

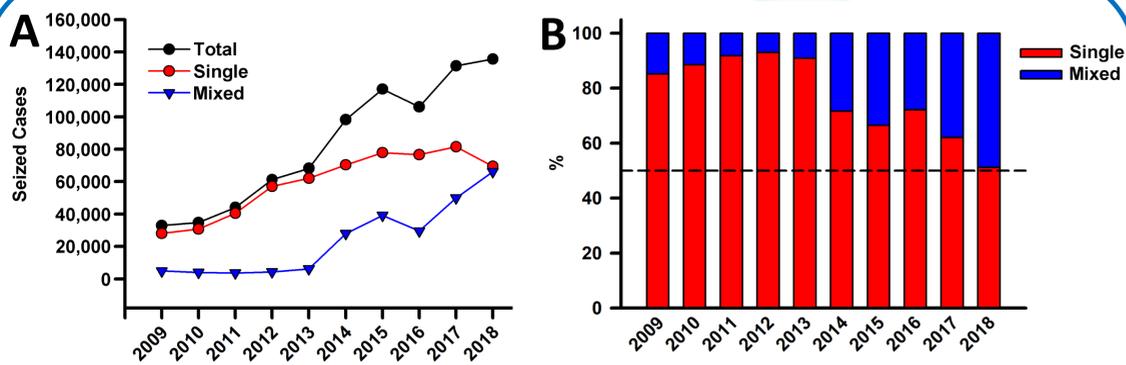
## Background

Drug abuse is a transnational issue and the origin of its problems come from physical, psychological, social, economic and many other complex factors, and the harm it causes is also widespread to individual health, social security and national development. Supervising drug abuse trend is very important and help government projected to take preventive measures in implementing early intervention. To get an insight to status of domestic drug abuse and epidemic trends, the Taiwan government has established a drug abuse supervising mechanism, which all certification analytical agencies or institutions reported the test results of seized specimens for drug abuse via the "Drug Abuse Test Report System" (UDARS), to the Food and Drug Administration (TFDA).

## Methods

In this study, we analyzed the drug abuse related data from the UDARS and map out the trends of illegal drugs abuse in Taiwan 2009-2018.

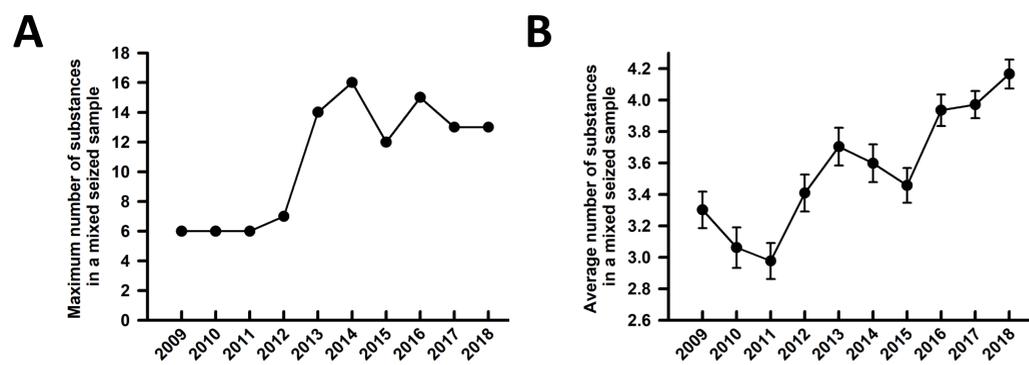
## Results



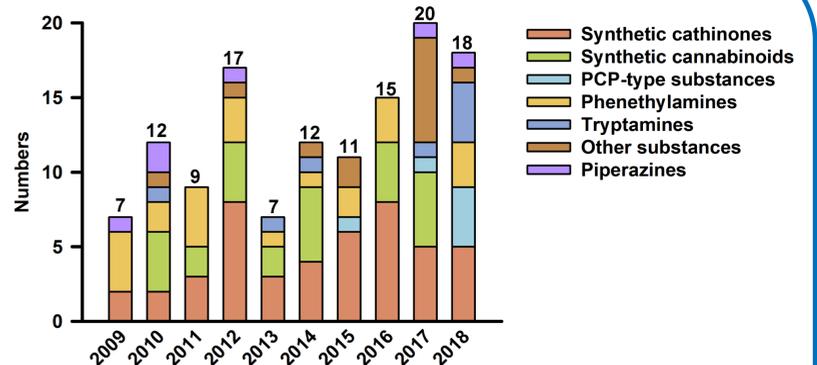
**Figure 1. The trend of seized drug reported to the UDARS, 2009-2018**  
A. Number of specimen B. proportion of seized case type.



**Figure 2. Photo of seized new-type package in Taiwan**  
A. Instant coffee packets type mixed drug containing mephedrone and Bk-MDMA.  
B. Skin care type mixed drug (liquid) containing TEMPP, Mephedrone, and Methylone.

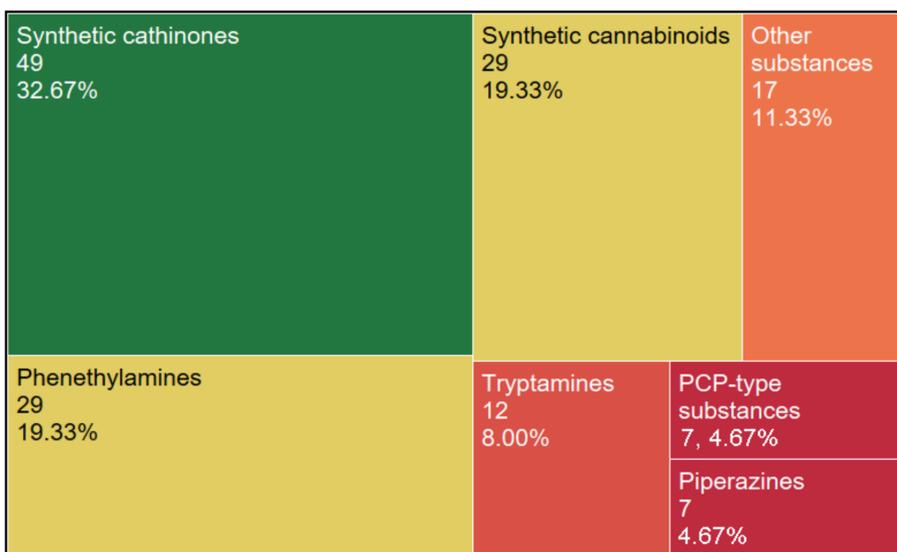


**Figure 3. The number of substances in the seized mixed sample, 2009-2018**  
A. maximum number of substances B. average number of substances.



**Figure 4. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) notified to UDARS for the first time, 2009-2018**

### A. Total: 150 substances



### B. Total: 553,020 cases



**Figure 5. Proportion of seized NPS in Taiwan, 2009-2018, by substance category**  
A. Total number per category B. Total seized case per category

## Conclusions

Taken together, our results provided an evidence based data analysis of the illegal drug abuse trends in Taiwan. The results will be useful for government provide warning function into full play and prevent illegal drug abuse in the future.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest relevant to this article.

