

## Drug study shows clubbers have little interest in new wave legal highs

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Clubbers show little interest in the subsequent wave of legal highs that have become available since mephedrone was banned, according to a new study published this week in *QJ Medical Journal*.

Researchers from Lancaster University, Kings College London and Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and Kings Health Partners surveyed 313 [individuals](#) over four nights in gay-friendly nightclubs in South East London last summer.

Although a significant proportion of individuals [report](#) previous use of novel psychoactive substances, it seems that only mephedrone has become an established part of the recreational [drug](#) scene – despite the fact that it was banned in 2010.

Of the 313 individuals surveyed:

- 206 (66%) had previously used a 'legal high'.
- Mephedrone had the highest prevalence of last month use (53%) and use on the night of the survey (41%).
- This was greater than both cocaine (45% and 17%, respectively) and MDMA/ecstasy (27% and 6%).
- There was limited use on the fieldwork night of the non-mephedrone 'legal highs': including the ketamine-substitute methoxetamine or 'mexxy' (2%), the cannabis-substitute Spice/K2 (0.6%) and the pipradrols (0.6%).

Lancaster University's Dr Fiona Measham, one of the authors of the report, said:

“Although there is some experimentation with ‘legal highs’, only mephedrone has become an established part of the recreational drug scene. For the majority of ‘[legal highs](#)’ that have come onto the market since mephedrone was banned, use is low or non-existent. This suggests that what we are seeing is a pattern of differentiated demand for drugs – just because drugs are for sale doesn’t necessarily mean that people are buying them.”

To read the full report go to [qjmed.oxfordjournals.org/](http://qjmed.oxfordjournals.org/)

**More information:** Limited use of novel psychoactive substances in South London nightclubs

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Provided by Lancaster University

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