutions.

Of the 2,058 prosecutions, 483 were prosecuted as crimes, while the remaining 1,575 were prosecuted as misdemeanours.

In 2024, the total number of prosecutions was 25,877 compared to 25,862 for the year 2023.

Similarly, prosecutions for drug related offences, which was 1,761 in 2023 increased to 2,058 in 2024 (Table 5).

*Table 5- Number of persons prosecuted under drug offences by category of offence, 2021 – 2024*

| Drug offences                             | 2021   |           |        | 2022   |           |        | 2023   |           |        | 2024   |           |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
|                                           | Adults | Juveniles | Total  | Adults | Juveniles | Total  | Adults | Juveniles | Total  | Adults | Juveniles | Total  |
| Crimes                                    | 1,222  | 4         | 1,226  | 780    | 4         | 784    | 639    | -         | 639    | 483    | -         | 483    |
| Misdemeanours <sup>1</sup>                | 1,726  | 12        | 1,738  | 1,575  | 1         | 1,576  | 1,120  | 2         | 1,122  | 1,575  | -         | 1,575  |
| Total drug offences                       | 2,948  | 16        | 2,964  | 2,355  | 5         | 2,360  | 1,759  | 2         | 1,761  | 2,058  | -         | 2,058  |
| Total offences (excluding contraventions) | 14,359 | 197       | 14,556 | 15,740 | 163       | 15,903 | 25,850 | 12        | 25,862 | 25,866 | 11        | 25,877 |
| % Drug offences on total offences         | 20.5   | 8.1       | 20.4   | 15.0   | 3.1       | 14.8   | 6.8    | 16.7      | 6.8    | 8.0    | -         | 8.0    |

Source: ESI 2021 – 2024 – Statistics Mauritius

<sup>1</sup> Category: Crime – severe drug offences  
Misdemeanour – less severe drug offences

## 1.2. Anti-Drug Smuggling Unit (ADSU)

In 2024, the ADSU of the Mauritius Police Force has reported 3,451 drug offence cases, with 2,520 arrests. For the period 2020-2024, the average annual number of cases and arrests effected by the ADSU was respectively 3,600 for drug offences, against 2,964 drug-related arrests. In 2024, it can be observed that the nature of drug offences reported is mainly characterised by possession of drugs, 47.1%, followed by dealing of drugs, 33.6%. Cultivation of cannabis plant represented 14.5% of cases while importation of drugs was 2.4%. Money laundering and obstruction to police were 0.1% equally. Drug related arrests for possession decreased from 1,678 in 2020 to 1,323 in 2024. As for dealing related arrests, which was 1,521 in 2020, decreased to reach 1,007 in 2024 (Table 6).

Table 6- Number of drug cases and arrests reported by type of drug offence, 2020 – 2024

| Type of drug offence                                | Number of cases |       |       |       |       | Percentage (%)<br>Year 2024 | Number of arrests |       |       |       |       | Percentage (%)<br>Year 2024 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|
|                                                     | 2020            | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |                             | 2020              | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |                             |
| Possession / Consumption                            | 1,671           | 1,572 | 1,684 | 1,604 | 1,626 | 47.1                        | 1,678             | 1,571 | 1,434 | 1,424 | 1,323 | 52.5                        |
| Dealing                                             | 1,479           | 1,437 | 1,507 | 1,177 | 1,158 | 33.6                        | 1,521             | 1,496 | 1,403 | 1,088 | 1,007 | 40.0                        |
| Cultivating                                         | 518             | 536   | 460   | 404   | 500   | 14.5                        | 148               | 182   | 129   | 54    | 106   | 4.2                         |
| Importation / Conspiracy for importation            | 41              | 37    | 54    | 38    | 82    | 2.4                         | 23                | 23    | 43    | 24    | 75    | 3.0                         |
| Obstruction to police                               | 7               | 10    | 3     | 4     | 4     | 0.1                         | 9                 | 10    | 5     | 2     | 5     | 0.2                         |
| Money laundering                                    | 4               | 3     | 24    | 17    | 3     | 0.1                         | 8                 | 2     | 5     | 6     | 2     | 0.1                         |
| Pick up / In transit                                | 17              | 28    | 23    | 20    | 25    | 0.7                         | -                 | -     | -     | -     | -     | -                           |
| Failing to keep DDR <sup>1</sup>                    | -               | -     | 56    | 6     | -     | -                           | -                 | -     | 3     | 1     | -     | -                           |
| Non compliance with DDA-prescription                | -               | -     | -     | 6     | -     | -                           | -                 | -     | -     | -     | -     | -                           |
| Possession of utensils / Apparatus / Other articles | -               | -     | 44    | 49    | 50    | 1.4                         | -                 | -     | -     | -     | -     | -                           |
| Prohibited goods                                    | -               | -     | 5     | 2     | 3     | 0.1                         | -                 | -     | 5     | 1     | 2     | 0.1                         |
| All drug offences                                   | 3,737           | 3,623 | 3,860 | 3,327 | 3,451 | 100.0                       | 3,387             | 3,284 | 3,027 | 2,600 | 2,520 | 100.0                       |

<sup>1</sup> refers to *Dangerous Drug Register*

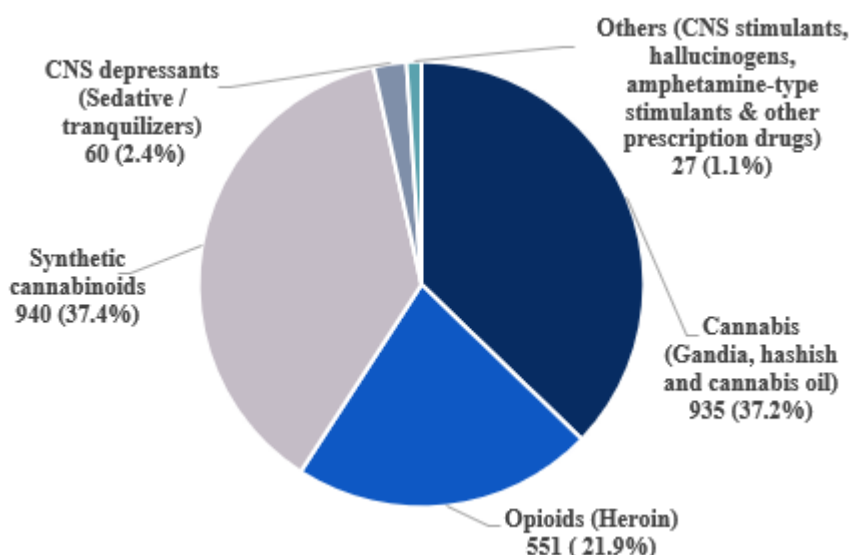
The distribution of drug-related arrests by ADSU in 2024, examined by class of drugs, showed that arrest for synthetic cannabinoids, accounted for 37.4% of arrests. The second most important class of drugs, namely, cannabis (gandia, hashish and cannabis oil), accounted for 37.2% of arrests. opioids (heroin) accounted for 21.9% of ADSU arrests, while CNS depressants was at 2.4% and the remaining 1.1% of arrests included CNS stimulants namely cocaine and khat, amphetamine -type stimulants and other prescription drugs (Table 7).

Table 7- Number of arrests for drug offences by class of drug, 2024

| Class of illicit substances                        | Number of arrests | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Cannabis (Gandia, hashish and cannabis oil)</b> | 935               | 37.2           |
| <b>Opioids (Heroin)</b>                            | 551               | 21.9           |
| <b>Synthetic cannabinoids</b>                      | 940               | 37.4           |
| <b>CNS stimulants (Cocaine &amp; khat)</b>         | 9                 | 0.4            |
| <b>CNS depressants (Sedative / Tranquilizers)</b>  | 60                | 2.4            |
| <b>Hallucinogens (LSD)</b>                         | 1                 | 0.0            |
| <b>Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS and MDMA)</b>  | 8                 | 0.3            |
| <b>Other prescription drugs</b>                    | 9                 | 0.4            |
| <b>All illicit substances</b>                      | <b>2,513</b>      | <b>100.0</b>   |

Excluding 7 arrests of Money laundering and obstruction to police at Table 8

Figure 4- Distribution of arrests for drug offences by class of drug, 2024



In 2024, among the 7 arrests under the category of “other drug related offences”, 71.4% was due to obstruction to police and money laundering stood at 28.6% (Table 8).

Table 8- Number of arrests by ADSU for other drug related offences, 2024

| Other drug related offences | Number of arrests |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Money laundering            | 2                 |
| Obstruction to police       | 5                 |
| All drug related offences   | 7                 |

Out of the 3,451 reported drug offence cases in 2024, 425 (12.3%) cases related to importation, pickup and cultivation, were cases involving unknown suspects. Among the cases of unknown suspects, the majority was related to Gandia with 92.2%. Some 7.8% of unknown suspects cases were related to synthetic cannabinoids, heroin, hashish, amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA (Table 9).

Table 9- Cases of drug offence reported for known and unknown suspects by type of drug, 2024

| Drug offence for known / unknown suspects                                                         | Number of cases | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total of known suspects                                                                           | 3,026           | 87.7           |
| Total of unknown suspects                                                                         | 425             | 12.3           |
| Total drug offence cases                                                                          | 3,451           | 100.0          |
| <i>Drug offence (Importation, Cultivation &amp; Pick up) for unknown suspects by type of drug</i> |                 |                |
| <i>Gandia<sup>1</sup></i>                                                                         | 392             | 92.2           |
| <i>Heroin</i>                                                                                     | 4               | 0.9            |
| <i>Synthetic cannabinoids</i>                                                                     | 19              | 4.5            |
| <i>Methamphetamine</i>                                                                            | 2               | 0.5            |
| <i>Amphetamine</i>                                                                                | 3               | 0.7            |
| <i>MDMA</i>                                                                                       | 1               | 0.2            |
| <i>Hashish</i>                                                                                    | 4               | 0.9            |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                      | <b>425</b>      | <b>100.0</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> includes 369 cases of Cultivation

In 2024, of the 1,626 drug offences for possession, 39.1% were related to synthetic cannabinoids followed by gandia with 32.4% and heroin with 24.5%. For dealing 38.6% were due to synthetic cannabis, 36.6% were due to gandia, heroin with 18.7%. With regard to importation cases, 50.0% was related to gandia followed by 13.4% for synthetic cannabinoids while 48.0% of the pickup cases were related to gandia and 32.0% were for synthetic cannabinoids (Table 10).

Table 10- Number of drug offence cases by type of drug offence and type of drug, 2024

| Type of drug offence                                | Gandia | Hashish | Cannabis oil | Synthetic cannabinoids | Heroin | LSD | Cocaine | Khat | Sedatives / Tranquilizers | Amphetamine-type stimulants | Other prescription drugs | Other | All drug types |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------------|--------|-----|---------|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Possession / Consumption                            | 527    | 20      | 2            | 635                    | 399    | 2   | -       | -    | 25                        | 5                           | 11                       | -     | 1,626          |
| Dealing                                             | 424    | 20      | -            | 447                    | 216    | 1   | 4       | -    | 44                        | 2                           | -                        | -     | 1,158          |
| Cultivating                                         | 500    | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | -     | 500            |
| Importation / Conspiracy for importation            | 41     | 8       | 1            | 11                     | 10     | -   | 1       | 2    | 1                         | 7                           | -                        | -     | 82             |
| Obstruction to police                               | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 4     | 4              |
| Money laundering                                    | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 3     | 3              |
| Pickup / In transit                                 | 12     | 2       | -            | 8                      | 2      | -   | -       | -    | 1                         | -                           | -                        | -     | 25             |
| Possession of utensils / Apparatus / Other articles | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 50    | 50             |
| Prohibited goods                                    | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 3     | 3              |
| All drug offences                                   | 1,504  | 50      | 3            | 1,101                  | 627    | 3   | 5       | 2    | 71                        | 14                          | 11                       | 60    | 3,451          |

In 2024, among those who were arrested by ADSU for possession of drugs, it was observed that 40.7% was for synthetic cannabinoids followed by gandia with 29.5%, while arrests related to heroin was 26.3%. With regard to dealing related arrests, 39.8% were due to synthetic cannabinoids, 33.9% were due gandia, 19.4% were due heroin. Some 64.0% of the importation related arrests was due to gandia followed by 13.3% for hashish and heroin represented 10.7% of the arrests (Table 11).

Table 11- Number of arrests by type of drug disaggregated by type of offence, 2024

| Type of drug offence                     | Gandia | Hashish | Cannabis oil | Synthetic cannabinoids | Heroin | LSD | Cocaine | Khat | Sedatives / Tranquilizers | Amphetamine-type stimulants | Other prescription drugs | Other | All drug types |
|------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------------|--------|-----|---------|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Possession / Consumption                 | 390    | 17      | 2            | 539                    | 348    | 1   | -       | -    | 16                        | 3                           | 7                        | -     | 1,323          |
| Dealing                                  | 341    | 20      | -            | 401                    | 195    | -   | 4       | -    | 42                        | 4                           | -                        | -     | 1,007          |
| Cultivating                              | 106    | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | -     | 106            |
| Importation / Conspiracy for importation | 48     | 10      | 1            | -                      | 8      | -   | 2       | 3    | 2                         | 1                           | -                        | -     | 75             |
| Obstruction to police                    | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 5     | 5              |
| Money laundering                         | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 2     | 2              |
| Prohibited goods                         | -      | -       | -            | -                      | -      | -   | -       | -    | -                         | -                           | -                        | 2     | 2              |
| All drug offences                        | 885    | 47      | 3            | 940                    | 551    | 1   | 6       | 3    | 60                        | 8                           | 7                        | 9     | 2,520          |

In 2024, the reported total street value of drugs seized by the ADSU, amounted to 1.6 billion Mauritian Rupees, out of which, 1.2 billion rupees (74.0%) were associated to seizures of cannabis products (essentially cannabis). Street value of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) stood at 11.5% (Rs179M), while opioids, represented 10.1% (Rs157 M) of the total street value seized, CNS stimulants were at 4.2% (Table 12).

Table 12- Number of drug seizures by class, weight of drug and street value, 2024

| Drug class                  | Illicit substance                                         | Units                                    | Weight (Kilograms) | Street value (Million rupees) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Opioids                     | Heroin                                                    | -                                        | 10.49              | 157.37                        |
| Cannabis products           | Cannabis                                                  | -                                        | 808.95             | 970.74                        |
|                             | Hashish                                                   | -                                        | 36.59              | 182.97                        |
|                             | Cannabis oil (ml)                                         | 30                                       | -                  | 0.04                          |
| New Psychoactive Substances | Synthetic cannabinoids (Mixed)                            | -                                        | 14.24              | 71.22                         |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids - Pure form                        | -                                        | 4.88               | 73.13                         |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids - Import - Liquid form (ml)        | 1,475                                    | -                  | 22.13                         |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids - Gummies form (Unit)              | 20                                       | -                  | 0.002                         |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids - Papers imbedded in drug solution | 142.5 A4 size paper + 4,136 Paper strips | -                  | 12.38                         |
| CNS Stimulants              | Cocaine                                                   | -                                        | 2.53               | 37.98                         |
|                             | Methamphetamine                                           | -                                        | 0.64               | 9.61                          |
|                             | Amphetamine                                               | -                                        | 1.00               | 15.00                         |
|                             | Amphetamine (Tablet)                                      | 80                                       | -                  | 0.19                          |
|                             | MDMA                                                      | -                                        | 0.10               | 1.49                          |
|                             | Khat                                                      | -                                        | 0.44               | 0.53                          |
| CNS Depressants             | Sedatives / Tranquilizers (Tablet)                        | 14,473                                   | -                  | 1.45                          |
|                             | Methadone (Vial)                                          | 6                                        | -                  | 0.001                         |
| Hallucinogens               | Ecstasy (Tablet)                                          | 14                                       | -                  | 0.03                          |
|                             | Dimethyltryptamine                                        | -                                        | 0.90               | 2.71                          |
| All drug classes            |                                                           |                                          |                    | 1,558.97                      |

For the five-year period 2020-2024, the reported street value of drugs seized by the ADSU amounted to 9.3 billion rupees, out of which, an estimated street value of roughly 6.4 billion rupees (68.5%) were associated to seizures of heroin.

For the same five-year period, street value of cannabis was the second most important drug value seized, that is, 1.5 billion rupees (15.9%), synthetic cannabinoids accounted for 0.7 billion rupees (7.8%) and hashish accounted for 0.6 billion rupees (6.3%) between 2020 and 2024 (Table 13).

Table 13- Street value of drug seized by class of illicit substance, 2020 – 2024

| Drug class                  | Illicit substance                                         | Street value<br>(Million Rupees) |          |          |          |          |                        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
|                             |                                                           | 2020                             | 2021     | 2022     | 2023     | 2024     | Total<br>(2020 – 2024) |
| Opioids                     | Heroin                                                    | 342.23                           | 4,463.45 | 821.65   | 554.93   | 157.37   | 6,339.63               |
|                             | Buprenorphine (Tablet)                                    | 0.33                             | -        | 1.62     | 0.09     | -        | 2.04                   |
| Cannabis products           | Cannabis                                                  | 43.58                            | 113.60   | 85.89    | 254.35   | 970.74   | 1,468.16               |
|                             | Hashish                                                   | 9.26                             | 124.97   | 257.20   | 12.90    | 182.97   | 587.30                 |
|                             | Cannabis oil                                              | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 0.04     | 0.04                   |
| New Psychoactive Substances | Synthetic cannabinoids                                    | 12.72                            | 12.84    | 21.06    | 37.56    | -        | 84.18                  |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids – Import                           | 53.68                            | 61.98    | 1.61     | 255.96   | -        | 373.23                 |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids (Mixed)                            | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 71.22    | 71.22                  |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids (Pure form)                        | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 73.13    | 73.13                  |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids – Import – Liquid form (ml)        | -                                | -        | 37.50    | 45.17    | 22.13    | 104.80                 |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids – Papers imbedded in drug solution | -                                | -        | -        | 2.65     | 12.38    | 15.03                  |
|                             | Synthetic cannabinoids – Gummies form                     | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 0.002    | 0.002                  |
| CNS stimulants              | Cocaine                                                   | 7.09                             | 0.01     | 0.96     | 31.54    | 37.98    | 77.58                  |
|                             | Methamphetamine                                           | 0.84                             | 0.02     | 4.63     | 1.59     | 9.61     | 16.69                  |
|                             | Amphetamine                                               | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 15.00    | 15.00                  |
|                             | Amphetamine (Tablet)                                      | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 0.19     | 0.19                   |
|                             | MDMA                                                      | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 1.49     | 1.49                   |
|                             | Khat                                                      | -                                | -        | -        | 0.09     | 0.53     | 0.62                   |
| CNS depressants             | Sedatives / Tranquilizers (Tablet)                        | 1.05                             | 0.38     | 23.07    | 0.96     | 1.45     | 26.91                  |
|                             | Methadone                                                 | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 0.001    | 0.001                  |
| Hallucinogens               | LSD (Patch)                                               | 0.03                             | 0.09     | 0.14     | 0.01     | -        | 0.27                   |
|                             | Ecstasy (Tablet)                                          | 0.05                             | 0.003    | 0.004    | -        | 0.03     | 0.09                   |
|                             | Dimethyltryptamine                                        | -                                | -        | -        | -        | 2.71     | 2.71                   |
| Others                      | Xylazine + Synthetic cathinone                            | -                                | -        | -        | 0.15     | -        | 0.15                   |
| All drug classes            |                                                           | 470.86                           | 4,777.34 | 1,255.33 | 1,197.95 | 1,558.97 | 9,260.45               |

### 1.3. Forensic Science Laboratory

In 2024, some 3,268 confirmed cases of illicit substances seized were reported by the FSL. Cannabis was the main substance confirmed, with 46.1% of cases. New Psychoactive Substances cases constituted 28.8%, followed by heroin, 17.9% and the remaining 7.2% of cases were attributed to other drugs (Table 14). In addition, the FSL conducted drug-driving tests, with a total of 1,104 cases reported in 2024.

Table 14- Quarterly number of confirmed cases of illicit substances, 2024 (FSL)

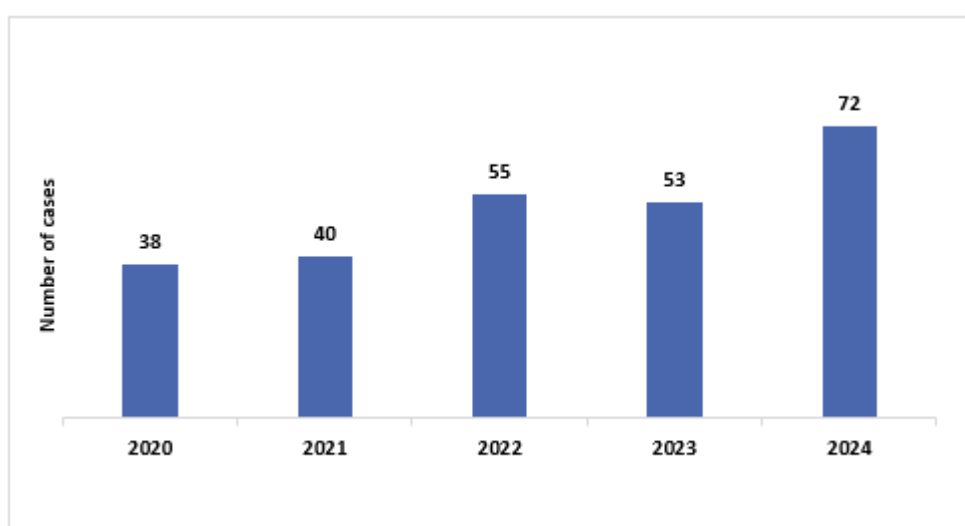
| Illicit substance                  | Quarter 1 |       | Quarter 2 |       | Quarter 3 |       | Quarter 4 |       | Year 2024 |       |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                                    | Number    | %     | Number    | %     | Number    | %     | Number    | %     | Number    | %     |
| Cannabis                           | 333       | 36.1  | 368       | 46.9  | 427       | 52.5  | 377       | 50.4  | 1,505     | 46.1  |
| Heroin                             | 197       | 21.4  | 133       | 16.9  | 132       | 16.2  | 123       | 16.4  | 585       | 17.9  |
| New Psychoactive Substances        | 310       | 33.6  | 223       | 28.4  | 201       | 24.7  | 208       | 27.8  | 942       | 28.8  |
| Other dangerous drugs <sup>1</sup> | 82        | 8.9   | 61        | 7.8   | 53        | 6.5   | 40        | 5.3   | 236       | 7.2   |
| All illicit substances             | 922       | 100.0 | 785       | 100.0 | 813       | 100.0 | 748       | 100.0 | 3,268     | 100.0 |

<sup>1</sup> includes psychotropic drugs, methadone and precursor chemicals

### 1.4. Mauritius Revenue Authority – Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS)

For period 2020 up to 2024, the MRA-CANS has made 258 drug seizure cases. During the same period, the least annual number of seizure cases occurred in the year 2020 with 38 cases while the peak annual seizure cases was reported in the year 2024 with 72 cases (Figure 5).

Figure 5- Number of cases of drug seizures, 2020 – 2024



Of the 258 seizure cases by MRA-CANS for period 2020-2024, 50.8% (131 seizure cases) were associated with cannabis products (seeds, herbs and hashish) seizures. There were on average 26 seizure cases of cannabis products per year between 2020 and 2024.

For the same period, seizures of New Psychoactive Substances amounted to a cumulative total of 47 cases, that is, 18.2% of the 258 seizure cases (all drugs) reported by MRA Customs, amounting to an average of 9 New Psychoactive Substances related seizure cases per year. Between 2020 and 2024, MRA Customs has made 41 seizure cases of opioids, with an average of 8 seizure cases per year. Opioids seizure cases represented 15.9% of the total 258 seizure cases (all drugs) for years 2020 to 2024.

For the period 2020-2024, there were 19 seizure cases of CNS stimulants, representing 7.4% of the total 258 seizure cases (all drugs), with an average 4 of seizure cases per year over that period. Hallucinogens and psychotropic drug seizure cases occurring between 2020 and 2024 totalled up to 20 (7.8%). Some 16 cases (6.2%) and 4 cases (1.6%) were due to hallucinogens and psychotropic substances respectively (Table 15).

Table 15- Number of drug seizure cases by Mauritius Revenue Authority by class of drug, 2020 – 2024

| Drug class                                | 2020      |              | 2021      |              | 2022      |              | 2023      |              | 2024      |              | 2020 – 2024 |              |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                           | cases     | %            | cases     | %            | cases     | %            | cases     | %            | cases     | %            | cases       | %            |
| Cannabis products (seeds, herbs & resins) | 18        | 47.4         | 20        | 50.0         | 26        | 47.3         | 27        | 50.9         | 40        | 55.6         | 131         | 50.8         |
| Opioids (narcotic analgesics)             | 5         | 13.2         | 9         | 22.5         | 17        | 30.9         | 6         | 11.3         | 4         | 5.6          | 41          | 15.9         |
| New Psychoactive Substances               | 10        | 26.3         | 6         | 15.0         | 2         | 3.6          | 9         | 17.0         | 20        | 27.8         | 47          | 18.2         |
| Hallucinogens                             | 3         | 7.9          | 5         | 12.5         | 2         | 3.6          | 3         | 5.7          | 3         | 4.2          | 16          | 6.2          |
| CNS stimulants                            | 2         | 5.3          | -         | -            | 6         | 10.9         | 7         | 13.2         | 4         | 5.6          | 19          | 7.4          |
| Psychotropic substances                   | -         | -            | -         | -            | 2         | 3.6          | 1         | 1.9          | 1         | 1.4          | 4           | 1.6          |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>38</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>72</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>258</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |

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

*Opioids* were 'Heroin (powder)'.

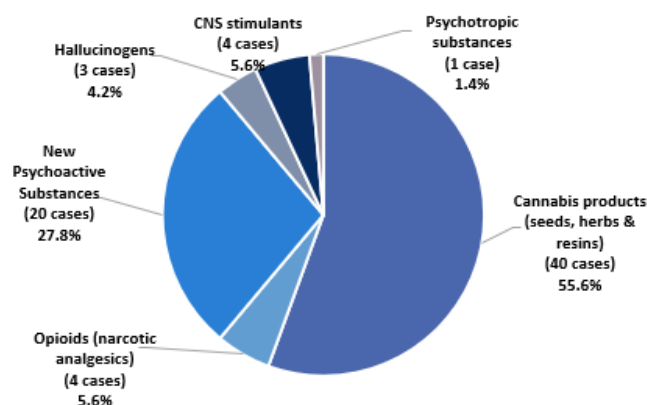
*New Psychoactive Substances* were 'Synthetic drugs'.

*Hallucinogens* were essentially 'Ecstasy'.

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

In 2024, of the 72 seizures of MRA-CANS, 55.6% were cannabis related products, followed by NPS with 27.8%. CNS stimulants and opioids each represented 5.6% of seizure cases. (Figure 6).

Figure 6- Number of drug seizures by class of drug, 2024 – MRA CANS



## The Judiciary

In 2024, the number of convicted drug offences was 1,747 against 1,422 in 2023. Out of the 1,747 convicted drug offences reported by the Judiciary, 81.2% were associated to possession of drugs, 8.2% to consumption, 6.0% to cultivation of cannabis, 4.0% to dealing of drugs, and 0.6% to importation of drugs (Table 16).

Table 16- Drug offences convicted by type of offence, 2020 – 2024

| Type of convicted drug offence | 2020   |                | 2021   |                | 2022   |                | 2023   |                | 2024   |                |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
|                                | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) |
| Possession                     | 1,217  | 77.3           | 1,509  | 83.0           | 1,843  | 84.7           | 1,219  | 85.7           | 1,418  | 81.2           |
| Dealing                        | 70     | 4.4            | 118    | 6.5            | 90     | 4.1            | 46     | 3.2            | 70     | 4.0            |
| Consumption                    | 187    | 11.9           | 102    | 5.6            | 125    | 5.7            | 47     | 3.3            | 144    | 8.2            |
| Cultivation of cannabis        | 89     | 5.7            | 80     | 4.4            | 100    | 4.6            | 90     | 6.3            | 104    | 6.0            |
| Importation                    | 11     | 0.7            | 8      | 0.4            | 19     | 0.9            | 20     | 1.4            | 11     | 0.6            |
| All types of drug offences     | 1,574  | 100.0          | 1,817  | 100.0          | 2,177  | 100.0          | 1,422  | 100.0          | 1,747  | 100.0          |

In 2024, 84.2% of convicted drug offences were sentenced with fines, against 14.9% to imprisonment and 0.9% was attributed conditional and absolute discharges.

It is to be noted that for the period 2020-2022, convictions for imprisonment were around 13% every year and it rose to 21.5% in 2023. (Table 17)

Table 17- Drug offences convicted by type of sentence, 2020 – 2024

| Type of sentence                    | 2020   |                | 2021   |                | 2022   |                | 2023   |                | 2024   |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
|                                     | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) |
| Imprisonment                        | 204    | 13.0           | 238*   | 13.1           | 280    | 12.9           | 306    | 21.5           | 261    | 14.9           |
| Fine                                | 1,330  | 84.5           | 1,575  | 86.7           | 1,884  | 86.5           | 1,107  | 77.8           | 1,471  | 84.2           |
| Probation                           | -      | -              | -      | -              | -      | -              | -      | -              | -      | -              |
| Community service                   | 38     | 2.4            | -      | -              | -      | -              | -      | -              | -      | -              |
| Conditional and absolute discharges | 2      | 0.1            | 4      | 0.2            | 13     | 0.6            | 9      | 0.6            | 15     | 0.9            |
| All sentences                       | 1,574  | 100.0          | 1,817  | 100.0          | 2,177  | 100.0          | 1,422  | 100.0          | 1,747  | 100.0          |

\* include 1 from CYC

## (i) Convicted drug offences related to heroin

Drug convicted offences with respect to the type of drugs involved, showed that the percentage of convicted heroin related offences has remained around 23% across the period 2020-2022, it rose to 25.9% in 2023 to reach 27.0% in 2024.

## (ii) Convicted drug offences related to cannabis

The trend of drug convicted offences related to cannabis, showed that the percentage of convicted cannabis related offences, was 50.8% in 2020. However, for the past three years (2021-2024), the percentage of cannabis related convictions was constantly around 42%.

## (iii) Convicted drug offences related to other illicit substances

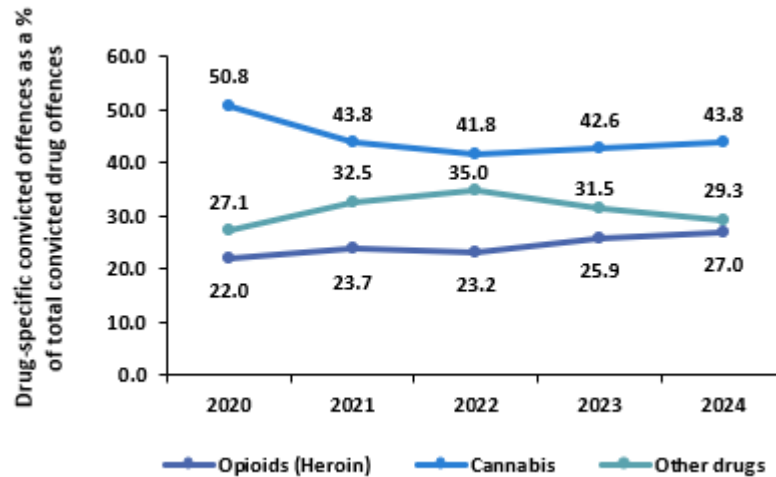
In 2020, drug convicted offences due to other drugs, excluding heroin and cannabis, stood at 27.1% against 29.3% in 2024 (Table 18).

Table 18- Drug offences convicted by class of drug, 2020 – 2024

| Class of drug            | Type of offence                | 2020         |                | 2021         |                | 2022         |                | 2023         |                | 2024         |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
|                          |                                | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) |
| Opioids (Heroin)         | Importation                    | 1            |                | 6            |                | 10           |                | 15           |                | 8            |                |
|                          | Dealing                        | 7            |                | 20           |                | 13           |                | 9            |                | 13           |                |
|                          | Possession (heroin & articles) | 316          |                | 385          |                | 470          |                | 340          |                | 438          |                |
|                          | Consumption                    | 23           |                | 20           |                | 12           |                | 4            |                | 12           |                |
|                          | Other                          | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                |
|                          | <b>Sub Total</b>               | <b>347</b>   | <b>22.0</b>    | <b>431</b>   | <b>23.7</b>    | <b>505</b>   | <b>23.2</b>    | <b>368</b>   | <b>25.9</b>    | <b>471</b>   | <b>27.0</b>    |
| Cannabis                 | Importation                    | 5            |                | 2            |                | 8            |                | 4            |                | 3            |                |
|                          | Cultivation                    | 89           |                | 80           |                | 100          |                | 90           |                | 104          |                |
|                          | Dealing                        | 40           |                | 60           |                | 55           |                | 15           |                | 34           |                |
|                          | Possession (ganja & articles)  | 513          |                | 577          |                | 646          |                | 457          |                | 497          |                |
|                          | Consumption                    | 153          |                | 76           |                | 101          |                | 40           |                | 127          |                |
|                          | Other                          | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                |
|                          | <b>Sub Total</b>               | <b>800</b>   | <b>50.8</b>    | <b>795</b>   | <b>43.8</b>    | <b>910</b>   | <b>41.8</b>    | <b>606</b>   | <b>42.6</b>    | <b>765</b>   | <b>43.8</b>    |
| Other drugs              | Importation                    | 5            |                | 0            |                | 1            |                | 1            |                | 0            |                |
|                          | Dealing                        | 23           |                | 38           |                | 22           |                | 22           |                | 23           |                |
|                          | Possession (drugs & articles)  | 388          |                | 547          |                | 727          |                | 422          |                | 483          |                |
|                          | Consumption                    | 11           |                | 6            |                | 12           |                | 3            |                | 5            |                |
|                          | Other                          | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                | 0            |                |
|                          | <b>Sub Total</b>               | <b>427</b>   | <b>27.1</b>    | <b>591</b>   | <b>32.5</b>    | <b>762</b>   | <b>35.0</b>    | <b>448</b>   | <b>31.5</b>    | <b>511</b>   | <b>29.3</b>    |
| <b>All drug offences</b> |                                | <b>1,574</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>1,817</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>2,177</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>1,422</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>1,747</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

Source: The Judiciary Annual Report 2024

Figure 7- Trend of drug-specific convicted offences as a percentage of total convicted drug offences for the last five years, 2020 – 2024



### Mauritius Prisons Service

The overall number of admissions of convicts in prison was 3,345 in 2020 compared to 5,085 in 2024. Admissions due to drug offences was 7.4% in 2020 with 249 cases. In 2024, there were 355 admissions in prisons representing 7.0% of the total admissions. (Table 19)

Table 19- Number of admissions of convicts to prison by drug offences and non-drug offences, 2020 – 2024

| Offence             | 2020         |                | 2021         |                | 2022         |                | 2023         |                | 2024         |                |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
|                     | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) |
| <b>Drug</b>         | 249          | 7.4            | 312          | 9.4            | 340          | 6.8            | 385          | 7.8            | 355          | 7.0            |
| <b>Other</b>        | 3,096        | 92.6           | 3,007        | 90.6           | 4,679        | 93.2           | 4,552        | 92.2           | 4,730        | 93.0           |
| <b>All offences</b> | <b>3,345</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>3,319</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>5,019</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>4,937</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>5,085</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

Source: ESI 2020-2024

## 2. Drug Related Health Services

This section presents data generated by the different health, care and support services related to drug use, which are provided by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW), as well as NGOs in 2024.

There are two categories of drug related health data reported by the MoHW, namely:

- i. Admissions in Public Health Institutions related to illicit drug use; and
- ii. Data on drug related dedicated services under the Harm Reduction Unit (HRU).

Admissions in Public Health Institutions in an acute phase due to health complications, following drug use, are reported by the Health Records Division of the MoHW, and data regarding drug related dedicated health services of the MoHW are reported by the HRU.

### 2.1 Admissions in Public Health Institutions (Regional Hospitals and Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre)

In 2024, among the 1,081 admissions in Public Health Institutions 985 (91.1%) were male. Compared to year 2023, admissions increased by 5.6% from 933 to 985 in male and decreased by 9.4% from 106 to 96 in female.

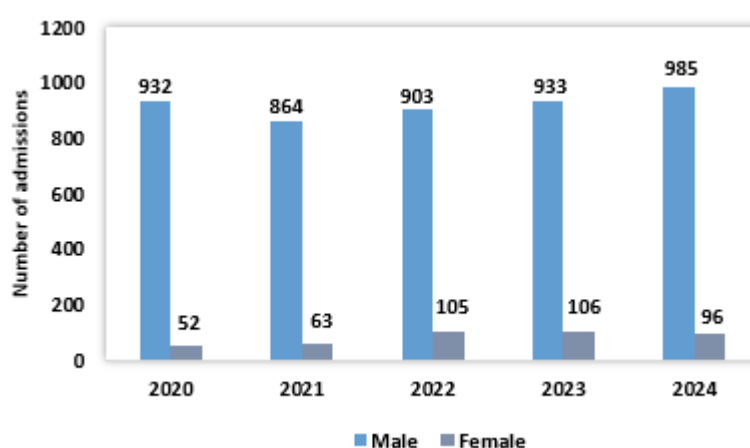
There was an average annual number of 1,008 admissions in the Public Health Institutions for the five-year period 2020-2024 with a cumulative number of 5,039 cases out of which 8.4% were female (Table 20).

Table 20- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by sex, 2020 – 2024

| Sex        | Number of admissions |      |       |       |       | % change<br>2024 over<br>2023 | Yearly average<br>number of<br>admissions |
|------------|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|            | 2020                 | 2021 | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |                               |                                           |
| Male       | 932                  | 864  | 903   | 933   | 985   | + 5.6                         | 923                                       |
| Female     | 52                   | 63   | 105   | 106   | 96    | - 9.4                         | 84                                        |
| Both sexes | 984                  | 927  | 1,008 | 1,039 | 1,081 | + 4.0                         | 1,008                                     |

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness (Health records division)

Figure 8- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by sex, 2020 – 2024



In 2024, the age distribution of drug-related inpatient treatment cases in Public Health Institutions was as follows; Under 15 years (0.9%), 15-17 years (3.7%), 18-24 years (20.7%), 25-29 years (22.4%), 30-39 years (30.2%), 40-49 years (15.3%) and 50 years and above (6.8%). Admissions related to drug use were highest in the age group 30-39 years with 29.0% for male and 42.7% for female. Overall admissions were highest in the age group 18-39 years (73.3%) with 72.2% in male and 84.3% in female (Table 21).

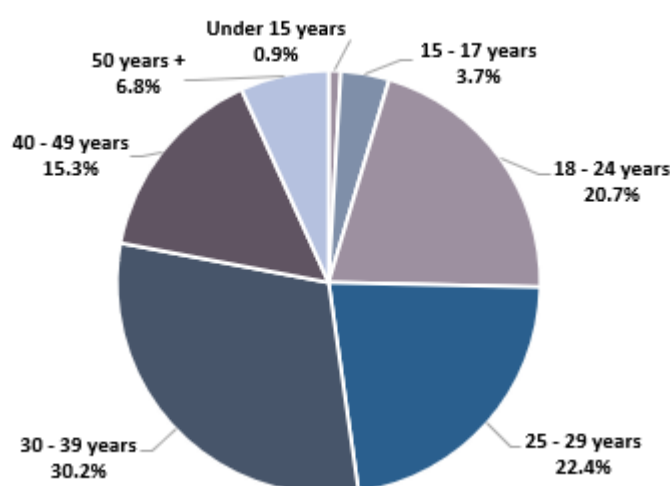
Table 21- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by age group and sex, 2024

| Age group (Years) | Male | Percentage (%) | Female | Percentage (%) | Both sexes | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|------|----------------|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| 10 – 14           | 9    | 0.9            | 1      | 1.0            | 10         | 0.9            |
| 15 – 17           | 35   | 3.6            | 5      | 5.2            | 40         | 3.7            |
| 18 – 24           | 209  | 21.2           | 15     | 15.6           | 224        | 20.7           |
| 25 – 29           | 217  | 22.0           | 25     | 26.0           | 242        | 22.4           |
| 30 – 39           | 286  | 29.0           | 41     | 42.7           | 327        | 30.2           |
| 40 – 49           | 158  | 16.0           | 7      | 7.3            | 165        | 15.3           |
| 50 – 59           | 53   | 5.4            | 1      | 1.0            | 54         | 5.0            |
| 60 +              | 18   | 1.8            | 1      | 1.0            | 19         | 1.8            |
| All age groups    | 985  | 100.0          | 96     | 100.0          | 1,081      | 100.0          |

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Figure 9- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by age group, 2024

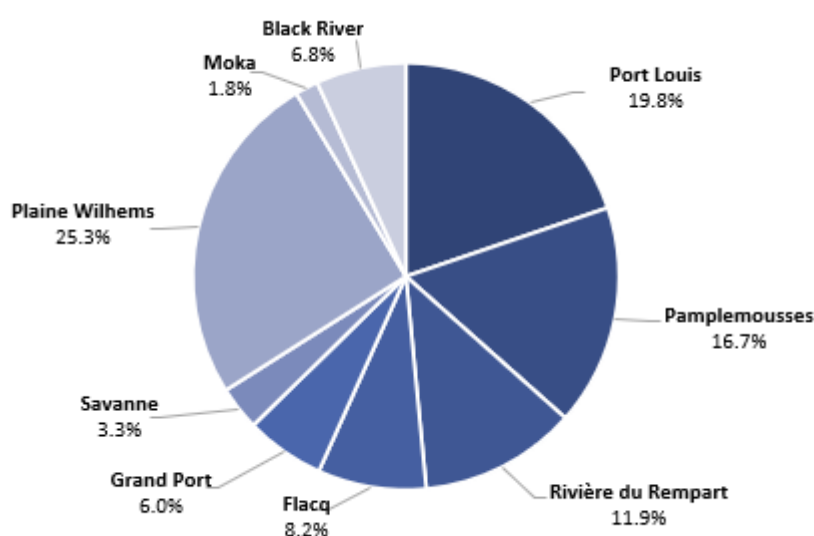


Drug related inpatient cases by district of residence indicates that the highest number of admissions were from Plaine Wilhems with 274 cases representing 25.3%, followed by Port Louis with 214 admissions (19.8%). Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart catered for 16.7% and 11.9% of admissions respectively, while Moka district had the least number of admissions with 19 (Table 22).

Table 22- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by district of residence and sex, 2024

| District           | Male | Percentage (%) | Female | Percentage (%) | Both Sexes | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------|----------------|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Port Louis         | 189  | 19.2           | 25     | 26.0           | 214        | 19.8           |
| Pamplemousses      | 157  | 15.9           | 24     | 25.0           | 181        | 16.7           |
| Rivière du Rempart | 116  | 11.8           | 13     | 13.5           | 129        | 11.9           |
| Flacq              | 85   | 8.6            | 4      | 4.2            | 89         | 8.2            |
| Grand Port         | 64   | 6.5            | 1      | 1.0            | 65         | 6.0            |
| Savanne            | 31   | 3.1            | 5      | 5.2            | 36         | 3.3            |
| Plaine Wilhems     | 258  | 26.2           | 16     | 16.7           | 274        | 25.3           |
| Moka               | 17   | 1.7            | 2      | 2.1            | 19         | 1.8            |
| Black River        | 68   | 6.9            | 6      | 6.3            | 74         | 6.8            |
| All districts      | 985  | 100.0          | 96     | 100.0          | 1,081      | 100.0          |

Figure 10- Number of admissions related to illicit drug use by district of residence, 2024



NPS continued to be the prime presumed illicit substances responsible for illicit drug-use-related admissions in Public Health Institutions. In 2024, some 57.1% of these admissions were reportedly attributed to use of NPS followed by opioids with 25.9%. Cannabis represented 10.5% while 4.7% were due to use of other unspecified drugs.

Some 57.7% of the admissions among males were related to use of NPS while among females, it represented 51.0%. A higher proportion of female (32.3%) admissions was due to opioids in comparison to male, whereby it represented 25.3% of admissions.

It is to be noted that 4.7% of inpatient treatment cases related to drug use was under the other unspecified substances group (Table 23).

Admissions related to NPS has been constantly decreasing from 2020-2023 with 538 cases in 2020 to 414 in 2023 and rose to 617 in 2024 (Figure 11).

Table 23- Number of cases of inpatient treatment related to drug use by presumed illicit substance used and by sex, 2024

| Presumed illicit substance used           | Male | Percentage (%) | Female | Percentage (%) | Both Sexes | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------------------|------|----------------|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| New Psychoactive Substances <sup>1</sup>  | 568  | 57.7           | 49     | 51.0           | 617        | 57.1           |
| Opioids                                   | 249  | 25.3           | 31     | 32.3           | 280        | 25.9           |
| Cannabis                                  | 103  | 10.5           | 10     | 10.4           | 113        | 10.5           |
| Abuse of medicinal products <sup>2</sup>  | 17   | 1.7            | 3      | 3.1            | 20         | 1.9            |
| Other unspecified substances <sup>3</sup> | 48   | 4.9            | 3      | 3.1            | 51         | 4.7            |
| All substances                            | 985  | 100.0          | 96     | 100.0          | 1,081      | 100.0          |

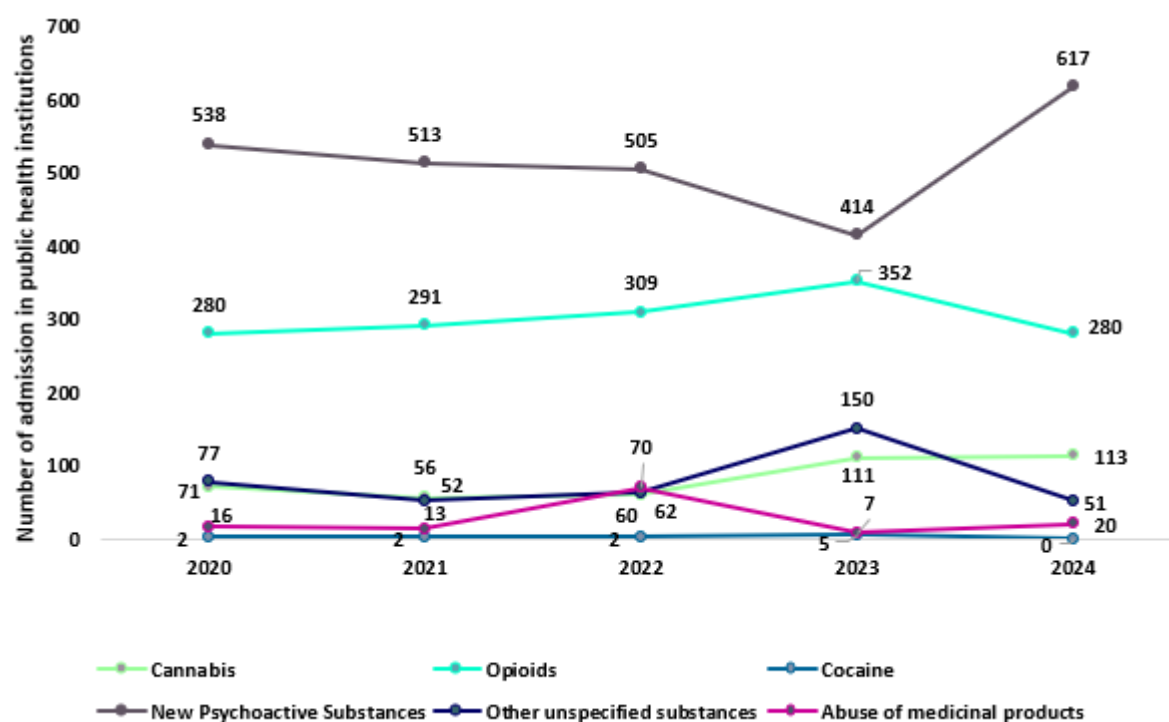
Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness (Health records division)

<sup>1</sup> (also known as Synthetic drugs) comprises of mixed and unspecified synthetic drugs

<sup>2</sup> comprises of methadone and other medicinal products

<sup>3</sup> comprises of mixed illicit / medicinal and unspecified drugs

Figure 11- Number of cases of inpatient treatment in Public Health institutions by type of illicit drug, 2020 – 2024



With regard to the age factor of admission cases related to the three main types of illicit substances in 2024, NPS related admissions (617) is highest in the age group 25-29 years with 23.7%.

Among Opioids related admissions (280), the highest proportion of admissions, was in the age group of 25-29 with 23.6%, followed by 21.1% in the younger age group of 18-24.

In 2024, of the 113 admissions related to cannabis use, 28.3% was between 18-24 years of age, followed by 16.8% within the age group of 25-29 (Table 24).

Table 24- Percentage distribution of drug-use-related admissions by type of presumed substance used, age group and sex, 2024

| Age group (Years)                                             | Cannabis / Marijuana |        |            | Opioids |        |            | New Psychoactive Substances <sup>1</sup> |        |            | Abuse of medicinal products <sup>2</sup> |        |            | Other unspecified substances <sup>3</sup> |        |            | All substances |        |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|------------|---------|--------|------------|------------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------------------------------------|--------|------------|----------------|--------|------------|
|                                                               | (%)                  |        |            | (%)     |        |            | (%)                                      |        |            | (%)                                      |        |            | (%)                                       |        |            | (%)            |        |            |
|                                                               | Male                 | Female | Both Sexes | Male    | Female | Both Sexes | Male                                     | Female | Both Sexes | Male                                     | Female | Both Sexes | Male                                      | Female | Both Sexes | Male           | Female | Both Sexes |
| Under 15                                                      | 1.0                  | 0.0    | 0.9        | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0        | 1.2                                      | 2.0    | 1.3        | 0.0                                      | 0.0    | 0.0        | 2.1                                       | 0.0    | 2.0        | 0.9            | 1.0    | 0.9        |
| 15 - 17                                                       | 4.9                  | 10.0   | 5.3        | 2.0     | 0.0    | 1.8        | 3.5                                      | 6.1    | 3.7        | 0.0                                      | 0.0    | 0.0        | 10.4                                      | 33.3   | 11.8       | 3.6            | 5.2    | 3.7        |
| 18 - 24                                                       | 29.1                 | 20.0   | 28.3       | 22.1    | 12.9   | 21.1       | 20.8                                     | 16.3   | 20.4       | 5.9                                      | 0.0    | 5.0        | 10.4                                      | 33.3   | 11.8       | 21.2           | 15.6   | 20.7       |
| 25 - 29                                                       | 16.5                 | 20.0   | 16.8       | 22.9    | 29.0   | 23.6       | 23.2                                     | 28.6   | 23.7       | 17.6                                     | 0.0    | 15.0       | 16.7                                      | 0.0    | 15.7       | 22.0           | 26.0   | 22.4       |
| 30 - 34                                                       | 14.6                 | 30.0   | 15.9       | 18.9    | 32.3   | 20.4       | 16.9                                     | 26.5   | 17.7       | 29.4                                     | 33.3   | 30.0       | 16.7                                      | 33.3   | 17.6       | 17.4           | 29.2   | 18.4       |
| 35 - 39                                                       | 12.6                 | 0.0    | 11.5       | 11.2    | 19.4   | 12.1       | 11.3                                     | 12.2   | 11.3       | 23.5                                     | 33.3   | 25.0       | 12.5                                      | 0.0    | 11.8       | 11.7           | 13.5   | 11.8       |
| 40 - 49                                                       | 13.6                 | 20.0   | 14.2       | 17.3    | 6.5    | 16.1       | 15.7                                     | 4.1    | 14.7       | 17.6                                     | 33.3   | 20.0       | 18.8                                      | 0.0    | 17.6       | 16.0           | 7.3    | 15.3       |
| 50 +                                                          | 7.8                  | 0.0    | 7.1        | 5.6     | 0.0    | 5.0        | 7.4                                      | 4.1    | 7.1        | 5.9                                      | 0.0    | 5.0        | 12.5                                      | 0.0    | 11.8       | 7.2            | 2.1    | 6.8        |
| No. of cases by all age group, by gender & type of substances | n = 103              | n = 10 | n = 113    | n = 249 | n = 31 | n = 280    | n = 568                                  | n = 49 | n = 617    | n = 17                                   | n = 3  | n = 20     | n = 48                                    | n = 3  | n = 51     | n = 985        | n = 96 | n = 1,081  |
| % All age group by gender & type of substances                | 10.5                 | 10.4   | 10.5       | 25.3    | 32.3   | 25.9       | 57.7                                     | 51.0   | 57.1       | 1.7                                      | 3.1    | 1.9        | 4.9                                       | 3.1    | 4.7        | 100.0          | 100.0  | 100.0      |
| No. of cases (All type of substances & all age groups)        |                      |        |            |         |        |            |                                          |        |            |                                          |        |            |                                           |        |            | n = 985        | n = 96 | n = 1,081  |

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

<sup>1</sup> (also known as Synthetic drugs) comprises of Specified, Mixed and Unspecified synthetic drugs<sup>2</sup> comprises of Methadone and Other medicinal products<sup>3</sup> comprises of Mixed Illicit / Medicinal and Unspecified drugs

## 2.2 Drug Related Dedicated Health, Care and Support Services

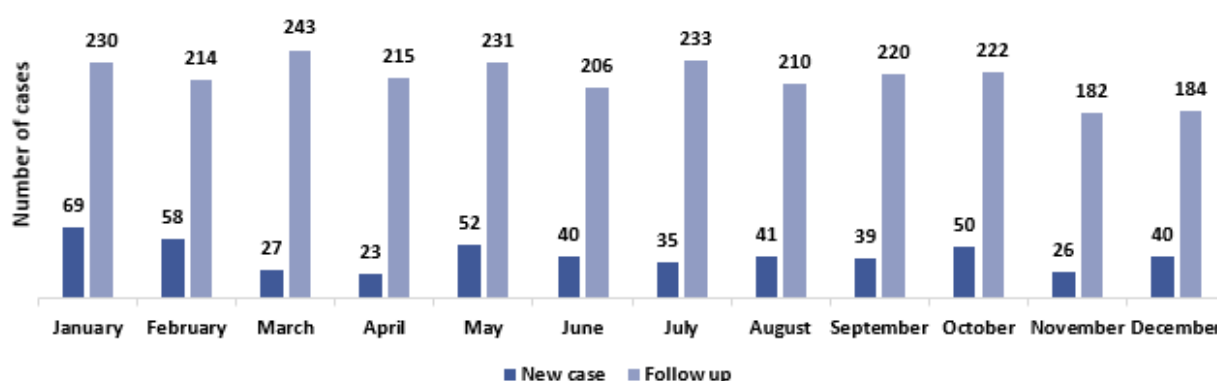
Drug related dedicated health services of the MoHW comprise four addiction units in each of the health region, five Methadone centres of which three are outpatient, two induction/detoxification residential Wards at Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre (BSMHCC) and the Nenuphar Ward for minors/young adults aged less than 25 years.

Furthermore, there are 10 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in providing rehabilitative treatment, care and support to People Who Use Drugs.

### 2.2.1 Addiction Units-Outpatient Services (MoHW)

In 2024, the four addiction units falling under the MoHW had registered 500 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment services for drug use. The average monthly number of new cases was 42. Monthly new cases ranged between only 23 cases in April and 69 cases in January 2024. Follow-up cases at these units amounted to 2,590 with a monthly average of 216. The minimum number of follow-up cases registered in one month was 182 in November, against a maximum of 243 cases in March (Figure 12).

Figure 12- Monthly number of new cases and follow up cases at Addiction units, 2024

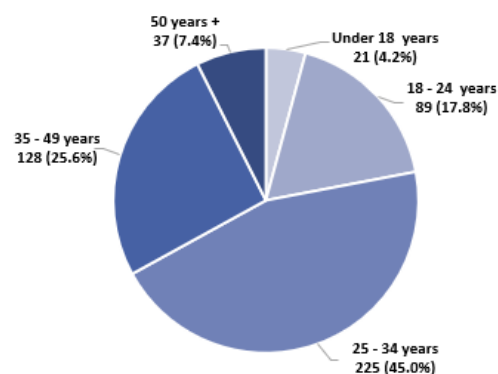


Some 45.0% of all the new cases of patients seeking rehabilitative treatment at the addiction units in 2024, were between 25-34 years. New cases aged less than 18 years accounted for only 4.2%. In fact, majority of new cases attending the addiction units were between 18 and 49 years (88.4%), while 7.4% were aged 50 years and above (Table 25 and Figure 13).

Table 25- Number of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at Addiction units due to drug use by age group, 2024

| Age group (Years) | Number | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|--------|----------------|
| Under 18          | 21     | 4.2            |
| 18 – 24           | 89     | 17.8           |
| 25 – 34           | 225    | 45.0           |
| 35 – 49           | 128    | 25.6           |
| 50 – 64           | 31     | 6.2            |
| 65 years +        | 6      | 1.2            |
| All age group     | 500    | 100.0          |

Figure 13- New cases at Addiction units by age group, 2024

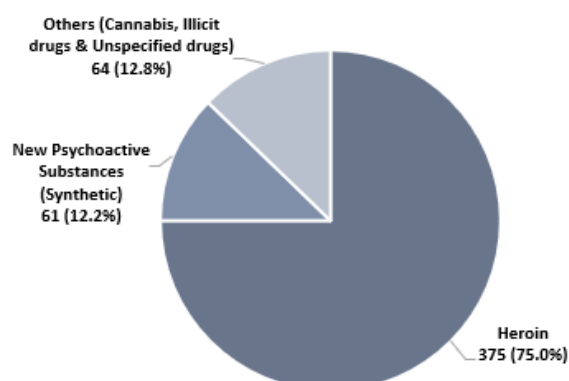


With regard to the primary substance of use, among the new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at the addiction units 75.0% of them were using heroin in 2024 in contrast with those admitted following complications due to drug use during the same period, whereby the main substance concerned was NPS. In 2024, only 12.2% of new cases were related to NPS compared to 4.7% in 2023. Some 6.6% of new cases were reported under other illicit and unspecified category in 2024 compared to 1.4% in 2023 (Table 26).

Table 26- New cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at Addiction units by main drug use, 2022 – 2024

| Main drug of concern        | 2022   |                | 2023   |                | 2024   |                |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
|                             | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) | Number | Percentage (%) |
| Heroin                      | 851    | 82.6           | 712    | 93.2           | 375    | 75.0           |
| New Psychoactive Substances | 56     | 5.4            | 36     | 4.7            | 61     | 12.2           |
| Cannabis                    | 18     | 1.7            | 6      | 0.8            | 31     | 6.2            |
| Benzodiazepine              | 3      | 0.3            | -      | -              | -      | -              |
| Other illicit drugs         | 2      | 0.2            | 5      | 0.7            | 3      | 0.6            |
| Unspecified drugs           | 100    | 9.7            | 5      | 0.7            | 30     | 6.0            |
| All main drug of concern    | 1,030  | 100.0          | 764    | 100.0          | 500    | 100.0          |

Figure 14- New cases of main drug used at Addiction units, 2024



### 2.2.2 Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme (MoHW)

In 2024, out of 1,849 new cases attending the Methadone Substitution Therapy (MST) centres, some 1,710 cases were induced on methadone with 1,529 (89.4%) males against 181 (10.6%) females (Table 27).

Table 27- Number of induction cases for Methadone Substitution Therapy (MST) programme, 2024

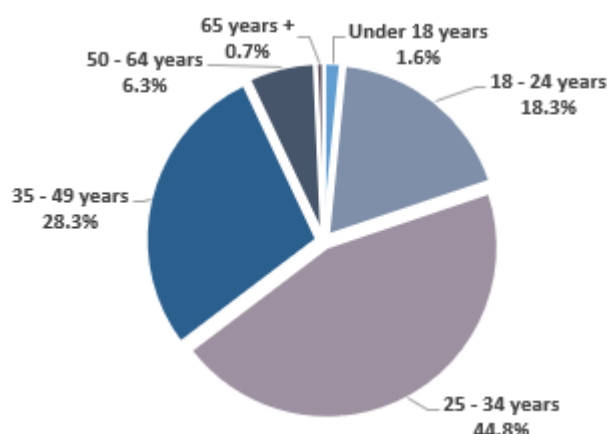
|                             |                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>New cases registered</b> | <b>1,849</b><br><b>(1,599 male; 250 female)</b> |
| <b>Screened</b>             | <b>1,829</b><br><b>(1,588 male; 241 female)</b> |
| <b>Induction</b>            | <b>1,710</b><br><b>(1,529 male; 181 female)</b> |

In 2024, out of 1,849 new cases attending the MST centres, the majority (91.4%) were aged between 18 and 49 years with 7.0% aged 50 and above. Only 1.6% was less than 18 years with 29 cases (Table 28).

Table 28- Number of new cases attending MST centres by age group, 2024

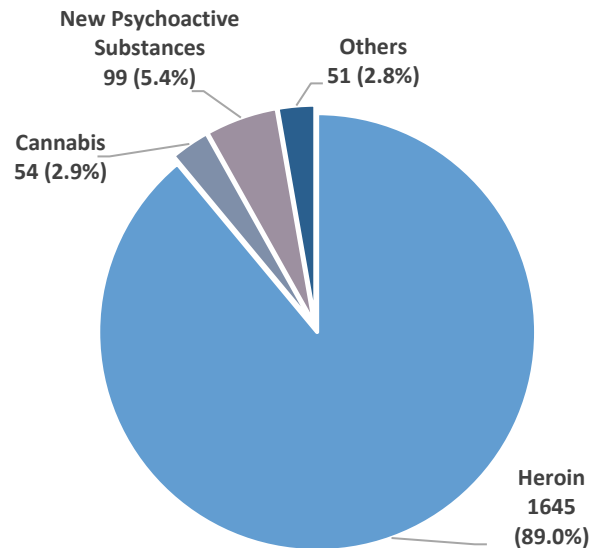
| <b>Age group (Years)</b>   | <b>Number of new cases</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Less than 18</b>        | 29                         | <b>1.6</b>            |
| <b>18 – 24</b>             | 338                        | <b>18.3</b>           |
| <b>25 – 34</b>             | 829                        | <b>44.8</b>           |
| <b>35 – 49</b>             | 523                        | <b>28.3</b>           |
| <b>50 – 64</b>             | 117                        | <b>6.3</b>            |
| <b>65 years &amp; over</b> | 13                         | <b>0.7</b>            |
| <b>Total age groups</b>    | <b>1,849</b>               | <b>100.0</b>          |

Figure 15- Number of new cases at Methadone centres by age group, 2024



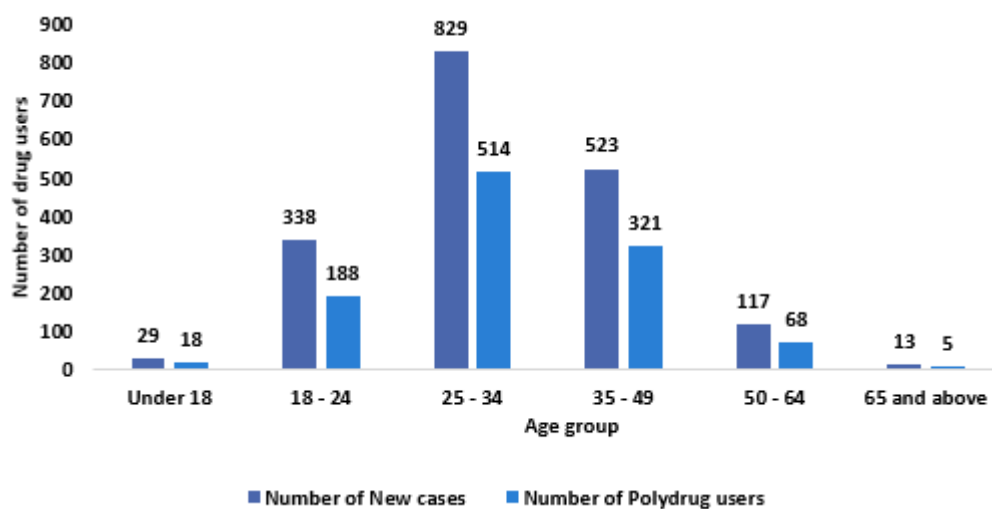
In terms of primary drug of use, in 2024, 89.0% of the new cases at the MST centres reported heroin as main drug of use, 5.4% stated using synthetic drugs and 2.9% reporting cannabis as main drug of use (Figure 16).

Figure 16- Number of new cases at Methadone centres by main drug of use, 2024



However, it is also noted that among the 1,849 new cases at the Methadone centre, 60.2% were polydrug users. Concerning the age factor, the highest proportion among the polydrug users were in the age group 25-34 years with 46.1% and lowest were those 65 and above years with 0.4% (Figure 17).

Figure 17- Number of new cases at Methadone centres of which Polydrug users by age group, 2024



In 2024, a total of 24,376 attendances were registered in the follow up clinics of the MST centres of which, around 3.6% were reviewed by psychiatrists and 11.8% by psychologists (Table 29).

*Table 29- Number of follow up cases & reviews at Methadone centres, 2024*

| Follow up / Review        | Male   | Female | Both sexes    |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Follow up</b>          | 22,613 | 1,763  | <b>24,376</b> |
| <i>of which review by</i> |        |        |               |
| <i>Psychiatrist</i>       | 709    | 160    | <b>869</b>    |
| <i>Psychologists</i>      | 2,617  | 263    | <b>2,880</b>  |

In December 2024, some 8,952 clients were on methadone maintenance programme and were daily administered doses through 91 dispensing sites. The highest number of dispensing sites were found in the Region 1 with 36 sites serving 3,928 methadone beneficiaries, followed region 4 with 20 dispensing sites with 1,320 beneficiaries. (Table 30)

*Table 30- Number of beneficiaries accessing methadone dispensing daily by health region, as at December 2024*

| Health region |                                         | Number of dispensing sites |           | Number of clients |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Region No     | Name                                    |                            |           |                   |
| <b>1</b>      | Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital                | 23                         | 36        | 2,602             |
|               | Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre | 10                         |           | 1,128             |
|               | Beau Bassin Central Prison              | 3                          |           | 198               |
| <b>2</b>      | SSRN Hospital                           | -                          | 12        | 1,083             |
| <b>3</b>      | SAJ Hospital                            | -                          | 11        | 1,020             |
| <b>4</b>      | J. Nehru Hospital                       | 14                         | 20        | 466               |
|               | Mahebourg Hospital                      | 6                          |           | 854               |
| <b>5</b>      | Victoria Hospital                       | 11                         | 12        | 1,474             |
|               | Yves Cantin Rivière Noire               | 1                          |           | 127               |
|               | <b>All health regions</b>               |                            | <b>91</b> | <b>8,952</b>      |

### 2.2.3 Suboxone Detoxification Programme (MoHW)

In 2024, admissions for Suboxone detoxification were highest in the age group 18-24 and 31-39 years (33.3% equally), followed by the 40-49 years (16.7%). Frangipane centre has 88.9% of admissions for Suboxone detoxification while for Orchidée centre it is 11.1% (Table 31).

Table 31- Number of admissions for Suboxone Detoxification Programme by age group, 2024

| Age group<br>(Years) | New cases            |                    | Total |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
|                      | Frangipane<br>centre | Orchidée<br>centre |       |
| Less than 18         | -                    | 1                  | 1     |
| 18 – 24              | 5                    | 1                  | 6     |
| 25 – 30              | 2                    | -                  | 2     |
| 31 – 39              | 6                    | -                  | 6     |
| 40 – 49              | 3                    | -                  | 3     |
| 50 & over            | -                    | -                  | -     |
| All age groups       | 16                   | 2                  | 18    |

### 2.2.4 Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy (MoHW)

In 2024, new case of admissions for Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy were highest in the age group 31-39 years, with 34.3% followed by the age group 25-30 years (25.7%). Frangipane centre and Orchidée centre has 85.7% and 14.3% of new cases of admissions for Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy (Table 32).

Table 32- Number of admissions for Synthetic Rehabilitation Therapy by age group, 2024

| Age group<br>(Years) | New cases            |                    | Total |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
|                      | Frangipane<br>centre | Orchidée<br>centre |       |
| Less than 18         | -                    | -                  | -     |
| 18 – 24              | 4                    | -                  | 4     |
| 25 – 30              | 9                    | -                  | 9     |
| 31 – 39              | 8                    | 4                  | 12    |
| 40 – 49              | 5                    | 1                  | 6     |
| 50 & over            | 4                    | -                  | 4     |
| All age groups       | 30                   | 5                  | 35    |

### 2.2.5 Nenuphar Ward (MoHW)

In 2024, nearly 95.1% of the admissions at the Nenuphar centre for minors and young adults were in the age group 15-17 years.

The proportion of new admissions was highest in the age group 15-17 years (80.0%), while those in age group 10-14 years was 20.0% with only 2 cases. Re-admissions was only in the age group 15-17 years (Table 33).

*Table 33- Number of admissions (minors / young adults aged < 24 years) at Nenuphar centre by age group, 2024*

| Age group<br>(Years)  | Type of admissions |              | All admission<br>types |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                       | New                | Re-admission |                        |
| <b>Less than 10</b>   | -                  | -            | -                      |
| <b>10 – 14</b>        | 2                  | -            | <b>2</b>               |
| <b>15 – 17</b>        | 8                  | 31           | <b>39</b>              |
| <b>18 – 23</b>        | -                  | -            | -                      |
| <b>All age groups</b> | <b>10</b>          | <b>31</b>    | <b>41</b>              |

### 2.2.6 Rehabilitative, Care and Support Services by Non-Governmental Organisations

In 2024, among the 991 new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment, care and support at the different NGOs, 307 attended AILES (Aide-Infos-Liberté-Espoir-Solidarité), 164 Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge (CATR), 142 at the Dr Idrice Goomany Centre, 118 cases were at HELP De-Addiction and Centre de Solidarité Pour Une Nouvelle Vie (CDS) equally, 53 at Chrysalide, 41 at Sangram Sewa Sadan and 39 at Groupe A de cassis.

The average annual number of people seeking rehabilitative treatment at the 10 different NGOs for the 5-year period 2020-2024 was around 1,784. The number of people seeking rehabilitative treatment was the lowest (991) in 2024, while the highest number was observed in 2021 with 2,345 cases (Table 34).

Table 34- Number of new cases by NGOs seeking rehabilitative treatment due to drug use, 2020 – 2024

| Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)                                            | 2020         | 2021         | 2022         | 2023 <sup>1</sup> | 2024 <sup>3</sup> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge (CATR) <sup>2</sup>                              | -            | 415          | 364          | 368               | 164               |
| Ailes                                                                            | 76           | 164          | 415          | 650               | 307               |
| Ayurveda Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substances Abusers (ACTReSA) | 5            | 26           | 27           | 6                 | 2                 |
| Centre de Solidarité pour une nouvelle vie (CDS)                                 | 357          | 315          | 263          | 297               | 118               |
| Chrysalide                                                                       | 125          | 275          | 145          | 65                | 53                |
| Dr Idrice Goomany Centre                                                         | 359          | 455          | 189          | 175               | 142               |
| Groupe A de Cassis                                                               | 157          | 193          | 114          | 88                | 39                |
| Groupe Renaissance de Mahebourg                                                  | 250          | 93           | 117          | 10                | 7                 |
| HELP de Addiction                                                                | 399          | 337          | 164          | 204               | 118               |
| Sangram Sewa Sadan                                                               | 132          | 72           | 35           | 28                | 41                |
| <b>All NGOs</b>                                                                  | <b>1,860</b> | <b>2,345</b> | <b>1,833</b> | <b>1,891</b>      | <b>991</b>        |

<sup>1</sup> excludes 44 patients relates to Alcohol / smoking

<sup>2</sup> 530 residents in Year 2020

<sup>3</sup> excludes 53 patients relates to Alcohol / smoking

The majority of new cases attending the NGOs in 2024, (70.7%), were in the age group 18-39 years. New cases under 18 years represented only 2.3%, while those aged 40 years and above represented 27.0%.

During the period 2020-2024, the average annual number of new cases at NGOs was 53 for those aged less than 18 years, 918 among those aged between 18 and 29 years, and 475 for the age group 30-39 years.

In the age groups 40-49 years and 50 years and above an average annual number of 207 and 131 new cases were observed respectively for the same period (Table 35).

Table 35- Number of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment due to drug use by age group of patients, 2020 – 2024

| Age group (Years)     | 2020         |                | 2021         |                | 2022         |                | 2023         |                | 2024       |                | % Change 2024/2023 |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                       | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number       | Percentage (%) | Number     | Percentage (%) |                    |
| <b>Under 18</b>       | 72           | 3.9            | 92           | 3.9            | 41           | 2.2            | 38           | 2.0            | 23         | 2.3            | -39.5              |
| <b>18 – 29</b>        | 1,014        | 54.5           | 1,271        | 54.2           | 976          | 53.2           | 960          | 50.8           | 368        | 37.1           | -61.7              |
| <b>30 – 39</b>        | 459          | 24.7           | 608          | 25.9           | 478          | 26.1           | 495          | 26.2           | 333        | 33.6           | -32.7              |
| <b>40 – 49</b>        | 153          | 8.2            | 264          | 11.3           | 237          | 12.9           | 213          | 11.3           | 169        | 17.1           | -20.7              |
| <b>50 and over</b>    | 162          | 8.7            | 110          | 4.7            | 101          | 5.5            | 185          | 9.8            | 98         | 9.9            | -47.0              |
| <b>All age groups</b> | <b>1,860</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>2,345</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>1,833</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>1,891</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>991</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>-47.6</b>       |

Among the primary drug, heroin accounted for 73.2% of the new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at NGOs followed by NPS with 13.1%. Cannabis, polydrug, methadone accounted for 6.6%, 5.9% and 1.1%. Cocaine and other psychotropics accounted equally for 0.1% seeking rehabilitative treatment (Table 36).

Table 36- Distribution of new cases seeking rehabilitative treatment at NGOs (rehabilitation centres) by type of substance used and gender, 2024

| Primary drug                       | Male       | Percentage (%) | Female     | Percentage (%) | Both sexes | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| <b>Heroin/Brown sugar</b>          | <b>648</b> | <b>74.0</b>    | <b>77</b>  | <b>67.0</b>    | <b>725</b> | <b>73.2</b>    |
| <b>Cocaine</b>                     | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>0.9</b>     | <b>1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>     |
| <b>Cannabis</b>                    | <b>60</b>  | <b>6.8</b>     | <b>5</b>   | <b>4.3</b>     | <b>65</b>  | <b>6.6</b>     |
| <b>Methadone</b>                   | <b>8</b>   | <b>0.9</b>     | <b>3</b>   | <b>2.6</b>     | <b>11</b>  | <b>1.1</b>     |
| <b>New Psychoactive Substances</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>14.0</b>    | <b>7</b>   | <b>6.1</b>     | <b>130</b> | <b>13.1</b>    |
| <b>Polydrug</b>                    | <b>36</b>  | <b>4.1</b>     | <b>22</b>  | <b>19.1</b>    | <b>58</b>  | <b>5.9</b>     |
| <b>Other psychotropics</b>         | <b>1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>     | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>     |
| <b>All Primary drugs</b>           | <b>876</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>115</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>991</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

## 2.2.7 Needle Exchange Programme

The Needle Exchange Programme (NEP) is implemented mainly by the HRU of the MoHW and NGO Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT).

In 2024, some 827,329 needles and 798,261 syringes were distributed to people who inject drugs. Out of the 827,329 needles, NGO accounted for 60.2% of the distribution, against 39.8% for the MoHW (Table 37).

Table 37- Number of syringes and needles distributed by MoHW & NGOs for Needle Exchange Programme (NEP), 2024

| NSP service provider                               | Syringes       |                | Needles        |                |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                    | Number         | Percentage (%) | Number         | Percentage (%) |
| <b>Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)</b>      | 312,416        | 39.1           | 329,533        | 39.8           |
| <b>Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) (CUT)</b> | 485,845        | 60.9           | 497,796        | 60.2           |
| <b>All service providers</b>                       | <b>798,261</b> | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>827,329</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

For the period 2021-2024, the highest annual number of syringes distributed was in 2023 with 943,729 syringes while the lowest number was in 2021 with 701,497 syringes. The average annual number during the same period works out to 802,470 syringes (Table 38).

Table 38- Number of syringes distributed, 2021 – 2024

| NSP service provider                               | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | 2024           |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)</b>      | 321,782        | 359,625        | 525,265        | 312,416        |
| <b>Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) (CUT)</b> | 379,715        | 406,769        | 418,464        | 485,845        |
| <b>All service providers</b>                       | <b>701,497</b> | <b>766,394</b> | <b>943,729</b> | <b>798,261</b> |

### 2.3 Death Related to Drug Use - Police Medical Unit

The Police Medical Unit reported 36 direct deaths related to drug use based on toxicology results received up to July 2024. The majority of the death cases was male with 34 death cases and 2 female death cases. Out of the 36 deaths, 21 were aged between 25-34 years, 11 were 35 years and above, while 4 death cases were within the younger age group of 18-24.

Among the 36 direct deaths, 31 deaths cases were due to opioid analgesics, 2 deaths cases due to benzodiazepine and 3 deaths cases were for other drugs were detected (Table 39).

*Table 39- Number of direct deaths related to drug use by sex, age group and class of drugs detected, 2024*

| Drug class                | Male      | Female   | Both Sexes | Years |          |           |           |          | All age groups |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|
|                           |           |          |            | < 18  | 18 – 24  | 25 – 34   | 35 – 64   | 65 +     |                |
| <b>Opioids analgesics</b> | 29        | 2        | <b>31</b>  | -     | 3        | 19        | 8         | 1        | <b>31</b>      |
| <b>Benzodiazepines</b>    | 2         | -        | <b>2</b>   | -     | -        | 1         | 1         | -        | <b>2</b>       |
| <b>Others</b>             | 3         | -        | <b>3</b>   | -     | 1        | 1         | 1         | -        | <b>3</b>       |
| <b>All drug classes</b>   | <b>34</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>36</b>  | -     | <b>4</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>36</b>      |

The Police Medical Unit reported 28 indirect deaths related to drug use based on toxicology results received up to July 2024. The majority of the death cases were male with 25 deaths cases and 3 female deaths cases. Out of the 28 deaths, 12 were aged between 25-34 years, 13 were aged 35 years and above, while 3 cases were within the younger age group of 18-24.

Among the 28 indirect deaths cases, 22 were due to opioid analgesics, benzodiazepine and for other drugs accounted for 3 death cases equally (Table 40).

*Table 40- Number of indirect deaths related to drug use by sex, age group and class of drugs detected, 2024*

| Drug class                | Male      | Female   | Both Sexes | Years |          |           |           |      | All age groups |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|
|                           |           |          |            | < 18  | 18 – 24  | 25 – 34   | 35 – 64   | 65 + |                |
| <b>Opioids analgesics</b> | 20        | 2        | <b>22</b>  | -     | 2        | 10        | 10        | -    | <b>22</b>      |
| <b>Benzodiazepines</b>    | 3         | -        | <b>3</b>   | -     | -        | -         | 3         | -    | <b>3</b>       |
| <b>Others</b>             | 2         | 1        | <b>3</b>   | -     | 1        | 2         | -         | -    | <b>3</b>       |
| <b>All drug classes</b>   | <b>25</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>28</b>  | -     | <b>3</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | -    | <b>28</b>      |

*Note: Indirect death includes death due to road traffic accident, hanging, history fall and electrocution*

*Figures are from January to July 2024*

### 3. Drug Use Prevention Programme

Prevention programmes against drugs are conducted mainly at educational institutions, at the workplace as well as in the community at large mainly through events, talks and exhibitions amongst others.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource (MoEHR) has introduced an evidence-based drug prevention programmes comprising of 12 modules implemented with grade 8 students known as “Get Connected”.

Among the 10 NGOs, only Dr Idrice Goomany Centre is involved in the “Get Connected” Programme, while of the remaining nine NGOs only three have conducted talks on drug prevention with students in educational institutions.

The Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) - MoHW and the Education Cell of the ADSU conducted regular sensitisation programmes at schools, the workplace and at the level of the community.

#### 3.1 Harm Reduction Unit - MoHW

The HRU of the MoHW reached out to some 15,268 students in educational institutions, 1,850 workers at the workplace and 1,356 individuals in the community with sensitisation programmes against drugs in 2024. As such, it conducted 265 sensitisation sessions in educational institutions, 79 sessions at workplace and 39 in the community.

The number of sensitisation sessions conducted in educational institutions which were 247 in 2020, decreased significantly to 8 sessions in 2021, particularly due to the COVID 19 situation. In 2022, the HRU conducted 97 and 234 in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

In 2024, the HRU had 383 sessions where 18,474 of persons were sensitised (Table 41).

*Table 41- Number of sessions and number of persons reached by Harm Reduction Unit (MoHW), 2020 – 2024*

| Target group                                    | 2020     |                 | 2021     |                 | 2022     |                 | 2023     |                 | 2024     |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
|                                                 | Sessions | Persons reached | Sessions | Persons reached | Sessions | Persons reached | Sessions | Persons reached | Sessions | Persons reached |
| <b>Educational Institutions</b>                 | 247      | 6,677           | 8        | 231             | 97       | 2,788           | 234      | 11,485          | 265      | 15,268          |
| <b>Community</b>                                | 78       | 2,616           | 20       | 559             | 22       | 683             | 36       | 954             | 39       | 1,356           |
| <b>Workplace (public &amp; private sectors)</b> | 63       | 1,568           | 20       | 377             | 104      | 2,322           | 89       | 2,020           | 79       | 1,850           |
| <b>Total target groups</b>                      | 388      | 10,861          | 48       | 1,167           | 223      | 5,793           | 359      | 14,459          | 383      | 18,474          |

### 3.2 Ministry of Education and Human Resource (MoEHR)

The MoEHR implemented an evidence-based drug prevention programme for students of Grade 8 known as the ‘Get Connected’ Programme.

In 2024, the ‘Get Connected’ Programme was implemented in 39 State Secondary Schools of all the 4 educational zones and 42 schools under the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA), reaching out to 9,812 students as reported by MoEHR (Health and Wellness Directorate) (Table 42).

*Table 42- Number of schools<sup>1</sup> and students reached by zone (Ministry of Education and HR), ‘Get Connected’ programme, 2024*

| Zone               | Number of schools | Number of students reached |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1                  | 18                | 2,285                      |
| 2                  | 7                 | 751                        |
| 3                  | 7                 | 1,042                      |
| 4                  | 7                 | 1,030                      |
| PSEA               | 42                | 4,704                      |
| <b>Total Zones</b> | <b>81</b>         | <b>9,812</b>               |

<sup>1</sup> includes State Secondary Colleges and Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA)

### 3.3 ADSU Educational Cell

In 2024, drug prevention programme of the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) education cell targeted students of educational institutions, the population in general at community level and employees at the workplace. The total number of participants reached, was 18,567. The highest number was in the Education/vocational institutions (7,895) followed by community (7,594) (Table 43).

*Table 43- Number of sessions and number of persons reached by ADSU Education cell (Mauritius Police Force), 2024*

| Target group                                 | Number of participants |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Educational / Vocational Institutions</b> | 7,895                  |
| <b>Workplace</b>                             | 3,078                  |
| <b>Community</b>                             | 7,594                  |
| <b>All target groups</b>                     | <b>18,567</b>          |

### 3.4 Non- Governmental Organisations

In 2024, NGOs conducted drug prevention activities in educational institutions, in the community, at the workplace as well as targeted programmes for youth.

A total of 18,327 persons were reached through these programmes, the vast majority being the community at large with 11,647 persons.

Only 4 NGOs conducted drug prevention programmes in educational institutions namely Action for Health Care and Prevention (709 students), Dr Idrice Goomany Centre (323 students), Ailes (75 students) and Centre de Solidarité Pour Une Nouvelle Vie (55 students).

The Idrice Goomany Centre is the sole NGO implementing the ‘Get Connected’ Programme at secondary schools. (Table 44)

*Table 44- Number of prevention activities by NGOs and target group, 2024*

| Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)                                                         | Educational Institution | Community     | Workplace  | Youth in the community | Online    | All target groups |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Action for Health Care and Prevention <sup>1</sup>                                            | 709                     | -             | -          | 270                    | -         | 979               |
| Ailes                                                                                         | 75                      | 380           | -          | 221                    | -         | 676               |
| Ayurveda Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substances Abusers (ACTReSA) <sup>1</sup> | -                       | 7,545         | -          | -                      | -         | 7,545             |
| Centre de Solidarité pour une nouvelle vie (CDS)                                              | 55                      | 420           | 60         | -                      | -         | 535               |
| Chrysalide                                                                                    | -                       | 15            | -          | -                      | -         | 15                |
| Dr Idrice Goomany Centre                                                                      | 323                     | 205           | 315        | 235                    | -         | 1,078             |
| Groupe A de Cassis                                                                            | -                       | 1,769         | -          | 1,675                  | 34        | 3,478             |
| Groupe Renaissance de Mahebourg                                                               | -                       | 87            | -          | 103                    | -         | 190               |
| HELP de Addiction                                                                             | -                       | 1,226         | -          | 2,605                  | -         | 3,831             |
| Sangram Sewa Sadan                                                                            | -                       | -             | -          | -                      | -         | -                 |
| <b>Total NGOs</b>                                                                             | <b>1,162</b>            | <b>11,647</b> | <b>375</b> | <b>5,109</b>           | <b>34</b> | <b>18,327</b>     |

<sup>1</sup> comprises Centre d’Accueil de Terre Rouge (CATR) and Centre Frère Réne Guillemin (CFRG)

