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Illicit drug use in prisons

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(Acknowledgements:

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Key Themes

The drugs

The people

Update on Opiate Substitute Treatment

New psychoactive substances

The drugs

52% of prisoners will have used drugs in two months prior to being imprisoned

In community under 30s more likely to use drugs (64%), in prison 30-39 year olds (31%)

In community and prison cannabis is the most popular drug - 38% and 13% respectively

Cocaine use prior to prison double that of heroin - 29% and 15% respectively

Heroin use in prison twice that of cocaine - 7% and 4% respectively

8% of illicit drug users developed the problem while in prison



The drugs - continued

Diverted medication use prior to prison 10%, compared to 18% whilst in prison

Diverted medication and illicit drug use in prison are equal - 18%

Women more likely to use diverted medication than illicit drugs

7% of prisoners with a problem with diverted medication developed the problem in prison

The people

14% of prisoners incarcerated for a drug offence

Reconviction rates more than double for those using drugs in 4 weeks prior to prison compared with prisoners who had never used drugs - 62% vs 30%

In the week following release men 29 times more likely to die than their peers - women 69 times more likely-historical data, prior to introduction of the Integrated Drug Treatment System

59% of these deaths were drug related

The people - continued

58% of women used Class A drugs in 4 weeks prior to prison - 43% of men

Daily spend on heroin for women £50 - for men £30

66% of women commit offences to get money for drugs - 38% of men

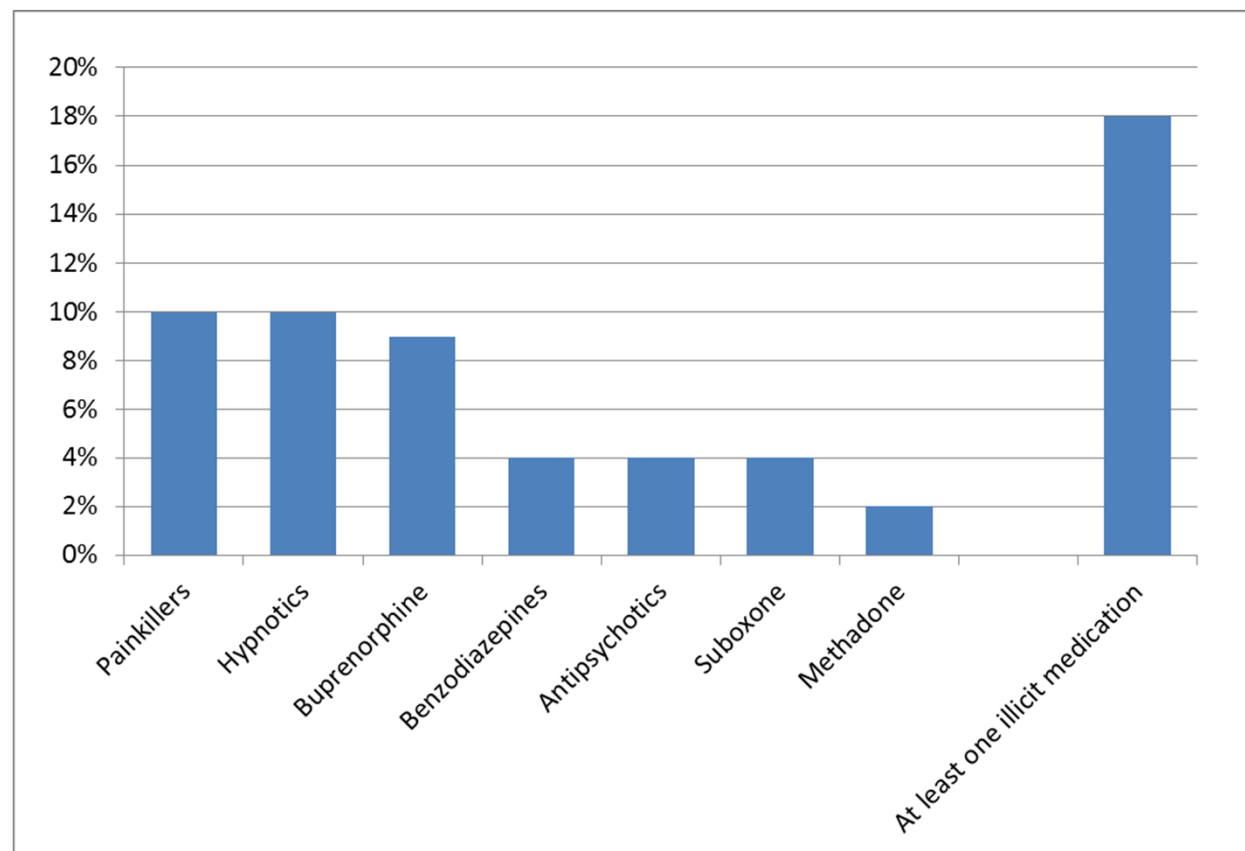
48% of women prisoners commit an offence to get drugs for someone else -
22% of men

Men who return to live with their partners are less likely to use drugs and
reoffend - the opposite is true for women

Women comprise 5% of prison population, but account for 26% of self harm



Illicit medication use in prison, by type of medication (excluding over the counter medication)*



* The total of all types of drug is greater than 100% as prisoners could report having taken more than one drug.



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Opiate substitute treatment [OST] in prison:

Encourages engagement with treatment services in prison and following release

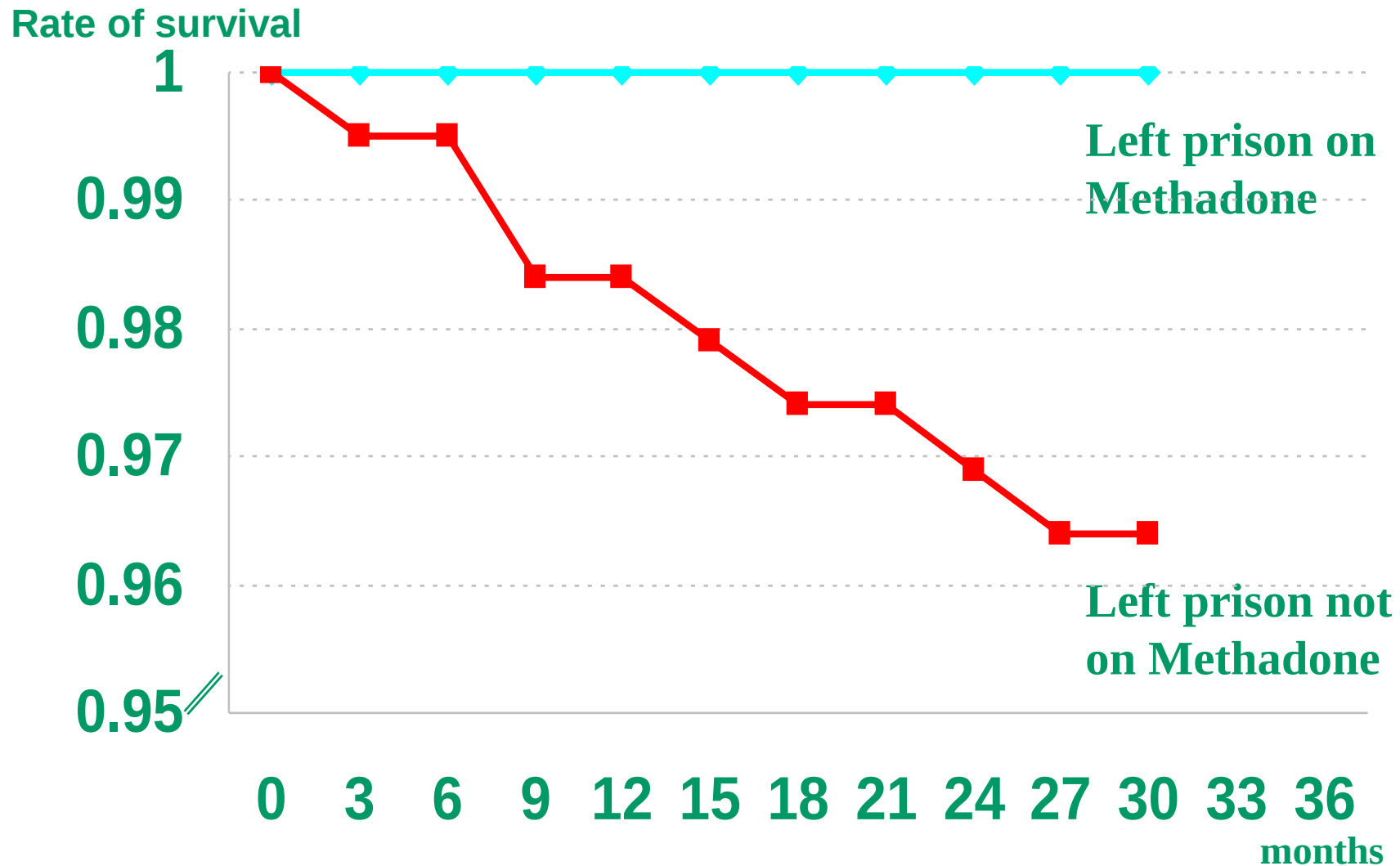
Reduces drug-related death following release

Provision of naltrexone to support abstinence

Provision of naloxone to treat overdose

Death rates of drug users leaving prison

Dolan et al 2005 (23)



No-one died in the Methadone group. 17 people died in the non-Methadone group



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The challenge of new psychoactive substances [NPS] use in English prisons

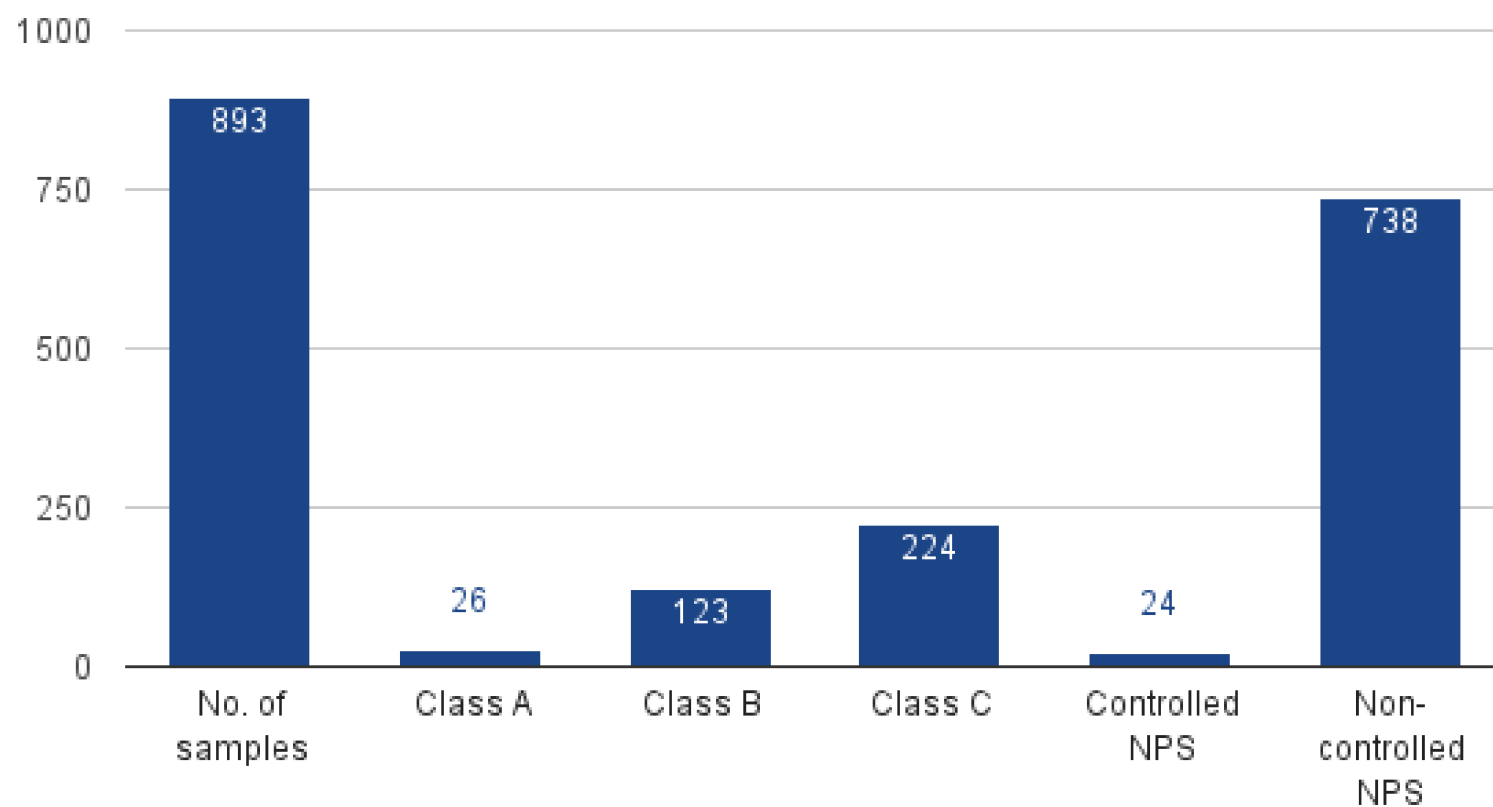
Prevalence

Effects on prison regime

Clinical effects of synthetic cannabinoids

Response to NPS use in prisons

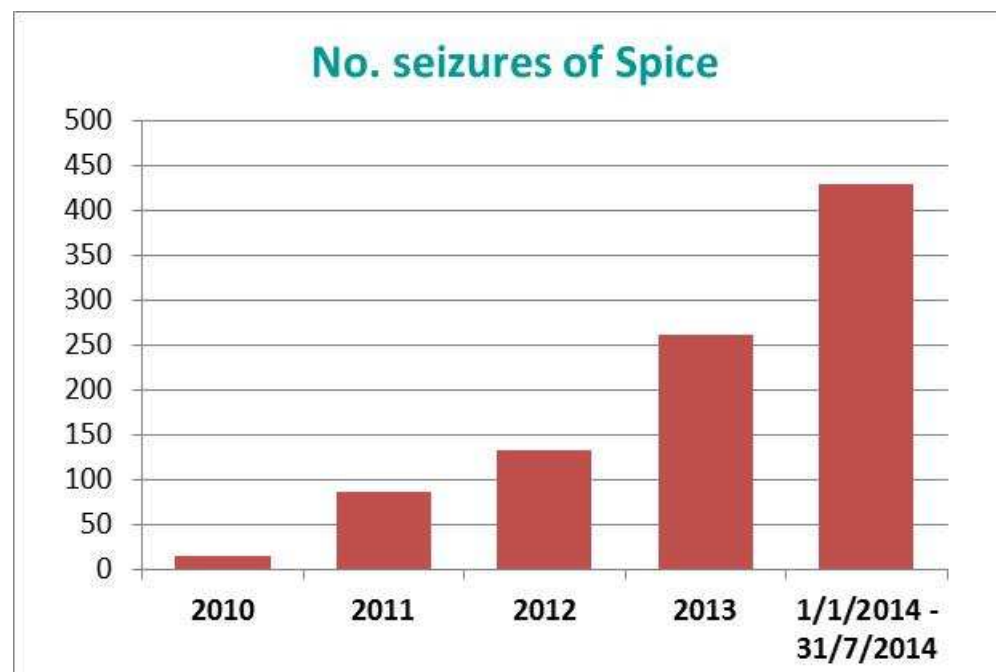
Samples of drugs seized being brought in to prison





Evidence for use of synthetic cannabinoids in prisons

Year	Seizures of Spice
2010	15
2011	86
2012	133
2013	262
1/1/2014 - 31/7/2014	430
Total	926

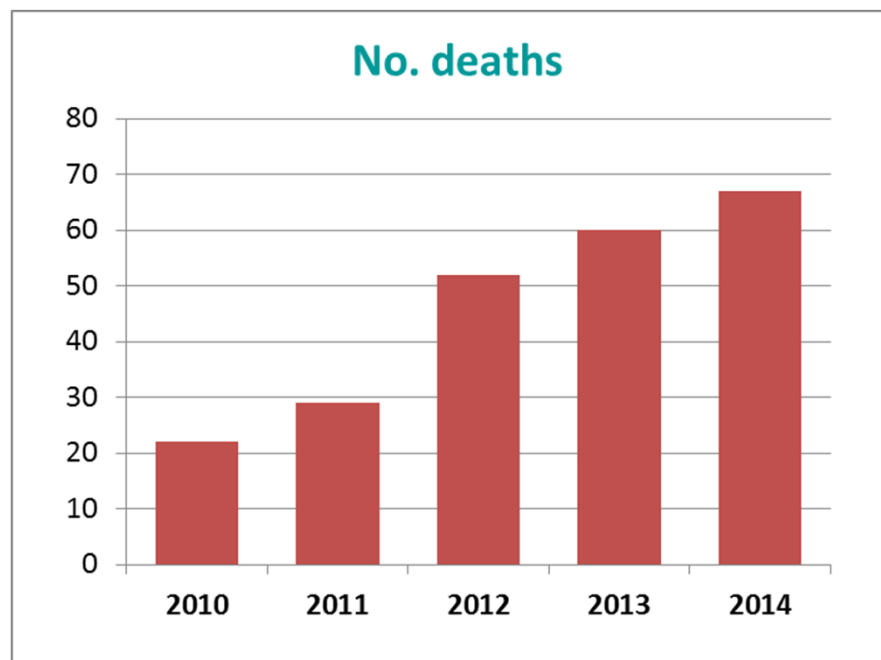


Seizures in prison of ketamine, benzyloperazine and mephedrone totalled 21 in the same period



Deaths due to NPS (Office for National Statistics)

Year	No. deaths
2010	22
2011	29
2012	52
2013	60
2014	67
Total	230



Not including amphetamines, ecstasy and its variants (PMA/PMMA)



NPS in English prisons

34% of prisons reported problems with NPS in 2013/14 - rising to 64% in 2014/15

Popular because undetectable by routine testing, relatively cheap, to relieve boredom and perceived not to be illegal

People committing offences to be sent or recalled to prison in order to smuggle NPS to prison

NPS in English prisons

Mainly young white males - though emerging problem in some female prisons

Increased problems with debt and bullying

Increased violence

“Spice pigs” or “Mamba muppets”

NPS involved in 19 deaths in custody between 2012 and 2014, according to Prisons and Probation Ombudsman report in July 2015

Prison Officers' Association wrote to the Chief Coroner for England and Wales in September 2015 to express concern about NPS-related deaths in prison



NPS in English prisons

Increased involvement of organised crime groups supplying synthetic cannabinoids (SC) to prisons

SC price in prison 10 times that in the community - heroin 3 times more than community price

Dealers will tolerate large seizures as profits so high e.g. £1,500 per week in one Young Offenders Institution



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NPS in English prisons - other considerations

Affected by data collection not keeping pace with changing patterns of drug use and routine drug testing not detecting NPS

Police not making the connection between organised crime groups and supply of NPS to prisons

Inadequate legislation

Synthetic cannabinoids - Class B (Where classified)

Desired effects (Cannabis receptor full agonists):

Relaxation, euphoria, disinhibition, feeling energised, altered consciousness

Users:

Prisoners, workers subject to drug testing, students, graduates

Mode of use:

Smoked in joints or inhaled through a bong, rarely ingested or snorted

Adverse effects:

Seizures, paralysis, psychosis, extreme bizarre behaviour, tachycardia, aggression-compounded by “superhuman strength”

Wide-ranging, **unpredictable** and may be long lasting

Synthetic cannabinoids - Class B (Where classified)

Treatment:

Acute: Symptom directed supportive care - may be a medical emergency

Chronic: Psychosocial support, pharmacotherapy where appropriate for enduring symptoms

Medical uses:

None

“Traditional” cannabis used as antiemetic, appetite enhancer, pain relief

? Potential treatment for refractory childhood epilepsy

Response to increased NPS use in prisons

Regulations for supply, possession and use - Ministry of Justice January 2015

Poster campaign by National Offender Management Service - aimed at prisoners and visitors

Psychoactive Substances Bill before parliament –may become Law in 2016

Disparate measures put in place by different establishments

Consider an amnesty in response to adverse events

Training events across the English regions

Toolkit on NPS in prisons-with an associated training package

Will the ban on smoking reduce the use of spice?