NWICN Information Seminar
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Headshop Powders & The Experiences of Drug Users

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Focus group January 2010

- 10 Participants
- All Injecting Drug Users
- All clients of Merchant’s Quay / Failtiu

- Drug Treatment Centre Board

209 urine tests:
- 14% Mephedrone
- 3% Methylone
What they said…..

- “It’s exactly like coke, but it’s cheaper and the buzz lasts longer”

- “people selling the coke are going mad”

- “The shops should all be closed down (because) it’s too cheap and too nice”
Effects:

- Euphoric / Amphetamine effect
- “Chatty Buzz”
- “Love Buzz”
- Self-medicating for depression
Negative Effects:

- “Comedown”
- Paranoia
- Compulsive re-dosing
- Addiction?
- Disorientation
- “Talkin’ bullshit”

- Poly-drug use
- Abscesses
- Insomnia
- Psychoses
- Destabilisation
- Money trouble
The Internet

- User’s forum
- Testimonials
- Direct purchases
- Monitoring Google searches: “Buy Mephedrone”
- Mix Mag survey:
  - 42% lifetime use
  - 34% in last month
www.rednetproject.eu
Internet testimonials:

‘The old stuff was clean, had a great dance, chatty then headed off to bed at 5am and had a lovely sleep. No hangover the next day and ready for breakfast’

‘Very similar to the old crazy snow from months ago. Be careful though’

‘What’s the story? Did it get stronger or what? Coz I’ve done it before, a load of times, but mad to come down off’
Harm Reduction

- Dearth of harm reduction messages
- “Don’t use alone”
- “Drink plenty of water”
- Complementary drugs
- Filtering?
- Point of sale information
- Information at Needle Exchanges
Harm Reduction

- Filter drugs before injecting
- Snort/sniff rather than inject
- Drop ("Bomb") rather than snort
- Avoid alcohol and other drugs
Thank You

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