

New Psychoactive Substances: “Chemical Chameleons” That Evade Detection and Legislations

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INTRODUCTION

Novel psychoactive substances (NPS) workably resembles, mimic and echo the effect of controlled drugs (like amphetamines, cocaine, opiates and cannabis, (Vardakou et al., 2010)). The users of NPS drugs, often eschew and avert legal proceedings due to their unique chemical formulation that differs from controlled drugs.

Despite being very minor for some designer drugs, the difference in the chemical formulas is the real challenge for law makers. Each class of these drugs follows the same principles and norms of the resemblant controlled drugs as they bind to the same receptors in the brain and peripheral organs. NPS were available in Europe in the head shops and are sold on websites. They are marketed under disguised brand name like ” Legal, Highs, Herbal Highs, Research Chemicals, Bath salts, Designer Drugs, Synthetic drugs, Spice, Novel psychoactive substances”(NDARC Fact Sheet, 2016) A more generalized word for the NPS is the Emerging

Psychoactive Substances (EPS). This generalization encompasses all the psychotropic drugs that newly invaded the recreational drug emporium (NDARC Fact Sheet, 2016).

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It is the choice of the laboratory to use the most appropriate analytical techniques or tend to employ a combination of them to ensure higher degrees of detectability, selectivity (specificity), and

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