

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Prevalence

General Population

- There is currently no data available on use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) (such as mephedrone, MDPV and synthetic cannabinoids) among the general population in Australia. This data is scheduled to be collected in the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

Sentinel groups

- The use of various NPS among EDRS respondents has been collected at a national level since 2010.
- The types of substances used among this group have changed over time, highlighting the dynamic nature of the NPS market.
- Approximately half (44%) of the EDRS respondents in 2013 reported past 6 month use of any NPS. This proportion represents a slight increase from 40% in 2012.
- In 2013, the most commonly used NPS among EDRS respondents were synthetic cannabinoids (16%), DMT (14%), and 2CB (14%).
- Frequency of use of these substances is very sporadic at a median of 2 to 4 days in the past 6 months.
- It appears that many of these substances have become established within Australian illicit drug markets and continued monitoring of prevalence and frequency of use is important.
- Given the low frequency of use of NPS among EDRS respondents, it is anticipated that prevalence and frequency of NPS use among the general population is likely to be low.