

The **WEDINOS project** has been designed for the collection and testing of substances and, most importantly, dissemination via www.wedinos.org of pragmatic evidence based harm reduction information for users. WEDINOS aims to go beyond identification of novel substances, to address the harms associated with use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), new combinations of established drugs and NPS and Steroids & Image Enhancing Drugs (SIEDs).

Headline Figures

- From Oct 2013 to March 2014
 - 774 samples received
 - 71 samples rejected
 - 703 samples analysed
 - 169 substances identified in either combination or in isolation
- This quarter (Jan 2014 to March 2014)
 - 559 samples analysed
 - 140 substances identified in either combination or in isolation
- 40% of psychoactive samples contained Amphetamines /Substituted amphetamines, including: Methamphetamine, Ephedrine and Cathinones. 34% contained Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists.
- 1/3 of SIEDs samples did not contain what they were believed to
- BRAIN – Since January 2014 there have been six hospitalisations in North Wales following the consumption of a substance known as Brain. WEDINOS was able to obtain and analyse a sample of this substance. Upon analysis it was found to contain Amphetamine, Caffeine and MDPBP as major components, and BZP and di-(-phenylisopropyl)amine as minor components.

'Legal highs, club drugs, designer drugs, new psychoactives...'

The term new psychoactive substances has been legally defined by the European Union as a new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in a preparation, that is not scheduled under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 or the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, but which may pose a public health threat comparable to that posed by substances listed in those conventions" (Council of the European Union decision 2005/387/JHA)

Steroids and Image Enhancing Drugs (SEIDs)

SIEDs relates to a category of substances that include anabolic / androgenic steroids, peptide hormones, injectable tanning agents, diuretics, fat burners and aromatase inhibitors.

WEDINOS in the News -



South Wales Argus
http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/gwentnews/10984527.Newport_drug_campaigners_hit_back_over_criticism_of_scheme/?ref=nt/

The Independent
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/a-lethal-ignorance-we-could-make-drugs-safer-we-choose-not-to-9162854.html>



BBC Newsbeat
http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/25951290?utm_source=Drug+Testing+News&utm_medium=twitter



News from the Home Office

10th March 2014 - Changes to the scheduling of tramadol (prescription only medication). The drug will be placed in Schedule 3 to accompany its Class C control. It will be exempted from the requirements under the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-acmd-on-tramadol>

12th February 2014 - Minister writes to Les Iversen, chair of the ACMD, accepting the council's recommendation to reclassify ketamine as a Class B drug and announcing the intention to consult on its scheduling. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-acmd-advice-on-ketamine>

WEDINOS reports 12 new substances to the European Early Warning System

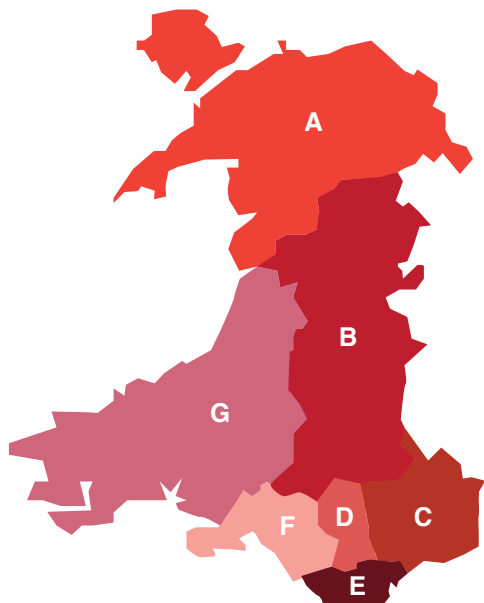
The Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) holds a master list of new drugs not previously identified or profiled, but are available in Europe. WEDINOS is pleased to be one of the few providers of this information. In the past quarter WEDINOS has submitted the following 12 notifications to the European Early Warning System:

- Mescaline NBOME (N-(2-methoxybenzyl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethan-1-amine)
- para-Chloroamphetamine - amphetamine derivative
- THJ-2201 - synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist
- 5F-MN-18 - synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist
- BB-22 - synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist
- JWH-175 - synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist
- Coluracetam - nootropic drug
- Diethyltryptamine, DET - psychedelic Tryptamine
- Ethylone - stimulant
- MDA - synthetic empathogen
- Methoxphenidine - NMDA receptor channel blocker
- Phenazepam - benzodiazepine

Findings...

Where...

Samples were submitted from all of the 7 Welsh Health Boards.



Breakdown of sample submissions by Health Board areas

- A - 28 samples - Betsi Cadwaladr
- B - 2 samples - Powys Teaching
- C - 95 samples - Aneurin Bevan
- D - 8 samples - Cwm Taf
- E - 46 samples - Cardiff & Vale
- F - 38 samples - Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
- G - 3 samples - Hywel Dda

18 samples were received from undisclosed locations. 320 were received from England, 3 from Northern Ireland, 1 from Scotland and 7 from outside the United Kingdom.

In relation to Welsh Health Boards, the highest proportion of samples came from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, 95 samples were received, accounting for 17% of all samples analysed. The Bristol postcode area submitted the highest proportion of samples received from outside of Wales (47), equating to 8% of all samples analysed

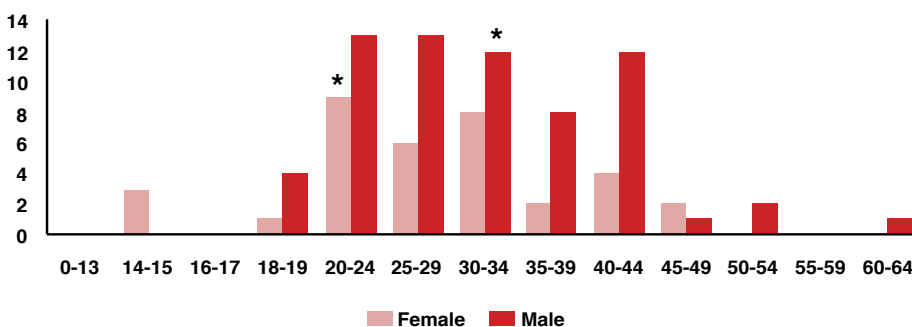
Who...

Where a WEDINOS Effects Record was submitted and gender completed; 81% of submissions were from males. The gender split for Mind Altering/ Psychoactive substances was 65% male to 35% were females.

In relation to Steroids & Image Enhancing Drugs, 94% were submitted by males, last quarter all SIED samples were submitted by males.

The average age of all sample providers was 29. Of those samples that were submitted as Mind Altering/ Psychoactive and age was stated the average age 31. The age of sample providers fell for Steroids & Image Enhancing Drugs to 29.

Gender / Age profile of samples providers - Psychoactive Samples



*Females aged 20-24, eighteen samples were received in one package; these samples have been counted as one individual. Males aged 30-34, six samples were received in one package; these samples have been counted as one individual.

Who... Reasons for purchase

48% of samples were purchased as Steroids & Image Enhancing Drugs; 41% were purchased for Mind Altering/ Psychoactive purposes. The remaining 11% of samples did not have any reason for use stated.

Post analysis Class A increased from 29 samples to 36. Class B also increased from 27 to 29; Class C and fell from 16 to 14. Substances that are not controlled fell from 62 to 55. In relation to the Mind Altering/ Psychoactive samples, 62 were purchased as not controlled / legal. Following analysis 7 contained a Class A substance and 4 Class B, based on the highest classified substance present.

What...

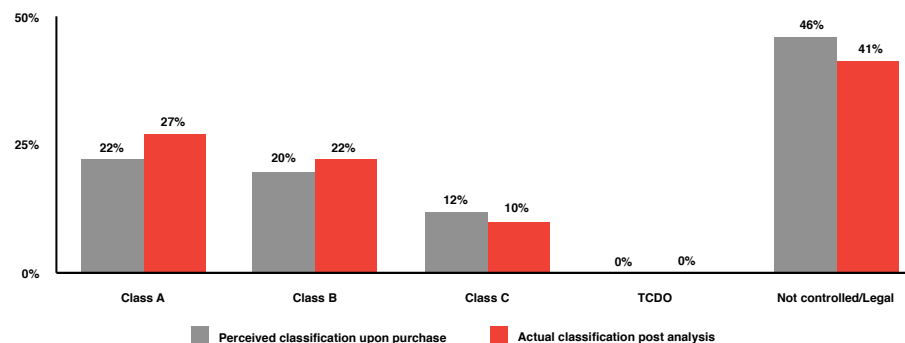
Where the intended purchase substance was listed as Mind Altering/ Psychoactive.

29 samples were purchased in the belief that they were Class A substances
 27 Class B
 6 Class C
 62 were bought as not controlled / legal.

Temporary Class Drug Orders

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 has been amended to enable the Home Secretary to place a new psychoactive substance causing sufficient concern about its potential harms under temporary control by invoking a temporary class drug order. With the exception of the possession offence, all the offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 will apply for substances controlled by this measure. This new power became available on 15 November 2011.

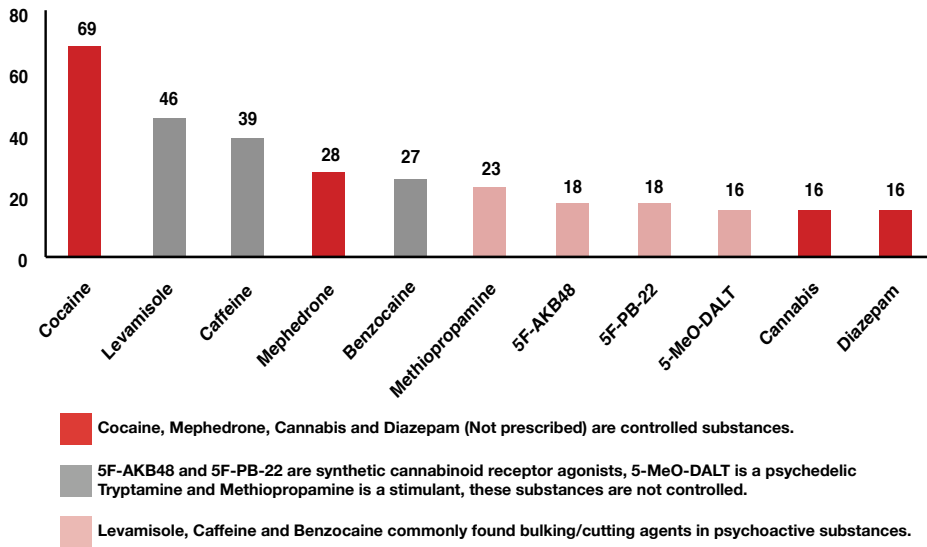
Proportion of controlled and not controlled / legal – Perceived and Actual (Psychoactive Substances)



NB. Following analysis samples were categorised based on the highest classified substance present. Order of classification / control – Class A, B, C, Temporary Class Drugs Order, Not controlled.

Most commonly identified substances

Most commonly identified substances in all Mind Altering/Psychoactive samples.



The most commonly identified psychoactive substance was Cocaine. The most commonly identified psychoactive substance that is not currently controlled was the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists' 5F-AKB48 and 5F-PB-22.

Levamisole was most popular bulking/cutting agent identified; however, it exclusively appeared in samples that also contained cocaine. In comparison Caffeine is found in far more samples, including those that contained Heroin, MDMA, Amphetamine, Cocaine, Mephedrone, Methamphetamine, BZP, MDPBP, 5-MeO-DALT, and Methiopropamine as major components.

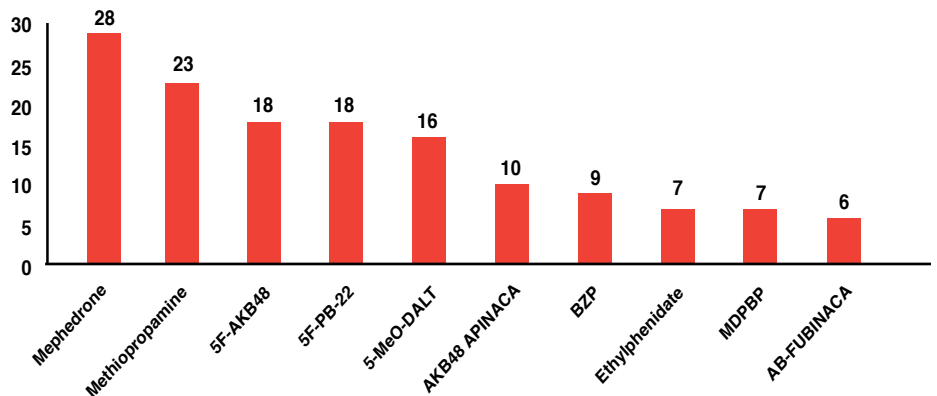
Testosterone Enanthate was the most commonly identified Steroid & Image Enhancing Drug, found in 34 samples.

Mephedrone

As we continue to hear anecdotal reports of a potential fall in purity levels of Mephedrone and a rise in the practice of cutting Mephedrone with bulking agents, we have again reviewed those samples where mephedrone was a major component (n. 27). Of those 78% contained Mephedrone only. In the remaining 22%, 6 samples contained either Cocaine, Ketamine, Caffeine or Paracetamol along side Mephedrone. This compared with 97% of Mephedrone samples that contained only Mephedrone in last quarters (Oct-Dec 2013) findings.

Is mephedrone being used as a bulking agent for more expensive substances (Cocaine)? Is the use of Ketamine and Mephedrone (Kapow) in combination increasing? Let us know your thoughts admin@wedinos.org

Ten most commonly identified New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) only, as per NPS definition



Methiopropamine, Ethylphenidate, BZP(Benzylpiperazine) and MDPBP (substituted cathinone) are stimulants. 5F-AKB48, 5F-PB-22, AKB48 APINACA, AB-FUBINACA and JWH-018 adamantyl carboxamide analogue are synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists.

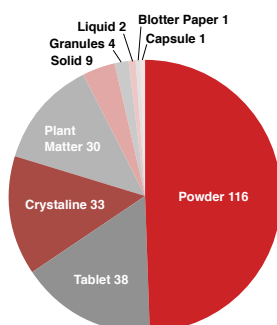
HOW... Form of Sample & Method of Consumption

Mind Altering/Psychoactive samples came in a variety of forms, the most common was powder form.

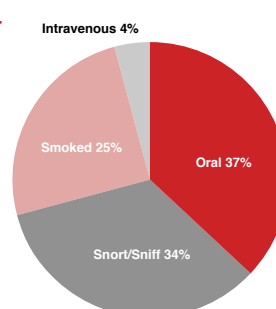
Where method of consumption was recorded, and assuming that all plant matter Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists are smoked. The most common method was to consume a substance orally (37%) followed by Sniff/Snort (34%).

With powders and crystalline materials, the most common method of consumption was to sniff/snort the substance. Intravenous use accounted for 10% and relates to samples of Mephedrone, Amphetamine and Heroin.

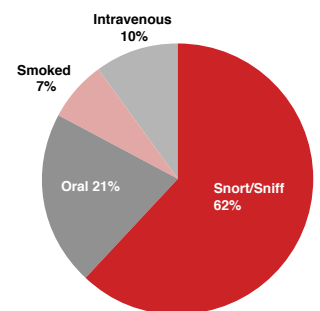
Mind Altering/Psychoactive - Form of Sample



Mind Altering/Psychoactive - Method of Consumption

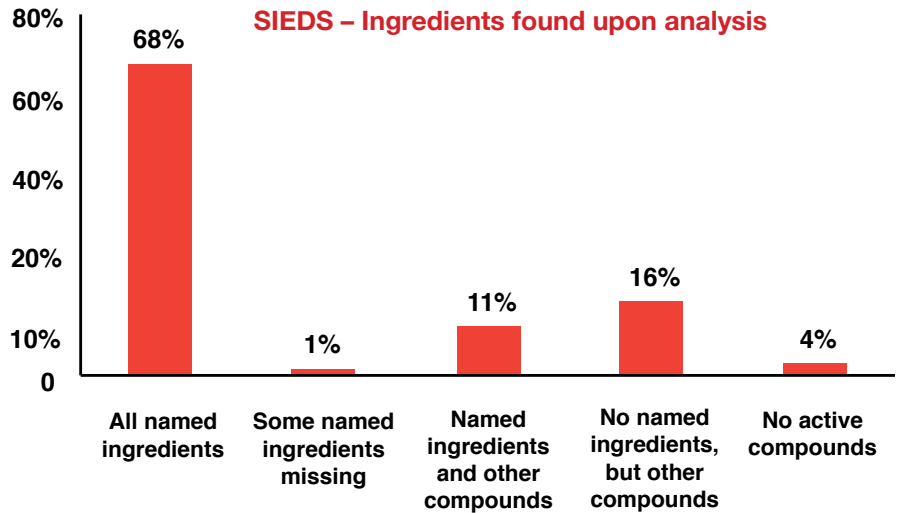


Powders/Crystalline Samples - Methods of Consumption



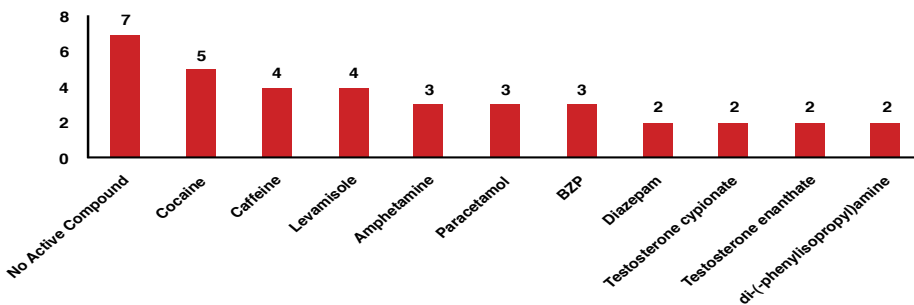
Steroids and Image Enhancing Drugs

Based on the information provided on sample effects records, 68% of the SIED samples analysed contained all of the expected/named ingredients. 1% of samples contained some, but not all of the expected/named. 11% of samples contained some of the named ingredients, but also other compounds; 16% of samples contained none of the named ingredients at all, and 4% of samples contained no active chemical compounds. Almost a third of SIED samples analysed with purchase intent data submitted were found to be different from what they were believed to be at point of purchase.



Geographic Profiles / Local Trends

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (includes Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Bridgend)



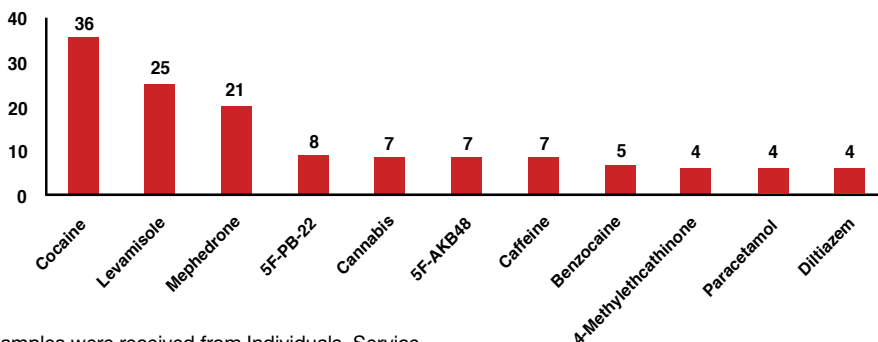
38 samples were received from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg. During analysis of those samples, 30 unique substances were identified either in combination or in isolation, with seven samples having no active compound identified, the most commonly identified substance was cocaine.

Samples were received from Individuals, Criminal Justice Services, Drug Services, Housing & Homelessness and Education. WEDINOS is unsure as to why no samples of Mephedrone or Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists have not been submitted from this area; and would welcome further community samples.

Other substances identified were:

- Cannabis
- MDMA
- MDPBP
- Buprenorphine
- Diltiazem
- Lidocaine
- Mannitol
- Mirtazapine
- Nitrazepam
- Noopept
- Phenacetin
- Methandrostenolone
- Methasterone
- Methenolone acetate
- Oxandrolone
- Oxymetholone
- Nandrolone hemisuccinate
- Spironolactone
- Nicotine
- Vitamin B3

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Gwent)



95 samples were received from Aneurin Bevan. During analysis of 33 unique substances were identified either in combination or in isolation, three samples had no active compound identified. The most commonly identified substance was cocaine, with the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist 5F-PB-22 the most prevalent legal substance. A sample of interest from Gwent is WEDINOS reference number 000041993, plant matter upon analysis was found to contain Cannabis, Cocaine, Levamisole, Heroin, Papaverine, Noscapine, Paracetamol and Fluoxetine; if you have any comments around this please contact us admin@wedinos.org

Samples were received from Individuals, Service Users Advocacy Services, Criminal Justice Services, Drug Services and Social Services.

Sample 000041993

Date Received: 03/03/2014
 Postcode: NP11
 Purchase Intent: Cannabis
 Package Label: Not Stated
 Sample Colour:
 Sample Form: Plant Matter
 Consumption Method: Smoked
 Expected Effects:
 Unexpected Effects:
 Sample Upon Analysis (Major): Cannabis, Cocaine, Levamisole, Heroin, Papaverine, Noscapine, Paracetamol, Fluoxetine
 Sample Upon Analysis (Minor):

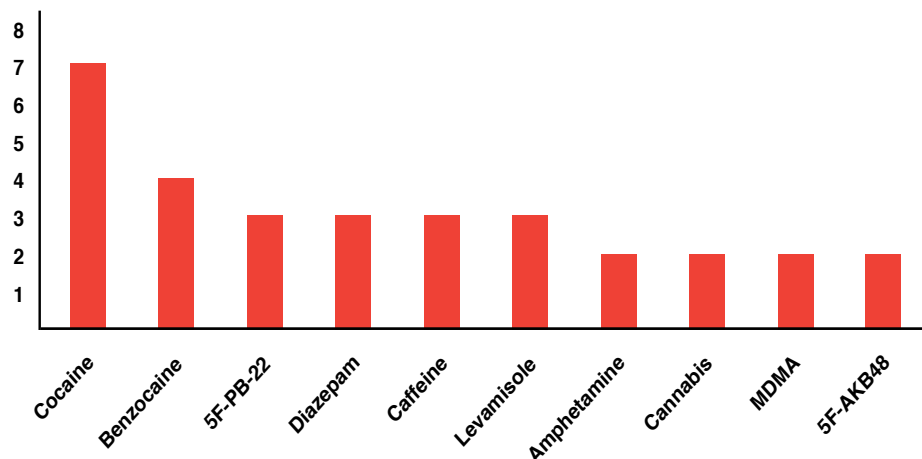


Click to Enlarge

Other substances identified were:

- Amphetamine
- BZP
- Heroin
- MDMA
- MDPBP
- MDPV
- AB-FUBINACA
- AKB48 APINACA
- BB-22
- STS-135
- Etizolam
- Oxilofrine
- Dihydrocodeine
- Sertraline
- Methandrostenolone
- Oxymetholone
- Fluoxetine
- Noscapine
- Papaverine
- Yohimbine
- Nicotine

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (North Wales)

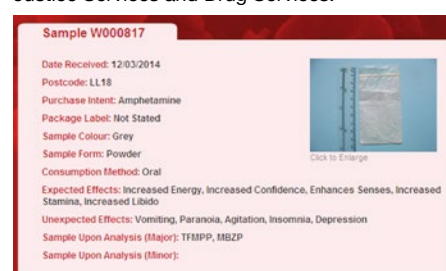


Other substances identified were:

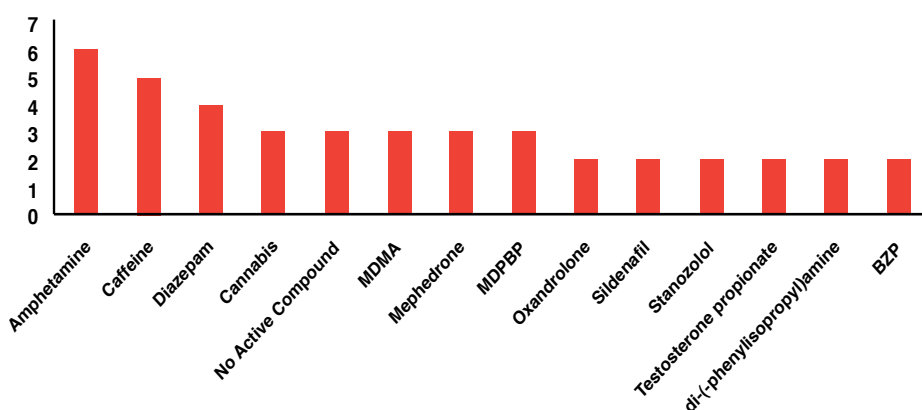
- 2,5-dimethoxy-4-chloroamphetamine
- 2C-B
- BZP
- Ketamine
- Mephedrone
- Methamphetamine
- Methedrone
- TFMPP
- 4-AcO-DMT
- AB-FUBINACA
- AKB48 APINACA
- MBZP
- MDAI
- Benzocaine
- Codeine
- Paracetamol
- di-(phenylisopropyl)amine
- Drostanolone propionate
- Trenbolone acetate
- Testosterone enanthate
- Testosterone propionate

28 samples were received from Betsi Cadwaladr. During analysis of those samples, 31 unique substances were identified either in combination or in isolation. Cocaine was the most commonly identified substance followed by the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist 5F-PB-22. Substances submitted that are exclusive to Betsi Cadwaladr UHB include: 2C-B, 4-AcO-DMT and DOC (2,5-dimethoxy-4-chloroamphetamine). A sample of note was WEDINOS reference number W000817, purchased as Amphetamine, but contained no amphetamine, but the piperazines TFMPP and MBZP.

Samples were received from Individuals, Criminal Justice Services and Drug Services.



Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (Cardiff, Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Ogmored-by-Sea)



Other substances identified were:

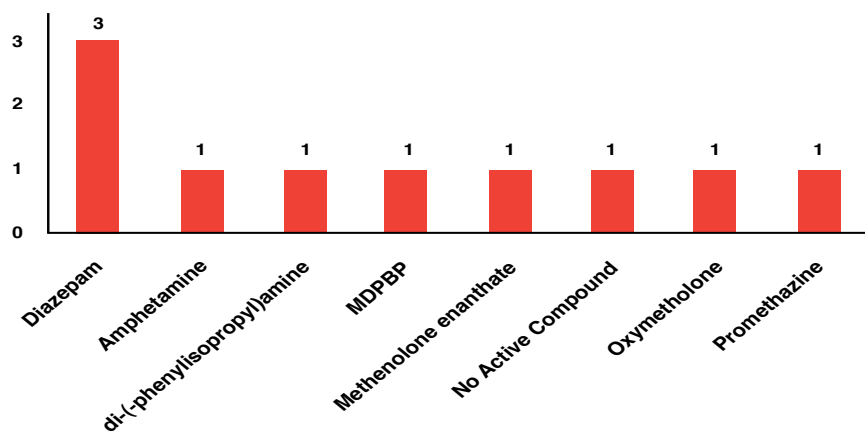
- 2-aminoindane
- 5-APB
- 6-APB
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Ketamine
- MDA
- MDPV
- Methydone
- Ethylone
- Ethylphenidate
- Etizolam
- Methoxetamine
- Amitriptyline
- Buprenorphine
- Naloxone
- Noscapine
- Olanzapine
- Promethazine
- Levamisole
- Papaverine
- Paracetamol
- 6-Acetylcodeine
- Methandrostenolone
- Trenbolone acetate
- Trenbolone enanthate
- Tamoxifen

46 samples were received from Cardiff & Vale. During analysis 40 unique substances were identified either in combination or in isolation, with three samples found to containing no active chemical compound. Samples of note included two branded "legal highs" Green Goblins and Explorers, upon analysis they were found to contain controlled substances. Green Goblins: 5-APB, 6-APB; Explorers: Methydone.

Samples were received from Individuals, Service Users Advocacy Services, Criminal Justice Services, Drug Services and Housing & Homelessness Services.



Cwm Taf University Health Board (Rhondda Cynon Taff, Pontypridd and Merthyr Tydfil)



Eight samples were received from Cwm Taf. During analysis eight unique substances were identified either in combination or in isolation, with one sample found to contain no active chemical compound. Diazepam was the most commonly identified substance. Promethazine is a sedating antihistamine that was purchased in the belief that it was diazepam.

Powys Teaching Health Board

Two samples were received from Powys Teaching. During analysis three unique substances were identified, with MDMA found in isolation in yellow crystalline sample; Cocaine and Benzocaine were found in combination within a white powder sample.

Samples were received from Individuals.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire)

Three samples were received from Hywel Dda. During analysis four unique substances were identified in isolation. They were Cannabis, Caffeine, MDMA and Oxandrolone (also known as Anavar).

Samples were received from Individuals and Drug Services.

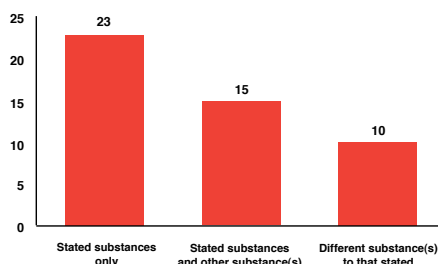
Psychoactive Powders – Reported Expected and Unexpected Effects

The results of the Mixmag Global Drug Survey 2013 (<http://www.mixmag.net/words/features/mixmags-global-drug-survey-the-results>) revealed that in the last 12 months, 14 per cent of all respondents had taken a powder without knowing what it was. Amongst regular speed/cocaine/ketamine/MDMA users, the rate was 32 per cent. In addition, 20 percent of regular clubbers reported taking a 'mystery powder' in the past year.

The self-reported effects were mixed:

- 70 percent said the 'mystery powder' gave them a good buzz
- 10 per cent 'felt sick'
- The remaining 20 per cent felt no effect.

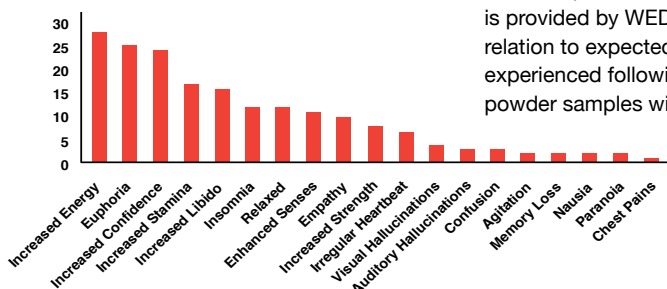
116 WEDINOS samples were submitted as psychoactive substances in a powder form during January to March 2014. Of these, 51 did not have a stated substance as purchase intent (aka. 'mystery powder'), 48 were submitted with a specified substance as purchase intent, 15 were branded products and 2 were submitted under generic terms such as party drugs. Of those samples where a substance was named in "purchase intent" (n=48) over half contained other compounds or completely different substances to those stated / believed by the purchaser to be present.



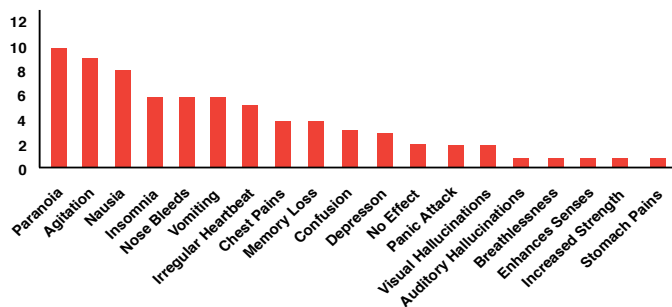
Of the 15 branded products, 14 different substances were identified either in combination or isolation. Only one product contained a single substance. The most commonly identified substances were Methiopropamine and 5-MeO-DALT.

These findings, alongside the known risk-taking reported by users of psychoactive powders, indicate that further harm reduction and awareness raising is required to reduce the potential for serious adverse and unexpected effects. Further evidence is provided by WEDINOS contributors in relation to expected and unexpected effects experienced following use of psychoactive powder samples within Wales.

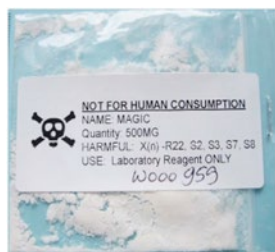
Expected Effects



Unexpected Effects



It's a kind of magic - Do you know the difference?



Here are two samples of a white powder submitted to WEDINOS. One with a printed label identifying the product as MAGIC, the other contained in a grip lock bag and identified as MAGIC by the sample provider. The labelled product was submitted from Bristol and contained Caffeine and the tryptamine, 5-MeO-DALT, both legal substances. The other sample was submitted from Cardiff and contained the Class A stimulant Cocaine.