

WEDI NOS

The logo consists of the text 'WEDI' stacked above 'NOS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A red ECG line starts at the bottom left, crosses the 'W' in 'WEDI', and continues horizontally across the 'I' in 'WEDI' and the 'N' in 'NOS'. A white silhouette of a person stands inside the 'I' in 'WEDI', with a grey shadow cast to the right. The background is white.

Collecting • Testing • Informing



January 2023

- 548 samples analysed (17 CJS, 531 community submissions)
 - 89 substances identified either in isolation or combination
 - Samples received from across UK
 - 19 services
 - Including: Health, Substance Misuse Services, Mental Health, Housing and Homelessness, Welsh Emergency Departments and Welsh Prisons
 - Alongside samples submitted anonymously by individuals

Sex / age profile of sample providers



- Sex (where listed n=512 of 531 community samples)
 - Male: 82% (n= 419)
 - Female:18% (n=93)
- Age
 - Range: 14 to 74yrs (Median: 33yrs)
 - Male age range: 14 to 70yrs (Median: 33yrs)
 - Female age range: 17 to 74yrs (Median: 33yrs)

Community Submissions

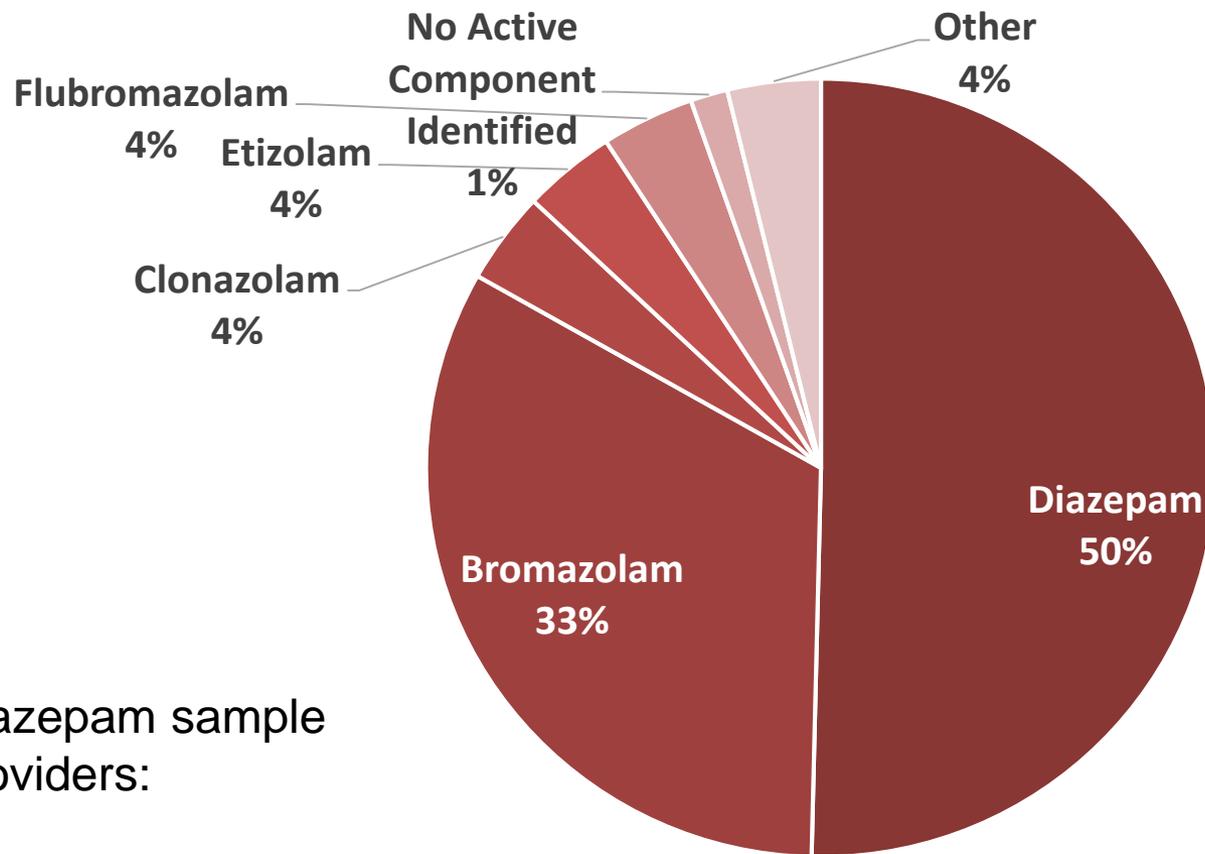
No.	Community purchase intent	Community post analysis
1	Diazepam	Bromazolam
2	Alprazolam	Diazepam
3	MDMA	MDMA
4	Unknown	Cocaine
5	Cocaine	Alprazolam
6	Ketamine	Ketamine
7	Amphetamine	Caffeine
8	Zopiclone	Amphetamine
9	Clonazepam	Tetrahydrocannabinol
10	Pregabalin	Clonazepam

Benzodiazepines

- 13 Benzodiazepines identified
 - Diazepam (131 purchase intent / 71 identifications)
 - Alprazolam (60 purchase intent / 30 identifications)
 - Etizolam (3 purchase intent / 10 identifications)
 - Bromazolam (1 purchase intent / 79 identifications)
 - Clonazepam (0 purchase intent / 16 identifications)
 - Flubromazolam (0 purchase intent / 8 identifications)
 - Clonazolam (0 purchase intent / 6 identifications)
 - Lorazepam
 - Clobromazolam
 - Flualprazolam
 - Flubromazepam
 - Nitrazepam
 - Diclazepam

**Purchase intent and
identifications <5**

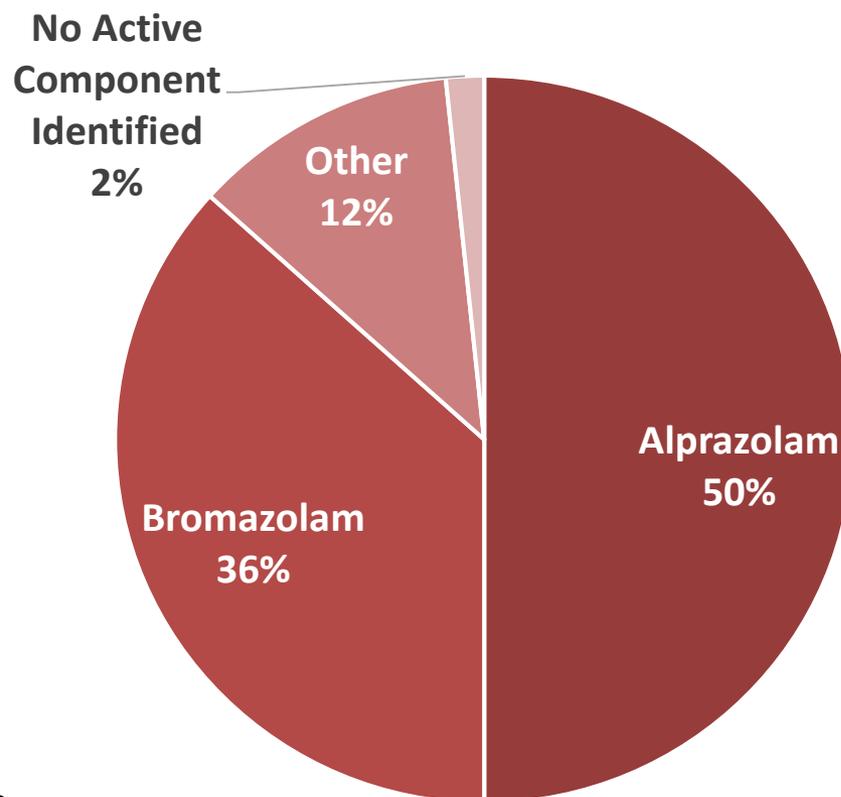
Contents of samples submitted as Diazepam: Jan 2023 (n=131)



Diazepam sample providers:

Age range: 20 to 60yrs
 Median: 37yrs

Contents of samples submitted as Alprazolam: Jan 2023 (n=60)



Alprazolam sample providers:

Age range: 18 to 70yrs
Median: 31yrs

Strange and Unusual

W030141

Date Received: 03 Jan 2023

Postcode: M14 -

Purchase Intent: Oxycodone

Package Label: Not Stated

Sample Colour: Red

Sample Form: Powder

Consumption Method: Not Stated

Self-Reported Effects: Not Stated

Sample Upon Analysis (Major): Protonitazene, Metonitazene

Sample Upon Analysis (Minor):



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WEDINOS continues to receive samples that post analysis are profiled as containing **Nitazenes**

Purchased as a Oxycodone, submitted from Manchester

Profiled following analysis as contained the nitazene's, Protonitazene and Metonitazene

Further information on Nitazenes follows...

2-benzyl benzimidazole (‘nitazene’)



Nitazenes were originally developed in the 1950s as analgesics. Found to have potent analgesic effects, the clinical development of nitazenes was abandoned due to the increased risks of adverse events.¹ Currently, there are no drugs of this class approved as human or veterinary medicines.²

Animal studies have shown a wide range in potency for this group of substances, that may also vary depending on the route of administration. When administered to mice subcutaneously, potency ranged from 1 (equal to morphine) for flunitazene to 1000 for etonitazene.²

The rank order of potency of a series of nitazenes was reported to be etonitazene >= isotonitazene > protonitazene >= metonitazene > butonitazene >= etodesnitazene >> 5-aminoisotonitazene = flunitazene > metodesnitazene [Blanckaert et al., 2020; Vandeputte et al., 2021]²

¹ World Health Organisation, Metonitazene - critical review report - unedited version; Technical document; 7 September 2021

² ACMD report – A review of the evidence on the use and harms of 2-benzyl benzimidazole ('nitazene') and piperidine benzimidazolone ('bromphine-like') opioids; July 2022

2-benzyl benzimidazole (‘nitazene’) continued...



Legal Control

Etonitazene and clonitazene are listed as Class A drugs in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

All other 2-benzyl benzimidazole opioids, as psychoactive substances, import, supply, possession with the intent to supply and possession in a custodial institution are all offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 ¹

Naloxone

There is a lack of evidence relating to the use of naloxone for specifically treating nitazene overdoses. However, there is evidence of its use reversing life-threatening respiratory depression and coma caused by subcutaneous metonitazene [Bromig, 1958].

****Multiple doses of naloxone may be required****

¹ ACMD report – A review of the evidence on the use and harms of 2-benzyl benzimidazole (‘nitazene’) and piperidine benzimidazolone (‘bromorphine-like’) opioids; July 2022

Nitazene's identified in samples submitted as Alprazolam



This WEDINOS snapshot is focused on samples submitted in **January** 2023. However, during **February** 2023, two samples submitted as Alprazolam, were found to contain nitazenes. This is to raise awareness of those samples...for information on nitazenes see the previous slides.

W030924

Date Received: 08 Feb 2023
Postcode: WA8 -
Purchase Intent: Alprazolam
Package Label: Alprazolam
Sample Colour: Brown
Sample Form: Powder
Consumption Method: Not Stated
Self-Reported Effects: Not Stated
Sample Upon Analysis (Major): Protonitazene
Sample Upon Analysis (Minor):



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W030922

Date Received: 08 Feb 2023
Postcode: SW1 -
Purchase Intent: Alprazolam
Package Label: Alprazolam
Sample Colour: Yellow
Sample Form: Powder
Consumption Method: Not Stated
Self-Reported Effects: Not Stated
Sample Upon Analysis (Major): Metonitazene
Sample Upon Analysis (Minor):



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