

Annual Report 2024

Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)

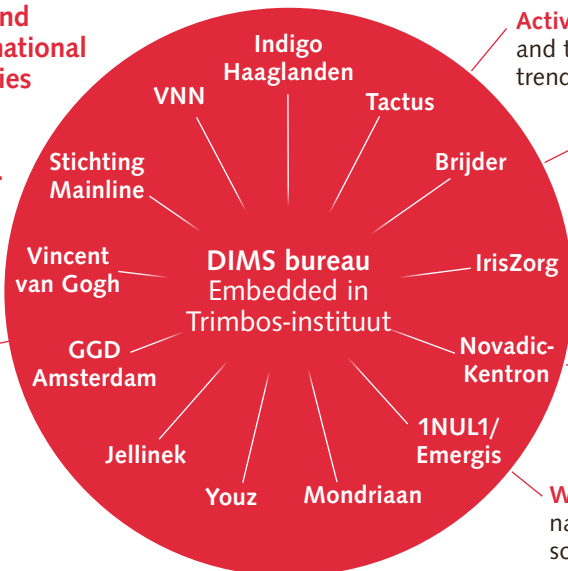
Trimbos
instituut

Netherlands Institute of
Mental Health and Addiction

What is DIMS?

The Drugs Information and Monitoring System is a national network of testing facilities that aims at gaining insights into the market of controlled substances.

Commissioned
by the Ministry
of Health (VWS)
and local
authorities



Activities: DIMS examines the content of drugs and their associated health risks, and analyses trends.

Method: DIMS monitors the markets of scheduled substances by offering consumers the possibility to have their drugs tested.

Application: The collected data are used for education, prevention and policy interventions.

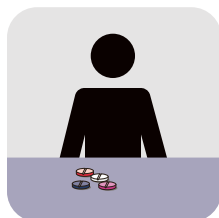
Education: The testing facilities serve a major educational purpose and provide information on effects and risks of drugs.

Warnings: DIMS occasionally warns at a national, regional or local level, or e.g. via social media for drugs involving extra risks.

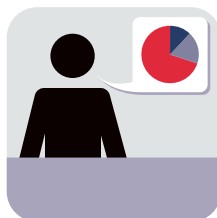
How does it work?



DIMS-affiliated organizations have weekly consulting hours.



Here, users can anonymously and discreetly submit drug samples for analysis.



If the sample composition can be determined on the spot, the result is passed on directly.



If not, the sample is sent to the laboratory for further analysis.



A week later, the drugs have been analysed and the results are communicated.



Sometimes the result is so disturbing, that a warning or Red Alert is issued.

Highlights 2024

Number of visitors remained nearly stable

In 2024, there were slightly fewer visitors at DIMS compared to the previous year. A total of 18,893 visitors submitted 18,408 samples. This makes 2024 the second busiest year on record.

More ecstasy pills with higher MDMA content in circulation

In 2024, the majority of ecstasy pills (40.2%) had an MDMA content between 141 and 175 mg. In 2023, this was still 29.4%. A total of 2.5% of pills contained more than 210 mg of MDMA.

Cocaine more frequently adulterated with procaine

In 2024, procaine was the most commonly found adulterant in cocaine, appearing in 11.8% of cocaine samples. In 2023, this was only 3.2%. Back then, levamisole was the most frequently found adulterant. The percentage of cocaine containing levamisole remained stable in 2024 at 11.6%.

Increase in number of submitted 3-MMC samples

In 2024, the number of submitted samples that were sold as 3-MMC doubled compared to the year before. As a result, 3-MMC ranked second among the most submitted drugs at the testing services.

Decrease in ecstasy and 2C-B samples

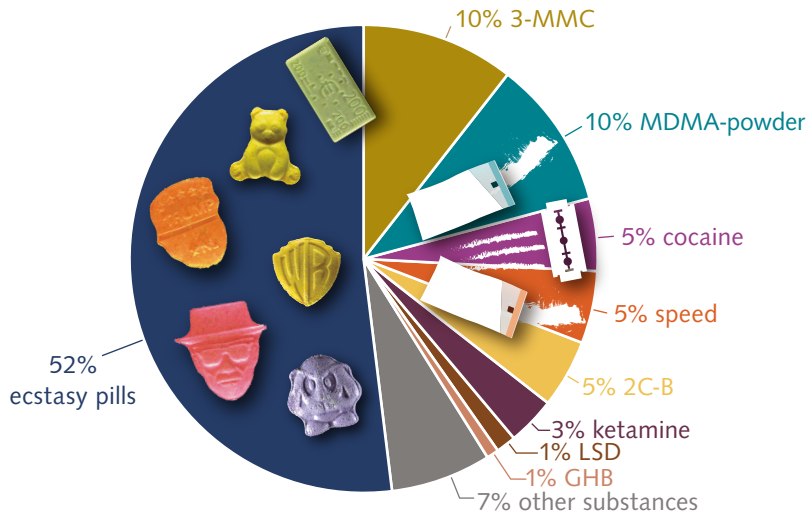
In 2024, fewer ecstasy and 2C-B pills were submitted than in previous years. Nevertheless, ecstasy remains the most submitted drug.

3-MMC samples increasingly contain a different substance

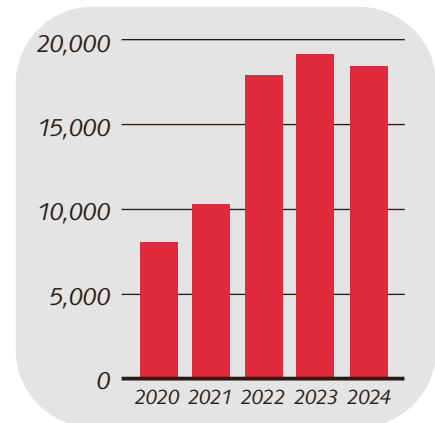
In 2024, only 13% of the samples submitted as 3-MMC actually contained 3-MMC. In 2023, this was still 30%. Most samples contained a different substance, often the still legal 2-MMC (65%). Since mid-2023, n-ethylnorpentedrone (NEP) has also been increasingly found. In 2024, this substance was present in 4% of the submitted samples.

Submitted samples in 2024

In 2024, 18,893 visitors submitted 18,408 samples to DIMS. More than half of these samples were sold as ecstasy pills.

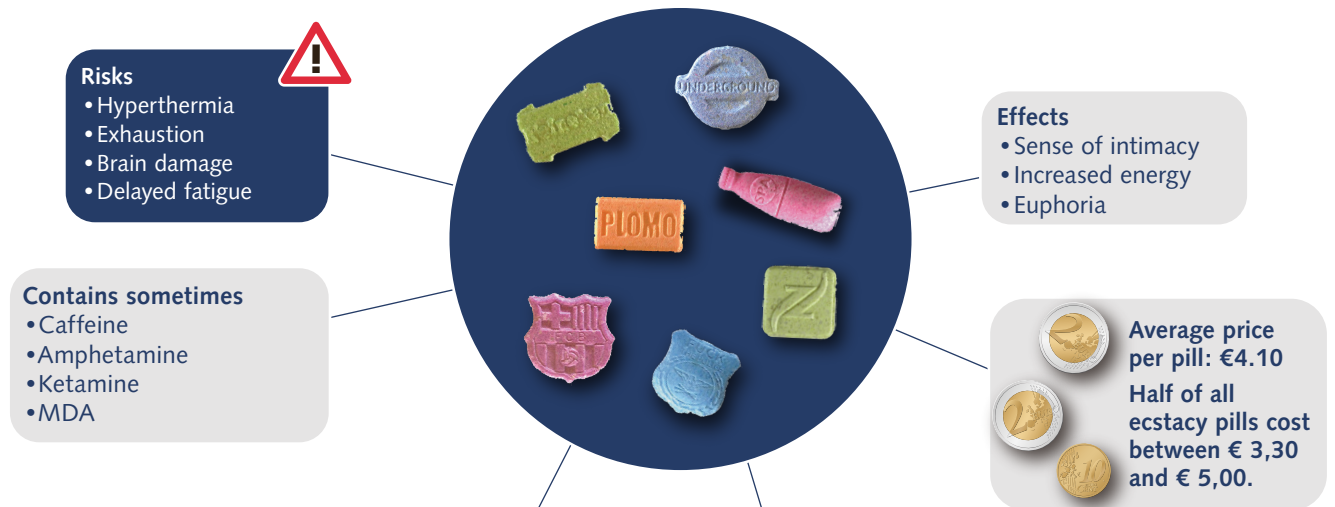


Number of samples submitted since 2020

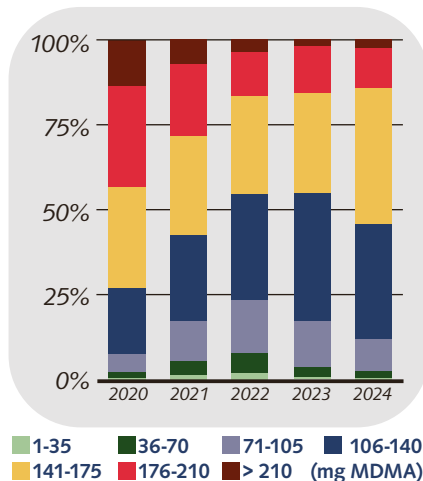


Ecstasy pills in 2024

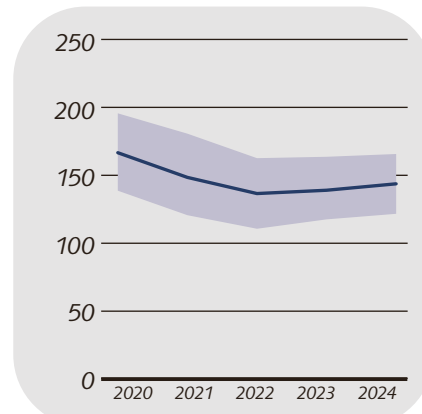
In 2024, 52% of submitted samples were sold as ecstasy pills.



Distribution of MDMA content in ecstasy pills



MDMA content in ecstasy pills



On average, a pill contains 143 mg MDMA powder (—). Half of the pills contain between 121 and 165 mg MDMA (■), a quarter less, and a quarter more than that.

Cocaine in 2024

In 2024, 5.1% of submitted samples were sold as cocaine.

Risks

- Dependency
- Cardiovascular problems
- Damage to nasal mucosa
- Paranoia

Contains sometimes

- Procaine
- Levamisole
- Phenacetine
- Caffeine

Effects

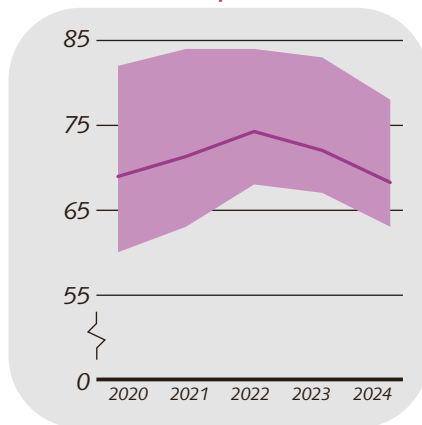
- Increased energy
- Confident feeling

Average price per gram:
€ 51.50.

Half of the submitted cocaine samples cost between 50 and 60 euro.



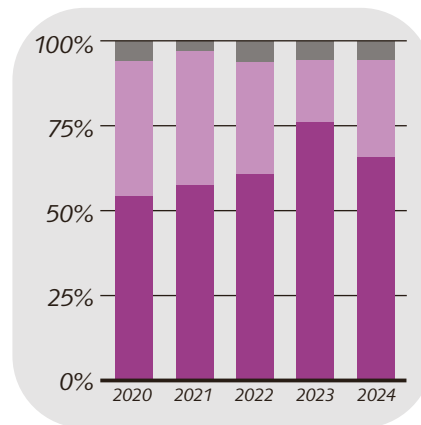
Cocaine content in cocaine powders



— Average cocaine content (%)
■ Cocaine content covering half of the cocaine powders (%)

The average cocaine content in 2024 is 68%.

Content of powders sold as cocaine



■ Only cocaine ■ Cocaine + adulteration ■ No cocaine

In 2024, 11.8% of the submitted cocaine samples contained procaine. Levamisole was found in 11.6% of the cocaine samples.

Speed in 2024

In 2024, 5.0% of submitted samples were sold as speed.

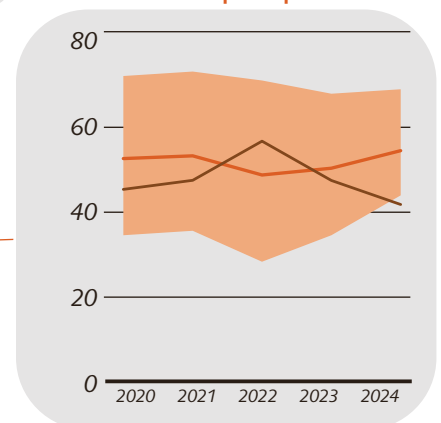
Average price per gram: € 8.50.
Half of all speed powders cost between 5 and 10 euro.



Effects

- Increased energy
- Delayed fatigue
- Appetite suppression

Content of speed powder



— Average amphetamine content (%)
— Average caffeine content (%)
■ Amphetamine content covering half of the speed powders (%)

In 2024, caffeine was the most frequent adulterant found in submitted speed powders.

Risks

- Hyperthermia
- Exhaustion
- Brain damage
- Paranoia
- Heavy physical stress

Contains sometimes

- Caffeine
- Phenethylamine

2C-B in 2024

In 2024, 4.8% of submitted samples were sold as 2C-B.

Average price per pill: € 4.30.
Half of all 2C-B pills cost between 3.50 and 5 euro.



Effects

- At low dose: euphoria, increased energy
- At high dose: hallucinogenic

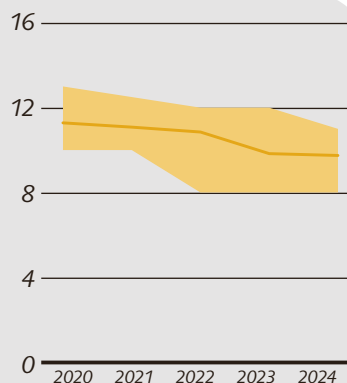
Risks

- Bad trip
- Effects stronger than expected

Contains sometimes

- Caffeine
- MDMA
- Phenethylamine

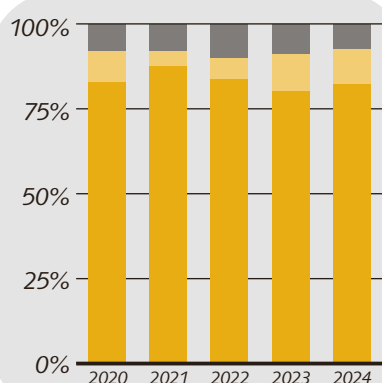
2C-B content of 2C-B pills



- Average 2C-B content (mg)
- 2C-B content covering half of all the 2C-B pills (mg)

On average, the content of 2C-B in 2024 is 10 milligrams per pill.

Content of pills sold as 2C-B



- Only 2C-B
- 2C-B + adulteration
- No 2C-B

In 2024, 10% of the 2C-B samples contained an adulterant alongside 2C-B.

Ketamine in 2024

In 2024, 3.4% of submitted samples were sold as ketamine.

Average price per gram: € 22.30.

Half of all ketamine samples cost between 15 and 30 euro.



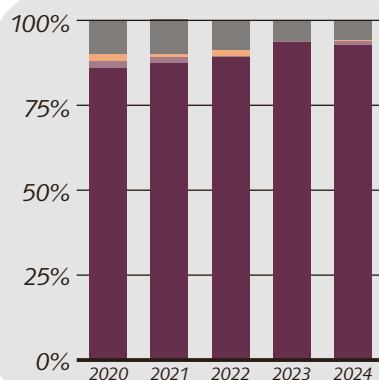
Risks

- Effects stronger than expected
- Loss of coordination
- Muscle stiffening or paralysis
- Nausea
- Urinary tract problems

Contains sometimes

- Levamisole (very rare)
- Caffeine (very rare)

Content of powders sold as ketamine



- Only ketamine
- Ketamine + levamisole
- Ketamine + adulteration
- No ketamine

The average ketamine content in 2024 is 80%.

Effects

- Mind-altering
- Separation of body and mind

LSD in 2024

In 2024, 1.2% of submitted samples were sold as LSD.

Average price per blotter:
€ 6.00.

Half of all blotters cost
between 4 and 8 euro.



Risks

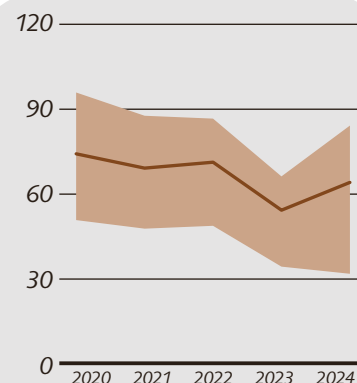
- Bad trip
- Nausea



Effects

- Hallucinogenic

LSD content in LSD blotters

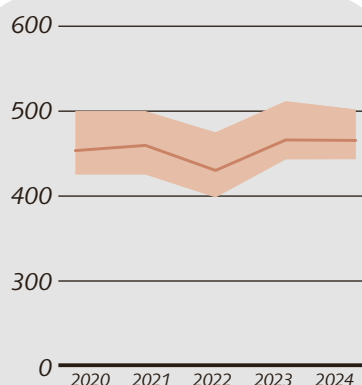


— Average LSD content (µg)

■ LSD content covering half of all the LSD blotters (µg)

The average LSD content in 2024 was 64 µg per blotter. 5% of the LSD-samples did not contain LSD, but possibly LSD-like substances like 1p-LSD or unknown substances.

GHB concentration in GHB liquid



— Average GHB concentration (mg/mL)

■ GHB concentration covering half of the GHB liquids (mg/mL)

The average GHB concentration is fairly stable; on average, samples contained 465 mg/mL GHB.

GHB in 2024

In 2024, 1.0% of submitted samples were sold as GHB.

Effects

- Euphoria
- Relaxation
- Loss of control
- Aphrodisiac



GHB containing mixtures

- Blue69
- Hulk

Risks

- Loss of consciousness
- Very dangerous in combination with alcohol
- Difficult to dose
- Burns mouth/esophagus
- Dependency



3-MMC in 2024

In 2024, 10% of submitted samples were sold as 3-MMC.

Risks

- Compulsive re-dosing
- Dependency
- Anxiety/paranoia
- Cardiovascular problems

Contains sometimes

- 2-MMC
- 3-CMC
- N-ethylnorpentedrone
- Dimethylpentylone

Average price per gram:
€ 18.70.

Half of all 3-MMC samples
cost between 14 and 25
euro.

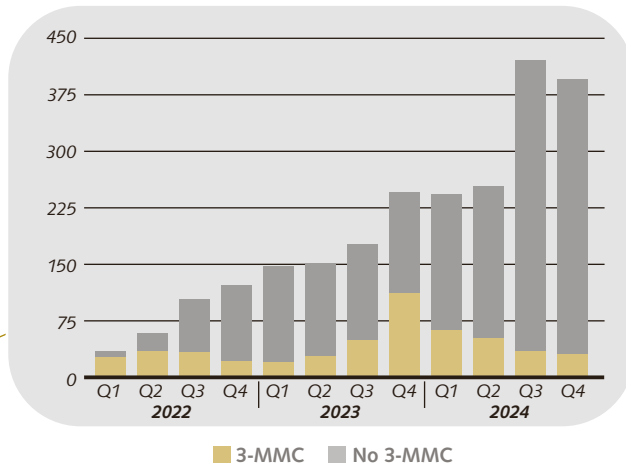


Effects

- Stimulating
- Euphoria
- Increased energy



Presence of 3-MMC in samples sold as 3-MMC

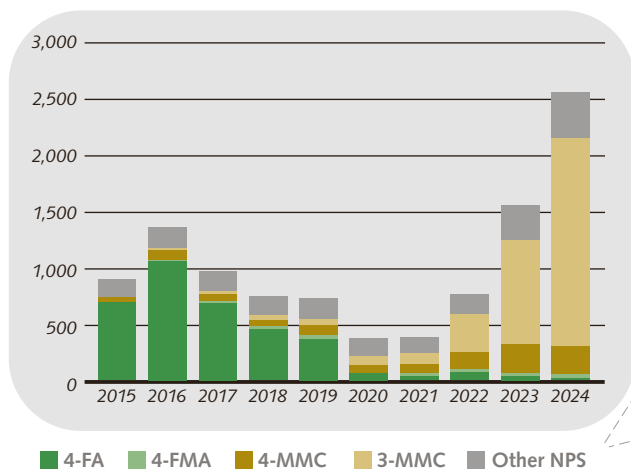


In 2024, approximately 13% of the submitted samples sold as 3-MMC actually contained 3-MMC. All other samples mostly contained the still legal 2-MMC and sometimes also 3-CMC, n-ethylnorpentedrone, dimethylpentylone, and/or other substances.

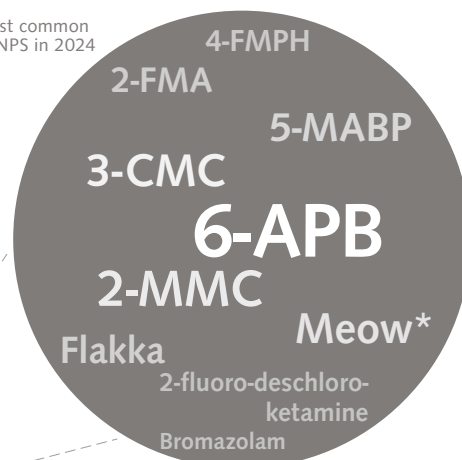
NPS in 2024

New psychoactive substances (NPS) are often introduced to the drug market as legal alternatives to popular illegal drugs. Other terms commonly used for NPS include “designer drugs” and “research chemicals.” In practice, various definitions of NPS are used. Here, we follow the definition provided by the UNODC and the EUDA. According to the UNODC and the EUDA, NPS refers to all psychoactive substances that are not controlled under any of the United Nations drug control conventions. These conventions cover all traditional drugs. Relatively new substances, or substances that reappear on the market (again) as recreational drugs after a period of absence, can be added to the Dutch Opium Act following a risk assessment, if it is determined that the substance poses a threat to public health.

Number of NPS submitted to DIMS



10 most common
other NPS in 2024



*Meow represents a group of substances belonging to the synthetic cathinones. Well-known examples are 3-MMC and 4-MMC. In this case, users do not know exactly which cathinone it is.