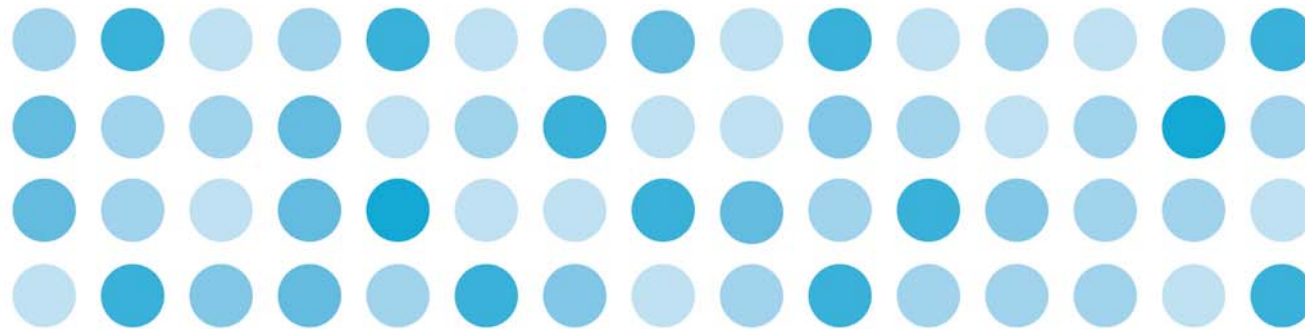


25-26 October 2010
Melbourne Cricket Ground



Anex 2010

AUSTRALIAN DRUGS CONFERENCE

Public Health and Harm Reduction

Stephen Bright



Principal Sponsor



Sponsor



Legal/Herbal Highs: Harm Reduction or Entrepreneurial Exploitation?

Stephen Bright





Executive Summary

- What's legal/herbal?
- A brief history of legal/herbal highs
- What has been available in Australia?
- Harm reduction?
- Where to from here?



What's legal?

Various acts that differ from state to state

- *VIC: Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act*
 - Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs/Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons
- *QLD: Drugs Misuse Act*



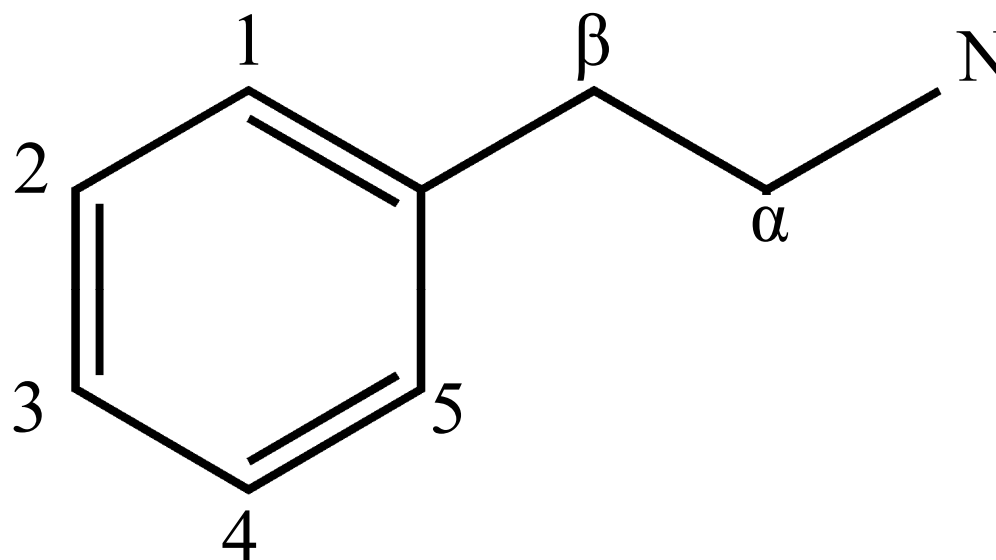
What's legal?

Various acts that differ from state to state

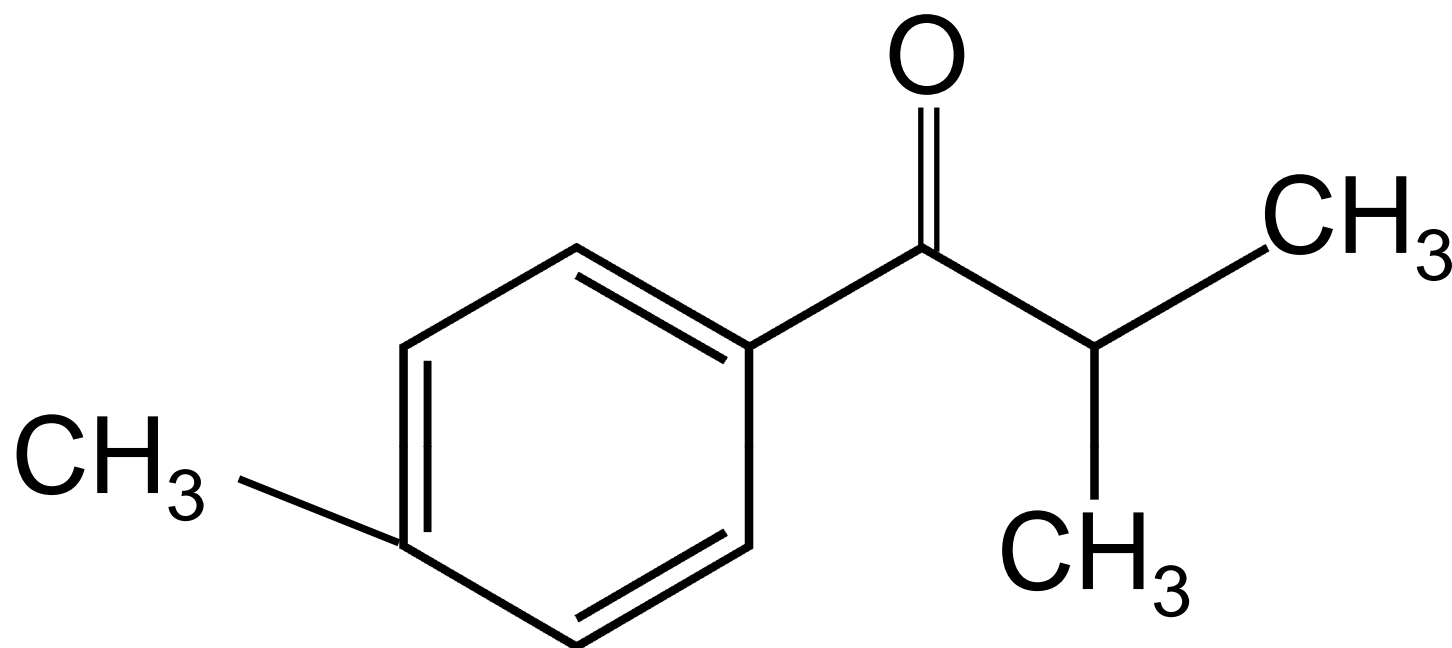
- *VIC: Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act*
 - Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs/Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons
- *QLD: Drugs Misuse Act*
- *NSW: Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act*



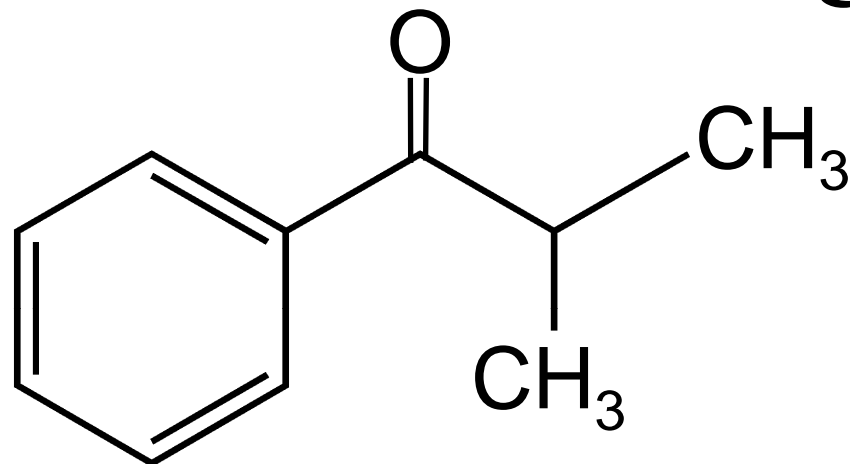
What are analogues?



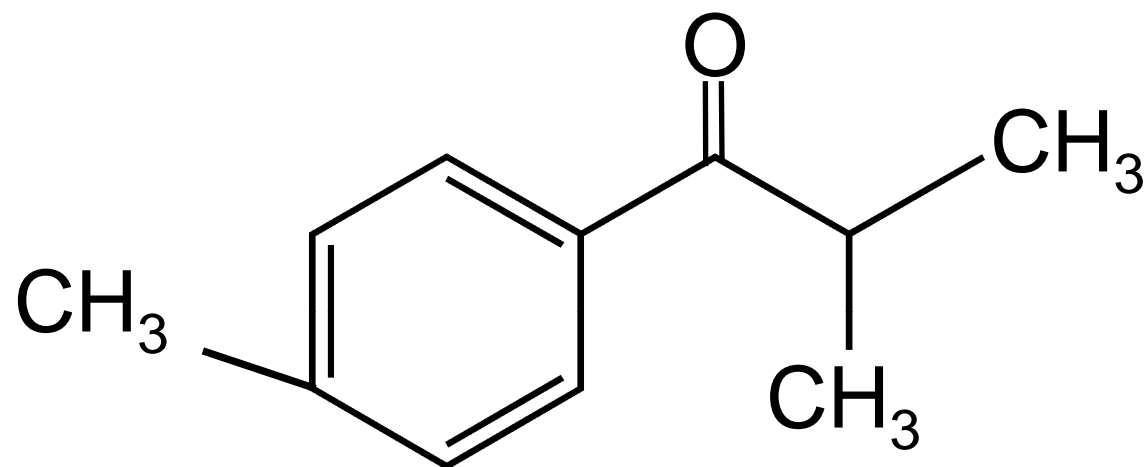
What are analogues?



What are analogues?



Methcathinone
(Scheduled)



Mephedrone
(Unscheduled)

What's legal?

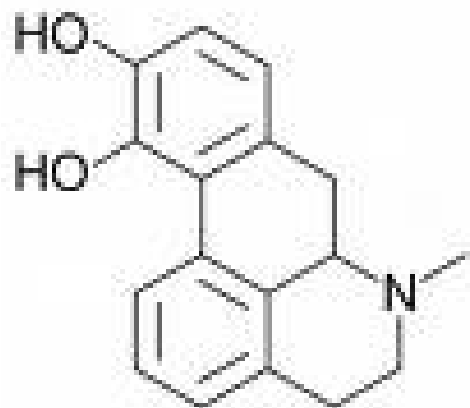
Various acts that differ from state to state

- *VIC: Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act*
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- *QLD: Drugs Misuse Act*
- *NSW: Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act*
- *Federal: Criminal Code Act*



What's herbal?





Herbal versus Pharmaceutical?

Medical discourse “constructs [certain] psychoactive substances as pathogens [i.e., ‘drugs’], and thus [as] inherently dangerous” (Bright et al., 2008, p. 139).



A Brief History

- United Nations, 1971, *Convention on Psychotropic Substances*

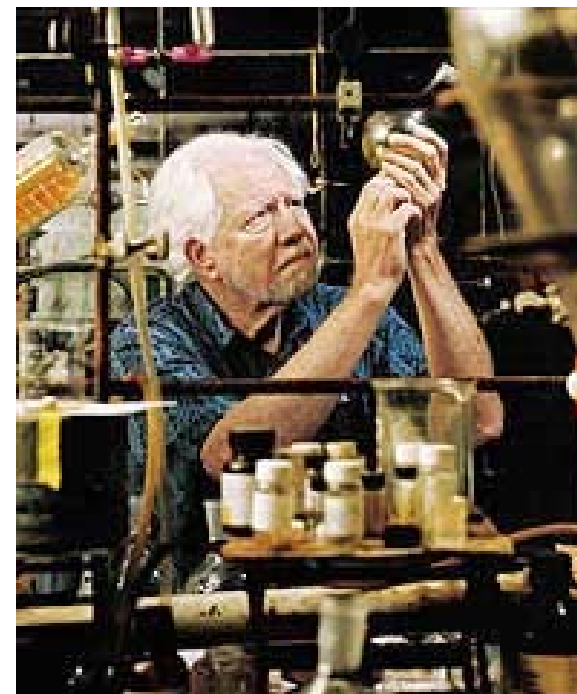
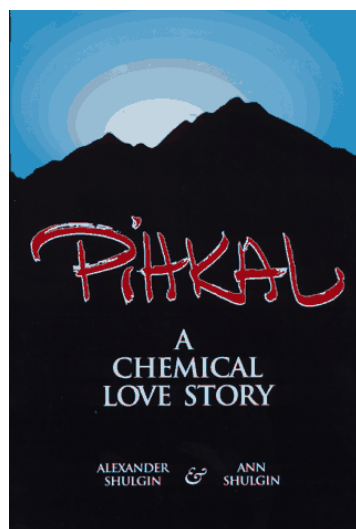




"Video games dont affect kids. If Pacman had affected us as kids, we'd all be running around in darkened rooms munching magic pills and listening to repetitive electronic music."

Technological Advances

- Psychopharmacology
 - Dr Alexander Shulgin



Technological Advances

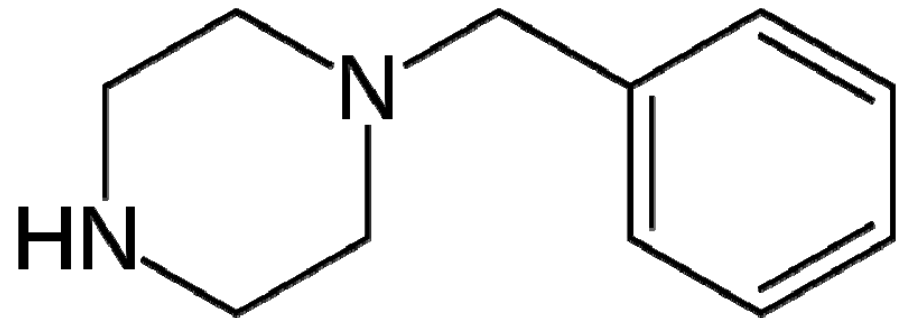
- Psychopharmacology
 - Dr Alexander Shulgin
- Ethnobotany
 - *Salvia Divinorum*
 - *Mitragyna speciosa*



Technological Advances

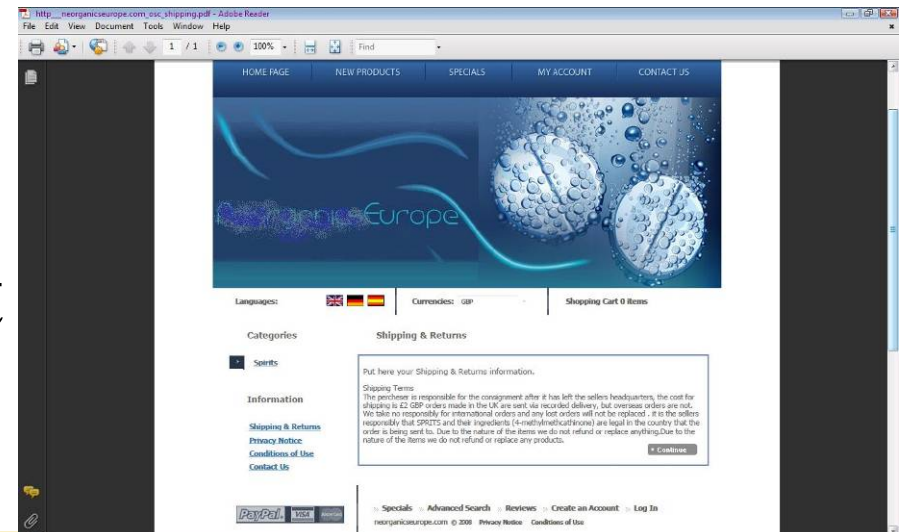
- Psychopharmacology
 - Dr Alexander Shulgin
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 - *Salvia Divinorum*
 - *Mitragyna speciosa*
- The BZP experiment

1-Benzylpiperazine



Technological Advances

- Psychopharmacology
 - Dr Alexander Shulgin
- Ethnobotany
 - *Salvia Divinorum*
 - *Mitragyna speciosa*
- The BZP experiment
- Headshops



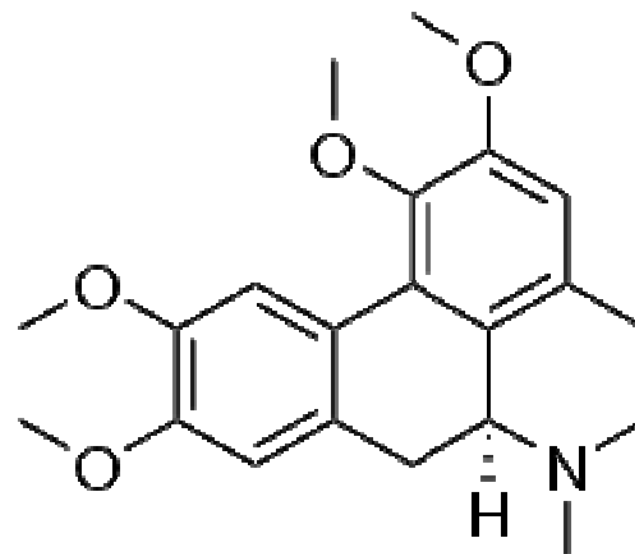
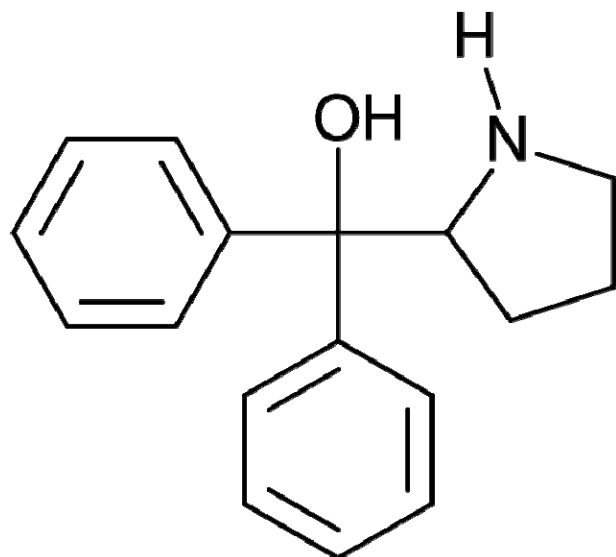
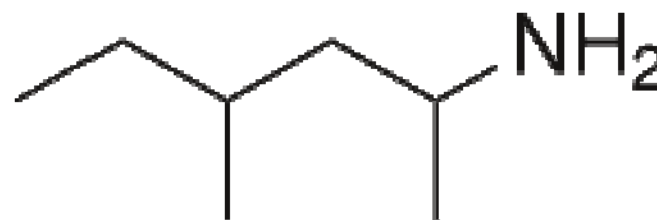


The ban on BZP

Products that have been available in OZ

‘The New York Subway’

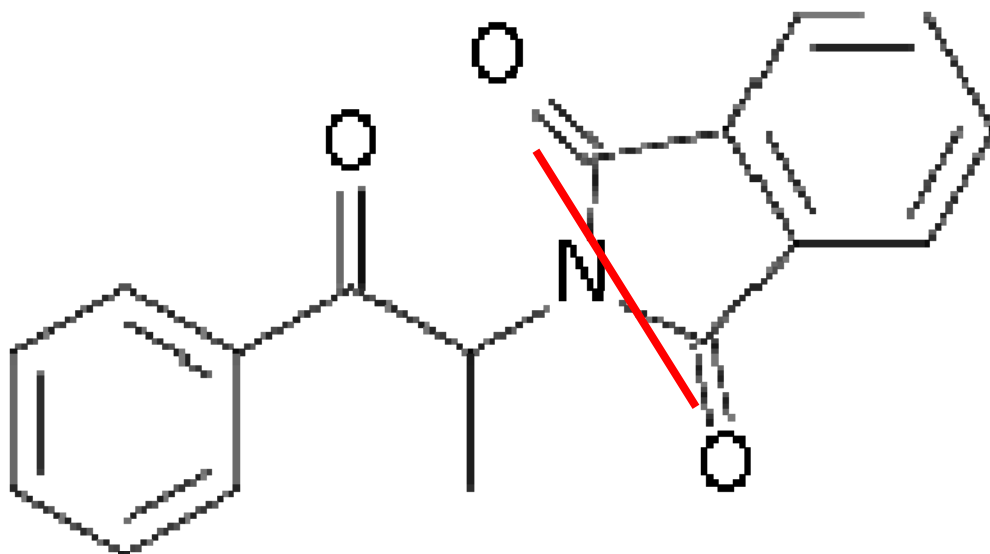
- diphenylprolinol (Gower, 2007)
- glaucine (Dargan, et al., 2008)
- 1, 3, dimethylamylamine (DMAA)



Products that have been available in OZ

‘The Israeli Invasion’

- Cathinone analogues
(e.g., mephedrone)



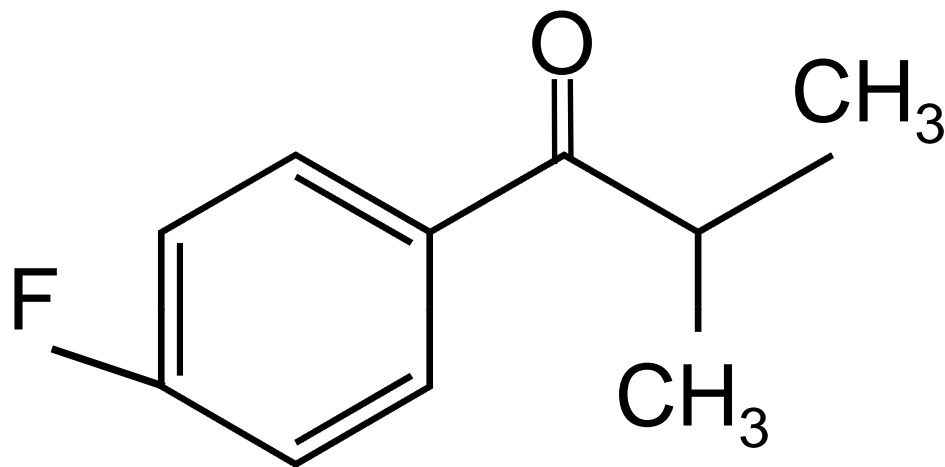
Phthalimidopropiophenone



Products that have been available in OZ

‘The Israeli Invasion’

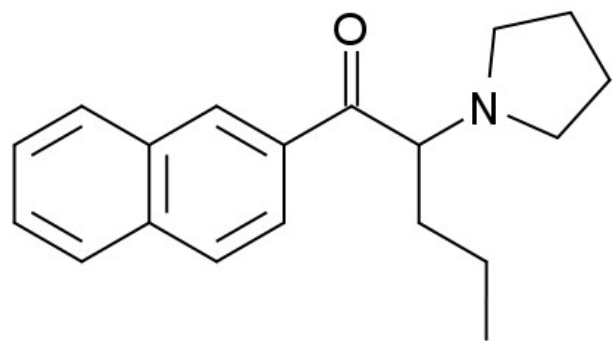
- Cathinone analogues (e.g., mephedrone)
- Flephedrone



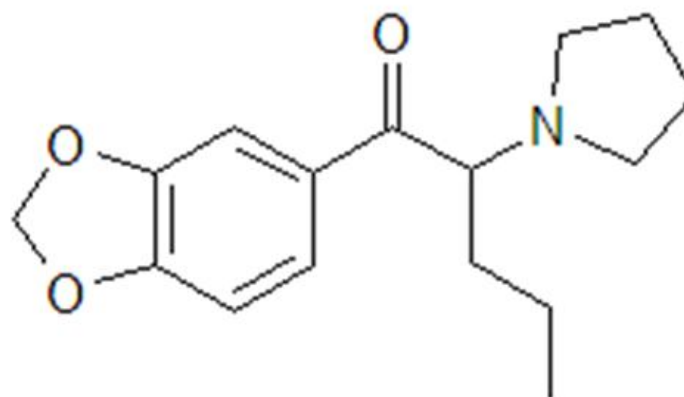
Products that have been available in OZ

The ban on cathinones in the UK

MDPV: Methylendioxyprovalerone



NRG-1: Naphthylpyrovalerone



Harm Reduction?

Pros:

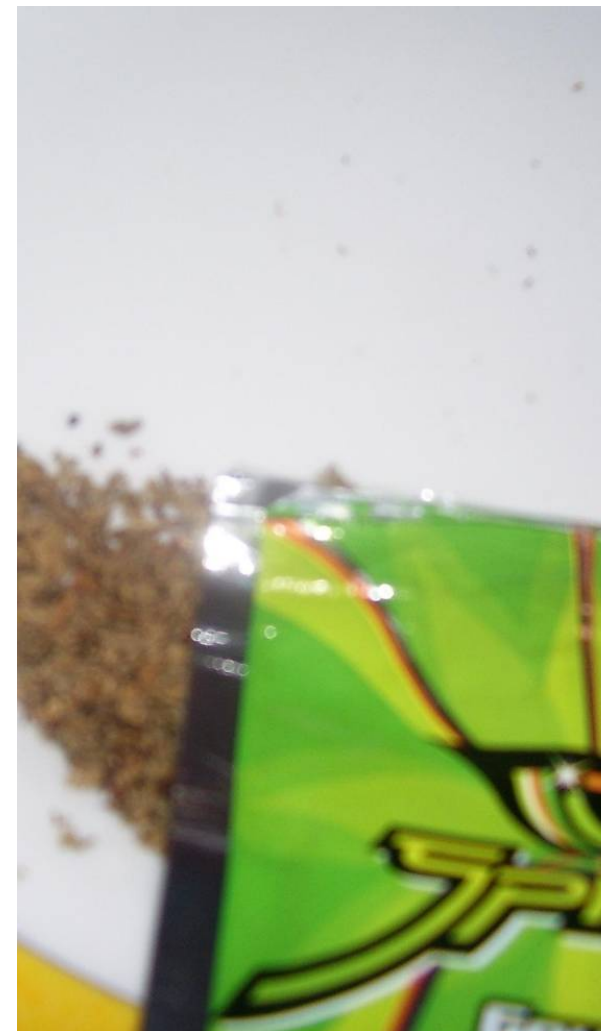
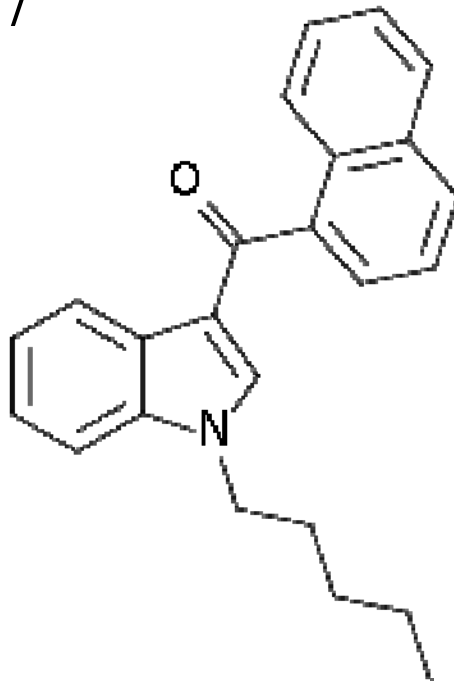
- Reduced legal harm



Reducing Legal Harms

Smoking 'Incenses'

- JWH 018, and an analogue of CP 47,497



Harm Reduction?

Pros:

- Reduced legal harm
- Reductions in clandestine production

Cons:

- Lack of regulations
- Unclear toxicity





Where to from here?

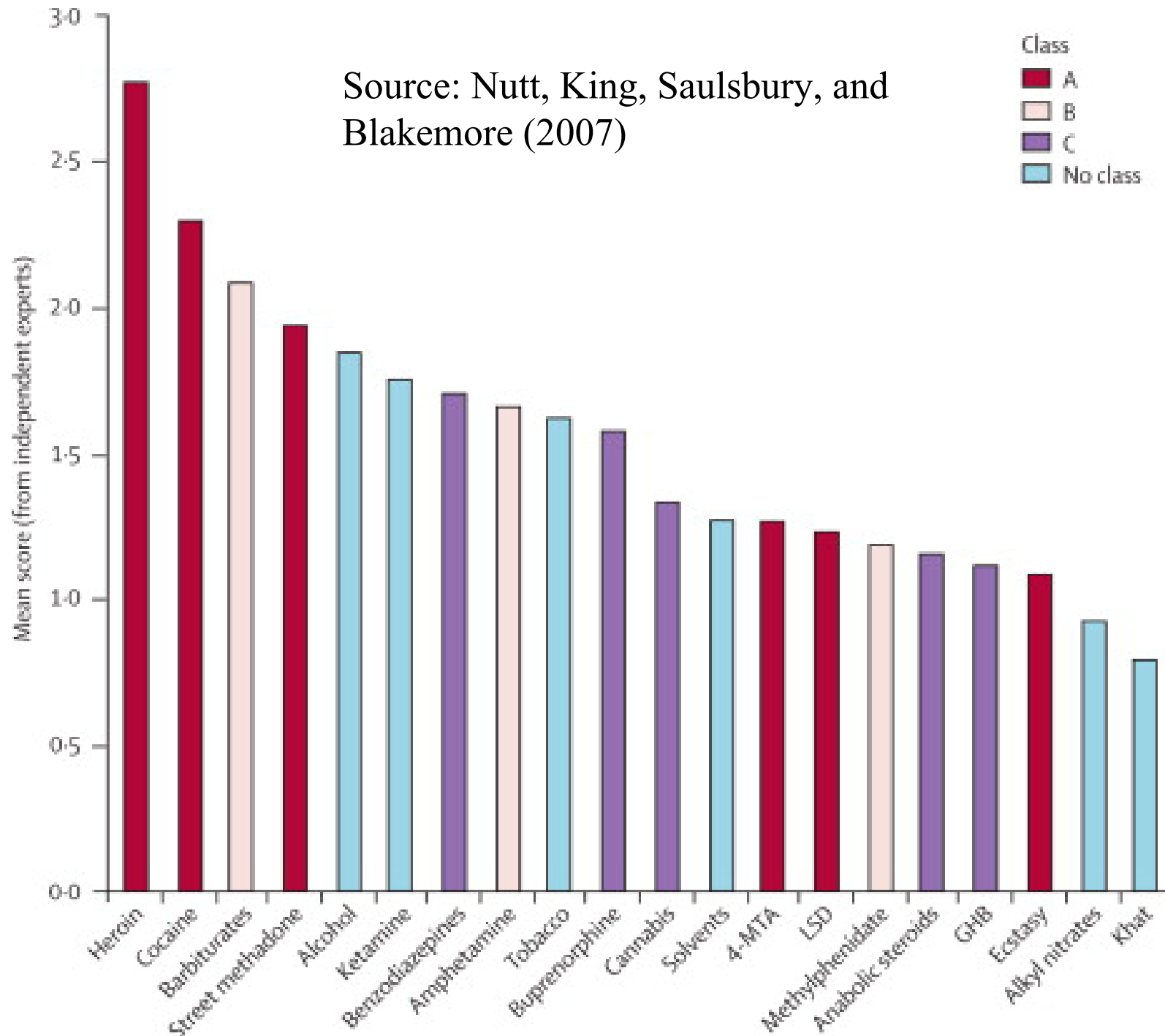
- The herbal and legal highs get scheduled
 - 4-Fluro-N,Methamphetamine
- Analogue laws are enacted



Where to from here?

- The herbal and legal highs get scheduled
 - 4-Fluro-N,Methamphetamine
- Analogue laws are enacted
- Over-hauling policy
 - regulations placed on a substance should be directly related to the harm potential of that substance

Source: Nutt, King, Saulsbury, and Blakemore (2007)





Conclusion

- What are legal/herbal highs?
- A brief history of herbal highs
- What has been available in Australia?
- Harm reduction?
- Where to from here?

Questions?