

# Recent trends and new drugs in France in 2002

## Results of the fourth national report

**T**rends\* presents, in a summarised form, the results of the fourth year of operation of the TREND facility (recent trends and new drugs) of the OFDT (French Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction) in 2002. This facility deals with new trends in the minority uses of psychoactive substances in the French population. This excludes tobacco, alcohol and cannabis. After a brief reminder of the organisation and working methods of the facility, this document presents the contexts studied before considering the results regarding the users and the four families of substances (opiates, stimulants, hallucinogens and non-opiate psychotropic medicines).

### The TREND facility: organisation and methods

The purpose of the TREND facility of the OFDT, established in 1999, is to provide decision makers, professionals and users with information on the usage and users of the psychoactive substances consumed by a small minority of the French population and on any new trends. The latter include both new phenomena and existing phenomena that have not yet been detected by the monitoring systems in place. Making early information available should enable the various people active in the field of addiction (decision makers, professionals and users) to work out responses, whether at the level of public decision, of professional activity or of individual behaviour. This use of the information produced should thus favour a better protection of users and of the population in general.

The information collection facility is founded on three categories of information sources: TREND collection systems, specific investigations and partner information systems. The TREND collection systems include the TREND site network (thirteen sites in 2002), the SINTES system (*National poison/substance identification system*) and the media watch (analysis of the representations on illicit drugs carried by a selection of magazines targeting young adults).

✳ The TREND site network included thirteen co-ordination points in 2002, three being overseas. Each site carries out several types of information collections during the year: field observations, qualitative questionnaires, focus groups of health professionals, focus groups of law enforcement professionals,

### The TREND and SINTES sites in 2002

**Paris region**  
SINTES collection  
departments in 2002  
TREND observation sites

**Overseas**

**Departments**

Martinique	La Réunion	Guyana
Lille		
Bordeaux		
Dijon		
Lyon		
Marseille		
Metz		
Rennes		
Toulouse		
Paris		
Seine-Saint-Denis		

\*This is the text of the memorandum included in the TREND report, 2002.

user focus groups and quantitative enquiry amongst the users of front line facilities. Each site produces an annual site report.

- The SINTES system has two parts. The social health part collects samples of synthetic drugs and fills in questionnaires with users. The samples are analysed by a network of five laboratories. The law enforcement part involves the transmission by the forensic services of the police, the customs and the gendarmerie of the results of toxicological analyses of synthetic drugs seized.

- The media watch consist of the reading, indexation and analysis of the views expressed on drugs in six French periodicals targeted at young adults.

The specific investigations of the TREND facility study a particular problem or population in depth. This year, two problems are under investigation (the use of ketamine and the primary use of high-dosage buprenorphine) and one population has been investigated (prostitutes).

The partner information systems supply recent information, which either sets the TREND data in context or complements them. In 2002, these included:

- the OPPIDUM [*Monitoring of illegal psychotropic substances or those that are used for purposes other than medicinal*] survey, carried out by the CEIP [*Drug Dependency Information/Evaluation Centres*]. It gives a year-by-year description of the users of psychotropic substances seen by the health and social facilities (chiefly CSSTs [*Specialised drug addiction treatment centres*]);

- the SIAMOIS system (system of information on the accessibility of injection materials and substitution products), managed by the InVS [*health watch institute*] which describes developments in the sales of medical opiate substitutes (high-dose buprenorphine and methadone) and injection materials;

- the ESCAPAD survey by the OFDT which describes, amongst other things, psychotropic substance experimentation and consumption by 17/18 year-olds reporting on the Journée d'appel et de préparation à la Défense [*Call-Up and Preparation for Defence Day*].

**Table 1: Frequency in 2002 of the use of certain illicit substances during life per thousand persons aged 15-34, 35-75 and 15-75**

	15-34	35-75	15-75
Cocaine	30 ‰	13 ‰	19 ‰
Ecstasy	19 ‰	2 ‰	11 ‰
Hallucinogenic			
Mushrooms	21 ‰	6 ‰	11 ‰
LSD	15 ‰	8 ‰	10 ‰
Heroin	5 ‰	9 ‰	7 ‰

**Source:** EROPP 2002, OFDT

Reading: in 2002, amongst those aged 15 to 34, 30 per thousand had taken cocaine at some time in their life.

1. This table is a modification of the one presented on page 176 by F. Beck, S. Legleye and P. Peretti-Watel, *Penser les drogues : perceptions des produits et des politiques publiques. Enquête sur les représentations, opinions et perceptions sur les psychotropes* (EROPP), Paris, OFDT, 2002, 228 p.  
 2. Article 53 of law No. 2001-1062 of 15 November 2001 on daily security (LSQ) complemented the law No. 95-73 of 21 January 1995 on security guidelines and programmes (LOPS). The new article 23-1 of the LOPS confers a new judicial context on the gatherings usually known as "rave parties". The organisers of these gatherings are now required to declare their plans to the prefects of the departments within which "rave parties" are proposed. Decree No. 2002-887 of 3 May 2002 fixes details of this arrangement and provides for a differentiated system, according to whether or not the organisers sign the good practice commitment which is the subject of the order of the same day.

The TREND facility's own information collection tools essentially cover two social contexts: the "urban context" and the "techno party context". The urban context covers, in essence, those places in town where one might encounter and/or observe active drug users. It gives an account of drug use amongst those who might be encountered in the so-called "low threshold" or front line reception centres (syringe exchange boutiques and programmes), certain specialist care centres and the "open" places such as the street scene or squats. The techno party context refers to locations where techno-culture events take place, whatever the type of event, in a club, at a techno festival, at a free party or a private party. These contexts have been chosen for the high probability of being able to observe new or unobserved phenomena and because they provide an opening for certain forms of observation. The prioritisation of investigation in these two contexts in no way suggest that they alone give an exhaustive view of drug use in mainland France and the Overseas Departments. These choices could, in any case, change with time. Further, the reader should not lose sight of the fact that this focus often means that the populations observed are very small. The majority of the phenomena presented in this report are not or only barely quantifiable on the scale of the general population. Indeed, experimentation (the use at least once during life) with the substances studied rarely concerns more than 20 per thousand adults in France (see table 1). Current (during the last twelve months) or recent (during the last month) use is still less frequent.

## The results: the contexts studied and the users

During 2002, changes in the legal context and in the strategies of the forces of law and order had a definite impact on the two contexts investigated by the TREND facility. The observers reported a certain number of changes in the use and methods of use of the substances, minor trafficking and the medical interventions on the part of the "risk reduction" organisations.

### The urban context

In the urban context, the increased visibility of police activity has led to a reduction in the accessibility of heroin on certain sites. Users have resorted to more discreetly packaged products (pills). Minor trafficking has shifted to less visible locations (edge of town) and contexts (private domain). Further, the increasing rarity of non-commercial techno party events (type free party) has led certain traffickers to redirect the offer of their stimulants and hallucinogens to sales points in the urban context (housing estates, streets, homes etc.).

## The party context

In the techno party context, important changes have been observed. The devotees of non-commercial events seem to have developed in one of three ways: adapting to the new legal context by organising events in collaboration with certain night clubs (specialising in techno music), reverting to a more clandestine position by organising confidential free parties or participation in techno events beyond the frontiers (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain). The risk and damage reduction and emergency treatment interventions are more difficult to organise because of the greater secrecy of non-commercial events and because their smaller size does not necessarily justify the displacement of a prevention team.

The substance users in the techno party context are essentially young adults, most frequently males. The social origins seem fairly varied. The substances consumed are mostly stimulants, followed by hallucinogens. The use of opiates remains marginal. The methods of use are principally taking by mouth and sniffing, less frequently hot inhalation (smoking) with injection remaining rare. In view of the reduced accessibility of certain substances during the second half of 2002 because of party events becoming rarer, it would seem that the methods of obtaining and consuming products have changed, with consumption spread throughout the week instead of at the weekend.

## The users of front line facilities

The profile of users of front line facilities, as shown in the light of the TREND quantitative survey, remains that of a young adult (average age, 31), most frequently male (81 %), unmarried (72 %), with insecure housing (32 %) and income (50 % on social assistance). Four sites of the facility report increasing numbers of a marginalised population resulting from immigration from Eastern Europe.

Within these populations, many have a large daily consumption of tobacco (40 % above 20 a day), alcohol (14 % above ten glasses each day) and cannabis (54 % taking it daily).

**Table 2: Frequency, in percent, of consumption of certain psychoactive substances during life and during the last month amongst users of front line facilities in 2002 (N=964)**

	Consumption	Frequency of consumption during the last month			
		At least 10 times during life	During the last month	Daily	Weekly
Heroin	684 (71 %)	299 (31 %)	41%	29%	30%
Cocaine	669 (69 %)	403 (42 %)	19 %	30 %	51%
HDB*	568 (57 %)	407 (42 %)	82 %	11 %	7%
Ecstasy	406 (25 %)	245 (42 %)	10 %	28 %	62%
Flunitrazepam	349 (14%)	137 (36%)	54%	32 %	14%

Data and use: TREND/OFDI  
\* high-dosage buprenorphine (Subutex®)

3. L. Da Silva, « L'usage de drogues chez les prostitués masculins (p. 245), in *Phénomènes émergents liés aux drogues en 2002 (Trend)* », Paris, OFDT, 2003, 288 p.

4. S. Cagliero, H. Lagrange, « Les consommations de produits psychoactifs chez les femmes prostituées (p. 233) », in *Phénomènes émergents liés aux drogues en 2002 (Trend)*, Paris, OFDT, 2003, 288 p.

Apart from these three substances, opiates and stimulants are the two categories of substance most frequently consumed. According to the TREND survey, of these substances, heroin remains the one most frequently tried at some time during life (see table 2) but cocaine and high-dose buprenorphine are the most frequently used during the past month – apart from alcohol, tobacco and cannabis. Recent consumptions of synthetic drugs seem stable compared with 2001. The consumption of flunitrazepam (Rohypnol®) is falling (last month, 21 % in 2001, 14 % in 2002), probably because of the more restrictive prescription conditions introduced in February 2001.

The proportion of problem users resorting to injection remains high. However, recently available data indicate a continuing fall in the use of injection, especially amongst younger users. This year, according to the TREND survey, recent sniffing (during the past month), at 49 %, appears to be more frequent than injection, at 44 %. Amongst recent injectors, the frequency of sharing equipment or substance remains high and about a quarter of those concerned (26 %) admits to having shared his syringes during the past month. Amongst recent sniffers, almost every second person (43 %) has shared the straw.

A majority (63 %) of the users encountered in 2002 in the front line facilities considered themselves in good physical health. Nevertheless, more than a third (39 %) admitted to suffering from dental problems and about one in 20 (4 %) had overdosed during the past month. While a majority of all concerned is diagnosed with HIV (81 %) or HCV (72 %), the observed proportions amongst those under 26 are lower (61 % for HIV and 52 % for HCV), indicating faulty implementation of the diagnosis. In 2002, the proportion of positives amongst those claiming to know the result of their serological tests was 10 % for HIV, 49 % for HCV and 14 % for HBV. The positive rates are lower amongst younger users (under 26, HIV 2 %, HCV 19 %) and amongst non-injectors.

## The contexts of prostitution

During 2002, the contexts of male and female prostitution were investigated in order to estimate the extent and the methods of use of psychotropic substances. These investigations were carried out by means of questionnaires and interviews, in Marseilles and Paris for males and transsexuals and in Lille, Marseilles and Paris for females.

The men (99 %) and transsexuals (82 %) encountered were generally under 35. These are young adults, unmarried, of whom the majority declare prostitution as their professional occupation. More than three quarters consume alcohol and 10 % consider themselves dependent. 56 % consume cannabis daily. Of the "party" or "recreational" drugs, the most used during the past month is poppers (13 % of men and 14 % of transsexuals). Ecstasy seems to be used more by boys (45 % of experimenters and 11 % of recent use) than by transsexuals (34 % of experimenters and 2 % of recent use). Cocaine has been tried by 42 % of persons and recently consumed by 7 %.

The recent use of heroin (2 %) or crack (1 %) appears to be very marginal. This is, therefore, a population presenting an important over-consumption of psychoactive substances, whose motivations frequently seem to be connected with the constraints of their professional lives.

The women surveyed were of various origins: European Union (47 %), Eastern Europe (23 %), Sub-Saharan Africa (19 %), Maghreb (9 %). The average age is 33 and the median age is 30. Less than half (42 %) stated that they had consumed alcohol in the past month. Only 2 % considered themselves dependent. 5 % had used heroin recently but 13 % of women surveyed had tried it. Experimentation with cocaine or crack concerned 17 % of persons, all of whom had experimented with heroin. The use of heroin may precede or be directly connected with the beginning of prostitution.

It would seem that an important minority of prostitutes had recently used illicit drugs other than cannabis. Such drug use is more frequently found amongst men and transsexuals than amongst women. The use of heroin as an explanatory factor for entry into prostitution seems more frequent amongst women than amongst men and transsexuals.

## The results: the families of substances

### Opiates

Heroin remains a substance that has frequently been tried by the users of front line facilities (at least ten times during life, 71 %). On the other hand, this is much less the case for the past month (31 %). In the techno party context, the regulation of the use of stimulants by means of opiates does exist but remains limited to a small sub-population. As in previous years, heroin remained low in availability and accessibility. It is mostly obtained through intermediaries selling from home. In 2002, a continuing high rate of injection during the past month (61 %) was observed amongst heroin users in the front line facilities. This is, however, lower amongst the most recent users (46 % amongst those using it for less than five years). Sniffing (52 % in 2002 against 31 % in 2001) and inhalation (24 % in 2002 against 15 % in 2001) seem to be more widely practised in 2002. The image of heroin seems to be improving in both contexts. In the urban context, heroin appears to be the substance of choice by comparison with other opiates and especially with high-dose buprenorphine (HDB) in use without substitution. In the party context, too, the perception of heroin appears to be improving because of the development of less stigmatised methods of use (sniffing and inhalation) than injection and the presence of substances such as ketamine that seem much more dangerous. HDB was, in 2002, the most widely used substitution treatment in France (79,557 persons in 2002, according to SIAMOIS). Amongst the treatment facilities surveyed by OPPIDUM, almost all the persons consuming it were doing so under medical supervision. It is mostly taken orally (87 %) and much less frequently by injection (11 %) or nasally (7 %). Its use in the techno party context is reported but seems to be restricted to a very small minority. In the urban context, its availability and accessibility are very high on the parallel market; its median price (3.3 € per 8-mg pill) continued to fall in 2002.

The manner in which it is obtained varies and 18 % procured it exclusively on the parallel market. While it is most frequently taken orally (61 %), nearly one person in two (46 %) injects and nearly one in six (17 %) sniffs. In comparison with the 2001 survey, oral consumption is rising (+24 points) and injection is falling (-18 points). The frequency of use is mostly daily (83 %). We observe the existence of populations in a situation of insecurity (homeless, migrants, ex-prisoners) who seek out this substance for its ease of access, its low price and its sedative effects, which make it possible to tolerate difficult living conditions. There are also those who have never been dependent on other opiates who consider themselves dependent on HDB. Amongst problem users in the urban context, the perception of HDB remains poor, in particular because of its highly addictive properties and its side effects when injected.

An additional investigation into the non-substitution uses of HDB is being carried out. The intermediate analysis that has been completed, uses the file of the quantitative survey of the users of front line facilities and six semi-directive interviews with users who were either primary consumers (consume HDB rather than any other opiate) or primarily addicted to HDB (addicted to HDB rather than any other opiate).

Of the 502 persons using front line facilities who had consumed HDB during the past month, 7 % are primary consumers and 13 % are primarily addicted. Finally, 11 % became dependent on HDB after at least two years without consuming any opiates. The frequency of dependence on HDB outside substitution appears not to be negligible amongst this population.

Of those accepting to be interviewed, almost all do not take it under the tongue but rather by injection or by sniffing. The majority (12/16) resort only or partly to the doctor for their supply of HDB, a minority (4) never. It seems easy to obtain HDB on prescription. The absence of confirmed heroin addiction does not seem to be a barrier, as prescription can be considered a substitute for street HDB. The initial contact with HDB can occur in a context of great social insecurity, relations with friends or partner or celebration. While taking it for the first time often leads to unpleasant effects (nausea, vomiting etc.), they are generally associated with pleasant sensations, which encourage a second try. It turns out that three main types of effect are sought: a high, a feeling of assurance and relief of anxiety. Furthermore, HDB can be used as a regulator for stimulants, leading sometimes to the creation of a vicious circle between the opiate and the stimulants. These first results raise the question of the existence of non-substitutive uses of HDB in France and of factors contributing to such use.

The estimated number of persons treated with methadone (13,500, SIAMOIS) in France increased by 40 % between 2001 and 2002. Amongst those encountered by the health and social care facilities (OPPIDUM) in 2002, 35 % had consumed methadone of which 98 % under medical supervision. Amongst the users of front line facilities (TREND), 17 % had consumed methadone during the past month, of whom 80 % daily. Misuse, if it exists, appears marginal. The perceptions of this substance are equivocal: on the one hand it is a way out of heroin dependence,

5. S. Escots, G. Fahet, « Éléments d'observation des usages non substitutifs de la buprénorphine haut dosage en France, en 2002 » (p. 205), in *Phénomènes émergents liés aux drogues en 2002 (Trend)*, Paris, OFDT, 2003, 288 p.

on the other, it is synonymous with high dependency. The morphine sulphates (Skenan LP®, Moscontin LP®) are rarely used substances, both in OPPIDUM (2 %) and amongst the users in the TREND front line survey (9 %). For the latter, the frequency of use is generally daily (62 %) and administration is mainly by injection (80 %). The image that users have of this product is fairly good. Accessibility and availability seem to be subject to wide variations. Codeines are rarely used, both in OPPIDUM (1 %) and in the TREND front line survey (8 %). The users encountered by TREND, are either former heroin addicts practising self-substitution or highly marginalised individuals. Misuse of codeine seems to have been falling for some years. The image of this product is that of a “dowdy” substance, intended for old addicts.

## Stimulants

Cocaine, in its chlorohydrate form (powder, primarily for sniffing) or as base (crack / free-base, primarily for smoking), is a stimulant that is widely used in the techno party and urban contexts. The image of the powder form is often positive amongst recent initiates but the enthusiasm is less amongst more experienced users. The image of the base form is very negative when it appears under the name of “crack”. On the other hand, it can be very positive under the name of “free-base” as it is then often seen as a “pure” substance. The availability of the powder form continues to rise in the urban and party contexts. That of the “base” form remains essentially centred on Paris and les Antilles, most frequently under the name of “crack”. On other mainland sites, it appears to be increasing, often under the name of “free-base”. Of problem users in the urban context, more than two thirds (69 %) had tried cocaine more than ten times and more than half (55 %) had used it during the past month. The frequency of use is most often episodic.

**Table 3: Form and content of samples in the SINTES database collected and seized in France in 2002**

	Pill	Capsule	Powder	Liquid	Tab	Total
MDMA	82 %	59 %	28 %	1/36	7/25	70 %
Amphetamine	7 %	8 %	30 %	0	1/25	10 %
All amphetamines <sup>1</sup>	88 %	73 %	57 %	1/36	8/25	78 %
Caffeine	7 %	11 %	34 %	0	7/25	12 %
Anaesthetics <sup>2</sup>	0 %	< 1	10 %	9/36	1/25	2 %
Hallucinogens <sup>3</sup>	0 %	0 %	0 %	1/36	9/25	< 1 %
Medicinal substances	6 %	41 %	22 %	5/36	10/25	11 %
No psychoactive substance	5 %	10 %	14 %	12/36	3/25	8 %
Total number	1 452	132	280	36	25	1 925

<sup>1</sup> MDMA, MDEA, MDA, amphetamine

<sup>2</sup> ketamine, Lidocaïne®, Gamma-OH

<sup>3</sup> LSD, Psilocybine

### Data and use: SINTES/OFDT

Reading: of the 1,452 pills collected in 2002, 82 % contained MDMA. As a sample may contain several products (e.g. MDMA and caffeine), the column totals are higher than 100.

The most recent uses of cocaine (less than five years) inject less (36 %) and sniff more (59 %) than older users. In the party context, cocaine users present a great diversity of social profiles, which indicates a high level of penetration. The main methods of taking it remain sniffing and smoking. Amongst problem users in the urban context, although more than half still inject, sniffing and inhalation are still on the rise.

Ecstasy remains a product that is very easy to observe in the techno party context and continues to spread to other social contexts. The most common form remains the pill, which is almost always taken orally. However, samples of ecstasy in powder or capsule form are more frequently observed than formerly. They are generally seen by the users as being of better quality than the pill samples. These forms are more frequently associated with sniffing than are the pills. The most experienced users seem to have a rather derogatory view of ecstasy, a factor which may favour a reduction in the use of this product in the coming years.

The average dose of MDMA in the ecstasy pills catalogued in SINTES continued to fall in 2002 to reach 56 mg. During the second half of the year, samples containing doses of more than 100 mg were identified, leading to the issue of quick information notes. Of the pills catalogued in SINTES in 2002, 82 % contained some MDMA and 6 % contained medicinal substances (see table 3). The powders show very variable concentrations of MDMA, from 2 % to 95 %. In the powders analysed by SINTES, products frequently found are caffeine (34 %), amphetamine (30 %) and MDMA (28 %). The price of an ecstasy tablet continued to fall at the beginning of 2002 and then stabilised in the second half of the year between 10 and 15 €. Amphetamine is still only consumed by a minority of persons. Its availability seems patchy according to the sites. It is often present (42 %) in the powders collected by SINTES. According to available information, the circulation in France of methamphetamine under the name of “ice” or “yaba” appears to be very rare.

## Hallucinogens

Only a minority of problem users (14 %), encountered in the urban context, have recently used LSD. This is essentially episodic use, taken orally. The availability and accessibility of this substance fell sharply in 2002. At the same time, the average price appears to have risen (10 to 15 € per tab) and its image has improved. More than two thirds of the samples supposed to be LSD that were analysed by SINTES in 2002 contained no LSD.

The results of the TREND observations carried out in 2002 show that the frequency of ketamine use does not appear to have changed between 2001 and 2002

(7 % of recent users according to the TREND front line survey). It concerns a small minority of users with a wide variety of social profiles. The "extreme" use of ketamine on party occasions seems to have been more stigmatised by the participants in 2002 than in 2001. Better controlled uses are developing and reducing the frequency of the most visible consequences. The main method of taking it is sniffing and its use is episodic for the great majority of persons. Ketamine appears to have an image at the extreme of the danger scale. Its availability and accessibility appear to have diminished in 2002. The intermediate results of the specific investigation of misappropriated uses of ketamine carried out by the GRVS<sup>6</sup> are the result of 160 quantitative questionnaires, ten interviews and two collective discussions with ketamine users (at least one consumption episode since January 2001). The experimenters encountered show a very varied social profile and level of social integration, ranging from fully integrated in terms of income, housing and social insurance to extremely marginalised. The proportion of women (40 %) is higher than is usual amongst user populations. Amongst these, a large minority (28 %) stated that they had used it during the past month. Less than one experimenter in ten (6 %) had used it daily or several times a week. In fact, a major part of these experimenters do not indulge in repetitive consumption of this product because of effects that are considered unsatisfactory. Furthermore, a high proportion of those experimenting with ketamine also experiment with other substances, especially hallucinogens and stimulants. The effects sought when taking ketamine are essentially hallucinations (43 %), a disembodied feeling (33 %) and/or stimulation (27 %). Cannabis and alcohol are frequently associated with the taking of ketamine. In view of these first results, preventive actions aimed at ketamine users could prove useful. The techno party context, the low threshold reception centres and the CSSTs would appear to be the appropriate places to implement them. The use of magic mushrooms concerns only a small minority of the persons observed by TREND. No recent change in the frequency of their consumption has been noted. However, it seems that they are used by people with a wide variety of social profiles. They are almost always taken by mouth. Their image as a natural product, presenting little danger and unconnected with trafficking, contributes to a positive perception, along the lines of that enjoyed for some years by hallucinogenic plants. While their accessibility and availability seem stable, they are difficult to evaluate because they can be home-grown and non-commercial exchanges (gift, swap) are frequent. *Salvia divinorum* has very limited circles of users. Its effects are unsuited to a party context and it is more likely to be used under calm and intimate circumstances. Its availability remains limited. The use of *datura* seems to be more frequently observed, especially because of its low price. In 2002, several TREND sites reported observation of the use of *Argyrea nervosa* of which the active ingredient is LSA.

6. S. Akoka, C. Reynaud-Maurupt, « Les usages détournés de la kétamine en 2002-2003 : compte rendu intermédiaire d'une investigation spécifique TREND » (p. 185), in *Phénomènes émergents liés aux drogues en 2002 (Trend)*, Paris, OFDT, 2003, 288 p.

GHB is hardly seen in the contexts monitored by TREND. Nitrous oxide is becoming anecdotal.

## Psychotropic medicines

The frequency of use of flunitrazepam (Rohypnol®) amongst problem users in the urban context continues to diminish, probably because of the modification of the conditions of prescription in February 2001. Its availability and accessibility on the parallel market continue to fall. The image of this substance remains very bad.

The abuse of trihexyphénydyle (Artane®) appears to be limited mainly to La Réunion and, to a lesser extent, to Marseilles and Paris. This substance continues to have a very bad image.

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## For more information

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## Trends

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