

## MHA COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY DEBATE 2022



# Keeping Singapore Safe and Secure



BUDGET  
2022



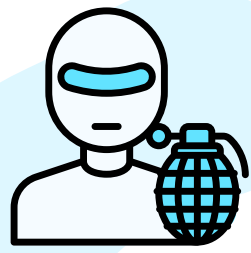
# Death Penalty

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

## Mandatory Death Penalty



**INTENTIONAL  
MURDER**



**TERRORIST  
BOMBING**



**USE OF  
FIREARMS**



**TRAFFICKING SIGNIFICANT  
QUANTITIES OF DRUGS**

## Discretionary Death Penalty



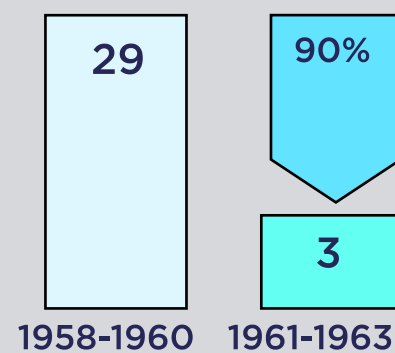
**NON-INTENTIONAL  
MURDER**



**KIDNAPPING**

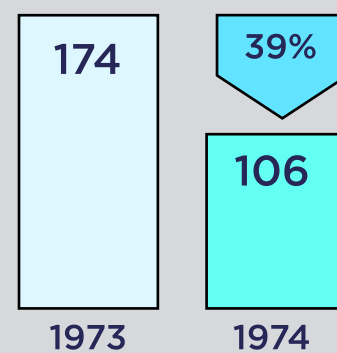
**The death penalty has been effective in deterring the most serious offences.**

### Kidnapping



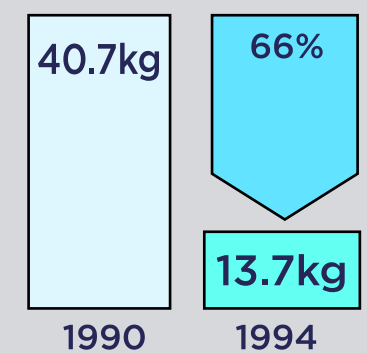
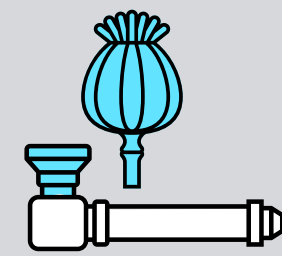
- The death penalty was introduced in 1961.
- In the three years before introduction, there was an average of 29 cases per year. In the three years after, this has dropped to an average of 1 case per year.
- It has remained low since then.

### Use of Firearms



- The death penalty was introduced in 1973.
- Number of firearms offences dropped by 39%, from 174 cases in 1973 to 106 cases in 1974.
- Firearms offences are rare today.

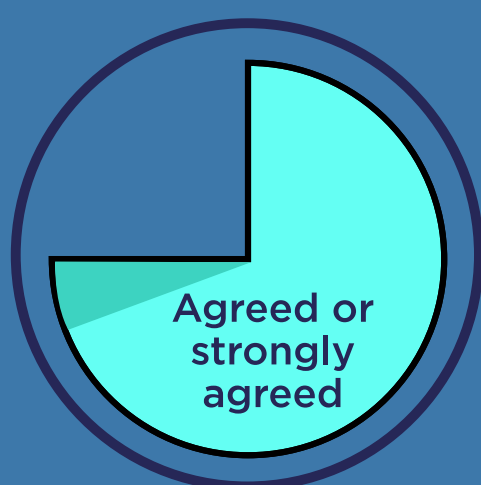
### Opium Trafficking



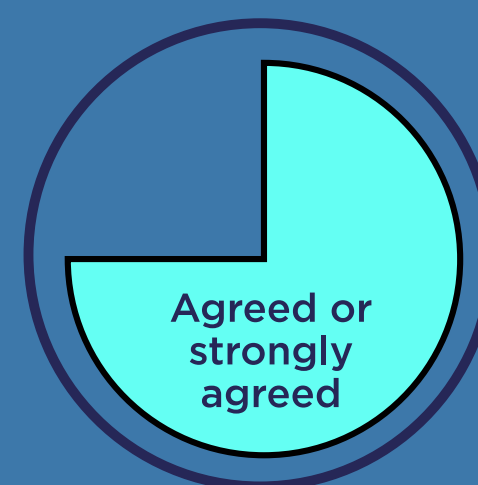
- The death penalty was introduced in 1990.
- Compared to the four-year period prior to introduction, there was a 66% reduction in the average net weight of opium trafficked into Singapore in the four-year period after introduction.

## Singapore Residents' Attitudes Towards the Death Penalty

An MHA survey commissioned in 2019 showed that majority of the respondents agreed with the use of the death penalty. Preliminary results from a 2021 study showed similar agreement that the death penalty should be used for the most serious crimes, and also that it deterred serious crimes.



feel that the mandatory death penalty is appropriate as the punishment for intentional murder, firearms offences and drug trafficking.



believe that the death penalty had been able to deter intentional murder, firearms offences and drug trafficking.



# Death Penalty

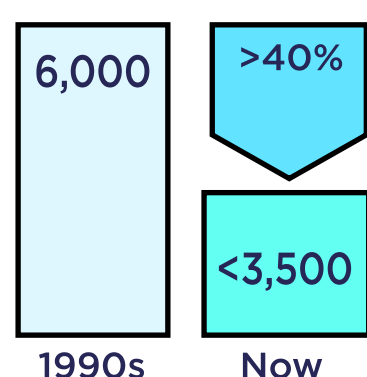
Drug traffickers, and the drugs they traffic, cause immense harm to drug abusers, their families, and the society. Our robust law enforcement and tough stance against drugs have kept Singapore largely free from drugs and crime.

## 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*



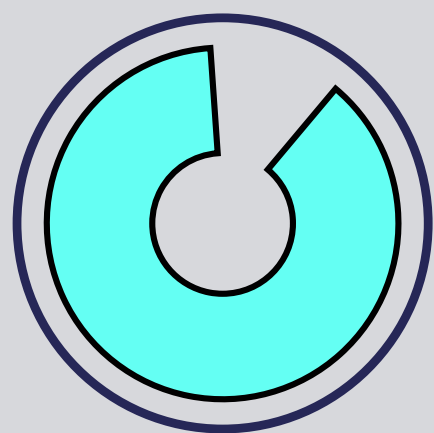
### Drug Abusers Arrested

- 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.



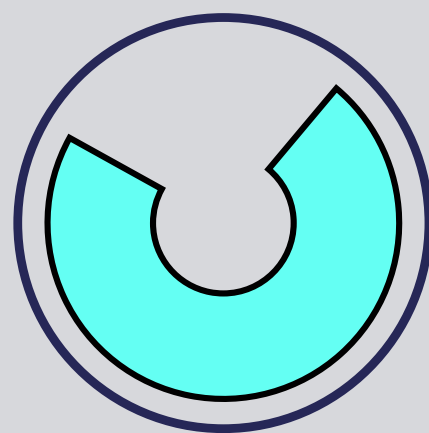
## Perception of Residents in Regional Countries on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety

- 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.



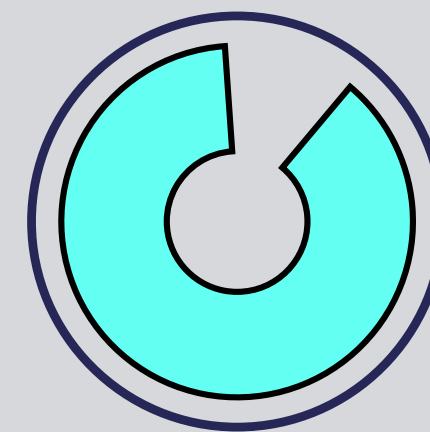
**82%**

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.



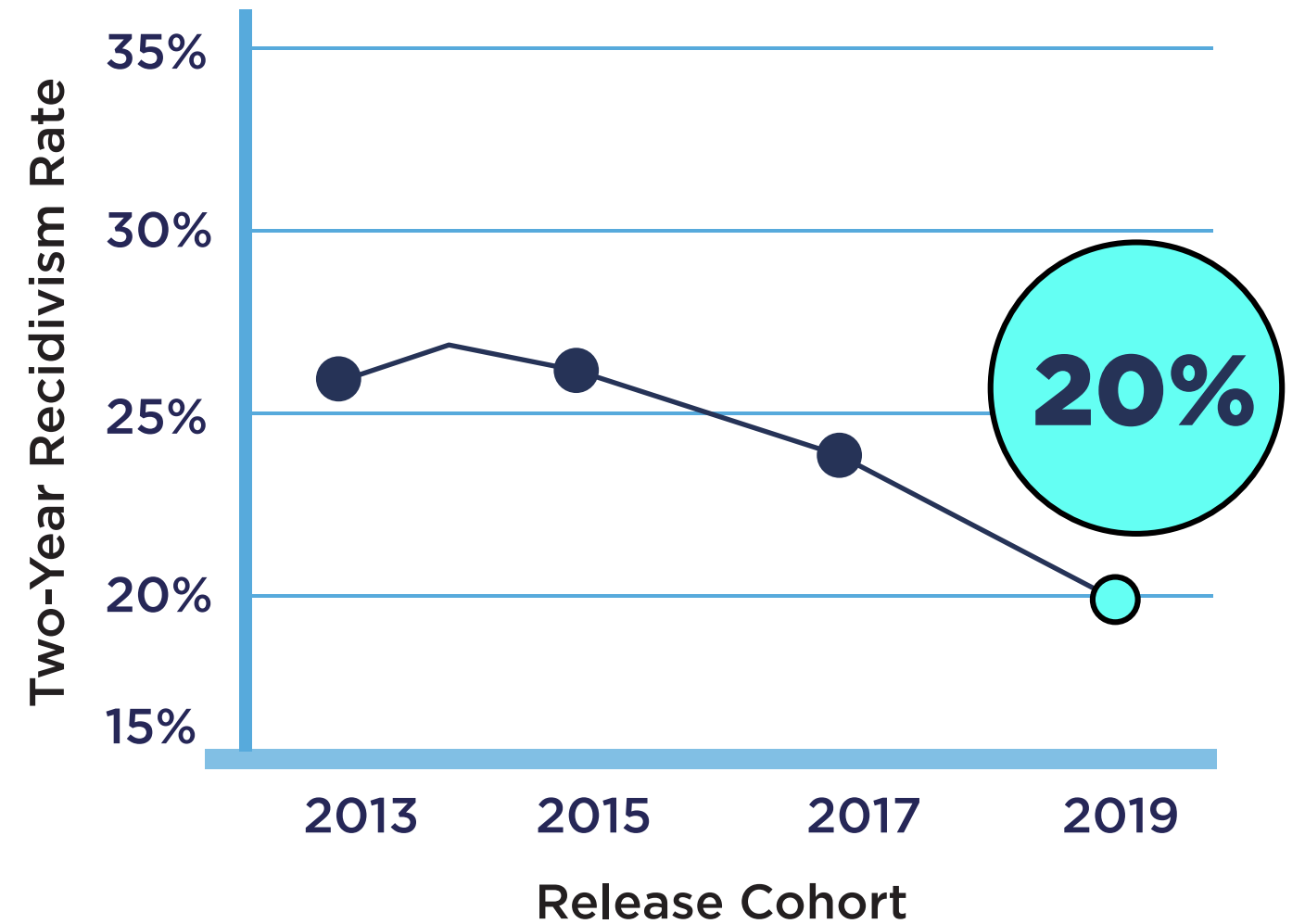




# Rehabilitation

## Recidivism Rate

- Reflects how successfully an ex-offender has reintegrated into society.
- Two-year recidivism rate is currently at its lowest, at 20.0%.
- Continued efforts to bring down five-year recidivism rate, with initiatives both in and outside of prison.



## Initiatives in Prisons

Upon admission to prison, inmates will have their risks and needs identified, and undergo appropriate programmes to address them.



### Psychology-based Correctional Programmes

Customised programmes provided by rehabilitation specialists and psychologists for offenders with rehabilitation needs such as substance abuse.



### Family Programmes

Social Skills Training Programme and Family Reintegration Programme to build skills and strengthen bonds with loved ones.



### Skills Training & Employment Assistance

TAP (Train and Place) & Grow - an initiative set up in partnership with various sectors, to facilitate career advancements into relevant industries after release.



### Community Corrections

Rehabilitation in prison is complemented by community-based programmes to lower risk of reoffending.

# Enabling Home Team Transformation Through Technology



## 1 Build New Capabilities for Greater Operational Effectiveness

- Expand network of Police cameras to keep our public housing estates and public spaces safe.
- Implement real-time 24/7 nationwide sensor grid to allow SCDF to detect hazardous materials early.
- Enhance SPF and SCDF operation centres with Video Extension for Emergency Numbers system to view and respond faster to incidents.
- Provide SCDF paramedics with access to patients' medical data on the go to make better interventions.

## 2 Make Processes More Efficient and Seamless

- Apply and access ICA documents digitally, such as birth and death certificates, long-term visit and student's passes.
- Make more eServices available on MyICA Mobile App.
- Continue digitalisation efforts in Prisons to facilitate rehabilitation such as videoconferencing with loved ones and use of tablets for learning.

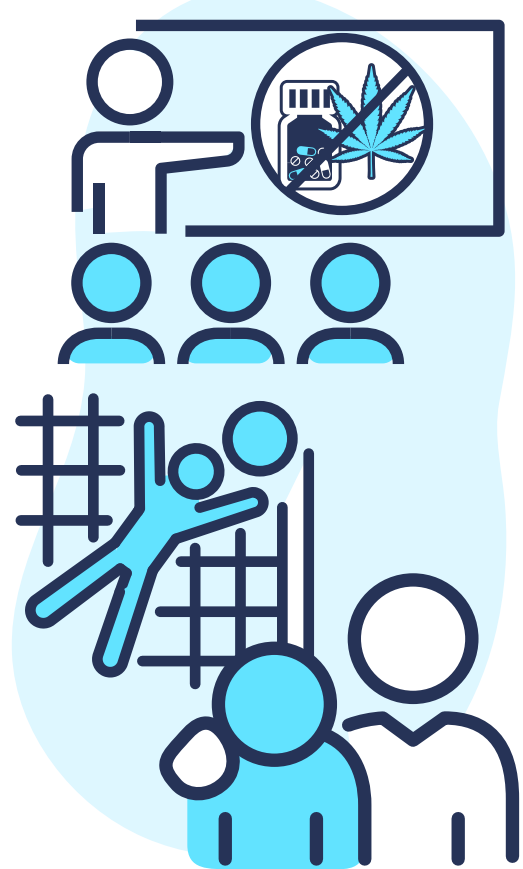


## 3 Upskill Our Officers

- Use of new technology to make training safer and more realistic for officers, such as Live Instrumentation Training System and Mobile TASER Training Target system.



# Combating Drugs and Securing Singapore



## 1 Upstream Measures for Prevention and Rehabilitation

- In 2018, the National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism was set up to oversee national efforts to prevent offending and re-offending, and enhance the rehabilitation of offenders.
- Sustained engagement of youths through meaningful anti-crime activities such as Delta League, a youth outreach programme to instill teamwork, discipline and social responsibility.
- Number of youth offenders dropped by 28% over the past decade.

## 2 Reintegration Efforts

- Inmates are provided with job placement support prior to release.
- Career coaches work with ex-offenders and their employers to facilitate their transition from prison back to the workforce.
- A Community Action Masterplan maps out opportunities for the community to be involved, and better harness the strengths and aspirations of volunteers.
- Volunteers connect inmates to communities of support during and after incarceration.

## 3 Strengthening Approach to Combat Drug Abuse

- Amend Misuse of Drugs Act to introduce a new framework to regulate New Psychoactive Substances.
- Expand preventive drug education efforts to strengthen the resilience of youths and forge a strong national consensus of zero tolerance towards drugs.
- Enhance drug supervision scheme by rolling out the Community Supervision Skills sessions fully in 2023.





# Safeguarding Singapore, Together



## 1 Community Partnership for Crime Prevention

- Build a wider network of Police's Community Watch Scheme to safeguard Singapore.
- New debt collection regulatory framework to address public disorder and disamenities by errant debt collectors.

## 2 Combatting Scams and Cheating

### Public Education

- Work with industry partners and e-commerce platforms to strengthen public education efforts against scams.
- Introduce E-Commerce Marketplace Transaction Safety Ratings to help consumers make an informed choice when shopping online.

### Legislative Amendments and Framework

- Develop a framework to tackle scams and a broader range of online criminal activities, such as child pornography and terrorism.
- Amend the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act to allow money laundering offences to be made out at lower levels of culpability.



## 3 Countering Terrorism

- Ramp up our community response and mobilisation capabilities to terror attacks through the SGSecure Movement.
- Work with organisations to maximise the chances of rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised individuals.
- From July 2023, all security officers are required to complete the "Recognise Terrorist Threats" training before deployment.

