



### **K32 The Prevalence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in Northeast Asia From 2007 to 2015**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the prevalence of NPS in northeast Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan). As this is the first study of NPS in four countries, it will provide an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and sensitive mechanism for early detection of NPS in northeast Asia.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing information concerning the NPS situation in northeast Asia, especially to those who study the toxicological aspects of NPS in other parts of the world.

Recently, NPS have been a global trend in drug abuse and the regulation of these substances has been a worldwide concern.<sup>1,2</sup> In order for effective regulation of NPS, it is necessary to share information related to these emerging substances around the globe. Although many studies have been published on the prevalence of NPS in western countries, there is not enough information available for certain countries in Asia. Therefore, it is important to investigate the current status of NPS abuse in these countries and to provide information on NPS in the interest of effective regulation.

This study was performed using data provided by the Korea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA), the Data Search System for New Psychoactive Substances by National Institute of Health Sciences in Japan, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India, the China Food and Drug Administration, and the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) from 2007 to 2015.<sup>3-6</sup> Each substance was categorized in nine groups according to the classification used in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).<sup>7</sup>

It has been shown that a total of 978 NPS were reported in northeast Asia from 2007 to 2015. Among the 978 NPS, 882 substances are legally restricted in at least one country (90%) and 96 substances were not currently controlled (10%) in any country. The number of controlled NPS that are currently controlled in all four countries was only 25 out of 882 NPS. It was found that Japan is the most proactive country in terms of the NPS regulation, with 37% of the total number of controlled NPS, followed by South Korea (25%), China (20%), and Taiwan (9%).

Comparing the number of NPS newly regulated in each country every year, NPS has been widely scheduled in 2011 and the number of scheduled NPS has dramatically increased from 2013 to 2015. The most commonly controlled NPS were synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and phenethylamines, as shown in a global trend reported by the UNODC annual announcement.

This research was performed to study the prevalence of NPS and to provide information on the current status of NPS in northeast Asia. It has shown that northeast Asia is also in danger from these emerging NPS and that effective regulation and information-sharing across countries is important for the prevention of the negative social effects of NPS use and abuse. This study will also raise NPS awareness in local law enforcement.



## Reference(s):

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