

INTRODUCTION

Mankind has been experimenting with substances since time immemorial. Betel nuts from Timor, ancient Inca coca leaves, the Pharaohs “brewed alcohol” are only few ancient examples. More recently experimentation led the same species to concentrate on the qualities of some “blockbusters” like Tobacco, Cannabis, opium and cocaine. This success led to mass production and profiteering with shipping lines established between continents, wars waged between nations and criminal gangs terrorizing neighborhoods to secure delivery of these substances to afflicted members of the species with dire consequences.

had been reported by 95 countries and territories to the UNODC early warning advisory. Synthetic cannabinoids continued to account for the majority of NPS reported in 2014 (39 per cent); they were followed by phenethylamines (18 per cent) and synthetic cathinones (15 per cent). The growing number of NPS available worldwide indicates that the market for synthetic drugs is becoming even more diversified (UNODC, 2015). As of December 2015 the number has increased to 643 and counting. So what are these substances anyway?

Terminology and Related Issues

the definition of NPS is “any new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in a preparation that is not scheduled under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 or the Convention

such substances, may have lifelong consequences. The onus is on both demand and supply reduction services to tune their priorities according to the circumstances, accumulating knowledge and evidence and delivers the desired response.

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