



OAS | CICAD

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**SIXTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD
November 19 - 21, 2019
Miami, FL, United States**

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EVOLUTION OF THE THREAT OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN COLOMBIA



La justicia
es de todos

Minjusticia

Adulterants

Response

NPS

Synthetic drugs

Special studies

Background

Evolution of the Threat of Synthetic Drugs in Colombia

Miami, Florida - November 2019

Studies of Consumption of Psychoactive Substances in Colombia

Adulterants

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GENERAL POPULATION

SUBSTANCE	1996	2008	2013
Alcohol	61,6%	60,2%	58,8%
Tobacco	21,4%	21,62%	16,21%
Marijuana	1,1%	2,12%	3,27%
Cocaine	0,2%	0,71%	0,7%
Illicit Drugs	1,6%	2,6%	3,6%

SCHOOL POPULATION

SUBSTANCE	2004	2011	2016
Alcohol	63%	64,9%	59%
Tobacco	31,71%	20,23%	14,47%
Marijuana	7,7%	6,9%	8,38%
Cocaine	1,9%	2,4%	2,8%
Illicit Drugs	11%	8,6%	9,7%

UNIVERSITIES POPULATION

SUBSTANCE	2009	2012	2016
Alcohol	81,77%	85,01%	81,83%
Tobacco	29,5%	29,4%	27%
Marijuana	11,2%	15,1%	20,8%
Cocaine	2,4%	2,1%	2,7%
Illicit Drugs		16,4%	22,4%

Background

Special Studies on Drugs in Colombia

Response

NPS

Synthetic drugs

HEROIN

Year 2014

COCAINE

Year 2012
Year 2017

CANNABIS

Year 2015

SYNTHETIC
DRUGS

Year 2009
Year 2015
Year 2018
Year 2019



Special studies

Background

Today's drugs are not the same as yesterday

Adulterants

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Cannabis

Higher concentrations of the active substance THC.



Cocaine

Greater purity and addition of toxic substances as adulterants.



Opium and derivate

Greater purity and addition of toxic substances as adulterants.



Synthetic drugs

Great diversity and adulteration patterns with toxic substances.



New Psychoactive Substances

Drugs sold as alternatives legal to existing ones.



Emerging drugs

New forms of consumption, known drug adulteration patterns.



Synthetic drugs

Special studies

Background

Studies About Synthetic Drugs in Colombia, 2009

Year	2009	National Representation	13 Cities
Participants	Ministry of Justice and Law, General Attorney's Office. PRADICAN PROJECT.		
Analyzed samples	330 samples.		
Results	<p>Sample characteristics: 266 tablets, 44 capsules, 11 blotters. and 9 liquids.</p> <p>In 330 samples we found 260 different substances.</p> <p>Purity: Only 25% of the samples (77) of presumed ecstasy were found to contain some ecstasy-like substance (MDMA, MDA MDEA), in addition to low concentrations in most cases. Other amphetamine-type stimulants identified are methamphetamine (28), amphetamine (8) and phenylpropanolamine (23).</p> <p>Adulterants: Caffeine (53 % of samples). 91% of MDMA samples with caffeine. Cocaine and levamisole in 13% of samples.</p> <p>Scopolamine in 5% of samples, ketamine y benzodiazepines (alprazolam, clonazepam and lorazepam) in 2 % of samples.</p> <p>Other substances of pharmaceutical use are not under control.</p>		

Adulterants

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Background

Studies About Synthetic Drugs in Colombia, 2015

YEAR	2015	National Representation	14 cities																														
Participants	Ministry of Justice and Law, General Attorney's Office and National Police of Colombia.																																
Analyzed samples	247 samples																																
Results	<table border="1"> <caption>Results of Analyzed Samples</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Drug Type</th> <th>Number of Samples</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>éxtasis comprimidos</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LSD blotter(cartón)</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2C-B polvo</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>sustancias pulverulentas</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MDMA cristales (molly)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>anfetamina en polvo</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>metanfetamina cristales</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ketamina ampollas</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>legal high</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>clonazepam comprimidos</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>otros medicamentos</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>popper</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>otros varios</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>estupefacientes</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Drug Type	Number of Samples	éxtasis comprimidos	70	LSD blotter(cartón)	49	2C-B polvo	20	sustancias pulverulentas	10	MDMA cristales (molly)	6	anfetamina en polvo	1	metanfetamina cristales	1	ketamina ampollas	1	legal high	1	clonazepam comprimidos	34	otros medicamentos	24	popper	18	otros varios	7	estupefacientes	2
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Studies About Synthetic Drugs in Colombia, 2015

About LSD blotters



- Bogotá
- Medellín
- Cali
- Pereira
- Armenia
- Cúcuta
- Neiva

- **Everything is false**
- **NBOME Type Substances**

Studies About Synthetic Drugs in Colombia, 2018

Year	2018	National Representation	13 cities
Participants	Ministry of Justice and Law, General Attorney's Office and National Police of Colombia and National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences.		
Analyzed samples	105 samples sold as MDMA and 2C-B		
Results	<p>105 samples</p> <p>18 different substances were detected in the universe of the 104 samples analyzed</p> <p>74 samples contain MDMA</p> <p>66 samples contain a single substance. Of these 54 contain MDMA</p> <p>6 chemical substances of the phenethylamine group were identified (amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDA, MDMA, 2CB and DOC).</p> <p>3 chemical substances from the group of synthetic cationones were identified (dibutylone, n-ethylpentylone and pentylone)</p> <p>18 Diffents substances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MDMA 2. Caffeine 3. Ketamine 4. Dibutylone 5. Acetaminofen 6. Methamphetamine 7. MDA 8. 2C-B 9. Amphetamine 10. Lidocaine 11. Cocaine 12. Fenacetine 13. DOC 14. N-Ethylpentylone 15. Ethilpentylone 16. Norefedrine 17. Procaíne 18. 2-metil-4(metiltio)-2-morfolinopropiofenone 		

Adulterants

Response

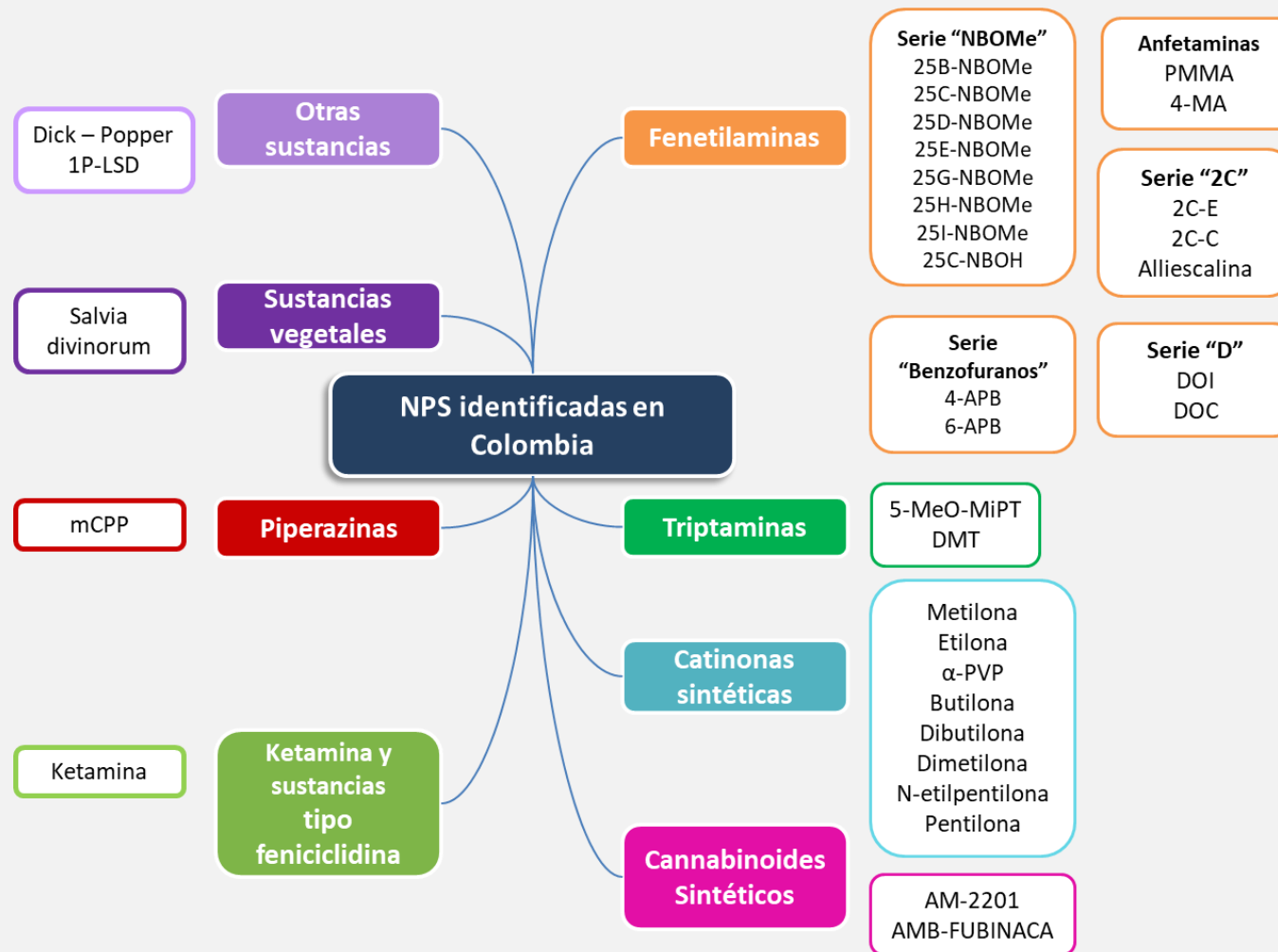
NPS

Synthetic drugs

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NPS Detected in Colombia



Adulterants
Response

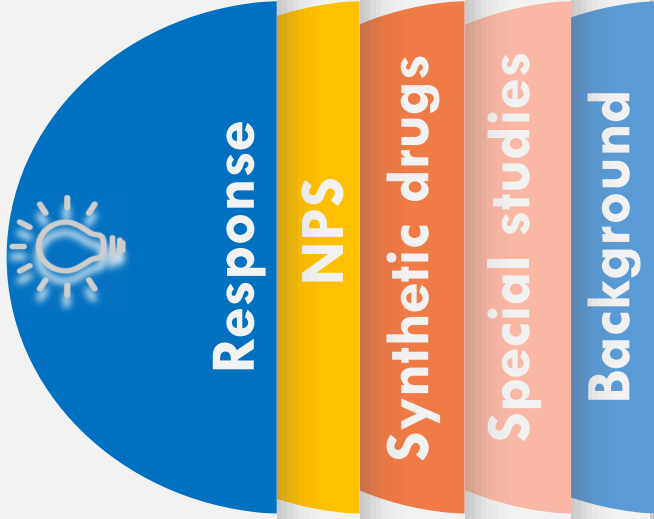
33 NPS have been detected in the synthetic drug market in Colombia

RED DE INFORMACIÓN
Sistema de Alertas Tempranas SAT



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM - EWS

EWS is the information exchange mechanism created to mitigate and reduce the impact of emerging drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), based on timely detection, risk assessment and the generation of reliable information, available to the authorities related and the community in general.



Drug Adulteration

Illicit drugs typically contain other substances, in addition to the purported active ingredient, which can have serious adverse health consequences



To add bulk

Adulterants are usually relatively cheap, easily available, and legal. (e.g. caffeine, paracetamol)



To enhance or mimic

To give the impression of a better quality drug or mask a poor quality. (e.g. procaine, lidocaine in cocaine).



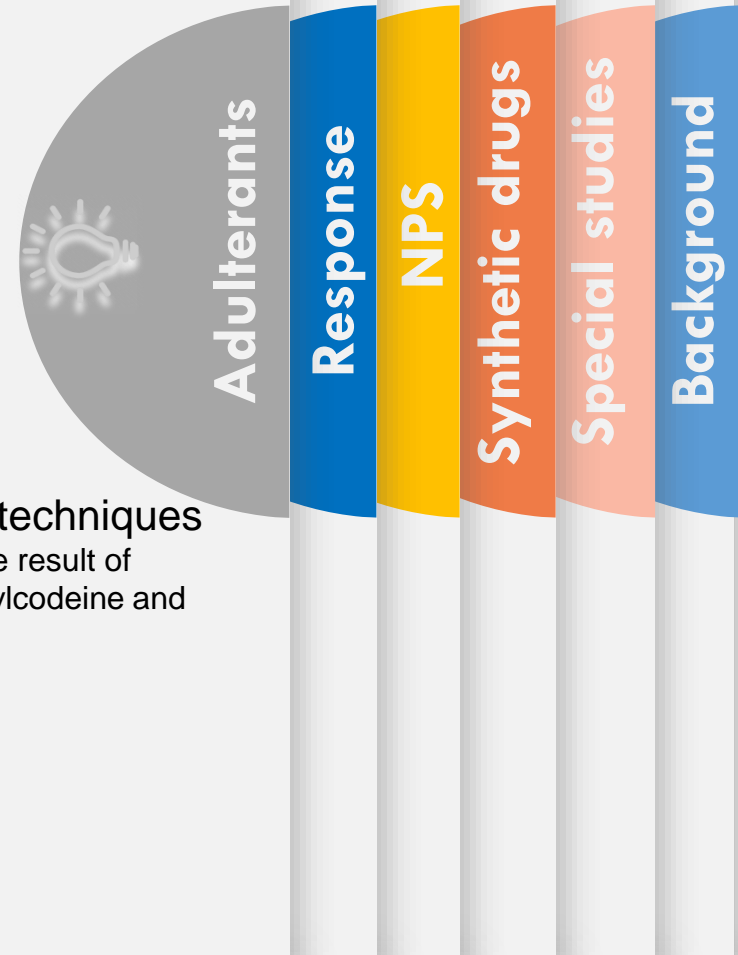
To facilitate administration

Of illicit drugs. Specifically to enhance the effects of the drug when smoked. (e.g. caffeine and procaine in heroine).



As result of poor manufacturing techniques

Unintentional additions of adulterants or the result of poor manufacturing techniques. (e.g. acetylcodeine and papaverine in heroine).

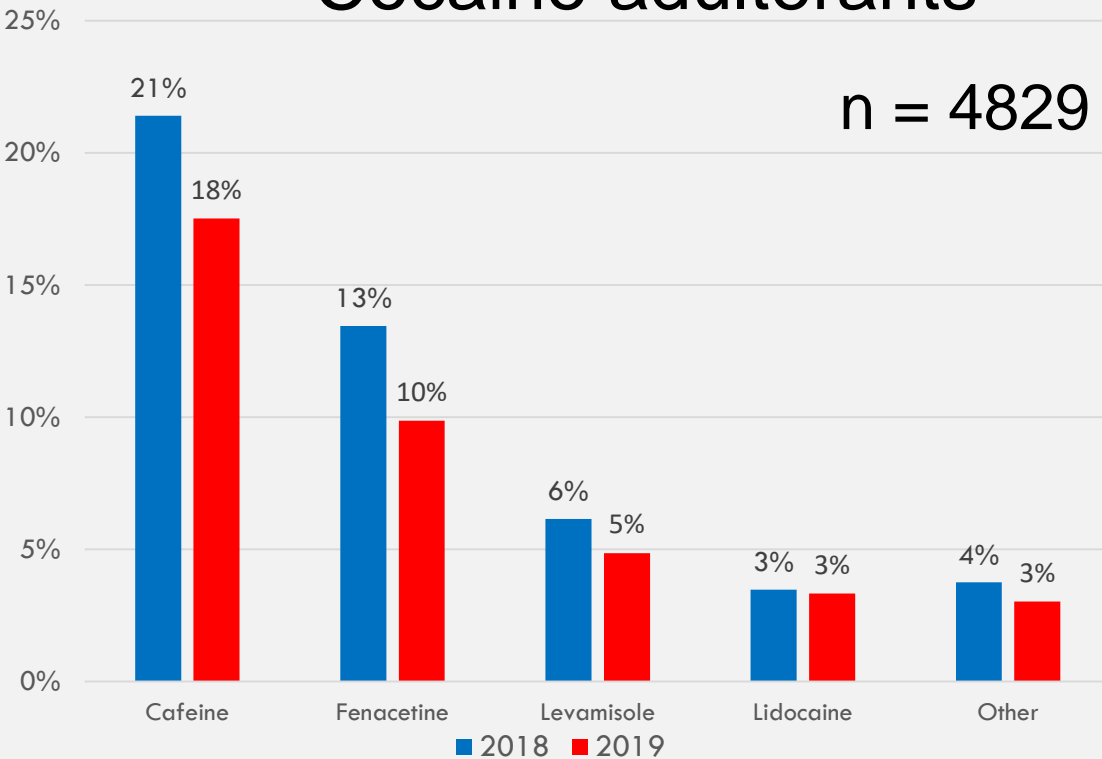


Cocaine

Main adulterants in cocaine are caffeine, phenacetin, levamisole, lidocaine, aminopyrine, dimethyl terephthalate, acetaminophen, methocarbamol and guaifenesin.

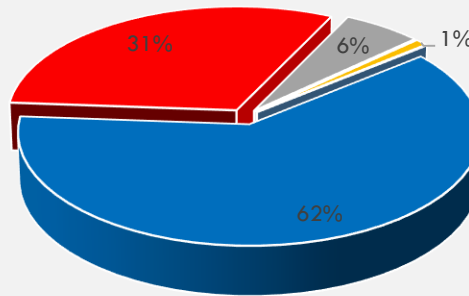
Cocaine adulterants

n = 4829



Other: aminopyrine, dimethyl terephthalate, acetaminophen, methocarbamol and guaifenesin

Cocaine Adulteration



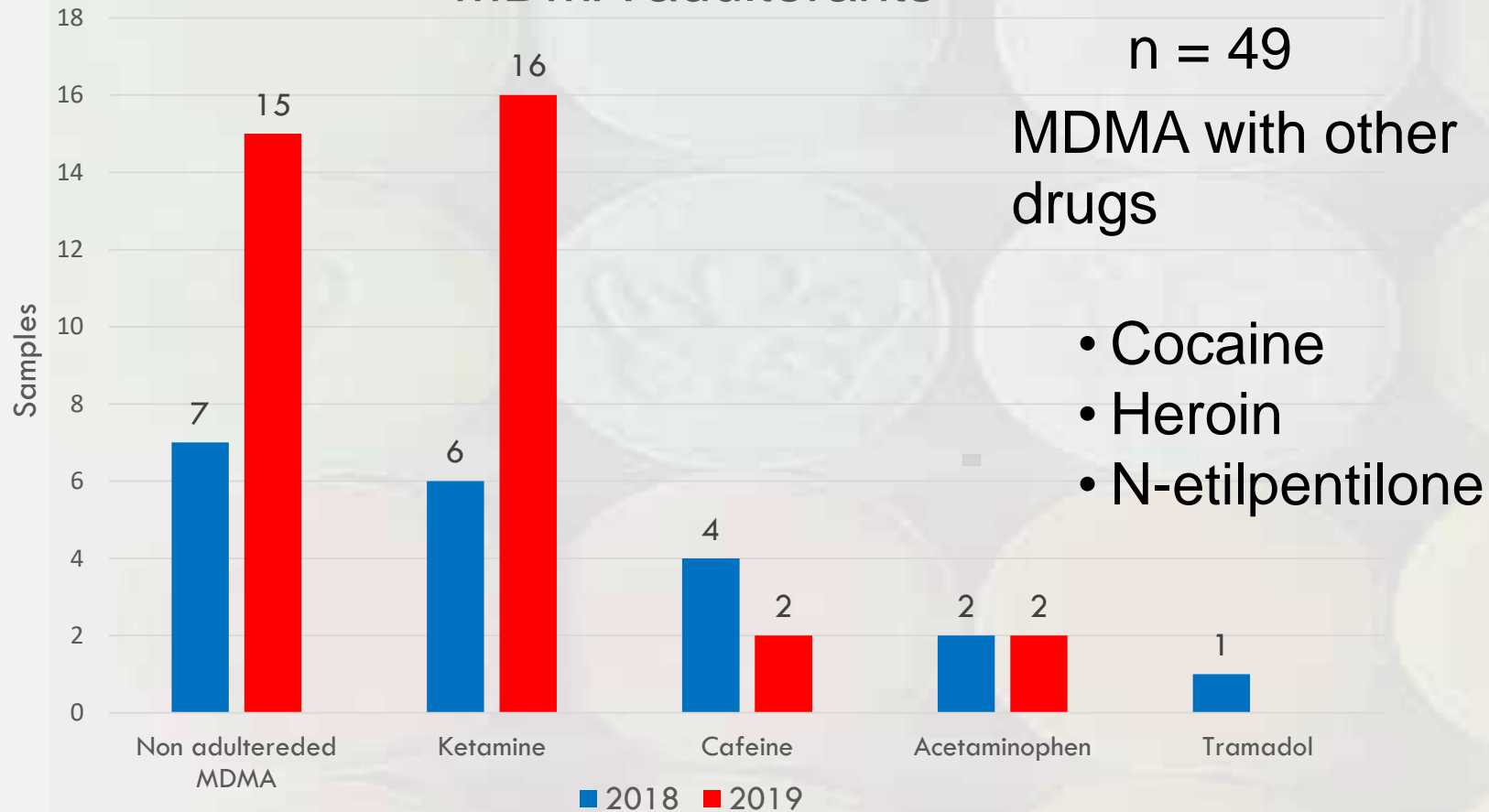
- Cocaine + 1 adulterant (62%)
- Cocaine + 2 adulterants (31%)
- Cocaine + 3 adulterants (6%)
- Cocaine + 4 adulterants (1%)
- Cocaine + 5 adulterants (0.1%)



MDMA

Main adulterants in MDMA are ketamine, caffeine, acetaminophen, levamisole and tramadol.

MDMA adulterants



Adulterants

Response

NPS

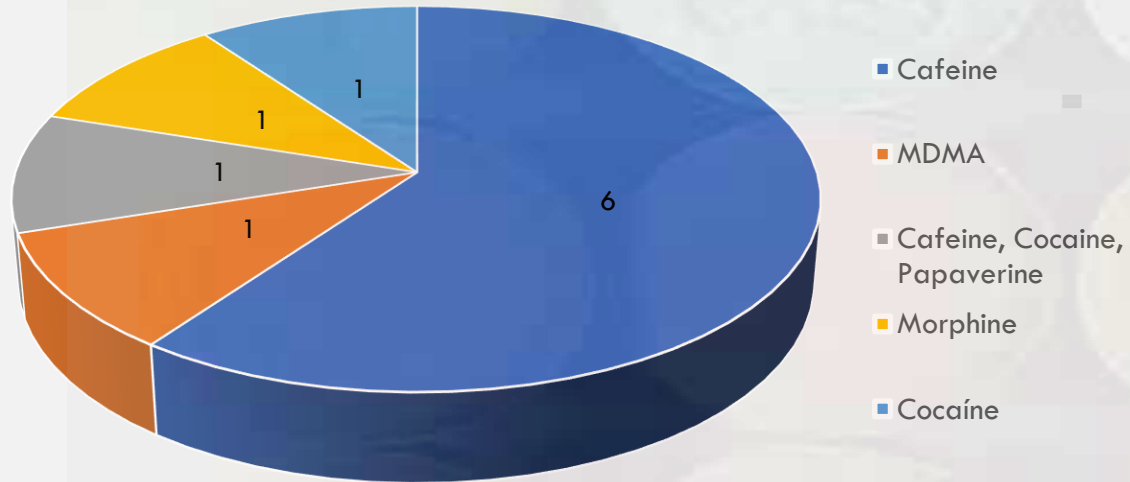
Synthetic drugs

Special studies

Background

Other Drugs

Heroin adulterants



MDA

Acetaminophen, caffeine, phenacetin, lidocaine, levamisole, ketamine

2C-B

Caffeine, fenacetine, lidocaine, levamisole, ketamine



Success Factors in Colombia



Human resources

We have got trained professionals with high qualifications and experience.



Infrastructure

We have a forensic laboratories' network that shares information about illicit drugs.



Information network

We have created an Early Warning System (EWS) and we share information about New Psychoactive Substances and Emerging Drugs.



Sharing experiences

We share our knowledge and experience with other countries who require information about our work about drugs (Argentina, Peru, Paraguay, etc.)



Conclusions

Challenges and Perspectives



Increase capacities

It is necessary to increase the technical capabilities of staff and forensic laboratories for the recognition of NPS



Network Strengthening

Promote the integration of regional networks to share information about the drug phenomenon.



Exchange Experiences

Promote regional exchange mechanisms related to the phenomenon of the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances and Emerging Drugs.



Strengthening of Early Warning System

It is necessary to strengthen the Early Warning Systems –EWS and promote the creation of them in different countries at the regional level.



Conclusions



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