

'Legal highs' and the internet: A public health perspective.

Club Health 2011,
12-14 December
Prague, Czech Republic

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at The Maudsley



ReDNet Project

What are 'legal highs'?

'a class of relatively new
recreational drugs used as legal
substitutes for more common
illicit drugs'



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Young people survey (16-24 years old)

- Current knowledge
 - 64% never received information
 - 25% good knowledge
 - 28% Internet important source of information
 - 38% happy to receive additional information
- 23% via website
- 22% via email
- 2% via sms



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Introduction

- I. What are 'legal highs'?
- II. Overview of the ReDNet project
- III. Young people survey – initial findings
- IV. Summary
- V. Plans for the future



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Background

- Use of 'legal highs' has become a significant part of night-time economy
- Internet plays an increasingly dominant role
- Most visible information often misleading, inaccurate or outdated
- Emerging drug trends pose a challenge to health and other professionals, and users/potential users



What information?

- Based on technical reports of the Psychonaut Web Mapping Research Project:
 - Brief description of what is it?
 - What does it look like?
 - How is it sold?
 - How much does it cost?
 - How is it taken?
 - Is it legal?
 - What are the effects?
 - What are the risks?



Conclusions

- Balanced, up-to-date and accurate information need to be made more visible
- The role of target groups is crucial in developing this information
- Internet increasingly desirable as a source of information about 'legal highs'



'The ever-changing world of psychoactive drugs'

1st International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances

Budapest, Hungary
12-13 March 2012

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European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction