

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

New Psychoactive Substances in the Americas

JULY 7, 2022



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Inter-America Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)

TOPICS



CICAD/OID



Synthetic Drugs



New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



NPS synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs)



Internet drug sales



Response to new challenges: EWS - SATA



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INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS (OID)

- The OID is one of the original lines of action created at the beginning of CICAD, in 1986.
- Originally known as the Drug Use and Trafficking Data Bank.
- Since 2000, at the request of the OAS Member States, it became known as the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.
 - The research, information, and statistics branch of CICAD.

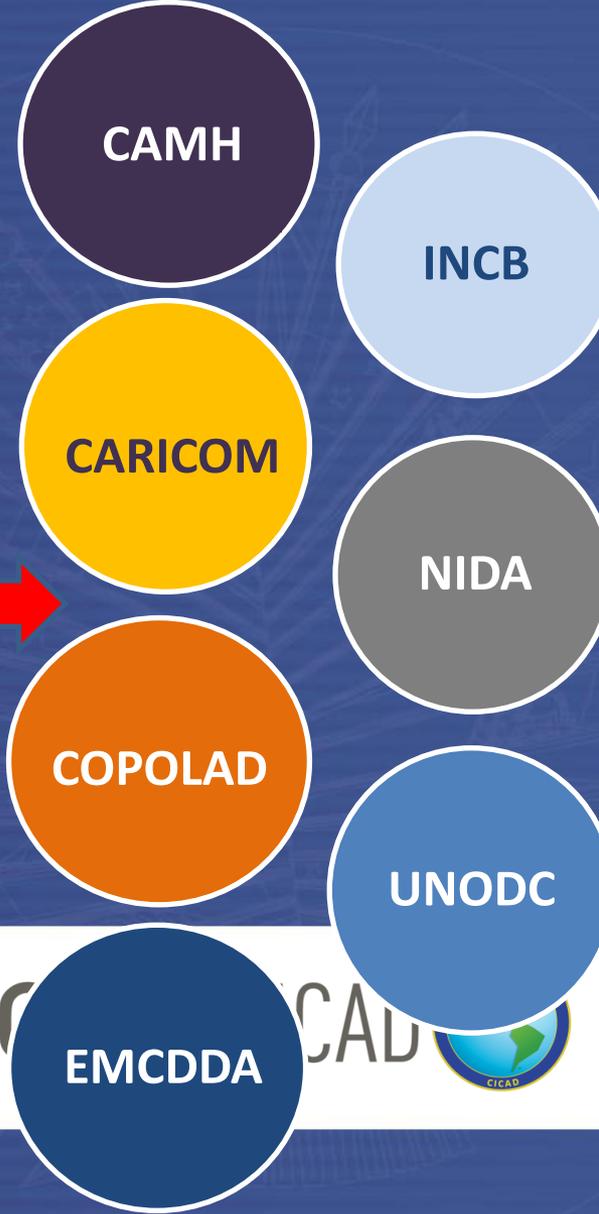
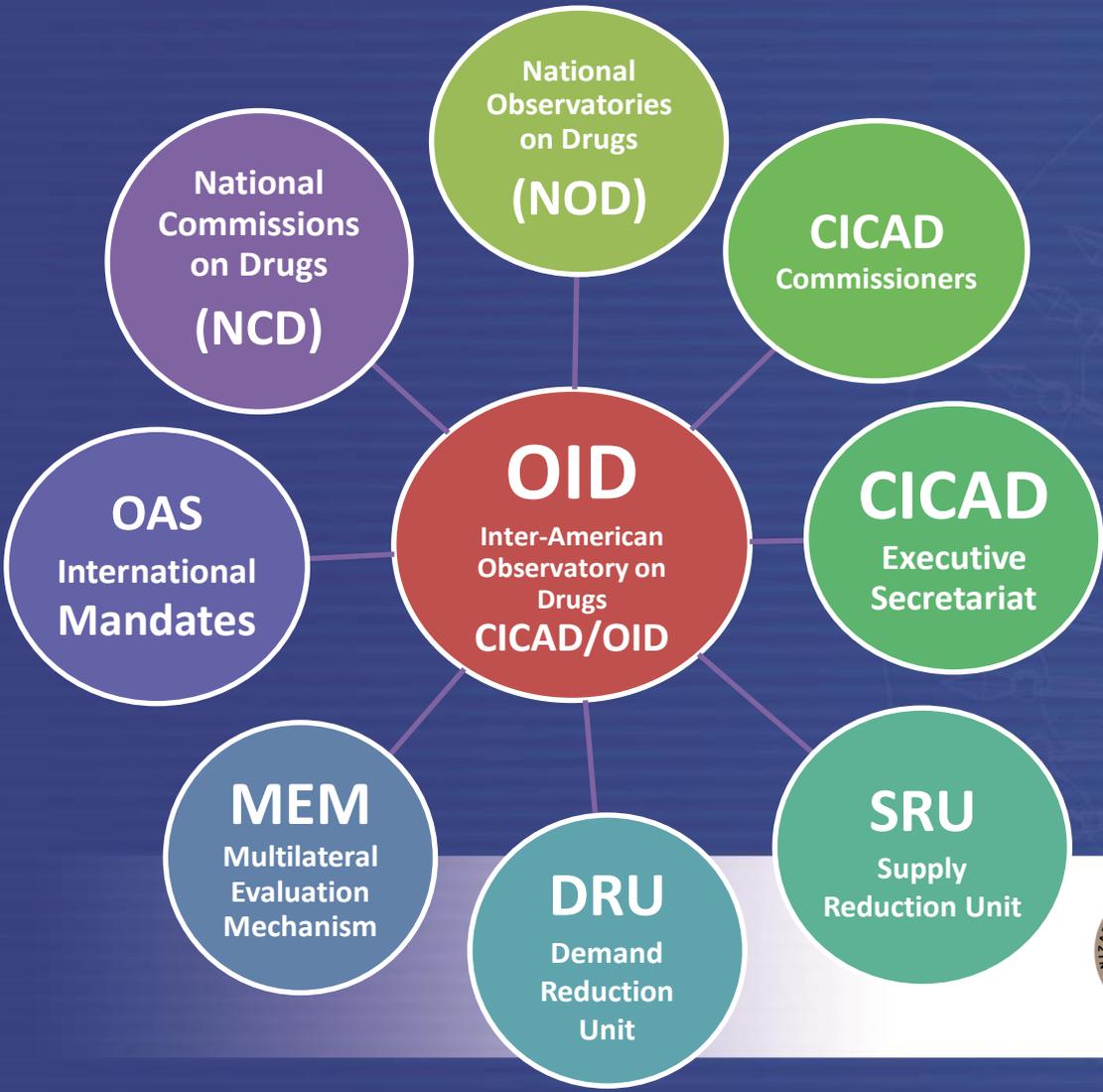


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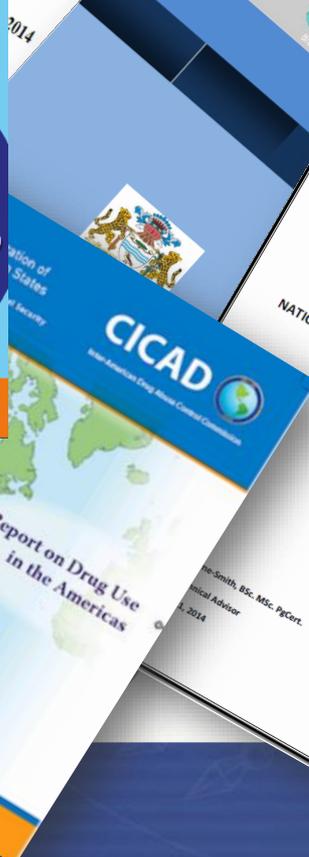
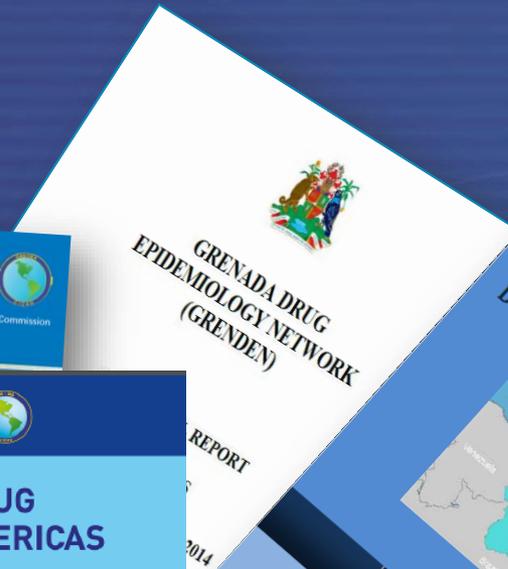
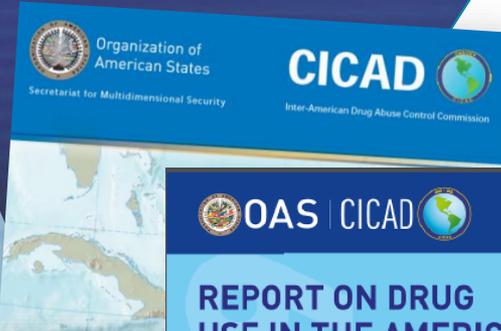


Interinstitutional and regional coordination

Strategic partners at a global level



REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS



CICAD and synthetic drugs since 2011

(MOU signed with UNODC to specifically address this issue)

What has happened in the last decade?

- Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have seen a huge expansion and diversification of the synthetic drug market and a rapid emergence of a wide range of NPS, especially since 2013.
- Synthetic drugs have ceased to be in the background.
- NSPs have become a more common phenomenon.
- Synthetic drugs with opioid effects, such as fentanyl, began to play a new role.
- New modes of illicit manufacturing of synthetic drugs and their precursors emerged.
- Several countries have implemented measures to respond to the emergence of NPS.



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The regional "ecstasy" market is expanding

- Increased use of "ecstasy".
- Focused on young people.
- Appearance of crystalline "ecstasy" and pills with a high concentration of MDMA.
- Possible intensification of "ecstasy" trafficking.
- Expansion of "ecstasy" laboratories.
- Presence of adulterated pills, with a wide variety of chemical substances.

Lifetime prevalence of "ecstasy" use among secondary school students, CICAD 2019



Methamphetamine is concentrated in North America

- Successive seizures of methamphetamine, mainly in Mexico.
- Increase in methamphetamine use in Mexico.
- Methamphetamine laboratories are still mainly concentrated in Mexico, but there would be possible geographic diversification to neighboring countries along Mexico's southern border.
- On the northern border of Mexico, increased use and trafficking of methamphetamine to Canada and the United States, as well as expansion to Asia and Oceania.
- Increased use of methamphetamine precursors not considered on the List of Controlled Substances.

Methamphetamine seizures reported in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015 to 2019



Source: UNODC, responses to ARQ – “Other countries”
Includes 11 reporting countries.



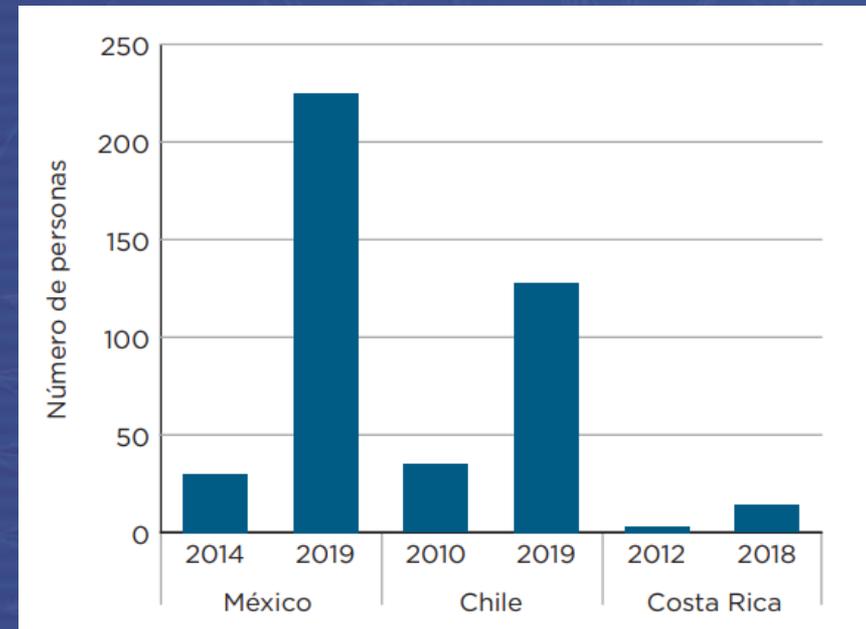
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Synthetic opioids

- Synthetic opioids have been detected in products sold as heroin and LSD, indicating that drug users in the region may be using synthetic opioids without knowing it.
- A study conducted in northern Mexico found that 93% of white powder heroin samples collected from 89 heroin users contained fentanyl.
- In 2017, Uruguay's EWS-Drugs reported that fentanyl had been detected in drug samples in a presentation form typical of LSD.
- A study carried out by CICAD in 2019 confirmed the use of opioid drugs, such as tramadol, morphine, and suboxone, for non-medical purposes, in some countries of the region.

Number of people who requested treatment for the use of opioid drugs for non-medical purposes in Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico, 2010 to 2019



Source: UNODC, responses to ARQ.



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NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES- NPS

- *Generalities and scope of the problem*



PUBLIC HEARING
Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
**New Psychoactive
Substances**

November 2013 | JDE 51 | 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Jacques Delors Building | 99, rue Belliard | 1040 Brussels



Economic and Social Committee



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What are New Psychoactive Substances?

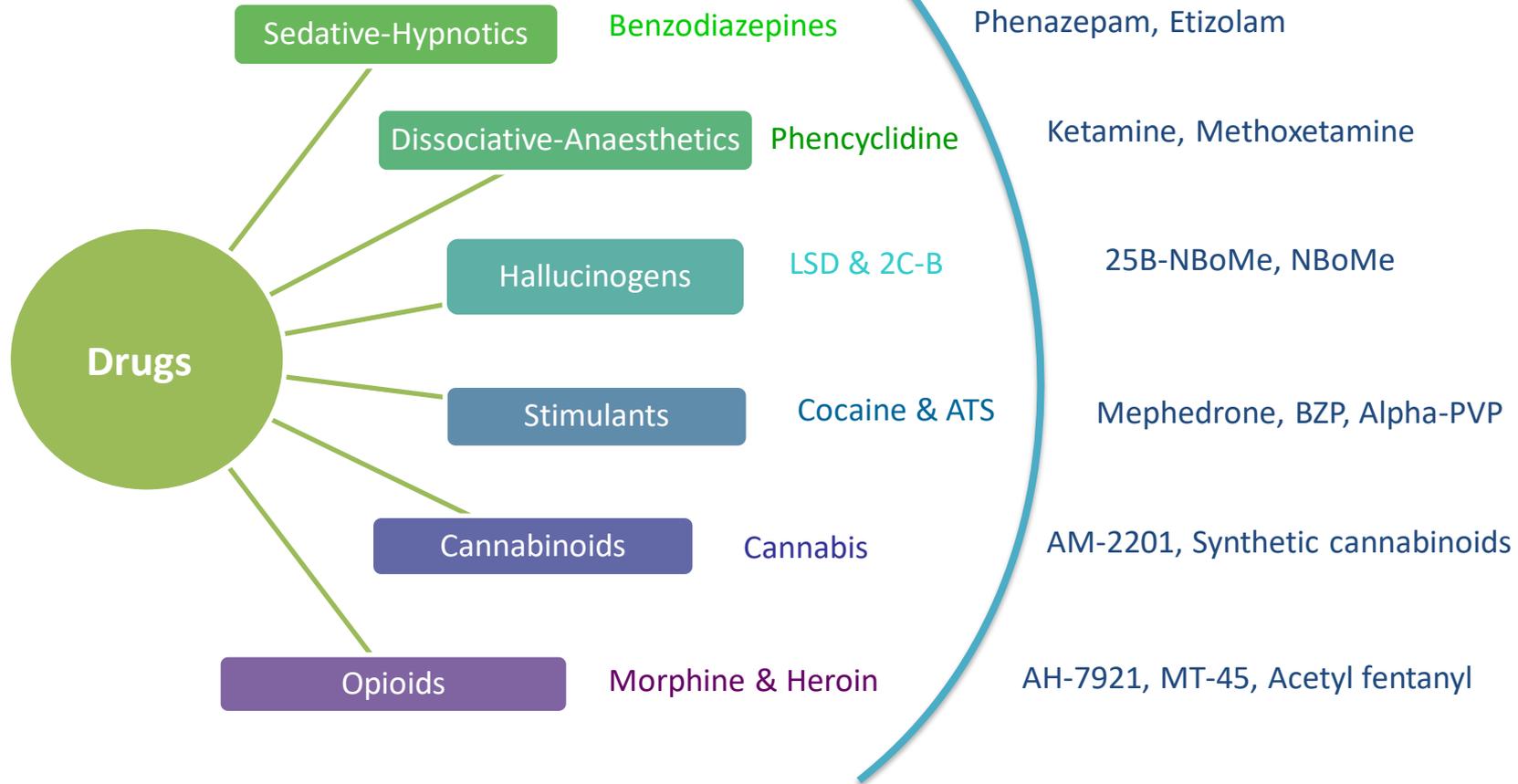
- They are not controlled by international drug conventions.
- They have recently become available.
- They are associated with serious health risks.
- They mimic the effects and are sold in traditional drug markets.



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NPS categories, according to their effects



Source: UNODC



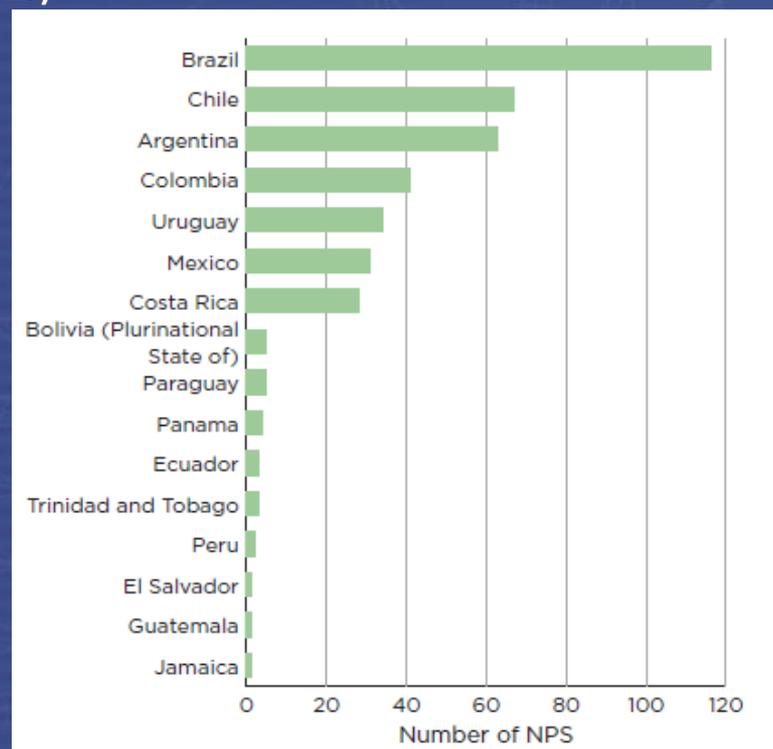
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NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

- As of December 2020, a total of 217 NPSs have been notified by 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries to the UNODC EWA.
- In 2014, 101 NPSs have been notified by 10 countries.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the most reported NPSs had:
 - Stimulating effects (40%)
 - Hallucinogenic effects (29%)
 - Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (15%)

Number of different NPS notified by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (as of December 2020)



Source: Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC



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NPS categories, according to the chemical composition

Aminoindanes

Phencyclidine-
Type
Substances

Phenylethylami-
nes

Piperazines

Plan-based
substances

-SCRAs-
Synthetic
Cannabinoids

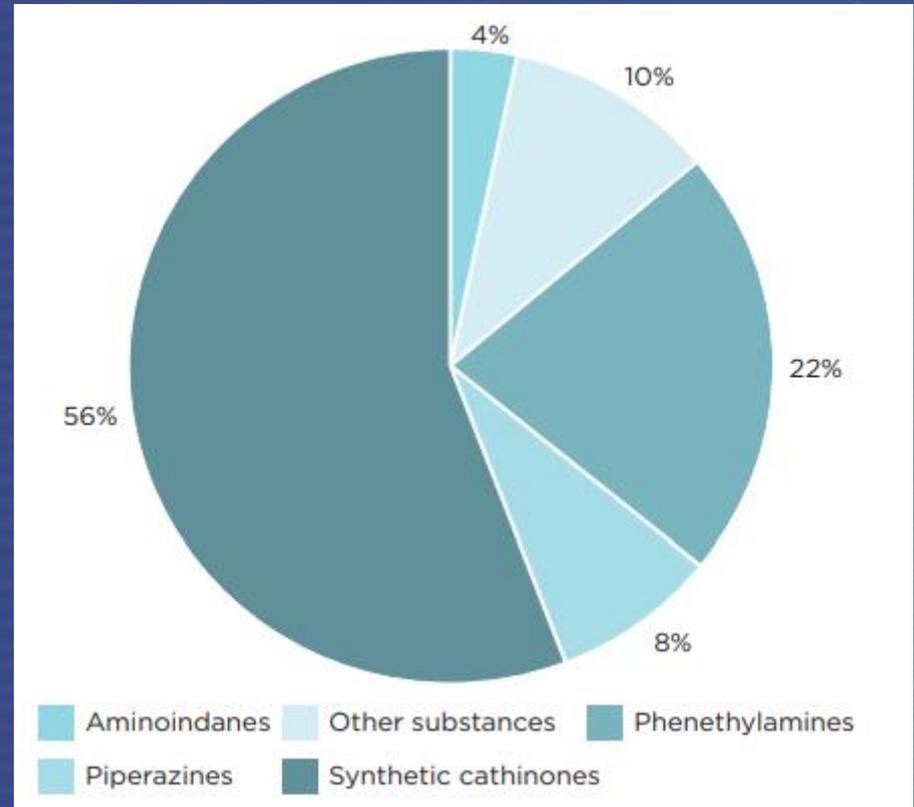
Synthetic
Cathinones

Tryptamines

Other
substances

Proportion of NPS with stimulant effects -by the chemical group- notified in Latin America and the Caribbean (as of December 2020)

- Synthetic cathinones constituted the majority of NPS cases reported in the region.
- Synthetic cathinones have been sold as ecstasy in pill, powder, or crystalline form.
- In Colombia, for example, “Hello Kitty”-shaped pills containing butylone were detected in 2017, and in 2020 pills sold as ecstasy containing N-ethylnorpentylone, dipentylone, eutylone, and pentylone were seized.
- Benzofurans with stimulant effects were detected in Colombia and Brazil.



Source: UNODC, NPS Early Warning Advisory, 2021.



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NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

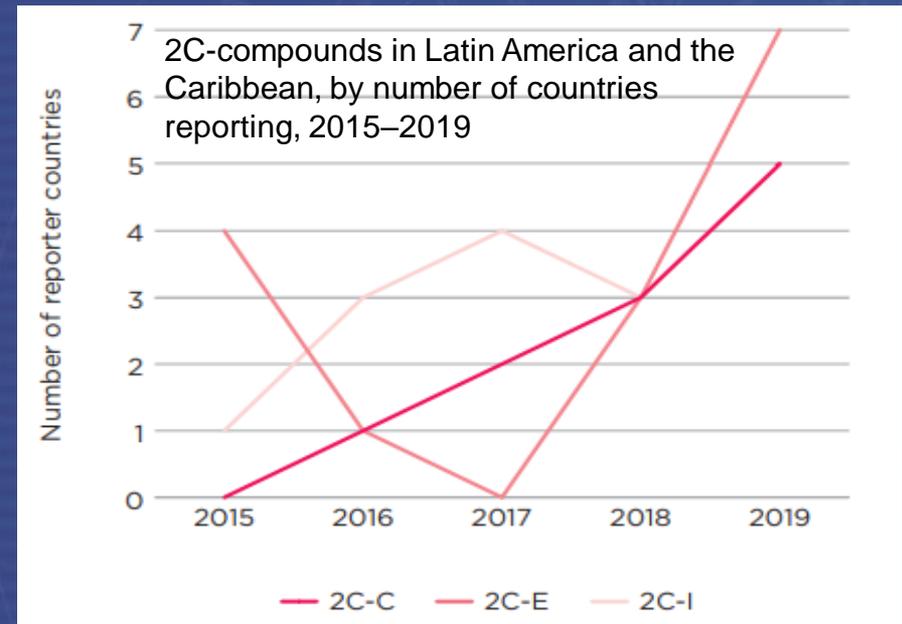
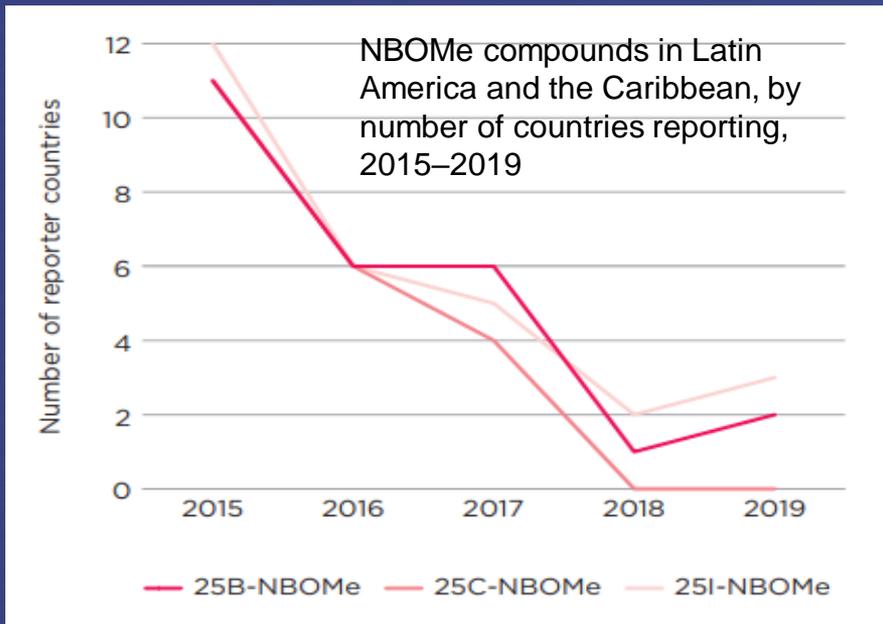


- Between 2015 and 2020, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) placed 60 NPSs under international control.
- In 2021, another eight NPSs were evaluated for international scrutiny.
- In the Americas: The number of countries reporting NPS has increased considerably, especially in South America and the Caribbean.
- North America:
 - It is the only region in which there is an upward trend in the number of substances notified each year.
 - Stimulants and synthetic opioids are the groups that contribute to the increasing rate of diversity recorded since 2017; furthermore, the latter have contributed significantly to the opioid crisis.

Source: GSU/25-UNODC.

New/renewed popularity of 2C-B ("tusi") products often containing NSPs (2C compounds, ketamine), while NBOMe compounds are reported by fewer countries.

Hallucinogen NPS Trends NBOMe – vs - 2C Compounds



Source: UNODC, NPS Early Warning Advisory, 2021.



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NPS MARKET EXPANDING PARTICULARLY IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA AND AT A SMALLER LEVEL IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



(Source: UNODC, WDR 2022)

- A recent trend in Latin America and the Caribbean is the emergence of blotting papers (“stamps”) containing various NPS with hallucinogenic effects.
- NPS opioids are among the most harmful groups of NPS. The number of opioid NPS found on markets worldwide grew from:
 - just one substance in 2009
 - to 86 substances in 2020



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SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID RECEPTOR AGONISTS (SCRAs)

-Synthetic Cannabinoids



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What are SCRA or Synthetic Cannabinoids?

- There is a growing illegal market for the production, trafficking, and consumption of SCRA for recreational purposes.
- They are known by different names, such as "Spice," K2", as well as variants thereof: 'Spice Silver,' 'Spice Gold,' 'Spice Diamond,' 'Yucatan Fire' and 'Smoke.'
- There are numerous reports that they are sold as plant-based cannabis.
- They are presented as solid powder mixtures with vegetable herbs or incense and in liquid forms.
- There are presentations for use in electronic cigarettes.
- In the same product, there may be from one to two or more different types of synthetic cannabinoids.
- They are consumed by way of smoking (more frequent), inhaled (through incense), and by ingestion (through infusions).
- They can be consumed alone or frequently associated with other drugs.
- The potency of its action is 2 to 100 times greater than that of natural cannabis and its main active ingredient, delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).



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What is the magnitude of SCRA use?

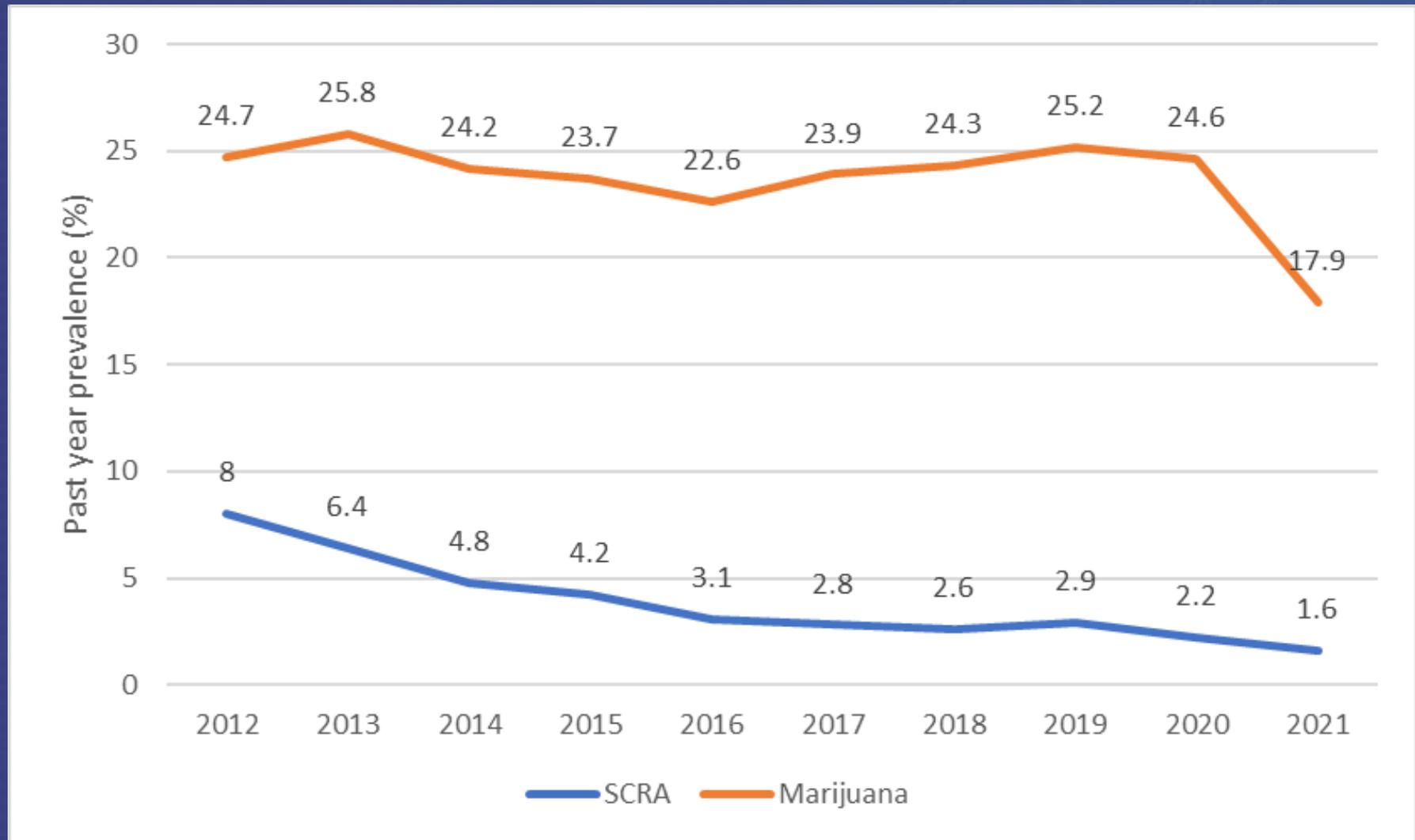
- There is very limited information regarding the prevalence of synthetic cannabinoid use in LAC, which could be attributed to:
 - Their non-inclusion in drug surveys in most countries.
 - An underreporting due to the low analytical capacity of some countries for detection in biological media.
 - Difficulties in the chemical analysis of seized substances.
- Despite the decrease in the prevalence and the seizures of some synthetic cannabinoids in the region in recent years, they continue to be of concern, due to their powerful agonist effect on the cannabinoid system, which determines acute intoxication, some of which are lethal.
- Synthetic cannabinoids have been detected in the context of polydrug use and in some cases reported as the cause of death.



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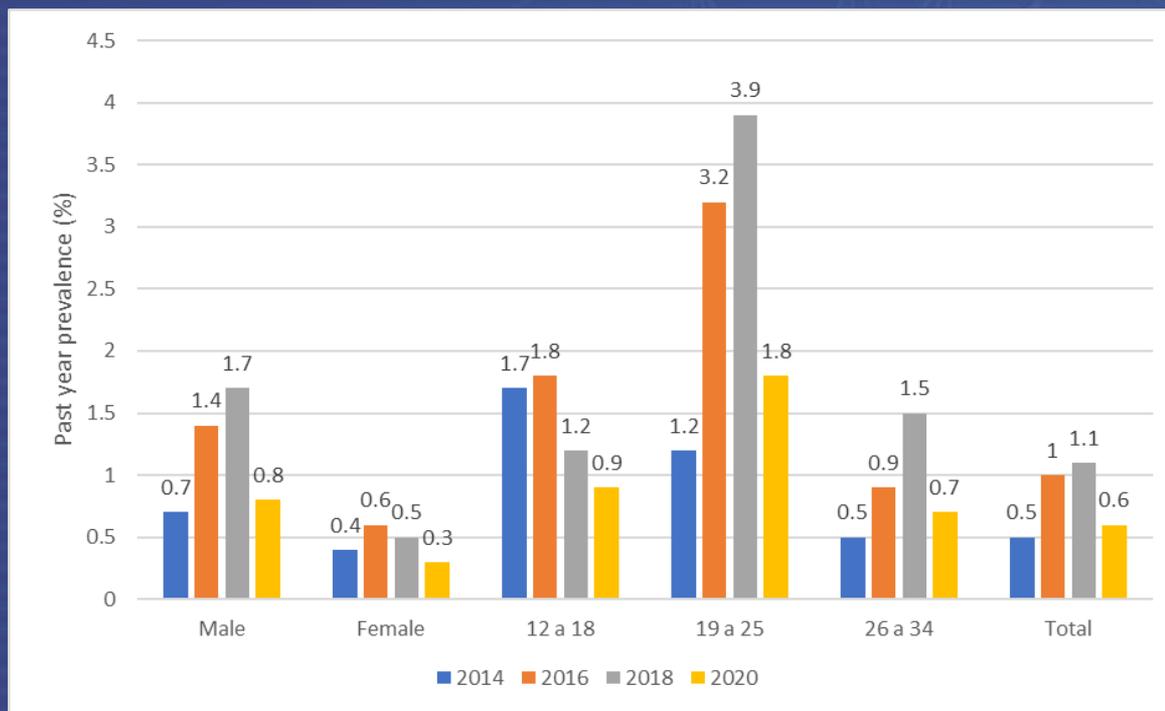
Past Year Prevalence of SCRA and Marijuana/Hashish Use Among 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders (Combined) in the United States, 2012-2021



(Source: Monitoring the Future, 2021).

Past year prevalence of “synthetic cannabinoids” (synthetic marijuana) use in the general population of Chile, 2014-2020

- Chile is the only country in the LAC region that has data on the annual prevalence of synthetic cannabinoid use (known locally as “synthetic marijuana”).
- In the general population, the rate increased from 0.5% (2014) to 1.1% (2018) but fell to 0.6% in 2020.
- In 2018, the annual prevalence among young people -between 19 and 25 years old- was at least three times higher than that of the general population, with 3.9%, but in 2020 it fell to 1.8%.
- Use is -significantly- higher among men.



(Source: ENPG Chile, SENDA, 2021).

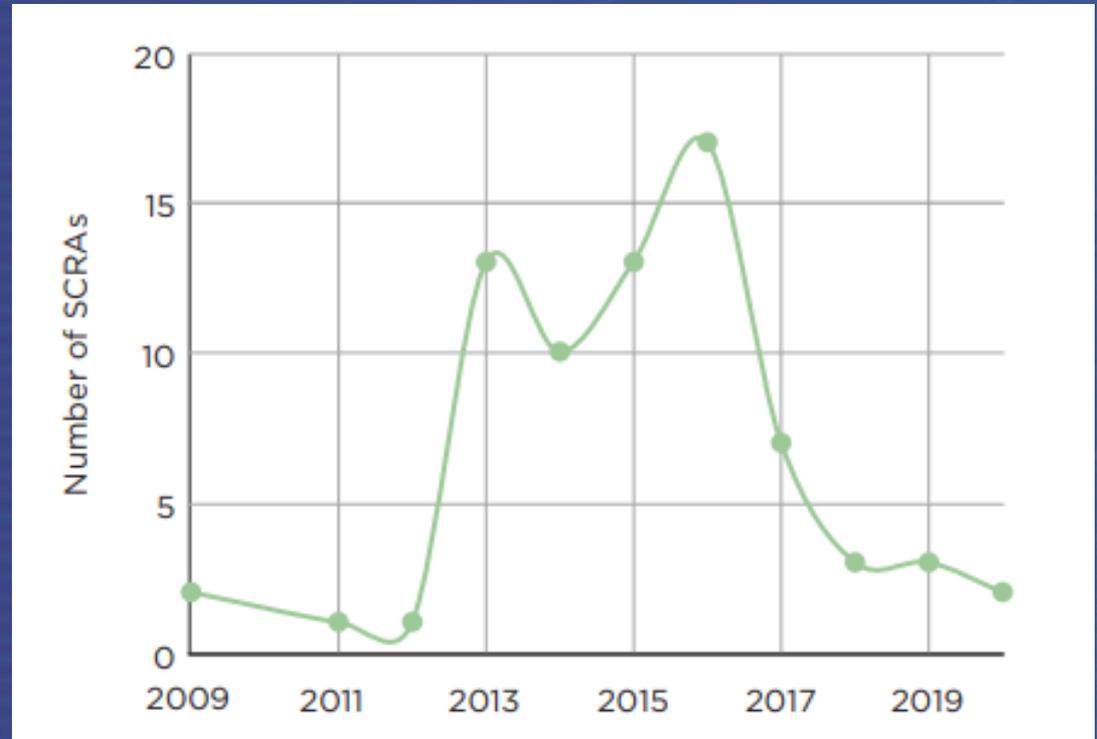


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Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs) notified the UNODC EWA from Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009 to 2019 (until December 2020)

- A total of 36 different synthetic cannabinoids were reported by 8 LAC countries, between 2009 and 2019.
- The number of different SCRAs reported, per year, has decreased markedly since 2016.
- Unlike other regions of the world, where synthetic cannabinoids continue to constitute one of the largest and most diverse groups of NPS, in LAC, in 2018 and 2019, only five different synthetic cannabinoids were reported from only two countries, Brazil and Argentina.



Source: UNODC, NPS Early Warning Advisory, 2021.

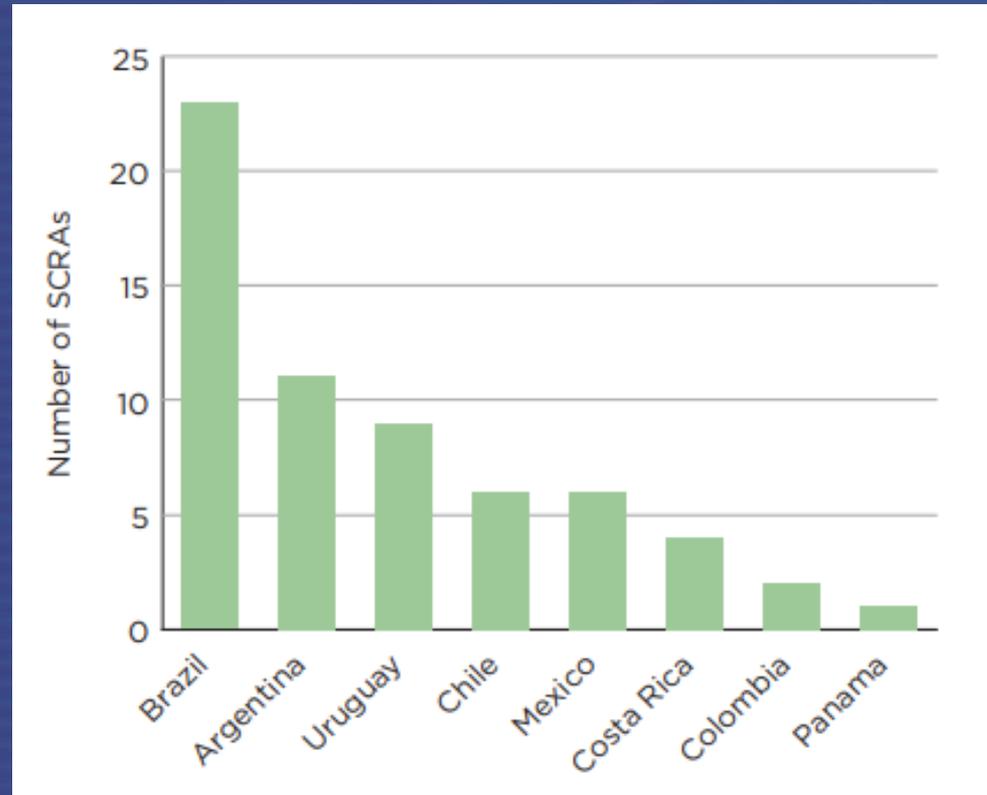


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SCRAs notified the UNODC EWA from Latin America and the Caribbean (until December 2020)

- Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay have reported detection of synthetic cannabinoids, but do not have information on the prevalence of use.
- In 2015, urine tests carried out during a music festival in Uruguay showed that 11% of the samples contained synthetic cannabinoids. Tests in later years did not give positive results.
- From Brazil, the presence of these substances in prisons has been reported. Their low detection in drug tests makes them more attractive.



Source: UNODC, NPS Early Warning Advisory, 2021.



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SALE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE DARKNET/DARK WEB



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- Cannabis (200+)
- Concentrate (20+)
- Hash (50+)
- Seed (1)
- Weed (200+)
- Dissociatives (20+)
- Ecstasy (100+)
- MDMA (100+)
- Methylone (14)
- Opioids (20+)
- Prescription (20+)
- Enzans (20+)
- Opiates (20+)
- Stimulants (2)
- Psychedelic (100+)
- 2C (13)
- DMT (7)
- LSD (20+)
- Mushrooms (2)
- Others (20+)
- Stimulants (100+)
- Amphetamine (50+)
- Cocaine (50+)
- Meth (8)
- Steroids (14)
- Injectable (8)
- Oral (4)
- Other (1)
- Tab (1)
- Tobacco (20+)
- Other (100+)
- Counterfeits (11)
- Digital (100+)
- Goods (17)
- Currency (7)

Sort by: Default [Sort] 1 2 3 4 5 6 > Only show domestic products



[10g MDMA 87% Purity - Qua](#)
 £148.51 for 10g (€15/g) **MDMA**
 By [haizenberg](#) (77) ★



[Sithomson-speed Paste 100](#)
 £329.1 for 100g (€3.29/g) **Amphetam**
 By [huntersthompson](#) (42) ★



[100g Pure Crystal A-pyn](#)
 £742.55 for 100g (€7/g) **Amphetam**
 By [drzheng](#) (9) ★



[Australian Dollars +high](#)
 €445.53 for 1 (€446/each) **Currency**
 By [nfemet](#) (0) ★



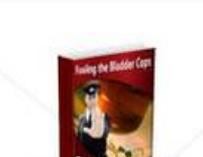
[5g MDMA 87% Purity - Qua](#)
 £77.23 for 5g (€15/g) **MDMA**
 By [haizenberg](#) (77) ★



[The Dream Drugstore Chem](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



[900x Combo Blotters! 25b](#)
 £178.21 for 900 (€0.2/each) **Others**
 By [footstool blue](#) (0) ★



[Fooling The Bladder Caps](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



[500 Pills Xanax 1 Mg](#)
 £193.06 for 500 (€0.39/each) **Prescrip**
 By [Meds 2 Buy](#) (1) ★



[Organic Pineapple \(1 Oz\)](#)
 £54.18 for 113.4g (€4.89/g) **Weed**
 By [TurtleTime](#) (75) ★



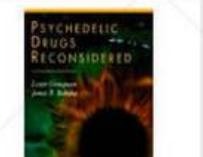
[250 X Gold Bars - 199 9+](#)
 £522.75 for 250 (€2.09/each) **MDMA**
 By [DutchMasters](#) (100+) ★



[225x 25c Nhome 1 200ug B](#)
 £68.31 for 225 (€0.3/each) **Psychade**
 By [Tappy Bear](#) (0) ★



[High Potency Crumble Wax](#)
 £20.79 for 0.5g (€42/g) **Hash**
 By [TurtleTime](#) (75) ★



[Psychedelic Drugs Reconsi](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



[Ketamine Dreams And Real](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



[1 Sample Subutex 8mg No](#)
 £10.1 for 1 (€10/each) **Prescrip**
 By [redpoison1](#) (3) ★



[150 Pills Xanax 1 Mg](#)
 £86.14 for 150 (€0.57/each) **Prescrip**
 By [Meds 2 Buy](#) (1) ★



[3 Grams White Widow](#)
 £29.11 for 3g (€10/g) **Weed**
 By [YOUR O.C. QUEEN](#) (5) ★



[100 Pills Rivotril 2 Mg](#)
 £68.31 for 100 (€0.68/each) **Prescrip**
 By [Meds 2 Buy](#) (1) ★



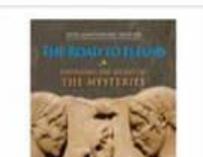
[10g Pure Speed Paste 72%+](#)
 £29.7 for 10g (€2.97/g) **Amphetam**
 By [snapback shop](#) (100+) ★



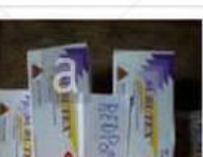
[Kerr Cheap Cigarettes To](#)
 £23.17 for 1 (€23/each) **Tobacco**
 By [ShopAgent](#) (0) ★



[Bulk Listing 150g Swazi G](#)
 £207.91 for 150g (€1.39/g) **Weed**
 By [theblossom's T...](#) (4) ★



[The Road To Fleissh: Unve](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



[100 Subutex 8mg No Fuckn](#)
 £712.85 for 100 (€7/each) **Prescrip**
 By [redpoison1](#) (3) ★



[50 Pills Restoril 30 Mg](#)
 £50.49 for 50 (€1.01/each) **Prescrip**
 By [Meds 2 Buy](#) (1) ★



[Organic Pineapple \(5.1lb\)](#)
 £7758.5 for 2267.96g (€3.42/g) **Weed**
 By [TurtleTime](#) (75) ★



[Cocaine Handbook: An Esse](#)
 £1.19 for 1 (€1.19/each) **Digital**
 By [The Black Hand](#) (28) ★



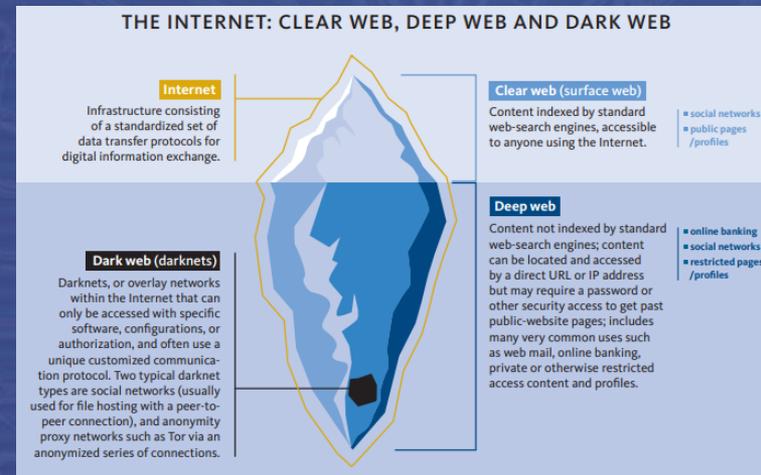
[7x Oxycontin 10 Mg - The](#)
 £38.61 for 7 (€6/each) **Opiates**
 By [theOCGuy - Oxy...](#) (56) ★

BTC Rate
 USD \$596.53
 EUR €444.17
 GBP £354.36

Synthetic drugs: Easy to produce, transport, send (Courier), camouflage, and sell.
 Buying/selling drugs through the darknet

Buying/selling DRUGS through the dark web

- The dark internet comprises the content that circulates in encrypted networks, or darknet, that use the World Wide Web but require special access programs or authorizations.
- The purchase of drugs through the Internet, in particular the dark web, has increased in recent years.
- Since the dark web cannot be accessed through traditional web searches, buyers and sellers access it through the "Onion Router" (TOR) to ensure their identities remain hidden.
- Products are typically paid for in bitcoins or other cryptocurrencies and are often delivered via postal services.



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RESPONSE TO NEW CHALLENGES



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Early Warning System for the Americas SATA (by its Spanish acronym)



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ARGENTINA - Observatorio Argentino de Drogas



Nalbufina



2,5-dimetoxi-4-iodoanfetamina (DOI)



Ciclopentolato



25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe)



2,5-dimetoxi-4-etilfenetilamina (2C-F)



Lanzaperfume

CHILE - Dirección Nacional del Servicio Nacional para la Prevención y Rehabilitación del Consumo de Drogas y Alcohol (SENDA)



Informe Mesa Nuevas Sustancias Psicoactivas-2017



Informe Mesa Nueva Sustancias Psicoactivas-2016



Primer Informe Mesa Nueva Sustancias Psicoactivas-2015

CHILE - Observatorio del Narcotráfico en Chile



Informe del observatorio del narcotráfico en Chile-2017



Informe del observatorio del narcotráfico en Chile-2016



Informe del observatorio del narcotráfico en Chile-2015

PROGRESS IN THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS OF THE COUNTRIES OF Latin America

COLOMBIA - Observatorio de Drogas de Colombia



Reaparición de los Benzofuranos: Circulación de 4-APB en Muestras en Bogotá



Nuevo Grupo de NPS: Aparición de Comprimidos con Contenido de 6-APB (Benzofuranos)



Detección de Nueva Catinona Sintética: Comprimidos en Forma de Hello Kitty con Contenido de Butilona



Aumenta la Variedad de Catinonas Sintéticas: Aparición de Dibutilona, Dimetilona y N-Etilpentilona en Drogas de Síntesis



Alto Riesgo por Consumo de Polidrogas: Las Mezclas de NPS y Otras Sustancias Presentes en el Mercado



2C-B Comercializado en Colombia es Falso

URUGUAY - Observatorio Uruguayo de Drogas



Presencia de MDMA (éxtasis) en Forma de Cristales y Polvos en Uruguay



Presencia de Sellos de LSD Adulterados



Adulteración de Cocaína con Levamisol



SATA

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE AMERICAS



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Main alerts reported to SATA in 2018 and 2019

	Argentina	Chile	Colombia	Uruguay
Cannabis		Creepy/Crippy	Crippy	
Cocaine	Injected cocaine			
Ecstasy		MDMA		MDMA
Phenethylamines	2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethylamphetamine (2C-E) (three alerts)	MDMA: It includes the presence of high-purity “ecstasy”-type substances, both in pills, powder or crystals (crystalline ecstasy).		
	2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine (DOI)			
	25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe)	LSD: It includes a variety of hallucinogenic substances, such as 2C-B, ketamine and Phenethylamines of the NBOMe type, even mixtures of them or mixed with other illicit drugs.		
	25I-NBOH (NBOH-2Cl, Cimbi-27, 2-C-I-NBOH)			
LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide)		LSD		
Controlled prescription drugs	Cyclopentolate			
Opioids	Nalbuphine		Medicines	
	Remifentanyl		Other opioids	
Plant- and animal-based substances	Angel’s trumpet		DMT (N-Dimethyltryptamine)	
	Bufotenin			
Chemical substances/precursors	Butanediol			



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VIRTUAL TRAINING ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS) AND STRENGTHENING OF LABORATORIES

- Preparation of EWSs training guides and execution of virtual training seminars for the Member States.
- Improve infrastructure and laboratory analysis capacity.
- Training for professionals who work in laboratories.
- Modernize drug analysis equipment.
- Report findings on NPS and other emerging drugs.
- Contribute to the generation of alerts and work in coordination with the National EWS.



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Main conclusions

- The expansion of the markets for ATS synthetic drugs – methamphetamine and "ecstasy in LAC" – in addition to synthetic opioids has impacted the rise of NPS.
- In the last decade, NPS has gone from being unknown to becoming a widespread phenomenon in many regional countries.
- The increasing proliferation of NSP with hallucinogenic effects is observed. NBOMe is decreasing, but the "Tusi" phenomenon or "pink cocaine" (2C-B or 2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromophenethylamine) is becoming more and more attractive among young people. Several NPSs mark the LSD and ketamine market sold under those names.
- Different cathinone and other NSPs with stimulant effects have remained the most interesting and are sold in "ecstasy" markets.
- Synthetic cannabinoids have been declining in use, but it remains an attractive market for online sales.
- A particular risk for users in the region is the emergence of highly toxic NPS with hallucinogenic effects, which can have serious adverse health consequences and lead to a fatal overdose.
- Deaths have been linked to phenethylamine uses in compounds of NBOMe and 25E-NBOH (a derivative of 2C-E) in Colombia and Brazil. In Argentina, clinical admissions for intoxications with NBOMe compounds and deaths from cocaine adulterated with synthetic opioids were recorded.



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 - Organization of American States (OAS)
 - JAraneda@oas.org
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