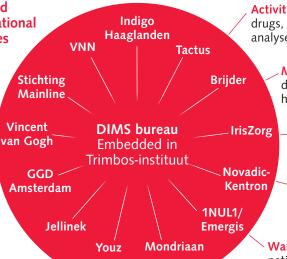
Annual Report 2019 Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)



What is DIMS?

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

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



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

> Method: DIMS monitors the market in controlled drugs by offering consumers the possibility to have their drugs tested.

Application: The data collected are being 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 on a national, regional or local level, or e.g. via social media for drugs involving extra risks.

How does it work?





DIMS affiliated organizations hold weekly consulting hours.



Here, users are able to hand in drugs for analysis, anonymously and discretely.



If the sample can be determined, the composition 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 2019

Nationwide coverage

Since this year DIMS operates a testing facility in each province of The Netherlands, providing nationwide coverage.

Two new testing facilities

In 2019 two new testing facilities were opened: in Amersfoort and Goes. This results in a total of 33 testing facilities.

Highest visitor count ever

With 18,092 visitors, 2019 saw the highest number of visitors ever at DIMS.

No public campaigns or Red Alerts

In 2019 DIMS issued no Red Alerts, and only two internal warnings (within testing network). These concerned high-dose ecstasy tablets and a number of powders containing the substance eutylone.

Ecstasy tablets are submitted most frequently at DIMS

The overwhelming majority of the samples submitted to DIMS consisted of ecstasy tablets (61%).

More 2C-B samples in 2019

The number of 2C-B samples submitted to DIMS almost doubled.

High MDMA content in ecstasy tablets

The average MDMA content in ecstasy tablets reached an all-time high of 172 mg MDMA (free base).

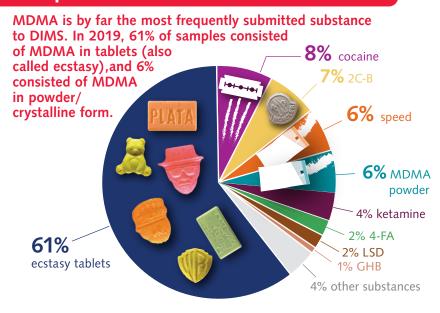
4-FA samples in 2019 usually contain 4-FMA

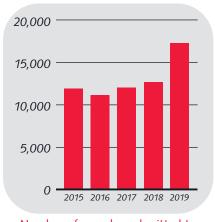
4-FMA was found more frequently in 4-FA samples than 4-FA itself.

Frequent detection of a different substance in 2C-B samples

2C-B samples often contained 2-bromo-4,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine, rather than 2C-B itself.

Samples submitted to DIMS in 2019

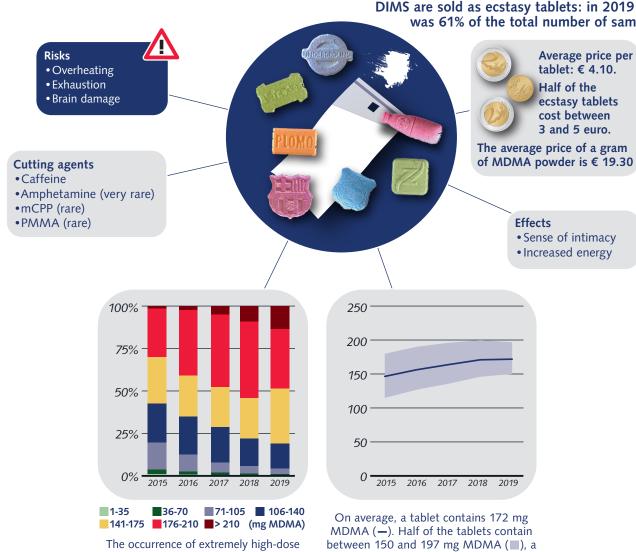




Number of samples submitted to DIMS

Ecstasy/MDMA in 2019

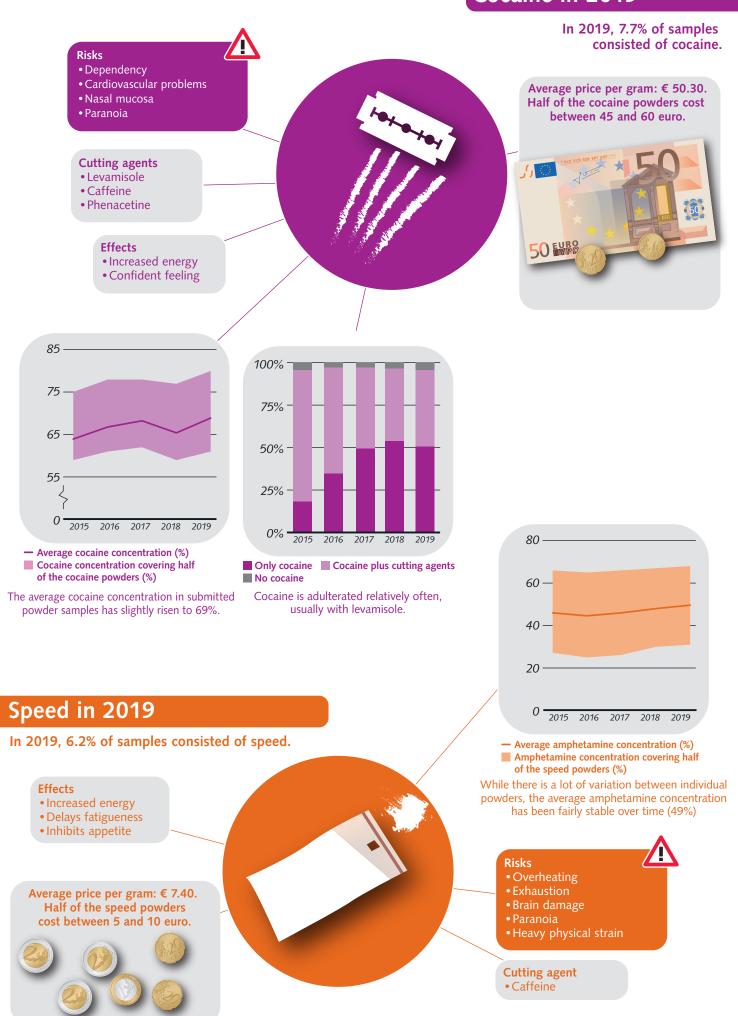
The majority of the samples submitted to DIMS are sold as ecstasy tablets: in 2019 this was 61% of the total number of samples.



quartile less, and a quartile more than that.

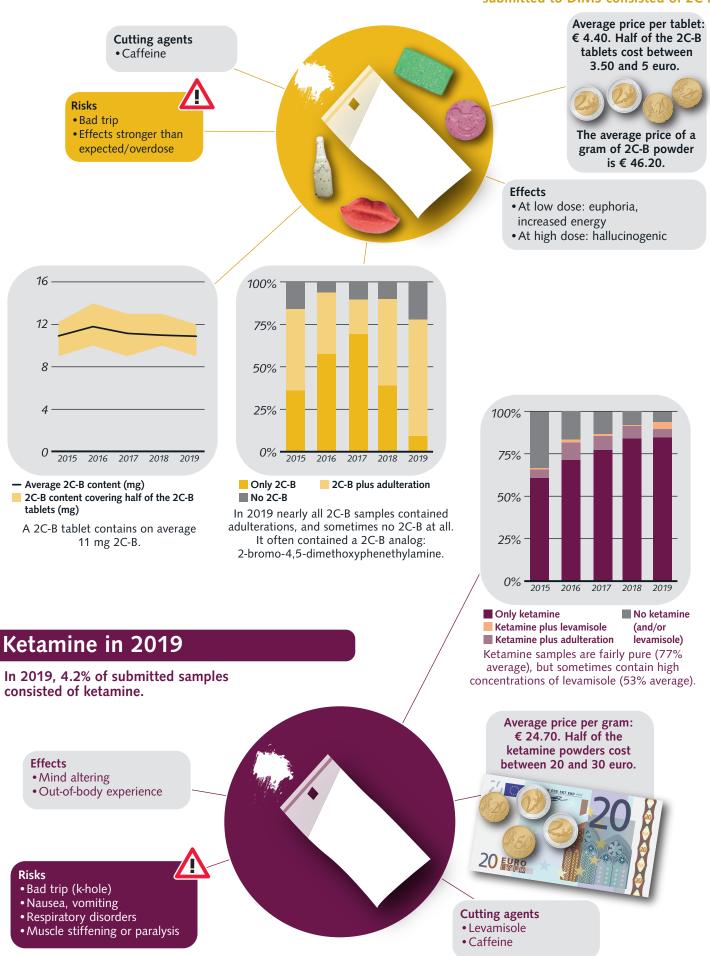
tablets (>210 mg) still increases.

Cocaine in 2019



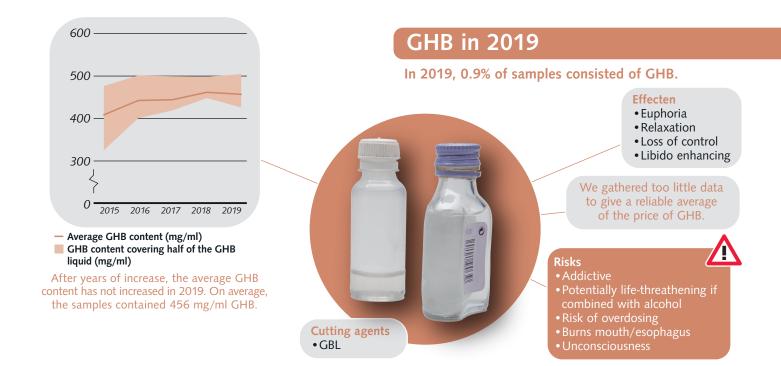
2C-B in 2019

2C-B (4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine) is typically submitted as tablets, but can also occur as powder. In 2019, 6.7% of samples submitted to DIMS consisted of 2C-B.



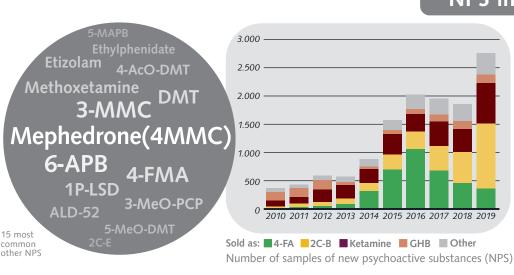
4-FA (4-fluoramphetamine) in 2019

In 2019, 4.2% of samples consisted of 4-FA. Average price per tablet: € 5.60. Half of the 4-FA tablets cost between 4 and 7 euro. Effects of 4-FA Increased energy • Euphoria Talkative • Delays fatigue 5 EURO Risks Price per gram (powder): € 8.50. **Cutting agents** Palpitations • 4-Fluormethamphetamine (4-FMA) • Brain damage MDMA Amphetamine Caffeine 100% 1200 75% 900 50% 600 25% 300 0% Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 363 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Only 4-FA Only 4-FMA 0 2015 2016 2017 4-FA plus 4-FMA No 4-FA or 4-FMA Frequently, 4-FA samples do not actually Since 2017 (the year that 4-FA contain 4-FA, but instead the legal and was scheduled), the number of comparable substance 4-FMA. 4-FA samples has continued to drop.



LSD in 2019 120 In 2019, 1.7% of samples consisted **Cutting agents** 90 of LSD samples. LSD-like substances Average price per blotter: NBOMes € 5.70. 60 Half of the blotters cost between 4 and 7 euro. 30 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 5 EURO - Average LSD content (µg) LSD content covering half of the LSD-blotters (µg) Risks The average LSD content on blotters has Bad trip risen substantially over the last four years, to Hallucinogenic Nausea $93~\mu g$ in 2019. Flash backs

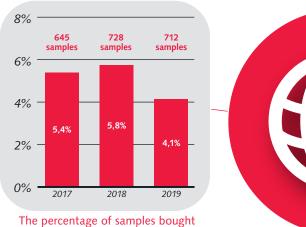
NPS in 2019



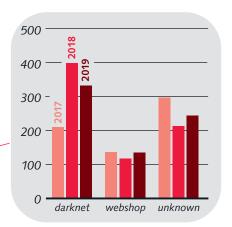
Most NPS seen by DIMS are substances like 2C-B that might not be regarded as "new", but following the EMCDDA definition are still classified as NPS. The category "other" consists of 60 different NPS or mixtures of NPS. Many of these substances are so-called research chemicals, unlegislated psychoactive substances that are commonly used by a small subset of users. The majority of the NPS submitted to DIMS in 2019 were derivatives from one of three chemical families: phenethylamines, cathinones, or tryptamines.

Online purchases

A small proportion of the drugs submitted to DIMS were bought via the internet. Sometimes drugs are bought via regular webshops, sometimes also via the darkweb.







The number of samples submitted to DIMS that were bought on the darkweb has, after a marked increase in 2018, decreased slightly in 2019.

Product number: INF102 Text: Ruben Vrolijk en Daan van der Gouwe

online has decreased in 2019.

Design: Rikkers Infographics

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