



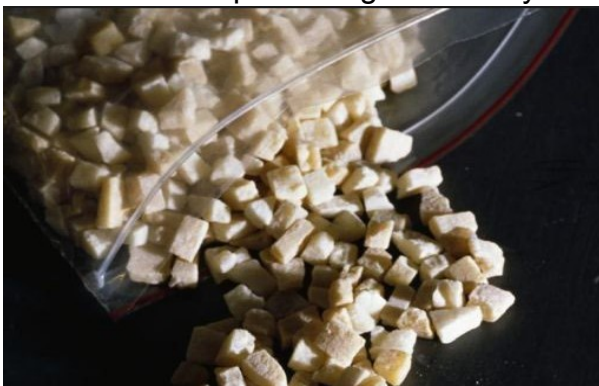
Drug Trend Bulletin - Issue 18 December 2018.

THIS IS A REDACTED COPY OF AN INTERNAL POLICE DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON SOME OF THE LATEST DRUG TRENDS AROUND SCOTLAND. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT EMERGING DRUG TRENDS OR SIGNIFICANT DRUGS ISSUES AFFECTING YOUR COMMUNITIES PLEASE SPEAK WITH OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE STOP UNIT.

Cocaine & Crack Cocaine

There has been reporting from a number of sources suggesting a significant increase in the wider use and consumption levels of Cocaine and Crack Cocaine across Scotland. The price and street level purity has also increased over the last 6 to 12 months. Previously the North East of Scotland has had a particular problem with this drug, however this appears to be becoming more widespread around Scotland.

Crack Cocaine can easily be created at home with generally only baking soda, water and Cocaine powder required in the process. The impurities are cooked out of the powdered Cocaine when heated creating a high purity substance that can be smoked and which provides an intensive euphoric high that only lasts for a short time, hence the likelihood of long term dependence and addiction. Its name 'Crack' relates to the crackling sound it makes when smoked in a pipe. Crack Cocaine generally looks like a small white or tan coloured lump or rock which can vary in size from 0.1g upwards.



Cannabis

The rise in the variety of Cannabis products over the last year or so has been rapid. Concentrated varieties of the drug have appeared in the forms of Wax, Shatter, Crumble, Oil or Dab's. Some of these varieties are created using a solvent extraction method in a vacuum oven. The danger of these is significant with a number of explosions over the last two years.

The additional rise of edible Cannabis products is also an emerging trend with infused candy lickers, jelly sweets and many other types being found.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS PRODUCTS - Currently there is a lot of media attention on Cannabis based medication. There are two main ingredients that are used to produce Cannabis based medication, THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) and CBD (Cannabidiol). As you may know it is THC that provides the 'high' and that is the element that most social and recreational Cannabis

Drug Trend Bulletin

consumers seek. Products containing THC are generally illegal or are strictly regulated. There are however a number of legal products which only contain the CBD ingredient and are sold in commercial health and wellbeing establishments such as Holland & Barrett. These products are perfectly legal as long as they have less than 0.2% THC content. It will be highly unusual for anyone to have legally prescribed Cannabis products from their medical practitioner at present, although this may increase over time.

Diazepam

Over the last 5 years, the rise of 'Street Valium' has resulted in numerous types of benzodiazepine drugs being identified in these tablets with often little or no Diazepam tablets being recovered. Currently Etizolam is the most common type of 'benzo' drug that is being sold as 'Street Valium' but there are many other types. It is highly unusual for any consumer of these tablets to know what the likely content of them is. They may know that they are fake's or are street tablets but the actual content is unknown which is why all loose tablets must be submitted to the forensic lab for analysis and cannot be presumptively tested.



This picture is of a white tablet with a half-score and named as a ROCHE 10. What is notable from this recent recovery in the West of Scotland is that Roche marked tablets have not been seen for a number of years. These tablets do not contain any Diazepam and requires lab analysis to confirm content.

Synthetic Cannabis Products

Would you be able to detect a Synthetic Cannabis based product? Would a blank sheet of A4 paper mean anything if it was recovered from a person during a search? At present there is a particular problem within the prison environment with Synthetic Cannabis products which are commonly termed "Spice" but this has now been seen out-with the prison establishment and is likely to be an emerging/growing trend that you should be aware of. The most common way that this substance is consumed is a liquid form of the drug being sprayed onto paper, letters etc and thereafter cut into very small pieces then smoked/vaped. The reason for its popularity within prison is because it has no smell and is hard to detect. Only a very small amount is required, therefore an A4 sheet of white paper impregnated with the drug can cost in excess of £1,000!