

Mephedrone

AKA: methylmethcathinone, 4-mmc, mcat, MMCAT, Miaow miaow, plant food, bubbles, 'drone, meph, fert

Related compounds: methcathinone, flephedrone, ephedrone, butylone, methedrone

Popularity 0.2% of 16-24 yr olds reported use in last yr (CSEW 2019/20). Down from 4.4% in 2010-11

Dose Range: 75-200mg dose range

Method of Use: snorted, swallowed, rarely IV

Duration: 15-30mins

Effects: +ve: euphoria, increased energy, confidence, alertness, moderate hallucinations
-ve increased heart rate, tremors, panic, anxiety, paranoia

Additional information: mephedrone one of first novel psychoactive substances (NPS) emerged around 2006. Popular due to legality, affordability, availability, undetectability, purity & effects. Made a CD in 2010 after which availability & use dropped.

Law: Class B, Schedule 1
Made a Controlled Drug in May 2010; previously legal.

Cost: £15-20/g



Appearance: white/off white crystalline powder; chemically or fishy odour; unlabelled bags

Category: stimulant

Source: Illicit labs, mainly in Asia; street dealers



Mechanism: Elevates nor-adrenaline, dopamine & serotonin by forcing release and blocking reuptake

Quality: highly impure; not clear how much real "mephedrone" is still around

Indicators: dilated pupils, energetic, talkative, manic, fishy smell, possibly limb tremors, hot, discoloured limbs

Risks: compulsive redosing, heart problems, "serotonin syndrome:" convulsions, circulatory problems. Mental health: anxiety, panic, paranoia, psychosis, depression, dependency.