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20th Annual ICPA Conference, Montreal (22nd - 25th Oct 2018)

In-situ detection of psychoactive substances in a custodial setting

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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**).

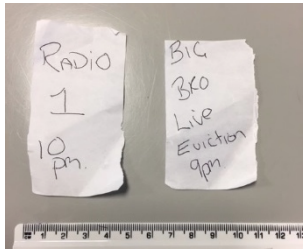
INCARCERATION

RELEASE

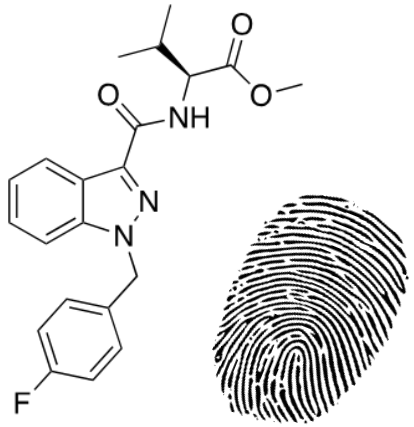
MANDRAKE[1]
(confirmation)

Secure, traceable and compliant protocol.
Chain of custody.

Forms of Spice



MR Scanner (in GMP)



AMB-FUBINACA (AMB-FUB)

CUSTODIAL SETTING → ***OUTCOMES?***

[1]**MAN**chester **DR**ug **A**nalysis & **K**nowledge **E**xchange.

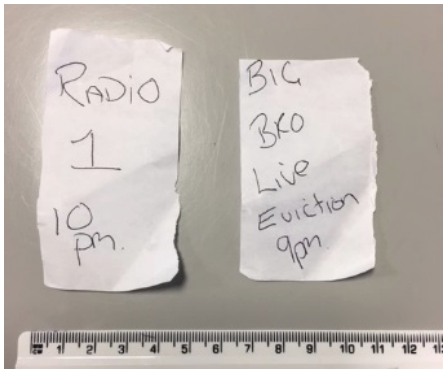
HMP Holme House

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

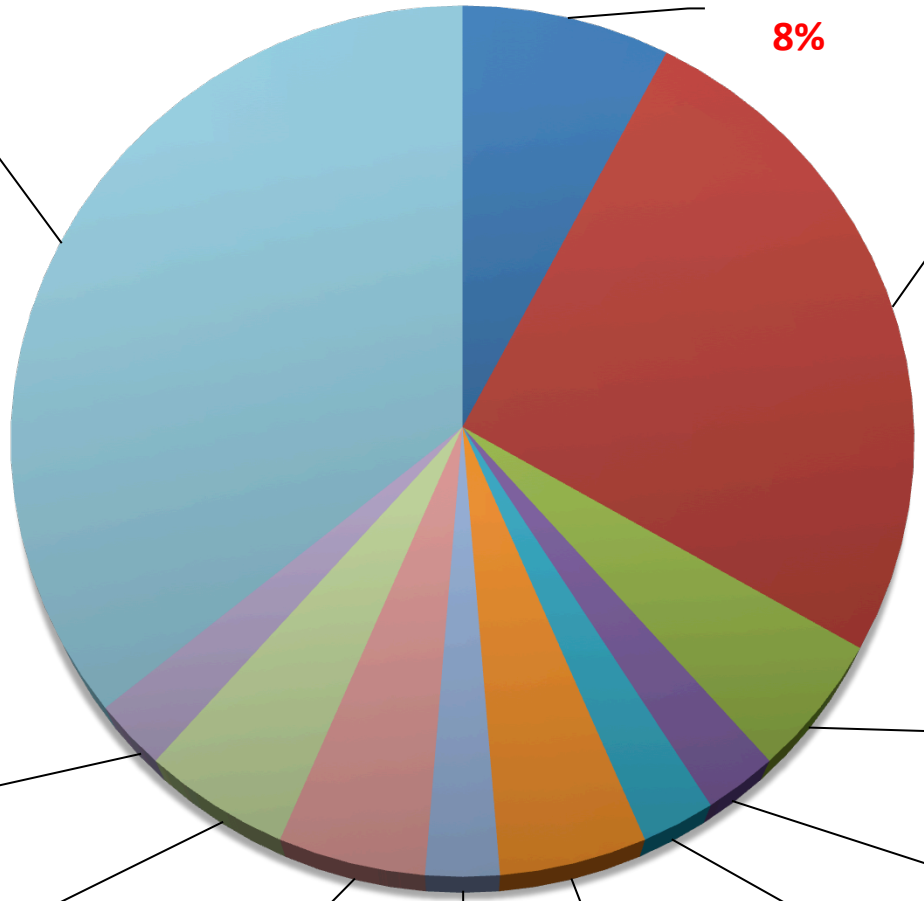
Project Orpheus (study parameters)

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

Results of MRS detection study[2] (n = 500)



Spice Paper



AMB-FUB 8%

5F-ADB 26%

5F-AKB-48 5%

STS-135 2%

UR-144 2%

MMB-CHMINACA 5%

MDMB-CHMCZCA 3%

Steroids 5%

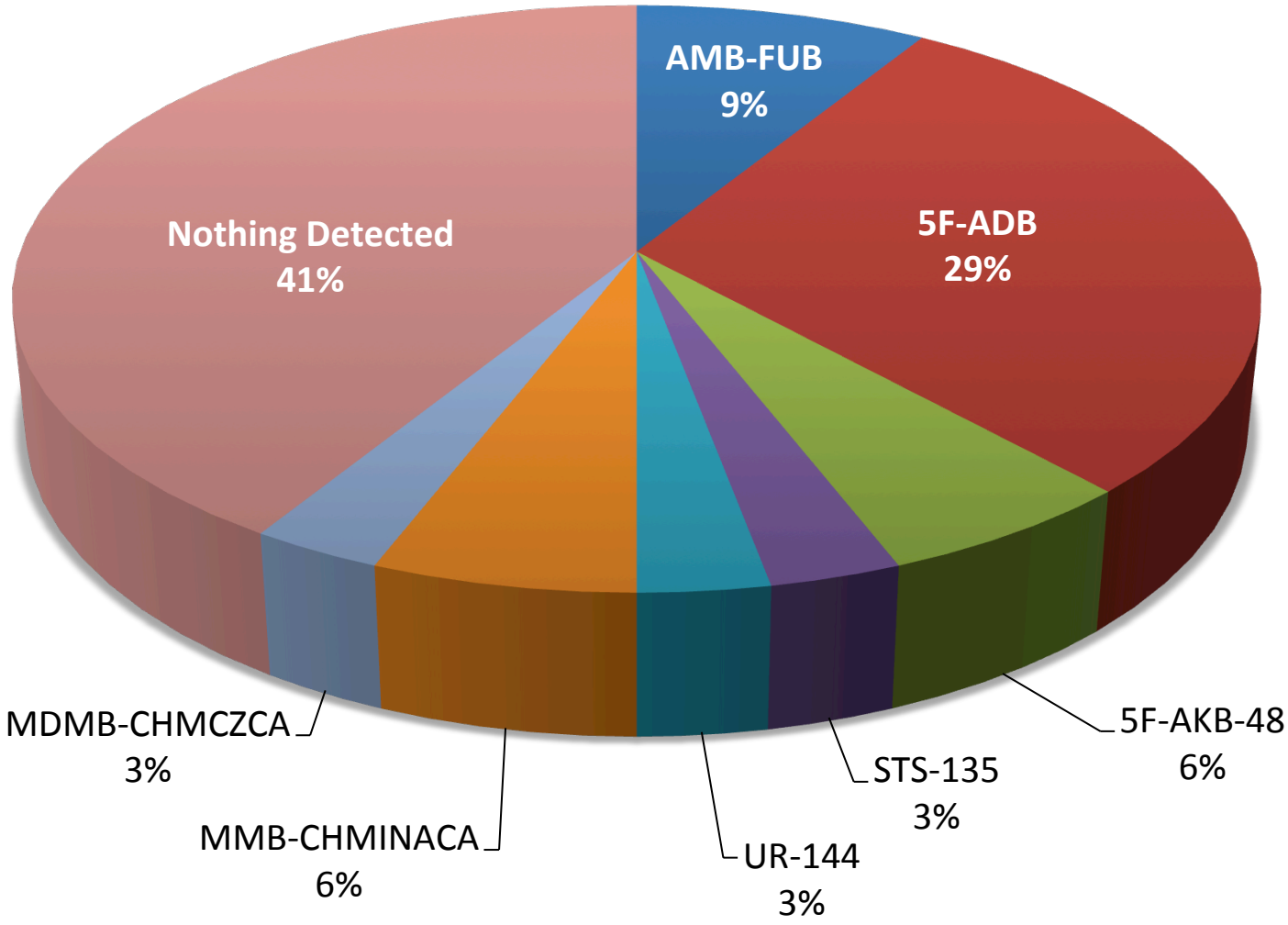
Other POMs 5%

Tramadol 3%

Nothing Detected 36%

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

Synthetic Cannabinoid Breakdown (n = 435)



- Data gained from study potentially indicates multiple sources and supply streams.

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.

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