

**In this issue: October to December 2019 – 830 samples analysed – 99 substances identified.**  
**Project launch (Oct 2013) to Dec 2019 – 14,879 samples received – 11,543 analysed – 421 substances identified.**

2019 has seen increases in the number of samples analysed each quarter compared to 2018.

For this reporting period, the number of samples analysed is 10 per cent higher than the same period in 2018. As with the last quarter due to the regular receipt of samples from night clubs we are able to report specifically on the substances identified within samples received from these settings. However, these samples are submitted without demographic information, self reported effects experienced or information relating to route of administration.

## Community Samples

These are samples submitted anonymously by individuals, through a variety of collection mechanisms including via services and individuals working with or concerned about individuals using substances, and the postal mechanism. 479 samples fall within this category.

## Who:

**92 per cent (n=440) of these samples were accompanied with basic demographic information including sex and age.**

Age range – All: 14 to 71yrs

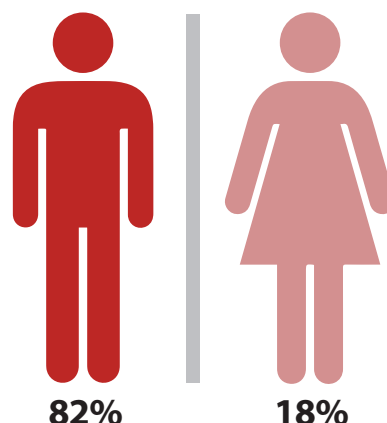
Median age – All : 32yrs

Age range – Male: 14 to 65yrs

Median age – Male: 32

Age range – Female: 15 to 71yrs

Median age – Female: 31



## What:

WEDINOS collects self-reported data from individuals provided on the sample and effects record. This includes what an individual believed they had purchased (purchase intent). The following table compares the Top 10 substances by purchase intent with confirmed content following analysis.

Number	Community purchase intent
1	Diazepam
2	Unspecified
3	Alprazolam
4	Cocaine
5	MDMA
6	Amphetamine
7	Cannabis
8	LSD
9	Ketamine
10	Heroin

Number	Community post analysis
1	Diazepam
2	Cocaine
3	Etizolam
4	MDMA
5	Flualprazolam
6	Caffeine
7	Alprazolam
8	Ketamine
9	Cannabis
10	LSD

As is shown, there are not only positional changes between the two Top 10s, but also entries and exits. Two of the new entries post analysis, etizolam and flualprazolam, can be explained through their identification in samples purchased as diazepam and alprazolam. This would also account for the positional fall of Alprazolam. The rise of cocaine was due to its prevalence amongst samples submitted as unknown substances or found items.

# Benzodiazepines:

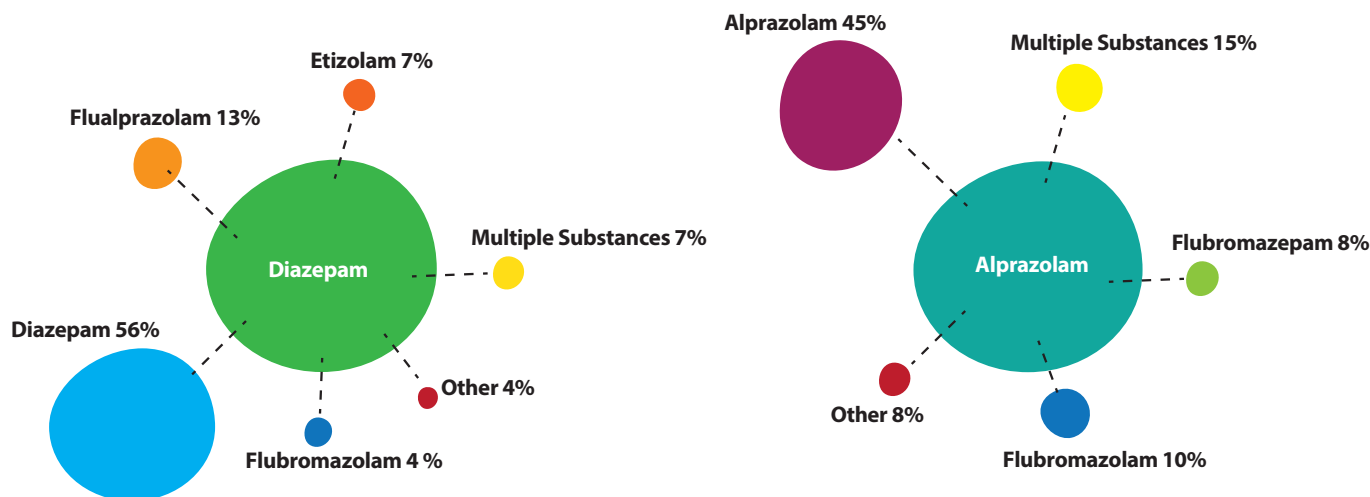
Benzodiazepines as a group have now been the most commonly identified substances by WEDINOS in the second consecutive quarter. Diazepam was not only the most commonly identified benzodiazepine, but also the most commonly identified substance, with etizolam third. Flualprazolam and alprazolam also featured amongst the top ten most commonly identified substances. A further eight benzodiazepines were also identified outside the top 10, albeit with seven identified on less than ten occasions, and five of those on less than five occasions. One of these substances, flubromazepam (8 identifications), has been discussed by the UK Drug Harms Assessment and Response Team (DHART). You can find the latest DHART reports here

<https://report-illicit-drug-reaction.phe.gov.uk/latest-information/>.

Flubromazolam is discussed in further detail later in this report.

## Benzodiazepine – Substance Substitution

The following graphics show the percentage breakdowns of substances identified in samples submitted as diazepam and alprazolam.



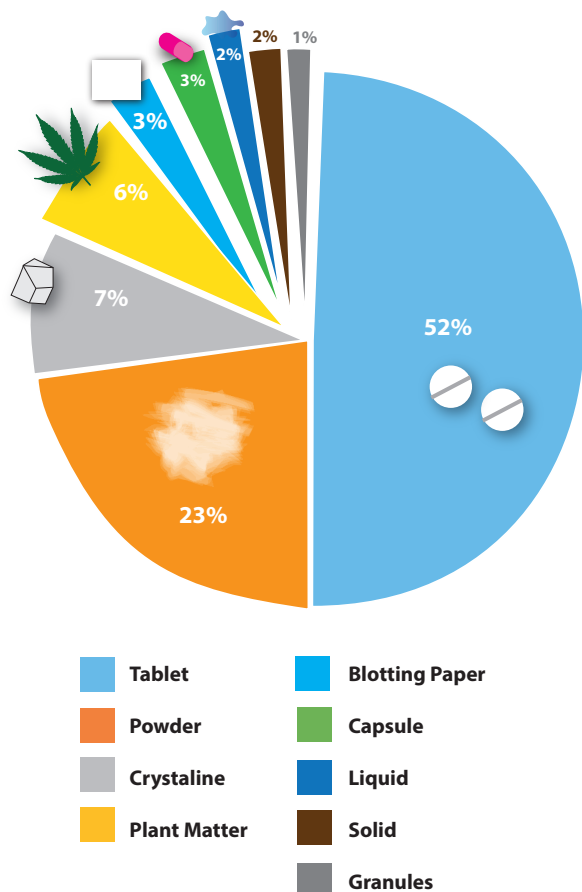
As mentioned earlier and clearly demonstrated in the above graphics, etizolam remains the most common substitution for diazepam (17 per cent), the same as the previous quarter, however, this is a decrease from 33 per cent.

When discussing benzodiazepines it must be remembered that the therapeutic and recreational dose, potency, onset and duration of effects varies greatly. This coupled with individuals consuming substances that differ from their purchase intent, because of the continued substitution of one benzodiazepine for another within the ‘non-medical use’ market, makes this an area of public health concern.

Alongside the rise in the number of single substance substitutions within the illicit diazepam and alprazolam supply, WEDINOS has also seen an increase in the number of samples that have been found to contain multiple substances. The following combinations were identified this quarter:


Purchased as Diazepam	Purchased as Alprazolam
Flualprazolam and Etizolam	Flualprazolam, Diazepam and Quetiapine
Etizolam and Diclazepam	Flualprazolam, Ketamine and Etizolam
Flualprazolam and Ketamine	Etizolam and MDMA
Etizolam and 5F-EMB-Pinaca	Flualprazolam and Caffeine
Etizolam and Melatonin	Flubromazolam and MDMB-4en-Pinaca
Flualprazolam and Caffeine	Flualprazolam, Flubromazepam and Etizolam

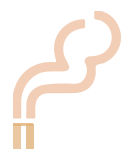
## How: Sample Form:



## Route of Administration Community - All:

 Oral  
70 per cent

 Snort / Sniff  
17 per cent

 Smoke  
10 per cent


 Intravenous  
3 per cent

## Route of Administration (Powders and crystalline material):

 Snort / Sniff  
63 per cent

 Oral  
20 per cent

 Smoke  
10 per cent

 Intravenous  
7 per cent  
Relates to samples of amphetamine and heroin.

## Night-time economy

198 samples were analysed from night club settings within Cardiff and Swansea city centres.

As these samples are collected from within night club amnesty bins they do not come with any demographic data or information relating to purchase intent. Collecting and analysing these samples allows WEDINOS to monitor recreational drug use markets.

Over the past quarter the most commonly identified substances from this setting were:

No.	Night Time Economy
1.	Cocaine
2.	Benzoylcegonine (found within samples of cocaine)
3.	Norcocaine (found within samples of cocaine)
4.	Levamisole (found within samples of cocaine)
5.	Ketamine
6.	Paracetamol
7.	Caffeine
8.	Benzocaine (found within samples of cocaine)
9.	MDMA
10.	Ecgonine methyl ester (found within samples of cocaine)

