

New designer benzodiazepines use in Barcelona

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Introduction

New designer benzodiazepines such as phenazepam, etizolam, diclazepam, clonazepam and flubromazepam have appeared in the recreational drug market due to that they provide an attractive alternative to prescription-only benzodiazepines as they are readily available over the Internet at a low price.

Objective

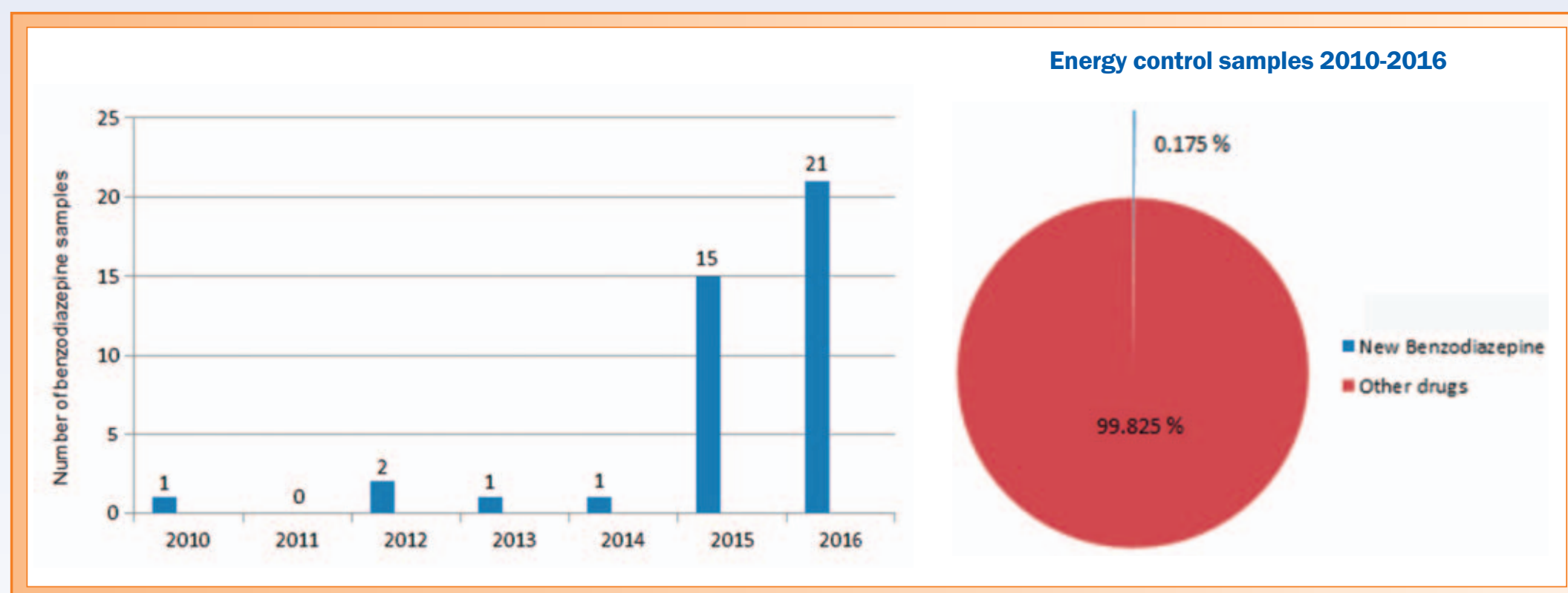
To describe the presence of new designer benzodiazepines in samples delivered to Energy Control since 2010 to 2016 in Barcelona.

Methods

From 2010 to 2016, 24551 samples were delivered to EC. Among this samples 43 (0.175%) were analysed as BDZ. They were analyzed by Energy Control, a Spanish harm reduction NGO that offers the possibility of analyzing the substances that users report. Analysis was done by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry.

Results

From the 43 samples analyzed as benzodiazepines, 1 (2.32%) was delivered in 2010, none in 2011, 2 (4.65%) in 2012, 2 (4.65%) in 2013, 1 (2.32%) in 2014, 15 (34.88%) in 2015 and 21 (48.83%) in 2016.



Discussion

The data shows that new designer benzodiazepines use is increasing in Barcelona, specially in the last two years. Abuse and addiction to these drugs may be, in the future, a new public health problem in Barcelona. At the moment it has a small impact according to the result of our samples. A more precise monitoring would make a better approach to the real consumption and the impact of these substances in our society. Unknown side effects may appear due to lack of information about pharmacokinetic profile of these drugs.

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