



**CNB**

For a Drug-Free Singapore

# Topic 2: Overview of MDA

# RELEVANT STATUTES IN SINGAPORE

**01**

MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT (MDA)

**02**

MISUSE OF DRUG REGULATIONS (MDR)

**03**

CORRUPTION, DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES  
(CONFISCATION OF BENEFITS) ACT (CDSA)

**04**

ORGANISED CRIME ACT (OCA)

**05**

INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES ACT (INSA)

**06**

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (CPC)

**07**

EVIDENCE ACT

# MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT



The Misuse of Drugs Act 1973 (MDA) serves as the legal instrument that allows Singapore to maintain a strong stand against illicit drugs.

## Tackles the spread of drug activities

Criminalises activities such as the trafficking, manufacturing, importing/exporting, possession and consumption of illicit drugs as well as behaviours that facilitate and promote drug abuse and drug-related activities.

## Protects our children and youths

Criminalises the exposure of children and youths to drugs and recruiting them for drug activities, and making it mandatory for parents/guardians to attend counselling with youth abusers.



## Authorises CNB to detect and deter drug activities

Equips CNB officers with authority to make arrests, conduct investigations, and collect urine and hair samples to detect drug abuse.



## Rehabilitation regime for drug abusers

Provides CNB and the Singapore Prison Service with the powers to carry out rehabilitation programmes for drug abusers.





# MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

Common Offences under the MDA 1973



## Sec 5: Trafficking in controlled drugs

- Includes selling, giving, administering, transporting, sending, delivering, distributing, or even offering to do any of these acts.
- Penalty ranges from imprisonment AND caning, to the mandatory death penalty, depending on the class and quantity of drug trafficked.

## Sec 8a: Possession of controlled drugs

- Punishment: imprisonment of up to 10 years, or a fine not exceeding S\$20,000, or both.



## Sec 8b: Consumption of controlled drugs

- It is an offence to consume, smoke or administer a controlled or specified drug in Singapore.
- Punishment: imprisonment of up to 10 years, or a fine not exceeding S\$20,000, or both.

## Sec 8A: Consumption of drugs outside Singapore

- It is an offence for a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident to consume a controlled or specified drug outside Singapore.
- Person may be dealt with as if the offence had been committed in Singapore.

# MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

Common Offences under the MDA 1973



## Sec 9: Possession of pipes, utensils, etc

- It is an offence to be in possession of any pipe, syringe, utensil, apparatus or any article intended for the smoking, administration or consumption of a controlled drug.
- Punishment: imprisonment of up to 3 years, or a fine not exceeding S\$10,000, or both.

## Sec 11: Responsibilities of owners, etc.

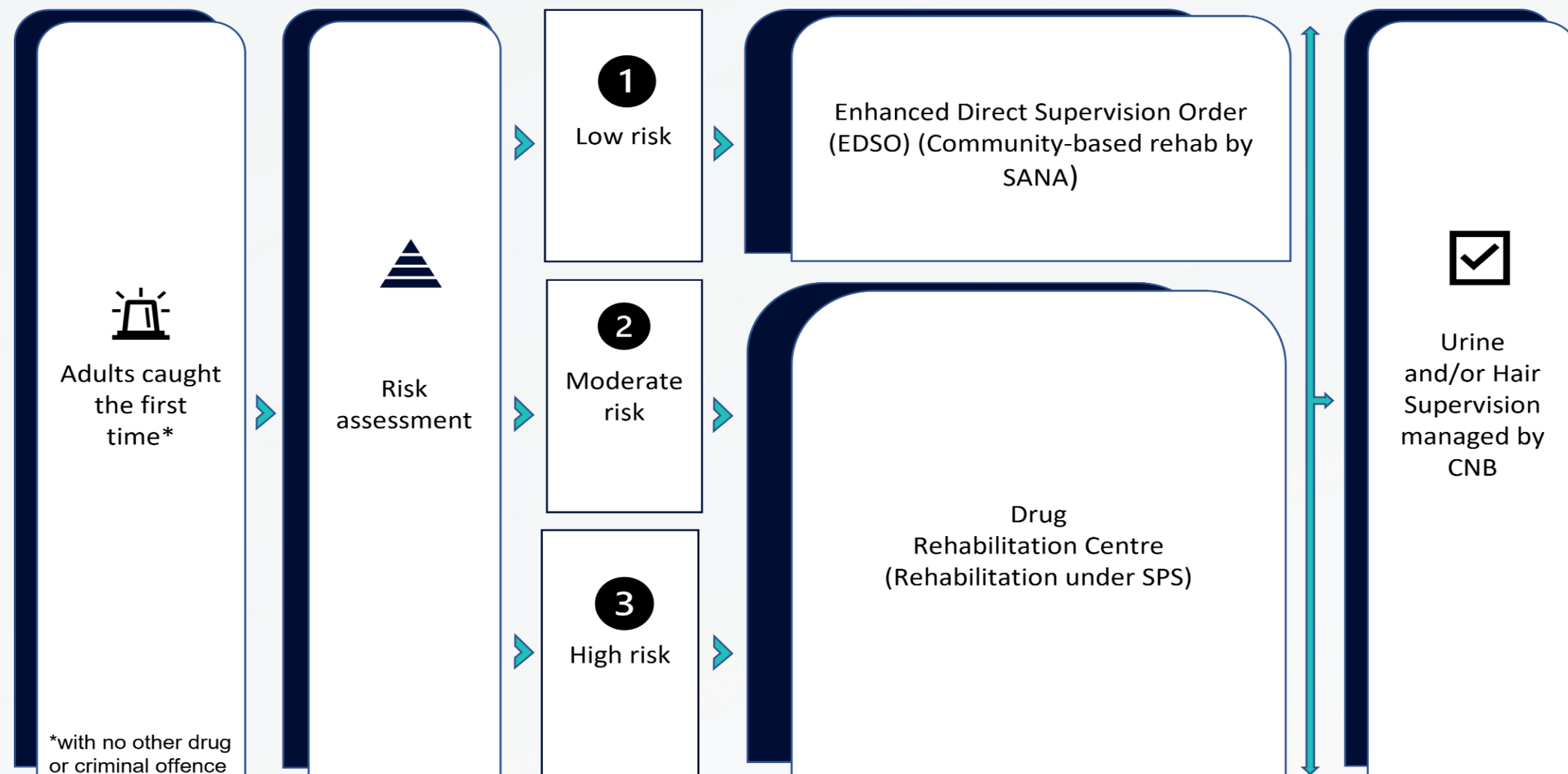
- The owner, tenant, occupier or person-in-charge of any place or premises must not allow drug activities (i.e. consumption, trafficking, manufacturing, etc.) to be conducted in the place or premises.

## Sec 11A, 11B, 11C and 11D: Contaminative behaviours that facilitate or promote drug use

- It is an offence to:
  - Arrange or plan gatherings where controlled drugs are to be consumed/trafficked
  - Expose a child (any person below 16 y/o) to drugs
  - Introduce a person to a drug trafficker
  - Teach or provide information on drug-related activities to others
  - Disseminate or publish information on drug-related activities (e.g. sharing of information on group chat, making a post on FB, etc.)

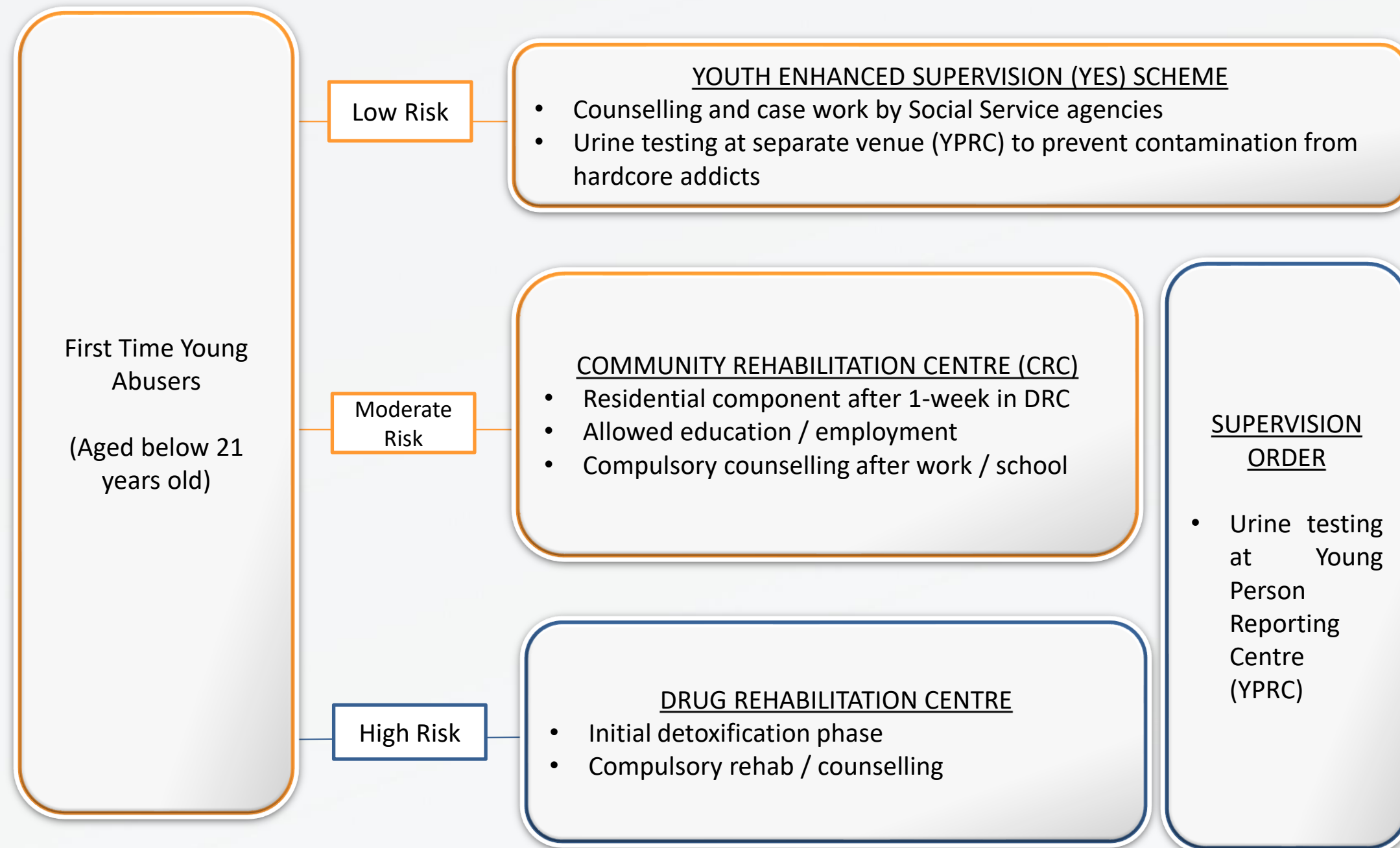
# DRUG ABUSERS REHABILITATION PATHWAYS

- Singapore offers differentiated pathways of rehabilitation and treatment, to help abusers successfully reintegrate into society and help reduce recidivism.
- Abusers caught purely for drug consumption offences (and are not facing other criminal charges) can be sent for treatment and rehabilitation instead of being charged in Court.



- First-time drug abusers may be placed on the **Drug Supervision Scheme** or admitted to the **Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC)** for treatment and rehabilitation,
- The pathways of recovery depend on the abusers' assessed risk of reoffending.

# YOUTH DRUG ABUSERS REHABILITATION PATHWAYS



Youth drug abusers are supported through different programs based on their risk profile, age, and gender:

- **Low-Risk Youth:** Identified through psychological assessments, they are placed in the Youth Enhanced Supervision Scheme (YES). They avoid treatment and rehabilitation in the DRC and instead receive urine supervision, casework, and counselling from social service agencies.
- **Moderate and High-Risk Youth:** These individuals are sent to the Community Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) or the Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC), respectively. After discharge, they must undergo up to 5 years of compulsory drug supervision, including regular urine tests.

# A NEED FOR TOUGH LAWS

Drug abuse is not a victimless offence, impacting individual health, straining relationships, burdening communities economically and legally, and compromising public safety.

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

**Killing of Nonoi (2006)**  
**Guilty As Charged: Man dunked stepdaughter Nonoi, 2, in pail of water, killing her**

When the two-year-old girl went missing, her stepdad joined the search. But it was he who had murdered her, and hidden the body



Mohammed Ali Johari repeatedly immersed his stepdaughter, Nurasyura Mohamed Fauzi, into a pail of water. PHOTOS: WANBAO FILE, HANDOUT

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

**Woman taking Ice while 3 months pregnant among 117 suspected drug offenders nabbed**




1 of 2 Various drug-taking equipment (left) and 84g of the drug Ice were recovered from a residential unit near Toa Payoh Lorong 1. PHOTOS: CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

**CNB officer finds 10-month-old crying child during drug raid & makes baby formula for her**

*He felt moved when he saw her crying.*


Fasiha Nazren | July 17, 2021, 11:11 AM



Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp share buttons are visible above the images.

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

**Baby found in squalid flat during recent drug bust; mother was abusing Ice near him**



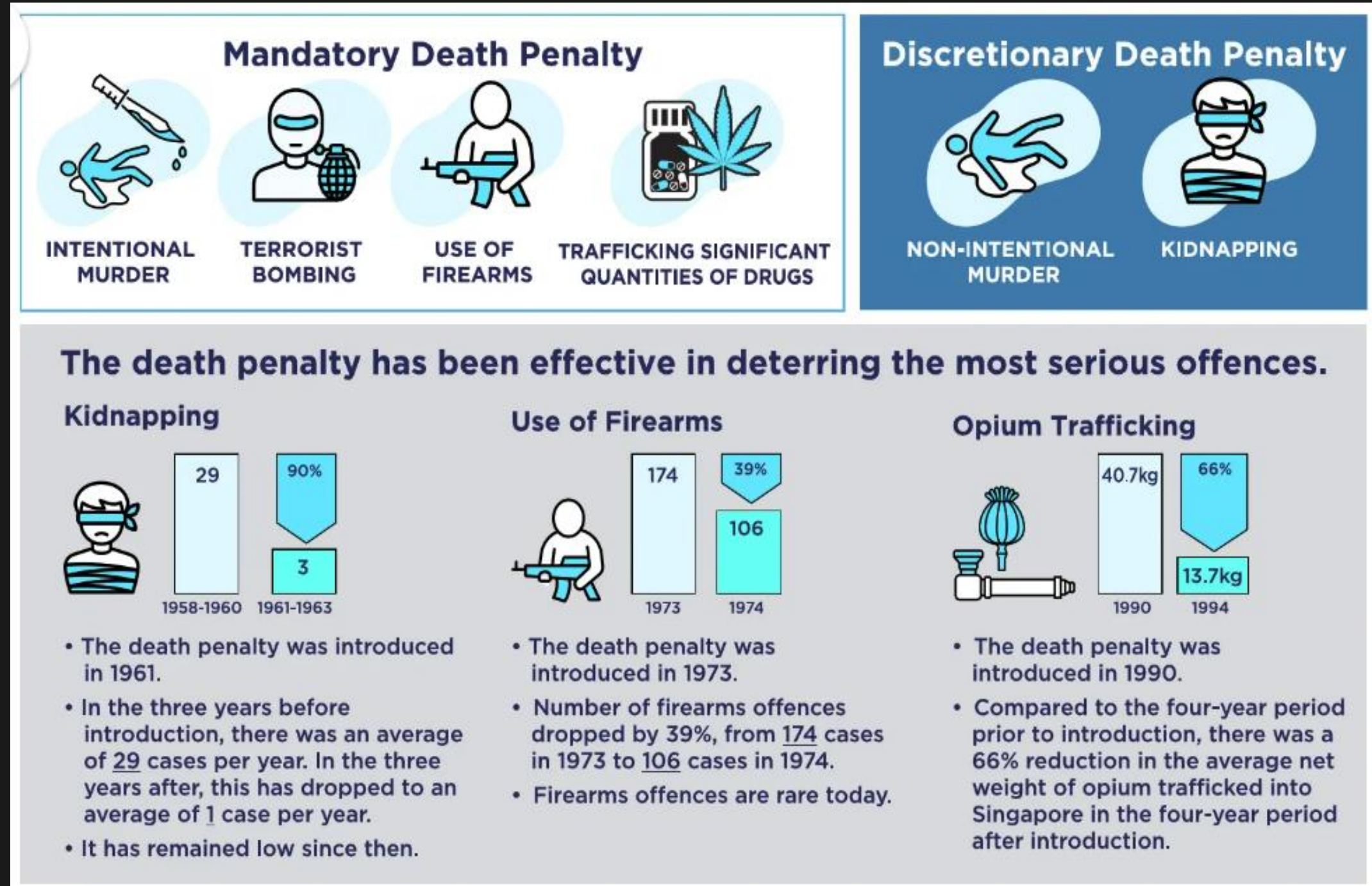
A photo of the scene shows a mattress on the floor of the unit with rubbish, bottles and drug paraphernalia strewn around. PHOTO: CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU



# A NEED FOR TOUGH LAWS

## Death Penalty in Singapore

In Singapore, the death penalty is used only against the most serious crimes that cause grave harm to others and to society.

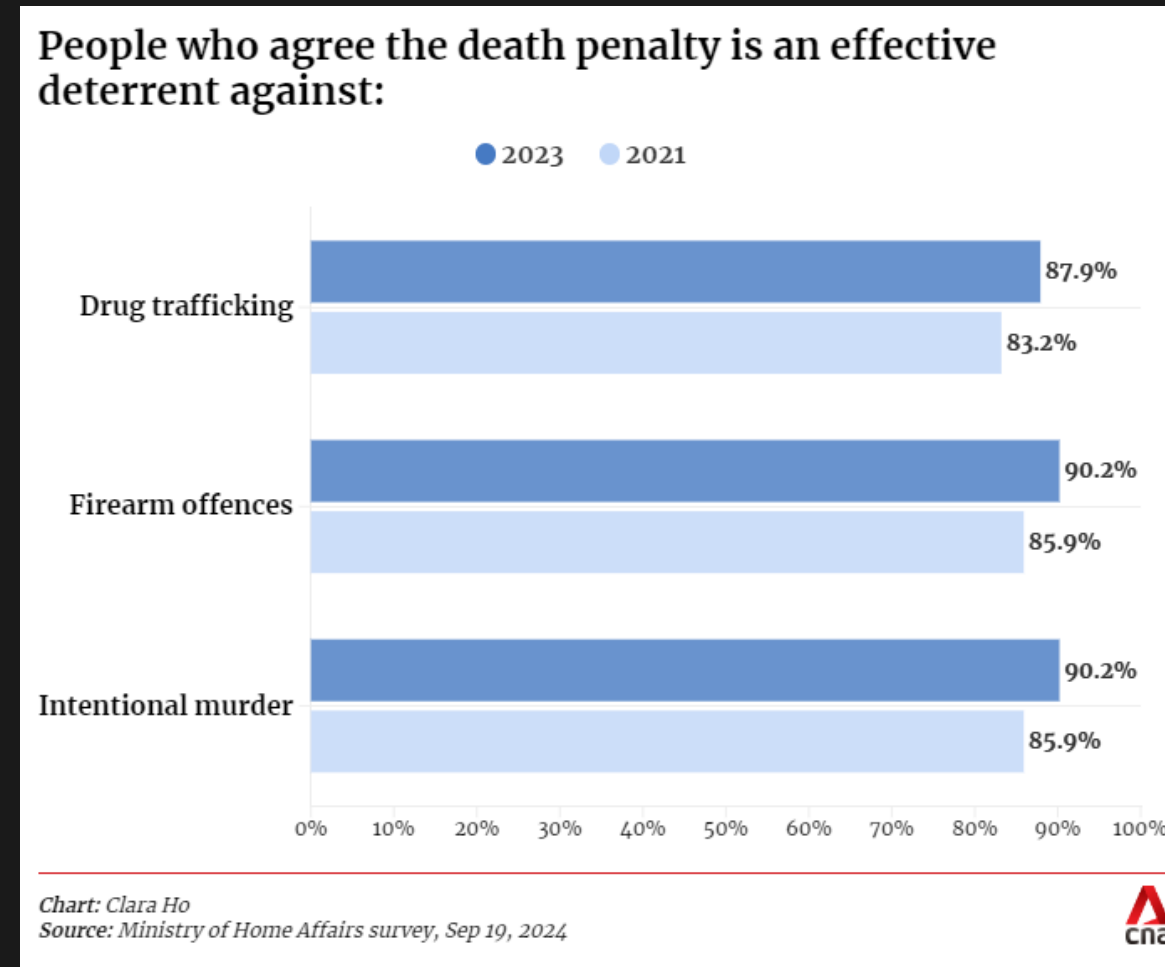
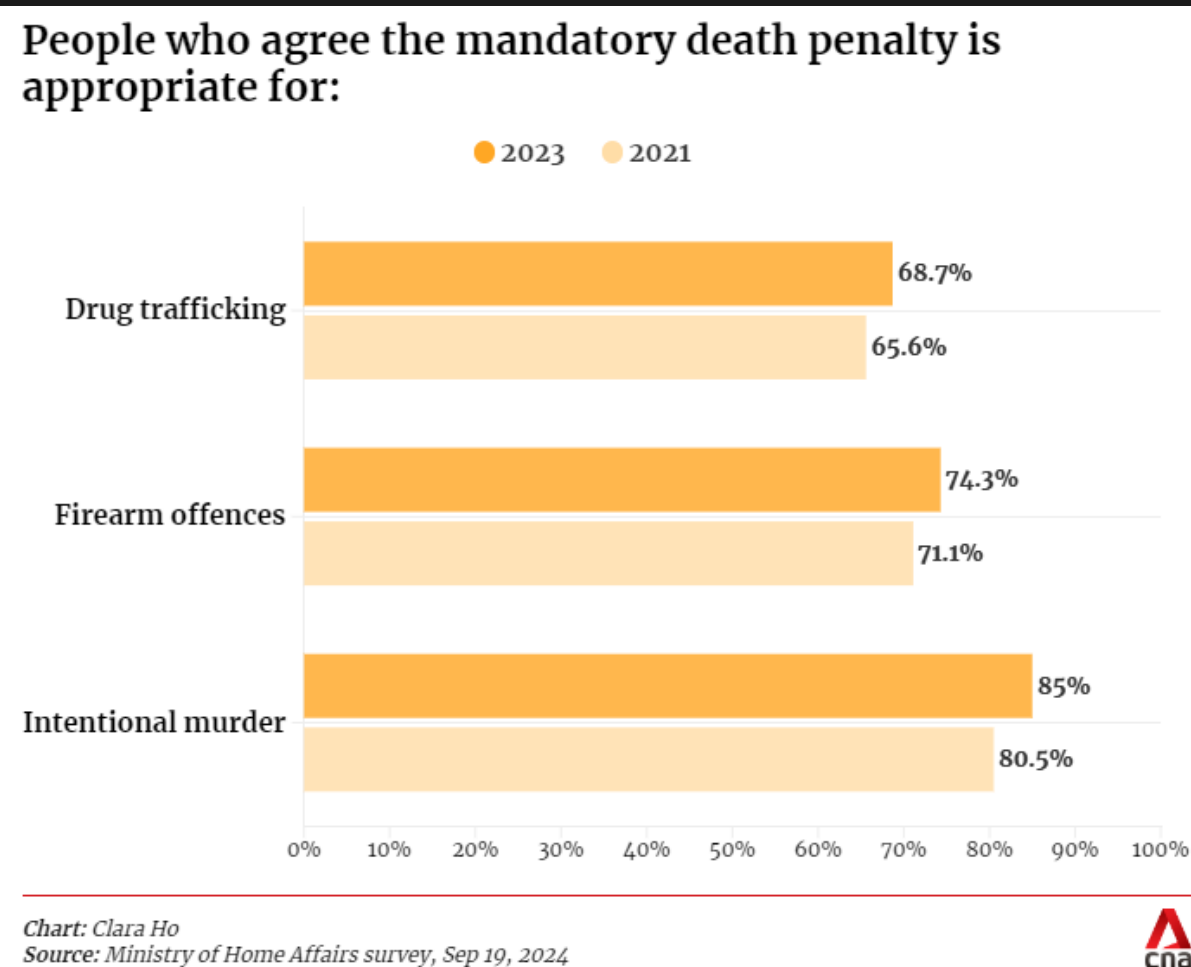


# A NEED FOR TOUGH LAWS

## Death Penalty in Singapore

MHA survey commissioned in 2023 found that majority of respondents agreed that the death penalty:

- Should be used and had a deterrent effect against the most serious crimes (trafficking a significant amount of drugs, firearm offences and intentional murder)
- Is more effective than life imprisonment in deterring these crimes



# A NEED FOR TOUGH LAWS

## Death Penalty in Singapore

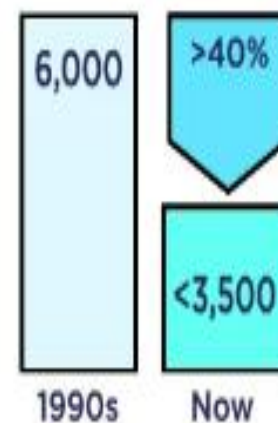
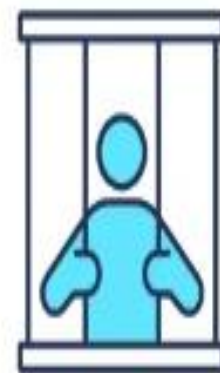
**Drug Traffickers, and the drugs they traffic, cause immense harm to abusers, their families, and the society. Our robust law enforcement and tough stance against drugs have kept Singapore largely free from drugs and crimes.**

### Impact of Deterrence on Behaviour of Drug Traffickers

A study by MHA in 2018 showed that convicted drug traffickers who were more aware of the death penalty trafficked below the threshold that attracted the death penalty than those who were not.

“ Because for what I know, I take this size, 50g, just go [to jail] for trafficking not go to hang. For what I know, if 250g or 500g or 1 to 2 kilo, that one hang one.”

- *Convicted Drug Trafficker*



#### Drug Abusers Arrested

- CNB arrested about 6000 abusers per year in the 1990s. Now, it arrests about 3000- 3500 abusers per year.
- This is a large number of people, potential abusers, and families whose lives have been saved.

# A NEED FOR TOUGH LAWS

## Death Penalty in Singapore



### Perception of Residents in Regional Countries on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety

- Residents in regional countries feel that our laws are effective and the strict punishments deter serious offences.
- MHA specifically commissioned a study on persons from parts of the region outside Singapore. These are places from where most of our arrested drug traffickers have come from in recent years.



**82%**

believed the death penalty deters others from committing serious crimes in Singapore.



**69%**

believed the death penalty is more effective in discouraging people from committing serious crimes, as compared to life imprisonment.




**83%**

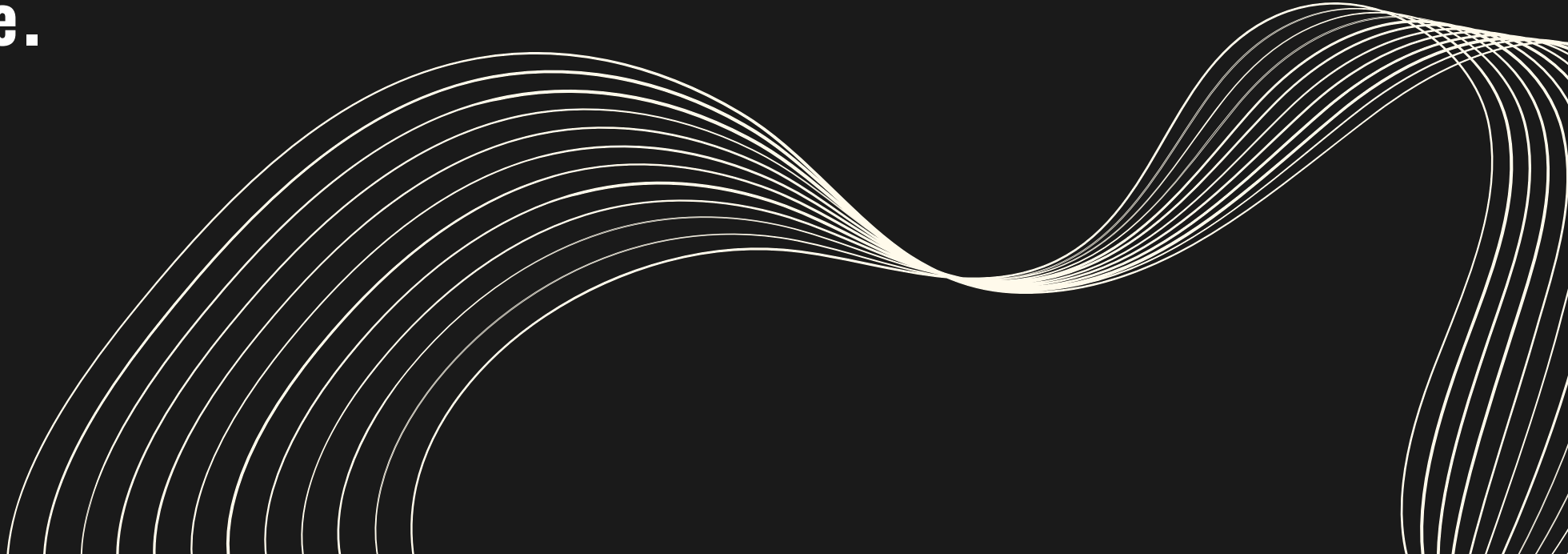
believed that the death penalty makes people not want to traffic substantial amounts of drugs into Singapore.

Sources: Impact of Deterrence on the Decision-Making Process of Convicted Drug Traffickers, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2019; and Opinions of Residents in Regional Countries on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2021.





**Supporting the death penalty in Singapore is crucial for deterring serious crimes, ensuring public safety and justice, and upholding the rule of law. Statistics show that it helps lower crime rates, especially in drug trafficking and violent crime. Maintaining capital punishment reflects Singapore's commitment to addressing severe offenses with appropriate gravity, reinforcing justice and societal order. The strong public support underscores its role in preserving safety and delivering justice.**



# RESOURCES

*for information*



*CNB's website*



*Drugs and Inhalants*



*Misuse of Drugs Act 1973*

*to watch*



*CNB's YouTube*



*PDE Video: Down the Rabbit Hole*



*PDE Video: Last Days*

# RESOURCES

*for parents, educators, counsellors*



*Smart Parenting articles*



*PDE toolkits*



*PDE message cards*



*Information booklet on Cannabis*



*Information booklet on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)*

# THANK YOU

We hope you find this set of resources useful.  
Let's work together towards a drug-free society!

