

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES STUDY PROTOCOL

Background

This study aims to examine the effect of two public health interventions on presentations to psychiatric services following use of new psychoactive substances. We will aim to quantify number of presentations, which drugs were used and whether there was psychiatric symptomatology, as well as looking at outcome of presentation (hospital admission, referral to other services).

REH Study

1. Identify individuals admitted to REH acute wards/taken on by IHTT for 6/12 prior to banning of ethylphenidate (10/04/15) and 6/12 after City Council forfeiture order (15/10/15) using Trak patient record database.
2. Using Trak, review discharge letters and extract information on: age, gender, drug used, method of administration, psychiatric diagnosis (if given), duration of admission, other substance use & symptomatology.
3. Data analysis:
 - a. Make comparison of numbers of patients being admitted with psychiatric problems following NPS use compared to previous findings.
 - b. Examine any changes in patterns of psychiatric presentation or admission to psychiatric hospital

