



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

| 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...

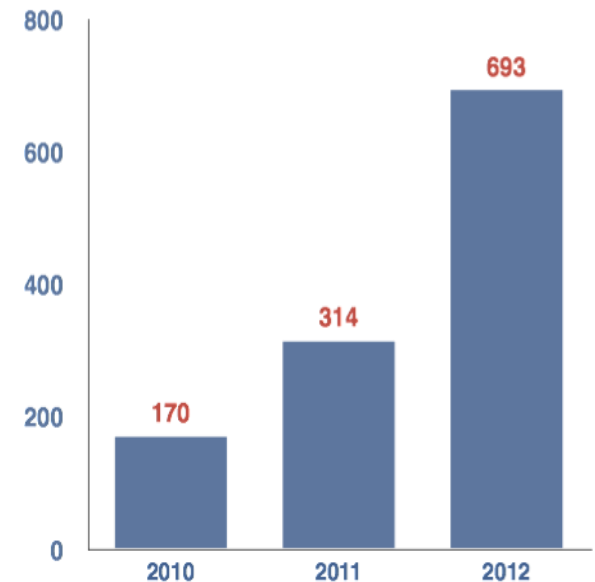
- on illicit market as 'ecstasy' (mCPP) or 'speed' (4-MA)
- openly as branded products ('legal highs')



Online availability of “legal highs”



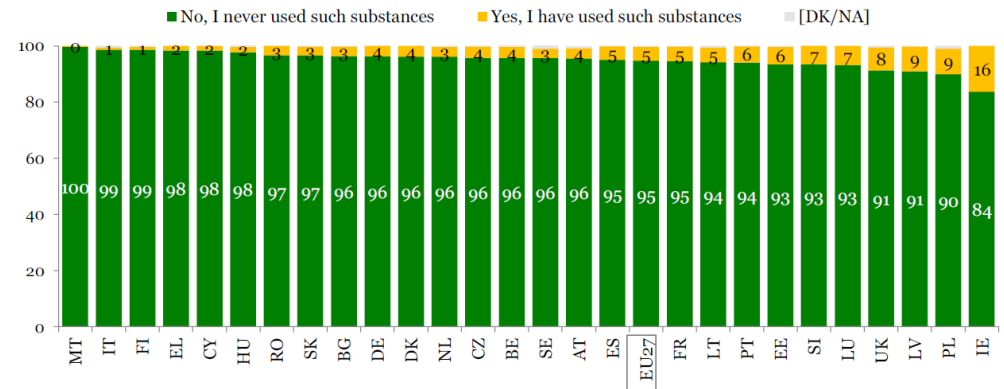
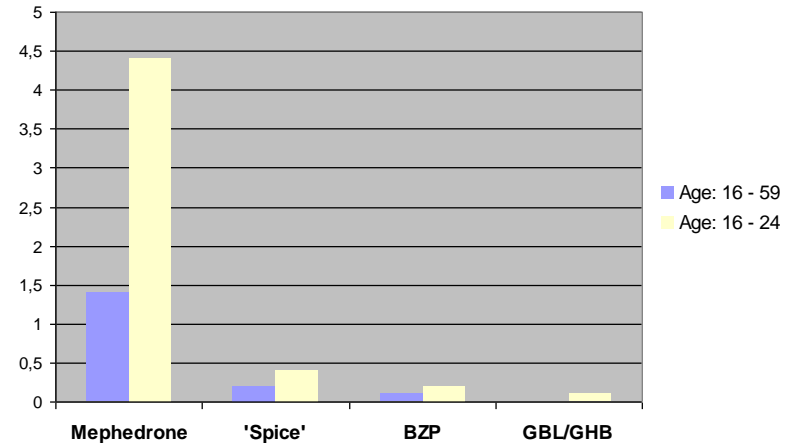
PRODUCT	Number of online shops		
	Jan 2011	Jul 2011	Jan 2012
Kratom (natural)	92	128	179
Salvia (natural)	72	110	134
Hallucinogenic mushrooms (natural)	44	72	95
Methoxetamine (arylcyclohexylamine)	14	58	68
MDAI (aminoindane)	45	61	65
6-APB (benzofuran)	35	49	54
MDPV (cathinone)	25	32	44
4-MEC (cathinone)	11	32	43
Methiopropamine (thiophene)	5	28	39
5-IAI (aminoindane)	25	27	38



Prevalence of “legal highs”

Studies beginning to appear
Prevalence levels not dramatic
but...

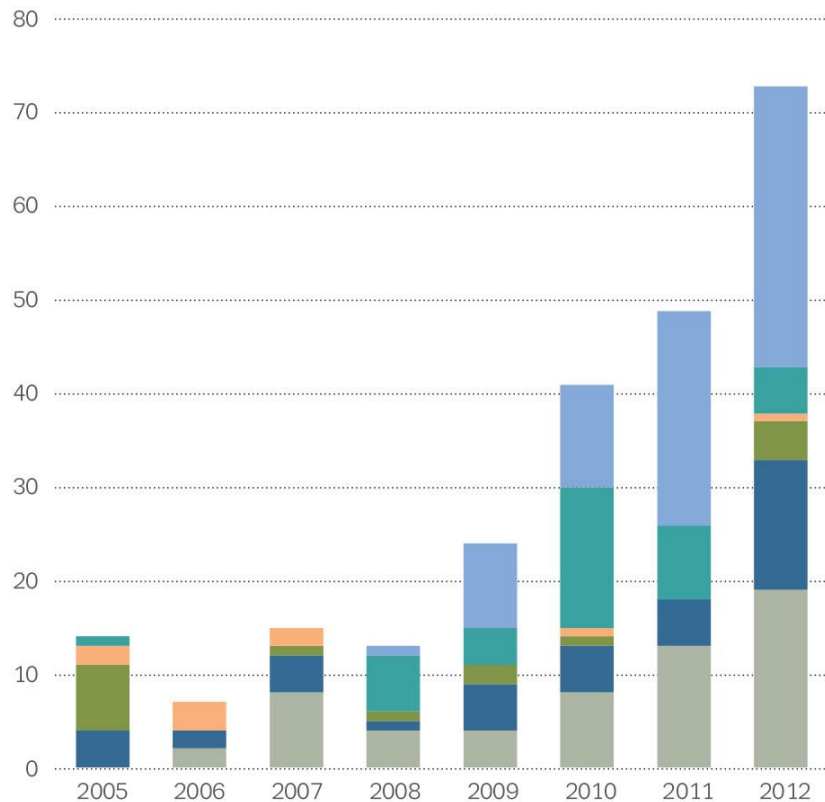
- potential for rapid rise
- high in some sub-populations



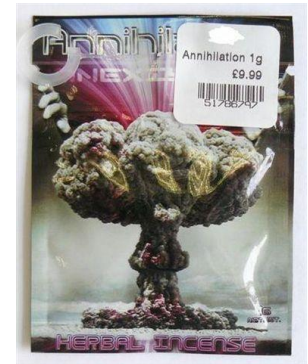
Q5. In certain countries some new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs are being sold as legal substances in the form of - for example - powders, tablets/pills or herbs. Have you ever used such substances?
Base: all respondents, % by country

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



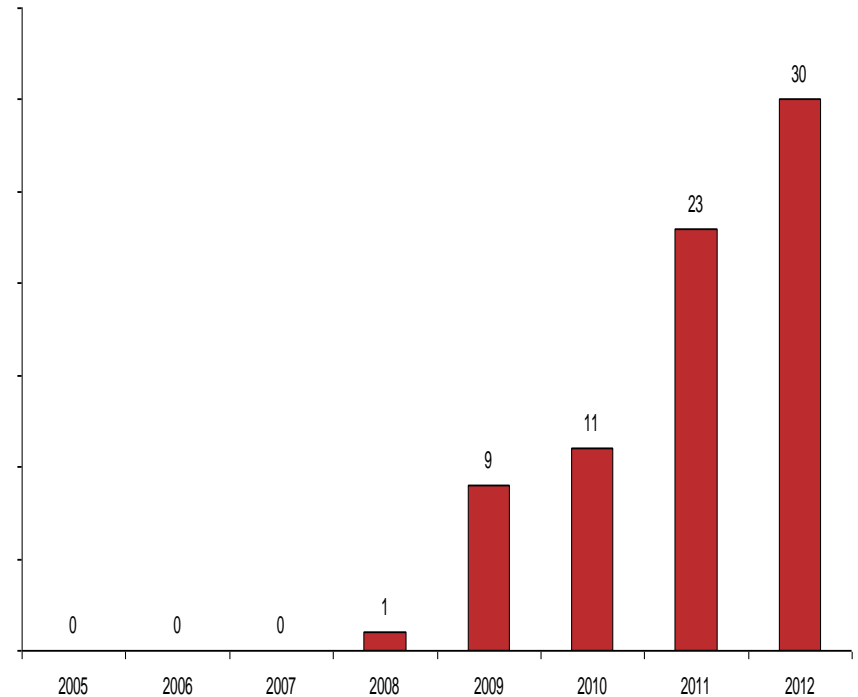
- Synthetic cannabinoids
- Cathinones
- Piperazines
- Tryptamines
- Phenethylamines
- Other (chemicals, plants, medicines)

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

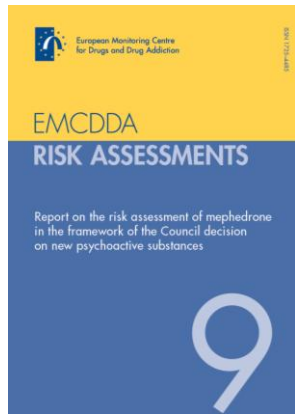
Resinous products

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

