

Healthy School: Tips for parents



Published by the Anti-drug Education Section, Education Bureau <http://www.edb.gov.hk/antidrugforparents>

July 2014 (3rd Issue)

Increasing number of young people involved in trafficking of drugs

As the long summer vacation has already begun, we strongly suggest parents to continue taking care of their children because villains would always use various means to lure young people into taking drugs or participating in drug trafficking during school holidays. To prevent their children from being affected by unhealthy deeds, parents should make good use of the summer vacation to arrange and join more healthy activities with them.

According to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse, the total number of reported drug abusers in the first quarter of 2014 was 13% lower than that of the same period of 2013. However, latest information from the Hong Kong Police indicated that the number of young people, aged 10 to 15, arrested for trafficking in dangerous drugs, has increased from 52 in 2012 to 95 in 2013, representing a rise of 82%. Many youngsters were misled by drug traffickers that, being under the age of 16, they would have lesser legal liability for drug trafficking or drug abuse than adults. They thought they would only be put on probation under the supervision of probation officers instead of being sentenced to imprisonment. As a matter of fact, according to law of Hong Kong, a person who is guilty of the offence of trafficking in drugs shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$5,000,000 and life imprisonment. Therefore, to avoid giving chances to drug traffickers, parents should pay attention to the behaviour of their children, provide guidance and instill positive values to them.

A court case involving a boy aged below 16 who was found guilty of trafficking in 1.45kg of Ketamine

Name: Ming (anonym)

Age: 15

Sex: Male

Case:

Trafficking in a dangerous drug
(1.45 kg of ketamine)

Sentence:

8.5 years of imprisonment



Ming was approached by his "new friend" who asked if he wanted to earn money by making a delivery of some precious tea, for which he would be paid \$1,500. He accepted the offer and was immediately given the cash. Ming and his "new friend" collected two bags underneath a traffic cone inside a subway in Sheung Shui. He was told to keep one of the bags and give it to someone later. They were then intercepted by the plainclothes officers from the Customs and Excise Department. Their bags were searched, in which 1.45 kg of ketamine was found. Ming was only 15 when he was apprehended. According to the sentencing guidelines handed down by the Court of Appeal, trafficking in quantities of over 1 kg of ketamine would be sentenced of 14 years upwards. As Ming had pleaded guilty, he was sentenced to 8.5 years of imprisonment.

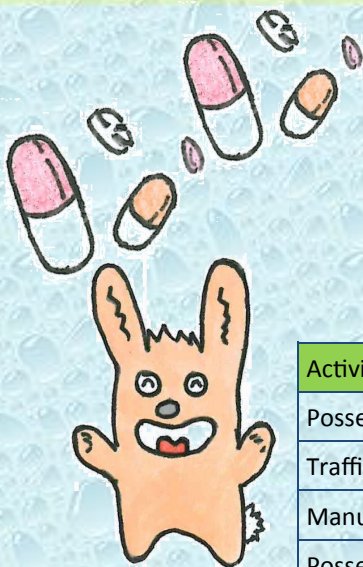
Source: Webpage of the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

* 此內容不提供中文版本

* No Chinese version is provided for this part

Maximum Sentence of the Drug Related Legislation

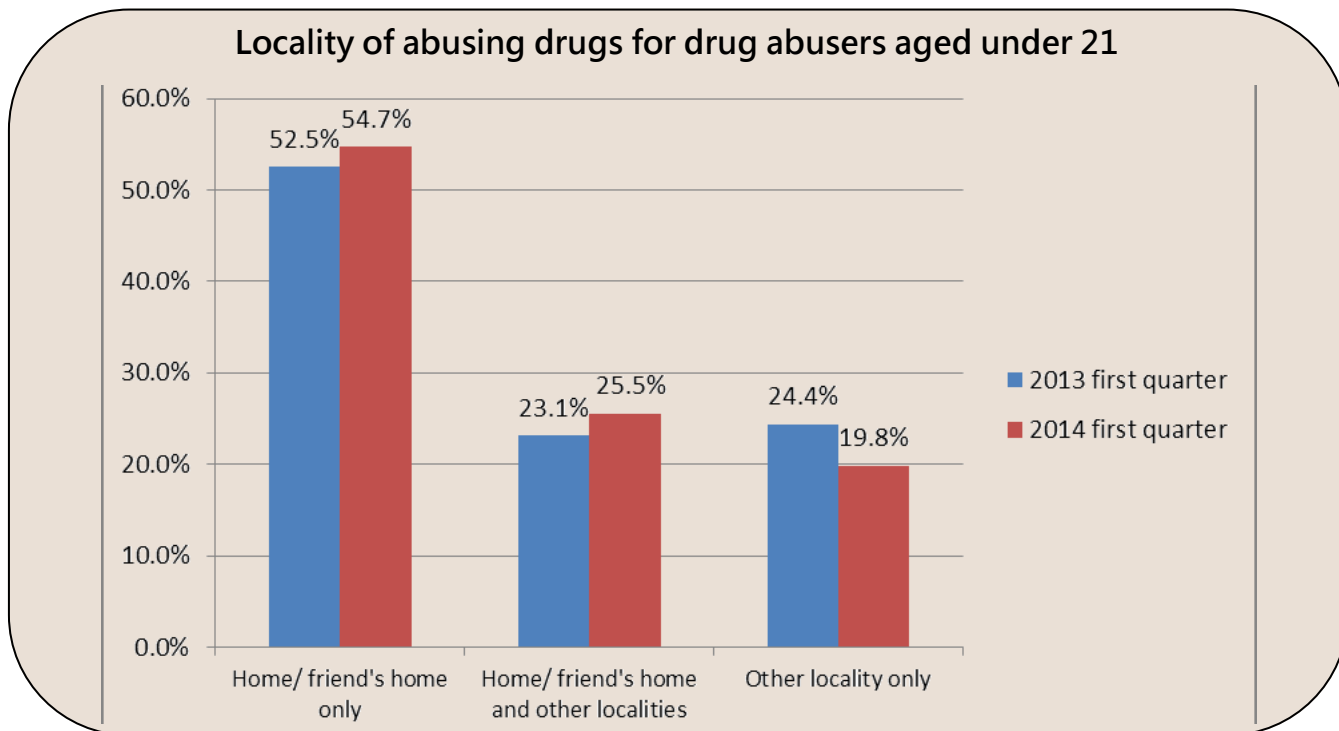
Activity	Fine	Imprisonment
Possession or consumption of drug	HK \$1,000,000	7 Years
Trafficking in drug	HK \$5,000,000	Life imprisonment
Manufacture of dangerous drug	HK \$5,000,000	Life imprisonment
Possession of pipes and equipment, etc for taking drugs	HK \$10,000	3 Years



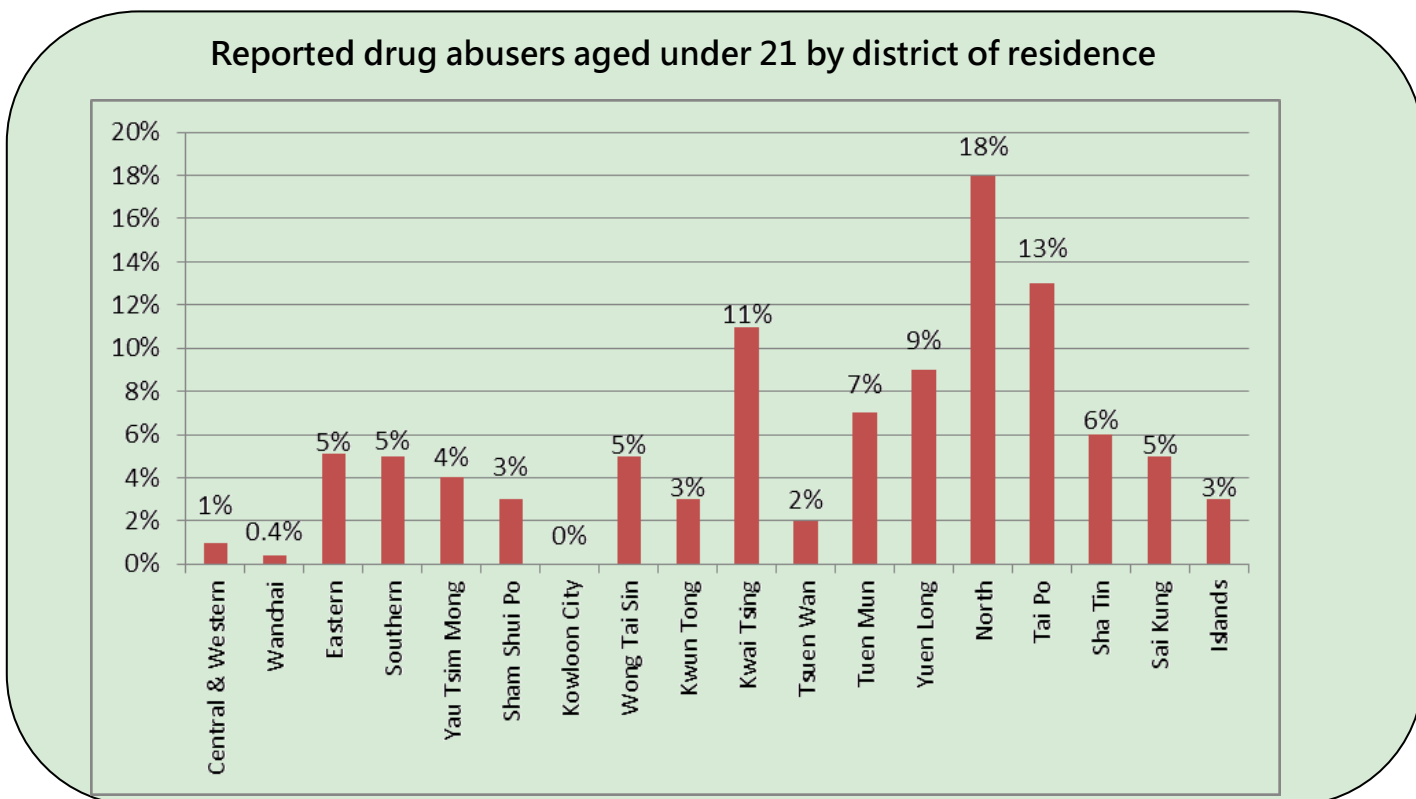
Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse, Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau

Latest situation of youth drug abuse

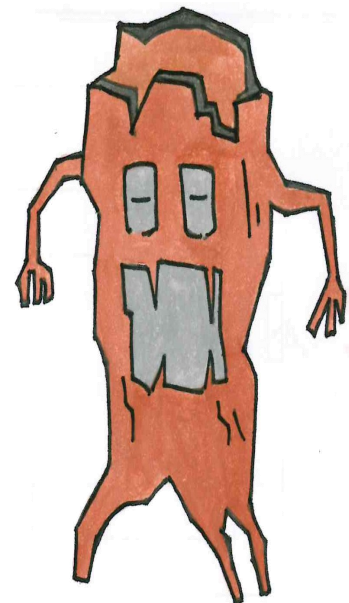
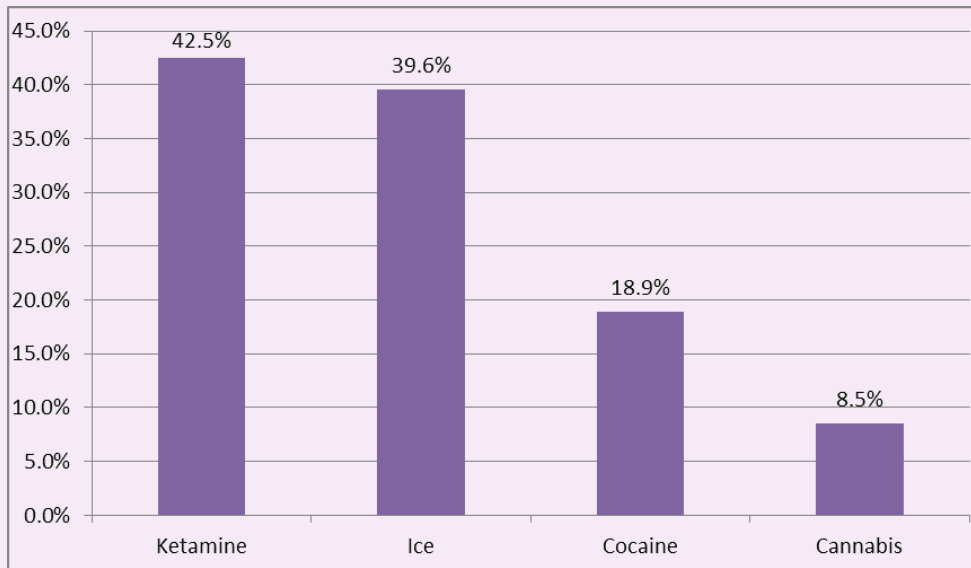
(Statistics for the first quarter of 2014)



- The statistics revealed the growing trend of **hidden drug abuse**. Most young drug abusers chose to take drugs at home
- The time of abusing drugs by newly reported abusers increased from 1.9 years in 2008 to 5.3 years in the first quarter of 2014



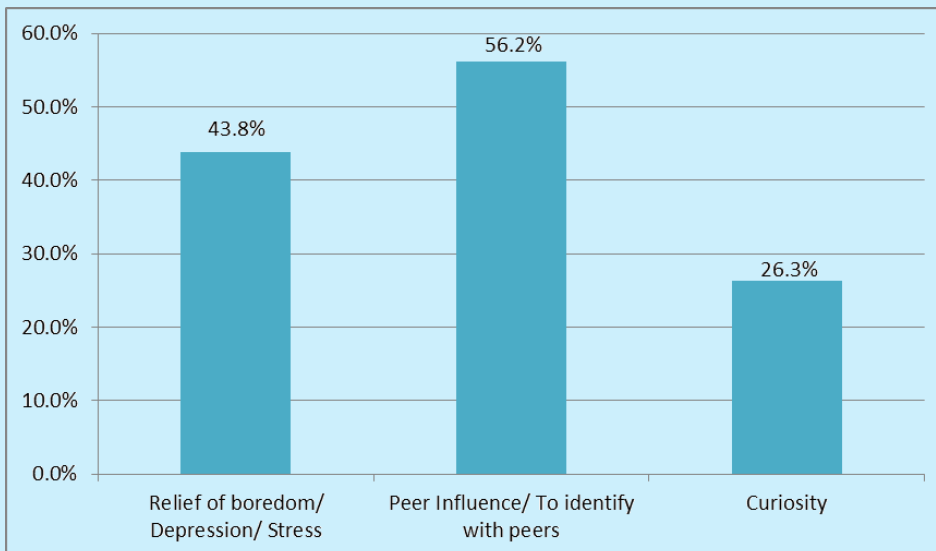
Common type of drugs abuse



Mean age of first drug abuse

Male	15 years old
Female	14 years old

Reason for drug abuse



Anti-drug education tips for parents

Parents should provide guidance and seek help from professionals timely if they notice the following signs/ behaviours in their children:

- ◆ Unexplained absence from school and lagging behind in academic performance suddenly
- ◆ Staying out till very late frequently, prolonged or frequent absence from home
- ◆ Repeatedly asking for more pocket money or disappearance of valuables in home
- ◆ Withdrawal into their bedroom/ toilet for unusually long period of time or staying away from other family members
- ◆ Sudden mood changes, unusual excitement, poor memory, auditory and visual hallucinations, short-tempered, restlessness and disordered sleeping patterns
- ◆ Loss of appetite, fatigue, slurred speech, slow responses
- ◆ Their friends appear to be sneaky and speak impliedly with argot
- ◆ Unpleasant body odor
- ◆ Possession of pills and powder from unknown source, drug paraphernalia like cough syrup bottles, tin foil, plastic bottles or cartons of drink with two straws, exceptionally short straws, etc.



STAY CALM if you find your children taking drugs
Avoid criticizing, listen to them first and seek help from professionals



Source: Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau

How much do you know about drugs

The following two things : a packet of tissues and banknotes look common, but in fact they are related to drugs.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Picture 1 :

Some drug abusers may soak up the tissue with organic solvent so that they can inhale the vapour whenever they need it but will not be discovered easily.

Picture 2 :

Drugs (for example: ketamine) are wrapped up with banknotes. It makes them more portable and transactions can be done more easily.

Seeking Help



<p>186 186 Anti-drug Telephone Enquiry Service</p>	<p>A 24-hour anti-drug telephone service hotline manned by professional social workers. It provides a channel for the drug abusers and their parents to seek help.</p>
<p>98 186 186 Anti-drug enquiry service through instant messaging platforms - WhatsApp, WeChat</p>	<p>You can use the two mobile phone applications to send message to "98 186 186". The service is operated by professional social workers to provide advice and assistance.</p>

11 Counselling Centers for Psychotropic Substance Abusers

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - CROSS Centre

Central Western, Southern and Islands Office (Central Western, Southern and Islands districts) Tel. : 2884 0282

Eastern and Wanchai Office (Eastern and Wan Chai districts) Tel. : 2884 0282

Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service

Evergreen Lutheran Centre (Kwun Tong district) Tel. : 2712 0097

Rainbow Lutheran Centre (Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung districts) Tel. : 2330 8004

Cheer Lutheran Centre (Tai Po and North districts) Tel. : 2660 0400

Hong Kong Christian Service

PS33 - Tsimshatsui Centre (Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong districts) Tel. : 2368 8269

PS33 - Sham Shui Po Centre (Sham Shui Po district) Tel. : 3572 0673

Hong Kong Children and Youth Services Sane Centre (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts) Tel. : 2402 1010

Caritas HUGS Centre (Tuen Mun district) Tel. : 2453 7030

Evangelical Lutheran Church Hong Kong, Enlighten Centre (Yuen Long district) Tel. : 2446 9226

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Neo-Horizon (Sha Tin district) Tel. : 8202 1313



For web version, please browse the Healthy School Policy webpage, Education Bureau:

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/antidrugforparents>