

PCP analogues in samples of Barcelona right now

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Introduction

Novel psychoactive substances (NPS) use is progressively increasing year on year. The new analogues of phencyclidine (PCP) are frequently sold as "legal" dissociative anesthetic drug with hallucinogenic and sedative effects, and as a non-illegal alternative to ketamine. PCP derivatives are high affinity and selective antagonists of the NMDA receptor.

Objectives

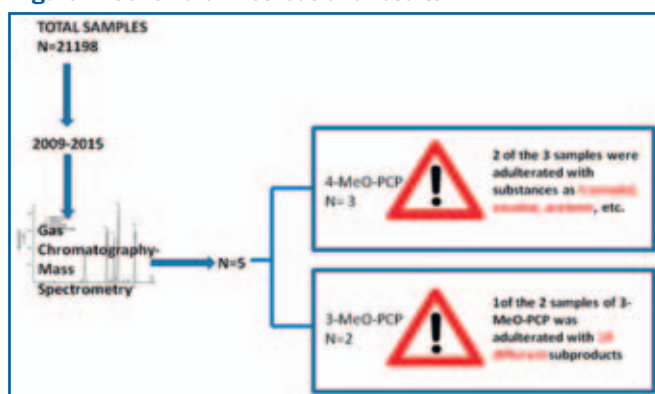
To describe the presence of 3-MeO-PCP and 4-MeO-PCP in samples delivered to Energy Control for analysis from 2009 to 2015 in Spain.

Methods

A total of 21,198 samples were analyzed from august 2009 to august 2015. Only those samples containing 4-MeO-PCP or 3-MeO-PCP were studied. They were analyzed by Energy Control, a Spanish harm reduction NGO that offers the possibility of analyzing the substances that users report. Analysis were done by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry.

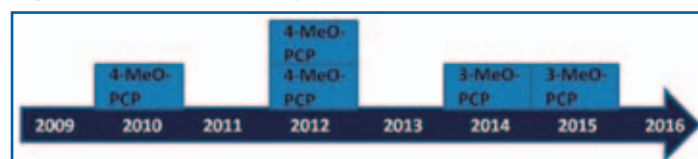
Results

Figure 1. Schema of methods and results



A total of 3 and 2 samples containing 4-MeO-PCP and all the samples resulted to be the acquired drug of the consumer. Two samples of 4-MeO-PCP were adulterated with tramadol, cocaine, acetone among others.

Figure 2. Consumption per year of 3 and 4-MeO-PCP



Conclusions

Consumption of 3-MeO-PCP and 4-MeO-PCP is relatively infrequent and its use not seems to be an emerging issue according to the results of our study. Even the potential harmful effects of these dissociative drugs, our indirect indicator seems to show that consumption has not increased.

A more precise monitoring would make a better approach to the real consumption and the impact of these substances in our society.

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