

Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Control and Research Gap of NPS on Health in China

Wei HAO MD.

Professor of Psychiatry

WHO Collaborating Center on Drug Abuse

Mental Health Institute of Central South University

Background

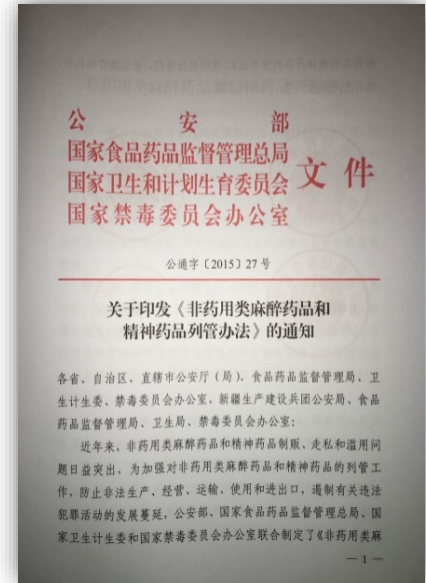
- NPS has spread worldwide in recent years. UNODC predicts it will become the next generation of globally popularized drug

- The difficult NPS issue has been focused by global Narcotics Control Agencies.

- The Chinese government has taken a great effort to deal with NPS emerging and related health impact.

NPS Scheduling in China

- **Regulation on the Control of Non-medicinal Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Drugs (NPS) enacted from the October 1st, 2015, newly controlled 116 NPSs.**
- **Stipulate the procedure of NPS scheduling**



NPS Scheduling Procedure

- **Step 1: NPS monitoring:** Office of NNCC will monitor the manufacture, smuggling and abuse of NPS, and submit the recommended schedule list to the Expert Committee on nonmedicinal narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs.
- **Step 2: Risk Assessment:** Expert Committee will estimate the health risk of the NPSs by scientific literature, animal experiments and case report, and determine whether the substance should be controlled.
- **Step 3: Issue the updated control list:** Office of NNCC, Ministry of Public Security, China Food and Drug Administration and National Health and Family Planning Commission will cosign the document to add the NPSs to the control list.

Highlights of progress on scheduling NPS

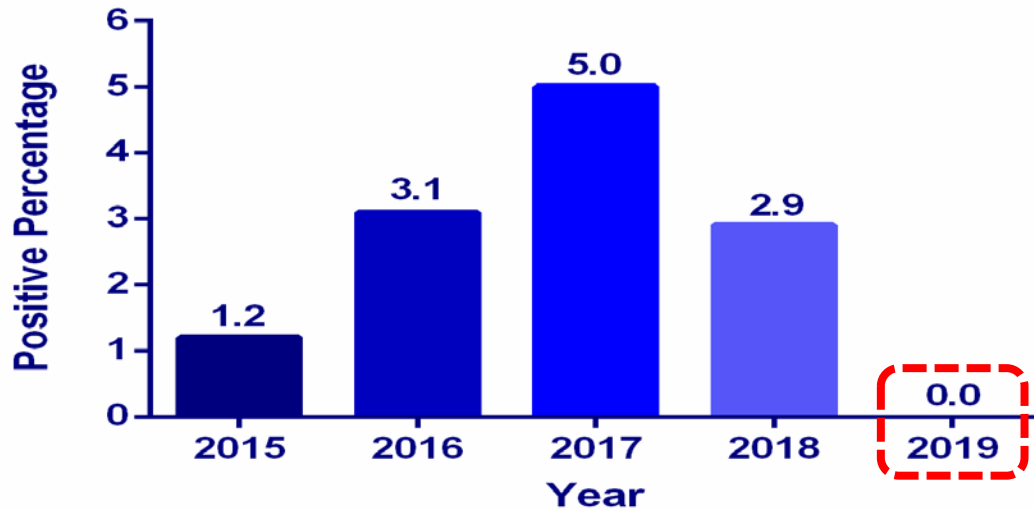
- Before 2015, only 14 NPSs were controlled as category 1, psychotropic drugs list
- In 2015, 116 NPSs were controlled as nonmedicinal narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs
- In 2017, 8 NPSs were further added to the control list of nonmedicinal narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs
- In 2018, 32 were further added to the control list of nonmedicinal narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs
- In 2019, fentanyl and analogues were under control in China.
- Till now, 170 NPSs and 1 class were under control in China

Different kinds of NPSs detected in each year

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Synthetic cathinones	43.1%	55.2%	64.7%	30.0%	17.8%
Synthetic cannabinoids	27.6%	36.5%	18.5%	52.7%	72.0%
Fentanyl and related substances	1.2%	3.1%	5.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Phenethylamines	14.2%	0.8%	1.4%	1.1%	0.0%
Tryptamines	6.0%	0.9%	0.0%	2.7%	0.4%
ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances	1.4%	0.7%	2.4%	3.4%	0.0%
piperazines	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Aminoindanes	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other substances	6.0%	2.7%	7.9%	6.6%	9.8%

NPS Monitoring Program

Detection of Fentanyls in China



In 2019, none of the NPS related to fentanyl and fentanyl and its analogues were detected after China, which is good evidence to show the effectiveness of China's control of all fentanyl-like substances.



Some NPS related problems in my clinical practice

- Ketamine mixed other substances, such as cathinone, methcathinone.
- Tramadol abuse in patients with heroin dependence
- Cough syrup (codeine and other opioids) abuse in young people.
- Cold medicine (containing stimulants, such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine etc) abuse in young people.
- E-cigarette containing cannabinoids used in young people.
- Nitrous oxide (laughing gas or giggle gas) abuse in young people.
- Chewing betel nut (areca nut) with its additives.

Research Gap

- Public awareness on NPS and its health impact
- NPS detection in different form, such as chocolate, cake, health fluid etc.
- NPS use combine with other controlled and uncontrolled chemicals and thier health impact
- Some uncontrolled susbtances and their health impact



谢 谢

THANK YOU!