

Preface

Cannabinoids are the crisis of the decade

Evren et al. 2013

Concerns over the increased use of emerging drugs—especially among teenagers—have captured the attention of the media, legislatures, and local communities. However, there has been a great deal of misinformation, sensationalistic journalism, and uncertainty in regards to these sorts of substances. Policy-makers have recently erred on the side of caution by taking strides to ban these substances shortly after a first mention of them in the headlines. Many public health experts seemingly fail to understand the broader patterns of emerging drug use, particularly in context of a wealth of previous cases and patterns seen over the last century. With the increasing number of current cases requiring governmental and public health intervention, we wish to arm decision-makers with a comprehensive guide on emerging drugs to make informed decisions. We hope that they will begin to see the emergence of new psychoactive drugs not as unique overwhelming crises, but as patterned events that may be managed. For students, researchers, and parents, we wish to provide a balanced source of information on this topic; but, most importantly, we wish to dispel the misconceptions and shine light on actualized problems to give us a clear understanding of the issues pertaining to emerging drugs.

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