

# WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

## Synthetic cannabinoids

### Annex 1: Member State Questionnaire

## 1. Overview of Responses (Q1-Q6)

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**Q1:** Please indicate your country.

- Representatives of 95 countries answered the questionnaire:

**Q5:** Do you have any information on the use of the above-noted four synthetic cannabinoids in your country for either medical, scientific, industrial or other professional purposes, or for non-medical consumption, recreational purposes, or any other purpose?

- ADB-FUBINACA
- FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA\_AMB-FUBINACA)
- ADB-CHMINACA
- CUMYL-4CN-BINACA

- 35 (39%) answered yes, 55 (61%) answered no.

**Q6:** For which substance do you have information?

- Of the 35 countries with information, the following specific cannabinoids were mentioned:

- **ADB-FUBINACA:**

29	
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- **FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA\_AMB-FUBINACA)**

27	
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- **ADB-CHMINACA**

25	
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- **CUMYL-4CN-BINACA**

16	
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## 2. Section 1: Approved medical or scientific use (Q7-Q11)

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**Q7:** Do you know if approved medical products containing any of the four synthetic cannabinoids are available in your country for human or veterinary indications?

- **“Human medical product”**
  - N= 0 countries
- **“Veterinary medical product”**
  - N= 0 countries
- **“Not available in medical products”**
  - N= 32 countries
- **“Do not know”**
  - N= 1 country

**Q8:** What are the therapeutic indications approved for any of the four synthetic cannabinoids in your country?

- No valid response was given:

**Q9:** Please indicate the marketed name, dosage form(s) and strength(s) of any of the four synthetic cannabinoids available in your country; also indicate the exact substance name and any special properties such as slow release, etc.?

- Not applicable, as there is no medical use for any of these synthetic cannabinoids

**Q10:** Are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids currently used in medical or scientific research (excluding use as an analytical reference standard) in your country (e.g. , is it in clinical trials for any human or veterinary indication)?

- 2 (7%) answered yes, 24 (80%) answered no, and 4 (13%) “Do not know”.

### 3. Section 2: Non-approved medical and non-medical or non-scientific use (Q12-Q16)

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**Q12:** Are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids used for industrial or other non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

- Out of 32 responses, 5 indicated that at least one of the four synthetic cannabinoids is used for industrial or other non-medical/non-scientific purposes in their country (16%);. There were 8 “Do not know” responses (25%).

**Q14:** What is the origin/source of the four synthetic cannabinoids when used for legitimate non-medical/non-scientific use?

- Of the 13 countries answering, the majority answered no (N=9; 69%), and 4 answered “imported” (31%).

#### 4. Section 3: Cultural, religious or ceremonial use (Q17-Q20)

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**Q17:** Are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids used for cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes in your country?

- Out of 31 responses, 74% (N=23) indicated no cultural, religious or ceremonial use, while 8 country representatives answered "Do not know" (26%).

#### 5. Section 4: Epidemiology of non-medical/non-scientific use – psychoactive purposes/recreational use (Q20-Q37)

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**Q20:** Are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids misused for their psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug) in your country?

- Out of 33 responses, 91% (N=30;) indicated misuse of any of the four synthetic cannabinoids

**Q21:** By what route(s) of administration are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids used for non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

Oral (N=6)	
Injection (N=2)	
Inhalation (N=5)	
Sniffing (N=1)	
Smoking (N=19)	
Do not know (N=7)	
Other (please specify) (N=4)	

**Q22:** What is the most common route of administration for any of the four synthetic cannabinoids?

ADB-FUBINACA: 13 out of 14 country representatives indicated smoking.

FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA\_ AMB-FUBINACA): 12 out 14 country representatives indicated smoking.

ADB-CHMINACA: 13 out of 14 country representatives indicated smoking.

CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: 6 out of 7 country representatives indicated smoking.

**Q23:** In which formulations are the four synthetic cannabinoids used for non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

Powder (N=16)	
Tablets (N=1)	
Liquid or solution for oral administration/use (N=3)	
Solution for injection (N=1)	
Other (please specify) (N=18)	Most other mentions are in herbal mixtures

**Q24:** What is (are) the source(s) of the four synthetic cannabinoids for non-medical/non-scientific use in your country?

Illegal manufacturing (N=4)	
Smuggling (from other countries) (N=21)	
Do not know (N=4)	
Other (please specify) (N=4)	Internet

**Q25:** Are there any specific subpopulations in your country known to misuse the four synthetic cannabinoids?

- In 8 out of 27 responding countries (30%), there are specific subpopulations misusing the four synthetic cannabinoids. In the remaining 19 countries no specific subpopulations were reported.

**Q26:** If Yes to question 25, please specify which groups:

- Valid responses were provided by 8 countries:

	prison population, people in addiction treatment/detox
	Cannabis users
	Few cases individually abused the substances
	Young people, teenagers
	Prisoners and young people
	Youngsters
	Disadvantaged, transient, and young groups have all been recognised to be using synthetic cannabinoids at higher levels than other groups
	trends point to ages 18 to 39, but all age groups have abused these drugs

**Q28:** As an expert, what negative health impact do you believe the non-medical consumption of the four synthetic cannabinoids has in your country?

Negligible	5	19%	
Serious	8	31%	
Substantial	6	23%	
Do not know	7	27%	
total	26	100%	

**Q30:** Are you aware of any emergency room/department visits related to the use of any of the four synthetic cannabinoids in your country?

No	9	39%
Yes	14	61%
total	23	100%

**Q32:** Please list the adverse effects (non-fatal intoxications, etc.) patients have presented with at emergency rooms/departments in your country after use of synthetic cannabinoid:

	lethargy, CNS depression
	*hospitalisation for 8 days : nervous coma, mydriasis, hypertonia of arms and legs, clonic movements (positive evolution), auditory hallucinations, restlessness, aggression, paranoia, drowsiness, hypotonia (positive evolution)
	Unconsciousness, life-threatening conditions, kidney failure, vomiting, aggressions, paranoia, bout/seizure
	Dyspnoea, hypertension, confusion, tremor, shortness of breath, tachycardia
	Mental disorders, overdose
	Aggressive behaviour, confusion, marked agitation, psychoses
	Loss of consciousness, reduced consciousness, seizures, tachycardia, bradycardia, cardiac arrest, frothing at the mouth, psychosis, and aggression
	paranoia, agitation, delusions, anxiety, hallucinations, tachicardia, hyperthermia and others
	palpitations, paranoia, anxiety, nausea, vomiting, poor coordination, toxic psychosis, coma
	However, there are cases published in the literature about an intoxication by products called "Placaje", "Fantastic Gold", "Simple absolute", with the toxicological identification of JWH-081, JWH-250, JWH-203 and JWH-019, and which involved an episode of catatonic psychosis. Likewise, intoxications by 5F-

	ADB MMB-2201 (or 5F-AMB-PICA or I-AMB) have also been published, in which the users showed on arrival at the emergency service psychomotor agitation, confusion, tachycardia and yes Psychotic symptoms. Likewise, intoxications by 5F-ADB MMB-2201 (or 5F-AMB-PICA or I-AMB) have also been published, in which the users showed on arrival at the emergency service psychomotor agitation, confusion, tachycardia and yes Psychotic symptoms. Information is also available on unwanted effects (for example, dystonia with mandibular involvement that prevents closure of the mouth) in users who have consumed synthetic cannabinoids (without being able to specify), reported by users directly or by relatives to various substance analysis programs.
	Unconsciousness
	Seizures, multi-organ failure, psychosis, hallucinations, tachycardia, myocardial infarction, with some resulting in death

**Q33:** If available, please provide the number of deaths where synthetic cannabinoids were involved (provide data for the most recent completed year available):

- **synthetic cannabinoids were the only substance involved (reference year in brackets):**

	0
	ADB-CHMINACA: 1 (2016)
	CUMYL-4CN-BINACA:1 (2016)
	50 (2017)
	14 (2015-2018)

- **Other substances were also involved (reference year in brackets):**

	0
	ADB-CHMINACA: 7; ADB-FUBINACA: 2; CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: 1; FUB-AMB: 2 (2016-2018)
	CUMYL-4CN-BINACA:7;FUB-AMB:2; ADB-CHMINACA:4 (CUMYL-4CN-BINACA:2016; FUB-AMB:2014,2015; ADB-CHMINACA:2015)
	52 (2017)
	26 (2015-2018)

- **Total number of deaths in 3 countries: 133**

**Q34:** Please provide details, including the name of the specific synthetic cannabinoids involved:



	1 death in 2017 involved CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, 5 deaths reported in 2016 involved ADB-CHMINACA - one of which only additionally included alcohol, nicotine and caffeine, one did not include any other substances, though a cardiovascular issue was known. 2 deaths reported in 2017 involved ADB-CHMINACA and one death reported in 2018 involved ADB-CHMINACA. 2 deaths reported in 2017 involved ADB-FUBINACA. One death reported in 2017 involved FUB-AMB and one reported in 2016 involved FUB-AMB.
	Two deaths involving AMB-FUBINACA were recorded in 2017, however mortality data for that year is not complete so total figures cannot be reported.
	In 4 deaths, ADB-CHMINACA was reported to be the cause of death (alone or in combination with other drugs) In 5 deaths, CUMYL-4CN-BINACA was reported to be the cause of death (alone or in combination with other drugs), In 2 deaths where CUMYL-4CN-BINACA was present related primarily to other substances or circumstances.
	ADB-CHMINACA was responsible for the largest outbreak in the United States, with over 2,500 OD's and 33 confirmed deaths related to its use. FUB-AMB, 3 deaths, ADB-FUBINACA, 4 deaths. Many underreported.

**Q35:** Are you aware of people presenting for drug dependence treatment due to the use synthetic cannabinoids in your country?

Out of 24 responses, 3 country representatives (13) were aware of people presenting for drug dependence treatment due to the use of synthetic cannabinoids. The majority answered “Do not know” (58%) or “No” (29%).

## 6. Section 5: Current Control (Q38-Q49)

**Q38:** Are any of the four synthetic cannabinoids currently controlled under national legislation in order to regulate its availability in your country?

No	2	7%	
Yes	28	90%	
Do not know	1	3%	
total	31	100%	

**Q40:** What is the scope of this control?

Production	N=21	
Manufacture	N=21	
Export	N=23	
Import	N=24	
Distribution	N=23	
Use	N=17	
Possession	N=22	
Do not know	N=0	

**Q41:** Is the current control a temporary provision in your country?

- Out of 28 responding countries, the current control is a temporary provision in two countries (7%).

**Q42:** If Yes, when was this provision put into place?

- Response:

ADB-CHMINACA 02/05/2016; ADB-FUBINACA 04/10/2017; FUB-AMB 11/03/2017; CUMYL-4CN-BINACA 07/10/2018

**Q43:** Have there been challenges to implementing controls of the four synthetic cannabinoids in your country?

Out of 22 responding countries, challenges in implementing controls was reported by 6 country (22%); and 2 country representatives answered "Do not know" (7%). In the remaining countries, no challenges in implementing controls were reported.

**Q44:** If you responded Yes to question 43 please specify in which area and explain for those that apply:

Forensic laboratory capacity		They are listed under the generic classification for synthetic cannabinoids and the process for this type of classification was a challenge
Forensic laboratory capacity		Service on safety of illegal drug control of ministry of the interior of Kyrgyz Republic
Expertise to detect or enforce		Detection and identification of the various synthetic cannabinoids by existing drug detection tools used by law enforcement at the border and domestically, as well as in forensic laboratories. Enforcement powers to restrict supply activity have also been limiting.
Other		Legislative challenges (measures precluding one mechanism for obtaining special access disallowed by Parliament in 2017)
Other		They are listed under the generic classification for synthetic cannabinoids and the process for this type of classification was a challenge
Other		Not all substances discussed here were included in the Government act
Other		There is lack of international control. Therefore, smuggling seizures are increasing.

**Q45:** Are there illicit activities involving the four synthetic cannabinoids?

Manufacture of the substance by chemical synthesis	2	
Manufacture of the substance by extraction from other products	0	
Production of consumer products (dosage forms, packaging)	5	
Trafficking	12	
Diversion	1	
Internet sales (seller or website located in your country)	5	
Internet sales (from abroad to buyers in your country)	11	
Internet sales (other or location of sellers and website unknown)	10	
Sales to people who use synthetic cannabinoids	9	
Do not know	8	
Other	1	

**Q46:** Seizures of the four synthetic cannabinoids in your country for the years specified below (please provide the name of the specific synthetic cannabinoid seized):

ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0.07 kg
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0

ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		55 grams
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		490 gram
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		714 cases: 85 g powder, 13 tablets, 6881 g herbal, 41 contaminated objects
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0gr
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0.22kg
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		0
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2015		<b>411 Values reflect number of exhibits in NFLIS, not actual amount of drug seized</b>
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		55g
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,000g
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		2.8 grams (NB! The amount is < 5 grams)
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		45 grams
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,160 gram
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,054 cases: 409 g powder, 8772 g herbal, 58 contaminated objects
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		0gr
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		0 gr
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,1675 grams powder
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		2.244kg
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		On 22 November 2017 the Portuguese FP reported a seizure of 5,280g powder seized on 29-06-2016 by the Police at Funchal.
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		8 g powder
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,140
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		155g
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		1.0g
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		2.1 grams (NB! The amount is < 5 grams)
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		195 grams
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		1,016 gram
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		496 cases: 96 g powder, 1455 g herbal, 79 contaminated objects
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		45,976gr
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		48 gram
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		245.8 grams powder
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		0.534kg
ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017	Sweden	80 g powder

ADB-FUBINACA: amount seized in 2017		1,679
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		0
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		0
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		91 grams
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		on the market, but not covered from the police data system (as it was legal)
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		198 cases: 357 g powder, 2,319 g herbal, 9 contaminated objects
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		0 g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		1 g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		0
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		0.17g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		200 g powder
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2015		474
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		28.6 grams
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		74 grams
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		Substances analysed until 02/2017: 2,240 grams (bigger custom-seizures)
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		936 cases: 1,161 g powder, 15,147 g herbal, 109 contaminated objects
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		abusing quantities
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		4gr300mg
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		12 g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		5135.8 grams powder
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		2 seizures (unknown amount).
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-		0.537kg

FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		On 22 November 2017 the Portuguese FP reported a seizure of 6,134 g powder seized on 27-04-2016 by the Police at Funchal.
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		650 g powder
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2016		7,786
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		0.23
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		10.6 grams
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		324 grams
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		Substances analysed from 02/2017 - 08/18: 7,860 gram (bigger custom-seizures) additionally: German custom seizure in transit: 5,000 gram
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		576 cases: 198 g powder, 4,015 g herbal, 100 contaminated objects
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		0 g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		11 g
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		amounts not available
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		5553.2 grams powder
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		1 seizure (unknown amount).
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		1,998 kg
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		300 g powder
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_AMB-FUBINACA): amount seized in 2017		8,768
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		3 g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		536 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		145 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		759 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		64 cases: 1 g powder, 128 g herbal, 1

		contaminated object
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		0gr
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		0
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		0.058kg
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		60 g powder
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2015		1,449
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		612g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		13.42g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		3.9 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		118 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		996 gram
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		72 cases: 79 g powder, 508 g herbal, 7 contaminated objects
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		0 g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		4 g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,449 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		60 g powder
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016		1,350
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		0.5kg
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		5.21 g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		0
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		518 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		Substances analysed from 02/2017 - 02/18: 49 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		13 cases: 1 g powder, 20 g herbal, 7 contaminated objects
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		1,320 grams
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		1 g
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		14 g powder
ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2017		241
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2016		Substances analysed until 02/2017: 744 gram
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2016		205 cases: 10 g powder, 2677 g herbal, 23 contaminated objects
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2016		70 g powder
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2016		18
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		Substances analysed from 02/2017 - 08/18: 10,850 grams (one German

		custom seizure in transit 9,900 grams)
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		5 cases: 50 g powder, 105 g herbal, 2 contaminated objects
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		4 g
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		0.063 kg
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		5,500 g powder
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2017		411

**Q47:** If the four synthetic cannabinoids were to be placed under international control, will your country have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level?

Out of 30 responses, 29 reported sufficient capacities (97). One country representative answered “Do not know” (6%).

**Q48:** If the four synthetic cannabinoids were to be placed under international control, does your country have the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance (identification, purity)?

Out of 30 responses, 27 reported sufficient capacities (90%). One country representative answered “Do not know” (3%), and 2 answered no (7%).

**Q49:** Please provide any additional information related to any of the questions in Section 5.

	ADB-FUBINACA was first detected in 2017 in powder form. In 2018, also found in stamps (blotter paper). FUB-AMB was first detected in 2017 as blotter paper.
	All four cannabinoids are under legislation in Germany. ADB-FUBINACA, FUB-AMB, ADB-CHMINACA are listed to the German Narcotic Act since 09.06.2016. CUMYL-4CN-BINACA is covered by the cannabinoid substance group of the New Psychoactive Substance Act since 26.11.2016. As there are a lot of (possible) synthetic cannabinoids on the market, (drug)trader try to use synthetic cannabinoids, which are not under legislation so far. Due to that fact the presence and seizures/intoxications of the forbidden synthetic cannabinoids regularly become less after their regulation. Due to data restrictions, cases regarding not forbidden substances are normally not registered in police data systems (but possibly forensic analysis information).
	Forensic laboratories have the capacity to analyse the four synthetic cannabinoids if reference materials are available.
	forensic laboratory capacity is still growing and needs strengthening
	ADB-CHMINACA: amount seized in 2016 Spanish Early Warning System (SEAT): 557



	grams 2016 (Customs). Orange colored powder from China. CUMYL-4CN-BINACA: amount seized in 2016 Spanish Early Warning System (SEAT): 50,000 grams (Customs). White powder.
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## 7. Conclusions

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The data obtained from 35 out of 90 countries with information of the four synthetic opioids of

- ADB-FUBINACA
- FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA\_ AMB-FUBINACA)
- ADB-CHMINACA
- CUMYL-4CN-BINACA

These countries are classified mainly as high-income or higher middle-income by the World Bank. Data suggest the four synthetic cannabinoids are not legally used in any jurisdiction. There is scarce medical or scientific research conducted and the substances do not seem to be used for cultural or religious purposes.

Recreational use has been identified in 30 countries, with varying routes of administration and formulations being applied, but the majority of countries indicated smoking as main route of administration for all four synthetic cannabinoids. In the vast majority of countries with recreational use, the four synthetic cannabinoids are reported to be sourced from other countries; only four of the country representatives acknowledged domestic manufacturing. The reported number/volume of seizures of synthetic cannabinoids varied largely by substance class and country and year, but there had been significant seizures in each year between 2015 and 2017.

In 14 out of 26 countries answering synthetic cannabinoids are considered to have substantial or serious negative effects on public health, with emergency room visits and deaths as severe acute consequences in addition to chronic addiction problems. However, the deaths reported are in single digits for most countries, with Turkey being an exception with reporting over 100 deaths in one year (2017).

While most countries have to the capacity to measure and control the four synthetic cannabinoids asked for, several pointed out, that the market for synthetic cannabinoids seemed to be a moving target, with new substances coming up, once some of the existing ones are including to legislation.

Overall, the survey results indicate that there is still a lack in systematic data for synthetic cannabinoids consumption, but in the few general population surveys existing, only a small minority of the population was affected. As well, data on production and trafficking are largely lacking, as it seems implausible that such substances are only produced in four countries. Thus, interpretation of data on the epidemiology and control systems is limited to 30 high- and higher middle-income countries as the vast majority of country representatives who answered the survey (about half of the UN member states) indicated no information on any of the four synthetic cannabinoids.