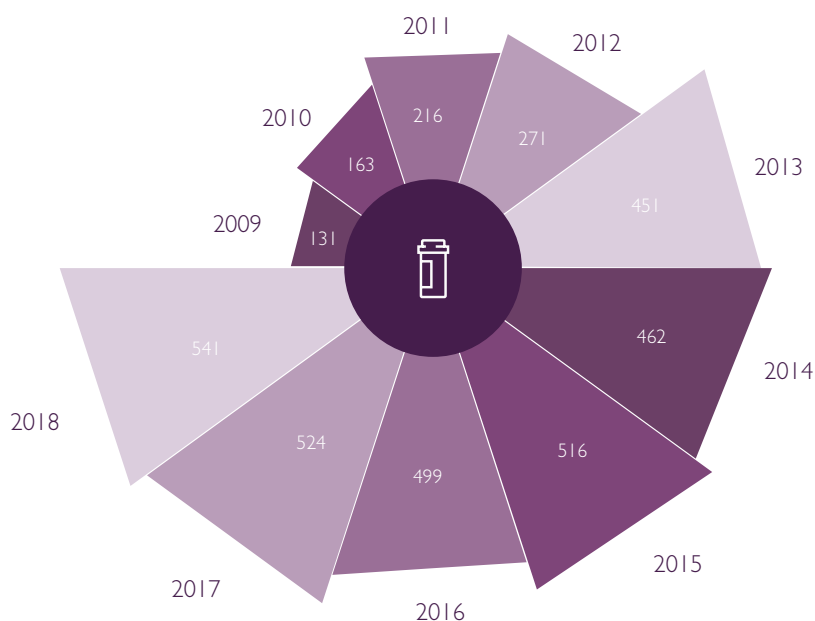


Evolving Trends of New Psychoactive Substances

What is an NPS?

New psychoactive substances (NPS), previously known as 'legal highs' are drugs which are designed to replicate the effects of illegal substances like cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and LSD.

New Psychoactive Substances Reported to UNODC (2009-2018)



Decrease in number of cannabinoids arriving on markets worldwide over 2014-2018 period.

Increase of NPS with stimulant effect in 2018.



Sharp increase of NPS with opioid-like effects in the past few years, more than doubling in 2018 (48) from 2016 (22).



500



More than 500 New Psychoactive Substances are reported each year.

541



528 synthetic NPS and 13 plant-based NPS were reported in 2018.

950



Over 950 NPS have been identified at a global level since 2005.