International monitoring of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) - The UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on NPS

Vienna

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Laboratory and Scientific Section
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
What are New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)?

» substances of abuse,

» not controlled by the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances,

» which may pose a public health threat.
What are New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)?
What are the health risks and challenges of NPS?

- **Drug users**: may not be aware that they are taking an NPS instead of a drug they know: possible overdose, severe negative health effects, effects on the body not yet fully understood
- **Health services**: may not be aware of range of NPS on the market, their pharmacology and toxicology, how to identify them, how to best help emergency cases
- **National drug laboratories**: may not be in a position to identify the range of NPS already available to users
- **Law enforcement**: may not have the means to detect NPS with current methods
- **Legislative systems**: may not offer sufficient tools for interventions
Reported Emergence of NPS in 2013

348 NPS reported worldwide (up from 251 in 2012)
90 Countries reporting the emergence of NPS (up from 82 in 2012)

By 2013, 348 NPS had been reported to UNODC, none of which is currently under international control.
What are the United Nations doing?

UNODC established an internet-based portal, the global Early Warning Advisory on NPS in 2013
(see www.unodc.org/nps)

In response to …

CND Resolutions 55/1 (2012), 56/4 (2013) and 57/9 (2014), which request/urge
– Member States to monitor emerging trends on NPS and to share information with UNODC
– UNODC to enhance collection of NPS-related information
– Enhance international cooperation in the identification and reporting of NPS
What does the Early Warning Advisory Offer?
Search NPS trend data

Use filters to check which NPS emerged where and when!
Example: Synthetic cathinones in 2012 and 2013 (map view)

Create an online map of NPS emergence based on your search criteria!
Example: Synthetic cathinones in 2012 and 2013 (table view)

List all the hits of your search with hyperlinks to more information!
Submit a NPS finding in your country with analytical information using the online form!
... and find more information on individual NPS

Search and display scientific information on NPS such as the CAS number!
Look at guidelines for NPS identification in forensic laboratories

Many forensic guidelines are available in English, French, Russian and Spanish!

(available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)
Example: Mexico

Each dot leads to the description of legal instrument on NPS!

Country: Mexico
Region: Americas
Subregion: North America
System in place: Drug laws/individual listing
Description: Since 2014, mephedrone, TFMP as well as the general category of synthetic cannabinoids were included in Schedule I "substances with low or no therapeutic use which pose a serious threat to public health" of the list of narcotics and psychotropic substances contained in the 2010 General Health Law (See Decree of 07 January 2014).
Known year of first control of an NPS: 2014
Legislation/Bills name: Decree of 07 January 2014, amending General Health Law, article 245 (ES)
Example: Mexico - Decree of 07 January 2014, amending General Health Law, article 245 (ES)

In many case, the original law is hyperlinked, too!

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NPS Briefs – find information on specific substances or topics

1. Mephedrone

6. Legal situation

Mephedrone falls outside the scope of control of the international drug control system and is therefore not listed in the schedules of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. However, 26 countries, mainly in Europe and Asia, have regulated mephedrone, and 8 have listed it in their national legislation. In 2009, the European Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Strasbourg, France) recommended that Member States follow the legal situation of the countries, but also noted that there was a need for international cooperation to combat the increased availability of mephedrone in the international drug market.
EWA Updates – find updates on the latest trends on NPS

1. EWA Update October 2013
2. EWA Update March 2014
Contact details

UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS
www.unodc.org/nps

If you would like to register please send an email to:
globalsmart@unodc.org