

NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Headshop Powders & The
Experiences of Drug Users

Ruaidhri McAuliffe UISCE/NICDTF

Thank You

Ruaidhri McAuliffe

Coordinator

UISCE (Union for Improved Services,
Communication & Education)

53 Parnell Square West

Dublin 1

uiscepost@hotmail.com

Focus group January 2010

- 10 Participants
- All Injecting Drug Users
- All clients of Merchant's Quay / Failtiu

- Drug Treatment Centre Board

209 urine tests:

14% Mephedrone

3% Methylone

What they said.....

- “It’s exactly like coke, but it’s cheaper and the buzz lasts longer”
- “people selling the coke are going mad”
- “The shops should all be closed down (because) it’s too cheap and too nice”

Effects:

- Euphoric / Amphetamine effect
- “Chatty Buzz”
- “Love Buzz”
- Self-medicating for depression

Negative Effects:

- “Comedown”
- Paranoia
- Compulsive re-dosing
- Addiction?
- Disorientation
- “Talkin’ bullshit”
- Poly-drug use
- Abscesses
- Insomnia
- Psychoses
- Destabilisation
- Money trouble

The Internet

- User's forum
- Testimonials
- Direct purchases
- Monitoring Google searches: “Buy Mephedrone”
- Mix Mag survey:

42% lifetime use

34% in last month

www.rednetproject.eu

Internet testimonials:

- 'The old stuff was clean, had a great dance, chatty then headed off to bed at 5am and had a lovely sleep. No hangover the next day and ready for breakfast'*
- 'Very similar to the old crazy snow from months ago. be careful though'*
- 'What's the story? did it get stronger or what? coz I've done it before, a load of times, but mad to come down off'*

Harm Reduction

- Dearth of harm reduction messages
- “Don’t use alone”
- “Drink plenty of water”
- Complementary drugs
- Filtering?
- Point of sale information
- Information at Needle Exchanges

Harm Reduction

- Filter drugs before injecting
- Snort/sniff rather than inject
- Drop (“Bomb”) rather than snort
- Avoid alcohol and other drugs