

Harm Reduction of Novel Psychoactive Substances



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Novel Psychoactive Substances

- **NSD = New Synthetic Drugs**
- **DD = Designer Drugs**
- **RC = Research Chemicals**

- **marginal, „psychonaut” subculture -> mainstream**
- **self-experimenting -> party drug use / lifestyle**

- **synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists**
- **stimulants (cathinones, piperazines)**
- **psychedelic-like (phenethylamines, tryptamines)**
- **narcotics (benzodiazepines, opioids)**

„incense”, „bath salt”, „plant food”, ...

Why NPS?

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

New!

Legal!

Strong!

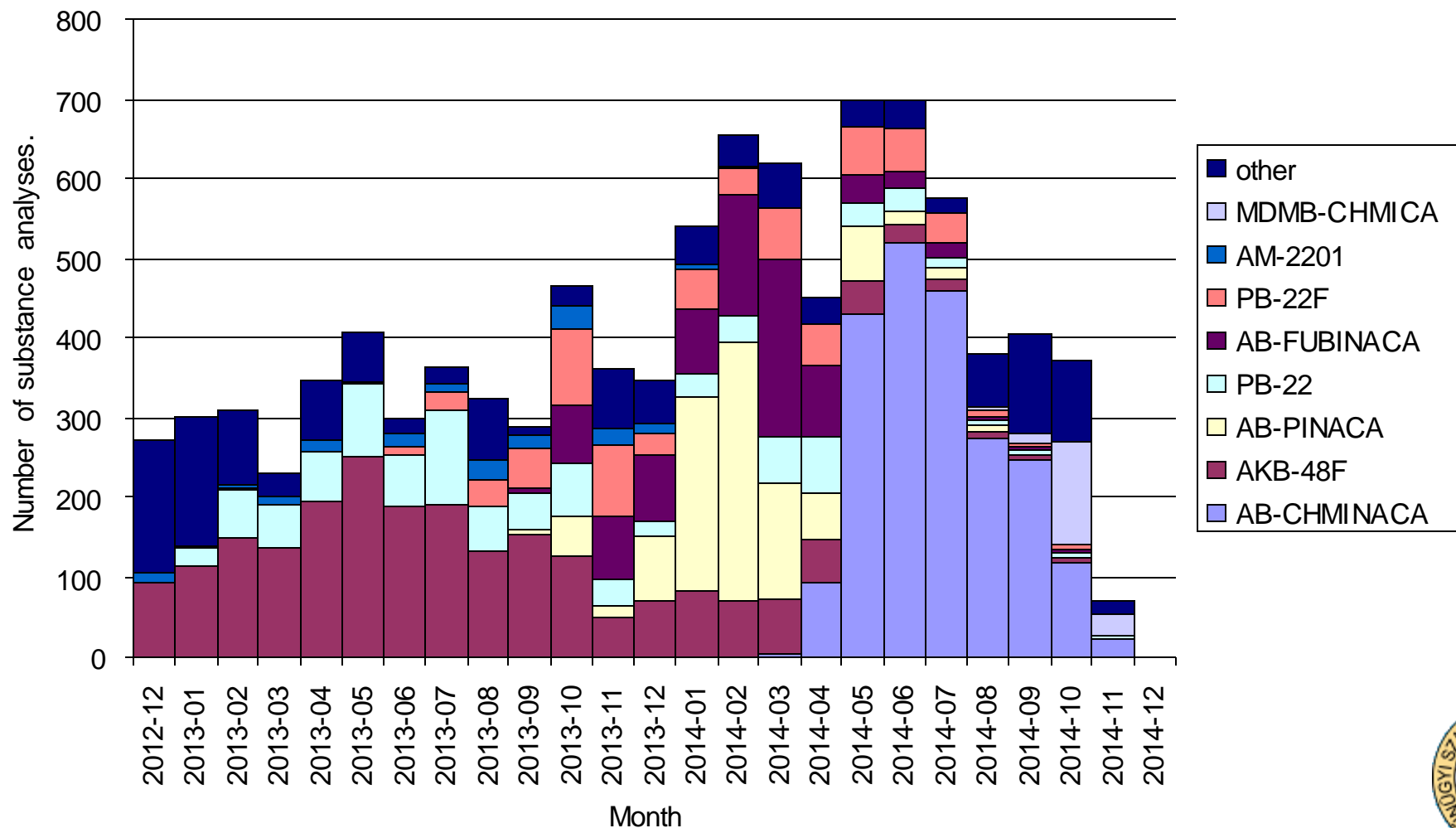
Cheap!

Trendy!

Easily available!

Dangers (can)not listed!

Synthetic cannabinoids



NPS user groups

- **1)** „Psychonauts” (*marginal*)
- **2)** „Young people” (*substantial*)
- **3)** „Ghetto people” (*marginal*)
- **4–N)** ...? Prisoners? Ethnic minorities? MSM?

Substances

ROA

Frequency

Intention

Attitude

Characteristics

1) „Psychonauts”

- **Substances:** hallucinogens, empathogens (LSD-analog, tryptamine, phenethylamine)
- **ROA:** oral, nasal (no i.v.)
- **Frequency:** occasional trial -> non-problematic
- **Intention:** recreation, autognosis, experiences
- **Attitude:** informed user
- **Characteristics:**
 - access to classical drugs, no replacement
 - victims of fake product: LSD, Ecstasy, speed

2) „Young people”

- **Substances:** stimulants, cannabinoids („crystal”; „herbal”)
- **ROA:** nasal; inhaled (no i.v.)
- **Frequency:** occasional habit -> bit **problematic**
- **Intention:** show-off, entertainment
- **Attitude:** uninformed user
- **Characteristics:**
 - replacement of classical drugs, „trashed - LOL”

NPS UG 3) „Ghetto people”

- **Substances:** stimulants, cannabinoids („PV/crystal”; „herba/bio/”)
- **ROA:** nasal, inhaled, **i.v.**
- **Frequency:** frequent -> often **problematic**
- **Intention:** „escape from reality”, for-profit
- **Attitude:** uninformed user/dealer
- **Characteristics:**
 - replacement of classical drugs, „anything goes”
 - street injection

Risks Related to NPS Use

1. Online purchase scams
2. Drug misidentification
3. Drug mixtures
4. Substance naming
5. (Over)dosing
6. Drug interactions
7. Legal consequences
8. Psychosocial risks

1. Drug checking

EnergyControl@Barcelona; ChEckiT!@Vienna;
DIZ@Zurich; WEDINOS@Wales

BunkPolice test kits: colorimetric, TLC separation

2. Drug databases

Erowid, PsychonautWiki, TripSit, DrugBank, ...

3. Global and local information

bluelight.org, drugs-forum.com, daath.hu, ...

4. Drug user empowerment

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

5. Party harm reduction

Nightlife Empowerment & Well-being Network (NEWNet)

6. Media regulation

Media Monitor program of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)



Harm Reduction Best-Practices...?

7. Dose measurement
8. Vendor databases
9. Market force involvement
10. Consumer protection
11. Smart user culture
12. Reducing alcohol/tobacco hypocrisy

Take-Home Message:

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

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<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/10/1/18>



HARM REDUCTION
JOURNAL

REVIEW

Open Access

Online drug user-led harm reduction in Hungary: a review of “Daath”

Levente Móro¹ and József Rácz^{2,3*}

Abstract

Harm reduction has been increasingly finding its way into public drug policies and healthcare practices worldwide, with successful intervention measures justifiably focussing on the highest-risk groups, such as injecting drug users. However, there are also other types of drug users in need for harm reduction, even though they pose less, low, or no public health risk. Occasionally, drug users may autonomously organise themselves into groups to provide advocacy, harm reduction, and peer-help services, sometimes online. The www.daath.hu website has been operated since 2001 by the “Hungarian Psychedelic Community”, an unorganised drug user group with a special interest in hallucinogenic and related substances. As of today, the website serves about 1200 visitors daily, and the online community comprises of more than 8000 registered members. The Daath community is driven by a strong commitment to the policy of harm reduction in the form of various peer-help activities that aim to expand harm



Thank you for your attention!

Gary R. Potter, Marije Wouters & Jane Fountain (Eds.)

 PABST



3 Harm reduction of novel psychoactive substance use

Levente Móró

During the last few years, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) has significantly reshaped the global drug scene. Emergency hospital admissions and confirmed or suspected NPS-related deaths are on the rise, and many related health and social problems may not yet have been fully recognised. Potential NPS harms stem from a lack of information, as well as from the

rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) has significantly reshaped the global drug scene. As of May 2014, the EU Early Warning System monitors more than 350 new psychoactive substances, 81 of which were notified in 2013 (EMCDDA, 2014b). The NPS phenomenon has induced fundamental changes on legal and illegal drug markets, in national and international drug policies, and also in drug use subcultures. While some of the background factors – such as the development of organic chemistry, the spread of internet marketing, and the cultural demand for psychoactive

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as best-practice,
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ed harms and harm reduction best-practices by discussing some conceptual, strategic, practical, and drug policy issues.*

Keywords: drug use, substance use, novel psychoactive substances, NPS, harm reduction, drug markets, drug policy

1. Introduction

During the last few years, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) has significantly reshaped the global drug scene. As of May 2014, the EU Early Warning System monitors more than 350 new psychoactive substances, 81 of which were notified in 2013 (EMCDDA, 2014b). The NPS phenomenon has induced fundamental changes on legal and illegal drug markets, in national and international drug policies, and also in drug use subcultures. While some of the background factors – such as the development of organic chemistry, the spread of internet marketing, and the cultural demand for psychoactive