National Assembly for Wales

Health and Social Care Committee

Inquiry into new psychoactive substances ("legal highs")

Evidence from Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust – LH 21

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust – Health Informatics – HSCC Psychoactive Substances ('Legal highs')

Report specification

Data Period: 1st April 2013 until 30th April 2014 (1 Years)

Source: Interrogation of CAD data in terms of all Medical Priority Dispatch Codes

Caveat: The information is reliant upon third party information at the time of call. The information is reliant on the wild card search criteria being present in the substance type category which is obtained and based upon third party information. There is a high risk that this dataset has accuracy, completeness and validity issues.

Selection Criteria: This report was run using SQL to search for 'wild cards' of the following search criteria:

Search Criteria and/or	Legal High	Meow Meow	MCAT	Magic Truffles	Mexican Calea	Hawaiian Baby Woodrose	San Pedro Cactus	Peruvian Torch Cactus	Blue Egyptian Water Lilly	Peyote	Colorado River Toad	Total
Amount	80	12	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115

Information:

The SQL script looked at the above named substances where MPDS was used and a response arrived at the scene of an incident.

Table1: Breakdown by MPDS Code

Code	RG	Protocol	Descriptor	Total Calls
04B03	G1	Assault / Sexual Assault	Unknown Status / Other code not applicable	1
04D01	R1	Assault / Sexual Assault	Unconscious or Arrest	1
06D01	R2	Breathing Problems	Not Alert	1
06D02	R2	Breathing Problems	Difficulty speaking between breaths	2
10C01	R2	Chest Pain	Abnormal breathing	2
10D04	R2	Chest Pain	Clammy	4
10D05	R2	Chest Pain	Nausea or Vomiting	1
12A01	G1	Convulsions / Fitting	Not Fitting Now & Breathing Effectively (Verified)	2
12D02	R2	Convulsions / Fitting	Continuous or Multiple Fitting	9
17B03	G1	Falls	Unknown Status / Other code not applicable	1
21D04	R2	Hemorrhage / Lacerations	Abnormal Breathing	1
23B01	G1	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Overdose (without priority symptoms)	19
23C01	G1	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Not Alert	21
23C02	G1	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Abnormal Breathing	11
23C04	G1	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Cocaine Methamphetamine (or derivatives)	3
23C07	G1	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Unknown Status / Other codes not applicable	16
23D01	R2	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Unconscious	6
23D02	R2	Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	Changing Colour	2
25B03	G1	Psychiatric / Abnormal Behaviour / Suicide Attempt	Threatening Suicide	2
25B06	G1	Psychiatric / Abnormal Behaviour / Suicide Attempt	Unknown Status / Other code not applicable	1
25D01	G1	Psychiatric / Abnormal Behaviour / Suicide Attempt	Not alert	1
26C01	G1	Sick Person	Altered Level of Consciousness	1

26C02	**G1**	**Sick Person**	**Abnormal Breathing**	**2**
26D01	**G1**	**Sick Person**	**Not Alert**	**1**
31D03	**R2**	**Unconscious / Fainting (Near)**	**Not Alert**	**1**
35A01	**G1**	**Health Care Professional**	**At Patient within 1 hour**	**1**
35D03	**R2**	**Health Care Professional**	**HCP and AED on Scene (immediate life threatening)**	**1**
			Total	**115**

Table2: Breakdown by Local/University Health Board

LHB/UHB	Amount of Calls
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	21
Aneurin Bevan	56
Betsi Cadwaladr	15
Cardiff and Vale	6
Cwm Taf	5
Hywel Dda	10
Powys	1
Out of Area	1
Total	**115**

Table3: Breakdown by Locality

Locality	Amount of Calls
Blaenau Gwent	3
Bridgend	4
Caerphilly	7
Cardiff	4
Carmarthenshire	3
Conwy	2
Denbighshire	1
Flintshire	3
Gwynedd	1
Merthyr Tydfil	1
Neath Port Talbot	1
Newport	21
Out of Area	1
Pembrokshire	7
Powys	1
Rhondda Cynon Taff	4
Swansea	17
Tofaen	25
Vale of Glamorgan	2
Wrexham	8
Total	**115**

Table 4: Suffix Codes

Suffix	Description	Protocol	Total
A	Accidental	23 Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	8
E	Epileptic or Previous History	12 Convulsions / Fitting	2
I	Intentional	23 Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	65
L	Locally Defined Response	35 Health care Professional	1
V	Violent / Combative	23 Overdose / Poisoning (Ingestion)	9
NULL	No Suffix is applicable		30
		Total	**115**

Suffix codes are additional codes to MPDS to allow additional information

Note: Information is received verbally over the telephone and data is only as good as the information given at the time of the call