

The Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore



National ATS situations and responses to the threat

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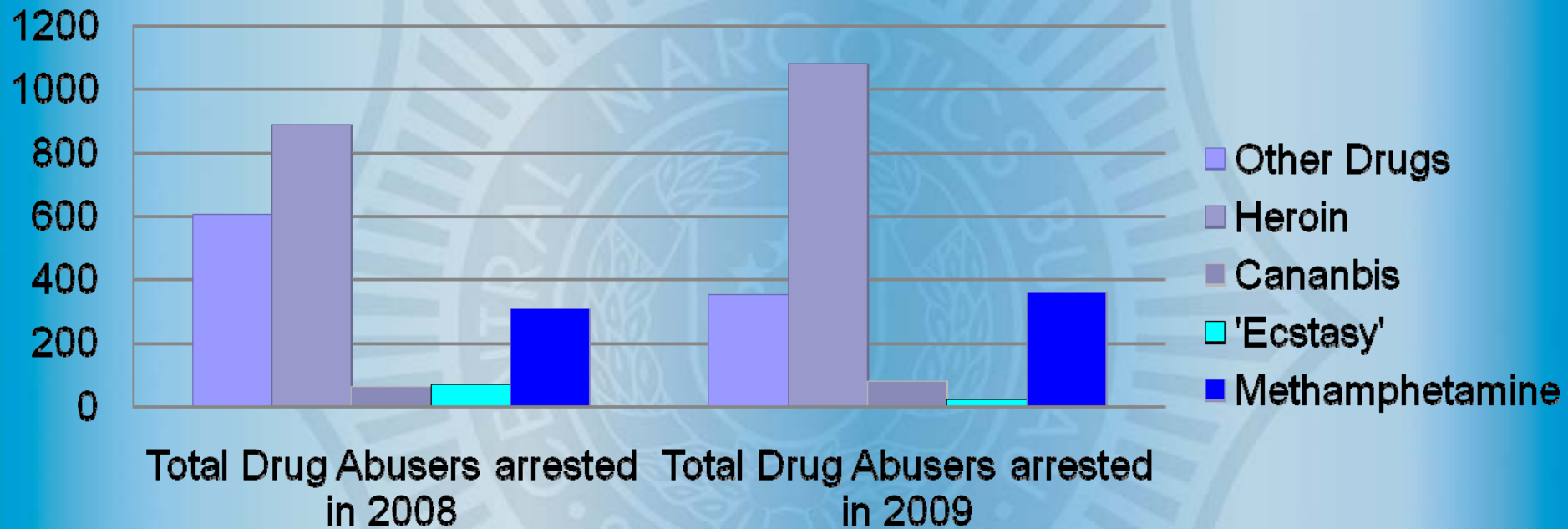
Global SMART Programme Workshop for East Asia
Thu 5 Aug & Fri 6 Aug 2010

Scope of Presentation

- Singapore Drug and ATS Situation
- West African Criminal Network
- CNB's Anti-drug Activities

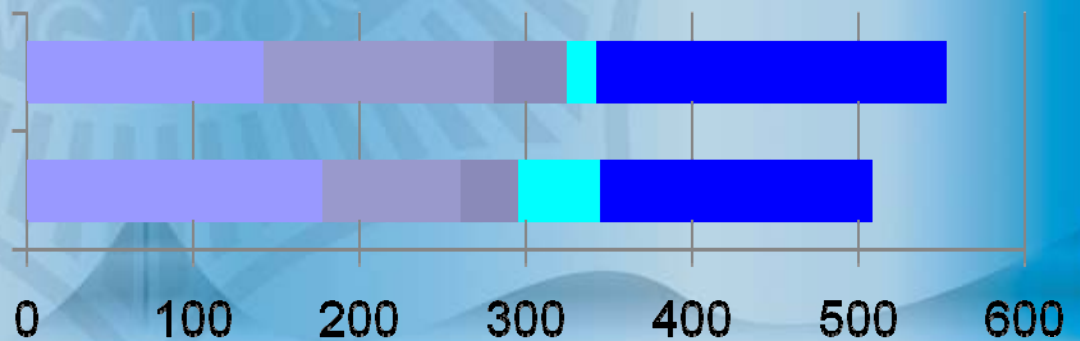


Singapore Drug Situation (2008 & 2009)

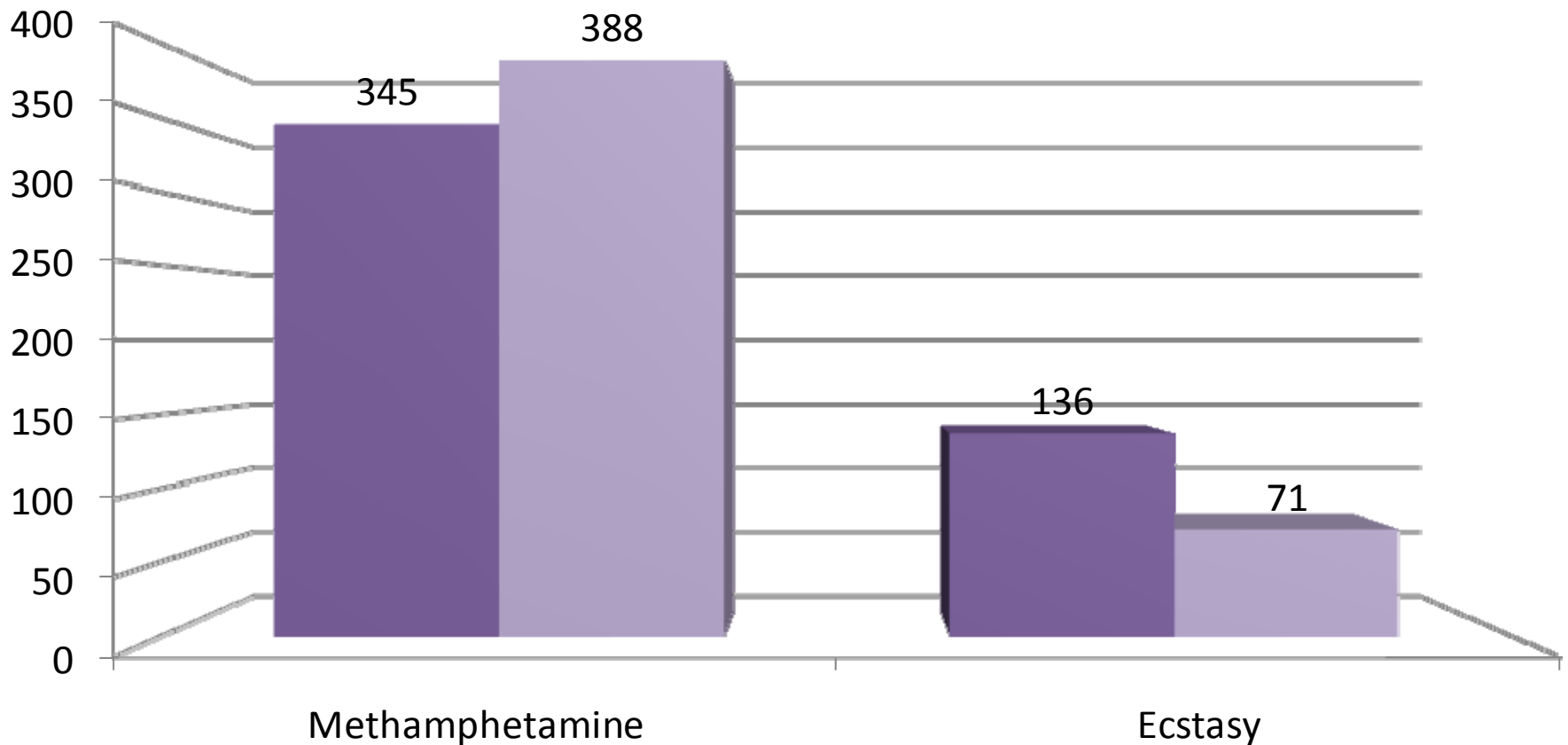


New Drug Abusers arrested in 2009

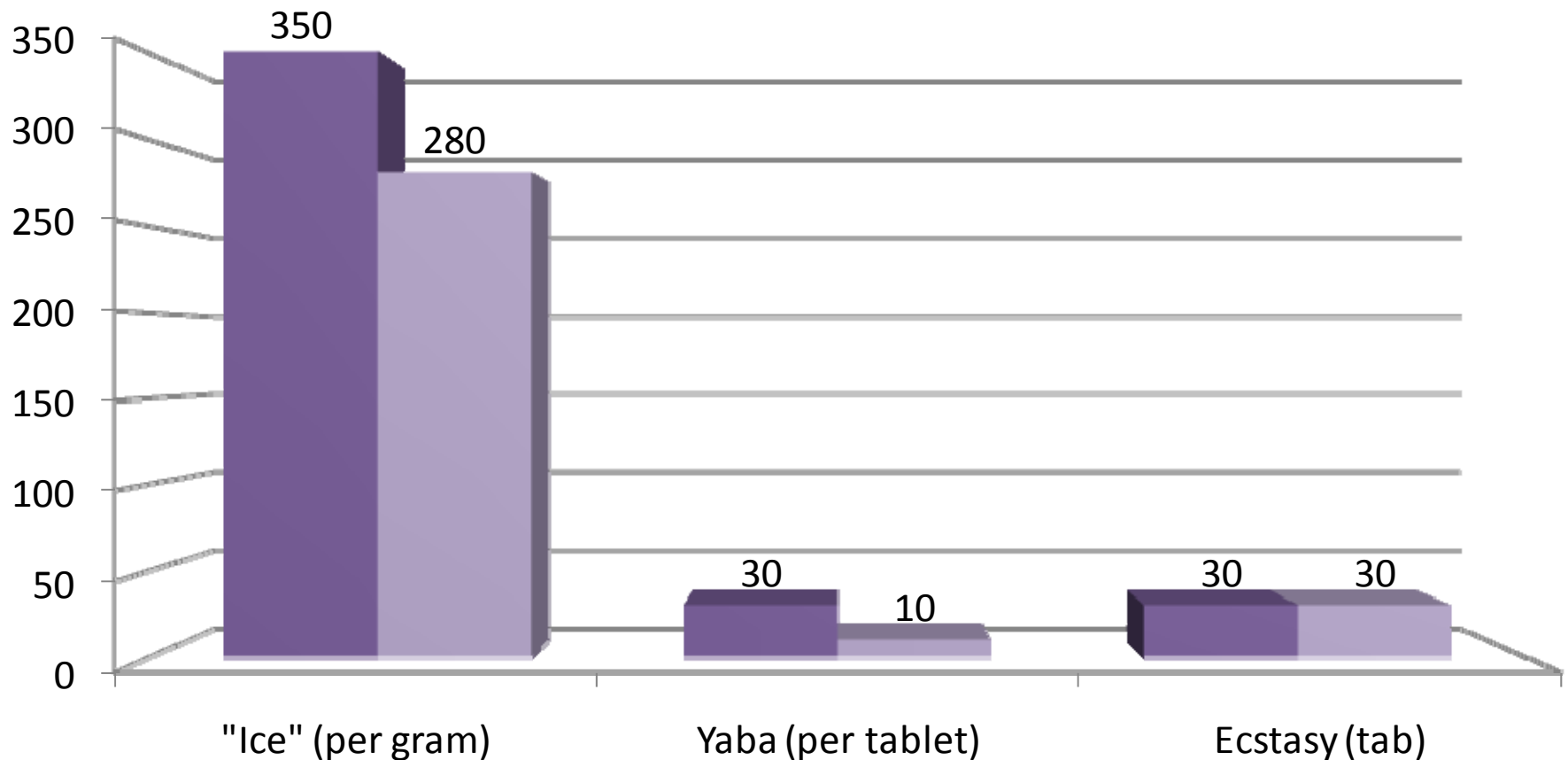
New Drug Abusers arrested in 2008



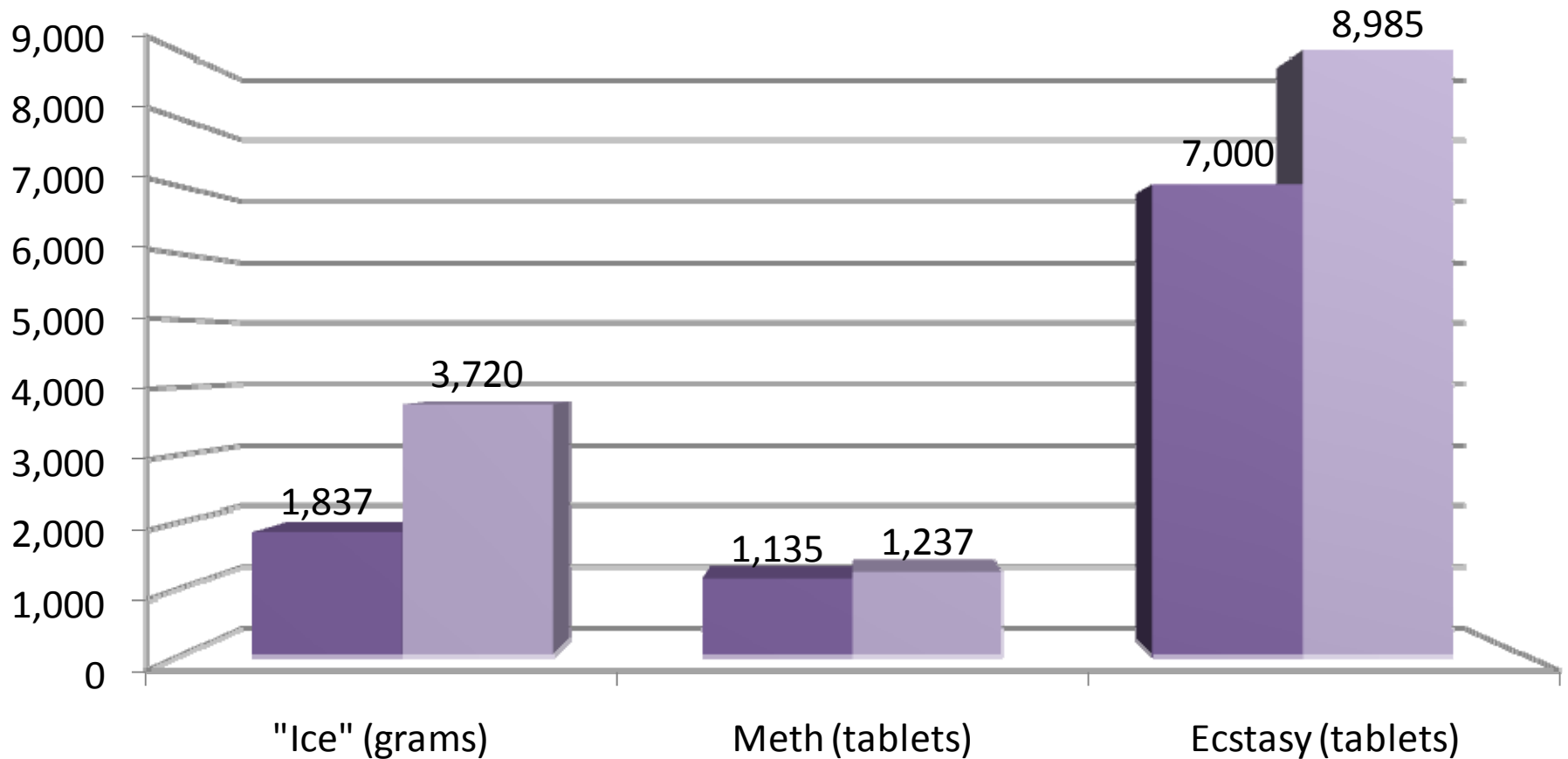
Persons arrested for ATS offences (2008 & 2009)



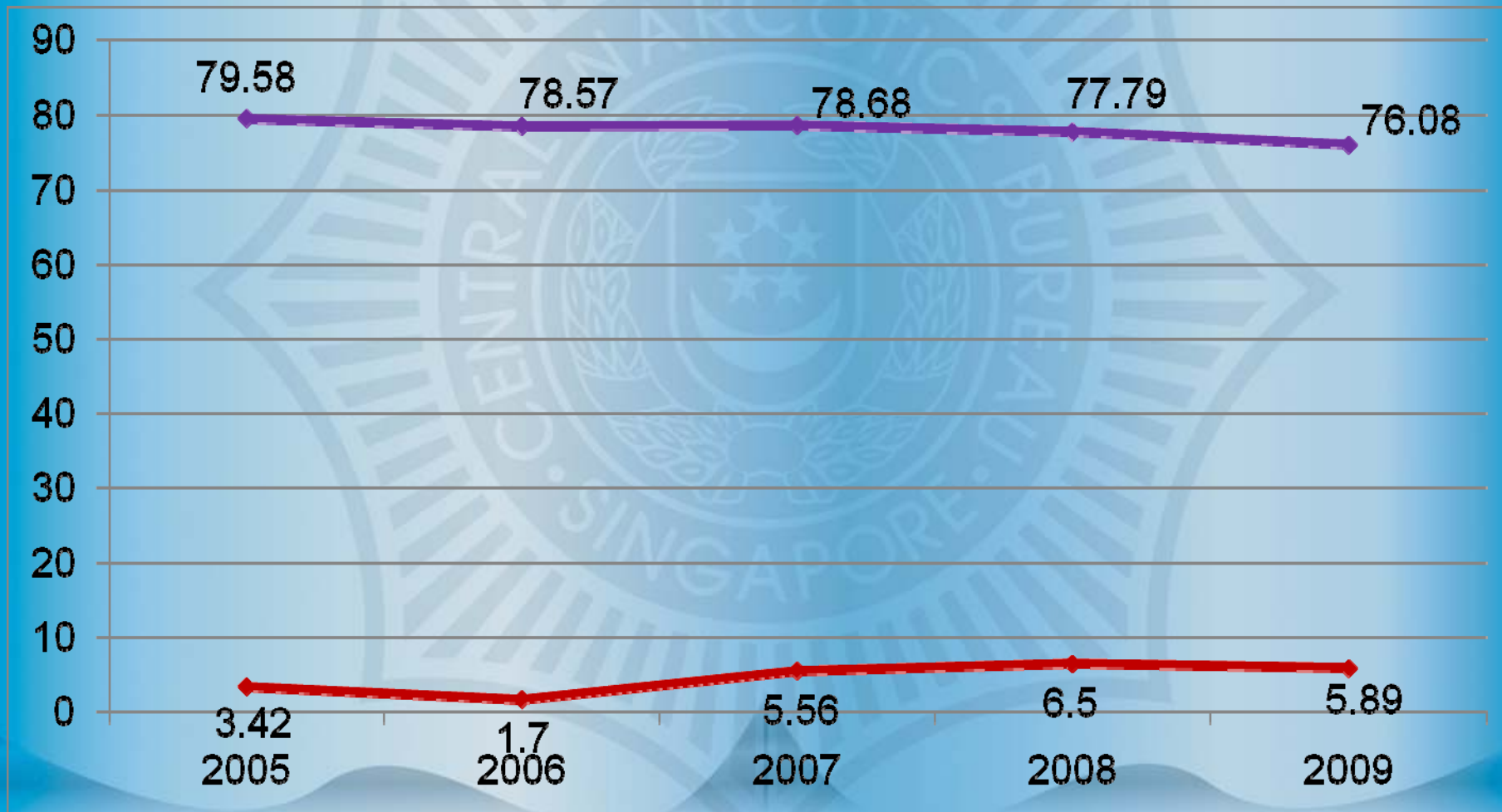
Price of ATS in Singapore (2008 & 2009)



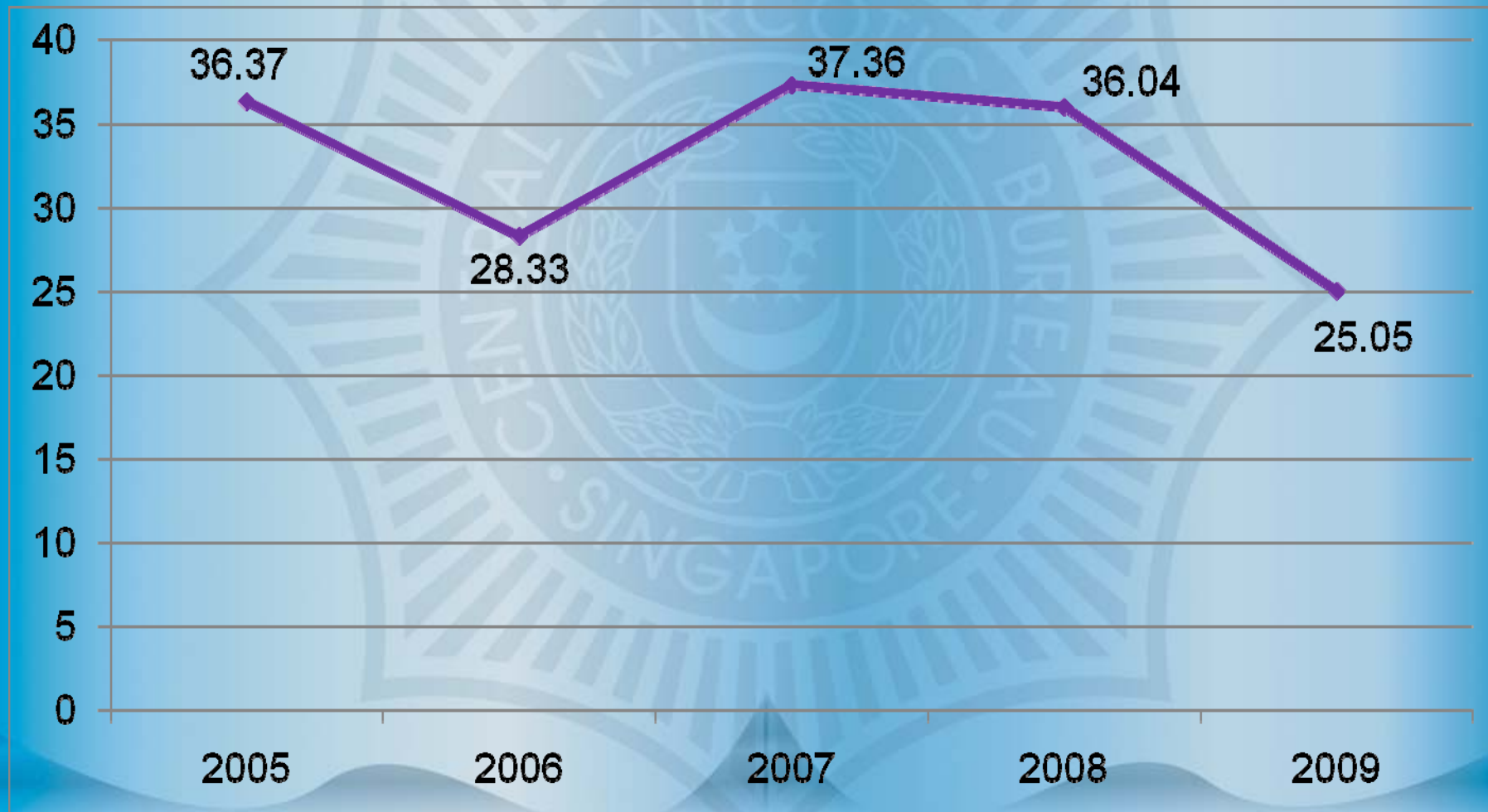
ATS Seizure in Singapore (2008 & 2009)



Purity of Methamphetamines in Singapore (2005 – 2009)



Purity of “Ecstasy” in Singapore (2005 – 2009)



WACN in Singapore: CNB's Observations

- Do not maintain a rigid structure, thus they are very fluid in their activities
- These syndicates are not likely to practise exclusivity. For example, their couriers may be called upon to provide courier services to any group needing the service
- The flexibility offered by such a fluid operation is such that these syndicates can make almost impromptu arrangements. Does not need elaborate planning and coordination.

WACN in Singapore: CNB's Strategies

- Operations to smash the syndicates
 - Joint operations overseas and operations locally
- Cooperation with foreign counterparts
 - To gather intelligence
- Monitoring of activities in Singapore and beyond
- Engaging media to educate public
 - Raise public awareness

News articles published in the papers

THE STRAITS TIMES TUESDAY, MARCH

prime.news

THE STRAITS TIMES MONDAY, JULY 20 2009 PAGE A3

Blinded by love and greed

Despite repeated warning signals, drug mule continued her life of crime

By TEH JOO LIN

WHEN she found out she had been carting drugs instead of clothes samples to China, Mary (not her real name) flew back to Singapore, disappointed that her boyfriend had lied to her.

But she could give neither him nor the money up. The former salesgirl stayed with him, and waded deeper into the murky world of international drug trafficking.

Thinking she would not get her own hands dirty, she became a recruiter instead, roping in a childhood friend and a teen with the same lies she had been told.

Earlier this month, about 1½ years after the West African drug syndicate had ensnared her, the 26-year-old was arrested by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB).

She was detained without trial under

the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act to stop her from causing more harm. Her detention will be reviewed annually. Last week, with CNB officers present, she told The Straits Times her story.

It was early last year that Mary had met a man on the dance floor of a club in Clarke Quay, and they got to know each other over a cigarette. Her five-year marriage had broken down just months before.

He said he was a Nigerian businessman who dealt in electronic goods. It was nothing serious when they swapped numbers, and he rang her up the next day.

But he courted her assiduously, seeing her every day after she finished work as a salesgirl in Orchard Road.

The 33-year-old African lavished affection and presents on her and her two young sons. She said: "Anything they wanted, he would buy for them."

Always short of money, Mary was easily drawn in by his portrayal of being a good provider.

"He said he lived in a big house in his country, and his father was a pastor. They were not poor. That was why he was able to come to Singapore to do some business," she said.

He would listen to her own stories of financial woe and console her. Asked why she had fallen in love, she said simply: "It is how he treated me."

Later, she could recall the cracks. The first time they had sex, he paid for the budget hotel. "Other than that, I would be the one paying," she recalled.

Before long, she was stumping out for their meals. He even got her to remit up to \$200 a month to his family in Nigeria.

When he moved in with her three months after they had met, he did not pay any rent.

By then, she said, she was blind to the truth. "I never asked, maybe because I was really in love with him. I did not see him as a bad person," she said.

Soon, she became acquainted with his compatriots, who would gather in Little India. She reckoned it was eight months

after they started dating that one of his friends made her a proposition: Fly to China to deliver some shawl samples.

"My boyfriend asked if I could go. His friend would give me US\$2,000 (\$52,900) after I came back," she recalled.

Asked if alarm bells rang, Mary, who was jobless by then, said she could think only of how her mother needed medical treatment for diabetes, and that her children were still in school.

Her boyfriend saw her off at the airport, where she was given a bag and joined by another woman who had done this before. It was Mary's first trip on a plane.

In China, they met an African, who took the bags, while they stayed four days.

"I did not suspect a thing. Or maybe, I did not think about it," Mary claimed.

She gave her boyfriend half her payment. The second time, she said, she and her companion became suspicious when some supposedly empty trolley bags they were given felt heavy.

In China, they confronted someone, who confessed they contained heroin. "I was shocked and somewhat disappointed. I felt I was made use of," said Mary.

But she was hooked by then: She had not been caught, not actually seen any drugs and the money was good.

When she was approached again, Mary asked a childhood friend to do the work instead, and got a commission for it.

"The first time, I did not tell her the truth. The second time, I told her because I did not feel comfortable. She said she already knew and was okay with it," she said. The need for money clouded her judgment, she said.

Together, they recruited the friend's 18-year-old niece, but the teenager was arrested on her maiden run in China early this year.

It was then that reality began to sink in. When the niece failed to deliver the heroin to her handlers, Mary, in China for her third run, was kidnapped by the syndicate members and held responsible for her disappearance. She claimed she was held for three weeks in an apartment and threatened with death.

It was then that she saw her boyfriend for what he was: "I called him, but he did not do anything. He just told me to be patient. I realised he was just making use of me."

By the time she got back to Singapore,

Courting trouble

WEST African drug syndicates are known to seduce Singaporean women into making drug runs through an elaborate courtship ritual that involves money, love and offers of travel.

Of late, a handful of cases have also surfaced where Singapore drug mules themselves recruited their friends and relatives, stoking fear that more local people may be drawn into the racket.

A senior Central Narcotics Bureau officer, explaining that it was easier for people to persuade those who already trust them, said: "In my view, this is more dangerous, like a virus. Contamination's the word."

So far this year, 14 Singaporean drug mules with links to the West African syndicates have been caught overseas and here. Last year, three women were caught for such runs. In the five years before that, between 2003 and 2007, only eight were caught. All but one of those caught this year were men aged between 19 and 48.

The only man arrested was among the "handful" recruited by other Singaporeans. The 30-year-old man was caught in January when he tried to check in at Singapore's Budget Terminal with a bag containing 1.14kg of heroin.

her boyfriend had been arrested by the CNB for drug trafficking.

She had another chance to go on the mend, and she took it, taking on a waitressing job at a pub in February this year.

But she blew it when she stayed in touch with the syndicate, and booked up with a second Nigerian man. The CNB moved in and arrested them on July 2.

Looking drawn and tired, the blonde streaks in her hair a sign of more caffeine times, Mary said her story was a cautionary tale. She had ignored warnings from family members about her boyfriend.

The 18-year-old she sent on the deadly mission faces the death penalty in China, while it is unclear when she herself will be released. "After what I have done, I am lucky I can still see the light," she said.

"I just do not want any girls in Singapore to repeat what I have done."

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THE COURTSHIP
Members of West African drug syndicates, some claiming to be businessmen, would court the women

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Drug mules S'pore won

12 arrested in 4 months; CNB against being fooled by foreign

By TEH JOO LIN

IN JUST four months, a dozen Singapore women have been caught here and elsewhere for making drug runs after they were persuaded to do so by West African men, who seduced them with love, money and offers of travel.

In the five years between 2003 and 2007, only eight female drug mules were caught.

The sudden surge in numbers was revealed by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) yesterday, in a warning to women not to be fooled. Last December, five were arrested overseas. It is barely three months into the year, but seven more have been arrested, including two who are starting at the death penalty after being stopped before they left Singapore.

In a statement, the bureau should not all made use of by foreigners and should reject any free travel or paid for

The investigators who were mostly Nigerian and 30. Some claim to be West African men, who seduced them with love, money and offers of travel.

Based on investigations, members approach places such as pubs and websites, and be

"Many of these drug couriers were caught out the drug runs, and friendship or inducements or cash payment stopped before they left Singapore. Typically, the women

Typically, the women

Operation Obsidian

- Series of joint operations with:
 - Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) of Malaysia
 - Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand
 - National Intelligence Services (NIS) of South Korea
- African drug syndicate based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with a 'courier recruiting' branch in Singapore
- Operation Obsidian III on 04 Mar 2009
 - Female Singaporean coordinator and male African drug packer arrested
 - 750 grams of methamphetamine seized
- Success factors

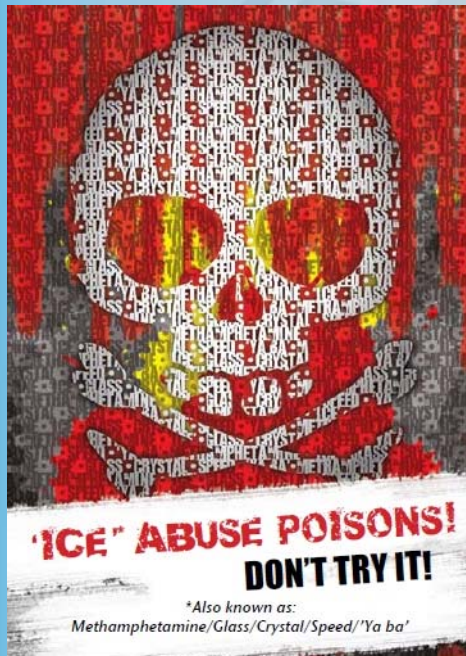


WACN in Singapore: Challenges for CNB

- The syndicates are constantly evolving. They will continue to recruit drug couriers in furtherance of their drug trafficking activities
- With the Internet, these West Africans need not physically be in Singapore to carry out their recruiting activities.
- Cooperation with foreign counterparts, and public awareness, is important.

Preventive Drug Education Activities

■ Postcards and leaflets



EFFECTS & DANGERS

- Increased heart rate and body temperature
- Fits, stroke and death
- Damage to heart and nerves
- Liver and kidney diseases
- Abnormal behaviour with mood swings, confusion, delusion and hallucination
- Anxiety and irritability

What's this?

Methamphetamine

usually comes in crystallised form known as Methamphetamine Hydrochloride. It is more commonly known as 'ice' in Singapore. It is a strong stimulant, which is odourless and colourless.

Methamphetamine also comes in tablet form known as 'ya ba'. The stimulant powder in 'ya ba' is produced from the ephedrine plant. Most of the 'ya ba' tablets found are embossed with the 'WY' logo and are green or orange in colour.

Methamphetamine has a very strong effect on the central nervous system and is highly addictive. The abuser feels anxious and restless which can lead to violent behaviour.

WITHDRAWAL Symptoms:

- Extreme tiredness and hunger
- Anxiety, depression and irritability
- Insomnia (difficulty in sleeping)

ALSO COMMONLY KNOWN AS

**METHAMPHETAMINE
ICE / GLASS
CRYSTAL / SPEED / YA BA**

Methamphetamine Tablets

Methamphetamine Powder

Methamphetamine Crystals, or 'ice'

Preventive Drug Education Activities

- 3D Animations and Docu-dramas on the dangers of 'Ecstasy' and 'Ice'





Thank You