



For more data including country based reports please e-mail info@globaldrugsurvey.com to discuss costing and analyses required.

GLOBAL
DRUG
SURVEY

2017

Novel Psychoactive Substances
Global overview

Background

GDS has been tracking the use of 'Novel Psychoactive Substances', 'legal highs' and 'research chemicals' for the last 6 years. The use of different NPS show marked regional variation and often reflect the availability, regulation and price of traditional drugs within a region. For example the Netherlands show one of the lowest rates of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist (SCRA) use in the world reflecting easy and regulated access to natural cannabis. Conversely despite ready availability of other traditional drugs they report one of highest rates of NPS use among the GDS sample.

NPS vary widely in their risk profile, with inconsistent composition and potency often being significant factors in the risks they pose. Highly potent hallucinogen compounds like NBOMe, and potent amphetamine analogues like 4-Flour-Amphetamine are causing real concern across Europe and Australia where their use has been associated with deaths in recent months. GDS2017 suggests drugs with a psychedelic effect profile (including LSD analogues) are on the increase with these drugs representing over 50% of the NPS drugs being used by the sample. Potent novel opioid drugs like acetyl fentanyl and carfentanyl have been responsible for scores of deaths in Canada and these are ones to watch in future years.

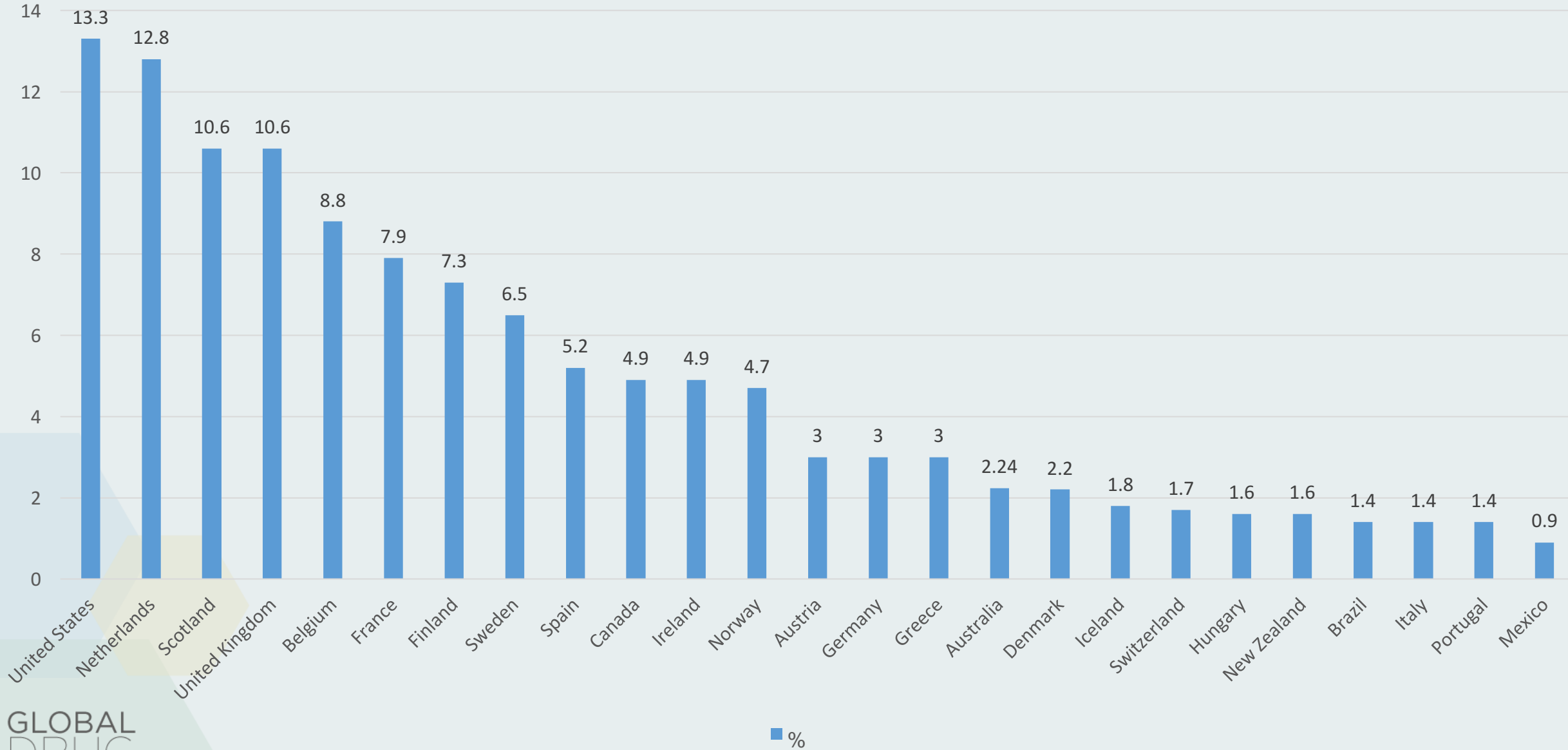
Overall there seems to have been a shift away from herbal smoking mixtures with an increase in powders and liquids. The impact of regional variations in drug laws and tolerance for drug use can also be seen in the findings this year.

Selected data presented here comes from the section that includes:

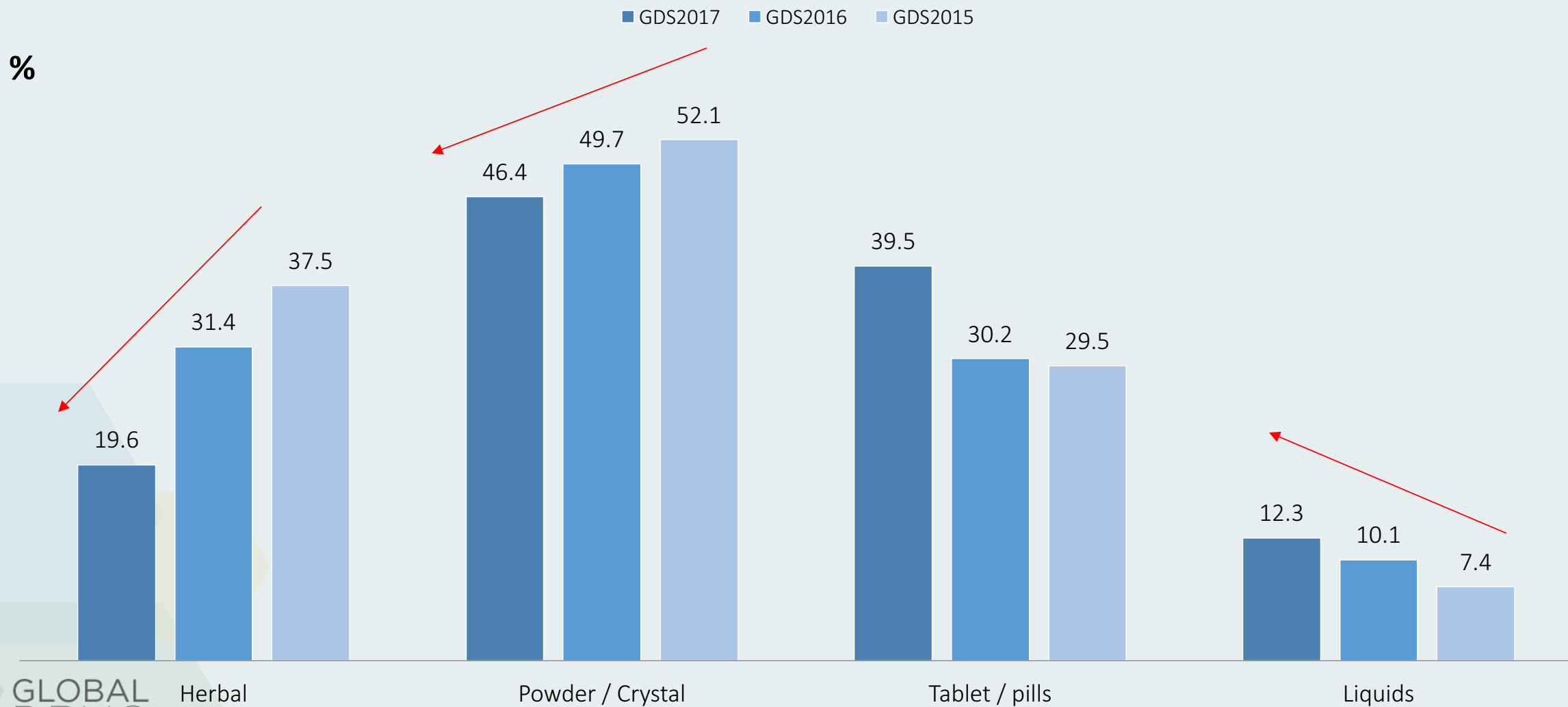
- ✓ Global comparison of GDS countries – NPS use in the past 12 months
- ✓ Global comparison of GDS countries – NPS purchase in the past 12 months
- ✓ Who in your country had bought NPS in the past 12 months (gender, age and clubbing)
- ✓ Comparison of NPS types (preparations) used over the last 3 years using the global GDS2017 sample of last year NPS users
- ✓ What preparations of NPS were most commonly used in your country in the last 12 months?
- ✓ Global overview of types of drug effect NPS preparations used in the past 12 months are trying to mimic v those in your country
- ✓ Source of purchase of NPS in the past 12 months global GDS2017 v your country.
- ✓ The % of all participants who recently used NPS and sought EMT in past 12 months

A total of 9000 last year users of NPS from the full GDS2017 sample were used in the preparation of the global findings section of the report.

NPS purchase in the past 12 months by country



What was the appearance / form of the NPS used (using global GDS samples over last 3 years) ?



What drug effects are NPS trying to mimic most often (GDS2017 GLOBAL)?

