

In a glimpse

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SINTES POINT No. 8

The French National Detection System of Drugs and Toxic Substances (SINTES) is a monitoring program led by the OFDT since 1999 with the aim of describing the composition of psychoactive products circulating in France. It is based on the analysis of products collected from users by collectors who return the results after the samples have been analysed by partner forensic laboratories.

SINTES thus makes it possible to document emerging drug phenomenon and the emergence of new products (NPS) and therefore contributes to the reporting of information to the Early Warning System managed by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The OFDT as focal point, is designed to report early information and to alert, if necessary, the national level.

In 2021, 527 collections were carried out by the network of collectors, mainly following the onset of unexpected or adverse events. The majority of the products complied with the content announced at the time of the product handover.

The main 2021 observations were, on the one hand, the increase in the proportion of collections with a high cocaine content (over 70% of the total mass of the product), sometimes without any cutting agent, and on the other hand, the continuation of the phenomenon of herbal cannabis adulterated with synthetic cannabinoids. The observations concerning heavily cut heroin were similar to those for 2020.

Synthetic cathinones were the subject of 44 collections in 2021, with a predominance of 3-MMC samples.

A total of 32 new synthetic products were identified in France in 2021, with the emergence of synthetic opioids and the progression of synthetic cannabinoids. Among these 32 new identifications, 12 were made from samples collected for SINTES.

Further reading (in French)

Results Notes "[Point Sintes n° 8](#)", 15 p.
