

THE INTERIM PERIOD OF THE
PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES
ACT JULY 2013 - MAY 2014

WHAT HAPPENED UNDER A REGULATED MARKET?

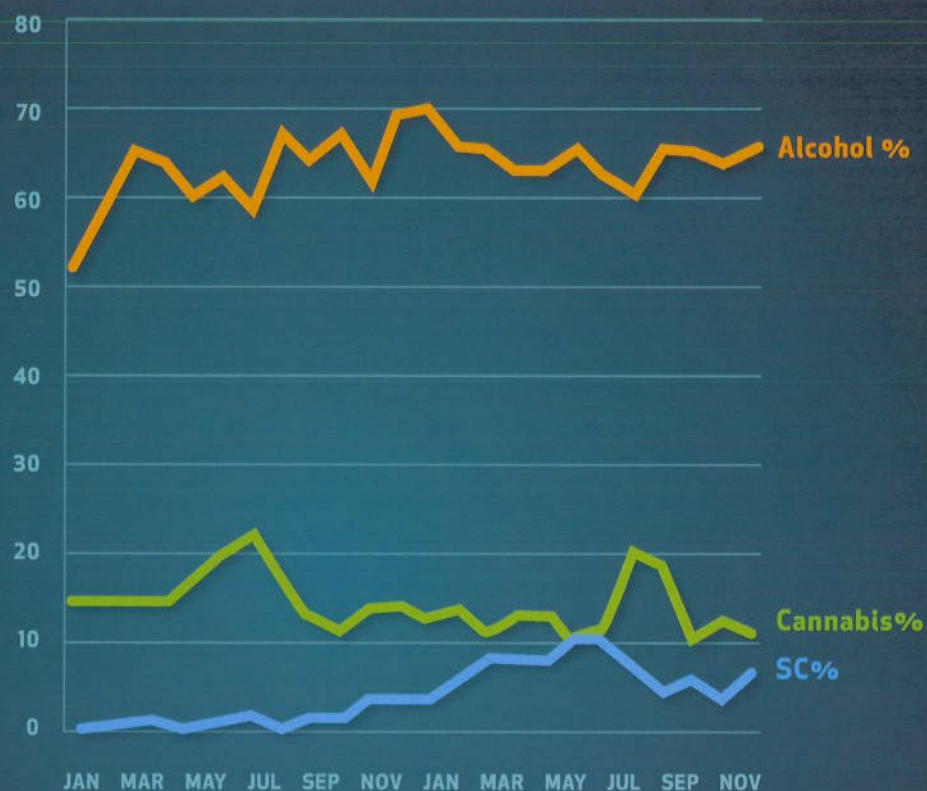
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ALCOHOL DRUG HELPLINE CALLS, 2012 - 2013



— 2012 — • — 2013 —

A large 'grey market' for psychoactive products was subject to strict new regulations coming into effect on July 18th, 2013. This new 'white' marketplace was now restricted to 150 licensed retailers [down from 4000] and all products now subject to recall based on adverse incident reports to the NZ Poisons Centre. On average approximately 11,000 people consumed synthetic cannabis every day.

HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED:

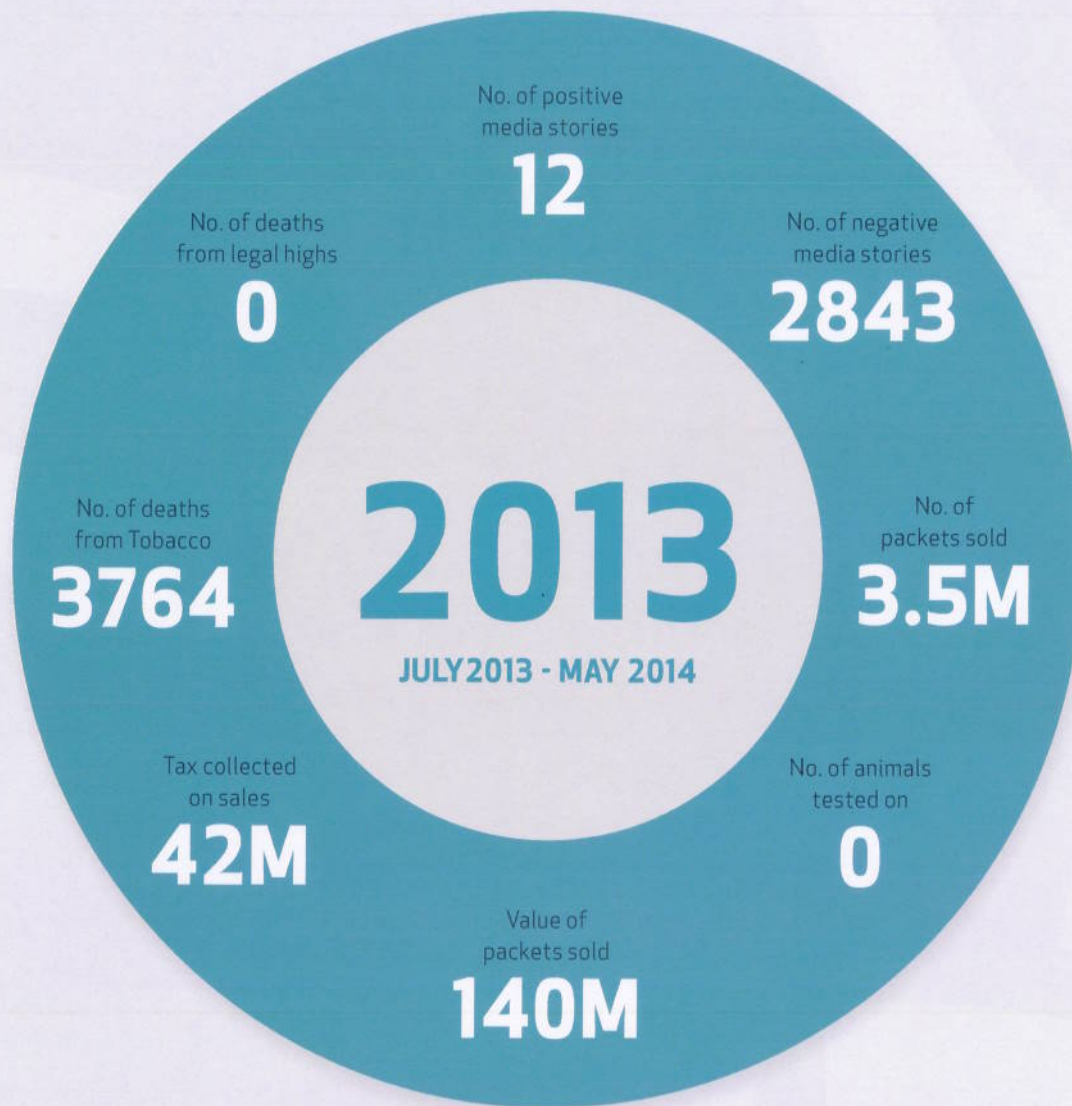
Number of calls to Poisons Centre:

- August 2013 - 30 related to adverse effects
- September 2013 - 13 related to adverse effects
- October 2013 - 17 related to adverse effects
- November 2013 - 21 related to adverse effects
- December 2013 - 20 related to adverse effects
- January 2014 - 11 related to adverse effects
- February 2014 - 12 related to adverse effects
- March 2014 - 33 related to adverse effects



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SYNTHETIC CANNABIS

The Ministry has estimated that 150-200 people may have developed a dependency that may require a degree of professional withdrawal management.

This number has been cautiously extrapolated from the number of people accessing alcohol and other drug services at Waitemata DHB, New Zealand's largest provider of services.

TOBACCO

"About 5,000 deaths each year in New Zealand are attributed to direct smoking or second hand smoke – that's 13 people a day" Ministry of Health (2008)



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NEW ZEALAND CRIME STATISTICS 2013 NZ POLICE



A REGULATED MARKET FOR LOW RISK PSYCHOACTIVE PRODUCTS REDUCED CRIME.

Recorded Illicit drugs offences reduced by 22.7% in 2013, from 20,792 to 16,070 offences. The decrease is mostly in the area of cannabis. The offences of possess/ or use/smoke illicit drugs (cannabis plant, oil, resin, seed) were down by 23 percent.



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QUOTES:

“While it is early days the Authority has received anecdotal reports demonstrating the number of severe presentations to emergency departments has reduced since the Act came in.” [Ministry of Health, Psychoactive Substances Authority, May 2014](#)

“Since the bill was enacted we have seen fewer hospital admissions and emergency presentations associated with use of synthetics,” says Paul Glue, head of psychological medicine at [Dunedin School of Medicine, in New Zealand](#).

“It’s the first attempt to regulate the market and not just reduce the harm caused by prohibition,” [Alex Wodak, the recently retired director of the Alcohol and Drug Service at St Vincent’s Hospital, in Sydney, Australia, and former head of Harm Reduction International](#).

“It is a good example of the start of evidence-based policy,”
[Professor David Nutt](#)



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