The adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels

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Trends in new psychoactive substances

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The number of NPS on the global market increased in 2021 after a few years of stabilization.
Trafficking in NPS seems to have slowed down in recent years.
Use of NPS continues to be lower than the use of controlled drugs

Prevalence of use of new psychoactive substances among the general population, 2021 or the most recent year for which data were available
Use of NPS, especially ketamine, increasing among Internet users
NPS use higher among young people

Prevalence of use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) among the general population and high-school students, 2021 or the most recent year for which data were available.
Young people: use of NPS overall declining

Use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) among young people aged 15–16, as reported in the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs, 2015 and 2019.
Young people: use of NPS declining except that of ketamine
Harm posed by new psychoactive substances

Difficult to quantify harm to global health, but **globally aggregated harm at population level is less than that of controlled drugs**, mainly because of the low prevalence of NPS use.

Below 5% of all treatment admissions in 14/18 countries reporting treatment admissions for NPS.

European study found 6.2% of non-fatal overdoses related to NPS in 2014-2017.

**Harms to the individual caused by NPS can be significant**: dependence, contamination by infectious diseases, poisonings, fatal overdoses.

Some NPS are injected more frequently than amphetamines or heroin.

Suicidality and self-harm associated with some NPS e.g. cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids, new synthetic opioids.
Thank you for listening!