

Nitrites

AKA: Amyl Nitrite, Butyl Nitrite
(most commonly sold product is isopropyl nitrite) Poppers, rush, Liquid Gold

Popularity

0.7% of 16-24 year olds reported use in CSEW (2016/17) No longer recorded. Reported use had been dropping.

Method of Use: inhaled;
highly dangerous if drunk

Duration: 2-5 mins

Effects:

+ve: giggling, rushing feeling, sexual arousal (?)
Increased heart rate, pounding head
Relaxed smooth muscles, drop in blood pressure
-ve: dizzy, fainting feeling

Other information: Poppers (amyl, butyl and isopropyl nitrite) have been around for ages and are used in a variety of settings – experimental drug use amongst people, to relax rectal muscles for anal sex, to enhance feelings of arousal in sexual settings, to replicate the “rush” of coming up on MDMA and as a short-lived recreational drug.



Law: Legal under MoDA
Restricted under Medicines Act; prosecutions under the PSA have taken place although the “Psychoactive” nature of Nitrites is disputed.

Cost:
£5-10/bottle

Source: sold in sex shops and some corner shops

Indicators:
chemical smell; fast pulse

Risks: Heart failure, rupture of small blood vessels

Risk of cyanosis if drunk or used for extended periods