

### Synthetic drugs are:

- ▶ Not “spice”, bath salts, incense or plant food.
- ▶ Chemically-based, not plant-derived
- ▶ Complex chemistry
- ▶ Constantly changing to “stay legal”

### Synthetic cannabinoids contain:

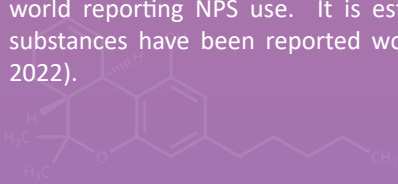
- ▶ A variety of herbal mixtures
- ▶ dried shredded plant (inert)
- ▶ potent chemical additives are responsible for their psychoactive effects.

### Some brand names used in Mauritius,

- ▶ Black Mamba
- ▶ Strawberry
- ▶ c’est pas bien
- ▶ gris
- ▶ vert

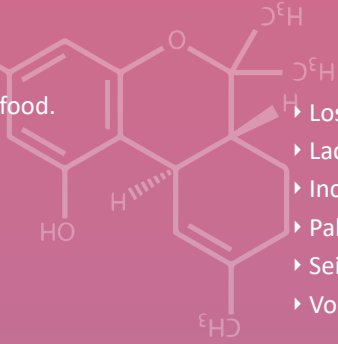


New Psychoactive Substances (Synthetics) constitute a major health problem and risk. It has become a global phenomenon with 136 countries and territories from all regions of the world reporting NPS use. It is estimated that 1,127 NPS substances have been reported worldwide so far (UNODC 2022).



### Effects of synthetic cannabinoid

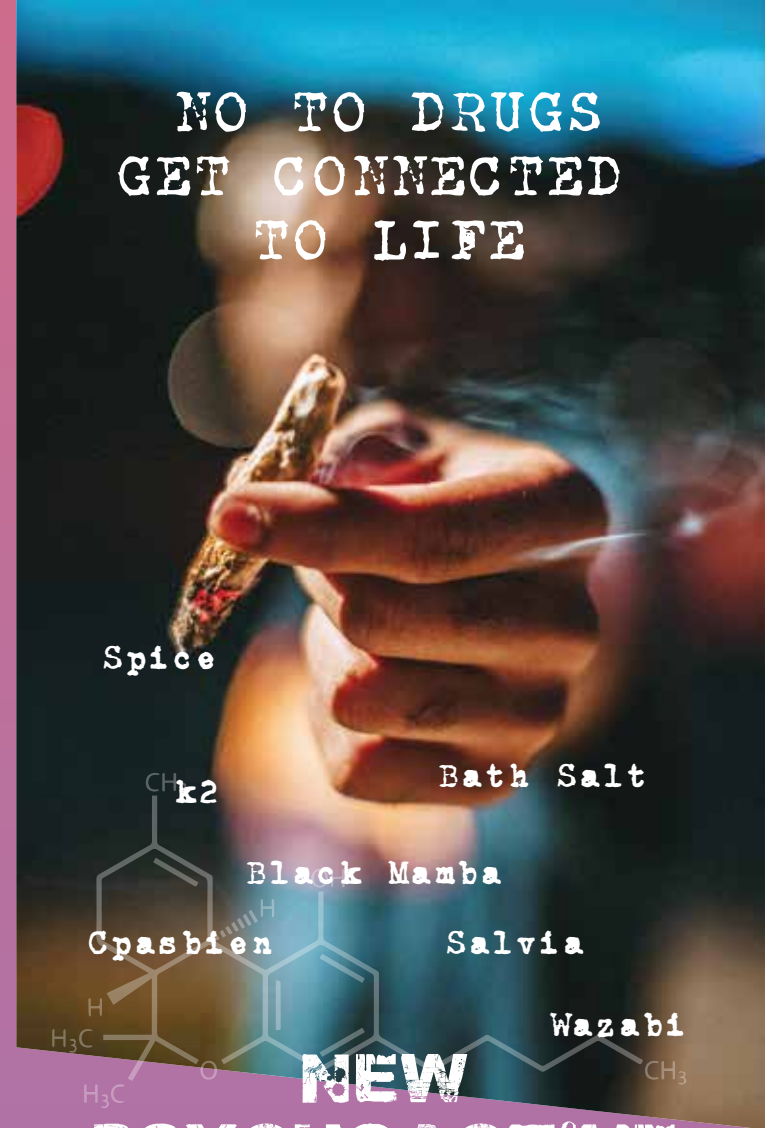
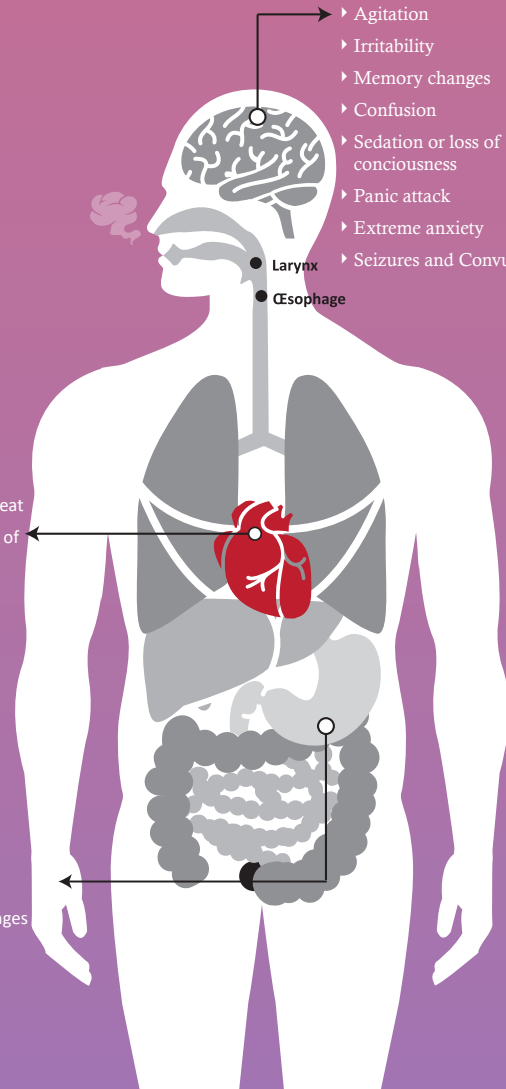
- ▶ Loss of control
- ▶ Lack of pain response
- ▶ Increased agitation
- ▶ Pale skin
- ▶ Seizures
- ▶ Vomiting
- ▶ Profuse sweating
- ▶ Uncontrolled spastic body movements
- ▶ Elevated blood pressure
- ▶ Elevated heart rate
- ▶ Heart palpitation
- ▶ Violent behaviour
- ▶ Users may also experience severe paranoia, delusions and hallucinations.



- ▶ Drowsiness
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Agitation
- ▶ Irritability
- ▶ Memory changes
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Sedation or loss of consciousness
- ▶ Panic attack
- ▶ Extreme anxiety
- ▶ Seizures and Convulsions

- ▶ Very rapid heartbeat or irregular heartbeat
- ▶ Slowing down of heart rate
- ▶ Chest pain

- ▶ Nausea
- ▶ Vomiting
- ▶ Appetite changes



NO TO DRUGS  
GET CONNECTED  
TO LIFE

Spice

Bath Salt

Black Mamba

Salvia

Cpasbien

Wazabi

**NEW**  
**PSYCHOACTIVE**  
**SUBSTANCES**  
(SYNTHETIC DRUGS)

DR IDRICE GOOMANY TREATMENT CENTRE  
SIR EDGAR LAURENT STREET, PORT-LOUIS  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
Email: goomany@bow.intnet.mu  
<https://www.goomanytreatmentcentre.org/>  
Tel: 242 3016



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**Stimulants** – A chemically diverse group of substances (including phenethylamines, cathinones, aminoindanes and piperazines), which act as central nervous system\* stimulants by mediating the actions of dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin, resulting in a range of effects e.g. stimulant, entactogenic and hallucinogenic. Substances mimic the effects of traditional drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine and ecstasy

**Opioids** – A chemically diverse group of substances (e.g. fentanyl, derivatives of opiates) which are central nervous system\* depressants. They bear structural features that allow binding to specific opioid receptors, resulting in morphine-like effects e.g. analgesia.

**Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs, synthetic cannabinoids)** – These substances bear structural features that allow binding to one of the known cannabinoid receptors and produce effects similar to those of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the only known psychoactive component in cannabis. These SCRAs are often laced onto herbal products and sold as Spice, K2, Kronik, etc.



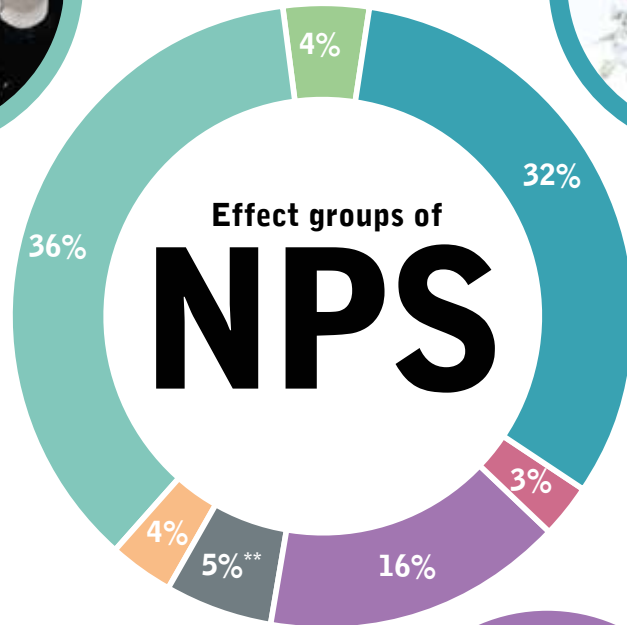
**Sedatives / Hypnotics** – Substances in this group are central nervous system\* depressants, with actions derived from their activation of receptors in the GABA receptor complex in the brain. They mimic the effects of substances under international control such as the benzodiazepines diazepam and alprazolam.



**Dissociatives** – These substances form a class of hallucinogens which modulate effects at the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor in the brain and produce feelings of detachment and dissociation of “the self and the environment”. Substances in this group include the controlled substance phencyclidine (PCP) and ketamine.



**Classic hallucinogens (psychedelics)** – A chemically diverse group of substances (e.g. ring-substituted phenethylamines, tryptamines and lysergamides) which mediate specific serotonin-receptor activities and produce hallucinations. Substances in this group mimic the effects of traditional drugs such as 2C-B, LSD and DMT but may also possess residual stimulant activity (e.g. 25C-NBOMe).



## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (SYNTHETIC DRUGS)

### BASIC INFORMATION

▶ New psychoactive substances (NPS) refer to substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation which are not controlled by the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The term “NEW” does not refer to new inventions but to substances that have recently become available.

### ▶ CLASSIFICATION

