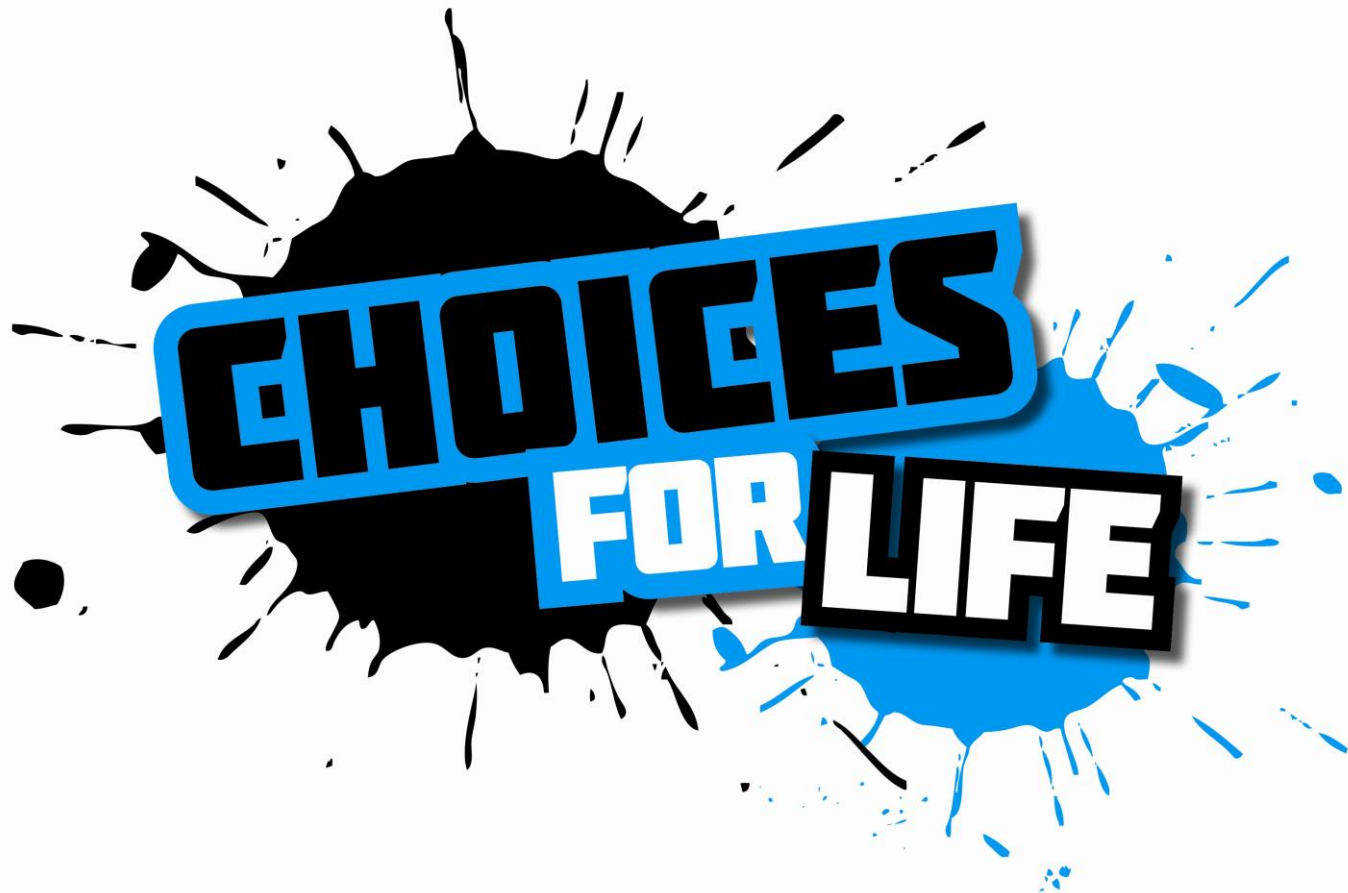
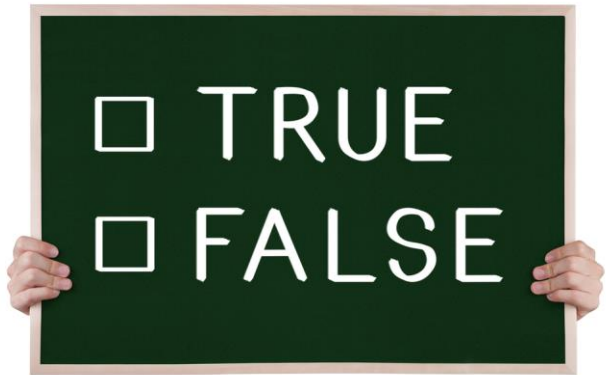


# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)





## New Psychoactive Substances

How much do you **REALLY** know about them?

Answer **TRUE** or **FALSE** to these statements...

NPS can be addictive.

NPS contains what is says on the packet.

Herbal NPS are safer because they're naturally grown.

NPS are tested to ensure they are safe for humans to use.

The police can confiscate a 'legal high' from me.

It's impossible to get a drug conviction for possessing NPS because it's a 'legal high'.

The medical effect a 'legal high' could have on me could be just as severe as a controlled drug.

There are safe ways to take NPS.

It is safer to mix NPS with other substances.

If someone takes NPS and becomes ill I should give them up to a maximum of half an hour to come round before calling an ambulance.



# LEARNING INTENTIONS

- To understand what is meant by the term NPS - **New Psychoactive Substances**
- To understand the reasons why it is misleading to call them 'legal highs'
- To become aware of what the risks are in relation to NPS

# New Psychoactive Substances

- These substances are intended to mimic the effects of illegal drugs. They are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
- Most of these substances are made, although some are naturally occurring.
- They can be sold anywhere – often via the internet.
- They come in a variety of formats - pills, powders, liquids or herbal material.
- 'NPS' cannot be sold for human consumption so they are often sold as incense, salts or plant food to get round the law. The packaging may describe a list of ingredients but you cannot be sure that this is what the product will contain.
- 'Brand names' are often used similar to illegal drugs

## Examples of - New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

- **Synthetic cannabinoids** –These bear no relation to the cannabis plant except in that the chemicals act on the brain in a similar way to cannabis. The chemicals are often sprayed onto plant matter to make them appear like cannabis.
- **Stimulant-type drugs** –The effects of these drugs are intended to replicate the effects created by amphetamine and MDMA.
- **Hallucinogenic** – The effects of these drugs are intended to mimic controlled drugs such as LSD.

# Examples of - New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)





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## Drug deaths involving 'legal highs' double in last year

14 August 2014 | Scotland



Legal highs were implicated in 60 deaths in Scotland in 2013

# SCOTLANDTODAY

## New 'legal high' warning

Raids on 'legal high' shops welcomed by campaigners

# 'Legal high' hospital admissions increasing in Scotland

# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

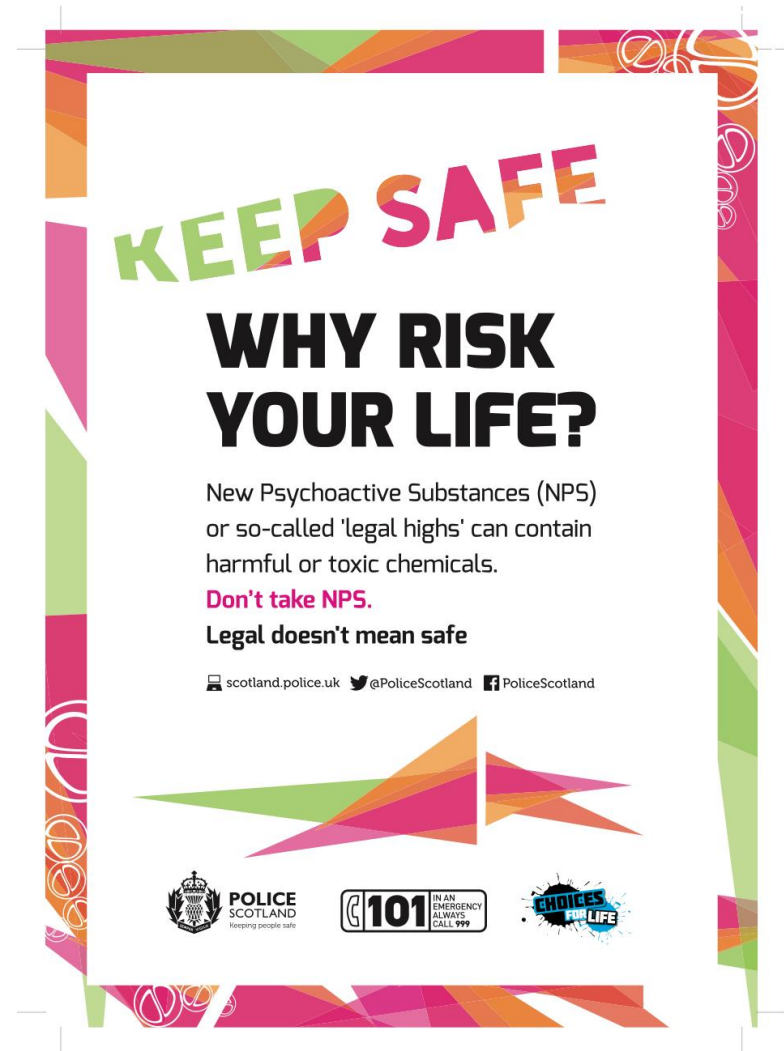


**Are NPS Legal and therefore Safe?**



# New Psychoactive Substances

- You'll **never** know whether a substance really is legal
- NPS are drugs
- There is no '**safe**' amount or way to take NPS
- Mixing NPS with alcohol or other substances is even more dangerous
- NPS can contain harmful or toxic chemicals



# New Psychoactive Substances

..... but shops sell NPS?

- **It's against the law** to sell NPS for human consumption
- No safety tests
- Sold under different guises:
  - 'Research Chemical'
  - 'Plant Food'
  - 'Bath Salts'
  - 'Collector's Item'
  - 'Room de-odouriser'



# New Psychoactive Substances



**What are the Risks?**

# New Psychoactive Substances

What are the risks?

- You can't really be sure of what's in NPS you've bought, or been given, or what effect it's likely to have on you or your friends.
- Drugs including NPS will have widely different strengths and effects on different people.
- **Mixing NPS with alcohol or other substances is even more dangerous**
- In fact, for many NPS, there has been little or no useful research into the short or long-term risks from human consumption.

# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



**Why are NPS not illegal?**

# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

- Many drugs that were previously sold as NPS are now controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, including Mephedrone (meow meow / mcat), Ethylphenidate (burst), Naphyrone, BZP, GBL and synthetic cannabinoids (*such as those found in Spice products*).
- Possessing or supplying (includes giving to a friend) a 'NPS' that contains a banned drug is an offence.



Mephedrone, also known as 4-MMC and used as an alternative to cocaine, has already been banned in the UK



# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

- Rate at which new NPS are appearing ....
  - What does this say about how they're tested?

As the packet often says itself, NPS are...



# Success Criteria – Learning Intentions

- I now understand what is meant by the term NPS  
- **New Psychoactive Substances**
- I understand the reasons why it is misleading to  
call them 'legal highs'
- I am aware of what the risks are in relation to  
NPS



# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



[www.choicesforlifeonline.org](http://www.choicesforlifeonline.org)

[www.knowthescore.info](http://www.knowthescore.info)



[www.whynotfindout.org](http://www.whynotfindout.org)

[www.re-solv.org.uk](http://www.re-solv.org.uk)



# New Psychoactive Substances

Real life stories & video clips



# New Psychoactive Substances

Some real life stories:

- <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/teen-collapses-following-near-fatal-legal-5548284>
- <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/legal-highs-killed-me-former-5386347>

# New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

