

Novel prevention and harm reduction models: drug users' point-of-view



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DAATH.hu – Hungarian Psychedelic Community

- Hungarian Psychedelic Community (2001-)
- harm reduction, drug information, peer help
- psychedelic and related substances
- 8000+ registered members (entry test)
- Forum: 1200 daily readers, moderated, no trading
- Ecstasy pill database: 2800+ pill descriptions

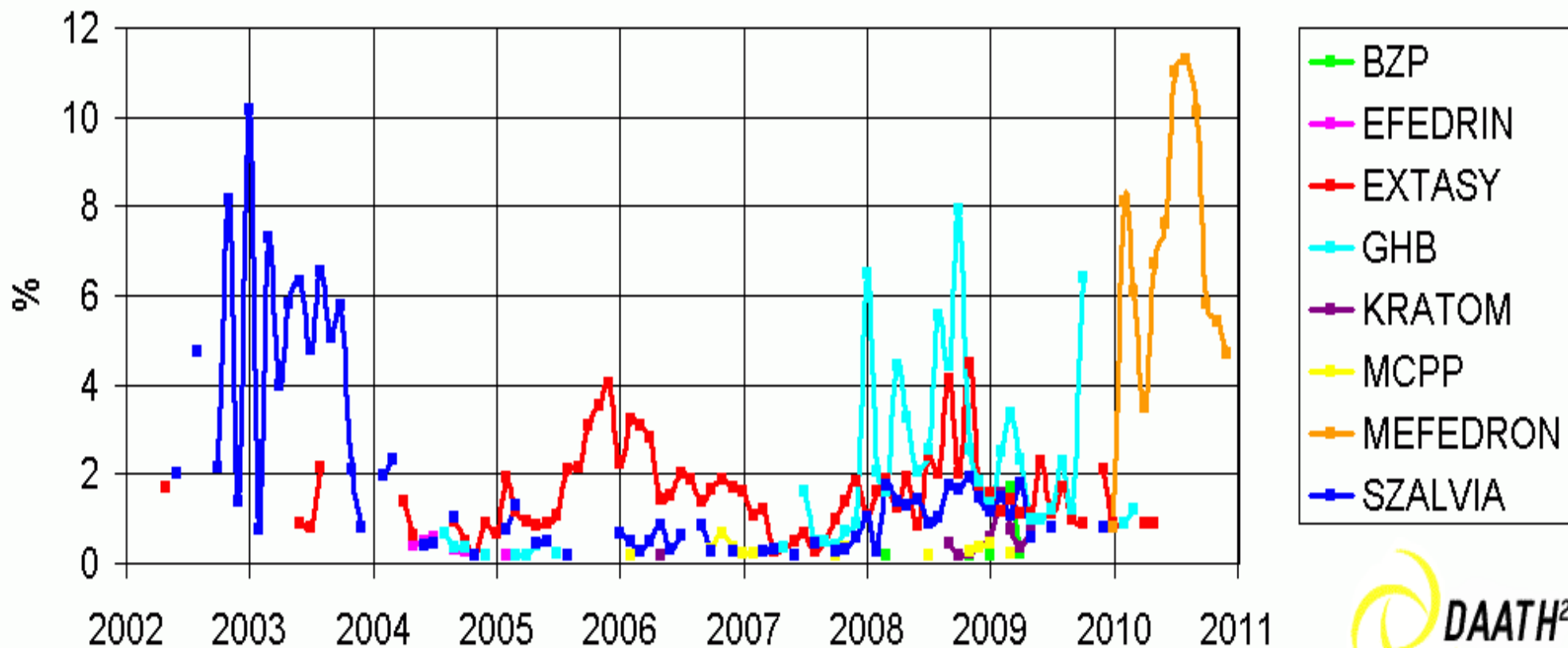
Informed and responsible drug use!

Spread of GHB

- 2003 February („Gina”)
- 2004 April (GHB)
- BZP & TFMPP pills
 - 2004 November
- mCPP-containing Ecstasy pills
 - 2005 November
- "Spice" cannabis-like effects
 - 2007 October
- Party pills
 - 2008 February (methydone = bk-MDMA)
 - 2008 November (butylone)
- Mephedrone
 - 2009 June

„Earlier” Warning System

Daath.hu - search keywords



Novel Psychoactive Substances

- NSD = New Synthetic Drugs
 - DD = Designer Drugs
 - RC = Research Chemicals
 - marginal, „psychonaut” subculture
 - hallucinogenic Shulgin phenethylamines / tryptamines
 - self-experimenting -> party drug use

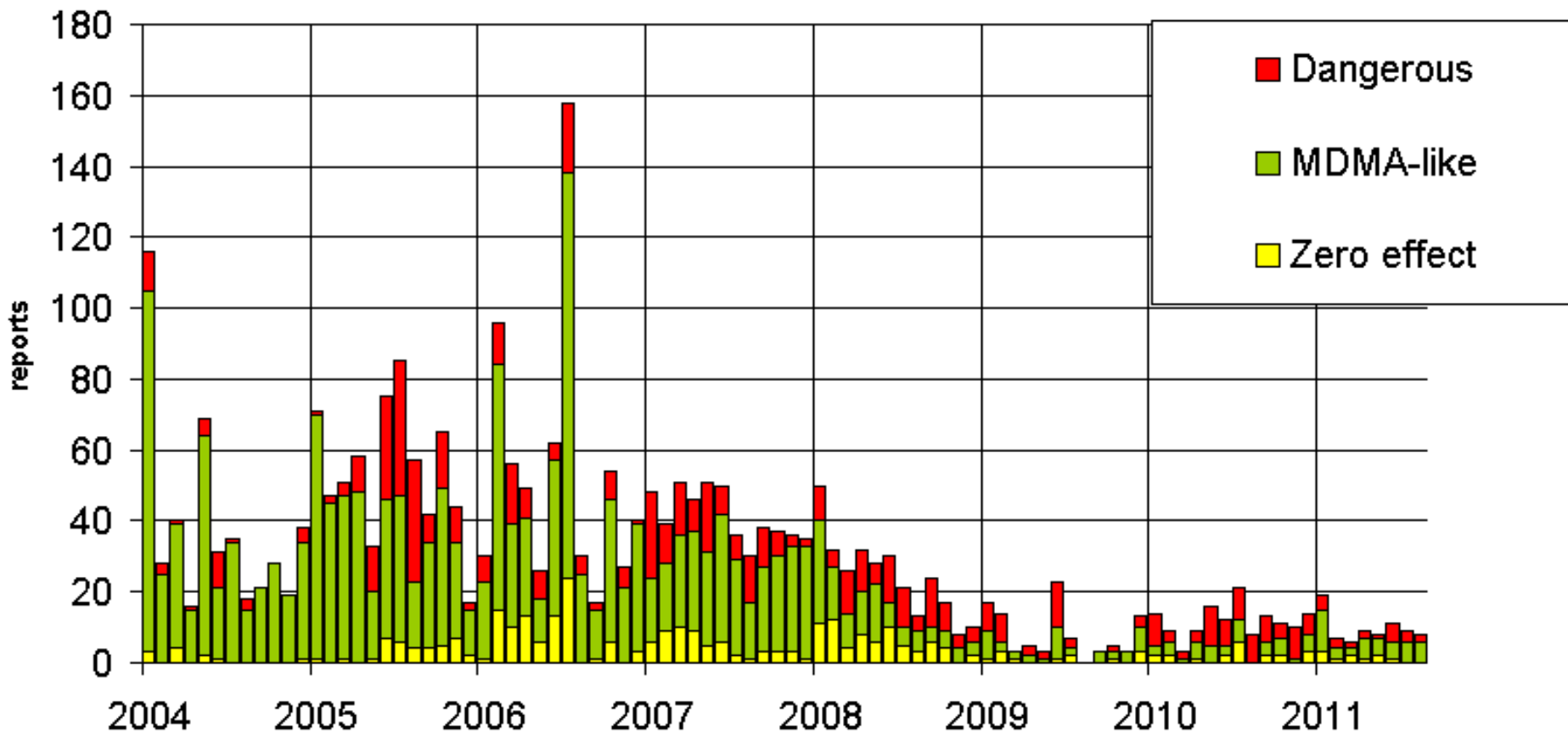
 - cannabinoid receptor agonists (e.g. JWH-s)
 - stimulants (cathinones, piperazines, β -ketones)
 - psychedelic-like substances (triptamines, 2C-s)
- „incense”, „bath salt”, „plant food”, ...

Destabilisation of the Ecstasy pill market

- precursor regulation
- Ecstasy pill market „drought”
- appearance of rare, crystalline MDMA
- criminalisation of piperazines – pill form mCPP
- EU ban on 2C-I | 2C-T-2 | 2C-T-7
- low quality speed (5-6% amphetamine)

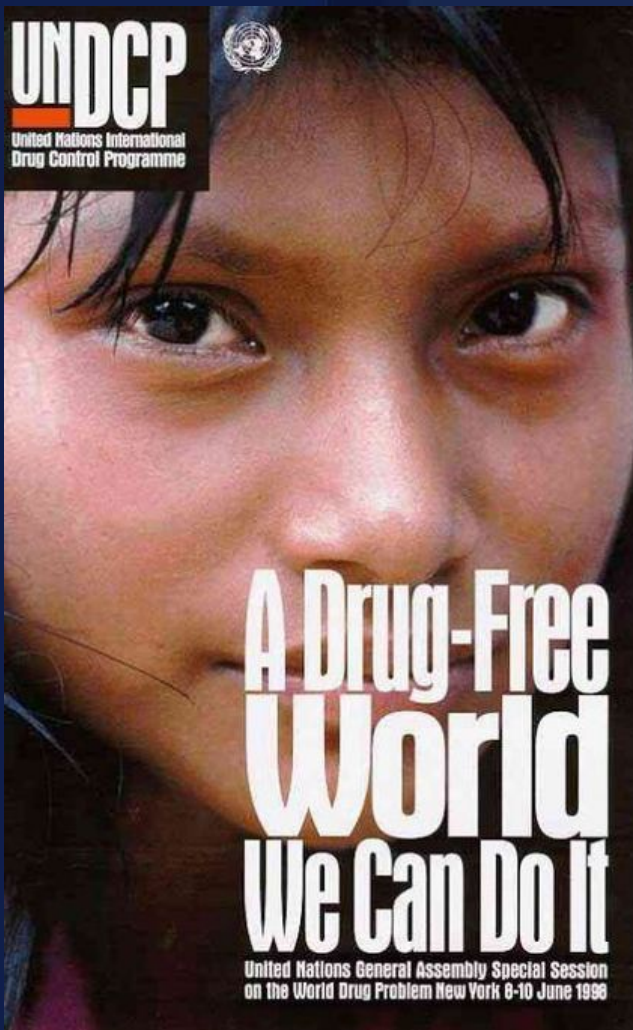
The NPS Boom

Daath.hu – Ecstasy pill database



- Drencrom** – **Anthony Burgess: A Clockwork Orange (1962)**
- Herogyn** – **Norman Spinrad: Men in The Jungle (1967)**
- JJ-180** – **Philip K Dick: Now Wait For Last Year (1966)**
- MDT-48** – **Alan Glynn: The Dark Fields (2001) [*Limitless*]**
- Melange** – **Frank Herbert: Dune (1965)**
- Moksha** – **Aldous Huxley: Island (1962)**
- Narkidrine** – **Philip K Dick: Remember It For You Wholesale (1966) [*Total Recall*]**
- Nepenthe** – **Homer: Odyssey (8th century BC)**
- NZT** – ***Limitless* (2011)**
- Omegendorph** – **Kim Stanley Robinson: Red Mars (1992)**
- Prozium** – ***Equilibrium* (2002)**
- Red Pill** – ***The Matrix* (1999)**
- Soma** – **Aldous Huxley: Brave New World (1932)**
- Substance D** – **Philip K Dick: A Scanner Darkly (1977)**
- Synthemesc** – **Anthony Burgess: A Clockwork Orange (1962)**
- Tetrameth** – **Richard Morgan: Altered Carbon (2002)**
- Vurt Feathers** – **Jeff Noon: Vurt (1993)**

Bad Sci(o)-Fi!



Lesson #1:

Efficient strategies
can NOT be based on
unrealistic ideologies!

Why NPS?

- Demand: party culture, trend, curiosity, „coolness”
- Supply: Internet purchase
- Market: new profit
- Media: Internet communication, covert advertisement

New!

Legal!

Strong!

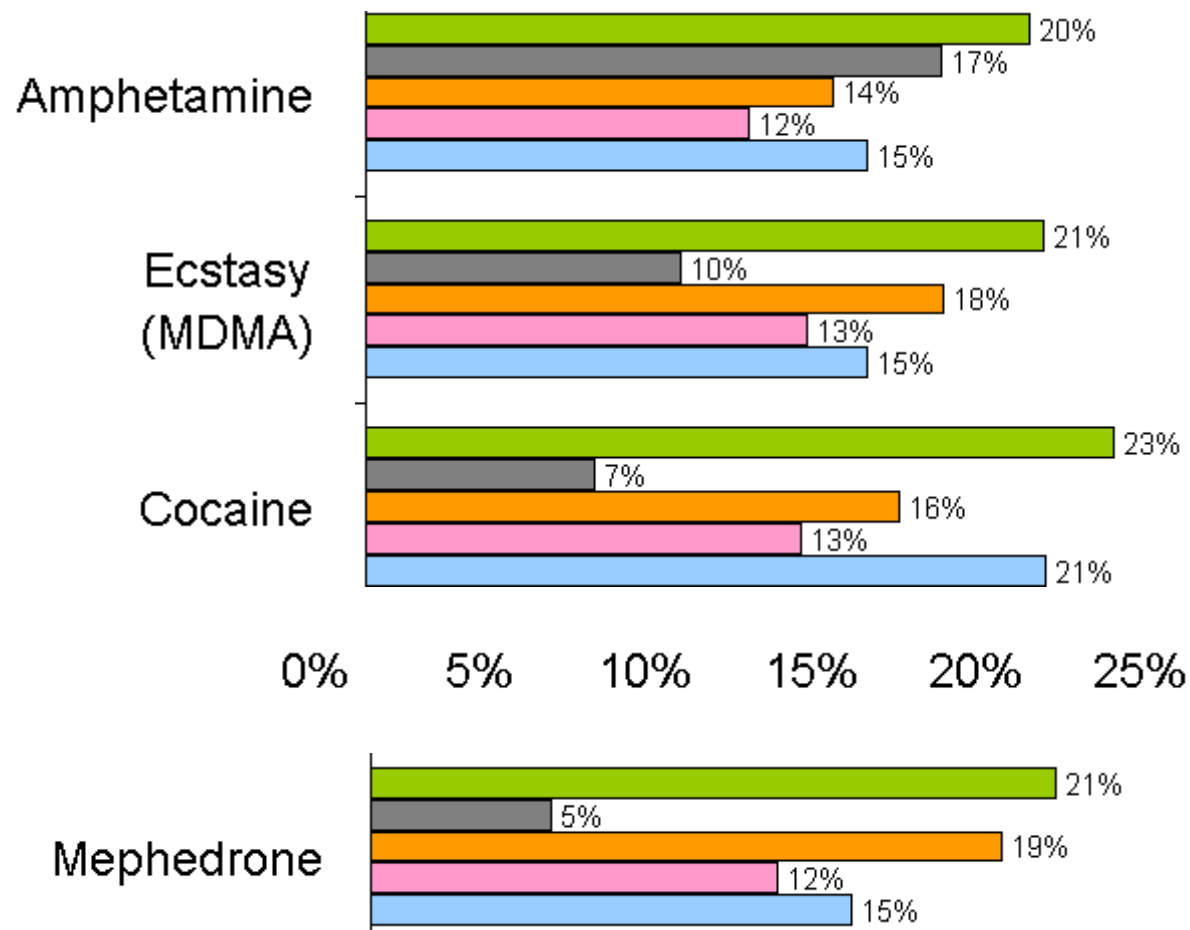
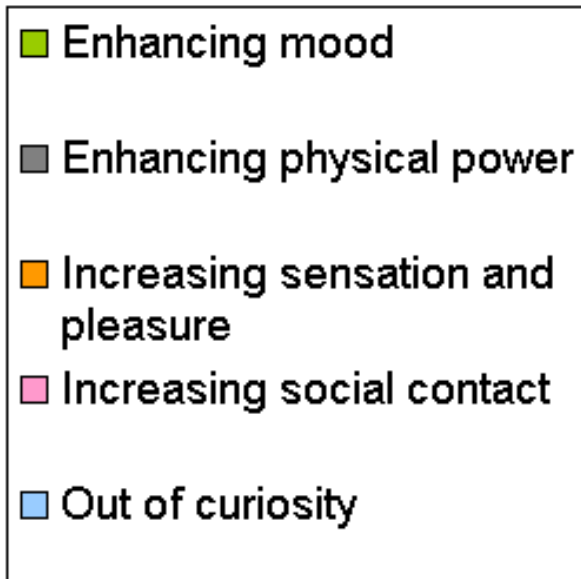
Cheap!

Trendy!

Easily available!

Dangers (can)not listed!

Stimulants: Use Purposes



Fact:

The lifecycle of drugs cannot be stopped by force, but the course may be partially affected by carefully chosen interventions.

General Concerns

- Overdose
- Mixing
- Accidents
- Reckless use
- Suicides
- Pre-existing medical conditions
- Plain stupidity

More Risks for NPS Users

- Deception by dealer:
 - no active substance
 - other active substance(s)
 - impurities
 - low quality
- Unknown dosage
- Unknown effects
- Unknown legal status
- Substance interactions

Do These Models Work?

- User criminalization
- Substance ban, analog/generic laws
- Double moral in public health policies
- Culture of reckless substance use
- Media: moral panic
- Debates on:
 - legal vs. illegal drugs
 - hard vs. soft drugs
 - natural vs. synthetic drugs

Dilemmas

Private or public health?

Dealers or users?

Grey market or black market?

Legislation or enforcement?

Old drugs or new drugs?

Less users & More problems

or

More users & Less problems

?

Prevention models

- Reduce hypocrisy (alcohol, tobacco)
- Re-establish trust
- Promote personal health
- Value responsible substance use
- Regulate the media
- Support user self-help
- Develop subcultures

Harm Reduction Models

- Protect consumers
- Research NPS
- Check substances
- Empower users
- Utilise market forces

- NPS substance information database
- NPS legality database
- NPS vendor database
- Subculture transformation
- Anti-media info-war
- (unauthorised) Substance checking

Bottom Line

The NPS phenomenon should be primarily addressed as a cultural and economical issue, NOT as a legislative and public health issue.

Thank you for your attention!

