European Drug Report
New drugs

Around 300 new drugs monitored by the EWS
New drugs...

Mimic effects of controlled drugs

Chemical structure — outside scope of drug laws

2 overlapping groups, sold...

- on illicit market as ‘ecstasy’ (mCPP) or ‘speed’ (4-MA)
- openly as branded products (‘legal highs’)

## Online availability of “legal highs”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kratom (natural)</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia (natural)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hallucinogenic mushrooms (natural)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methoxetamine (arylcyclohexylamine)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDAI (aminooindane)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-APB (benzofuran)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDPV (cathinone)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-MEC (cathinone)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methiopropamine (thiophene)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-IAI (aminooindane)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
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Studies beginning to appear
Prevalence levels not dramatic but…

- potential for rapid rise
- high in some sub-populations
73 new substances in 2012

Number and main groups of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early warning system, 2005–2012

30 synthetic cannabinoids in 2012
Emergence of synthetic cannabinoids in EU

Powders manufactured in and imported from China

Mixed with, or sprayed onto, herbs

Packaged for sale as ‘legal highs’
Synthetic cannabinoids: new developments

Resinous products

Tablets resembling ‘ecstasy’

Cannabis sprayed
Risk assessment of NPS

Formalised guidelines
Health risks, social risks, organised crime
Diffusion potential

4-MA (2012) – 21 deaths

5-IT (2013) – 21 deaths
National legal responses to new drugs

1. **New NPS laws:**
   Catch-all or listing/group definitions

2. **Modifying drug laws:**
   Risk assessment mechanisms, introducing group definitions (generic/analogue), temporary controls

3. **Using existing non-drug (other) laws:**
   Consumer safety, medicinal products, health protection laws

Countries have moved from one to another, and/or combined these approaches.
A challenge for drug control policies

Controlling NPS