

Austrian Drug Market and Early Warning System

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The Austrian Public Health Institute (GÖG)

Who are we?



Austrian National Institute for Health Services Research (ÖBIG), established in 1973 to plan, regulate and reform the Austrian Health Care System



Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ), established in 1992 with the task to encourage health promotion and prevention in Austria



Austrian National Institute for Quality in Health Care (BIQG), established in 2007, responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a nationwide quality system on behalf of the federal government

www.goeg.at

— GÖG - Addiction Competence Centre

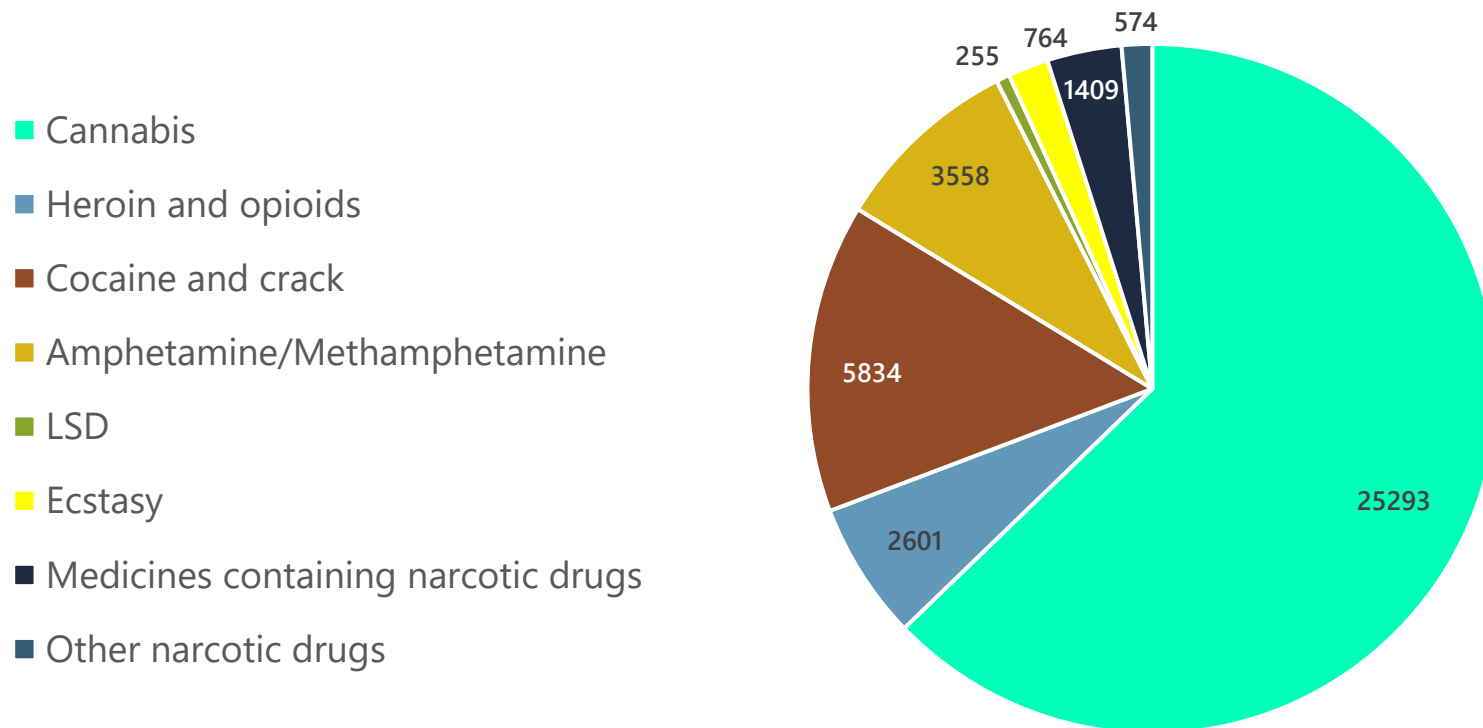
- Since 1995 the **REITOX Focal Point** of the European Drug Agency (EUDA) is located at the Austrian Public Health Institute.
- Competences concerning **alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and gambling** have been brought together.
- National **data monitoring centre in the field of addiction** (e. g. data collection on treatment, opioid maintenance treatment, drug related deaths, alcohol and Tabaco consumption, general population surveys)
- According to our holistic approach not specific substances are problematic but the addictive behaviour (regardless to which behaviour or substance).
- Determinants and Circumstances leading to addiction or **preventing** addiction and **harm reduction** are seen as very important aspects.

- Who? (population)
- Where?
- Pattern of use (what)?

The illegal Austrian Drug Market according to crime data, treatment data and drug-checking

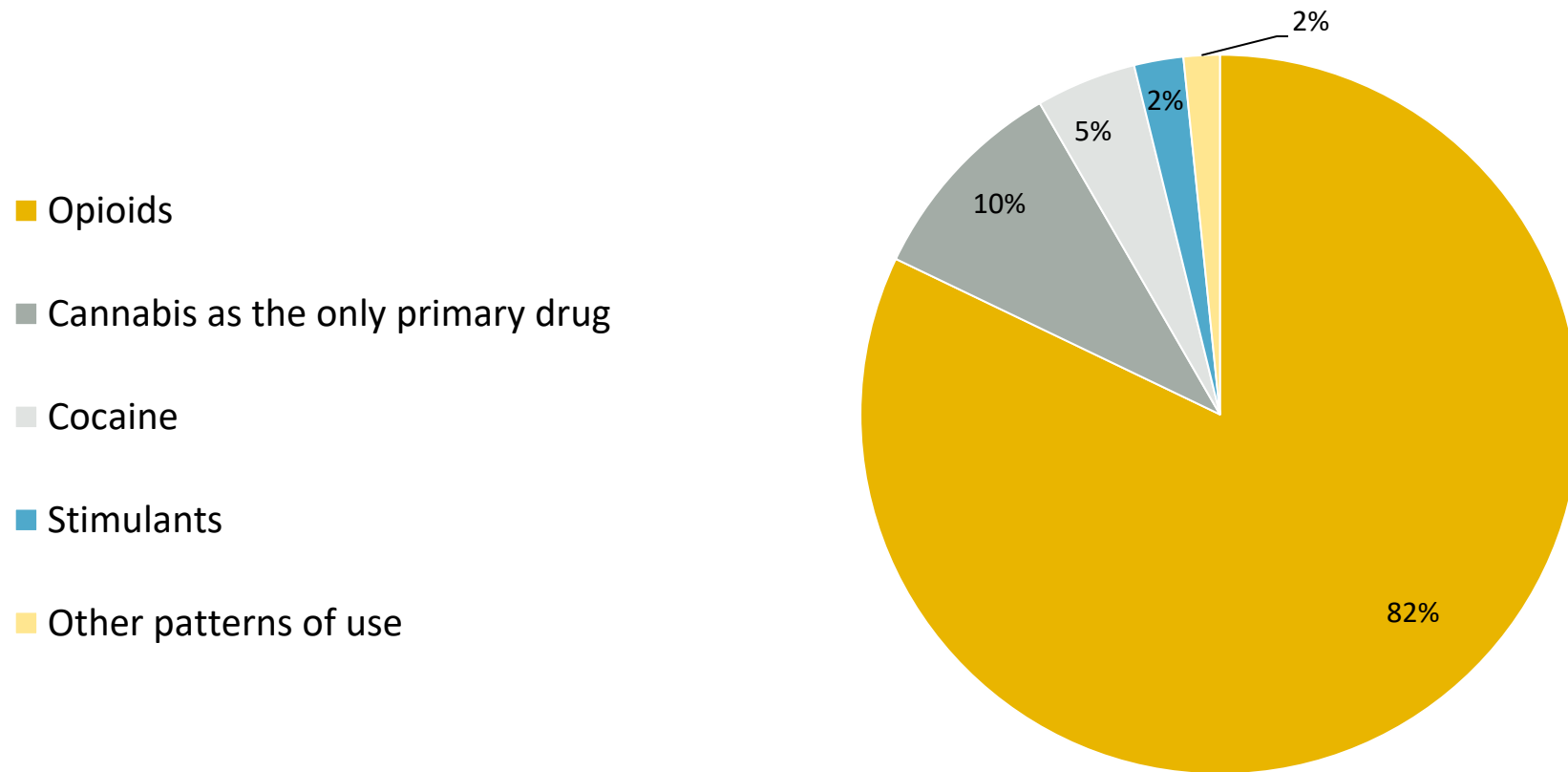
- General Population Survey
- European Web Survey
- Crime report data (Narcotic substance act violations)
- Treatment Data (TDI, „DOKLI“)
- Drug-Checking
- Drug-related deaths

Drug Situation Austria: Crime reports 2022



Source: Crime reports relating to violations of the Narcotic Substances Act, by narcotic drug/substance 2022 BMI/BK; N= 34,000
graphic representation: GÖG

Drug Situation: Treatment Data 2022



Source: Austrian treatment information system DOKLI. N= 27,133; graphic representation: GÖG

The Austrian Early Warning System



Information concerning new substances or newly consumed substances; impurities or other uncommon circumstances, new or especially risky patterns of consumption



To establish an official network for information



To provide reliable and timely information on health risks for prevention and treatment.



To include all relevant institutions and experts.



To establish an advisory board with experts from different areas, who provide advice in critical situations but also on strategic issues.



To disseminate information received from the EUDA/European EWS to national partners

— Data Sources

Seizures
(only NPS)

**Drug-Checking
Services**
(Vienna,
Innsbruck, Graz)

**Drug-related
Deaths**
(1 year delay)

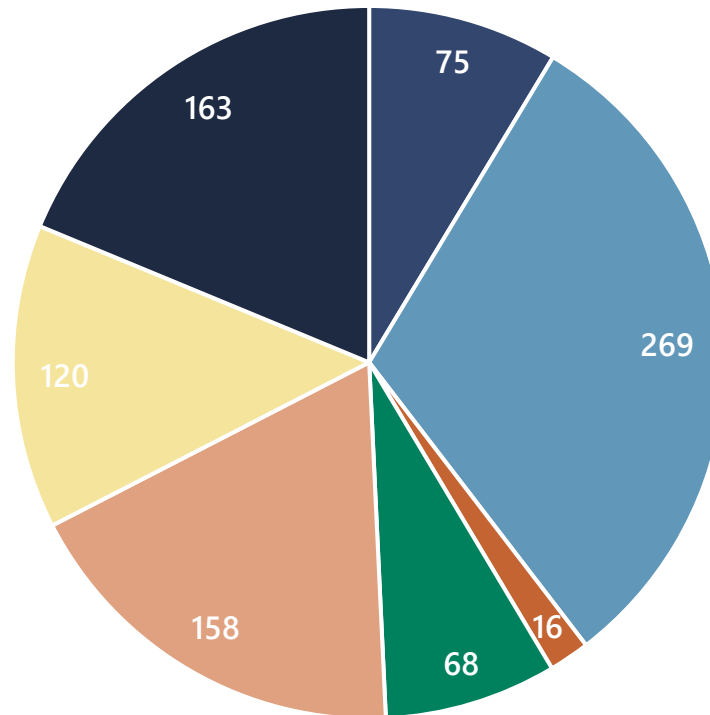
Legal Framework

- New-Psychoactive Substances Act (NPSG) since 1.1.2012: **Users of NPS will not face any penalties;** Selling NPS could entail imprisonment from one to ten years, **generic law**
- The Narcotic Substances Act (valid version SMG; Federal Collection of Statutes BGBl I 1997/112) Based on international conventions. **Use** ruled as **Offence** (misdemeanor or felony). Separate provisions for cannabis and hallucinogenic mushrooms. Focus on a wide range of alternatives to punishment.



Source: AI generated

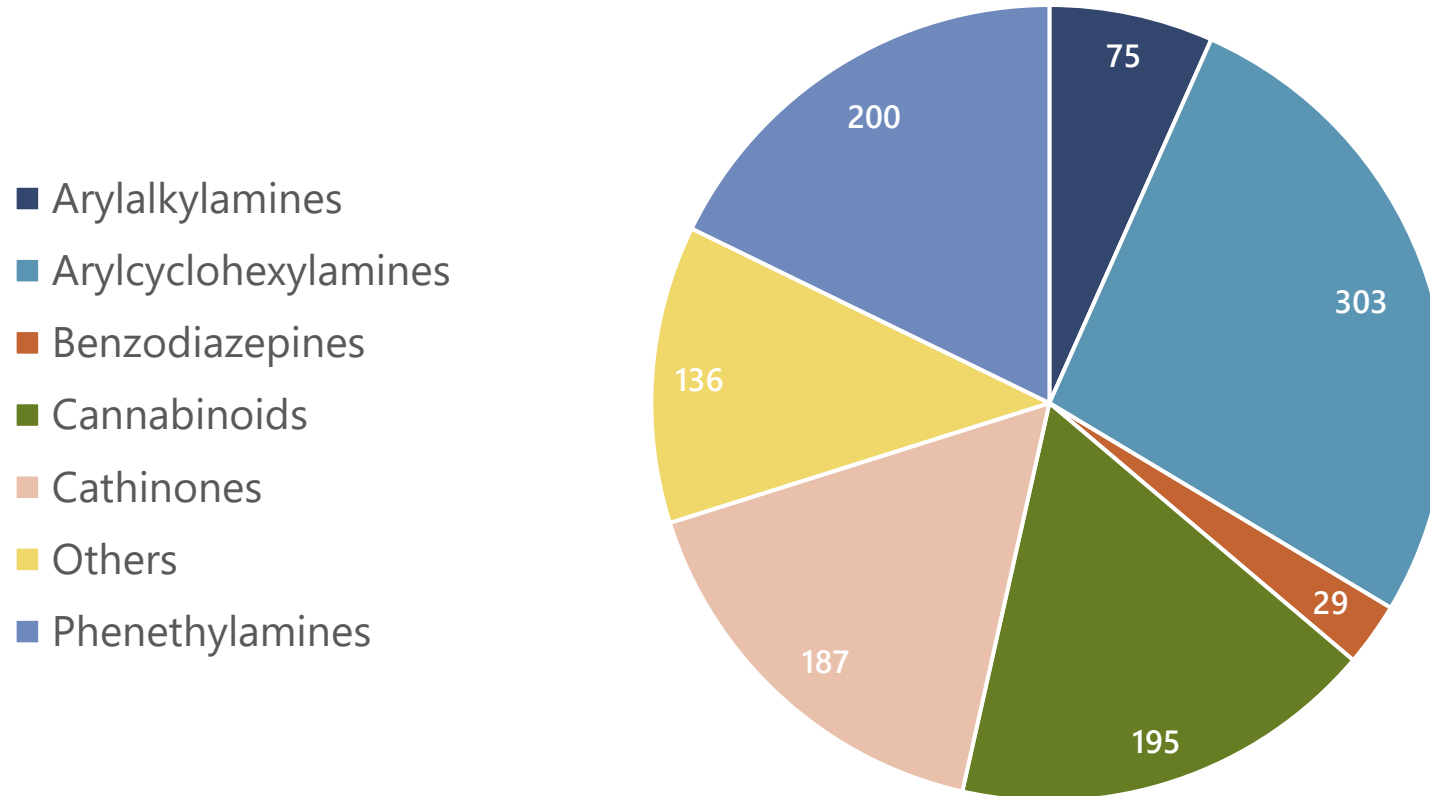
New Psychoactive Substances: Drug-Checking 2023



■ Arylalkylamine ■ Arylcyclohexylamine ■ Benzodiazepine ■ Cannabinoids
■ Cathinone ■ other ■ Phenethylamine

Source: Austrian EWS; N= 802; graphic representation: GÖG

New Psychoactive Substances: Austria EWS 2023



Source: Austrian EWS N= 1,049 graphic representation: GÖG

Summary: The illegal Austrian Drug Market

„General Population“

- Recreational Use
- Cannabis/Cannabinioids
- Stimulants (Cocaine, Amphetamines)

Possible threats

- Synthetic Cannabinoids
- Edibles

Clubbing/Party Setting

- Often combined use
- Stimulants (Cocaine, Ecstasy,..)
- Ketamine

Possible threats

- N2O
- Synthetic Cathinones

High Risk Drug Use

- Polydrug Use
- Opioids major role
- High benzodiazepine use

Possible threats

- New Synthetic Opioids (e.g. Nitazene)

Contact



Further reading:

- <https://jasmin.goeg.at/id/eprint/3371>
- <https://jasmin.goeg.at/id/eprint/3369>