



Aminoindanes – These substances, of which 5,6-methylenedioxy-2-aminoindane (MDAI) is an example, have been sold as NPS for their ability to produce the empathogenic and entactogenic effects of serotonin releasing drugs, such as MDMA.



Synthetic cannabinoids – These are cannabinoid receptor agonists which produce effects similar to those of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the principal psychoactive component in cannabis. Synthetic cannabinoids are often laced onto herbal products and sold as *spice*, *K2*, *Kronic*, etc.



Synthetic cathinones – These are analogues/derivatives of the internationally controlled substance cathinone, one of the active components of the khat plant. They generally have stimulant effects and include frequently reported NPS such as mephedrone and MDPV.



Tryptamines – These are derivatives of the naturally occurring tryptamine and have hallucinogenic properties. A common example is 5-Methoxy-N,N-dipropyltryptamine (5-Meo-DPT).

NPS



Ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances – Ketamine is a human and veterinary anaesthetic which acts as a stimulant at low doses and a hallucinogen at high doses. It is one of the most widespread NPS in Asia. Phencyclidine-type substances are another group of NPS that has recently appeared in the market. Phencyclidine (PCP) and ketamine show structural similarity and are classified as arylcycloalkylamines. One of the most frequently reported substances in this group is 4-methoxyphencyclidine (4-MeO-PCP).

Categories of new psychoactive substances sold in the market



Plant-based substances – This group includes plants with psychoactive properties. The most frequently reported are:

- Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa* Korth), a plant indigenous to South-East Asia that contains the alkaloid mitragynine; a stimulant at low doses and sedative at high doses.
- *Salvia divinorum*, a plant indigenous to forest areas in Oaxaca, Mexico, which contains the active ingredient salvinorin A, a hallucinogenic substance.
- Khat (*Catha edulis*), a plant native to the horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula. The leaves of the plant are chewed, resulting in the release of the stimulants cathinone and cathine.



Piperazines – These substances are frequently sold as 'ecstasy' due to their central nervous system stimulant properties. The most commonly reported members of this group are benzylpiperazine (BZP) and mCPP (1-(3-chlorophenyl) piperazine).



Phenethylamines – This group contains substances related to amphetamine and methamphetamine, and generally produces stimulant effects. However, modification of these compounds can lead to potent hallucinogens such as *Bromo-Dragonfly*.



Other substances – NPS substances in this category are structurally diverse and do not fit into the categories mentioned above for example, 1,3-dimethylamylamine (DMAA).

Make health your “new high” in life - not drugs.