

3. RESULTS

Treatment Centre Data

Response rate

One Hundred Sixty Four NGO centres (treatment and counselling centres), 25 government treatment centres (GOs) and 20 private psychiatrists responded to this study. Overall, the participation rate was low. It was around 57 percent for the NGOs and it varied between 7 and 27 percent for remaining participants. Data from six centres arrived late and thus could not be analysed. The current monograph thus presents the data obtained from 203 such centres (NGOs, GOs and the private psychiatrists).

Distribution of Centres across States

Data was available from 23 states, 2 union territories and the National Capital Territory (NCT). Three new states were created in the country after the project started, however the data presented here refers to the state structure existing during the time of the data collection. The number of respondents and number of persons reported per centre are seen in the following table (Table 1). The table also shows the number of organisations participating in each state. Uttar Pradesh followed by Maharashtra returned the largest number of questionnaires, and provided data from 2473 and

Table1. Distribution and Number of Centres Across States

States	No. of Centres	No. of Respondents	No of cases reported per centre
Uttar Pradesh	27	2473	91.6
Maharashtra	26	2230	85.8
Punjab	14	1798	128.4
Bihar	17	1394	82.0
Kerala	21	1360	64.8
Haryana	9	919	102.1
West Bengal	12	880	73.3
Madhya Pradesh	8	657	82.1
Delhi	4	638	159.5
Manipur	9	620	68.9
Andhra Pradesh	9	619	68.8
Karnataka	9	535	59.4
Tamil Nadu	5	489	97.8
Rajasthan	5	477	95.4
Chandigarh	4	250	62.5
Gujarat	2	237	118.5
Mizoram	3	233	77.7
Goa	2	223	111.5
Nagaland	4	204	51.0
Assam	4	181	45.3
Orissa	2	134	67.0
Pondicherry	2	126	63.0
Tripura	2	117	58.5
Himachal Pradesh	1	67	67.0
Meghalaya	1	54	54.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1	27	27.0
Total	203	16942	83.5

2230 drug abusers respectively. The average number of respondents in a centre was 83.5.

A total of 16,942 drug abusers were reported from 203 centres in 23 States, 2 union territories and the National Capital Territory. About a quarter of the sample used more than one drug and altogether a total number of 20,169 drug types (combinations or categories of drug being used) were reported, Hence the data with regard to drug types is also being analysed in this study.

Drug Use and Drug User Data

The drug use results are presented in three sections. Section A provides an analysis of the composite national data along with data from specific states. Section B provides information related to various drug types and Section C discusses rural-urban differences in drug use.

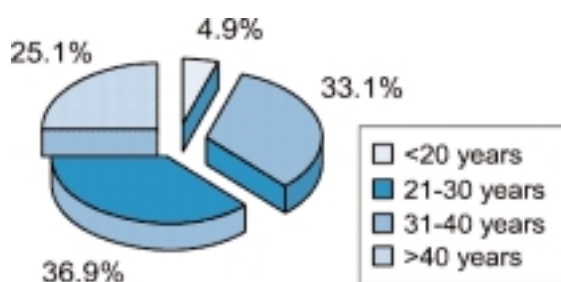
A. Composite National and State Specific Data

Age

Nationally, the mean age of drug using subjects was 35.3 years. The largest numbers of drug abusers were found in the age group 31-40 cohort (36.9%), followed by the 21-30 years age group (33.1%). About 5 percent of users in the sample were aged 20 years or below. One fourth of drug abusers were more than 40 years old (Figure 1). It is clear that drug users reporting for treatment in this study are in the productive years of their lives.

A few states contributed large numbers of young drug abusers i.e.: those 'below 20 years' of age. These young abusers were mostly from Mizoram (37.9%), Jammu and Kashmir (18.5%) and Nagaland (16.7%). Older subjects i.e.: those 'above 40 years,' were more frequently reported from Tamil Nadu (45.8%), Kerala (44.8%), Goa (41.7%), Pondicherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (39% each).

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Drug Abusers



Sex

An overwhelming majority of the subjects were men (97.2%). There were a few female drug abusers and they were more often reported from Andhra Pradesh (10.5%), Manipur (9.8%) and Mizoram (6.9%).

Marital Status

A majority of users (71.9%) were married, with less than a quarter of the subjects being unmarried (22.8%). Very few were divorced (1.2%).

Tamil Nadu (90.0%), Gujarat (89.5%), Haryana (85.4%) and Andhra Pradesh (83.2%) reported higher percentages of married drug abusers. Unmarried drug abusers tended to be from Mizoram and Nagaland.

Education Status

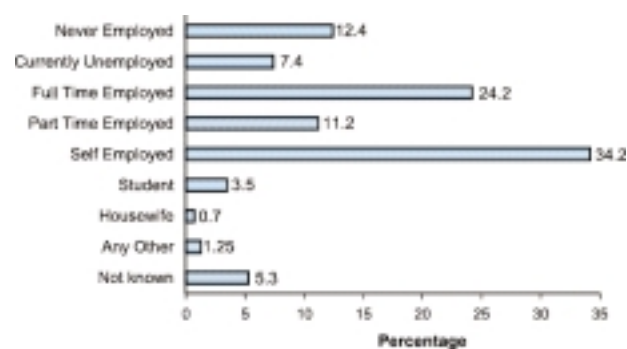
A significant number of treatment seekers in the study were educated with only about 15 percent of the sample being illiterate. About 42 percent had completed higher secondary schooling or above. About 12 percent were graduates.

Higher proportions of illiterate subjects were reported from Rajasthan (34.4%), Andhra Pradesh (28.0%) and Uttar Pradesh (25.7%). By contrast, higher levels of education were found in Mizoram, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and Assam.

Employment and Occupation

Most respondents (around 70%) were employed. 12.4 percent have never been employed and an additional 7.4 percent was currently unemployed. Students comprised 3.5 percent of the sample (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Distribution of Employment Status Among Drug Abusers



A few states had a very high number of 'never employed' respondents, namely Mizoram (48.1%), Nagaland (46.1%) and Gujarat (32.1%). High proportions of student drug abusers were reported from Mizoram (27.0%) and Nagaland (26.5%).

Nearly one fourth (23.3%) of drug abusers in the sample were farmers and/or fishermen by occupation; about 12 percent were service workers and 16 percent were labourers.

Farming and/or fishing were more often reported as occupations in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana. Labourers were more often reported from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Monthly Income and Expenditure on Drugs

The mean income of drug abusers seeking treatment was Rs.3408 (USD 73) per month (SD 2409). The median income was Rs.2200 (USD 47) per month. Only a minority of respondents (about 13 percent) had an income of over Rs.5000 (USD 107) per month. As against the mean monthly income of around Rs.3408 (USD 73), the mean current monthly expenditure on drugs was Rs.1653 (USD 35). Thus the subjects in the sample were spending almost 50 percent of their income on drugs. This scenario of high expenditure on drug use was further complicated by the fact that most respondents reported that their expenditure on drugs was increasing.

Some respondents from Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Meghalaya reported higher levels of income than the national average.

Rural-Urban distribution

The respondents were almost equally distributed between rural and urban areas with 51.7 percent being from rural areas and 48.3 percent from urban areas.

The highest percentages of rural drug abusers were in Goa (78.0%) and Punjab (77.5%), whereas higher

numbers of urban drug abusers reported for treatment in Mizoram (91.0%) and Meghalaya (90.7%).

Family Background

Overall, about 30 percent of fathers of the current sample were illiterate. Largely, the fathers of these drug abusers were farmers and/or fishermen. However, between 14 and 35 percent of the respondents did not report the educational and occupational status of their parents.

Illiteracy was higher among fathers of opium abusers in Punjab, Pondicherry and Jammu & Kashmir. About 50 percent of mothers were illiterate and illiteracy was more often reported from Pondicherry, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan

Family History of Drug Use

About half of all drug abusers reported they had a family member who abused drugs. Fathers comprised the majority of drug abusing family members.

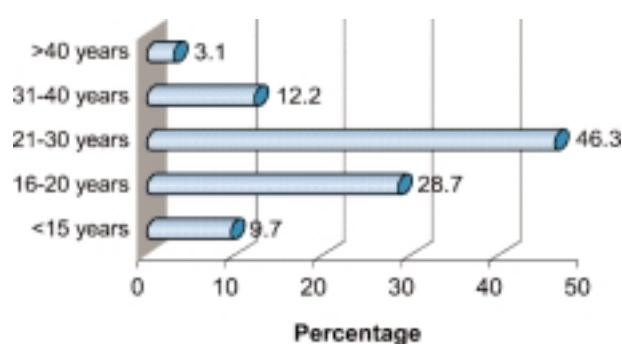
The percentage of users having a drug abusing family member was higher in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh and Pondicherry in comparison to other states.

Age of First Use

The mean age of initiation into drug abuse was 24.0 years. Nearly one-tenth of users (9.7%) started before reaching 15 years of age, while a little more than one-fourth started when they were between 16 and 20 years old. Almost half of the sample started using drugs between the ages of 21 and 30 years (Figure 3).

Early onset of drug use (use before 15 years of age) was more frequently reported from Mizoram, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, and Nagaland.

Figure 3. Distribution of Age of First Use



Demography - Salient Features

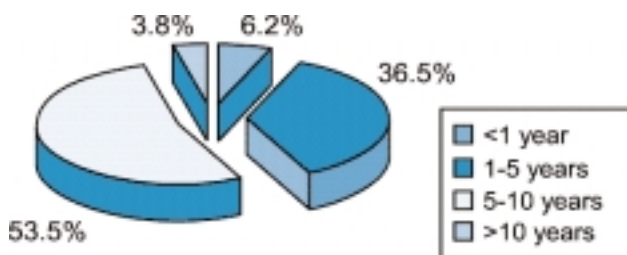
- ◆ Mean Age - 35 years
- ◆ Male - 97%
- ◆ Unmarried - 23%
- ◆ Illiterate - 15%
- ◆ Unemployed - 20%
- ◆ Rural - 52%
- ◆ Occupation - Farmer/ fishermen (23%)

Duration of Drug Abuse

The majority of drug abusers reported that they had been using drugs for more than five years (around 57%). A few (around 6%) had used drugs for less than one year (Figure 4).

In the states of Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, between 75 and 80 percent of the sample reported that they had used drugs for between 5 and 10 years. Assam reported a comparatively higher proportion of subjects who had used drugs for ten years and longer. Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir had a higher proportion of subjects who had been using drugs for less than one year.

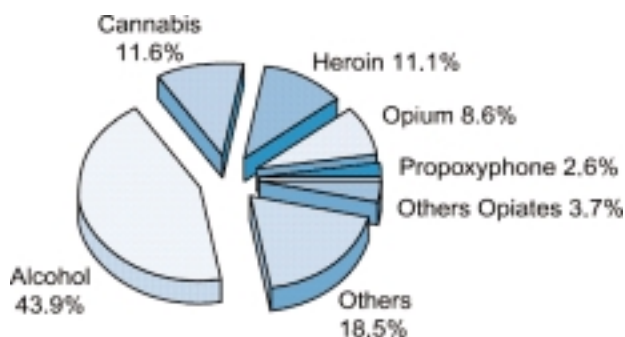
Figure 4. Distribution of Duration of Drug Abuse



Commonly Abused Drugs

Alcohol, cannabis, heroin and opium emerged as the most common drugs abused among treatment seekers. The majority of respondents were abusing alcohol (43.9%), followed by cannabis (11.6%), heroin (11.1%) and opium (8.6%). Very few reported abuse of other drugs like propoxyphene, barbiturates, hallucinogens and inhalants (around <2% each). Amphetamines were the least abused drugs (0.2%). Nearly 19 percent of drug abusers have reported abuse of several other compounds like tobacco products, ayurvedic medicines and non-narcotic painkillers (Figure 5). Overall, about 26 percent reported abuse of opiates.

Figure 5. Distribution of Commonly Abused Drugs



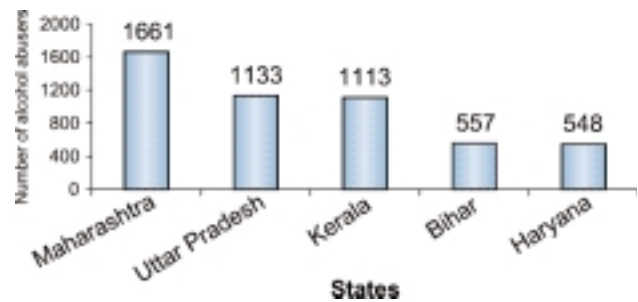
There were a few differences seen across the states. These are discussed below briefly.

Alcohol Abuse

Alcohol abusers were reported from all the 23 states, 2 union territories and the National Capital Region

The largest numbers of alcohol abusers in the sample came from Maharashtra (18.8%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.8%), Kerala (12.6%), Bihar (6.3%) and Haryana (6.2%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Alcohol Abuse: Top Five States (N=5012/8857)

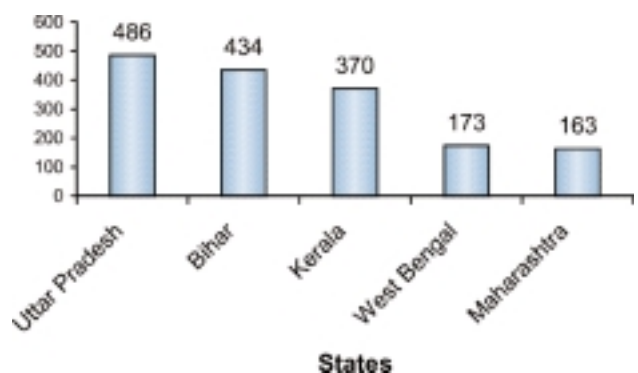


Cannabis Abuse

Cannabis abuse was reported from all the states except Jammu & Kashmir.

The states contributing the largest numbers of cannabis users to the sample were Uttar Pradesh (20.8%), followed by Bihar (18.6%), Kerala (15.8%), West Bengal (7.4%) and Maharashtra (7.0%).

Figure 7. Cannabis Abuse: Top Five States (N=1626/2335)



Heroin Abuse

Amongst the 2246 heroin abusers in the study, none were from Himachal Pradesh or Tripura. The largest numbers of heroin abusers were found in Uttar Pradesh (17.3%), followed by Delhi (16.3%), West Bengal (15.0%), Manipur (10.1%) and Bihar (10.0%) (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Heroin Abuse: Top Five States (N=1541/2246)

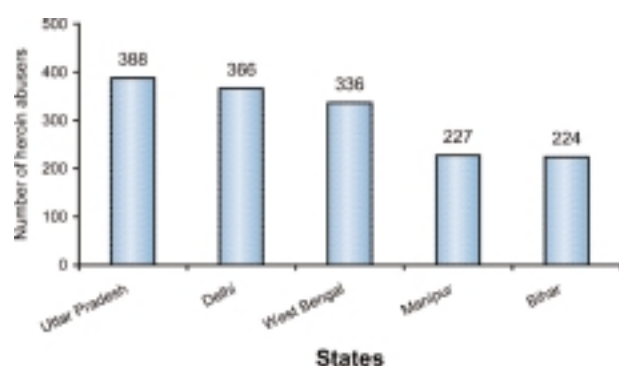
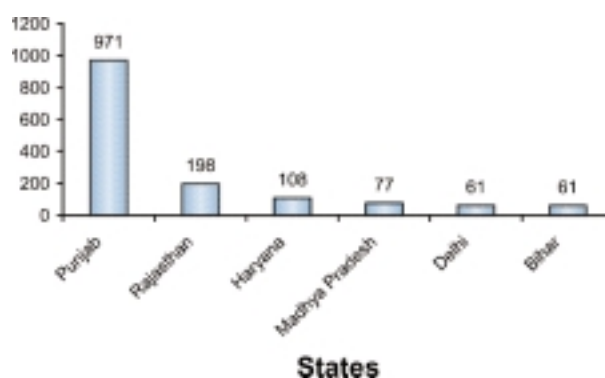


Figure 9. Opium Abuse: Top Six States (N=1476/1725)



Opium Abuse

Altogether 1725 opium abusers were reported in the sample. There were no cases of opium abuse reported from Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. The state with the largest number of opium abusers was Punjab (56.3%), followed by Rajasthan (11.5%) (Figure 9).

Distribution of Drug Abusers within Various States

The following table (see Table 2) shows the most commonly used three drugs for each state. It can be seen that the proportion of subjects using a particular drug type varies from state to state. It is important to note that even though a state may report a small

Table 2. Three Major Drugs Used In Various States (% of state sample)

States	Most Common	Second Most Common	Third Most Common
Andhra Pradesh	Alcohol 73.0	Cannabis 11.3	Inhalants 3.6
Assam	Alcohol 59.8	Cannabis 24.4	Heroin 4.1
Bihar	Alcohol 37.1	Cannabis 28.9	Heroin 14.9
Goa	Alcohol 84.8	Cannabis 2.6	Opium 1.3
Gujarat	Alcohol 59.3	Heroin 7.7	Cannabis 5.4
Haryana	Alcohol 51.4	Opium 10.1	Cannabis 6.5
Jammu and Kashmir	Alcohol 21.1	Opium 10.5	Heroin 7.9
Karnataka	Alcohol 64.3	Heroin 1.3	Cannabis 0.4
Kerala	Alcohol 50.8	Cannabis 16.9	Minor Tranquilliser 5.3
Maharashtra	Alcohol 65.4	Other sedatives 6.9	Cocaine 5.1
Madhya Pradesh	Alcohol 43.1	Heroin 17.9	Cannabis 15.6
Manipur	Heroin 32.2	Alcohol 19.3	Inhalants 7.1
Mizoram	Propoxyphene 25.2	Alcohol 24.9	Cough syrup 19.8
Meghalaya	Alcohol 76.7	Cannabis 3.3	Heroin 1.7
Nagaland	Propoxyphene 47.3	Alcohol 14.2	Heroin 7.7
Orissa	Alcohol 30.9	Heroin 20.7	Opium 7.5
Punjab	Opium 42.7	Alcohol 18.9	Propoxyphene 6.6
Rajasthan	Opium 39.8	Heroin 30.5	Alcohol 19.5
Tamil Nadu	Alcohol 58.2	Cannabis 1.8	Other sedatives 1.4
Tripura	Alcohol 74.3	Cannabis 15.4	Minor Tranquilliser 8.8
Uttar Pradesh	Alcohol 42.8	Cannabis 18.4	Heroin 14.7
West Bengal	Alcohol 34.0	Heroin 32.1	Cannabis 16.5
Delhi	Heroin 44.7	Alcohol 26.4	Buprenorphine 7.7
Chandigarh	Alcohol 45.4	Opium 11.8	Propoxyphene 8.9
Pondicherry	Alcohol 71.2	Cannabis 6.4	Opium 1.3
Himachal Pradesh	Alcohol 64.6	Cannabis 25.6	Opium 3.7

number of drug abusers of a particular drug type, the distribution of drug types used, within a state sample, may be very skewed.

Across states, the percentage of cannabis abusers among those reporting for treatment was high in Bihar (28.9%), Himachal Pradesh (25.6%), Orissa (25.0%), Assam (24.4%) and Uttar Pradesh (18.4%). Similarly, the highest proportions of heroin abusers were found in Delhi (44.0%), followed by Manipur (32.2%), West Bengal (32.1%), Rajasthan (30.0%) and Orissa (20.7%). Opium abusers accounted for 42.7 percent of the sample in the Punjab and 39.8 percent in Rajasthan. The percentage of alcohol abusers was highest in Goa (84.8%), followed by Meghalaya (76.7%), Tripura (74.3%), Andhra Pradesh (73.0%) and Pondicherry (71.2%).

Injecting Drug Use (IDU)

About 14 percent of the sample reported 'lifetime' injecting drug use, while about 9 percent was currently (used in last month) injecting drugs. However, about 18 percent of respondents did not report their current status.

Higher proportions of IDUs (both lifetime and current) were reported from Mizoram (76.0%) and Manipur (75.5%). Nagaland (51.0%) reported a larger number of lifetime IDUs. IDUs were less often reported from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, and Tripura had none.

Sharing of Needles

About 8 percent of the current sample reported sharing needles in their lifetime (ever), while about 4 percent reported sharing needles in the last month (current).

The percentage of respondents reporting sharing of needles was high (43-66%) in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Sexual Practices

Almost half of the drug abusers in the study had a single sexual partner. Only a minority (around 4%) reported having multiple sexual partners including partners who were commercial sex workers. (Table 3). Practice of 'safe sex' (use of condoms - always) was reported by 17 percent of the sample, whereas unsafe sexual practises (use of condoms - never) were reported by one-fourth of the sample.

A higher proportion of people reported sexual encounters with multiple partners in Himachal Pradesh

and Rajasthan. The states reporting high percentages of unsafe sexual practices were Gujarat and Mizoram.

Parameter	Percentage
Sexual partners	
Single partner	46.5
Multiple partners	14.4
Multiple partners including casual partners	5.6
Multiple partners including CSWs*	4.4
Safe sexual practices	
Always	16.8
Sometimes	21.7
Never	25.9

*CSW = Commercial Sex Workers.

The figures for the sexual practices variables were not very reliable, as many subjects (29-36%) did not respond to one or more of these items.

Drug Related Arrests

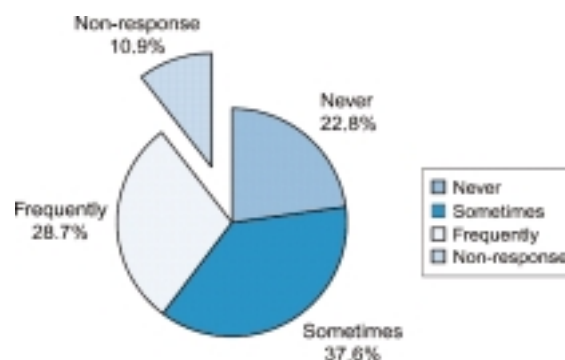
About 13 percent of drug abusers reported being arrested at least once in their lifetime (ever) and about 4 percent reported being arrested in the last one month (current).

The figures for drug related arrests, both current and lifetime, were high for Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Kerala and West Bengal. However, between 10 and 22 percent of respondents did not respond to the above questions.

Drug Related Family Violence

Drug related family violence was common and was reported by two-thirds of the subjects in the sample (Figure 10). As the figure below shows, about 29 percent of respondents reported frequent occurrence of drug related family violence.

Figure 10. Frequency of Drug Related Family Violence



A higher percentage of family violence was reported from Gujarat, Pondicherry and Manipur, while Himachal Pradesh had the fewest number of such incidents.

Previous Treatment

All the subjects in the study (DAMS) were currently undergoing treatment. However, only about 27 percent reported having received treatment prior to the current treatment episode.

The percentage of those having obtained treatment in the past was higher in Nagaland, Mizoram and Goa.

Drug Abuse - Highlights of Select Parameters

- ♦ Common Drugs of Abuse - Alcohol, Cannabis, Heroin and Opium.
- ♦ Average age of first drug use - 24 years
- ♦ IDU - 14% (lifetime) & 9% (Current)
- ♦ Needle Sharing - 8% (lifetime) & 4% (current)
- ♦ Drug Related Arrest - 13% (lifetime) & 4% (Current)
- ♦ Previous Treatment History - 27%

B. DRUG SPECIFIC DATA

This section focuses on drug specific parameters in the DAMS instrument. Parameters for alcohol, cannabis, heroin and opium are being presented below as they were found to be the most commonly abused substances in the study.

This section provides information on i) Demographic parameters across drug types and ii) Drug use related variables. The profile of drug abusers using a particular substance is also noted and compared to the composite national profile developed in Section A.

Demographic Variables

It can be seen from the Table 4 that heroin abusers were commonly found in the 21 - 30 years cohort. Opium and alcohol abusers tended to be older and more often seen in the 40 years and above age group. Most users, irrespective of substance used, were male (between 95-99%). Heroin abusers were more frequently unmarried (37.5%), while opium and alcohol abusers were largely married. Opium was the most commonly used drug among illiterate respondents. Conversely, students formed the smallest group among opium users.

Table 4. Select Demographic Parameters (%)

	Entire DAMS Sample	Alcohol Abusers	Cannabis Abusers	Heroin Abusers	Opium Abusers
Age					
<20 years	4.9	3.0	7.3	8.1	3.1
21-30 years	33.1	25.5	34.5	48.8	28.9
31-40 years	36.9	40.2	34.5	32.3	35.8
40+ years	25.1	31.3	23.7	10.8	32.2
Males	97.2	97.3	95.3	97.6	99.4
Unmarried	22.8	15.7	25.3	37.5	15.7
Illiterate	15.6	14.0	15.9	14.7	31.9
Employment					
Never employed	12.4	11.0	15.8	11.3	5.5
Currently unemployed	7.4	6.6	8.0	15.9	4.1
Student	3.5	1.8	4.6	5.5	1.2
Occupation					
Sales worker	10.4	8.8	13.0	14.4	5.2
Manufacturing	8.1	7.3	8.9	12.0	5.5
Transport operators	8.2	6.9	7.8	10.5	11.3
Farmers/ Fisherman	23.3	21.5	21.2	11.0	47.7
Family history of drug abuse					
Present	48.8	55.0	53.5	35.2	28.9

Nearly one-fourth (23.3%) of drug abusers in the sample were farmers and/or fishermen and most of these used opium (47.7%). Heroin abusers were evenly distributed among different occupational categories. Nearly 12 percent of all drug abusers were service workers, and 16 percent were labourers.

The drug abusers in the sample were generally poor. Nearly 39 percent had an income of less than Rs.2000 per month and nearly half had an income between Rs.2000-5000 per month. Almost half of the cannabis abusers (47.7%) had a monthly income of less than Rs.2000.

Between 29 and 55 percent of respondents had a drug using family member. This figure was higher among subjects reporting alcohol and cannabis use.

Drug abusers were evenly distributed between rural and urban areas. However, opium abusers were predominantly rural (75.6%), while most (63.2%) heroin users were from urban areas.

Drug Use Variables

It can be seen in Table 5 that about half of all drug users started using drugs between the ages of 21-30 years, irrespective of the substance they used. Overall, about 53 percent of the drug users had been using drugs for 5 -10 years. Alcohol and opium abusers seemed to have longer drug use careers with 60 percent reporting abuse for 5-10 years. Heroin abusers had relatively shorter drug use careers before they sought treatment.

Injecting drug use (ever) was highest among heroin abusers, as was the percentage of subjects reporting sharing of needles. Heroin users also reported a greater number of previous attempts at treatment.

As was noted earlier, drug related family violence was found among a large number (63-68%) of the sample. The frequency of occurrences of family violence was very similar across drug types. A family history of drug abuse was more commonly seen among alcohol and cannabis users.

Table 5. Select Drug Abuse Related Variables (%)

	Entire Sample	Alcohol Abusers	Cannabis Abusers	Heroin Abusers	Opium Abusers
Age of first use					
<15 years	9.7	9.4	10.8	8.6	11.8
16-20 years	28.7	28.0	26.5	27.5	19.4
21-30 years	46.3	47.3	47.0	49.9	43.9
Duration of drug use					
1-5 years	36.5	31.4	39.9	51.8	30.0
5-10 years	53.5	57.9	51.5	41.2	58.9
Injecting Drug Use (IDU)*					
Ever	14.3	9.1	8.0	25.4	6.6
Last month	9.4	5.0	4.0	17.2	3.0
Sharing of Needles *					
Ever	7.7	3.3	4.7	16.7	3.3
Last month	4.4	1.4	2.1	11.5	1.3
Drug related arrests					
Ever	13.1	11.9	15.6	20.6	6.4
Last month	3.8	3.1	4.2	5.4	1.5
Previous attempt to abstain					
Yes	27.4	23.0	25.2	39.7	26.1
Sex with multiple sexual partners including CSWs					
Yes	4.4	4.0	7.3	6.5	3.5

*IDU and sharing of needles were usually seen among persons who abused heroin or were multi-drug abusers.

The responses with regard to sexual relationships and the practice of safe sex were largely similar across drug types. It has already been pointed out in the earlier section that the data regarding sexual practice may not be very reliable as the response rate to sexual practice data items was low.

C. RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENCES

The current section describes certain differences and similarities seen among rural and urban drug abusers in the study. Altogether, 51.6 percent of drug use was reported from rural areas with the remaining 48.4 percent coming from urban areas.

Age Distribution

It can be seen from Table 6 that the number of older respondents was slightly higher in the rural group; the mean age being 36.6 and 34.0 years for rural and urban subjects respectively.

Age	Rural (N=10417)	Urban (N=9752)
<15 years	0.3	0.4
16-20 years	3.6	5.6
21-30 years	30.3	36.0
31-40 years	37.5	36.2
>40 years	28.2	21.7

Drugs abused

Alcohol was the most commonly abused drug in both rural and urban areas. Cannabis use was more frequently reported by respondents from rural backgrounds whereas heroin was more frequently used in urban locations (Table 7).

Indicator	Rural (N=10417)	Urban (N=9752)
Drugs used		
Alcohol	46.2	41.5
Cannabis	13.4	9.6
Heroin	7.9	14.6
Other opiates	16.6	10.7
Others	15.9	23.6

Age of First Use

Most respondents were introduced to substance abuse in their early twenties, irrespective of their geographic location. The mean age for initiation into substance use was 24.7 years and 23.1 years in rural and urban areas respectively.

Current Expenditure on Drugs

The mean monthly income of rural drug abusers (Rs.3050, USD 66) was slightly lower than that of urban drug abusers (Rs.3789, USD 81). Along with higher incomes, urban drug users also reported higher mean expenditure on drugs, which was Rs.1814 (USD 39) per month. Most rural as well as urban abusers were spending little over Rs.1000 (USD 21) per month on their drug habit.

Other Parameters

It has been stated earlier that about 27 percent of the entire sample reported previous histories of treatment. Among these respondents, the number of attempts reported was largely similar by area, with the mean number of attempts being 1.0 and 1.2 for rural and urban users respectively.

The data on drug related family violence is presented in the following table (Table 8). Large numbers of subjects reported drug related family violence. The figure stood at around 66 percent for both the groups.

	Rural (N=10417)	Urban (N=9752)
Never	20.8	24.9
Sometimes	38.2	37.1
Frequently	27.9	29.5

*Between 8.5% and 13.1% did not respond to the question

High Risk Behaviour

About 18 percent of subjects from urban areas reported injecting drug abuse (IDU - ever). This is in comparison to the 10 percent who reported IDU from rural areas. Thus, IDU was more often reported in urban areas. This difference was also true of the extent of needle sharing, which was about 10 percent in urban areas and 5 percent among rural respondents.

Data on high-risk sexual practices is presented in Table 9. About half of rural drug abusers had a single sexual partner, whereas about two-fifths of urban drug abusers had a single sexual partner. Both rural and urban samples had equal proportions of multiple sexual partners. The pattern of safe sexual practices (use of condoms) was also similar in both urban and rural groups

Table 9. Sexual Practices Among Rural And Urban Drug Abusers* (%)

Indicator	Rural (N=10417)	Urban (N=9752)
Number of Sexual Partners		
Single	50.2	42.4
Multiple	14.4	14.4
Multiple & casual sexual partner	5.8	5.3
Multiple & sex with CSW*	3.2	5.7
Safe Sexual Practices		
Never practiced	26.9	24.9
Sometimes practiced	22.3	20.9
Always practiced	18.1	15.5

*CSW: Commercial Sex Workers

It should also be mentioned that between 26 and 38 percent of respondents did not answer the questions on number of sexual partners and practice of safe sex. Thus, the reliability of the information on these two parameters may not be high.

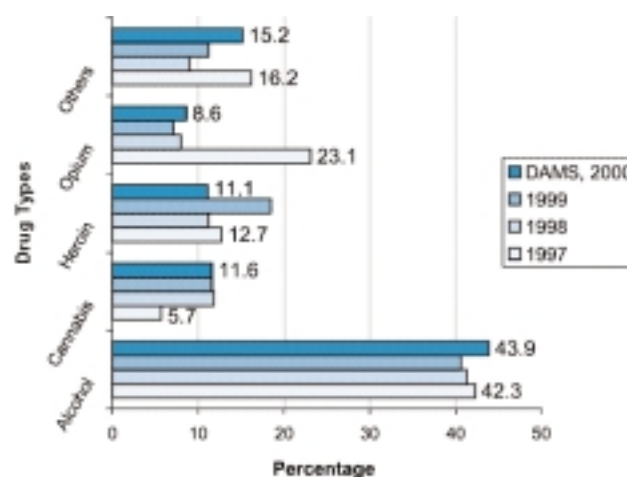
Changing Trends of Drug Abuse

No similar enquiry on the patterns of drug use has been carried out in India. Thus the data obtained from the DAMS cannot be compared to earlier

studies to reflect on the changing patterns of drug abuse.

However, the data obtained in the current project (DAMS, 2000) can be used to note the changing distribution of various drug types being used by treatment seekers as such data is available through the annual reports of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the previous four years. This comparison can be seen in figure 11.

Figure 11. Trends of Drug Abuse Among Treatment Seekers: 1997-2000



It can be seen that the proportion of subjects reporting alcohol abuse has remained between 41 and 44 percent. The proportion of cannabis abusers was lowest in the year 1997 (5.7%) and was subsequently higher, though it remained similar in the remaining three years (11.6-11.8%). The proportion of heroin abusers declined slightly, to 11 percent in the year 2000, as against earlier years and was highest in the year 1999 (18.5%). The number of abusers of opium also declined from 23.1 percent (1997) to 8.6 percent (2000). Thus, the figures for the various drug types consumed have been changing over these four years. (1997-2000).