



# **NPS tested by Energy Control, a community-based service of drug- checking and harm-reduction in Spain**

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**No conflict of  
interest**

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Background and context

Methodology

Results

Conclusions

# NPS context in Europe

- Since 2015, every year around 400 previously reported NPS are detected in Europe
- The majority of the data comes from police seizures
- Synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones accounted for almost 60% of the number of seizures reported in 2019 by EU Member States

In 2019 EU member States reported seizures amounting to 2

tonnes of NPS

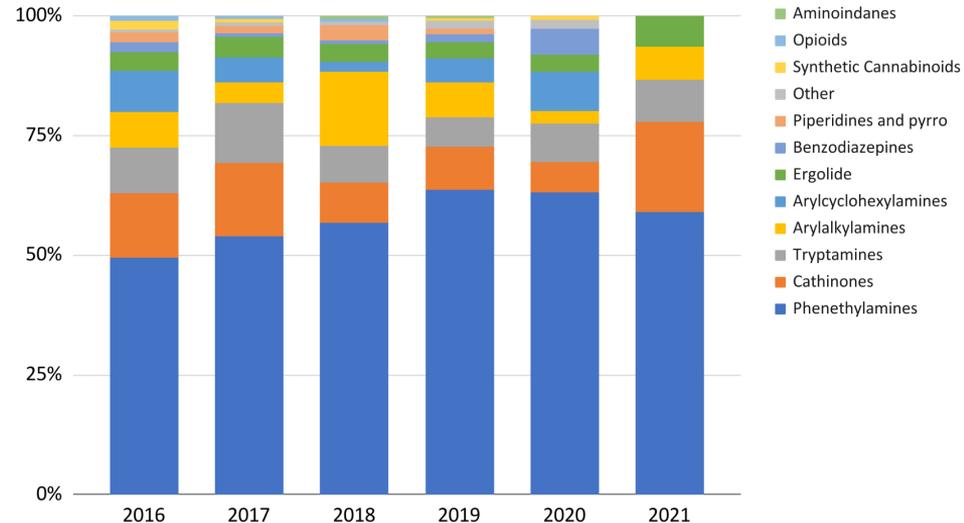


# NPS context in Spain

- Spain is a big cannabis producer, thus synthetics cannabinoids are rare
- The well-connected ports provide plenty of access to classic substances
- Police checkpoints doing drug tests at
- The use of cathinones is increasing in the chemsex community



From 2016 to 2021 n=953

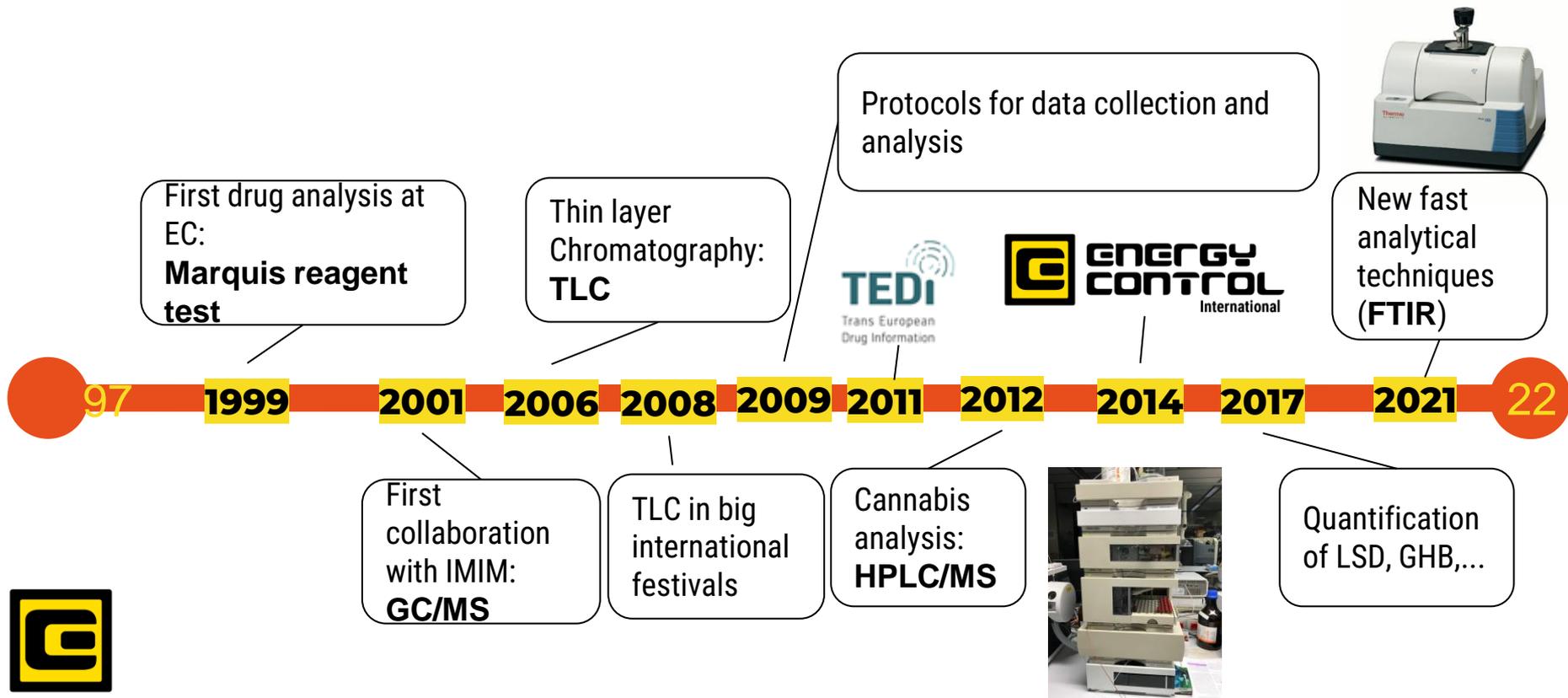


# What is Energy Control?



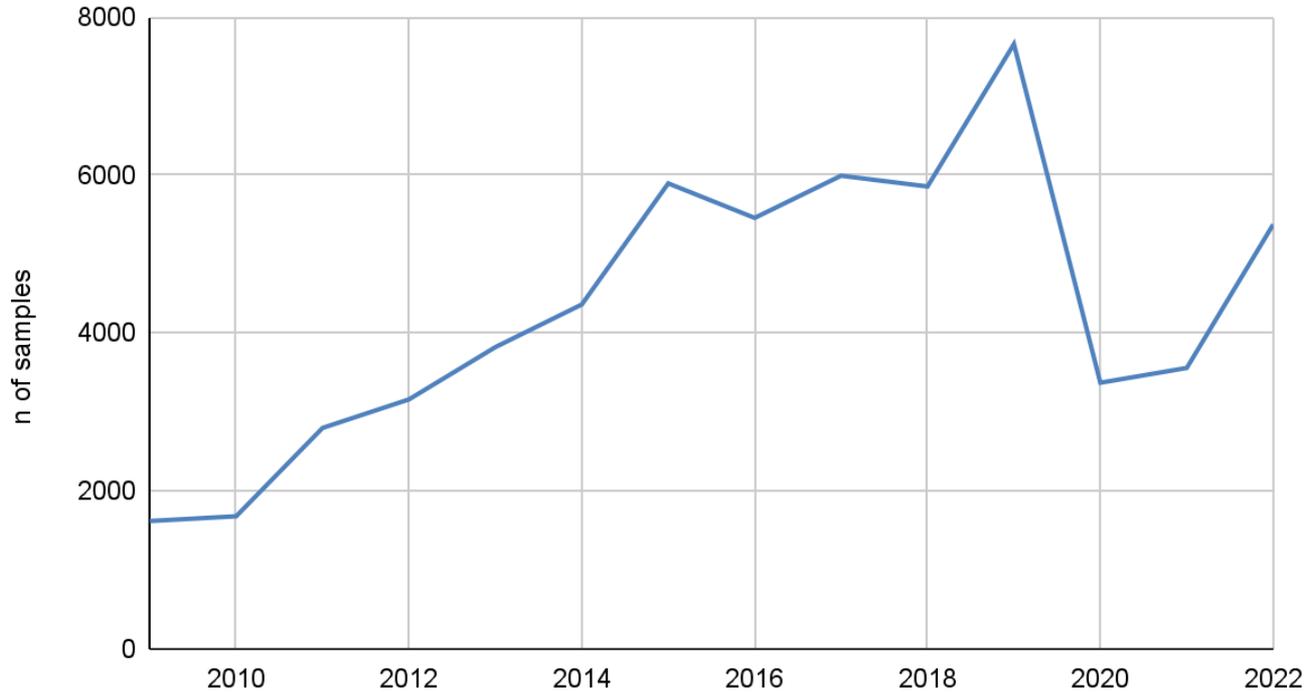
- Started in 1997 as part of ABD in Spain
- National and international outreach
- Focused on nightlife and recreational use of drugs
- Drug checking and harm reduction information
- In-house lab

# Evolution of our drug checking service



# Samples analyzed by Energy Control

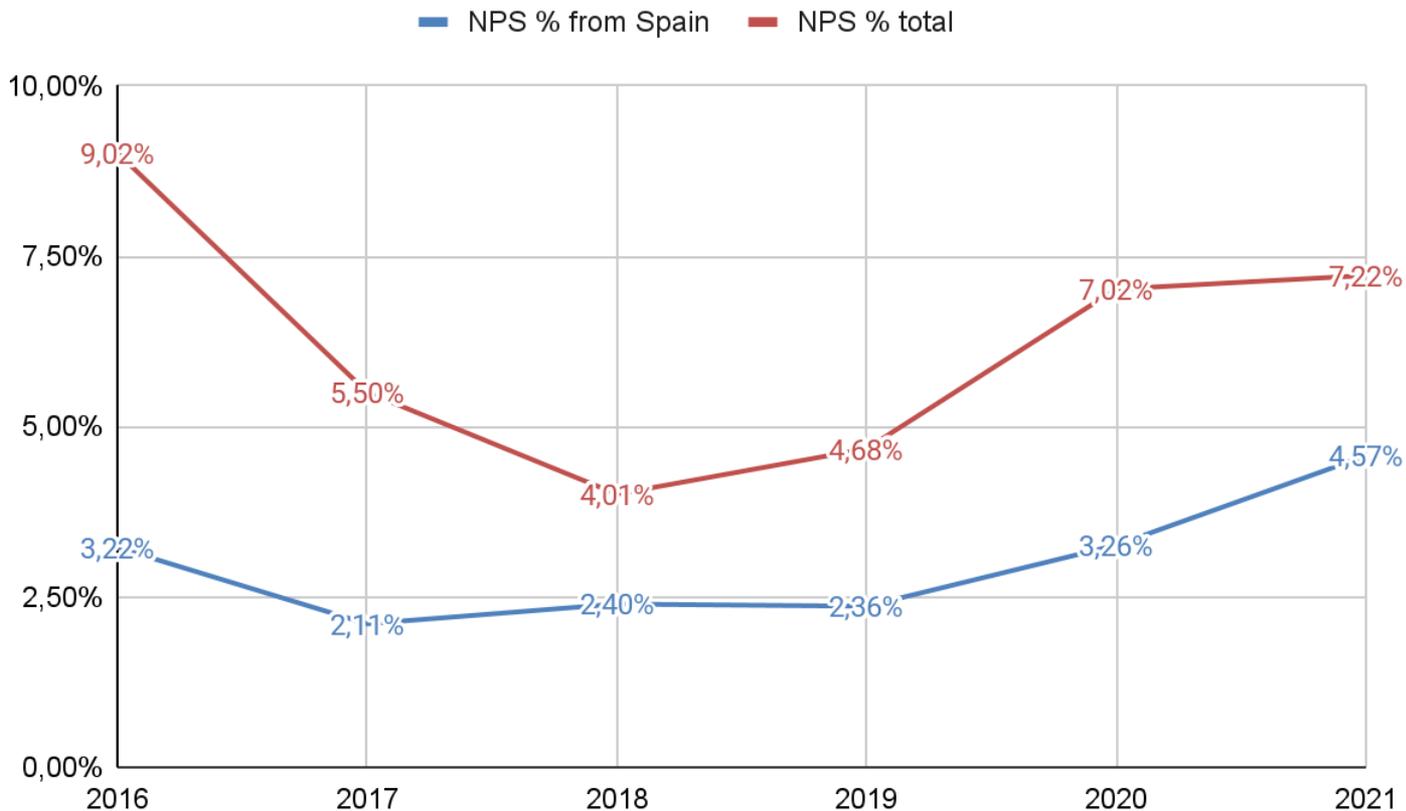
From 2009 to 2022



In total more than 60.000 samples

# Comparison of NPS analyzed by Energy

## Contr



# Methodology

- 953 NPS samples collected in Spain between 2016-2021
- Samples collected as NPS in our drop-in centers, onsite at festivals and DCR
- A short questionnaire was asked to each user submitting a sample
- HPLC-UV and GC/MS were used to identify and if possible quantify

The data was stored in our custom database

# Distribution of pharmacological families

From 2016 to 2021 n=953

Benzodiazepines

1,6%

Ergolide

4,3%

Arylcyclohexylamines

4,7%

Arylalkylamines

7,7%

Tryptamines

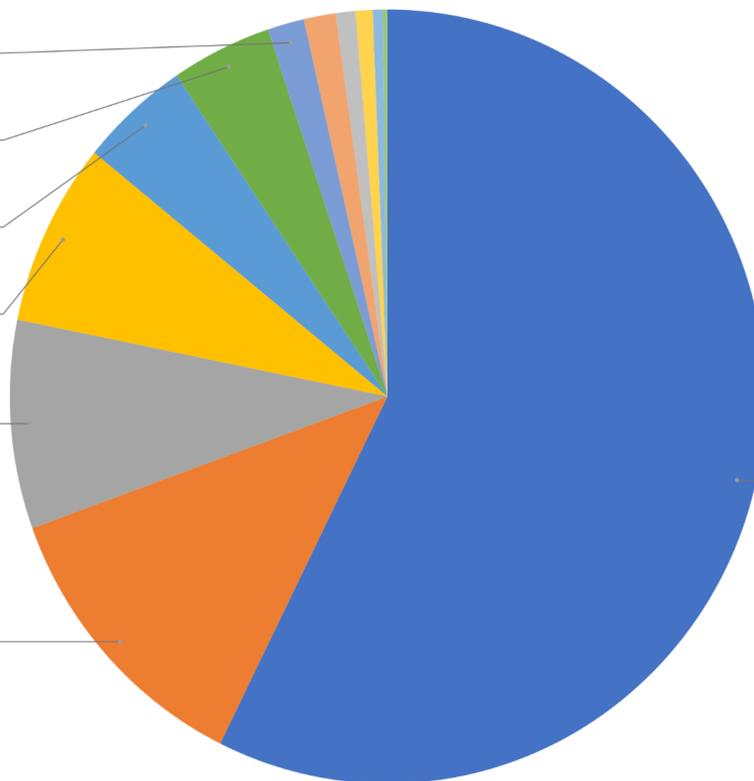
8,7%

Cathinones

12,2%

Phenethylamines

57,3%



# Ranking of the most common NPS

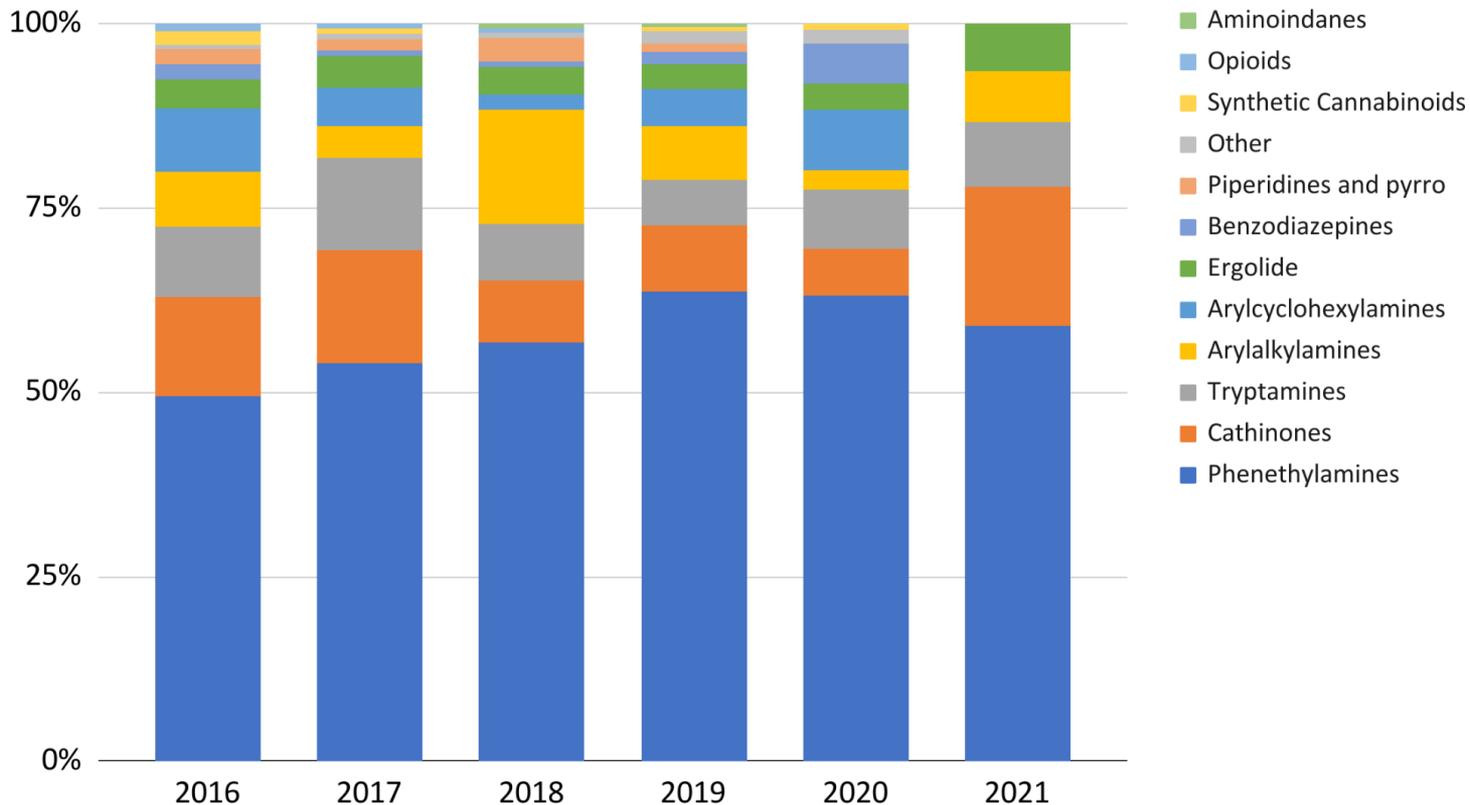
#	Substance	n
1	2C-B	427
2	3-MMC	42
3	6-APB succinate	40
4	1P-LSD	27
5	4-AcO-DMT	25
6	Hexen	18
7	5-MeO-DMT	15
8	Methoxetamine (MXE)	14
9	3-MEO-PCP, 4-FA, Methylone	12
10	2-FMA, 4-HO-MET	12

...

14	Etizolam	7
19	AB-FUBINACA	1

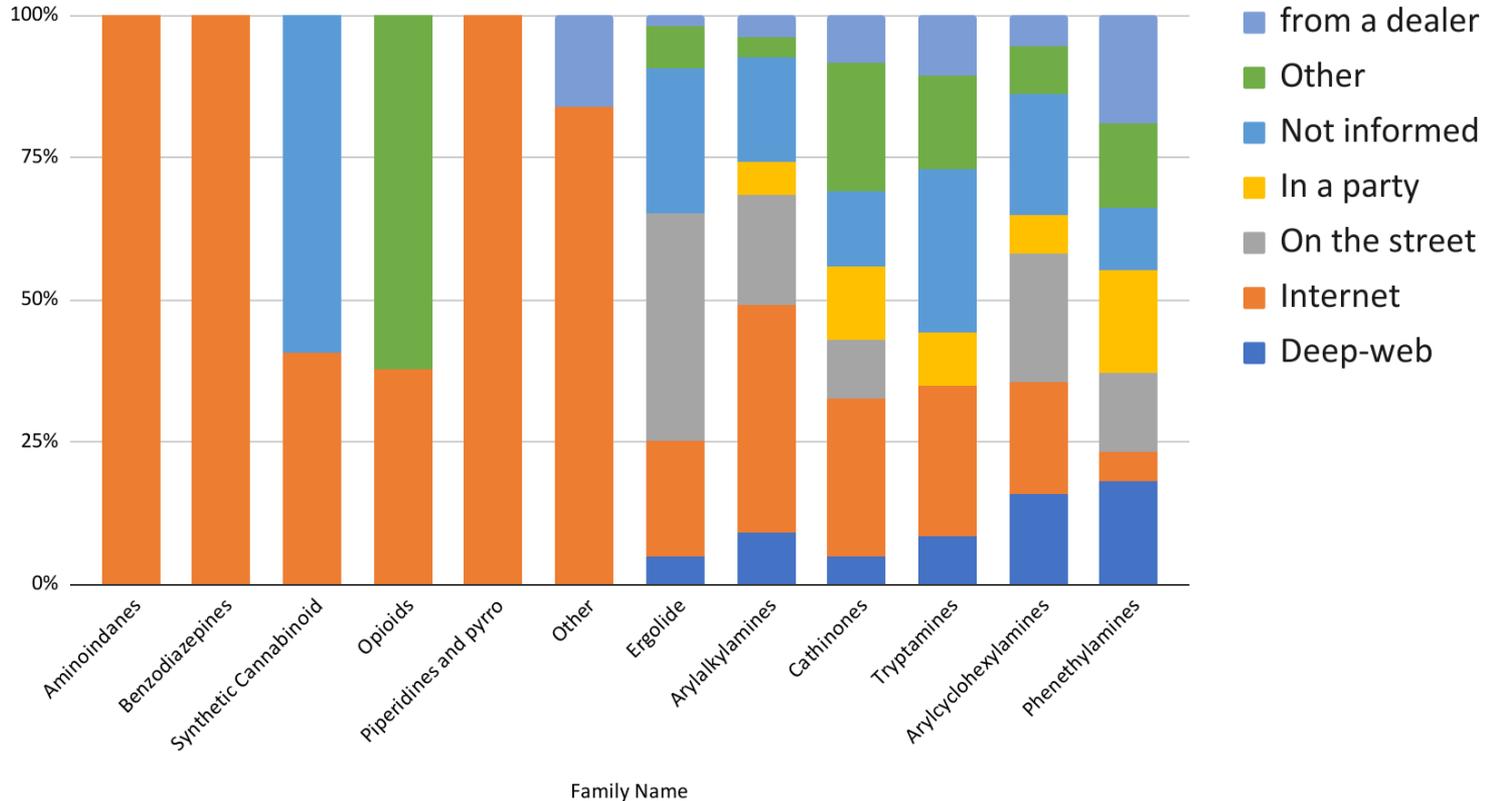
# Evolution of the pharmacological families

From 2016 to 2021 n=953

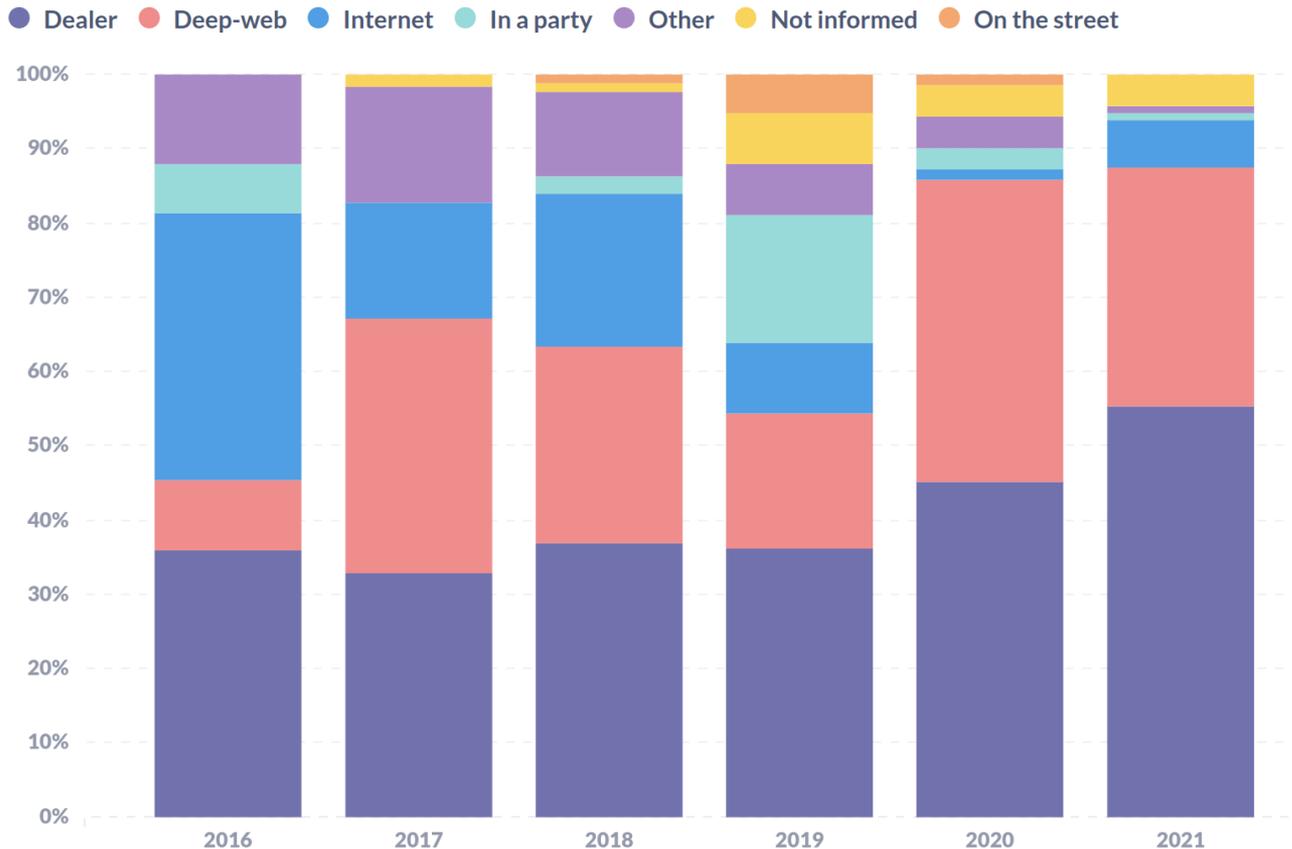


# Sources by pharmacological families

From 2016 to 2021 n=953



# Evolution of the sources of phenet



# Conclusions

- Community-based services of drug-checking represent a useful source of localized information about the use of NPS
- Effective harm reduction strategies can be derived from the data
- Our data shows that in Spain NPS are mainly used in recreational settings
- Banning a substance can move the supply chain to other routes if PWUD have interest on it



# **NPS tested by Energy Control, a community-based service of drug- checking and harm-reduction in Spain**

**Thank you!**

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