

Annex 1: Report on WHO Questionnaire for Review of Psychoactive Substances for the 39th ECDD: Evaluation of 4-FA

Data was obtained from 57 Member States (7 AFR, 4 EMR, 25 EUR, 7 PAH, 2 SEAR and 12 WPR) for the WHO Questionnaires for the Review of Psychoactive Substances.

A total of 41 Member States answered the questionnaire regarding 4-FA. Of these, 14 respondents had information on the substance.

Region	Number of countries responded	Number of countries with information on substance
AFR	4	0
EMR	3	0
EUR	18	12
PAH	5	1
SEAR	2	0
WPR	9	1
TOTAL	41	14

LEGITIMATE USE

No countries reported any approved human medical products or veterinary products containing 4-FA.

Two countries reported that 4-FA is currently being used in medical or scientific research for drug qualitative analysis and a study on the effects of new psychoactive substances (NPS). One country reported that it is being used for analytical purposes. In two countries, 4-FA is both manufactured nationally and imported when used for legitimate purposes.

No countries reported any industrial or other non-medical or non-scientific use.

No countries reported the use of 4-FA for any cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-MEDICAL/NON-SCIENTIFIC USE – USE FOR PSYCHOACTIVE PURPOSES OR RECREATIONAL DRUG USE

Eleven countries reported that 4-FA is being misused for its psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug).

The most common route of administration reported was oral (refer to Table 1).

Route of administration	Number of countries
Oral	8
Sniffing	4
Injection	2
Rectal	1
Inhalation	0
Smoking	0
Don't know	4

Table 1: Common routes of administration

The most common formulation of 4-FA reported was powder, closely followed by tablets (refer to Table 2). Capsules were also mentioned by two countries as a formulation.

Formulations	Number of countries
Powder	9
Tablets	8
Liquid for oral use	4
Solution for injection	1
Other	3

Table 2: Common formulations reported by countries

Smuggling was the most common source of 4-FA for non-medical/non-scientific use (Table 3). One country mentioned the Internet as another source.

Sources	Number of countries
Smuggling	7
Illegal manufacturing	2
Legal manufacturing	0
Legal trade	0
Diversion	0
Don't know	3
Other	1

Table 3: Sources of substance for non-medical or non-scientific use

Countries stated that specific subpopulations known to misuse 4-FA are known drug consumers (one country), people who attend night clubs (one country) and people who take ecstasy (one country).

The level of negative health-impact originating from this substance's non-medical consumption was reported as:

Serious	Substantial	Negligible	Don't Know
2	3	4	2

Those countries which reported a serious or substantial level of negative health-impact indicated that this level was chosen due to the association of 4-FA with fatal and non-fatal intoxications (including hospitalisations). The toxicity of 4-FA, which can result in cardiotoxicity, was mentioned. One country stated that the symptoms of 4-FA were comparable to intoxications with amphetamine or methamphetamine.

Four countries reported emergency room admissions related to the non-medical use of 4-FA. One country indicated that according to poison centres there had been 8 cases over 10 years. Another country reported 20 intoxicated patients between 2010-2015. Reported adverse effects included haemorrhagic stroke, severe cardiotoxicity, tonic clonic seizures, severe headache, bruxisme, mydriasis, rhabdomyolysis, confusion, tachycardia, hypertension and hyperthermia.

Regarding mortality rate, three countries provided information about mortalities involving 4-FA. One fatal case was reported that involved only 4-FA in 2016. Two fatal cases that involved other substances were reported between 2016-2017.

One country reported a case of a person entering drug dependence treatment due to the use of 4-FA.

It was stated by one country that users are not always aware they are using 4-FA instead of amphetamine. Also in two countries, there is no reporting obligation by hospitals or poison centres and sometimes 4-FA is not tested for. Therefore, the actual number of 4-FA intoxication cases may be higher.

STATUS OF NATIONAL CONTROL AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Thirteen countries reported that 4-FA was under national control. The legislation that the control is based upon included the Controlled Substances Act (9 countries), Medicines Act (1 country), Analogue Act (1 country), other specific legislation (2 countries).

The scope of the controls includes production (12 countries), manufacturing (12 countries), exporting (12 countries), importing (12 countries), distribution (12 countries), use (9 countries) and possession (12 countries).

Three countries reported challenges to implementing national controls such as forensic laboratory capacity (1 country), resources to implement and or/enforce (1 country) and expertise to detect or enforce (2 countries).

The main reported illicit activities involving 4-FA (Table 4) include:

Illicit Activities	Number of countries
Trafficking	5
Internet sales from unknown locations	4
Internet sales from abroad	3
Sales to people who use the substance	2
Manufacture of substance by chemical synthesis	2
Production of consumer products	2
Internet sales within your country	1
Diversion	1
Manufacture of substance by extraction from other products	0
Do not know	8

Table 4: Reported illicit activities involving 4-FA

Eleven countries completed the section on the number of seizures. The combined number of seizures was 108 (2014), 72 (2015), 72 (2016).

If 4-FA was placed under international control, fourteen countries responded that they would have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level. There were fourteen countries which responded that they would have the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance.