



Involvement of Treatment Centre Inmates
in
Methadone Treatment Schemes

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A Prisons Department Research Project

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FOREWORD

ACQUISITIONS

At the present time 20% of the inmates admitted into the Department's drug addiction treatment centres have participated in either the Methadone Maintenance or Methadone Detoxification Scheme. The purpose of this paper is to examine why they failed to stay in the treatment schemes and relapsed to illicit drug use.

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T. G. Garner
Commissioner of Prisons

Involvement of Treatment Centre Inmates in Methadone Treatment Schemes

I. Purpose of Research

Isidor Chein, et.al. expressed the view that "an obvious expedient for reducing the demand (for narcotics) is to make a better quality of narcotics, and far more cheaply, available to addicts on a legal market."⁽¹⁾ Such a narcotic drug is available in Hong Kong in the form of methadone.

The Methadone Treatment Schemes are carried out under the auspices of the Medical and Health Department. Currently, there are two schemes in operation, namely the Maintenance and Detoxification Schemes. A person who registers for either one of the two schemes receives his dosage of methadone regularly at a designated centre, and is advised to stay away from all other narcotics. At present, there is no standard procedure to verify that the participants in these schemes actually comply with the advice. In other words, these schemes demand their clients to exert self-discipline. However, Chein and his co-workers felt that addicts who are generally regarded as "irresponsible, irrational and immoral people, will dislike the discipline of keeping medical appointments."⁽²⁾ Furthermore, Chambers and Taylor established that "methadone does not eliminate the patients' desires for and pursuit of a 'high'."⁽³⁾ Such opinions point to the fact that addicts may not have the self-discipline to persevere through the treatment course nor will they necessarily be able to stay away from drugs.

The present research hopes to uncover why addicts join the Methadone Treatment Schemes and why a number subsequently fail to stay in the programme.

II. Universe of the study

Of all the inmates who were admitted into the Prisons Department's drug addiction treatment centres⁽⁴⁾ between August, 1976 and February, 1977, 91 inmates professed to have participated in the Maintenance Scheme and 166 inmates in the Detoxification Scheme. These 257 persons represent 21.0% of the total admission for the said period, and were chosen as subjects of the study because their suitability for treatment centre admission indicated their failure to stay in a Methadone Treatment Schemes.

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- (1) Chein, Isidor, Donald L. Gerald, Robert S. Lee and Eva Rosenfeld, The Road to H, Basic Books, Inc. Publishers, New York/London, 1964, p.371.
 - (2) Isidor Chein, et. al. Ibid, p.373.
 - (3) Chambers, Carl D. and W.J. Russell Taylor "The Incidence and Patterns of Drug Abuse during Maintenance Therapy", Methadone: Experiences and Issues (Carl D. Chambers and Leon Brill, eds.) Behavioral Publications, New York City, 1973, p.128.
 - (4) To qualify for admission into a treatment centre, an individual must be medically confirmed as a drug addict.

Two questionnaires were designed, one pertaining to the Detoxification Scheme and the other to the Maintenance Scheme. (see Appendix 1) These questionnaires set out the questions to be asked and provide for alternative responses.

III. Research Design

On admission, inmates were asked if they had ever participated in either one of the Methadone Treatment Schemes run by the Medical and Health Department. Those who professed participation were interviewed by their respective after-care officers using the relevant questionnaires.

IV. Findings

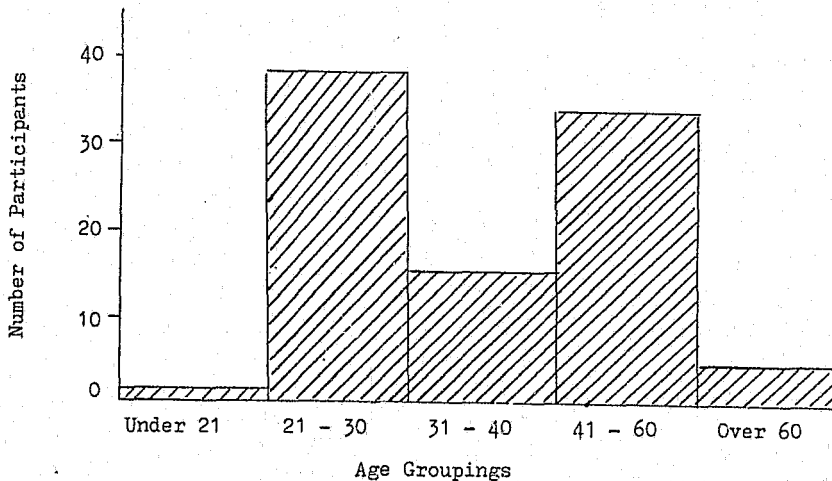
Part A : Participants in the Maintenance Scheme (N = 91)

1. Age

The group's mean age was 37.47 and the distribution is as laid out in Figure A1.

Figure A1

AGE GROUPINGS OF PARTICIPANTS ON MAINTENANCE SCHEME

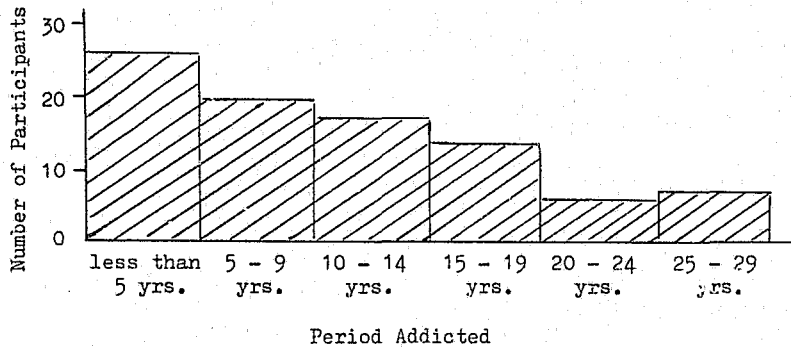


2. Period Addicted Before Joining Scheme

The mean length of dependence was 10.6 years with the majority having addiction histories of less than 5 years. (see Figure A2)

Figure A2

PERIOD ADDICTED BEFORE JOINING THE SCHEME



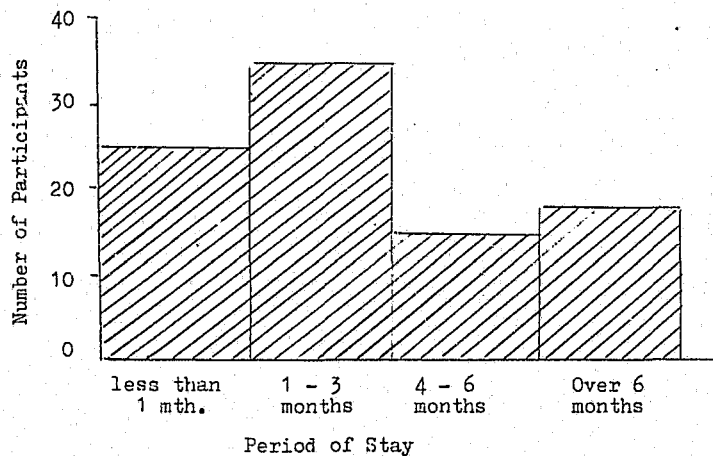
From the data collected, it appears that the Methadone Maintenance Scheme which was originally intended for hard-core drug addicts has been largely used by those on the periphery.

3. Period of Stay in the Scheme

The period of stay varied from a minimum of 1 day to a maximum of over 3 years. The mean length of stay was 3.5 months, and the distribution is as shown in Figure A3.

Figure A3

PERIOD OF STAY IN THE MAINTENANCE SCHEME



Statistical analysis shows that there is no significant correlation between the age of the individual and the period of his stay in the Maintenance Scheme. (see Table A1)

Table A1

AGE BY PERIOD OF STAY IN THE SCHEME

		Age Groupings						
		Under 21	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	Over 60	Total
Period of stay in the Scheme	Less than 1 month	-(-)	8(8.8%)	5(5.5%)	7(7.7%)	4(4.4%)	1(1.1%)	25(27.5%)
	1-3 mths.	1(1.0%)	21(23.1%)	4(4.4%)	6(6.6%)	2(2.2%)	1(1.1%)	35(38.5%)
	4-6 mths.	-(-)	6(6.6%)	2(2.2%)	3(3.3%)	3(3.3%)	-(-)	14(15.4%)
	Over 6 mths.	-(-)	3(3.3%)	4(4.4%)	3(3.3%)	5(5.5%)	2(2.2%)	17(18.7%)
Total		1(1.0%)	38(41.8%)	15(16.5%)	19(20.9%)	14(15.4%)	4(4.4%)	91(100.0%)

$$r = 0.229$$

$$F = 4.920$$

$$P = 0.05$$

Furthermore, no significant correlation exists between the period of stay in the Maintenance Scheme and the length of addiction before joining the Scheme. (see Table A2)

Table A2

PERIOD OF STAY IN THE MAINTENANCE SCHEME BY PERIOD ADDICTED BEFORE JOINING THE SCHEME

		Period of Stay in the Maintenance Scheme					
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	Over 9 months	Total
Period Addicted before Joining the Scheme	Less than 5 years	6(6.6%)	11(12.0%)	7(7.7%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	26(28.5%)
	5 - 9 years	7(7.7%)	10(11.0%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	2(2.2%)	21(23.1%)
	10 - 14 years	5(5.5%)	6(6.6%)	2(2.2%)	2(2.2%)	2(2.2%)	17(18.7%)
	15 - 19 years	2(2.2%)	7(7.7%)	2(2.2%)	1(1.1%)	2(2.2%)	14(15.4%)
	20 - 24 years	2(2.2%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	6(6.6%)
	25 - 29 years	3(3.3%)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	2(2.2%)	7(7.7%)
Total		25(27.5%)	35(38.4%)	14(15.4%)	7(7.7%)	10(11.0%)	91(100.0%)

$$r = 0.198$$

$$F = 3.649$$

$$P = 0.05$$

4. Drug abuse during period of treatment

52.7% of the subjects stated that they used heroin whilst participating in the Maintenance Scheme.

In line with Chambers and Taylor's findings⁽⁵⁾, the difference in the mean period of treatment between heroin users and non-users was found to be statistically significant. (see Table A3)

(5) Carl D. Chambers and W.J. Russell Taylor, Ibid, p.124.

Table A3

PERIOD OF STAY IN THE MAINTENANCE SCHEME BY
DRUG ABUSE STATUS DURING TREATMENT PERIOD

Drug Abuse Status during Treatment Period	Period of Stay in the Maintenance Scheme					
	Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	Over 9 months	Total
Heroin-user	9 (9.9%)	14 (15.3%)	10 (11.0%)	5 (5.5%)	10 (11.0%)	48 (52.7%)
Non-user	16 (17.6%)	21 (23.1%)	4 (4.4%)	-(-)	2 (2.2%)	43 (47.3%)
Total	25 (27.5%)	35 (38.4%)	14 (15.4%)	5 (5.5%)	12 (13.2%)	91 (100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 3.952 \quad P = 0.05$$

It appeared that of those who used heroin, the use mainly occurred before the commencement of the 7th month of treatment.

However, the difference in the age groupings of heroin-users and non-users was not significant. (see Table A4)

Table A4

AGE GROUPINGS BY DRUG ABUSE STATUS
DURING TREATMENT PERIOD

		Drug Abuse Status during Treatment Period		
		Heroin-users	Non-user	Total
Age Groupings	16 - 20 years	1 (1.0%)	-(-)	1 (1.0%)
	21 - 25 years	10 (11.0%)	9 (9.9%)	19 (20.9%)
	26 - 30 years	10 (11.0%)	9 (9.9%)	19 (20.9%)
	31 - 35 years	3 (3.3%)	3 (3.3%)	6 (6.6%)
	36 - 40 years	4 (4.4%)	5 (5.5%)	9 (9.9%)
	41 - 50 years	10 (11.0%)	9 (9.9%)	19 (20.9%)
	51 - 60 years	8 (8.8%)	6 (6.6%)	14 (15.4%)
	Over 60 years	2 (2.2%)	2 (2.2%)	4 (4.4%)
	Total	48 (52.7%)	43 (47.3%)	91 (100.0%)

$$t = 0.786 \quad P = 0.05$$

The difference between heroin-users and non-users in terms of initial reasons for joining the scheme was established to be without significance as most participants in the Maintenance Scheme joined as a consequence of one of the three reasons, namely family pressures, high cost of drugs and the desire to abstain from drug abuse. (see Table A5)

Table A5

REASONS FOR JOINING THE SCHEME BY
DRUG ABUSE STATUS DURING TREATMENT PERIOD

		Drug Abuse Status during Treatment Period		
		Heroin-user	Non-user	Total
Reasons for Joining the Scheme	a. has decided to abstain from D.D.	13(14.2%)	22(24.2%)	35(38.4%)
	b. persuaded by family	9(9.9%)	8(8.8%)	17(18.7%)
	c. due to high cost of D.D.	18(19.8%)	4(4.4%)	22(24.2%)
	d. difficult to obtain D.D.	3(3.3%)	2(2.2%)	5(5.5%)
	e. afraid of being arrested by Police	2(2.2%)	2(2.2%)	4(4.4%)
	f. intended to obtain/retain employment	-(-)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)
	g. others	3(3.3%)	4(4.4%)	7(7.7%)
Total		48(52.7%)	43(47.3%)	91(100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 12.357 \quad P = 0.05$$

5. Cost of Heroin Used

As all 91 subjects were confirmed to be heroin addicts before being admitted into the treatment centres, it is evident that they used heroin either during the treatment period or after they left the Scheme. A point of interest to note is that the cost of illicit drugs used before and after joining the scheme appeared to be significantly different. (see Table A6)

Table A6 DAILY COST OF HEROIN USED BEFORE AND AFTER JOINING THE SCHEME

		Before								
		\$5 or less	\$6-\$10	\$11-15	\$16-20	\$21-25	\$26-30	\$31-40	Over \$40	Total
After	\$5 or less	-(-)	2(2.2%)	5(5.5%)	16(17.6%)	6(6.6%)	7(7.7%)	3(3.3%)	4(4.4%)	43(47.3%)
	\$6 - 10	1(1.0%)	4(4.4%)	1(1.1%)	3(3.3%)	-(-)	4(4.4%)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	14(15.3%)
	\$11 - 15	-(-)	-(-)	2(2.2%)	1(1.1%)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	4(4.4%)
	\$16 - 20	-(-)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	6(6.6%)	-(-)	5(5.5%)	1(1.1%)	3(3.3%)	16(17.6%)
	\$21 - 25	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)
	\$26 - 30	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	6(6.6%)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	7(7.7%)
	\$31 - 40	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	3(3.3%)	-(-)	3(3.3%)
	Over \$40	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	2(2.2%)	3(3.3%)
Total		1(1.0%)	6(6.6%)	9(9.9%)	26(28.6%)	6(6.6%)	22(24.2%)	8(8.8%)	13(14.3%)	91(100.0%)

$$r = 0.448 \quad F = 22.365 \quad P = 0.05$$

6. Reasons for Leaving the Scheme

The majority left the scheme either because they were arrested for a criminal offence or as a consequence of total relapse to illicit drug use. (see Table A7)

Table A7

REASONS FOR LEAVING THE SCHEME BY
PERIOD OF STAY IN THE SCHEME

		Period of Stay in the Scheme				
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	Over 6 months	Total
Reasons for Leaving the Scheme	Arrested	6(6.6%)	17(18.7%)	7(7.7%)	12(13.2%)	42(46.2%)
	Methadone impaired one's health	1(1.1%)	3(3.3%)	1(1.1%)	-(-)	5(5.5%)
	Relapsed	10(11.0%)	11(12.1%)	4(4.4%)	4(4.4%)	29(31.9%)
	Long distance away from the prescribed Methadone Treatment Centre	6(6.6%)	1(1.0%)	-(-)	1(1.1%)	8(8.7%)
	Others	2(2.2%)	3(3.3%)	2(2.2%)	-(-)	7(7.7%)
Total		25(27.5%)	35(38.4%)	14(15.4%)	17(18.7%)	91(100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 18.921 \quad P = 0.05$$

7. Conclusions

From the findings, it can be concluded that the Methadone Maintenance Scheme has attracted the 21-30 age group who had moderately serious histories of drug addiction. However, the majority did not stay in the Scheme beyond the 4th month, and heroin use amongst the participants in the Scheme was a common feature.

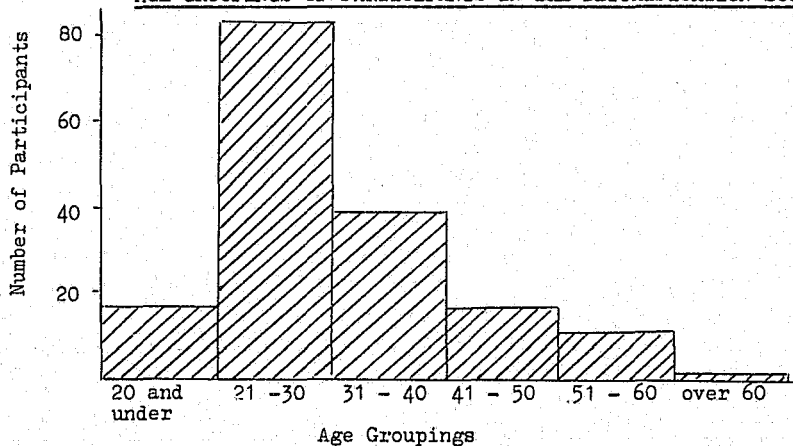
PART B : Participants in the Detoxification Scheme (N = 166)

1. Age

Compared with participants in the Maintenance Scheme, the present group appears to be somewhat younger, and the group's mean age was 31.13. The age group distribution is as laid out in Figure B1.

Figure B1

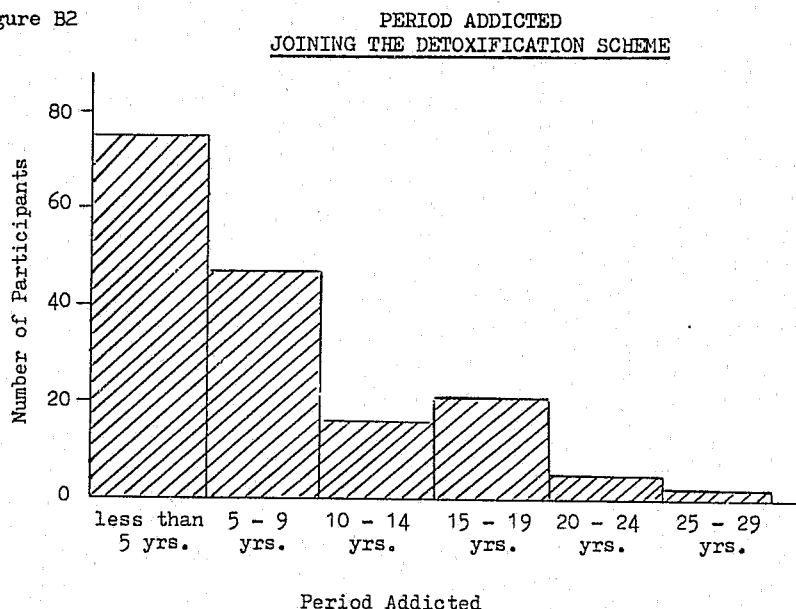
AGE GROUPINGS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE DETOXIFICATION SCHEME



2. Period addicted before joining Scheme

The mean period of addiction before joining the Scheme was 6.95 years, with the majority of the group having less than 5 years' history of addiction. (see Figure B2)

Figure B2

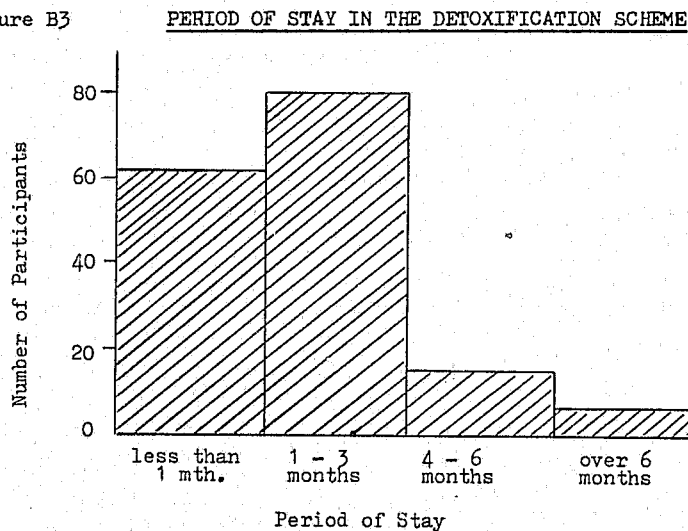


From the above figure, it is evident that only those with a shorter history of addiction were attracted to the Detoxification Scheme.

3. Period of stay in the Detoxification Scheme

The average period of stay in the Scheme was 2.17 months. In fact, 80.5% of the group left before the beginning of the 4th month. (see Figure B3)

Figure B3



Statistical analysis shows that there is no correlation between age group distribution and length of stay in the Scheme. (see Table B1)

Table B1

AGE GROUPINGS BY PERIOD OF
STAY IN THE SCHEME

		Period of Stay in the Scheme				
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	Over 6 months	Total
Age Groupings	Under 16 years	-(-)	1(0.6%)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6%)
	16 - 20 years	6(3.6%)	7(4.2%)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)	15(9.0%)
	21 - 25 years	16(9.6%)	25(15.1%)	6(3.6%)	3(1.8%)	50(30.2%)
	26 - 30 years	13(7.8%)	17(10.2%)	1(0.6%)	2(1.2%)	33(19.8%)
	31 - 35 years	7(4.2%)	9(5.4%)	-(-)	-(-)	16(9.6%)
	36 - 40 years	8(4.8%)	12(7.2%)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)	22(13.3%)
	41 - 50 years	6(3.6%)	6(3.6%)	5(3.0%)	-(-)	17(10.2%)
	51 - 60 years	5(3.0%)	2(1.2%)	3(0.8%)	1(0.6%)	11(6.6%)
	Over 60 years	-(-)	1(0.6%)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6%)
	Total	61(36.8%)	80(48.2%)	17(10.2%)	8(4.8%)	166(100.0%)

Length of addiction and length of stay in the Scheme are not significantly correlated. (see Table B2)

Table B2

PERIOD OF STAY IN THE DETOXIFICATION SCHEME BY PERIOD
ADDICTED BEFORE JOINING THE SCHEME

		Period of Stay in the Scheme					
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	Over 9 months	Total
Period Addicted before Joining the Scheme	Less than 5 years	27(16.3%)	39(23.5%)	6(3.6%)	-(-)	2(1.2%)	74(44.6%)
	5 - 9 years	18(10.8%)	23(13.9%)	2(1.2%)	-(-)	4(2.4%)	47(28.3%)
	10 - 14 years	8(4.8%)	3(1.8%)	4(2.4%)	-(-)	1(0.6%)	16(9.6%)
	15 - 19 years	6(3.6%)	11(6.6%)	3(1.8%)	1(0.6%)	-(-)	21(12.7%)
	20 - 24 years	2(1.2%)	3(1.8%)	1(0.6%)	-(-)	-(-)	6(3.6%)
	25 - 29 years	-(-)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)	-(-)	-(-)	2(1.2%)
	Total	61(36.8%)	80(48.2%)	17(10.2%)	1(0.6%)	7(4.2%)	166(100.0%)

$$r = 0.073$$

$$F = 0.882$$

$$P = 0.05$$

4. Drug abuse during period of treatment

Drug abuse during treatment period was extensive. The difference in the mean age of heroin-users and non-users was found to be of statistical significance. (see Table B3)

Table B3

AGE GROUPINGS BY DRUG ABUSE STATUS DURING TREATMENT PERIOD

		Drug Abuse Status during Treatment Period		
		Heroin-user	Non-user	Total
Age Groupings	Under 16 years	-(-)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)
	16 - 20 years	5(3.0%)	10(6.0%)	15(9.0%)
	21 - 25 years	21(12.7%)	29(17.5%)	50(30.2%)
	26 - 30 years	23(13.9%)	10(6.0%)	33(19.8%)
	31 - 35 years	9(5.4%)	7(4.2%)	16(9.6%)
	36 - 40 years	11(6.6%)	11(6.6%)	22(13.3%)
	41 - 50 years	8(48.0%)	9(5.4%)	17(10.2%)
	51 - 60 years	5(3.0%)	6(3.6%)	11(6.6%)
	Over 60 years	-(-)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)
	Total	82(49.4%)	84(50.6%)	166(100.0%)

t = 0.302 P = 0.05

The average length of stay in the Detoxification Scheme for heroin-users and non-users was established by statistical analysis to be significantly different. (see Table B4)

Table B4

DRUG ABUSE STATUS DURING TREATMENT PERIOD BY PERIOD OF STAY IN THE DETOXIFICATION SCHEME

Drug abuse Status during Treatment Period		Period of Stay in the Detoxification Scheme					Total
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	Over 9 months	
	Heroin-user	21(12.7%)	43(25.9%)	13(7.8%)	-(-)	5(3.0%)	82(49.4%)
	Non-user	40(24.1%)	37(22.3%)	4(2.4%)	1(0.6%)	2(1.2%)	84(50.6%)
	Total	61(36.8%)	80(48.2%)	17(10.2%)	1(0.6%)	7(4.2%)	166(100.0%)

t = 2.616 P = 0.05

It is highly probable that in a number of cases the Detoxification Scheme was used by the drug addicts as a means to bring down the amount of heroin which they need to consume to attain a euphoric state. (see Table B5)

Table B5

REASONS FOR JOINING THE SCHEME BY
DRUG ABUSE STATUS DURING TREATMENT PERIOD

		Drug Abuse Status during Treatment Scheme		
		Heroin-user	Non-user	Total
Reasons for Joining the Scheme	a. decided to abstain from D.D.	40(24.1%)	50(30.1%)	90(54.2%)
	b. persuaded by family	9(5.4%)	15(9.0%)	24(14.5%)
	c. high cost of D.D.	22(13.3%)	10(6.0%)	32(19.3%)
	d. difficult to obtain D.D.	8(4.8%)	4(2.4%)	12(7.2%)
	e. afraid of being arrested by Police	-(-)	1(0.6%)	1(0.6%)
	f. intended to obtain/retain employment	-(-)	2(1.2%)	2(1.2%)
	g. others	3(1.8%)	2(1.2%)	5(3.0%)
Total		82(49.4%)	84(50.6%)	166(100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 11.778 \quad P = 0.05$$

5. Reason for Leaving the scheme

Similar to the group on the Maintenance Scheme, a large proportion of the Detoxification group also left the treatment scheme either because of being arrested for a criminal offence or as a result of relapse to illicit drug use. (see Table B6)

Table B6

REASONS FOR LEAVING THE SCHEME
BY PERIOD OF STAY IN THE SCHEME

		Period of Stay in the Scheme				
		Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	Over 6 months	Total
Reasons for Leaving the Scheme	Arrested	33(19.9%)	41(24.7%)	15(9.0%)	4(2.4%)	93(56.0%)
	Received drug addiction treatment voluntarily	1(0.6%)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6%)	2(1.2%)
	Methadone impaired one's health	5(3.0%)	2(1.2%)	-(-)	1(-)	7(4.2%)
	Relapsed	17(10.3%)	27(16.3%)	2(1.2%)	1(0.6%)	47(28.4%)
	Long distance away from the prescribed Methadone Treatment Centre	4(2.4%)	7(4.2%)	-(-)	2(1.2%)	13(7.8%)
	Others	1(0.6%)	3(1.8%)	-(-)	-(-)	4(2.4%)
Total		61(36.8%)	80(48.2%)	17(10.2%)	8(4.8%)	166(100.0%)

$$\chi^2 = 26.094 \quad P = 0.05$$

6. Cost of Heroin Used

After having gone through portions of the Detoxification Scheme, the subjects under study found that they needed very little heroin to attain a euphoric state. This can be seen in the fact that the cost of heroin used before and after joining the Detoxification Scheme appeared to be significantly different. (See Table B7)

Table B7

COST OF HEROIN USED BEFORE AND AFTER JOINING THE
DETOXIFICATION SCHEME

Before After	\$5 or less	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	over 40	Total
\$5 or less	1(0.6)	7(4.2)	4(2.4)	24(14.5)	5(3.0)	25(15.1)	15(9.0)	7(4.2)	88(53.0)
6 - 10	-(-)	1(0.6)	3(1.8)	5(3.0)	3(1.8)	11(6.6)	2(1.2)	1(0.6)	26(15.7)
11 - 15	-(-)	-(-)	2(1.2)	1(0.6)	1(0.6)	4(2.4)	-(-)	2(1.2)	10(6.0)
16 - 20	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	10(6.0)	-(-)	5(3.0)	4(2.4)	3(1.8)	22(13.3)
21 - 25	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6)
26 - 30	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	9(5.4)	1(0.6)	1(0.6)	11(6.6)
31 - 40	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6)	-(-)	1(0.6)	2(1.2)
Over 40	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	1(0.6)	5(3.0)	6(3.6)
Total	1(0.6)	8(4.8)	9(5.4)	40(24.1)	10(6.0)	55(33.1)	23(13.9)	20(12.1)	166(100.0)

$$r = 0.339$$

$$F = 21.243$$

$$P = 0.05$$

DISCUSSION

It is a commonly acknowledged fact that once an individual has developed dependence on a narcotic drug over a given period, he continues to consume the drug of his choice primarily to ward off the onset of withdrawal symptoms rather than to attain a positive euphoria. With the passage of time, the individual addict is most likely to discover that the amount of narcotic drug which is required to keep him going increases. This concept is sometimes termed as the development of physical tolerance towards a drug. At this juncture, the addict either seeks to lower the level of tolerance which he has built up against the drug of his choice, or else decides to get rid of his addiction for good. To achieve the former purpose, the addict need only abstain from drug abuse for a period of time, and this explains why drug withdrawal programmes of a voluntary and non-residential nature may sometimes be utilized by addicts as distilling machinery through which their tolerance level for a particular drug may be reduced.

Although the present survey only includes those participants in the Methadone Treatment Schemes who relapsed and were subsequently sentenced to treatment centres, the findings do reveal that very probably well-intended drug withdrawal treatment programmes were utilized by a number of addicts for a fallacious purpose. This factor however seems to be unavoidable as there is no fool-proof way to ascertain the real intention of drug addicts when they register to participate in the Methadone Treatment Schemes. Furthermore, the amount of control exerted upon participants does not provide the necessary deterrent to keep them away from using illicit drugs during the treatment period. Therefore in order to concentrate available funds on the treatment of addicts who show more promising prognoses, a measure should be introduced whereby an individual who shows signs of a total relapse to drug abuse should be removed from the treatment scheme.

Drug addiction treatment programmes function much better if the programme designers keep in mind the fact that drug addicts share several characteristics, amongst which are: lack of self-discipline, lack of self-control and inconsideration of the well-being of others, and any programme which totally depends for its success on the demonstration of self-discipline/self-control by addicts is likely to lead to unsatisfactory results.

Questionnaire re :
Methadone Maintenance Scheme

Institution : _____

Inmate No. : _____ Name : _____ ()
Age : _____
Sex : _____

Registered No. in Clinic : _____

Clinic : _____

1. Is this your first D.A.T.C. conviction?

YES _____ NO _____

2. Reason for joining the Scheme:- (Tick one)

- a. Decided to abstain from Dangerous Drugs
 - b. Persuaded by family
 - c. High cost of Dangerous Drugs
 - d. Difficult to obtain Dangerous Drugs
 - e. Afraid of being arrested by Police
 - f. Intended to obtain/retain employment
 - g. Failed in the Detoxification Scheme
 - h. Others (please specify)
- _____

3. How many times per day did you take methadone?

_____ times

If more than once, give reason(s) :-

4. Was the methadone being taken daily?

YES _____ NO _____

If NO, give reason(s) :-

5. How did your family react towards your joining the Scheme?

POSITIVELY _____ NEGATIVELY _____ INDIFFERENTLY _____

6. a. How long were you with the Scheme?

() days
() months

b. How long had you been addicted to D.D. before joining the Scheme?

() days
() months
() years

7. Did you take D.D. during the period of treatment?

YES _____ NO _____

If 'YES', give reason(s) :-

8. How many times per day did you take D.D. during the treatment period?
_____ times
9. Daily cost of D.D. taken
a. Before joining the Scheme \$ _____
b. After joining the Scheme \$ _____
10. Was there any difference in feeling and sensation between taking D.D.
and taking methadone?
YES _____ NO _____
11. Was there any difference in feeling and sensation between simply taking
D.D. and taking D.D. after consuming a dosage of methadone?
YES _____ NO _____
12. a. Did you have any intention of transferring to the Methadone Detoxification
Scheme?
YES _____ NO _____
b. If 'YES', give reason(s) :-

13. Reason(s) for discontinuance with the Scheme:-

After-care Officer

Date

Questionnaire re :
Methadone Detoxification Scheme

Institution : _____

Inmate No. : _____ Name : _____ ()
Age : _____
Sex : _____

Registered No. in Clinic : _____
Clinic : _____

1. Is this your first D.A.T.C. conviction?
YES _____ NO _____
2. Reason for joining the Scheme :- (tick one)
 - a. Decided to abstain from Dangerous Drugs
 - b. Persuaded by family
 - c. High cost of Dangerous Drugs
 - d. Difficult to obtain Dangerous Drugs
 - e. Afraid of being arrested by Police
 - f. Intended to obtain/retain employment
 - g. Others (please specify) _____
3. How did your family react towards your joining the Scheme?
POSITIVELY _____ NEGATIVELY _____ INDIFFERENTLY _____
4. How long were you with the Scheme?
() days () months
5. How long had you been addicted to D.D. before joining the Scheme?
() days () months
6. Did you take D.D. during the period of treatment?
YES _____ NO _____
If 'YES', give reason(s) :- _____
7. How many times per day did you take D.D. during the treatment period?
_____ times
8. Daily cost of D.D. taken
 - a. Before joining the Scheme \$ _____
 - b. After joining the Scheme \$ _____
9. Was there any difference in feeling and sensation between taking D.D. and taking methadone?
YES _____ NO _____
10. Was there any difference in feeling and sensation between simply taking D.D. and taking D.D. after consuming a dosage of methadone?
YES _____ NO _____
11. Did you have any intention of being transferred to the Methadone Maintenance Scheme when you realized that you had failed in the Detoxification Treatment?
If 'YES', give reason(s) :- _____
12. Reason(s) for discontinuance with the Scheme:- _____

After-care Officer

Date

END