



SSA Annual Conference, Newcastle (8th – 9th Nov 2018)



Addressing the challenges of New Psychoactive Substance detection within frontline environments.

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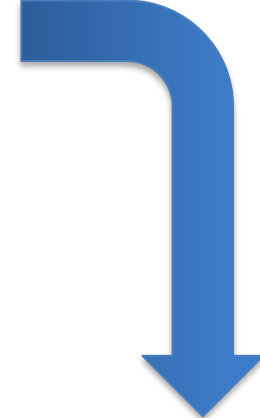
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Synthetic Cannabinoids (SCRAs, Spice, Mamba)



60 – 90% of UK male prison population are using (or have used) Spice.

- HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England & Wales, Annual Report 2013–14.
- Identified as an emerging threat – **due to lack of methods for detection.**
- UK Psychoactive Subs Act (May 2016).
- UK Misuse of Drugs Act (Dec 2016).
- Mental health impact.
- Self-harm, violence & suicide.
- Homeless/Rough Sleeping Community (**MANDRAKE**).

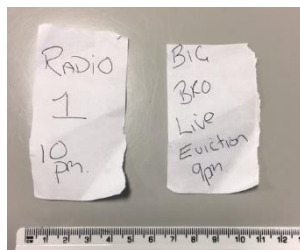


INCARCERATION

RELEASE



Forms of Spice



MANDRAKE¹
(confirmation)

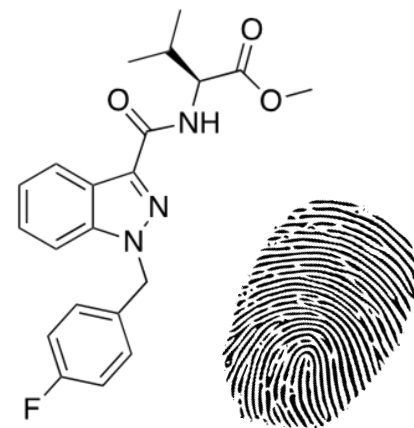
Secure, traceable and compliant protocol.
Chain of custody.



MR Scanner (in GMP)



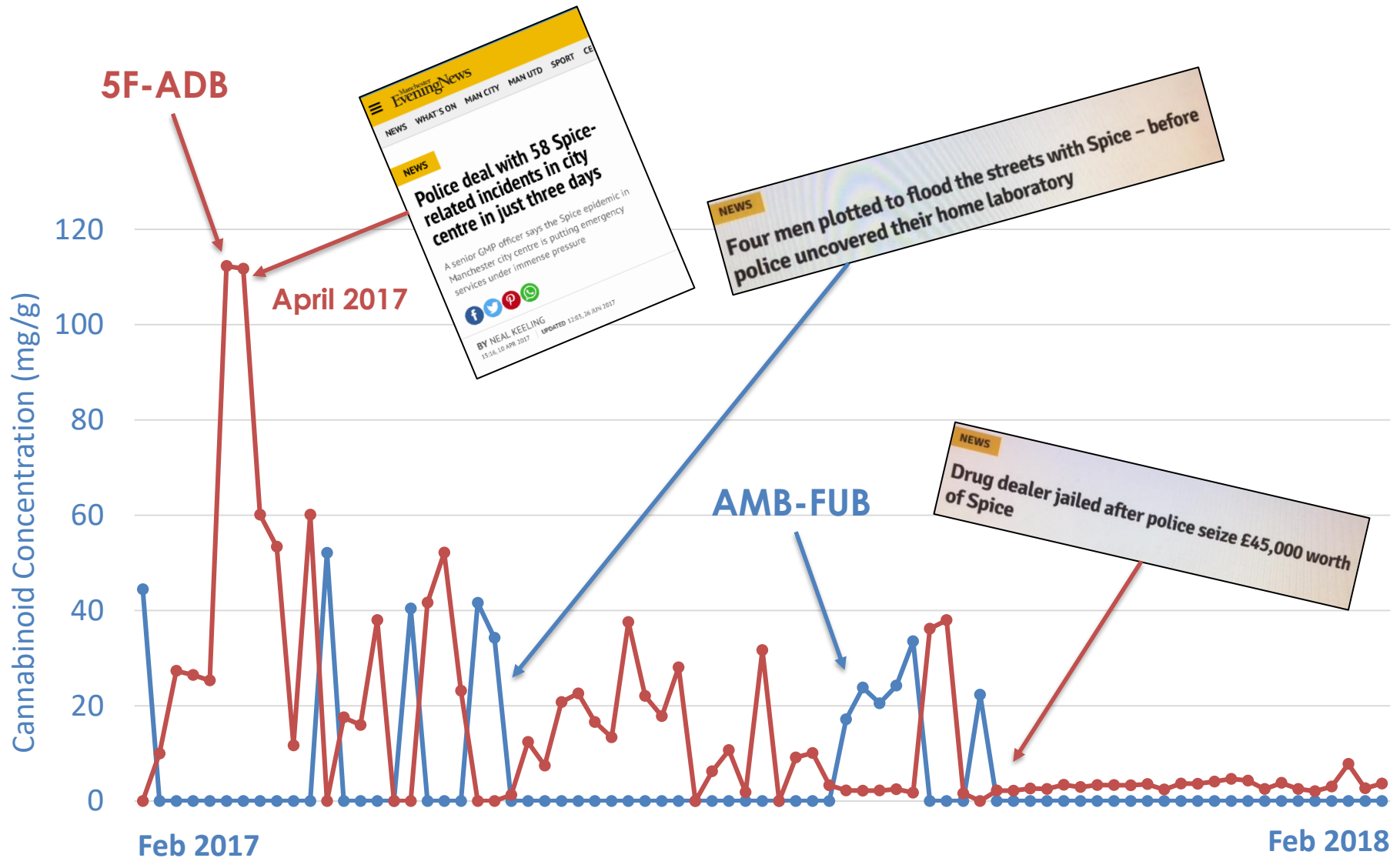
CUSTODIAL SETTING



AMB-FUBINACA (AMB-FUB)

OUTCOMES?

“Potency” trends (Greater Manchester)



- First **permanent** city-centre based facilities in UK. Turnaround 24-48h.

Policing & Policy Outcomes

POLICING

Monitoring of local, national and international drug trends.

Emerging threats – fentanyl and Monkey Dust (MDPHP).

Fast and efficient response to incidents where drugs are a factor.

Feed into Drugs Early Warning System (GM Police & Crime Plan 2018).

Public Warnings

POLICY

Inform other public services & partner agencies.

Develop Police, City Council & GMCA initiatives.

Work with night time economy.

Share best working practice with others.

Using experience to act on future threats.



Spice Warning
March 2017

Information about recent incidents involving 'Spice' in Manchester

Spice in Manchester

- Spice is a nickname for a herbal smoking mixture containing one or more of a group of drugs called synthetic cannabinoids, some are more potent, more toxic and more dangerous than others.
- There are hundreds of different synthetic cannabinoids, some are more potent, more toxic and more dangerous than others.
- Two samples of Spice from Manchester City Centre have been tested. Both contained a synthetic cannabinoid called **AMB FUBINACA**.

AMB FUBINACA is very potent and very toxic drug and caused a 'zombie like' condition and led to 33 overdoses in one area of the United States in 2016.

Don't start using Spice: 8 people died last year after smoking Spice. There is no safe way of using this addictive and extremely dangerous drug. However, if you are using the following advice may reduce risks.

Harm reduction advice

- Sit down before you smoke Spice as you may lose your balance, fall over or pass out.
- Spice is potent even at very low doses.
- Don't smoke Spice neat, always mix with tobacco.
- Start any new batch with a tiny match head size test dose.

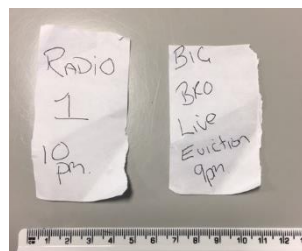
Help available in Manchester

- There are various treatments for Spice users including medically assisted withdrawal.

For over 18s: **CGL**,
43A Carnarvon Street,
Telephone 0161 214 0770.

For young people (under 18)
Eclipse, 102 Oldham Street,
Telephone 0161 839 2054.

Forms of Spice



MANDRAKE¹ (confirmation)

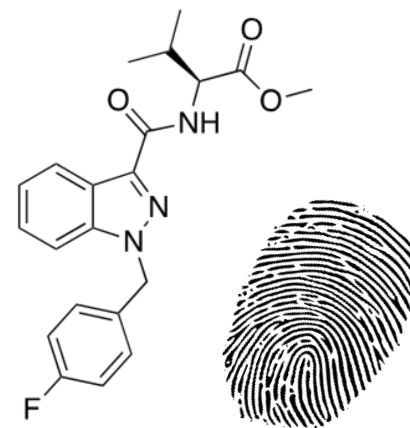
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CUSTODIAL SETTING



AMB-FUBINACA (AMB-FUB)

OUTCOMES?



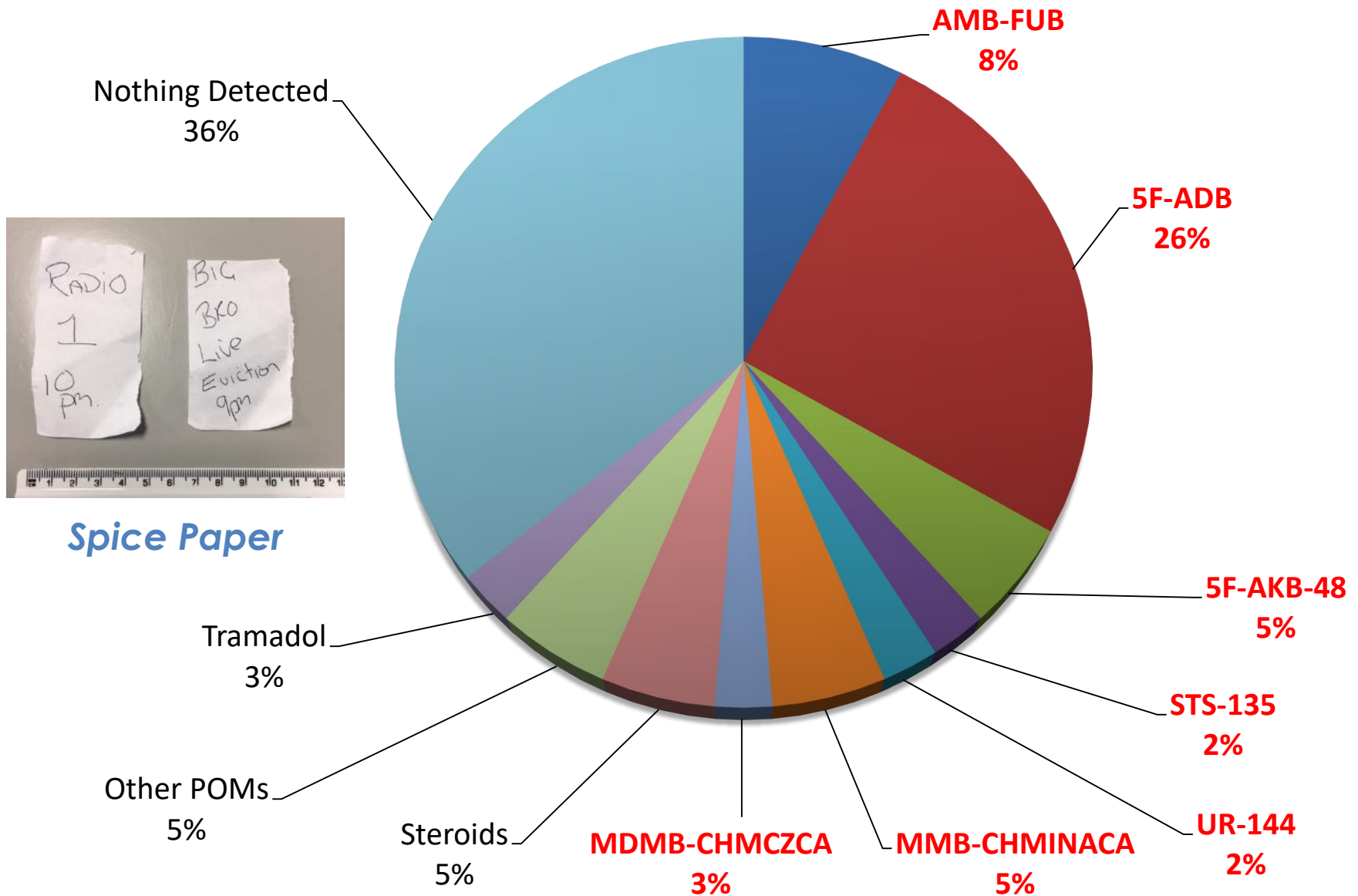
HMP Holme House

- Category C (Male)
- Capacity: 1210
- **Improve Safety & Security.**
- **Physical** – Technology.
- **Personal** – Interventions.
- **Procedural** – Adjudications.

Project Orpheus (study parameters)

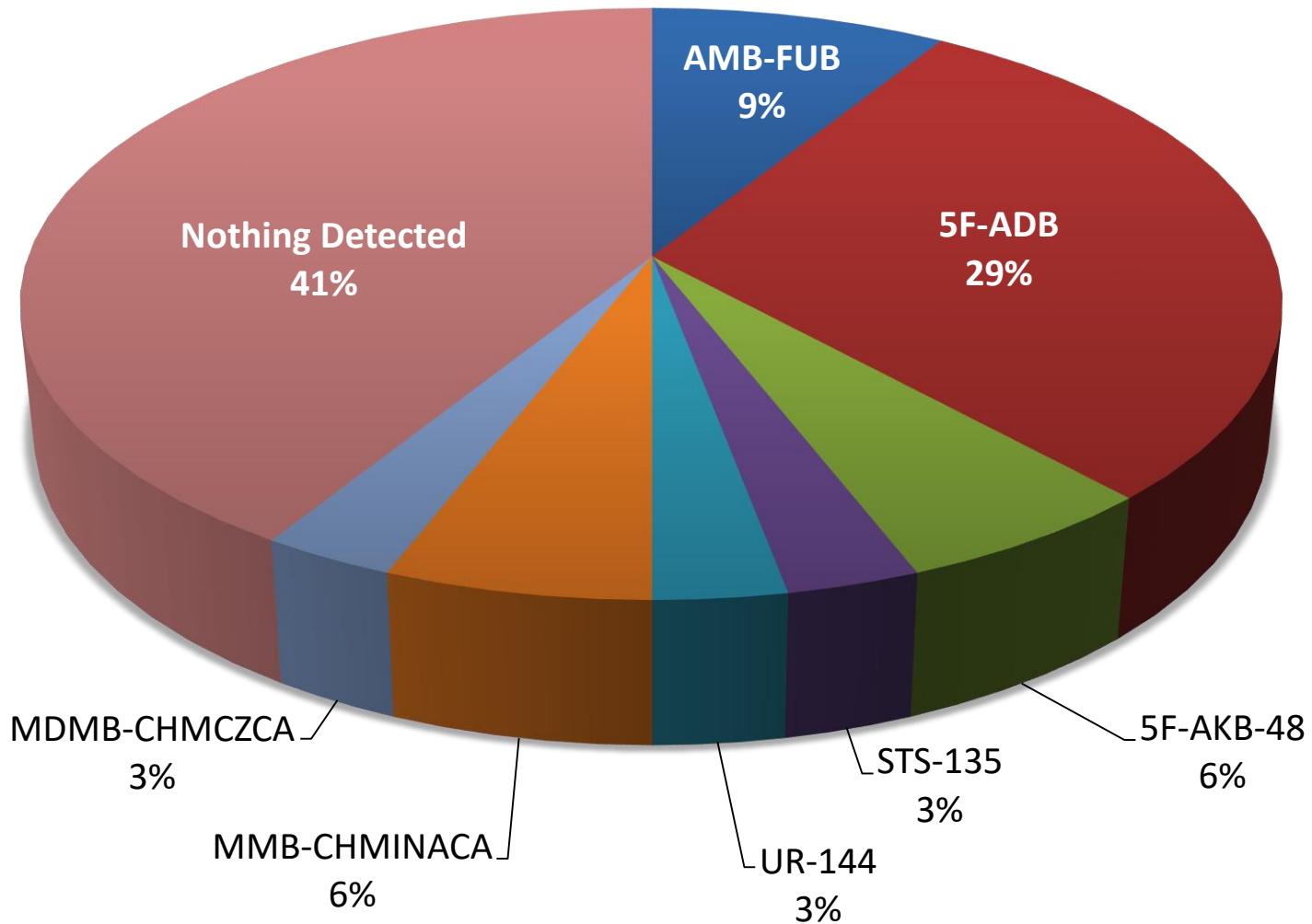
- 3 months (April – July 2018). Extended to 12 months.
- Training & implementation by non-technical staff.
- Screening of suspected contraband (interception analysis).
- Forensic cross-validation by MANDRAKE @ Manchester Metropolitan Uni.

Results of MRS detection study² (n = 500)



²All samples cross-validated/confirmed by GC-MS.

Synthetic Cannabinoid Breakdown (n = 435)



- Data gained from study potentially indicates multiple sources and supply streams. Data aligns with HMPPS intelligence (2018).

Outcomes of Study

- Identification and disruption of routes of supply.
- Reduction in specific supply methods and volume of contraband.
- Reduction in frequency of medical intervention.
- Increased perception of safety by staff and prisoners.
- Inform on prevalence of drugs within a custodial setting.
- Targeted harm reduction based on findings.
- Better understanding of the chemicals being trafficked and consumed in the prison.
- Increased intelligence-gathering and best practice-sharing.

Acknowledgements



The Business of Science®

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PC Andrew Costello

Food for thought....

“Scientists are often the first ones to notice new drug trends on the synthetic drug market. Link them up with health, demand reduction and drug control agencies and you have a powerful Early Warning System”

Martin Raithelhuber, International Coordinator @UNODC Global SMART Programme

....enjoy your lunch!