

Narcotics Offences Factsheet 2025

Total Prisoners under Narcotics Charges:

21,824



83.14%

of persons charged with narcotics related offences have not been convicted yet



11.95%

increase has been recorded in prisoners under CNSA between 2024-2025



Individuals on Death Row for Narcotics Offences:

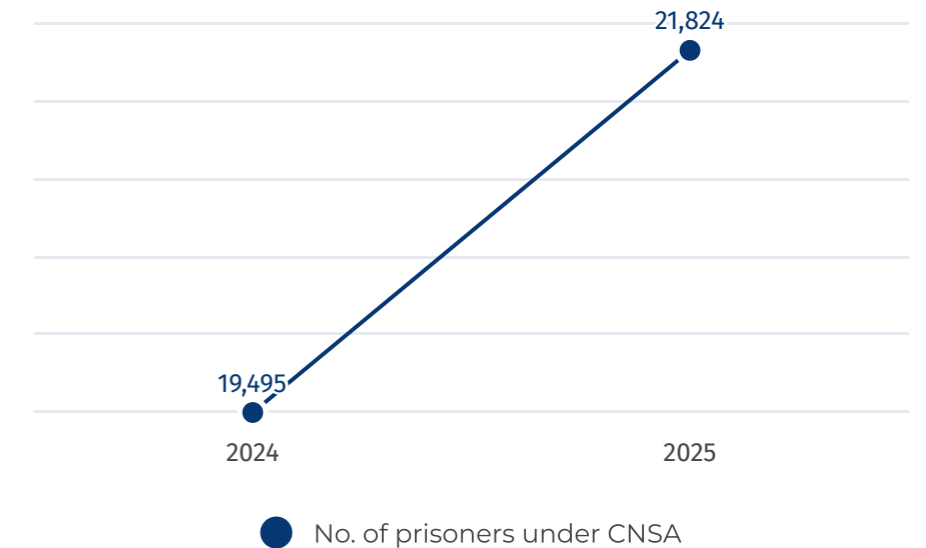
20



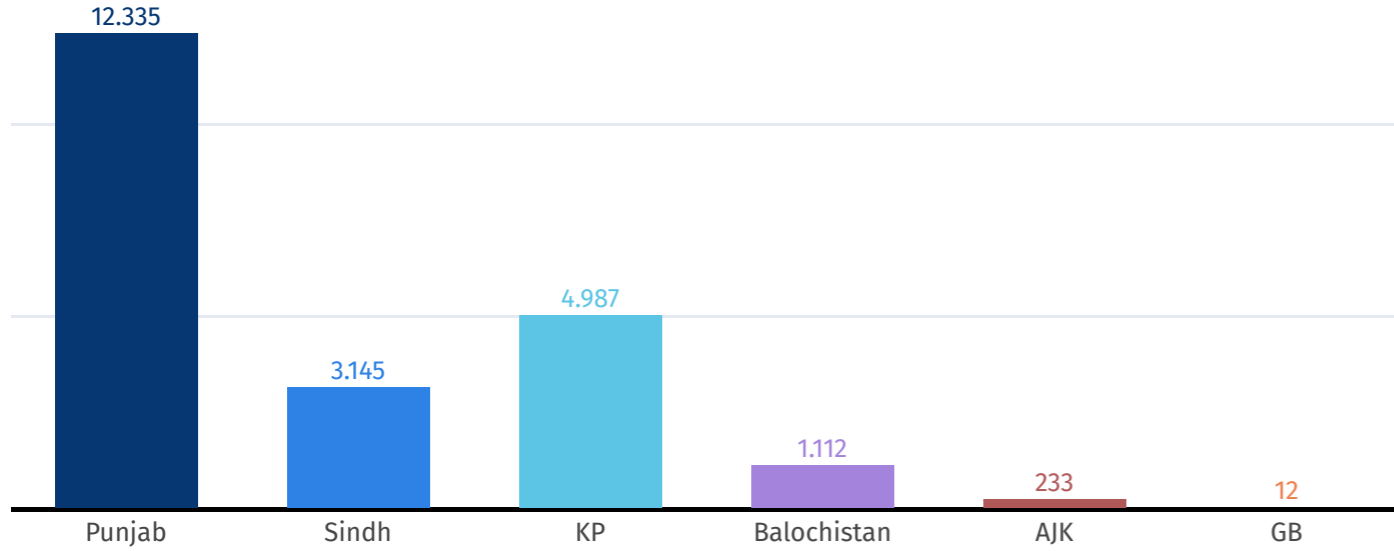
Key trends

- The number of individuals incarcerated for narcotics-related offenses has risen sharply by **11.95%** within a single year.
- A staggering **83.14%** of all prisoners held under the Control of Narcotic Substances Act (CNSA) are currently awaiting trial.
- Punjab reports the highest proportion of narcotics-related cases, representing 56.3% of the total narcotics prisoner population. This is followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) at 22.85% and Sindh at 14.41%.
- 16,399 prisoners are labelled by the prison authorities as "traffickers/peddlers" while 5,137 are labelled "users/addicts". However, it is unclear how this categorisation is made since the CNSA does not differentiate between the two.
- Women constitute a small fraction of the total narcotics offenders, accounting for just 1.72% of the population, with **375** female prisoners detained under narcotics charges.
- Yet, women account for a staggering 40% of those on death row for narcotics offences—8 out of 20.
- In 2023, the death penalty was abolished for narcotics offences, however **20** prisoners continue to languish on death row for narcotics offences.

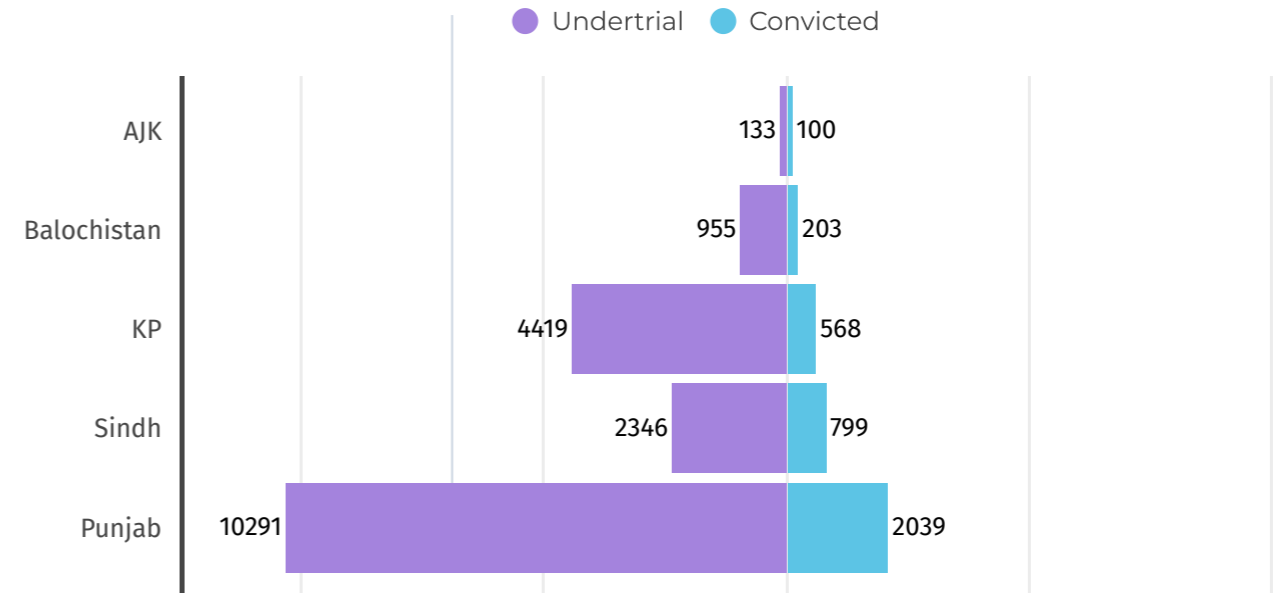
Increase in prisoners under CNSA from 2024-25



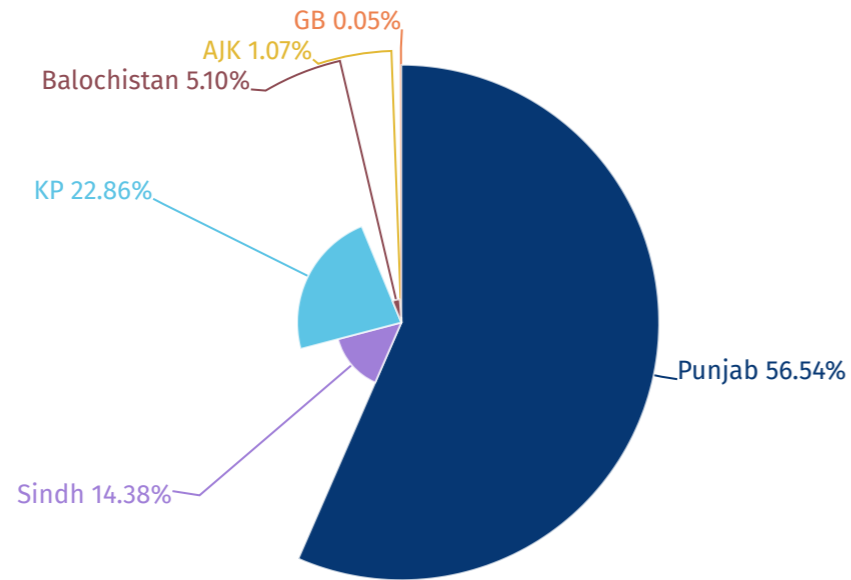
Province-wise number of prisoners under narcotics-related charges



Province-wise breakdown by trial status



Province-wise % of total narcotics prisoners' population



Categorisation in "traffickers and users" by provincial prison departments

