In 2018, DIMS issued no national Red Alerts but instead a regional one; in addition, several internal releases were issued, targeting only the DIMS-network and the visitors of the testing facilities.

**Internal release**
LSD paper trips containing an additional LSD-like substance

**Regional Red Alert**
Rotterdam/ North Brabant
Atropine found in samples sold as ketamine and cocaine.

**Internal release**
PMMA in ecstasy. At several testing locations tablets sold as ecstasy with grey diamond imprint contained small amounts of PMMA.
Most of the samples handed in involve ecstasy pills or MDMA powders, in 2018 62% of the total.

Average price per ecstasy pill: € 4.10
Average price per gram MDMA-powder: € 20.00

Ecstasy/MDMA in 2018

Most of the samples handed in involve ecstasy pills or MDMA powders, in 2018 62% of the total.

In 2018, 13,540 visitors handed in 12,634 samples for analysis. This involved mainly samples sold as ecstasy tablets and MDMA powders, and cocaine and amphetamine powders.

Values have been rounded off, therefore the percent of the total adds up to less than 100%.

Due to a change in the calculation of the data, a few minor corrections have been made regarding the data presented in this infographic related to previous years.

Wherever applicable, data in this report are calculated in base, not in salt.

Risks
- Overheating
- Exhaustion
- Brain damage

Cutting agents
- Caffeine
- Amphetamine
- mCPP
- PMMA

Effects
- Sense of intimacy
- Increased energy

72% of the samples handed in at DIMS contain over 150 mgs of MDMA, the strongest pill in 2018 contained 296 mgs of MDMA.
In terms of number of submitted samples, cocaine is in second place with a share of 11%.

Average price per gram of cocaine: € 49.30

Cocaine in 2018

The average percentage of cocaine in cocaine samples increased over the last years, but decreased slightly in 2018.

Cocaine is regularly being cut with levamisole, an anthelmintic for animals. From 2015, the percentage of levamisole in submitted cocaine samples decreases year by year.

Risks levamisole
- With high dose and regular use: impairment of the immune system
- Fever and flu-like symptoms, skin eruptions
- Nausea, diarrhea, vomiting
- Headache, confusion, dizziness

Cutting agents
- Levamisole
- Caffeine
- Phenacetine

Effects
- Increased energy
- Confident feeling

Speed in 2018

8% percent of all submitted samples is speed.

Average price per gram of speed: € 7.30

The average percentage of amphetamine in speed hardly varies from year to year. In 2018, this average was 48%.

Risks
- Overheating
- Exhaustion
- Brain damage
- Paranoia
- Heavy physical strain

Cutting agent
- Caffeine

Effects
- Increased energy
- Delays fatigue
- Inhibits appetite
4-FA (4-fluoramphetamine) in 2018

4-FA (also known as 4-fluoroamphetamine or 4-FMP) currently forms 4% of all samples that are handed in at DIMS and is submitted in the form of powders, tablets, crystals and capsules.

**Effects of 4-FA**
- Increased energy
- Euphoria
- Talkative
- Delays fatigue

**Risks**
- Exhaustion
- Nausea, vomiting
- Headache, confusion, dizziness
- Palpitations
- Brain damage

In 2018, lab analysed samples sold as 4-FA increasingly contained only 4-FMA (4-fluoromethamphetamine).

From 2013, a sharp increase of samples sold as 4-FA was seen. Since 2017, the year in which 4-FA was banned, this number decreased sharply.

Ketamine in 2018

Of all samples handed in to DIMS, 3% percent consists of ketamine.

**Average price per gram**
- Powder: € 23.90

**Risks**
- Bad trip
- Nausea, vomiting
- Respiratory disorders
- Muscle stiffening or paralysis

**Effects**
- Mind altering
- Out-of-body experience

The average purity of submitted ketamine samples has fluctuated around 75% for years.
GHB in 2018

GHB (4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine) is commonly handed in as a pill but sometimes as a powder as well, covering 4% of all samples submitted in 2018. The effects strongly depend on the dose taken. 96% of the pills handed in as GHB contained GHB.

Effects
• Euphoria
• Relaxation
• Loss of control

Risks
• Addictive
• Potentially life-threatening if combined with alcohol
• Risk of overdosing
• Burns mouth/esophagus

Average dosage pills
11 mgs in 2018

Average price per pill:
€ 4.20

Average amount of GHB in samples submitted as GHB (in mg/ml).

LSD in 2018

2% of the submitted samples consists of LSD. In 14% of the submitted LSD samples, substances other than LSD were detected.

Effects
• Hallucinogenic

Risks
• Bad trip
• Nausea
• Flash backs

Average dosage
86 µgs in 2018

Average price per blotter:
€ 6.50

The average dosage of LSD varies largely over the years. In 2018, the average dosage was 86 µgs (chart in µgs).

2C-B in 2018

2C-B (4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine) is commonly handed in as a pill but sometimes as a powder as well, covering 4% of all samples submitted in 2018. The effects strongly depend on the dose taken. 96% of the pills handed in as 2C-B contained 2C-B.

Effects
• At low dose: euphoria, increased energy
• At high dose: hallucinogenic

Risks
• Bad trip
• Effects stronger than expected/overdose

Average dosage pills
11 mgs in 2018

Average price per pill:
€ 4.20

Average amount of 2C-B in pills submitted as 2C-B (in mg).

GHB in 2018

GHB in liquid form covers around 1% of all substances handed in at DIMS.

Effects
• Euphoria
• Relaxation
• Loss of control

Risks
• Addictive
• Potentially life-threatening if combined with alcohol
• Risk of overdosing
• Burns mouth/esophagus

We gathered too little data to give a reliable average of price of GHB.

Average amount of GHB in samples submitted as GHB (in mg/ml).
NPS in 2018

Number of samples related to new psychoactive substances (NPS), sold as:
- 4-FA
- 2C-B
- Ketamine
- GHB
- Other

Online purchases

A small but steady part of samples was bought online; more and more bought off the darknet.

Online bought samples, divided by internet source.

Number of samples submitted to DIMS bought online (%).

Product number: INF037
Text: Daan van der Gouwe and Ruben Vrolijk
Design: Rikkers Infographics

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