

WEDINOS Headlines

TOTAL number of samples received
by WEDINOS October 2013 to March 2017

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).

6,452
Samples
received

5,806
Samples
analysed

89
Samples
pending

345
Substances
identified in
either
combination
or isolation

This quarter
(January 2017 to March 2017)

396
Samples
received

221
Samples
analysed

86
Samples
pending

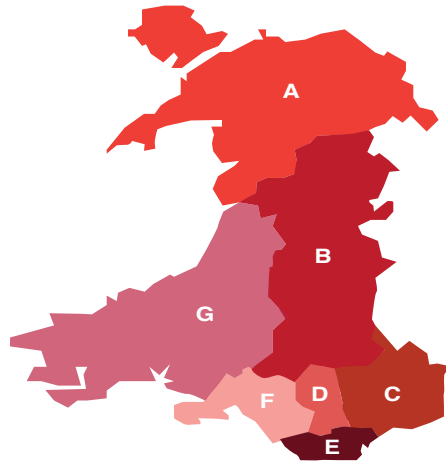
89
Samples
rejected

67
Substances
identified in
either
combination or
isolation

FINDINGS...

WHERE...

Samples were submitted from six of the seven Welsh Health Boards. No samples were received from Powys Teaching Health Board.



Breakdown of sample submissions by Health Board areas

- A** - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – 20 samples.
- B** - Powys Teaching Health Board – 0 samples.
- C** - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – 62 samples.
- D** - Cwm Taf University Health Board – 10 samples.
- E** - Cardiff & Vale University Health Board – 44 samples.
- F** - Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board – 21 samples.
- G** - Hywel Dda University Health Board – 5 samples.

49 samples were received from England, five from Scotland and one from outside the United Kingdom.

WEDINOS does not analyse samples received from outside of the United Kingdom.

In relation to Welsh Health Board areas, the highest proportion of samples came from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, 62 samples were received and analysed, accounting for 28 per cent of all samples analysed.

Psychoactive Substances

Who...

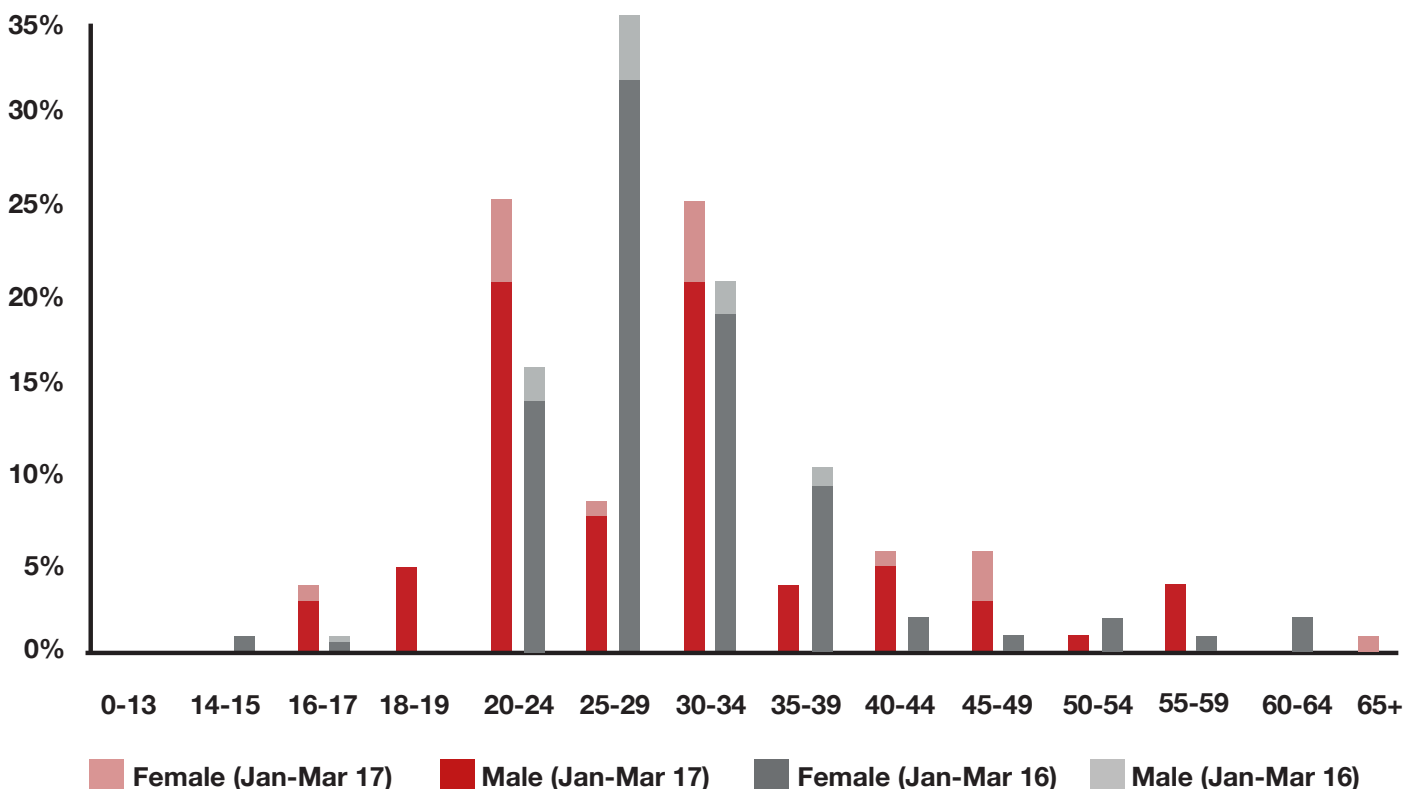
Where a WEDINOS Effects Record was submitted and gender completed; 88 per cent (n=155) of submissions were from males. The remaining 12 per cent (n=19) were females.

The median age for all mind altering / psychoactive sample providers (Wales and wider UK) was 29 years (average age was 30 years old); with an age range of 16-65 years.

- Females - median age was 29 years and an average age of 31 years (range: 17-65)

- Males - median age was 30 years, with an average age of 30 years (range 16-59 years)

Gender / Age profile of samples providers – Psychoactive Samples (This quarter compared to the same quarter last year)



Reason for purchase All samples

206 Mind Altering / Psychoactive samples were submitted for analysis during this quarter. 15 samples of Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs (IPEDs) were submitted via Public Health Wales agreed sentinel.

Samples Submitted from Wales

94 per cent of Welsh samples were submitted via 28 services / organisations; with the remaining 6 per cent being submitted anonymously.

WHAT...

Of the 206 Mind Altering/Psychoactive samples:

- 35 samples were purchased in the belief that they were Class A substances
- 15 Class B
- 19 Class C
- 13 were believed to be controlled by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA 2016)
- 2 were believed not to be controlled
- A further 122 were submitted without any information relating to purchase intent, or perceived legal status. This number includes samples submitted by criminal justice services for trend analysis, that do not have any forensic or evidential values.

Post analysis we see that Class A increased from 35 samples to 85. Class B increased from 15 to 45, Class C increased from 19 to 20. The number of substances controlled by the PSA 2016 rose from 13 to 27. Substances that are not controlled increased from 2 to 26. Three samples remained unidentified. It must be noted that although the majority of groups increased with the post analysis categorisation of the “unknown” substances, several samples moved between classifications. Examples of this include.

Sample believed to be....

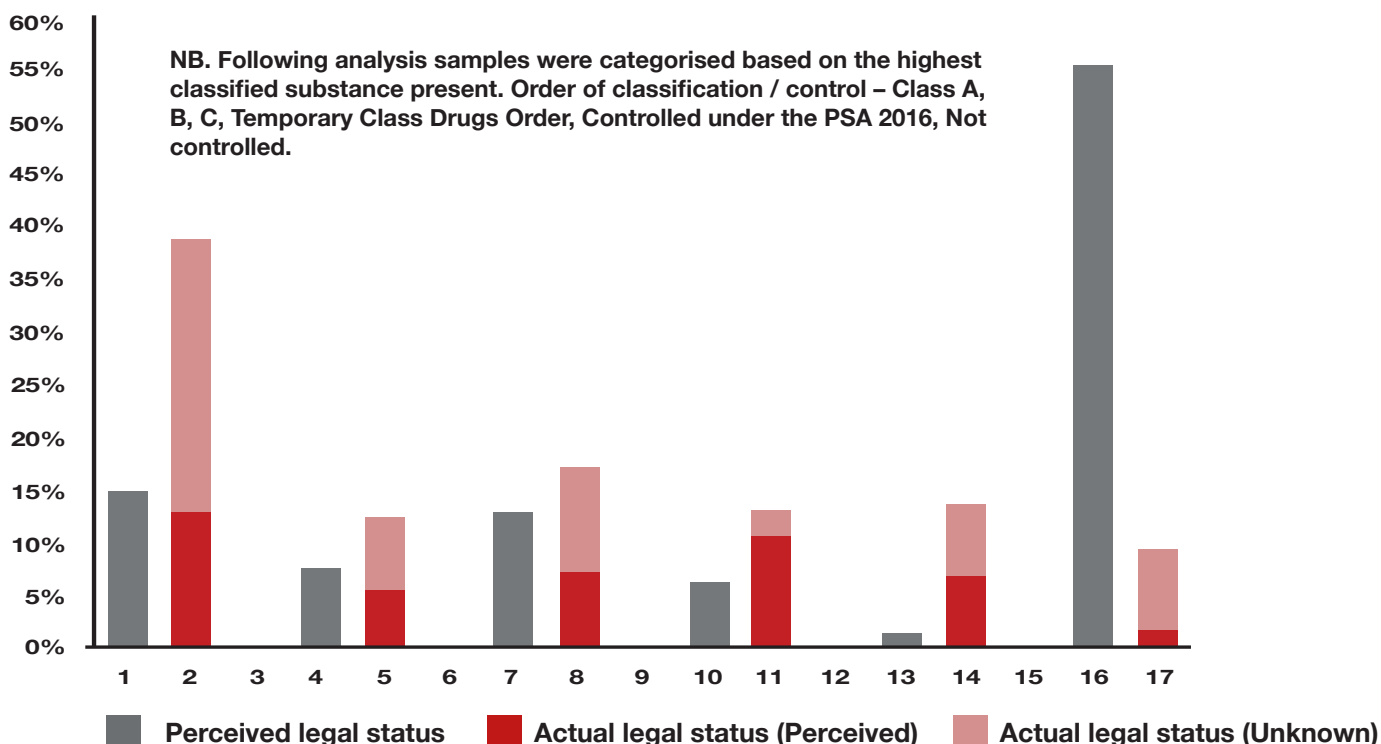
Found to contain...

Cocaine
Ritalin (Methylphenidate)
Diazepam
Mephedrone
MDMA
Mephedrone
Diazepam
Diazepam
Diazepam
MDMA
Mephedrone
Diazepam
Fentanyl

TFMPP
Modafinil
Zopiclone
N-Ethyl-Hexedrone
Ephylone
4-CEC
Etizolam
Phenazepam
Alprozolam
Caffeine
Mexedrone
Diclazepam
Carfentanyl

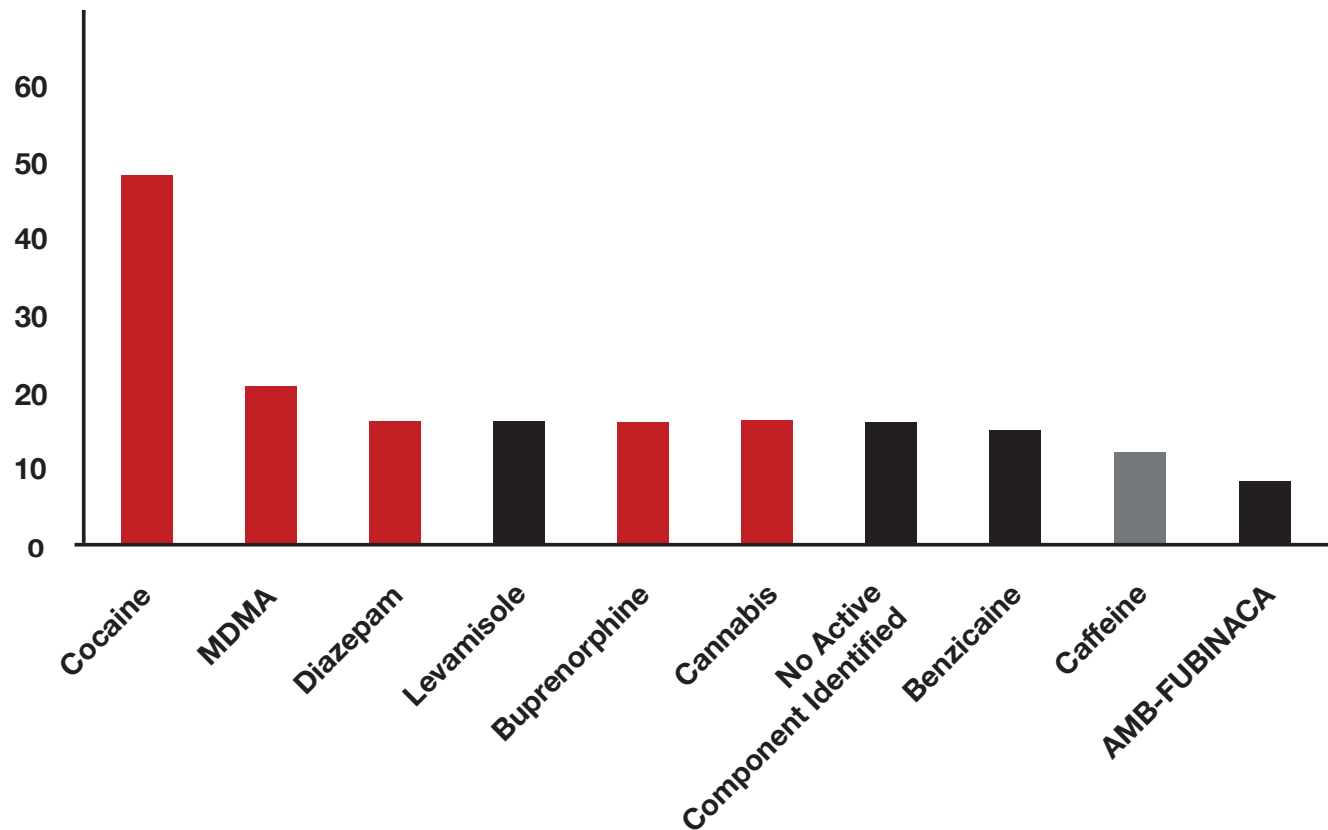
Reminder as of Monday 4th April 2016: WEDINOS stopped analysing individual samples that, on the effects sheet only provide details of purchase intent stated as ‘legal high’ or ‘research chemicals’. It is an important element of WEDINOS that we are able to provide information both on what individuals intended to purchase and the actual content of the sample substance. When submitting a sample, please ensure that you include as much information as possible around what you intended to buy on the sample and effects record as well as effects experienced if the sample was consumed. If the sample was not consumed include your reason for submission. Many thanks.

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



Most commonly identified substances

Most commonly identified substances in Mind Altering / Psychoactive Substance samples



■ Controlled substances
 ■ Controlled under PSA 2016
 ■ Substances currently not controlled
■ Bulking agent

The most commonly identified psychoactive substance was Cocaine. The most commonly identified psychoactive substance that is not currently controlled was the SCRA AMB-FUBINACA, this quarter nine SCRA's were identified.

A range of benzodiazepines was submitted with seven types being identified; synthetic cathinones as a group were also quite prevalent with six identified.

Levamisole was the most commonly identified bulking / cutting agent; however, this substance was exclusively identified in substances that also contained cocaine.

New Psychoactive Substances Top Ten

Top 10		Jan-Mar 17	Oct to Dec 16
Number 1	Up 4	AMB-FUBINACA	5F-ADB
Number 2	New Entry	2C-B	Mephedrone
Number 3	Re-entry	Alprozolam	MDMB-CHMICA
Number 4	Re-entry	Phenazepam	Ketamine
Number 5	Down 4	5F-ADB	AMB-FUBINACA
Number 6	Re-entry	Etizolam	Ephylone
Number 7	Down 5	Mephedrone	Methylhexanamine
Number 8	New entry	N-Ethyl-Hexedrone	Dibutylone
Number 9	New Entry	25B-NBOMe	Methylone
Number 10	Re-entry	Modafinil	Diclazepam

With the exception of the June – September 2016 quarter; since the launch of WEDINOS in October 2013 Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (SCRAs) have been the most prevalent NPS' submitted to and identified by the project. This quarter, marks a change in this trend as benzodiazepines were the most commonly identified group of NPS, this despite a SCRA being the number one substance.

Effect of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

Top 10	Post-PSA 2016	Pre-PSA 2016
Number 1	5F-ADB	5F-PB-22
Number 2	Ketamine	5F-AKB48
Number 3	MDMB-CHMICA	Mephedrone
Number 4	Alprazolam	Methiopropamine
Number 5	AMB-FUBINACA	Ethylphenidate
Number 6	Mephedrone	5-MeO-DALT
Number 7	5F-AMB	MDMB-CHMICA
Number 8	5F-PB-22	3-Fluorophenmetrazine
Number 9	Modafinil	Etizolam
Number 10	2C-B	Ketamine

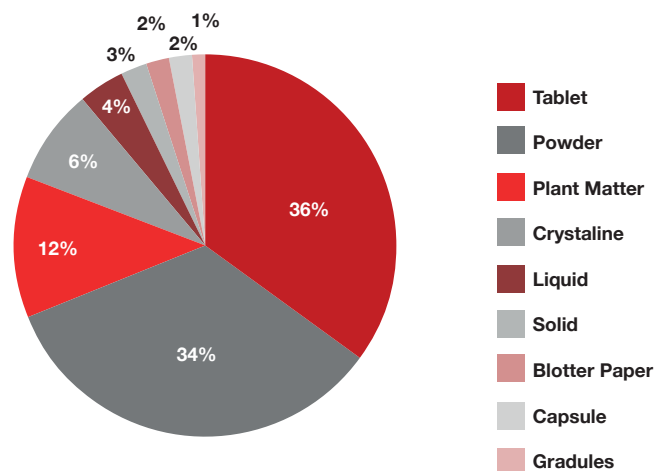
HOW...

Form of Sample & Method of Consumption

Mind Altering/Psychoactive Powder remains the most prevalent sample form

Samples provided that would have a Mind Altering/Psychoactive effect came in a variety of forms, consistent with previous quarters and reports the most prevalent sample form was powder, closely followed by tablets, the vast majority of which contained benzodiazepines.

Mind Altering/Psychoactive - Form of Sample

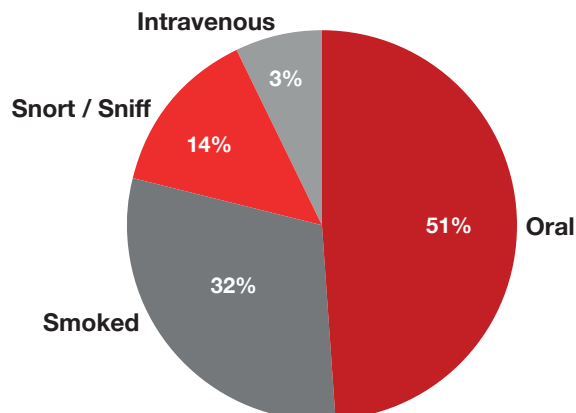


Where samples were purchased as Mind Altering/Psychoactive & a method of consumption was recorded (39 per cent, n=80), and assuming that all plant matter and plant matter Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists are smoked, samples were used consumed through a variety of methods, the most common was oral consumption (51% per cent), this is comparable to last quarter (49%); followed by smoking (32 per cent, 27 per cent last quarter). Snorting / sniffing as a route of administration made up 14 per cent of responses, with 3 per cent stating they used their substance via intravenous injection down from 7 per cent the previous quarter.

The recorded intravenous injection relates to the use of fentanyl and carfentanyl. However, the carfentanyl sample was purchased as fentanyl.

Although, the completion of this section of the sample and effects record has fallen as a percentage of the total number samples received; WEDINOS now receives an increased proportion of samples sent for analysis as the result of concerns pre-consumption. This may include unexpected results from reagent testing.

Mind Altering/Psychoactive - Method of Consumption



GEOGRAPHIC PROFILES / LOCAL TRENDS

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU)

- Cumulative Total: 425 samples
- 21 samples were received from ABMU this quarter
 - During analysis 16 substances were identified in isolation or combination. Three samples contained no active compound.
 - Mirtrazapine was the most commonly identified substance.
 - A sample submitted as cocaine was found to contain the piperazine TFMPP (3-Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine). The sample provider reported unexpected auditory and visual hallucinations as an unexpected effect of their use of this substance.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABU)

- Cumulative total: 1001 samples
- 62 samples were received ABU this quarter
- During analysis of those samples, 16 substances were identified either in combination or in isolation, with one samples having no active compound identified and another one having an insufficient amount of material to complete analysis
- Cocaine was the most commonly identified substance within the in ABU; a statistic that is influenced heavily by the analysis of night club amnesty bins from within Newport city centre. Other stimulant substances identified included: amphetamine, MDMA and mephedrone. For the second quarter running no synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists were submitted

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU)

- Cumulative total: 306 samples
- 20 samples were received from BCU this quarter
- During analysis of those samples, 14 substances were identified either in combination or in isolation. Three had no active compound identified. One had an insufficient amount of material to complete analysis
- Cocaine was the most commonly identified substance within BCU, followed by benzodiazepines with diazepam and alprazolam identified

Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (CVU)

- Cumulative samples: 1099 samples
- 44 samples were received from CVU this quarter
- During analysis 29 substances were identified either in combination or in isolation. Six samples had no active compound identified. One did not contain a sufficient amount of sample material for analysis to be completed
- Seven SCRA's were identified; 5F-ADB, 5F-AMB, AB-CHMINACA, AMB-FUBINACA, BB-22, FUB-AKB48 and MDMB-CHMICA
- Samples of interest:
 - A sample submitted as Methylphenidate was found to contain Modafinil
 - A sample submitted as Diazepam was found to contain Zopiclone
 - A sample submitted as mephedrone was found to contain a mixture of 4-CEC (a synthetic cathinone) and MDMA.

Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTU)

- Cumulative total: 115 samples
- 10 samples were received from CTU this quarter
- During analysis 8 substances were identified either in isolation or combination. One sample contained no active compound.
- Diazepam was the most commonly identified substance, another benzodiazepine, Phenazepam was also identified.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDU)

- Cumulative total: 148 samples
- 5 samples were received from HDU this quarter
- During analysis six substances were identified in combination or isolation. Two of which were potent SCRA's 5F-ADB and AMB-FUBINACA

Powys Teaching Health Board (PT)

- Cumulative total: 35 samples
- 0 samples were received from PT this quarter
- We are aware that individual submitting samples in the Powys area have experienced time delays from the point of submitting samples to receipt at Cardiff toxicology laboratories. WEDINOS is working with all our relevant stakeholders to improve this situation.

Help us to build a better picture of substance prevalence or any trends in substance use within Wales and the wider UK. WEDINOS would happily accept an increase in samples of psychoactive substances submitted. If you require further information on submitting a sample please visit www.wedinos.org or email admin@wedinos.org

News from the Home Office and abroad

February 2017 – EMCDDA - Drugnet Europe - <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/97>

February 2017 – EMCDDA – EMCDDA–Europol Joint Report on a new psychoactive substance: N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenylacrylamide (acryloylfentanyl) - <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/acryloylfentanyl>

March 2017 – Home Office - Methylphenidate-based novel psychoactive substances: temporary class drug order recommendations (Update)- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/methylphenidate-based-novel-psychoactive-substances-temporary-class-drug-order-report>

March 2017 – EMCDDA - An overview of the drug-related deaths (DRD) key indicator - <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/methods/drd-overview>

March 2017 – EMCDDA - Report on the risk assessment of methyl 2-[[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbonyl]amino]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (MDMB-CHMICA) - <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments/mdmb-chmica>

The WEDINOS project does not test food samples, biological samples, samples submitted within paraphernalia of use, samples that are submitted with an incomplete effects form. On Friday 25th July 2014 WEDINOS stopped accepting samples of Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs other than those submitted by sentinel contributors.