

# 澳門禁毒報告書

Relatorio da Luta Contra a Droga em Macau

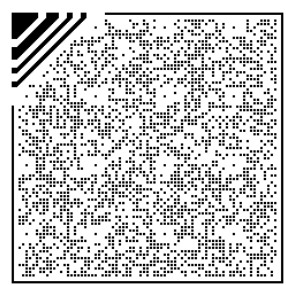
Report on Drug Control in Macao



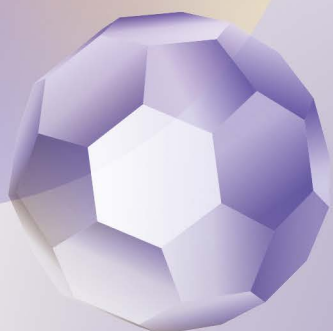
# 2021

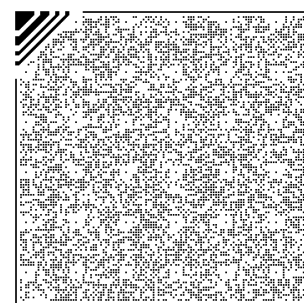


澳門特別行政區政府社會工作局  
INSTITUTO DE ACÇÃO SOCIAL DO GOVERNO DA RAEM



# **I. Drug Control Policy in Macau and the Situation of Drug Problem**





# I. Drug Control Policy in Macau and the Situation of Drug Problem

## (I) Drug Control Policy in Macau

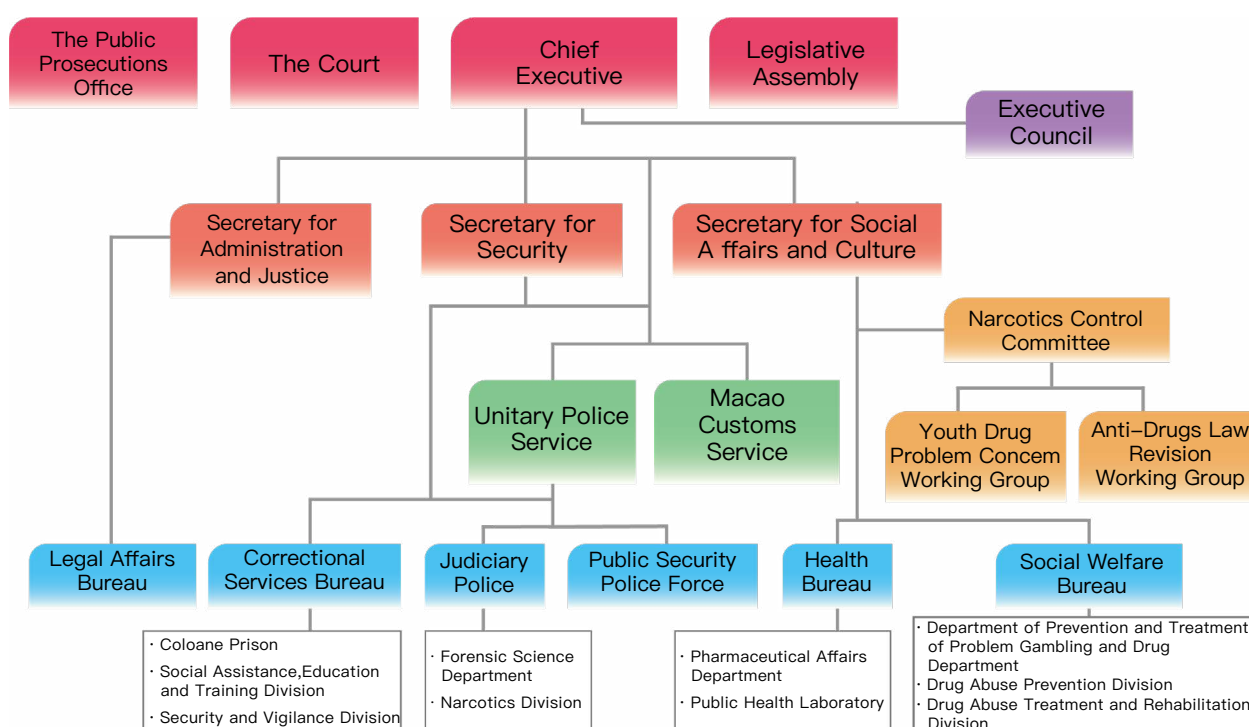
The work of fighting drug-related crimes and prevention and treatment of drug dependence in Macao is fully implemented by relevant government departments under the Secretariat for Security and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of Macao SAR Government. Through the cooperation of various anti-drug departments and the cooperation of the civil society, the measures for anti-drug abuse and prevention and treatment of drug dependence are implemented in an all-round manner. The legislation and enforcement of fighting drug-related crimes are strengthened in response to the world drug-related situation and the actual conditions of Macao. The promotion and development of outreach exchange and cooperation in drug-related affairs are highly emphasised.

The Macao SAR Government continues to actively implement the three major anti-drug strategies by controlling the supply, reducing the demand and reducing the damage, establishing a comprehensive anti-drug system in aspects of legislation, justice, administration, health care, social services and education, etc., ensuring a continuous safe and healthy society.

Juvenile drug abuse in using new-types drugs is becoming constantly invisible these years, which is raising public concern. To tackle related problems, the Narcotics Control Committee (hereinafter referred to as “NCC”) and the two Working Groups under the Committee (Youth Drug Problem Concern Working Group, Anti-drugs Law Revision Working Group) have discussed about the countermeasures, actively optimize and implement the drug control works.

## (II) Drug Situation in Macau

Organization Chart of Anti-drug Departments in Macau



Remarks: According to the Macau S.A.R. Administrative Regulation no. 35/2021, Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau is founded since 1st January 2022, which takes the responsibility to research, plan, coordinate and proceed the relevant pharmaceutical administration and management in Macau S.A.R.



## 1. Types of Drugs

According to the "Macao Drug Abusers Central Registration System" (hereinafter referred to as the System), the data showed that the total number of reported drug abusers in 2021 was 231; counted in person-time, the most common drug among abusers was crystal meth (methamphetamine), accounting for 37.7% of the most frequently abused drugs, followed by cocaine cases and heroine (white powder), accounting for 11.4% and 10.1% respectively. Among the young drug abusers who were under aged 21; crystal meth and marijuana cases were the most common among them, accounting for 41.7% and 16.7% respectively.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread, drug trafficking groups have introduced new methods of drug trafficking, which became more and more networked and digitized, making the drug trafficking model quite stealthy. In 2021, the Judiciary Police Bureau cracked several large-scale cross-border drug trafficking cases, including a case of liquid cocaine trafficked under the guise of red wine, with a total of 7,475 milliliters, and a marijuana case that seized a total of 1.6 kg of marijuana. The other seized drugs included ketamine and methamphetamine (crystal).

Methamphetamine (crystal) was among the most common seized drugs, accounting for 34.7% of the total number of cases in the year, then this was followed by benzodiazepines, accounting for 14.9%, also followed by ketamine, accounting for 13.9%, the rest included cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and ma gu, which together accounted for 36.5% of the total.

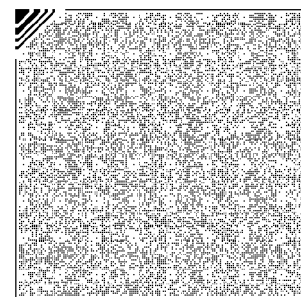
In terms of new drugs, there were 69 cases of happy powder and happy water since 2010, the controlled ingredient was mainly MDMA; in addition, derivatives of cathinone were also detected, and there were 12 types of synthetic cannabinoids, and synthetic cannabinoids were also detected in the e-liquid submitted for inspection. Following a total of 3 cases detected in ketamine derivative 2-FDCK (fluoroamine) in 2019 and 2020, there were also 5 cases in 2021.

According to the data of Coloane Prison, there was a downward trend of 2.1% in the number of prisoners imprisoned in 2021 reported to have abused drugs. Methamphetamine (crystal) was among the most common seized drugs, accounting for 66.7% of the total number of cases, then this was followed by marijuana, accounting for 22.2%.

## 2. Drug Abuse

The data from the System showed that the tendency of "hidden" drug abuse continued. More than 70% of abusers use drugs in their homes, their friends' homes and hotels. In 2021, there were 456 drug abusers seeking for help from the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division of Social Welfare Bureau, of which 91 were new cases. In terms of overall new cases, males accounted for 79.1%; in terms of composition characteristics, the age of 29 or less accounted for 24.2%; in terms of the type of drug, it involves mainly new drugs such as methamphetamine ("crystal meth") and alcohol. (For details, please refer to Part 7 Investigation and Research)





### Statistics on the cases of voluntary detoxification in the past five years

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total of Cases	460	576	508	455	456
New Cases	24	115	95	95	91

Remarks: The cases of voluntary detoxification in 2018 are included those from the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division and two non-governmental drug treatment institutes (Christian New Life Fellowship in Macao “S.Y. Tribe Smart-Youth” and “We Point”) .

### 3. Combating drug-related crimes

Under the background of regular epidemic prevention and control, the trend of drug trafficking in Macao continued to be dominated by parcel delivery and drug trafficking by people from Southeast Asia. Under the targeted deployment of crackdowns, the number of detected cases in both types increased year-on-year. In terms of cracking down on the sale of marijuana in the community, a mechanism for early warning and notification has been established with law enforcement departments in neighbouring areas. Moreover, a local drug trafficking group was successfully dismantled, who purchased drugs abroad and sold them domestically.

The inspection and drug interception capabilities of the ports are comprehensively enhanced, including the plan to set up a new generation of body scanners and portable rapid drug inspection machines at the newly opened Qingmao Port. At the same time, aiming at the drug-related problems of non-local employees, a series of lectures on drug crime prevention has been organised together with local civil organisations.

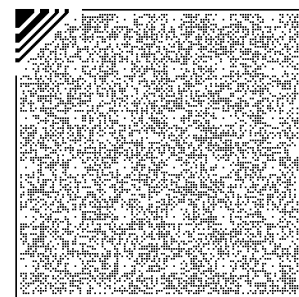
According to the data from Public Prosecutions Office of Macao SAR on drug cases, 111 drug crime cases were investigated in 2021, which was 5.9% decreased from 118 in 2020. There were 186 charges in 2021, a rise of 1.1% compared to 184 charges in 2020.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Register for investigation (per case)	248	190	209	118	111
Prosecution (per case)	438	328	259	184	186

The Customs’ statistics gathered from all ports at Macau showed that the ephedrine became the most seized drug in 2021, the following one were psychiatric medications due to unable to consult doctors in neighboring ports during Covid-19. Under the effect from Covid-19, there were no cocaine and marijuana found out in various ports.

## Types and amount of drugs seized by the Macao Customs Service in the past five years

Type of drugs	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
White pills (ephedrine)	tablet	—	—	—	—	2,787
Pink pills (ephedrine)	tablet	—	—	—	—	1,833
Poppy seed	g	—	—	—	—	1,160
Medicine (with bromazepam)	tablet	—	—	—	—	479
Medicine XANAX (Alprazolam) 0.25mg	tablet	—	—	—	—	240
Medicine (DIAZEPAM 2mg)	tablet	—	—	—	—	187
Medicine (Zolpidem Tab 10mg)	tablet	—	—	—	—	120
Medicine (DIAZEPAM TABLETS 5mg)	tablet	—	—	—	—	90
Medicine (Zolpidem Tartrate 10mg)	tablet	—	—	—	—	83
Medicine (Diazepam 5mg)	tablet	—	—	—	—	77
Stilnox(Zolpidem)Tab. 10mg sleeping pills	tablet	—	—	—	40	60
Poppy seed (containing the controlled substances – morphine, codeine and thebaine)	g	—	—	—	25,000	—
Codeine	ml	—	—	—	1,920	—
Akamon(Bromazepam)Tab. 1.5mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	252	—
Rivotril(Clonazepam)Tab 0.5mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	114	—
Domar(Bromazepam)Cap. 5mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	90	—
Chlordiazepoxid Cap. 5mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	84	—
Lorans(Lorazepam)Tab. 2mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	60	—
Zolman(Zolpidem)F.C. Tab 10mg Sleeping pills	tablet	—	—	—	60	—
Akamon(Bromazepam)Tab. 3mg (BZO)	tablet	—	—	—	30	—
Cocaine	g	16.02	60.43	3.29	—	—
Marijuana	g	27.95	—	0.46	—	—
Cough Medicine (containing codeine and ephedrine )	g	—	71	—	—	—
Heroin	g	0.34	18.78	—	—	—
Clonazepam	g	—	3.68	—	—	—
Methamphetamine	g	26.10	2.98	—	—	—
Nitrazepam	g	—	1.4	—	—	—
Ketamine	g	5.63	—	—	—	—
Nimetazepam	g	0.50	—	—	—	—



#### 4. Situation of infectious diseases among drug abusers

Regarding the situation of HIV/AIDS infection among drug abusers in Macao, with the sustained service project of methadone maintenance treatment and the establishment of non-governmental rehabilitation outreach centers, ideal results are yielded for rehabilitation seekers who need all kinds of medical examinations. The cases of various infectious diseases have been stabilized and the case of HIV/AIDS infection and transmission among drug abusers are effectively in control.

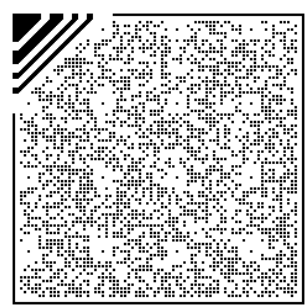
Statistics on HIV/AIDS infection in Macao in the past five years

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
HIV virus	33	37	66	51	56
AIDS	9	12	10	18	39
HIV infection by syringe sharing	0	0	1*	0	0
AIDS infection by syringe sharing	2	2	0	0	0

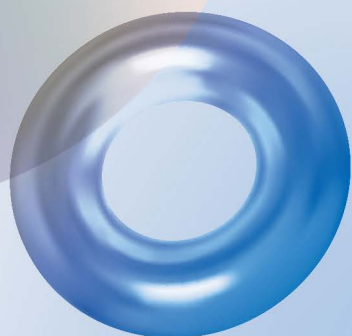
Remark: \*imported case

#### 5. Adding new restricted substances into the law

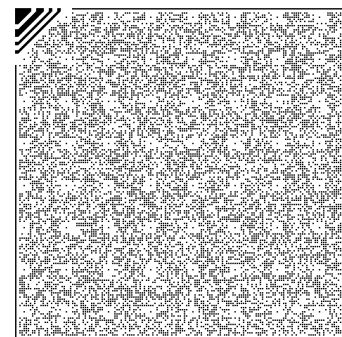
The 63rd session of the “United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs” (hereafter referred to as UNCND) approved to add a number of substances into the international list of restricted substances. Accordingly, on 20th July, 2021, Macao Legislative Assembly approved the Law No. 10/2021, modified by Law No. 17/2009 “Prohibition of illicit production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances” (hereafter referred to as “Anti-Drug Law”). This amendment to Law No. 17/2009 only amends the Appendix of the Law. In order to fulfil the requirement of Article 2(3) of the Law and the international obligation, 9 substances and 1 precursor, which were not prohibited in Macao but recently became restricted internationally, were added into the Appendix.



## II. Narcotics Control Committee







## II. Narcotics Control Committee

In order to co-ordinate all sectors of the society, fighting drug-related crime and implementing drug abuse prevention, the Government of Macau SAR established Narcotics Control Committee (NCC) in 2008. According to Chief Executive's Order No.179/2008, the Committee includes antidrug-related governmental departments, representatives from non-governmental organizations and prominent figures in the society, working for two years as a term. The current Narcotics Control Committee has started operation since 18th September 2020 (please refer to the attachment for the list of members). NCC is an advisory body with the aim of assisting the Macau SAR Government in formulating and implementing policies to combat drug abuse and to control drug dependence. In particular, it aims to implement the strategies and projects to facilitate anti-drug affairs in Macau through cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary co-ordination. Therefore, NCC holds regular general meetings every year to collect comments and suggestions from the members on the above-mentioned anti-drug work and policies.

### (I) Plenary Meeting

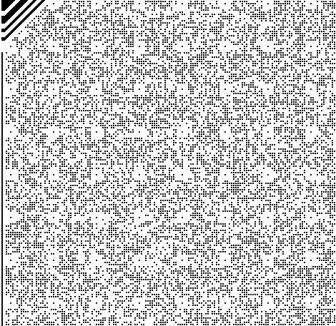
There were two plenary meetings held in 2021, the first plenary meeting was held on 20th April, chaired by Ms. Ao leong U, the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. The first plenary meeting concluded NCC's work in 2020, introduced a work plan in 2021, information on recent drug-related crimes in Macau, 2020 statistics of the "Central Registration System for Drug Abusers of Macau", reporting on the work of "Youth Drug Problem Concern Working Group" and "Anti-Drug Law Enforcement and Follow-up Working Group", the draft resolution of the 64th session of United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the information on coordinating work between NCC and other departments of Macau.

The second plenary meeting was held on 11th November, chaired by Mr. Hon Wai, the Acting Chairman of the Committee and Director of Social Welfare Bureau. The main agenda of this meeting included: reporting on the Committee's current working situation and working plan in 2022; study result of "Trend of drug abusing, demands on rehabilitation and development plan", the current situation of drug-related crimes in Macao, the data on "Macao Drug Abuse Central Registration System" from the first half of 2021; the work of "Youth Drug Problem Concern Working Group" and "Anti-Drug Law Enforcement and Follow-up Working Group"; the work regarding the United Nations and Macao's follow-up work to the international listing of regulated substances.

### (II) Meetings of the two Working Groups

#### 1.Youth Drug Problem Concern Working Group

The first working group meeting was held on 31st March, 2021. The second meeting was cancelled to cooperate with the SAR government's epidemic prevention measures. The contents of the meeting included: following up on the annual major work on drug abuse prevention and special plans; continuing to focus the drug abuse prevention work for college students, parents and professionals, strengthening the ability of individual cases to reintegrate into society, and encouraging the use of multimedia online platforms to promote anti-drug work.



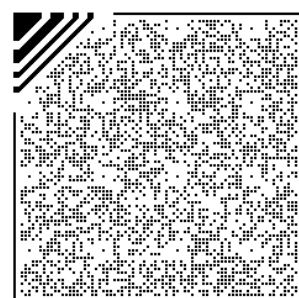
## 2. Anti-Drug Law Enforcement and Follow-up Working Group

In 2021, two meetings of the working group were held on 24th March and 21st September respectively. The contents of the meeting included: following up on cases referred to by judicial measures and the Youth Support Programme “Knowing how to come back after being lost in drugs”; continuously reviewing the implementation of the Anti-Drug Law and making recommendations; continuing to strengthen the promotion of anti-drug law popularisation to the community of different nationalities, and increasing anti-drug and law-abiding awareness of people of foreign nationalities.

## (III) Outreach and exchange in Macao

In response to the development of the epidemic around the world and to cooperate with the SAR Government's epidemic prevention work, the two Working Groups under the Narcotics Control Committee (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”) continued to visit public organisations and civil institutions in Macao. The Working Group members visited Macao Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Association (ARTM) on 5th March, learning about the operation of civil drug rehabilitation institutions and related vocational training in Macao. Through the discussion and sharing of both sides, the staff gave briefings on drug treatment residential services and treatment models, current status of services and vocational training plans. Afterwards, the groups visited two huts in the Nossa Senhora Village of Ká Hó to learn about the “Hold On to Hope” vocational training internship programme; they exchanged with a number of rehabilitated persons who were receiving vocational training, learning about the difficulties they encountered during the training and their needs for career development.

The working groups visited the Primary Court on 13th May to learn about its operation. The two sides held discussions and shared the work progress, including introducing the prevention and treatment work of drug dependence in Macao, introducing the Committee and the Working Groups, the implementation of judicial measures of referral and participation in the drug treatment programmes, the Youth Support Programme “Knowing how to come back after being lost in drugs”, etc., and the details of drug-related cases in recent years and judgments and enforcement of laws. The two sides conducted in-depth discussions and exchange of work experience on anti-drug publicity and education work, drug abusers’ participation in drug treatment, and implementation measures of the Anti-Drug Law. It was also agreed that it is necessary to maintain close communication and cooperation in various professional fields to jointly and effectively promote the prevention and control of drug abuse in Macao.



## Photos of Plenary Meetings in the Whole Year

First Plenary Meeting on 20th April 2021







## Photos of Plenary Meetings in the Whole Year

### Second Plenary Meeting on 11th November 2021







## Photos of visits and outreaches in Macau

A visit to the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM) on 5th March 2021



A visit of the "Hold On to Hope" vocational training internship programme



Coversations in seminar





## Photos of visits and outreaches in Macau

A visit to the Court of First Instance on 13th May 2021



Members of the working group in Narcotics Control Committee took photo together with the staff in the Court of First Instance



Conversations in the seminar



### III. Anti-drug Work





### III. Anti-drug Work

#### (I) The Judiciary Police

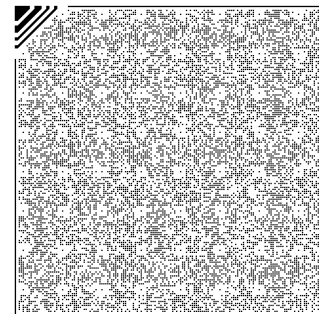
According to the stipulation of Paragraph 1 of Article 7 of Macao SAR Law no. 5/2006 “Organisation Law of the Judiciary Police”, the Judiciary Police has the exclusive authority to investigate the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances. According to the stipulation of Article 7 of Macao SAR Administrative Regulation no. 9/2006 “The Organisation and Operation of the Judiciary Police”, the Narcotics Division, established under the Criminal Investigation Department, is specifically responsible for the prevention, combat and investigation of drug crimes stipulated in Law no. 17/2009 “Prohibition of illegal production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances” amended by Law no. 4/2014, no. 10/2016, no. 10/2019, no. 22/2020 and no.10/2021.

#### The Narcotics Division

As COVID-19 continues to spread all over the world, we are at our second year fighting the epidemic. Members of the public in Macao have gradually become accustomed to a new way of life under this epidemic. Though limited clearance of customs has impeded the mobility among individuals, the leveraging of logistics, electronic communication and social media has reached unprecedented levels. Drug cartels have captured this opportunity, advanced with time and introduced new drug trafficking methods. Modus operandi employed are becoming more networked and digitalised. Drug sellers promote drugs via mobile messaging softwares to lure buyers, as well as exploiting ignorant third-party courier companies to deliver their drugs. Throughout the whole process, both buyers and sellers need not be acquainted with each other and the whole transaction can be completed without contact. This has reflected the insidious nature of drug trafficking patterns emerging in the wake of the epidemic, hence escalating the difficulty in investigating each case. In 2021, the Judiciary Police busted several drug trafficking cases conducted via postal services, as well as successfully intercepting drugs before they reached the community on multiple occasions.

Secondly, as highlighted in the “World Drug Report 2021”, the abuse of marijuana continues to deteriorate. Marijuana seizures in Macao have also reached a recent high. This correlates with the implementation of marijuana legalisation in individual regions around the world successively in recent years, as well as the lack of awareness of and vigilance against marijuana among young people. In addition, the Judiciary Police was concerned about the prevalent culture of marijuana consumption brought into Macao by individuals and students returning from abroad, which resulted in the popularity of marijuana among local young people swiftly. To tackle the situation, the Judiciary Police has launched campaigns which focus on promoting anti-drug laws and policies to local residents and university students, including returnees from abroad. Regarding the selling of marijuana within the community, the Judiciary Police has established an early warning notification mechanism with our neighbouring police counterparts earlier on. In one of the cases, through a tip-off from the Mainland China Police, the Judiciary Police intercepted an international express delivery which had concealed 668 grams of marijuana, and arrested two Macao residents picking up the delivery, as well as seizing another 555 grams of marijuana at the residence of one of the arrestees. Meanwhile, after conducting an in-depth investigation on the relevant case, a Macao man who had planned to purchase the aforesaid drugs was nabbed immediately as well. In addition, 437 grams of marijuana were seized at





his residence. A total of 1.66 kilograms of marijuana were seized in this entire case, with a local drug trafficking syndicate engaging in “outsourcing and domestic sales” dismantled successfully.

Impacted by the epidemic last year, the Judiciary Police is still unable to dispatch personnel to attend international conferences in person directly. Even so, in order to avoid being disconnected from the international community in intelligence exchange and law enforcement skills, making Macao an “information isolated island”, the Judiciary Police has been participating in several online international seminars and conferences, thereby fulfilling our obligation as an international law enforcement agency member. In terms of regional cooperation, the Judiciary Police has been actively involved in deepening the tripartite intelligence sharing and cooperation mechanism among the three parties in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, so as to achieve the best results in combating drug-related crimes in the region. In Macao, following the opening of the Qingmao Border Checkpoint (aka Guangdong-Macao New Border Crossing Checkpoint), the Judiciary Police attached great importance to the deployment at the checkpoint as this is the first defence against the inflow of drugs into Macao. A new generation of X-ray body scanner and a portable rapid drug testing device were deployed at the checkpoint, so as to enhance the checkpoint’s capability to inspect and intercept drugs comprehensively. Targeting postal delivery of drugs commonly seen in recent years, the Judiciary Police continues to deepen our liaison mechanism with the logistics industry including the delivery pick-up points, while acting in concert with the established routine cooperation mode with the Macao Customs Service and the neighbouring police authorities to target the parcels entering Macao each day for investigation and analysis. When suspicious parcels are found, a task force can be set up promptly with the above-mentioned authorities for follow-up, so as to realise the goals of joint investigation, prevention and control.

In accordance with Macao Law No. 4/2014 on the amendment of the regulation of new psychoactive substances, a more advanced regulatory mode has been adopted. In other words, even if the molecular structure has changed, the psychoactive substance will still be regulated by law as long as it possesses the relevant drug characteristics and harmful effects. In this way, it can prevent drug traffickers from adjusting or changing the molecular structure of the drug to evade the law. Nevertheless, drug traffickers have also attempted to replace the original drugs with new substances in order to circumvent the law. To address these situations, since 2014, the China Narcotics Control Office and the Drug Control Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security have rectified the entire class of fentanyl substances successively. In 2021, the entire class of synthetic cannabinoid substances was regulated again. Facing this trend, the Judiciary Police continues to act cautiously and diligently. To fulfil our obligation as an Anti-Drug Committee member, the Judiciary Police has pushed forward the local legislation on the above emerging drugs successfully, achieving an all-round ban on the manufacture and trafficking of new drugs with similar effects. Fighting drugs has a long way to go. In 2021, the Narcotics Division seized a new psychoactive substance “F-Ketamine”. The material characteristics of F-Ketamine are similar to the local mainstream drug “ketamine”, and has already been regulated in neighbouring regions. However, there is still no legal regulation on F-Ketamine in Macao. In order to prevent Macao from falling behind neighbouring regions in drug regulation, resulting in a “lowland effect”, the Narcotics Division has already proposed to the authority to list “F-Ketamine” as a controlled substance. It is hoped that the substance will be legislated in the control list as soon as possible, so as to prevent and combat drug crimes in tandem with neighbouring places and even the international community. This year, the amendment to Law No. 17/2009 “Prohibition of Illegal Production of, Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances”(hereinafter referred to as “Anti-Drug Law”) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 15 July 2021 in Macao.

This time, only contents of the attached table have been amended, so as to meet the requirements of Article 2(3) of the Law and international obligations. Ten novel internationally listed substances, yet to be regulated in Macao, have been added to the attached table of the “Anti-Drug Law”. It is also the third consecutive year of the revision of “Anti-drug Law” after 2019 and 2020.

To fulfil our duties in crime prevention, as the epidemic subsides, the hosting of courses and seminars on investigative techniques and drug prevention for various departments of the security sector and other civil organisations has been gradually resumed. The Judiciary Police has found a significant increase in the number of non-resident workers engaging in drug offences. For this reason, to prevent the expat community from being exploited by drug trafficking syndicates in the face of economic downturn and ignorance of local laws, the Judiciary Police has extended our talk series on drug crime prevention to audiences including Southeast Asians. From 2021 to the present, we have co-hosted several thematic talks with civil organisations.

### 1. Types and number of cases

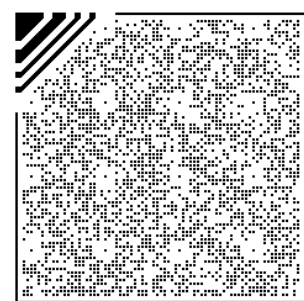
In 2021, the Judiciary Police received a total of 251 cases of drug crimes, including 69 specialised investigations and 6 complaints (Chart 1), 87 preliminary investigations (Chart 2), and 89 requested investigations (Chart 3).

(Chart 1)

Type of cases (no.)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Specialised investigations	38	47	31	69
Complaints	85	80	40	6
Annual total	123	127	71	75

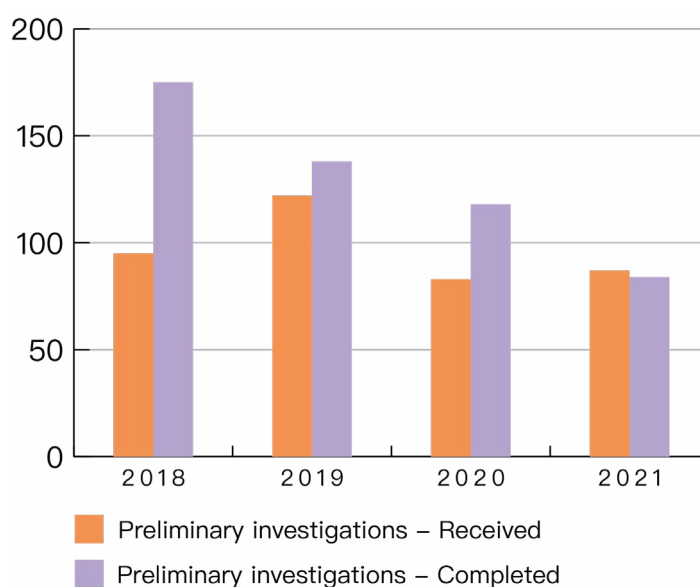


1 : To reflect the data more comprehensively, the 2020 statistical information had illustrated all cases and data of the Judiciary Police. As for the anti-drug reports from 2017 to 2019, cases and statistics responsible by this Division were recorded. In addition, the quantities of drugs seized indicated Macao-wide statistics. This Division is the exclusive authority for investigating drug offences. A majority of drug-related cases of the Judiciary Police remain within the purview of the Division. Therefore, the relevant annual information is still sufficiently comparable.



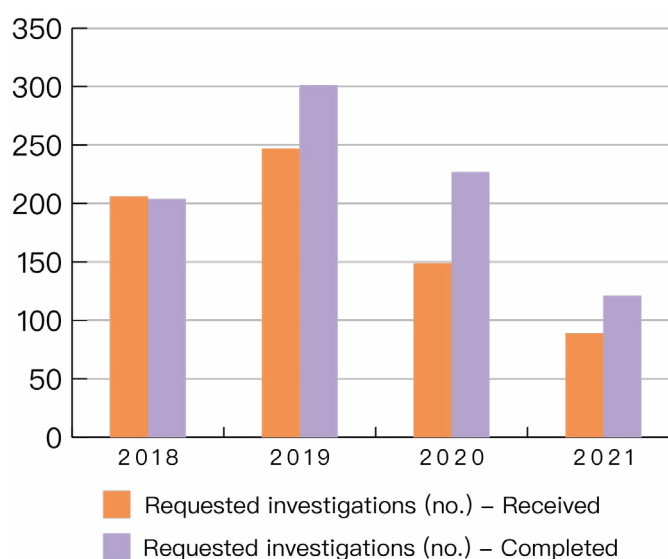
(Chart 2)

Type of cases (no.)		2018	2019	2020	2021
Preliminary investigations	Received	95	122	83	87
	Completed	175	138	118	84



(Chart 3)

Type of cases		2018	2019	2020	2021
Requested investigations (no.)	Received	206	247	149	89
	Completed	204	301	227	121

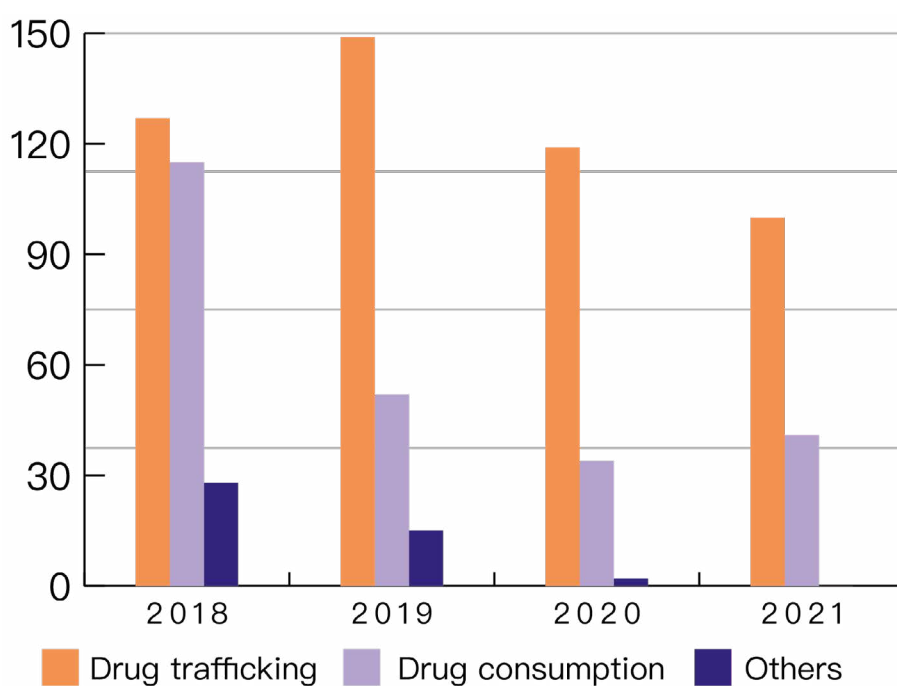


## 2. Number and nature of arrested persons

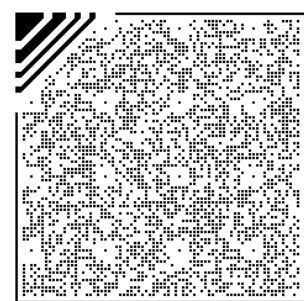
The Judiciary Police arrested a total of 141 suspects in 2021, of which 100 persons were arrested for drug trafficking and a total of 41 persons for drug consumption. The total number of persons arrested decreased by 9% when compared with the previous year. The number of persons arrested for drug trafficking decreased by 16% compared with last year, whilst that for drug consumption has an increase of 20% when compared with the previous year (Chart 4).

(Chart 4)

Year	Arrested suspects / nature (no. of persons)			
	Drug trafficking	Drug consumption	Others	Total
2018	127	115	28	270
2019	149	52	15	216
2020	119	34	2	155
2021	100	41	0	141



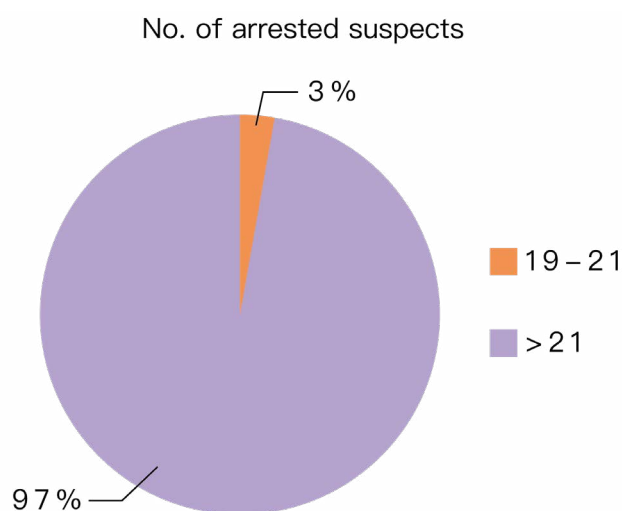




Regarding the classification of arrested suspects by four age groups: no arrestee below the criminal responsibility age of 16, no arrestee aged between 16 and 18, a total of 4 arrestees aged between 19 and 21, and a total of 137 arrestees aged above 21 (Chart 5). To classify them by gender, there were 103 male suspects and 38 female suspects, which took up 72% and 28% of the total number of persons arrested respectively (Chart 6).

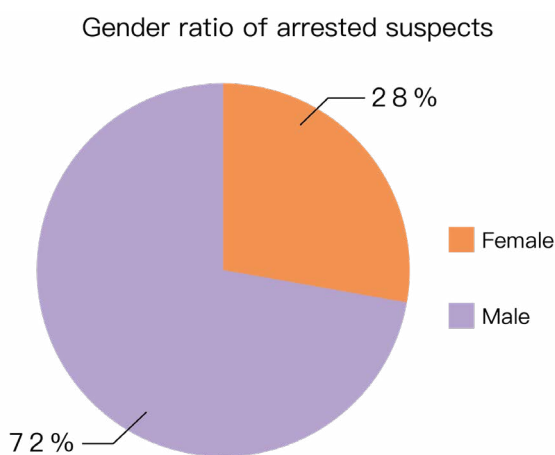
(Chart 5)

Age	No. of arrested suspects
Under 16	0
16 to 18	0
19 to 21	4
Above 21	137



(Chart 6)

Gender	No. of arrested suspects
Male	103
Female	38



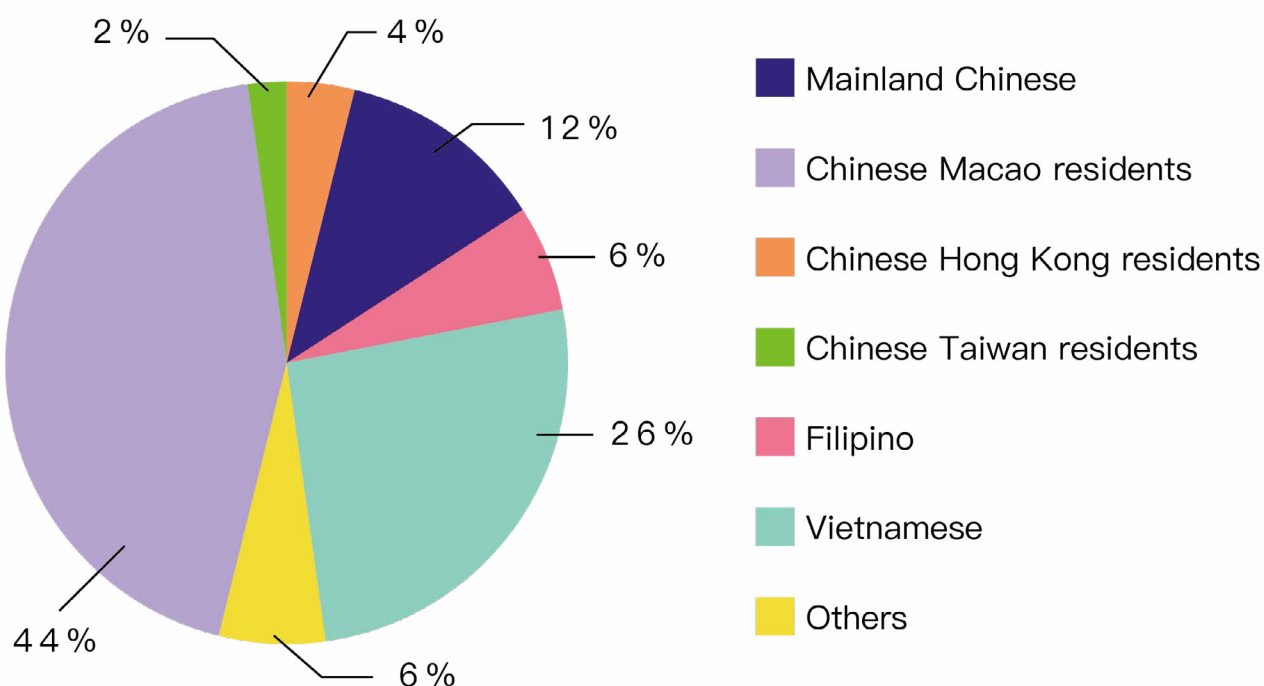
To classify suspects by nationality, there were a total of 62 Chinese Macao residents, 5 Chinese Hong Kong residents, 17 Mainland Chinese residents, 37 Vietnamese, 6 Filipinos, 2 Chinese Taiwan residents, 1 Nigerian, 5 Indonesians, 2 Tanzanians and 1 Malian (Chart 7).

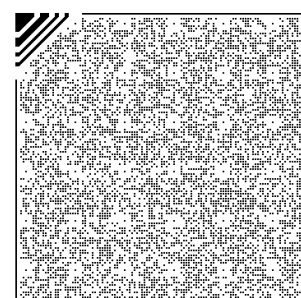
(Chart 7)

Nationality / No. of suspects arrested for drug trafficking and consumption			
Macao, China	62	Taiwan, China	2
Hong Kong, China	5	Philippines	9
Mainland China	17	Vietnam	37

Other nationalities: 9

Nationality and proportion of suspects arrested for drug trafficking and drug consumption



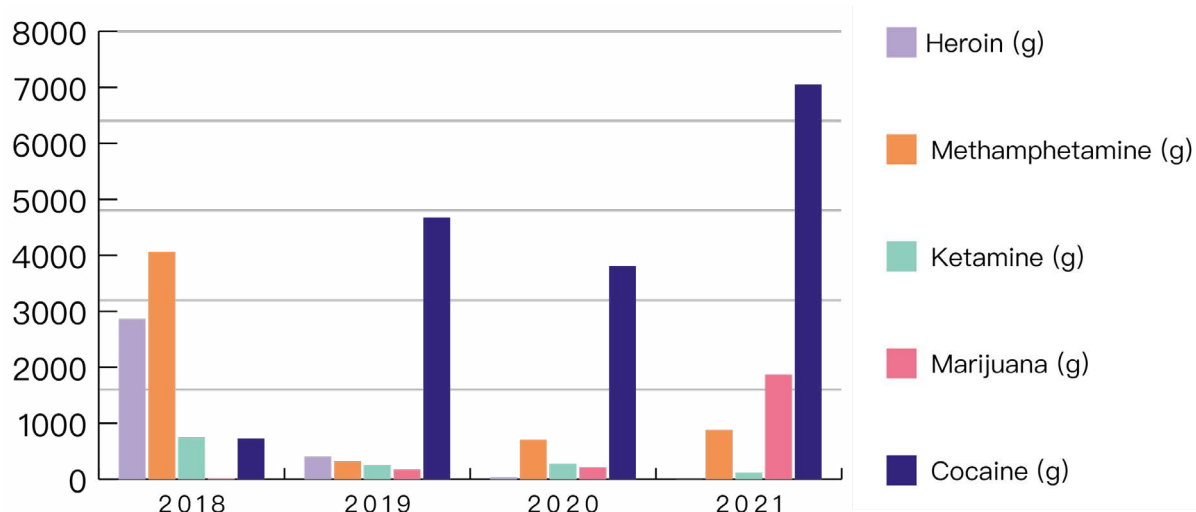


### 3. Types and Quantity of Drugs

The common types of drug abused in Macao are heroin, methamphetamine, ketamine, marijuana, cocaine, etc. The Judiciary Police cracked several cases of sizable cross-border drug trafficking in 2021. In one of the marijuana cases, a total of 1.6 kilograms of marijuana were seized. In addition, a criminal syndicate, which trafficked liquid cocaine into Macao under the guise of red wine, had been discovered for the first time earlier this year.

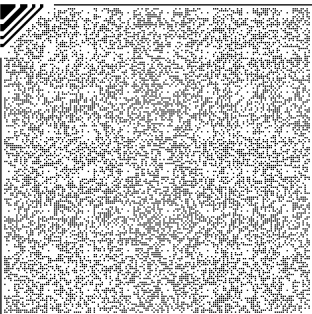
(Chart 8)

Year	Heroin (g)	Methamphetamine (g/ pellet)	Ketamine (g)	Marijuana (g)	Cocaine (g/ml)
2018	2,859	4,060	745	16	730
2019	397	318	254	169	4,678
2020	33	701	277	210	3,809
2021	0	881/5	118	1,869	26/7,475



### 4. Conclusion and Prospects

As the epidemic gradually normalises, the trend of drug trafficking in Macao generally continues with the pattern of the previous year. Drug trafficking was mainly conducted by postal services and Southeast Asians acting as the main drug traffickers. From this, we can see that, whether it is drug trafficking via postal service (a highly segregated and covert method of drug trafficking) or the social grouping kind of drug trafficking (when expatriates tend to sell drugs only to people of the same ethnic group), both means have gradually become the mainstream methods in Macao. Under the Judiciary Police's targeted deployments throughout the past year, the number of cases cracked in both categories have increased year-on-year.



In terms of drug seizures, the logistics and freight industry are booming due to the epidemic. Drug trafficking through freight transport can reduce crime costs. As a result, drug cartels are no longer bothered by the risk of having body packers to traffic drugs, and become even more unscrupulous and transport more drugs using freight services. In spite of the falling number of drug cases in Macao, an increase in drug seizures was recorded over the past year.

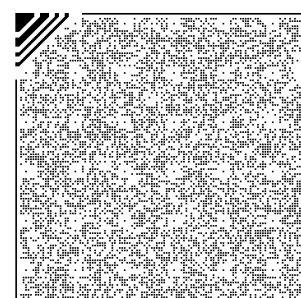
Marijuana seizures were by far the most significant of all. There have been far more seizures merely this year alone (1869 grams) than in the previous three years combined (395 grams), reflecting an increase in demand for marijuana in Macao in recent years. There are two main reasons for this:

- (1) Marijuana legalisation has been passed in individual regions around the world in recent years, prompting drug cartels to obtain marijuana at a lower price in foreign countries legitimately, then smuggle marijuana to Macao by logistics and sell it at a high price for profit afterwards.
- (2) Following up with the previous point, due to the impact of the epidemic, more Macao residents, who were originally residing abroad, have moved back to Macao. At the same time, they brought back their bad habit of taking marijuana to Macao. This change has also created room for supply and demand for marijuana in Macao.

Macao is not a place for exporting nor producing drugs. Therefore, drugs are bound to flow into Macao illegally from neighbouring regions. As such, intelligence collection and early investigation play a vital role in investigating drug cases. As always, the Judiciary Police has upheld the principle of intelligence-led investigation. Through establishing a multi-layered real-time notification mechanism with neighbouring law enforcement agencies, parties concerned can learn from one another with regards to drug seizures. Concerted efforts in joint investigation, prevention, control and operation have become more crucial.

In response to the increasingly covert nature of drug crimes and incessant emergence of drug trafficking methods, as well as challenges posed to the prevention and combat of drugs in Macao, the Judiciary Police will continue to implement the policing concept of “strengthening the police force through technology” introduced by the Secretariat for Security. The Judiciary Police strives to establish smart policing, and enhance personnel’s enforcement efforts via the full assistance of technology and instruments. In recent years, with the introduction of police cloud intelligence and big data analysis platform, Macao Citywide Electronic Surveillance System (“Eyes in the Sky”) and new drug detection devices, the Judiciary Police has successfully cracked several drug cases. The use of relevant scientific and technological means has gradually become a routine investigative method while improving the efficiency in case handling. This has enabled the Judiciary Police to move forward our defence line and response in combating drug crimes.

Drugs are a global scourge to all mankind. Counternarcotics is an urgent and common responsibility shouldered by the international community. The Judiciary Police firmly believes that, anti-drug work is a systemic project which has a long way to go. Though combating drug activities directly in Macao can certainly minimise drug supplies, providing drug users with the necessary treatments and appropriate care, utilising social resources to help them stay away from drugs and reintegrate into society, as well as cutting off drug dependence from demand are of equal importance. In view of this, the Judiciary Police and the New Life Christian Fellowship of Macau have been collaborating on a youth support programme “Be Back on the Right Track after Getting Lost”, and provide emergency follow-up and aftercare support services for drug-involved youths and their families, thereby helping young people to better adapt and reintegrate into society and start a new life.



## (II) The Judiciary Police – Forensic Science Department

The Forensic Science Department is a department with technical independence under the Judiciary Police. Its main duties include: carrying out tests and collecting evidence at the crime scenes, providing forensic examination on material evidence, offering criminal technical support, conducting technical research and development, etc. entrusted by investigating units. Forensic examination on drugs is one of the major tasks under the work of forensic examination on material evidence.

### 1. Overview of common drugs sent for examination

In 2021, the Forensic Science Department received a total of 138 qualitative cases and 55 quantitative cases, making up a total of 193 cases and representing an increase of 4.3% comparing to 2020.

Among the qualitative cases sent for examination, similar to 2020, the cases of methamphetamine (the so-called “ice”) topped the list, which took up 34.7% of the total number of cases in the whole year, followed by benzodiazepine class, which took up 14.9% and ketamine ranked the third position, taking up 13.9%; while the rest, including marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, magu, methadone, ephedrine etc. took up a total of 36.5% among all the cases (see diagram 1).

Diagram 1 Percentage of common drugs sent for examination in Macao in 2021

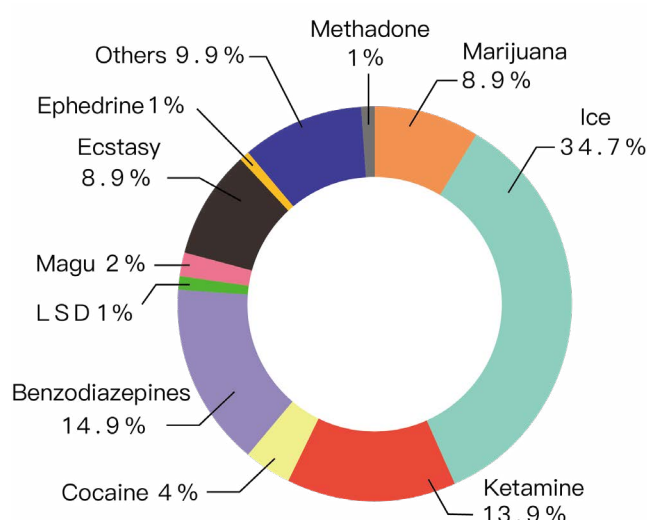
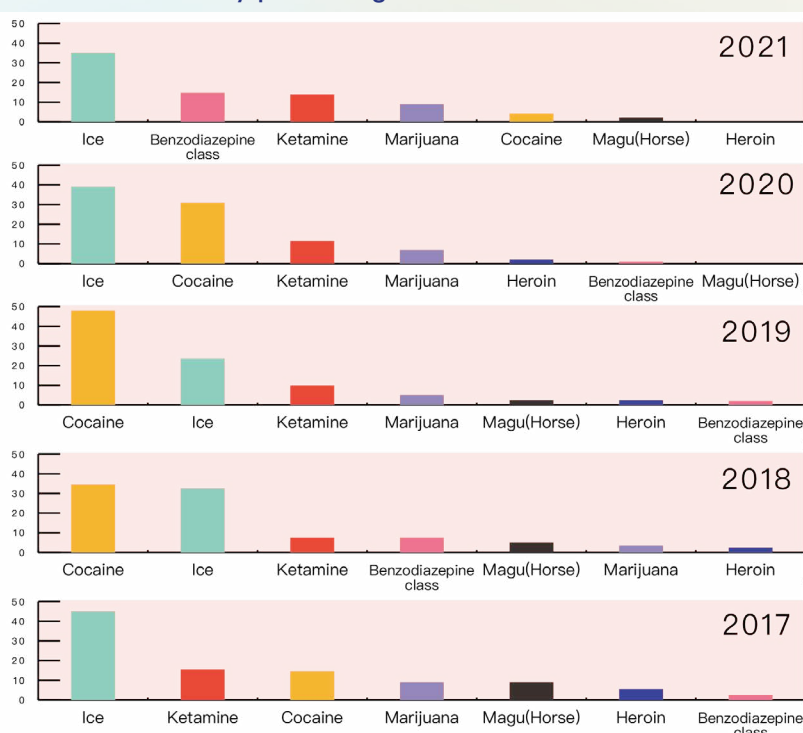
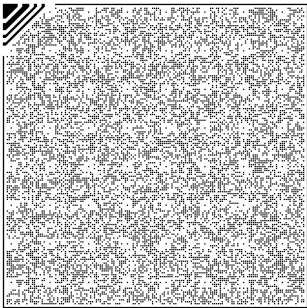


Diagram 2 Sorting of common drugs sent for examination in Macao by percentage between 2017 and 2021



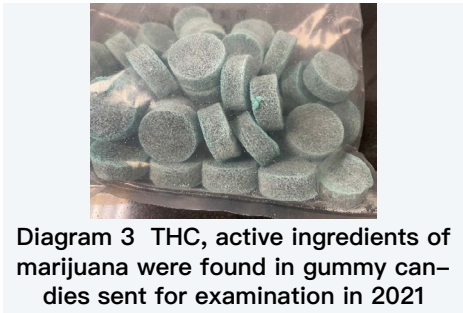




Among the drug cases sent for examination in 2021, there were ascending trends in cases of benzo-diazepine class, ketamine, marijuana and magu, the number of cases of which were 15, 14, 9 and 2 respectively. Among them, ketamine showed an increase of 27.3% comparing to 2020 and marijuana had increased by 28.6%, while benzodiazepine class rose from 1 case to 15 cases and magu rose from 0 to 1 case; the types of drugs showed descending trends were codeine, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), with 0 case and 1 case respectively and there was no heroin case in 2021 (see table 1).

In the past five years between 2017 and 2021, from the percentage sorting diagram of various common drugs sent for examination in Macao (see diagram 2), it showed that the 3 types of drugs with highest proportion were methamphetamine, cocaine and ketamine, followed by benzodiazepine class, heroin, marijuana and magu. In 2021, there was a significant increase in benzodiazepine class cases, ranking the third highest in the list.

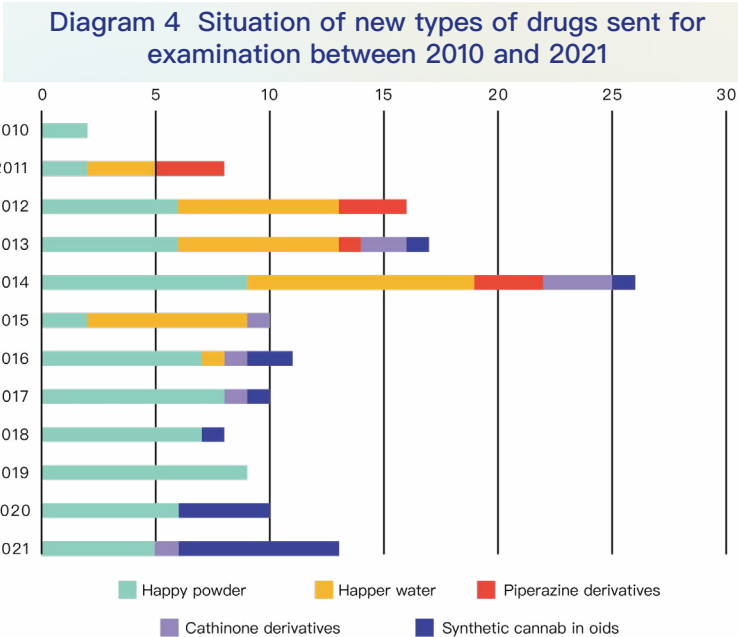
In terms of quantity of drugs sent for examination, it was worth noting that a total of 1.8 kg of marijuana were sent for examination in 2021, which mainly came from a case with 1.6 kg sent in August, making it the highest quantity since the 3.4 kg sent in 2004. In addition, there were 1554 pellets of benzodiazepine class sent for examination, including 761 pellets of bromazepam, 354 pellets of diazepam and 102 pellets of triazolam, etc., while it was mainly 240 pellets of zolpidem in other items (see table 2).

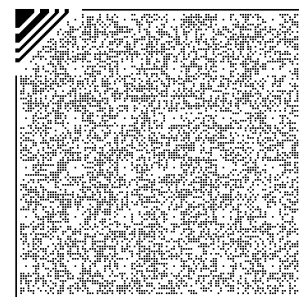


In terms of purity of drugs, the quantity of cocaine contained in the material sent for examination was found to be between 20%~85% in 2021; while in ketamine powder and crystallized ketamine was 37%~86%; the purity of powder and crystallized methamphetamine was 7%~80%; while MDMA in “happy powder” was 18%~80%.

## 2. Overview of new types of drugs and new psychoactive substances sent for examination

(1) Cases of “happy powder” and “happy water”:from 2010 to 2021, with different packaging, cases of the so-called “happy powder” containing controlled ingredients have never ceased in the past 12 years (see diagram 4), which accumulated to 69 cases in all these years including the 5 cases in 2021. A total of almost 7kg of “happy powder” has been sent for examination, the controlled ingredients found were mainly MDMA, followed by benzodiazepine class including nimetazepam and phenazepam, while methamphetamine and ketamine were also found occasionally. In addition, multiple types of new psychoactive sub-





stances were also found, including cathinone derivatives such as methylone, ethylone, MDPV, 4-CMC, etc. ; and also phenethylamine class such as PMMA and PMA; tryptamine class hallucinogens such as 5MeO-DALT, as well as analogue of ketamine 2-FDCK. For cases of the so called “happy water”, with ingredients similar to “happy powder”, appeared only between 2011 and 2016, with 35 cases of 5.2 L in total sent for examination.

**(2) Cathinone derivatives:**in 2021, a case with 72 sachets which weighed 73.701 grams in total and contained cheese-coloured powder of N-Ethylpentylone and 1 sachet of orange crystallized substances which weighed 8.754 grams and contained mephedrone and methylone were sent for examination (see diagram 5). In addition, there were a total of 8 cases appearing in the forms of “happy powder”, “happy water” and pills in Macao during the five years between 2013 and 2017, with various types of cathinone derivatives found, including 4-FMC, 4-MEC, 4-Methylbuphedrone, 3,4-DMMC, methylone, ethylone, MDPV and 4-CMC, etc.



Diagram 5 N-Ethylpentylone, Mephedrone and Methylone were found in powder and crystalized substances sent for examination in 2021

**(3) Synthetic cannabinoids:**except 2015 and 2019, there have been cases ever since 2013 to 2021. Until 2021, there were a total of 18 cases in Macao, with 717.890 grams of synthetic cannabinoids found in cut tobacco or chopped plant materials and “chocolate”, among which the types of synthetic cannabinoids found have reached 12 already. In 2021, there were 7 cases sent for examination, from the materials weighed a total of 440.511 grams, 5F-MDMB-PICA was found in 74 pellets of “chocolate” weighing a total of 408.915 grams (see diagram 6), while in another case, MDMB-4en-PINACA was found in 3 pills. In addition, MDMB-4en-PINACA and ADB-BUTINACA were found in a total of 186.85 ml of electronic cigarette e-liquid sent for examination. In terms of cases and weight, the year 2021 reached a record high. Moreover, apart from EAM-2201 found in the first case of rolled cigarette, synthetic cannabinoids found in the past included FUB-PB-22, XLR-11, FUB-AMB, 5F-AB-PINACA, 5F-AMB, 5F-ADB, 4F-MDMB-BINACA, 5F-MDMB-PICA.



Diagram 6 5F-MDMB-PICA was found in 74 pellets of “chocolate” weighed a total of 408.915 grams sent for examination in 2021

(4) **Others:** in succession to 2019 and 2020 in which analogues of ketamine, 2-FDCK (Fluoroketamine) were found in 3 cases in total, there were another 5 cases in 2021, with a total of 31 sachets of white powder weighed 131.199 grams. For the derivative of PCP, N-[1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (3-MeO-PCP) was found not only in cases of light orange powder and white pills in 2018 and 2020 respectively, but also in a case in which a piece of a pill fragment had been sent for examination in 2021.

Table 1. Drug cases sent for examination between 2017 and 2021 (case)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ice	101	54	42	37	35
Ketamine	33	13	19	11	14
Cocaine	31	57	85	29	4
Marijuana	19	7	10	7	9
Heroin	12	5	5	2	0
Magu	19	9	5	0	2
Benzodiazepine Class	5	13	4	1	15
Ecstasy	3	0	4	1	9
Methadone	1	1	0	0	1
Codeine	0	2	0	4	0
LSD	0	0	0	2	1
Ephedrine	0	0	0	0	1
Others	1	4	0	1	10

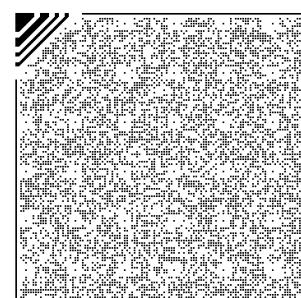


Table 2. The weight and quantity of drugs sent for examination between 2017 and 2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ice (g)	919.03	4,143.83	317.24	734.67	881.44
Ketamine (g)	892.07	722.66	253.80	292.99	117.73
Cocaine (g)	3,916.75	879.61	4,678.32	3,831.97	25.72
Marijuana (g)	245.55	22.07	169.19	210.44	1,869.30
Heroin (g)	40.54	2,859.36	396.53	33.29	0
Magu (pills)	338	216	200	0	4
Benzodiazepine class (pills)	12	385	488	1	1,554
Ecstasy (pills)	79	0	13	10	88
Methadone (ml)	27	9.2	0	0	1 (pill)
Codeine (ml)	0	3,906	0	9,940	0
Ephedrine (pills)	0	0	0	0	2
LSD (pieces)	0	0	0	10	21
Others (pills)	1	56	0	100	241 (pills)

### 3. Future Perspective

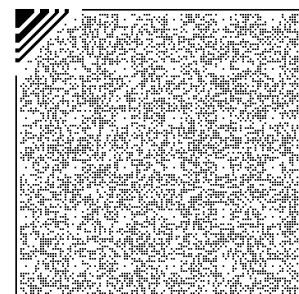
Apart from providing qualitative and quantitative analysis of drugs for criminal investigative units, the Forensic Science Department has also been closely monitoring and collecting all kinds of relevant information, improving techniques of examination and facilitating its development, so as to implement the concept of strengthening the police force by technology. The Department will keep up exchanges and cooperation with the relevant authorities and experts within and outside the country, so as to provide technical support to fight drug crimes.





## **IV. Drug Dependence Prevention and Treatment**

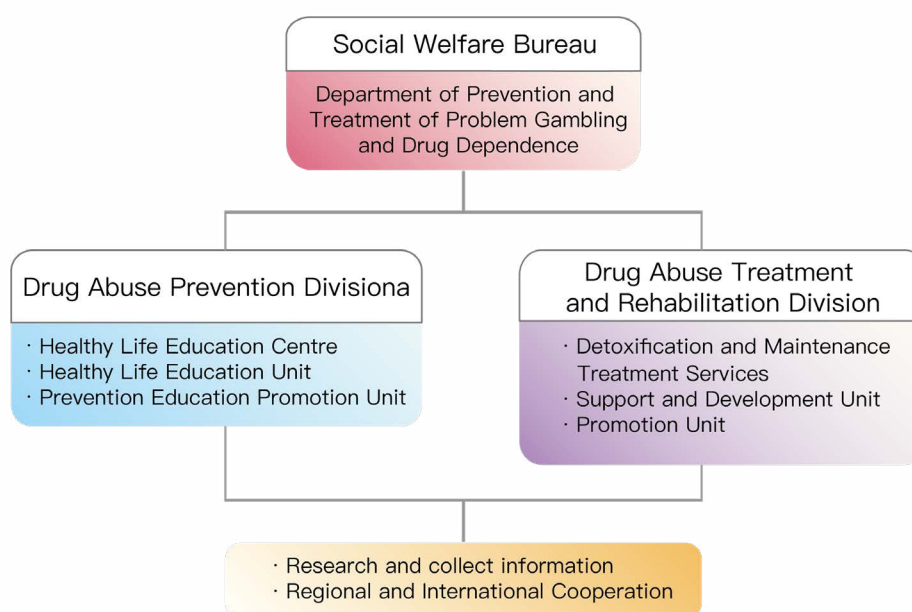




## (I) Social Welfare Bureau – Department of Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling and Drug Dependence

Is responsible for the work and services related to drug abuse prevention and treatment, simultaneously serves as the secretariat unit of the Narcotics Control Committee, support and co-operate with the work related with the committee and two working groups, enforces the drug abuse prevention work as listed below:

- promotes the drug abuse prevention education
- provides the treatment and social rehabilitation services for drug dependence
- observes the statistics about drug abuse in Macau and proceeds investigations
- supports non-governmental organizations on drug abuse prevention
- enhances regional and international collaborations and exchanges

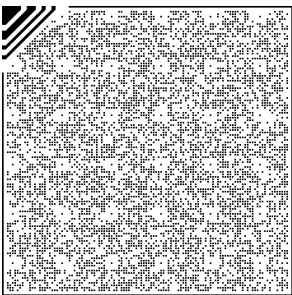


### 1. Drug Abuse Prevention Division

Aims to promote anti-drug educational activities in schools, families and communities: provides services such as prevention seminars, training courses and anti-drug promotions; encourages organizations and other groups to join and hold drug abuse prevention events.

#### (1) Healthy Life Education Centre

The Healthy Life Education Centre is a major innovative anti-drug education facility under the Social Welfare Bureau of the Macao SAR. It is equipped with Healthy Life Education classroom, theme experience area, multifunctional hall, multimedia studio, information display area and reading area. Through different cultural, sports and arts activities, it aims to promote healthy lifestyle and deliver anti-drug messages to Macao citizens, especially children, youth and their parents, in order to create a drug-free society.



Activities in the Healthy Life Education Centre		
Types	Year 2021	
	No. of Times	No. of Participants
Visits	3	147
Training courses	12	630
General activities	142	4,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>5,011</b>

### 1.1 Adventure activities

In order to continue to exert the anti-drug promotion function of the Healthy Life Education Centre, the "On-site Adventure Instructor Training Courses" were held in the Centre from 5th to 13th July and 7th to 16th September, 2021 respectively. In the first stage of the course, a total of 21 participants obtained the qualification of Instructor I with 35 class hours; in the second stage, the App "3D drunken glasses" were added to the course and applied to adventure activities to make participants aware of alcohol hazard. A total of 12 participants were awarded Instructor II qualification in 42 class hours.

In order to enrich the adventure activities in the Centre, the "Giant Ladder" adventure equipment was added in 2021, which mainly provides challenge for group trainings, cultivate self-confidence and co-operative spirit. A total of 66 adventure activities were held throughout the year with a total of 1,556 participants.

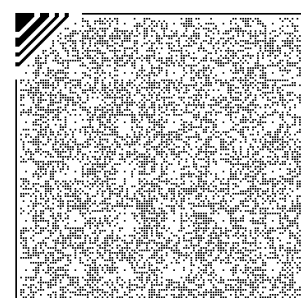


The App "3D drunken glasses" were added to the course



"Giant Ladder"





### 1.2 “New Teen Video” volunteer training

Working together with “Organic Teen” of YMCA Macao to organise “New Teen Video” volunteer training activities, covering production of micro film and MC training; encouraging young people to enhance their abilities through the process of video shooting and short film production, and deliver positive messages on drug abuse prevention to the community. 31 high school and college students conducted 27 activities, and a total of 12 videos were uploaded to social platforms, winning over 17,000 clicks. In addition, 3 videos are made for board game teaching. 10 videos of anti-drug activities and highlights were also produced.



“New Teen Video” volunteer training activities

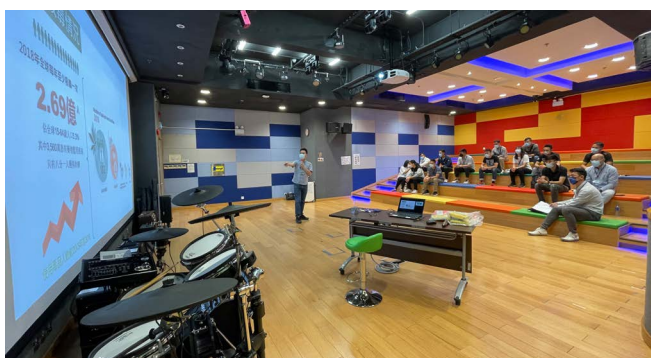
### 1.3 Other activities



An interchange with Pui Chi Middle School Volunteer Team and a promotion on “Guess My Mind” boardgame on 9th April



Training Course of Civil Service Leadership on 23rd April



Training Course for the Academy of Public Security Forces on 29th October



An interchange with the Livelihood Affairs Bureau of Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone on 5th November

## (2) Drug Abuse Prevention Education

### 2.1 Healthy Living Education Programme

The Healthy Living Education Programme is started to provide service since 2000, the programme is designed to help kids grow healthily, keep them away from drug abuse, offer quality drug courses in various topics to students from kindergarten to Primary 6, and help them to establish healthy lifestyles and sound values, thus know how to refuse under the circumstance of protecting themselves and keeping friendship.





Class activities



Interaction in class

### 2.1.1 Education in Progress and Statistics

Programmes	No. of Classes	No. of Students	No. of Schools
Chinese Class	478	13,996	65
English Class	126	3,632	
Special Education Class	20	246	
<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>17,874</b>	<b>65</b>

Remarks: The number of schools is considered as in sections

### 2.1.2 Optimisation of courses

The curriculum of 4th grade for primary school includes alcohol elements, so that students can recognise alcoholic beverages which are easily accessible as early as possible. They also understood that improper use will cause harm to their own bodies, as well as relatives and friends around them, leading to legal responsibilities.

The English class fully adopts the multimedia teaching system to make the class activities more interesting and diversified, so that students can be more engaged in learning and easy to understand the course content; with the newly designed and produced English assignments for students from kindergarten to the 3rd grade. The related services are further optimised.



English Class



### 2.1.3 Online activity

In order to strengthen students' awareness of drug abuse prevention, online activities from kindergarten to 6th grade are launched. From 4th to 6th grade, students can consolidate the learning in curriculum through learning games and repeated exercises. The online activities for senior class in kindergarten to 3rd grade are accompanied by quiz games in the form of comics and short videos, so that parents can interact with their children to learn about healthy living and drug abuse prevention.



Online activities

### 2.1.4 Course promotion

In 2021, SWB was invited to conduct on-campus promotional activity at Sacred Heart Canossian College (kindergarten) and Escola Choi Nong Chi Tai (Wan Keng campus) and delivered messages on healthy living and drug abuse prevention to more than 450 students. New leaflets of course introduction (Chinese and English) and posters were produced to strengthen the promotion of healthy life education.



Harold promotional activity in campus

### 2.2 Anti-drug course for junior high school students “COOL Tips for Teens”

Targeted at junior high school students, the course “COOL Tips for Teens” is conducted in an interactive teaching format through animations, live videos and games, covering the negative effects of smoking, alcohol and popular drugs (such as marijuana, methamphetamine and cocaine) on the body, clarifying the myths about drug abuse among teenagers and helping them understand the legal responsibilities related to drugs in Macao, so that young people can raise their awareness of crisis and strengthen their determination to refuse drugs.

## 2.2.1 Education in Progress and Statistics

Drug Education Courses for Secondary Schools			
Courses	No. of Schools	No. of Classes	No. of Participants
Clearing the Smoke—the Quest for the Truth about Cigarettes (F.1)	998	34	7
Smart and Cool Teen (F.2)	949	32	6
Drug-free is fun (F.3)	867	28	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,813</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>9*</b>

\* As there were repeated, the total was not equal to the sum of each item.

## 2.2.2 Optimisation of course

In response to schools' needs and drug situation, the design of the whole courses has been more localised and extended to the 2nd grade of senior high school. The class time has been changed to 45 minutes; continuous evaluation and adjustment have been carried out on a trial basis at the end of 2021. It is expected to be adopted by schools in Macao in school year 2022–23.

## 2.3 Professionals

### 2.3.1 Themed workshops about alcohol hazard

The Social Welfare Bureau continues to cooperate with the Education and Youth Development Bureau to carry out various drug abuse prevention training workshops for teachers and school counsellors. In 2021, the theme focused on alcohol and a total of 230 people participated in the workshops.

### 2.3.2 Teacher training and seminars for law enforcement officers

In 2021, two training sessions were held for teachers and one training for law enforcement officers to promote knowledge about drugs actively. The sessions aim to strengthen professionals' awareness of drugs, enhance the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention, and help young people stay away from drugs. A total of 68 teachers and 20 law enforcement officers attended the event.

### 2.3.3 Online resource kit

The Anti-drug resource kit is an anti-drug aid material for professionals. It is divided into eight themes, a set of games and a set of five educational videos. Anti-drug educators, parents, teachers, and social workers are welcome to download and use the resources.

迷思二

大麻

迷思

有啲國家已實施大麻合法化，大麻即係唔係毒品啦？

正確

解讀

大麻係聯合國禁藥公約中嘅嚴格管製品，大部份國家及地區包括中國內地和港澳等，大麻都屬受規管物質，如不慎帶含有大麻成份嘅食品回澳都屬違法；在澳門非法販賣毒品最高監禁15年。

The information in the resource kit can help youth to solve the myth about drugs



## 2.4 Statistics of Anti-Drug Education Courses

Anti-Drug Education Courses		
Types of Activities	Year 2021	
	No. of Times	No. of Participants
General prevention activities	28	1,894
Prevention activities for parents	7	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,167</b>
* Included various seminars and training courses for schools, communities, professionals.		

### (3) Anti-drug education among parents

#### 3.1 Board game promotion series activities

The Social Welfare Bureau and the Macao Science Centre jointly organised a parent-child board game summer activity for the first time, in order to promote the concept of "committing to fight against drugs starting from home". A total of 44 parents and children participated in the activities.



Harold board game experience for parents and children

#### 3.3 Promotional series for parents

In order to send positive message for parents and raise awareness of prevention, 4-panel comics about anti-drug was monthly uploaded in the social network, attracted nearly 170,000 views throughout the year.

#### 3.2 Parent-child seminars

Throughout 2021, a total number of 7 healthy living seminars and parent-child activities were held in Healthy Life Education Centre, which attracted more than 270 parent-child participants.



Parents participated actively in seminars







#### (4) Series Activities on International Day against Drug Abuse 2021

In response to the “International Day against Drug Abuse” on 26th June set by the United Nations, with the slogan "Healthy Strategy, Never Abuse Drugs", in cooperation with the SAR Government's epidemic prevention work, the Social Welfare Bureau, together with Macao Science Centre and the Macao YMCA, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Gambling Counselling and Family Wellness Centre, Bosco Youth Service Network as well as Noah Youth Development Centre organised the a series of activities on International Day against Drug Abuse 2021, with over 80,000 participants.

##### 4.1 Community tour of theatre "Box. Secret"

The SWB, together with Noah Youth Development Centre and the Funny Old Tree Theatre Ensemble co-organised the community touring show of theatre "Box. Secret". A total of 16 performances were conducted during June to December, with 260 participants.

In order to realise the concept of "Culture assists rehabilitation", the Box Theater is used to set up four different scenes, namely family, court, work, and peers, allowing participants to experience the various stages of drug withdrawal and social reintegration in terms of thoughts and feelings, so that people in the community can understand the causes of drug abuse, reducing misunderstandings, and improving the effect of social reintegration.



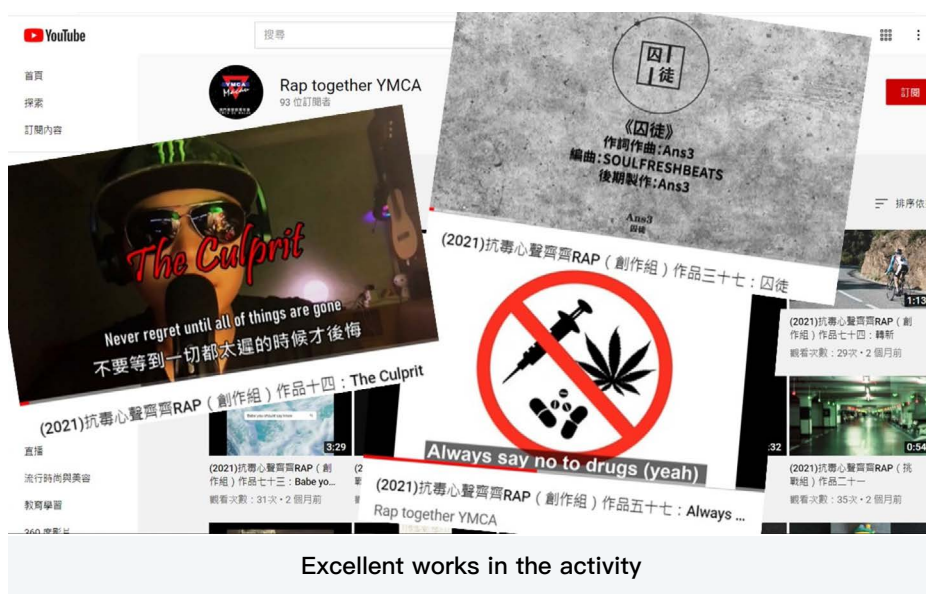
A photo of guests in the Kick-off Ceremony



The participants in the Box Theatre Experience

#### 4.2 “Let's resist drugs with rap music”

The competition “Let's resist drugs with rap music” was held together with YMCA Macau. Through the rhythm of RAP and rhyming way of singing, the residents could express their support for a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Started from 18th June, a total number of 102 entries were collected in these 3 months, over 12 thousand views were got on the specified website after the activity was ended.



#### 4.3 "Fighting drugs with live music" Online Concert

The anti-drugs concert was held together with YMCA Macau in Healthy Life Education Centre, also online at the same time. The live concert invited famous Mcau singers, music groups, student groups and youth band from anti-drugs associations, attracted more than 5,000 participants.





#### 4.4 Harold Board Game Tour

Social Welfare Bureau held the “Harold’s Jungle Rescue Team” Board Game Tour, which was an exhibition cooperated with H.K.S.K.H. Macau Social Services Coordination Office, attracted a total number of 62,649 participants. There were various activities included “Harold’s Jungle Resuce Team” Board Game Exhibition, Harold photo booth, “Flipping Fun” –interactive game, online quiz, etc, which were aimed to enhance parent–child communication and understanding.



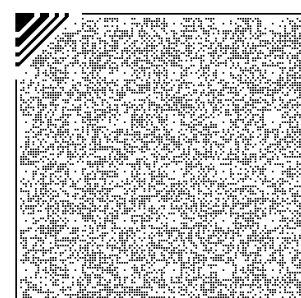
Introduction on board game, online quiz

#### 4.5 “Participating at any time” Parent–child Competition Games

Organised by SWB and Bosco Youth Service Network, “Participating at any time” Parent–child Competition Games” is the grand finale of the International Day against Drug Abuse series of activities. A total of 76 parent–child teams participated. Parents and children completed the five tasks set on the track together. The game implicates that parents and children face challenges in life, grow up together and finally reach the finish line hand in hand, helping to build a good parent–child relationship.



Parents and children worked together in the 1st level of the “Participating at any time” Parent–child Competition Games”



## (5) Anti-drugs Promotional Programs

### 5.1 Activity Plan for Tertiary Students 2021

Young Men's Christian Association of Macau organized "Activity Plan for Tertiary Students", attracted 13,170 persons participated in 37 sessions, also distributed 936 caring packages in 4 colleges including University of Macau, Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, City University of Macau and University of Saint Joseph.



Tertiary Student Activity — Caring package

### 5.3 Open Day

Co-organized with Young Men's Christian Association of Macau, launched "Open Day of Healthy Life Education Centre", attracted 800 persons participated.



Parents accompanied with their children to participate "Open Day of Healthy Life Education Centre"

### 5.2 "Know" Gambling "Know" Drugs—Bosco Youth Service Network Training Programme

"Know" Gambling "Know" Drugs—Training Programme, which was organized by Bosco Youth Service Network, attracted 24 local tertiary students participated.



### 5.4 "Guess My Mind" promotional activity in school

Co-organized with "Bosco Youth Service Network—Teen Freeland", launched "Guess My Mind" promotional activity, attracted 660 persons participated in 11 sessions.



Students could understand the harm of drugs through foamboards



## 5.5 Promotion for foreigners

Be Cool Project launched the series of activities which were aimed for foreigners, attracted 4,001 persons participated in 26 sessions.



## (6) Local civil organisations

The Social Welfare Bureau continues to encourage and promote the participation of civil organisations in community anti-drug activities through technical support and financial assistance, so as to strengthen the prevention of drug abuse in the community. SWB has continued to work with Organic Teen of YMCA Macao, “Be Cool Project” of Macao Drug Addict Rehabilitation Association (ARTM), supporting in operation and development of various services. The social service facilities/projects regularly funded by the SWB focus on activities themed on prevention of substance abuse and smoking hazard, as well as promoting youth development.

## (7) Publicity

In case to promote the drug-prevention to public and communities, pop-up stands were produced with the themes such as anti-drug laws, cocaine, marijuana and electronic cigarettes, as well as parent-child communication and anti-stress tips for parents; the IAS anti-drug videos had been broadcasting putting up at multiple ports, Government Services Centre, Public Information Centre, Centre for Higher Education Students, colleges, buses and Healthy Life Education Centre, also at the official Facebook and WeChat of Judiciary Police and the Student Blog of Higher Education Bureau to enhance anti-drug publicity within communities.

As well as the anti-drugs posters were posted at various places and inside public buses for promotion. The anti-drug website [www.antidrugs.gov.mo](http://www.antidrugs.gov.mo) kept providing the public with up-to-date anti-drug news and information. The anti-drug hotline 2878 1791 has been providing 24/7 counselling and helping services for all citizens.



## 2. Drug Abuse Treatment Services

The Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division – Detoxification and Maintenance Treatment Services, provided comprehensive rehabilitation and supporting services for voluntary help-seekers and their family members. The main services include: treatment and rehabilitation services for the young and adult, guidance and follow-up on infectious disease prevention and treatment, methadone maintenance treatment, service for drug abuser's family members, physical test and laboratory analysis required for treatment, etc.

### (1) Highlights of work in 2021

#### 1.1 Organising vocational training services for drug rehabilitation

##### Deepening social participation and support

In order to support the reintegration of former drug abusers into society, follow-up and related support work were strengthened through vocational training and job opportunities. Drug rehabilitation institutions have been further encouraged to systematically carry out career planning and vocational training programmes. In 2021, a new youth growth and development centre was set up to provide vocational training and various supporting services for youths who were drug abusers and for their families. An award ceremony for enterprises that actively engaged in reintegration and community tour activities were held; and concepts such as "Culture helps rehabilitation" and "Integration of old and young" continued to be promoted, encouraging enterprises and social groups to pay attention to and support the career development of rehabilitation persons. In this regard, 14 training courses were held with a total of 39 participants, of which 37 participated in internships, 15 were successfully employed, and 10 were provided various support services for their families; in addition, the SWB launched the "Hold on to Hope" Internship training programme in cooperation with the Culture Bureau and civil organisations, using four huts in the Nossa Senhora Village of Ká Hó as practice venues to provide trainings such as themed exhibitions and sales services. A total of 10 trainings were held and 35 people participated, of which 16 participated in the internship.



Training programme in the Youth Growth and Development Centre



"Hold on to Hope" internship training programme

## 1.2 Conducting study on Methadone rehabilitation cases and deepening community support services

In response to the launch of the methadone maintenance treatment programme in 2005, the overall participation in drug addiction treatment has remained stable, with an average annual attendance rate of over 90%. Since 2016, Macao has reached the goal of zero HIV infection among drug addicts for 6 consecutive years. In 2021, a survey on the physical and mental health of methadone cases was carried out, through questionnaires, health assessments and tests, to further understand the overall recovery of methadone users, and to continuously improve the quality of drug treatment services. A total of 77 people participated in the study. SWB continued to launch the "Methadone Users Community Support Programme" with civil organisations, providing services including continuous case follow-up, group and family support for methadone cases, with a total of 325 participants; moreover, SWB continued to improve the professional level of frontline staff in providing methadone support services, developing the "Manual of Community Support for Methadone Cases", conducting 36 sessions of training and supervision meetings, with 16 staff participating.



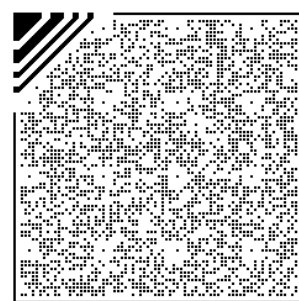
Online professional training

## (2) Major Services

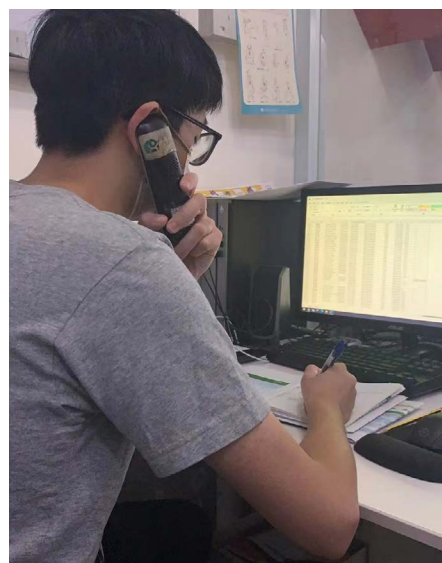
### 2.1 Drug addiction clinic and rehabilitation services

In 2021, the number of people seeking help for drug rehabilitation at the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division is 256, of which 32 are new cases (Figure 1), and 62,577 services were provided. Among them, nursing services account for the most (44,295), followed by drug urine testing (16,601) (Figure 2); During the epidemic, SWB continued to strengthen collaboration with civil drug rehabilitation institutions, optimised various emergency plans for epidemic prevention, carried out multiple trainings on personal protective equipment, and provided special methadone distribution and support services for drug abusers in lockdown and controlled areas. At the same time, community support was brought into play, including telephone counselling, outreach care and contact, donation of anti-epidemic materials, and transportation services were provided for those in need; the statistics of overall assistance cases can be found in 7. Investigation and Research Work (including the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division and 2 private drug rehabilitation institutions—Christian New Fellowship in Macao: S.Y. tribe Smart-Youth and Rehabilitation Centre).



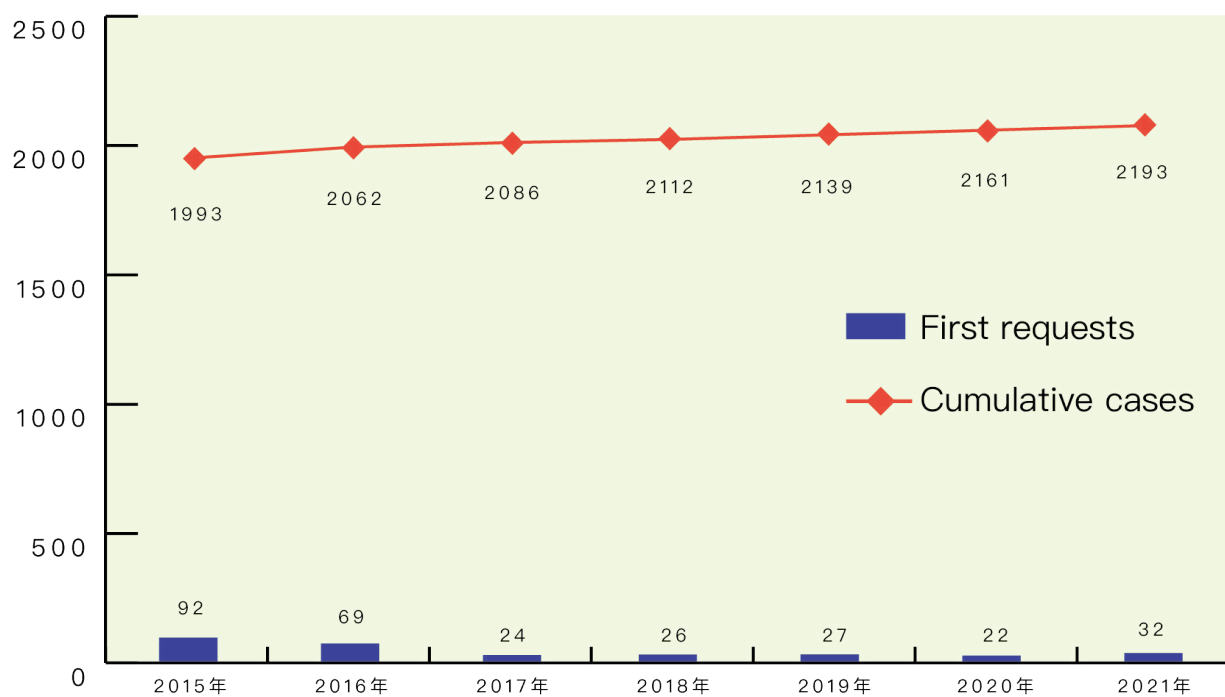


Special medicine distribution



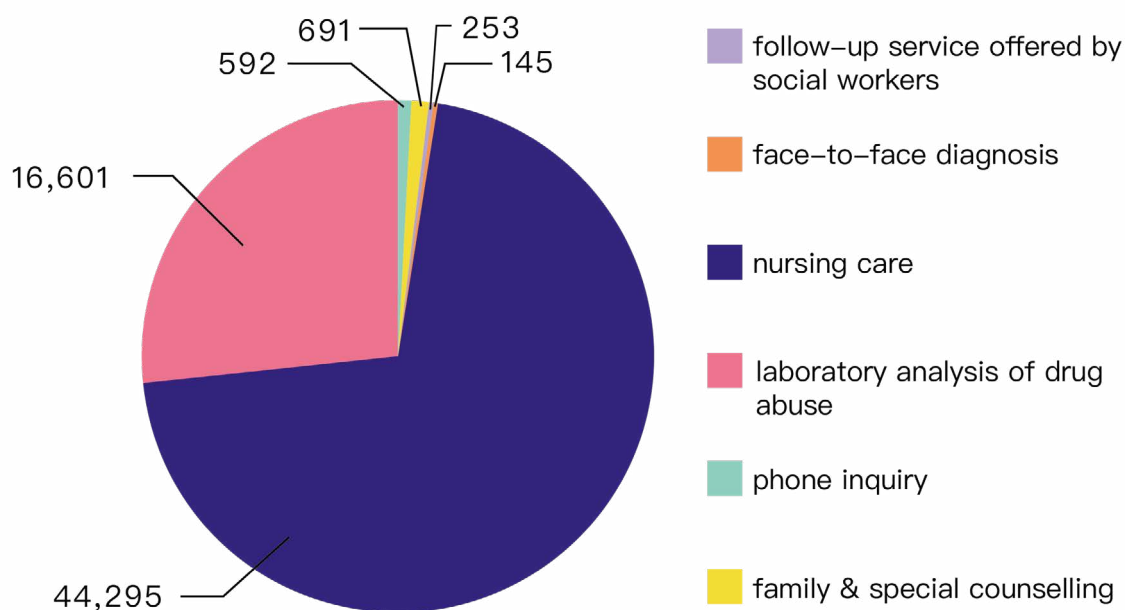
Telephone counselling

Data on Voluntary Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Case in Recent Years from Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division



Picture 1. From October 1991 to December 2021, a total of 2,193 cases on drug treatment were registered by the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division





Picture 2. Services provided by Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division in 2021

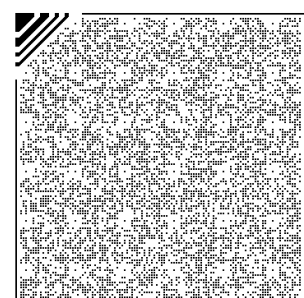
Till 2021, 1,066 probation cases had been transferred by the judicial measures for participating drug treatments, including 44 new referrals in 2021; themed seminars were launched and over 94 people participated in 7 lectures and group activities.

## 2.2 Infectious Disease Prevention & Control and Damage Mitigation

In 2021, continually cooperated with Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário, followed 311 cases of infection. Through outpatient service, 234 of counselling and follow-up services were provided. Also optimized nurse health education service and provided referral, health education and nursing follow-up services for 27 cases of hepatitis C infection, AIDS counselling and education services were offered for 74 help-seekers; 383 person-times health education counselling were provided continually, 174 people participated in various sessions of trainings/activities related to various infective diseases conducted for front-line staff and trainees at drug rehabilitation hospitals.

To better understand the situation of drug abusers in Macao, 133 questionnaires of high-risk behaviors were filled and reported throughout 2021, and based on the data, supporting measures were made accordingly. 123 drug dependents used the methadone treatment service, the average attendance rate being 92%.

Since 2008, we have supported non-governmental drug rehabilitation institutions to set up the plan of clean needles. Till 2021, more than 360,000 contaminated needles have been recycled.



### 2.3 Cooperating with civil organisations to carry out multi-channel promotion work on drug rehabilitation service

The Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Division of SWB, together with various government departments, medical and civil organisations, has organised a number of drug treatment service promotion projects. In 2021, SWB continued to hold 26 "Smart Tips for you" training courses for law enforcement officers and front-line staff of social service organisations, with a total of 926 participants; the "Healthy Community Partners" were also held with a total of 263 people participated in 7 training courses; a lecture on "Anti-drug work for frontline medical staff" was held in cooperation with the Hospital of Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST Hospital), and 50 people participated; at the same time, SWB published anti-drug abuse related articles in the publications of Kiang Wu Hospital, MUST Hospital and Macau Worker's Clinics, carrying out drug education work continuously, disseminating correct health information and help-seeking methods.

SWB established an exchange platform for drug abuse prevention services and with other social service organisations, co-organising sharing sessions on drug abuse prevention services, with 34 directors and representatives from 19 organisations participating; SWB also organised various community outreach and tours in cooperation with civil organisations: a total of 174 people participated in the "Stand by Me" board game tour promotion event; a total of 208 people participated in the "Who Am I" micro film community promotion event. Online promotion of the film was carried out through social platforms, and a total of 1,900 people viewed it. In addition, SWB also participated in the "New Space for the Dissemination of Law" during the legal promotion month aimed at young people, to strengthen the anti-drug popularisation and support work for young people and foreign residents. Combined with a number of online promotion activities, it reached a total of 28,333 people.



One of the lessons in "Smart tips 4 you" training courses



Photo of "Healthy Community Partnership Programme" training courses



"Who am I" premiere sharing session



"New Space for the Dissemination of Law" booth activity in Anti-drug carnival



## Health Bureau Information

### 1. Organizational Structure and Functions

#### (1) AIDS Prevention and Control Commission

Established in 2005, the AIDS Prevention and Control Commission is tasked to plan and promote the prevention and control of AIDS in order to curb the spread of the disease. Chaired by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, the Commission is constituted by 27 members representing different governmental entities and non-government organizations from sectors of health, education, social welfare, security and anti-drug, with a standing secretariat under the Health Bureau.

#### (2) Special Preventive Services Team

The Special Preventive Services Team of the Health Bureau is located beside Nossa Senhora do Carmo – Lago Health Centre in Taipa. It has a public AIDS hotline (28500600) which offers AIDS information and booking of free rapid HIV test for the general public. It also provides confirmative HIV test for suspected cases referred by non-government health institutions, and refers confirmed cases to Conde de São Januário General Hospital for follow-up treatment.

### 2. Major Achievements in 2021

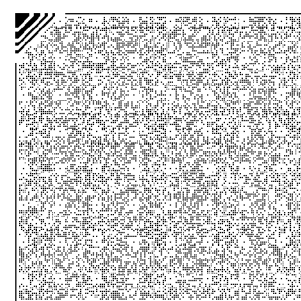
#### (1) Surveillance of Infectious Disease among Drug Dependents

As a joint effort between the Public Health Laboratory of the Health Bureau and the Department of Prevention and Treatment of Gambling and Drug Dependence of the Social Welfare Bureau, serology testing services were provided to drug abusers to detect hepatitis C, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS and other major infectious diseases. The positive rates of infectious disease serology testing in the last five years are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Positive rates of infectious disease serology testing among drug users in 2017 –2021

Positive rates	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
HCV antibodies	52%	49%	37%	40%	28%
HBV surface antigen	12%	10%	11%	9%	13%
HIV antibodies	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%





## (2) HIV/AIDS Situation in Macao

Among all previous HIV infected cases involving local residents, the most common routes of transmission were homosexual or bisexual contact (42.5%) and heterosexual contact (36.4%), followed by intravenous drug injection (11.5%). Since the introduction of Methadone Maintenance Treatment in 2005 and the launch of various harm reduction measures, the number of infections from drug injection among Macao residents has decreased significantly. Aside from 1 imported case in 2019, there has not been any new infection reported among local residents since 2015.

With the aim of discovering hidden cases in the community and enabling them to get appropriate treatment and follow-up, the Health Bureau continued to advocate the policy of routine HIV testing in both public and private healthcare settings by encouraging health professionals to propose HIV testing to all patients and physical examinees. Meanwhile, various media have been engaged in promoting HIV testing service, and free HIV rapid testing service has been made available at more subsidized non-government health institutions through an expanded HIV rapid testing network in the community.

In 2021, the “HIV Self-testing Pilot Scheme” was launched to encourage testing with enhanced protection on personal privacy. Residents simply need to do a brief registration online and make payment via the electronic payment system, then they can collect the test kit at a self-pickup locker. After that, they can collect samples, perform the test and interpret the result at home.

Besides, funding and support have been allocated to schools and associations of different fields for publicity, education and the promotion of behavioural intervention measures, while optimizing the monitoring on subsidized NGOs.

## 3. Conclusion and Way Forward

Individual meetings convened by the six working groups under the AIDS Prevention and Control Commission in 2021 have brought about deliberations on various prevention and treatment measures for different key populations. In 2022, the “HIV Self-testing Scheme” will continue to be rolled out. The one-year pilot scheme shows that this model of testing is generally accepted by the public, and can successfully encourage untested residents to understand their infection status, thus contributing to the successful detection of hidden HIV infections in the community. In addition, the screening, serological surveillance and follow-up of high-risk pregnant women as well as their partners and babies will be further enhanced, so as to interrupt the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis.



Meeting of the Safe Sex Behaviour Promotion Team

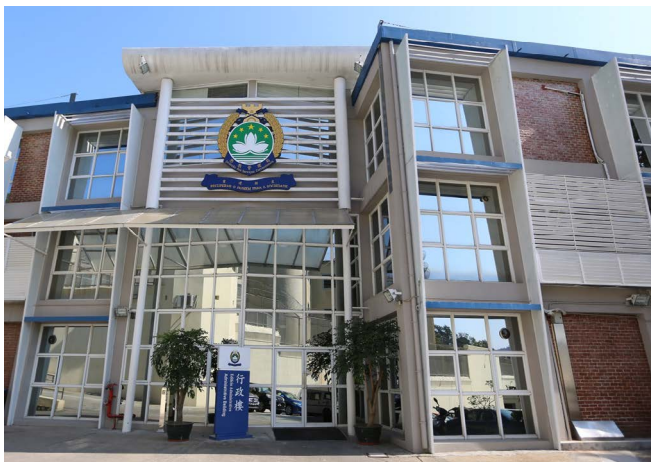




# COLOANE PRISON OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BUREAU

## 1. Functions

Coloane Prison of the Correctional Services Bureau is committed to providing voluntary drug treatment and rehabilitation services for inmates with drug abuse history. In 1997, Coloane Prison established the Rehabilitation Unit, and its objectives include enhancing inmates' knowledge of prevention of drug abuse, relapse and recidivism through group activities, talks and counseling sessions, etc.; strengthening inmates' ties with the society, confidence and resistance to the temptations of drugs using social resources; as well as promoting the drug abuse prevention message among inmates who are not drug abusers in order to help them build healthy lifestyles.



Furthermore, for optimization of its drug treatment and rehabilitation services, Coloane Prison had been implementing the “Methadone Treatment Scheme” since November 2009, offering drug treatment to inmates already receiving the methadone maintenance treatment provided by the Social Welfare Bureau prior to imprisonment.

## 2. Our Work in 2021

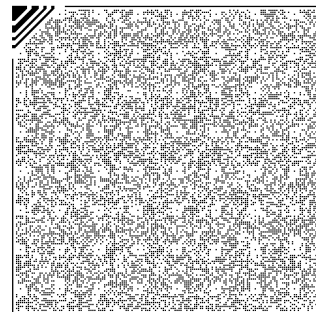
### (1) Activities of the Rehabilitation Unit

#### 1.1 Intervention and correctional services for inmates within the Prison

To promote drug prevention information among the entire prison population, further their understanding about the hazards of drugs and thereby achieve the effect of prevention and elimination of drug-related crimes, in 2021, the video on healthy lifestyle tips, titled “Shiny and Me”, continued to be broadcast, enriching inmates' knowledge of substance abuse prevention, promoting to inmates and the general public drug abuse prevention-related information, and strengthening the attention of inmates and their family and friends to drug abuse prevention issues and their understanding about relevant community resources. In addition, as part of their inter-departmental cooperation mechanism, the Correctional Services Bureau and the Social Welfare Bureau jointly implemented a youth support scheme named “Way Back Home”. Under the scheme, through assistances from rehabilitation organizations in the community, support was especially provided to young drug abusers aged 18 or under and their family members, enhancing the abovementioned youngsters' ability to adapt to the life back in society, thereby lowering the risks of their recidivism.

#### 1.2 Building social bond and safety network in the community prior to release

In 2021, the world was still actively fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Coloane Prison, being an enclosed space, responded to the SAR Government's appeal to “persist in normalized pandemic prevention practices, maintain social distance and avoid crowd gatherings”, as well as carried on with



imparting and promoting the substance abuse prevention message to inmates. Coloane Prison also continued to invite non-governmental organizations, including the Christian New Life Fellowship in Macau, the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau, and the Young Men's Christian Association of Macau, to collaborate on the "Letters with Love" correspondence support scheme for inmates, which enabled the abovementioned rehabilitation organizations in the community to communicate with the inmates with previous drug abuse experience through letters, helping the inmates undergo personal growth, rebuild self-identity as well as establish a social support network for their life after rejoining the society. Such diversified approaches aimed to sustain and raise participating inmates' resistance to the temptations of drugs and reduce the possibility of their recidivism. A total of 23 male inmates and 5 female inmates were willing to participate in the abovementioned scheme.

### 1.3 Collaboration with the outside world on provision of guidance and education

Substance abuse-related information was disseminated among inmates via broadcasts of audio recordings as part of the continual joint collaborative efforts with rehabilitation organizations in the community. Through cooperation with non-governmental drug treatment and rehabilitation organizations, the Unit arranged ex-offenders with drug abuse experience to share their psychological struggles on their social rehabilitation and reintegration journey, as a way to empower and educate the audiences. Topics of the audio broadcasts for the inmates covered the knowledge of preventing drug abuse and HIV. The purpose of the above arrangements was to provide useful information and education through diverse channels.

## (2) The Methadone Treatment Scheme

Since November 2009, Coloane Prison had been collaborating with the Social Welfare Bureau to conduct the Methadone Treatment Scheme on prison premises, with the methadone oral solution used in the Scheme provided by the Health Bureau. Under the Scheme, inmates already receiving methadone treatment prior to admission to the Prison were given continued treatment services.

There were no new participants of the Methadone Treatment Scheme in 2021. From the launch of the Scheme to 31 December 2021, a total of 64 inmates—55 males and 9 females—had taken part in it. Among all participating inmates: 63 persons had completed the treatment and 1 person refused treatment; 94 percent were Macao residents, 5 percent were Mainland Chinese and 1 percent were of other nationalities.

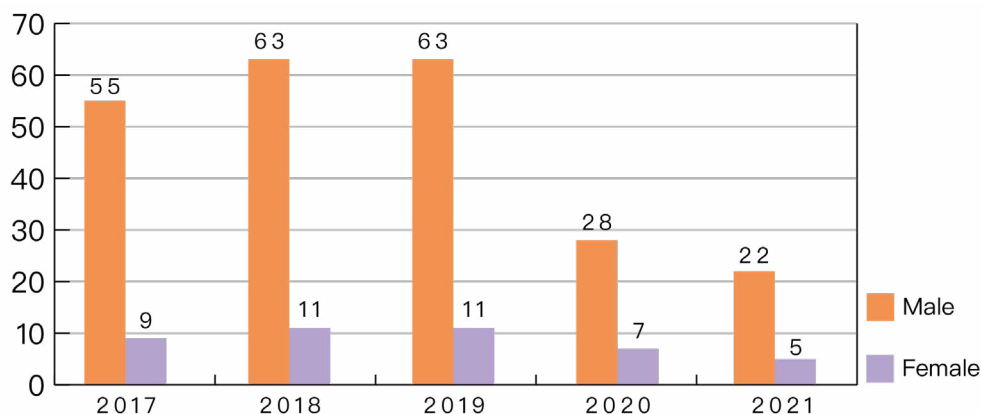
## 3. Statistical analysis of inmates declaring drug abuse experience and sent to prison in 2021

### (1) Analysis of inmates declaring drug abuse experience and sent to prison in 2021

According to the statistics compiled by Coloane Prison, there were 403 new inmates in 2021, 27 of whom declared drug abuse experience, accounting for 6.7 percent of the new inmate population of the year (in 2020, there were 398 new inmates, of whom 35, i.e. 8.8 percent, declared drug abuse experience). Compared to 2020, 2021 saw a slight increase of the number of individuals admitted to the Prison, whereas the percentage with declared drug abuse experience against the entire new inmate population declined by 2.1 percent.

Under the pandemic, 2020 and 2021 saw a noticeable decrease in the number of inmates who declared drug abuse experience on admission to prison, compared to the past. In recent years, the gender ratio of inmates with declared drug abuse experience was relatively stable (approximately one female in every five inmates).

Chart 1: Comparison of the statistics of male and female inmates declaring drug abuse experience and sent to prison between 2017 and 2021

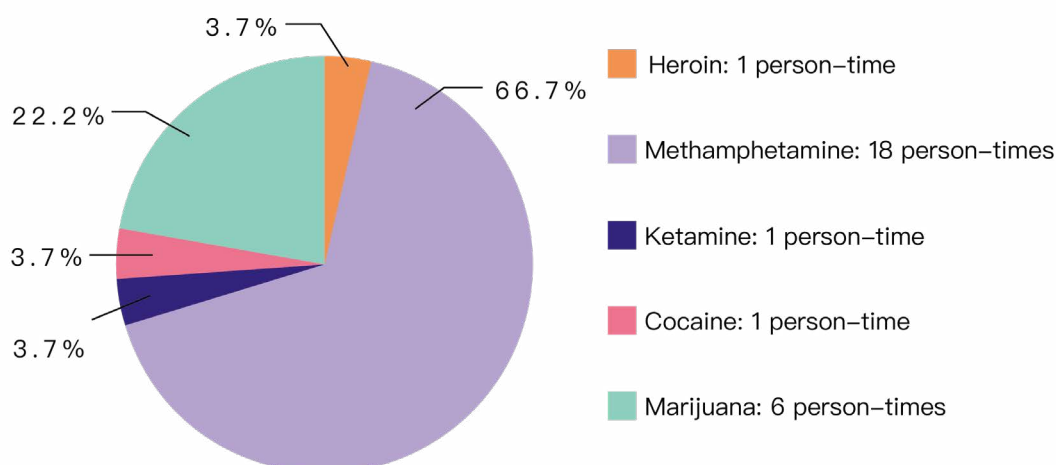


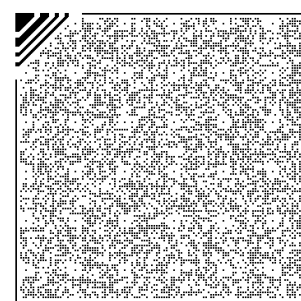
According to the data declared by Coloane Prison on the central drug abuse registration form, among the inmates declaring drug abuse experience on admission to prison in 2021, 10 persons, i.e. 37 percent, were unemployed (the figure in 2020 was 15 unemployed persons, i.e. 42.9 percent of the drug-abusing new inmates). The figure indicated that Macao's pandemic-related entry restrictions possibly contributed to the decline of the number of drug-abusing individuals admitted to the Prison in the year; the ratio of unemployed individuals among them was lower than that in 2020 too. Furthermore, 46.9 percent of the individuals declaring drug abuse history and sent to prison in 2021 claimed they had turned to drugs for reducing stress or the feelings of suffering, defeat or boredom, while 18.7 percent and 15.6 percent of them declared their reasons for their previous drug abuse behavior to be peer influence and curiosity respectively.

## (2) Types of drugs that inmates sent to prison in 2021 declared to have abused (more than one type of drugs might be declared)

Concerning the types of drugs used by the inmates who declared drug abuse experience on admission to prison in 2021, methamphetamine was the most abused (by 66.7 percent), followed by marijuana (22.2 percent). (See Chart 2)

Chart 2: Types of drugs previously abused by inmates sent to prison in 2021





Based on the statistics of the inmates who declared to have abused drugs within the three months prior to admission to prison, there was a rising trend of the use of methamphetamine and marijuana in recent years. The percentage of newly admitted inmates who previously abused methamphetamine rose from the 30.1 percent in 2019, to 58.3 percent in 2020, and to 66.7 percent in 2021. Similarly, the percentage of those who declared to have used marijuana during the three months prior to being sent to prison increased from merely 2.4 percent in 2019, to 8.3 percent in 2020 and to even 22.2 percent in 2021. Conversely, the number declaring previous use of cocaine saw a downward trend (37.3 percent in 2019, to 11.1 percent in 2020 and to 3.7 percent in 2021).

None of the five female inmates who declared in 2021 to have previously abused drugs were Macao residents; the drugs they all claimed to have used were methamphetamine. Aged 27 to 37, these female inmates revealed their reasons for having used drugs to be: relief of stress or the feelings of suffering, defeat or boredom, curiosity, or peer influence. How the group used and accessed narcotics would be a topic worth studying.

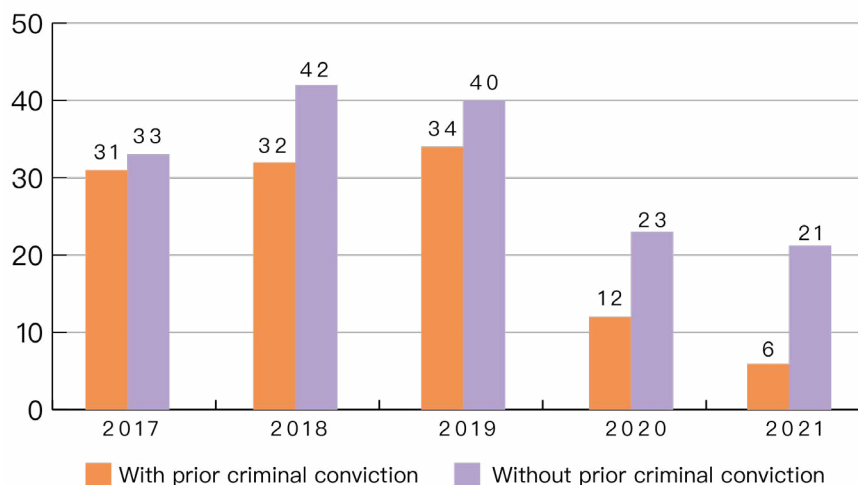
### (3) Statistics of prior criminal conviction of inmates declaring drug abuse experience and sent to prison in 2021

Among the inmates with declared drug abuse experience and sent to prison in 2021, 15 persons were Macao residents (55.6 percent), and 12 were non-residents (44.4 percent), whereas the same figure in 2020 was 57.1 percent Macao residents and 42.9 percent non-residents, indicating a small decline of the percentage of Macao residents declaring drug abuse experience on admission and a slight increase of the percentage of drug-abusing non-resident new inmates in 2021.

21 persons were without prior criminal conviction (77.8 percent) and 6 persons (22.2 percent) had a previous conviction.

Based on Chart 3, starting 2017, the number of drug abusers who declared past drug abuse experience but did not have a prior criminal conviction was always bigger than the number of drug-abusing new inmates with a prior conviction, indirectly reflecting the warning effects the criminal law on drug abusers.

**Chart 3: Comparison of the statistics of inmates declaring drug abuse experience on admission to prison in 2017 to 2021 by whether they had previous criminal conviction**

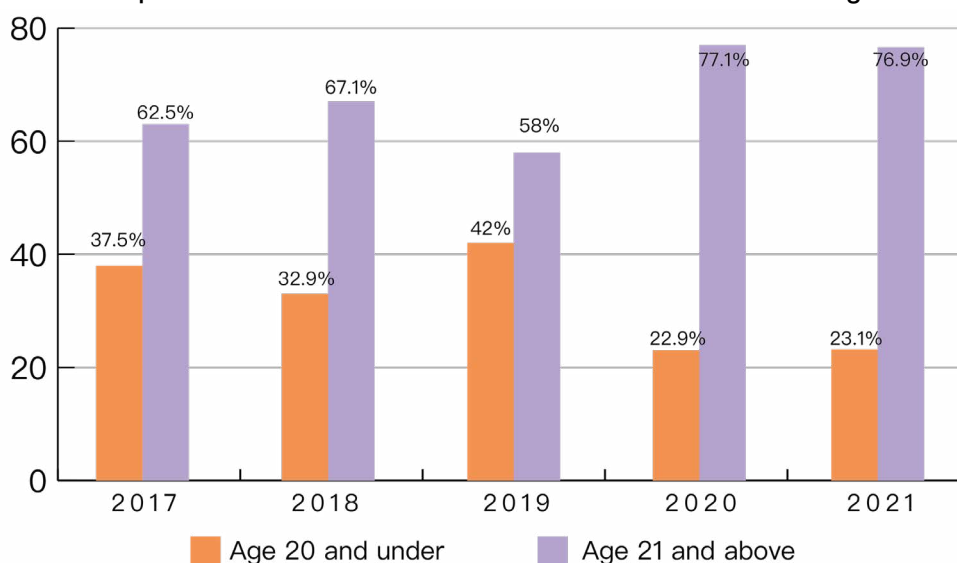




#### (4) Comparison of the age at which inmates sent to prison in 2021 declared to have first abuse drugs

Of the 27 inmates declaring drug history on admission to prison in 2021, 23.1 percent had their first drug abuse experience at age 20 and under and 76.9 percent at age 21 and above, a ratio similar to that of the previous year.

Chart 4: Comparison of the statistics of the age at which inmates sent to prison in 2017 to 2021 declared to have first abused drugs

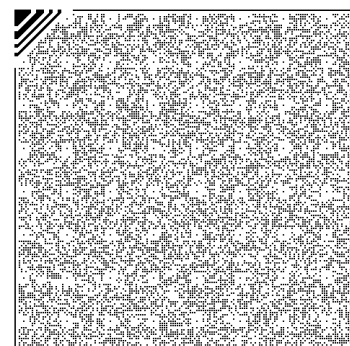


## 4. Conclusion and Future Plans

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage the whole world in 2021. With Macao being a tourism city, the SAR Government decisively implemented the appropriate case reporting, testing and quarantine measures during the fight against the pandemic, which maintained the steady state of Macao and protected the wellbeing of members of the public amid the difficult period. However, the increased restrictions on non-residents' return to their home countries made it easier for them to develop negative emotions, which might bring potential impact on the society.

Due to its special geographical environment, drugs in Macao were mainly imported from outside its territory. The restrictions on transportation routes under the pandemic might give rise to the increased use of postal services for trafficking of narcotic drugs. Therefore, Coloane Prison carried out inspections on postal items in accordance with corresponding established measures as always, vigorously preventing drugs from entering its facilities.

Meanwhile, the pandemic prevention measures might also have an impact on the supply chain of drugs. The report "COVID-19 and the supply chain: from production and trafficking to use" prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (hereinafter the "report") points out that drug trafficking depends heavily upon legitimate trades to disguise its activities. According to the Macao



tourism data compiled by the Macao Government Tourism Office, visitor arrivals totaled approximately 39.4 million in 2019 and dropped to only 7.7 million in 2021. The decrease in the visitor numbers caused the reduced demands of trade in Macao. The lack of normal trades that camouflaged the drug trafficking activities had a positive impact on crackdown on drugs, which was believed to result in less narcotics in Macao.

However, reduced quantities of drugs might mean more impurities mixed in them, which could cause even more physical harm to drug abusers. Therefore, the measures targeted at anti-drug education (including the health education concerning the prevention of drug abuse and reduction of harms to drug abusers) and the fight against drug crimes became even more important. A point worth noting is that according to the “report”, reduced economic activities could lead to the cutting of budget for anti-drug efforts in a region; at the same time, pandemic prevention and control efforts might result in stockpiling of narcotics, entailing an increased supply of low-cost, high-purity drugs upon the lifting of restrictions, which might lead to enhanced risks of drug overdose. In order to save more people, especially youngsters, from the harms of drugs, forward planning of the use of anti-drug resources should be conducted.

The restricted circulation and loose supply structures of narcotics, the case of home-grown marijuana in Macao in 2021 and more discussions in some regions of the world on the legalization of marijuana bred debates over public health and individual freedoms. In view of the above, efforts of drug prevention and healthy lifestyle education would be recommended to continue.

About future work plans, Coloane Prison will keep working alongside other governmental departments and social service organizations to offer diverse development opportunities or related projects to inmates, to continuously raise the awareness of inmates with drug abuse experience on relapse prevention, and to comprehensively enrich inmates’ knowledge of the harms of drugs. Different sectors of society should display a more open-minded, accepting and tolerant attitude toward released ex-offenders with special experiences. Therefore, Coloane Prison will remain fully and firmly committed to providing opportunities for inmates to establish social bonds prior to release, so that a more friendly environment can be created for rehabilitated persons returning to society.



[www.antidrugs.gov.mo](http://www.antidrugs.gov.mo)