



ThinkAskLearn
Health Professional Education


**Want to buy a vowel - Street
drugs - more than just E's**

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www.thinkasklearn.com.au



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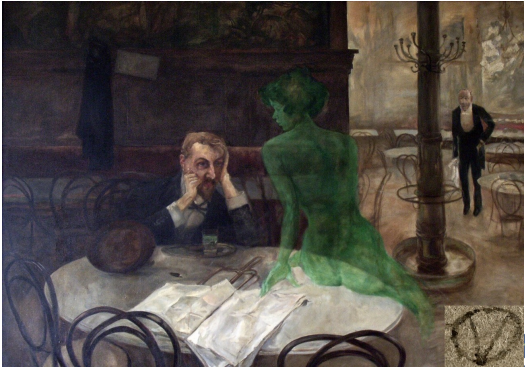


Albert Maignan's
Green Muse
(1895): a poet
succumbs to the
Green Fairy



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Victor Oliva, 1903, *Piják absintu*, (Absinthe Drinker)



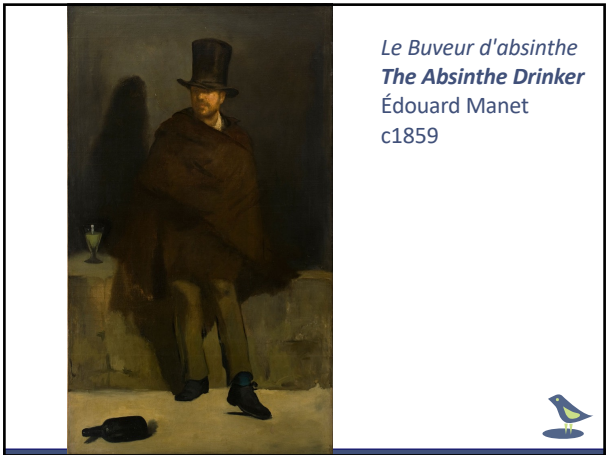
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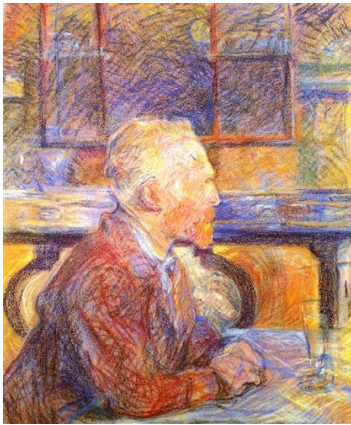
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Portrait of Vincent
van Gogh
By Henri de Toulouse-
Lautrec
c1887



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Edgar Degas
Au Café (l'Absinthe)
1876



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The Absinthe Drinker
(Portrait of Angel
Fernandez de Soto)
Pablo Picasso 1903



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Absinthe Drinkers

- The Green Fairy – Bohemian Lifestyle late 1800's - Paris
 - Hemingway, Picasso, Van Gogh, Oscar Wilder, Toulouse-Lautrec
- Described to have hallucinogenic effects
 - Highly alcoholic 54-75%
 - Made from 'Ground wormwood'
- Banned in Europe and US - 1908-1914
- Studies showed no hallucinogenic effects
 - Prob from additives, solvents, copper salts,
 - Drunk!!!



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THE NEW YORK MEDICAL JOURNAL 39

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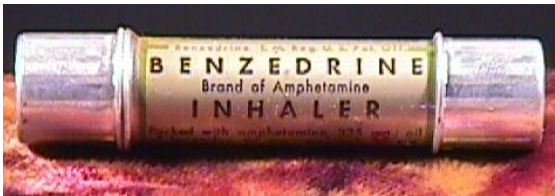
Opium, helping to
make the
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c1900



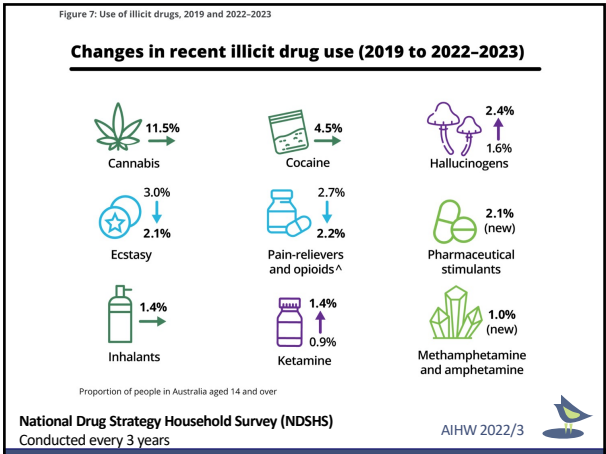
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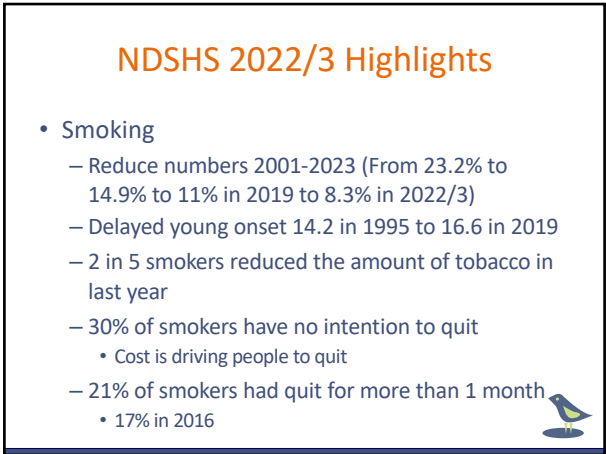
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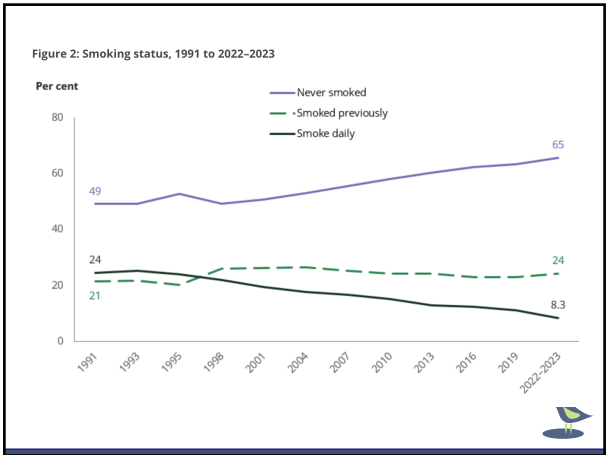
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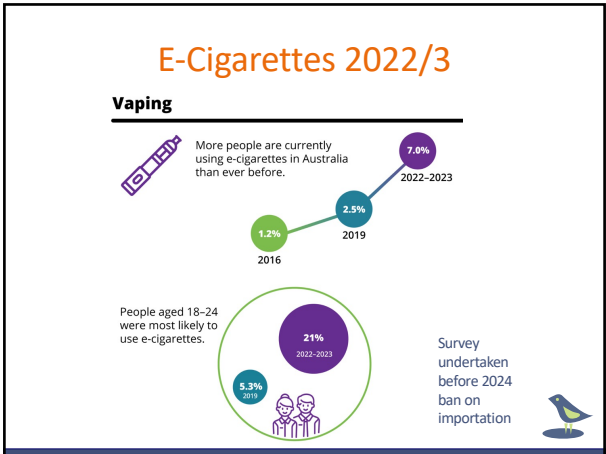
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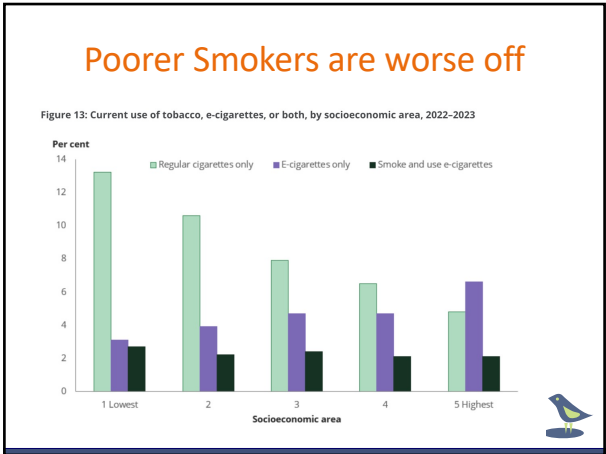
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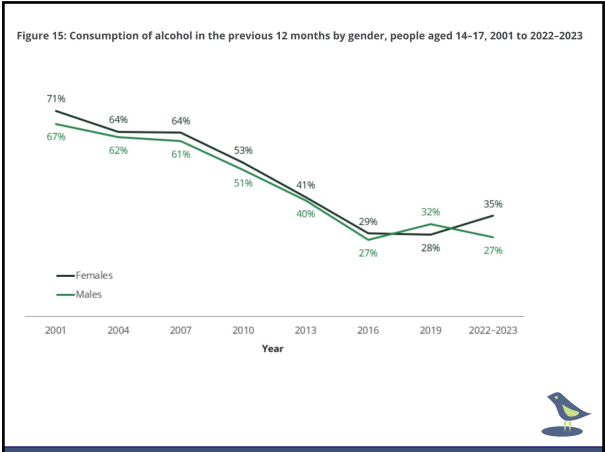
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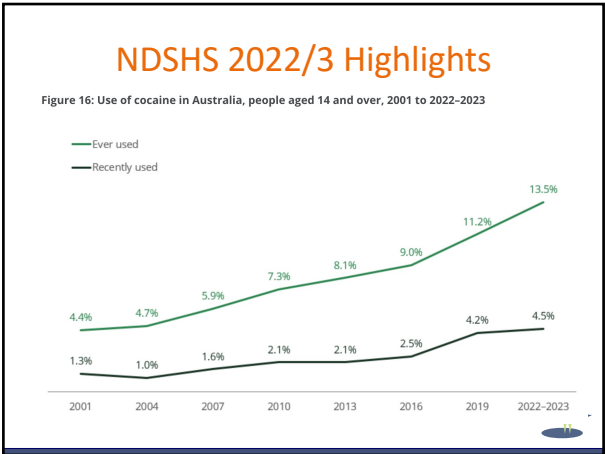
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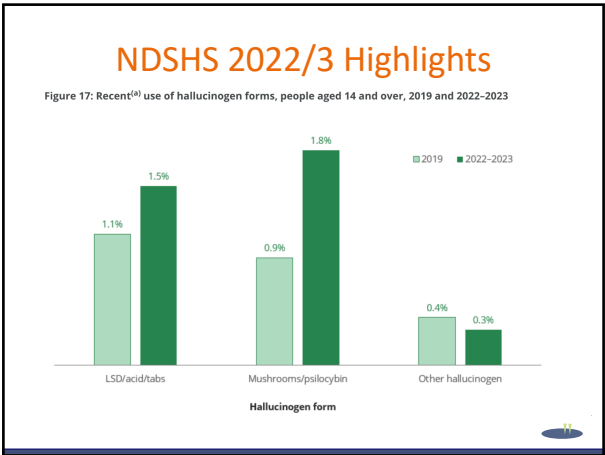
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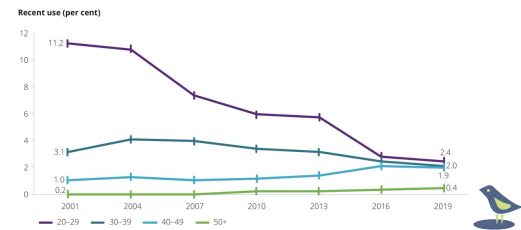
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NDSHS 2019 Highlights

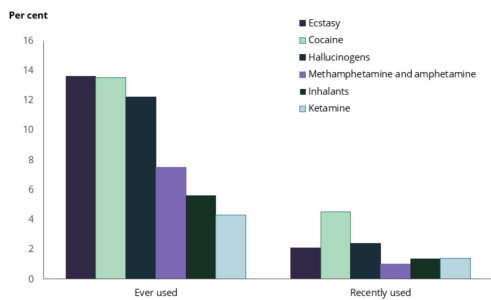
- No change in meth/amphetamine use (2010-2013)
 - Use of powder decreased 51% to 29%
 - Use of Ice increased from 22% to 50%
- 2022/3 – recent use 1.0% (no graph)



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NDSHS 2022/3 Highlights

Figure 1: Most used illegal drugs (excluding non-medical use of pharmaceuticals and cannabis), people aged 14 and over, 2022-2023



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NDSHS 2022/3 Survey



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Australia’s National Drug Strategy

- Harm reduction
 - needle syringe services, methadone maintenance, brief interventions, and peer education
- Supply reduction
 - legislation and law enforcement
- Demand reduction
 - community development projects and media campaigns



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Drugs Cause Harm



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Ecstasy - MDMA

- AKA - E, pills, Ex, pingers, E n C, eccy, MDMA, XTC, eggs, disco biscuits and vowels
- Cost \$40 per pill, \$8 in UK
- Primary ingredient
 - methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)
- Hard to make good drugs
 - Expensive, materials hard to obtain
- Often mixed with stimulants and hallucinogens
 - Methamphetamine



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Ecstasy Effects

- Produces rapid euphoric rush
- Can last up to 8hrs (Some reports of up to 32 hours)



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Ecstasy Effects

- 3 phases of Ecstasy use
 - Coming Up, Plateauing, Coming down
- **Coming up**
 - tightening of muscles, especially jaw, dilated pupils, visual distortions, nausea or vomiting, strong pulse, increased temperature, confusion and panic



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Ecstasy Effects

- **Plateauing:**
 - experience feeling happy, more awake, relaxed, open, confident, talkative and have decreased urine output and increased thirst
- **Coming down:**
 - the user can feel physically exhausted, depressed, anxious, paranoid, irritable, unable to sleep
 - Alcohol worsens the comedown



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Ecstasy - Problems

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Increased heart rate | • Teeth grinding |
| • Increased blood pressure | • Tremors |
| • Overheating | • Nausea |
| • Jaw clenching | • Enlarged pupils |
| | • Anxiety |

Hot humid environment may lead to dehydration – can be severe enough to present to ED



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Ecstasy – Severe Problems

- Serotonin Syndrome
 - Agitation
 - Confusion
 - Headache
 - Tachycardia
 - Hypertension
 - Hyperpyrexia
 - Muscle twitches/Seizure
 - Coma/ Death
- Treatment in ED
 - Mostly supportive
 - Intubate for ALOC,
 - Benzo's for Seizures
 - Fluid for Rhado/Renal damage
 - Check electrolytes



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Marijuana - Cannabis

- AKA - pot, grass, weed, ya(r)ndi, rope, mull, dope, skunk, bhang, ganja, hash, chronic, reefer, joint, cone or spliff
- \$10-15 a gram, up to \$35
- Primary ingredient
 - delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
- Most commonly used illicit drug
- Clinical trials of cannabis for seizures, palliative care, MS and other



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Marijuana - Effects

- User feels more relaxed, happy and more talkative
- Increase in appetite
- Unlikely to see acute user in the ED



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Marijuana - Problems

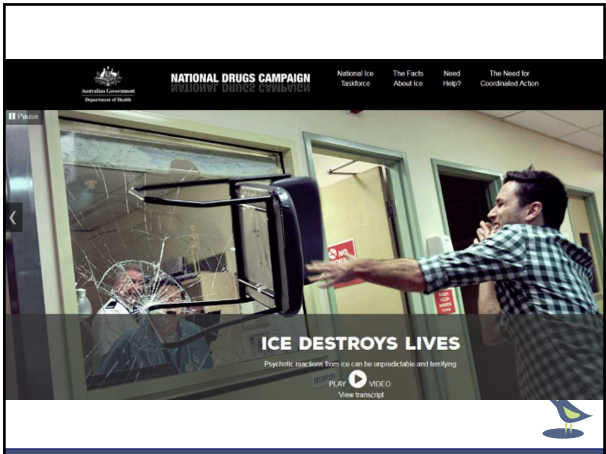
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|---|------------------------------------|
| • Dependence | • Low birth weight babies |
| • Increased risk of respiratory illnesses (chronic bronchitis and lung, mouth, throat and tongue cancers) | • Memory loss |
| • Lowered sex drive | • Learning difficulties |
| • Impact on sperm count for males | • Lower educational attainment |
| • Irregular menstrual cycles for females | • Mood swings |
| | • Psychosis and psychotic symptoms |
| | • Suicidal thoughts |



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Methamphetamine


- Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug that comes in three main forms:
 - Ice
 - Base
 - Speed
- Ice is a more pure version of Methamphetamine than Speed
- Ice can have many impurities



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Methamphetamine

- SPEED AKA - whizz, go-ee, snow, zip, point, eve, gogo, pure, gas, go-fast
- ICE AKA - 'crystal meth' meth, shabu, tina glass, quartz
- Single 'point' hit of ice -\$40-80



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Methamphetamine - Effects

- Feelings of euphoria, excitement and a sense of wellbeing
- Increased confidence and motivation
- Sense of power and superiority over others
- Increased talkativeness



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Methamphetamine - Problems

- Smoking ice is more addictive
- Ice use has more than doubled, from 22% to 50% between 2010-2013
 - But is it an epidemic proportions?
- Ice can cause paranoia and hallucinations
 - methamphetamine psychosis
- Ice is notoriously associated with violence



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Methamphetamine - Problems

- Comedown phase or crash,
- Feeling down or depressed
- Exhaustion
- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Increased need for sleep
- Decreased appetite



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Methamphetamine – Effects

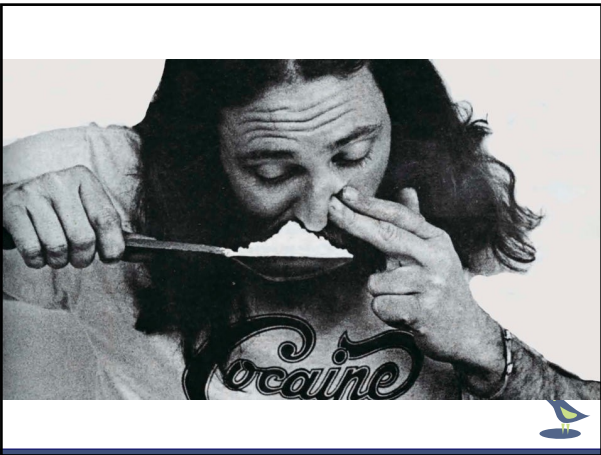
- Social issues, such as family and relationship trouble; losing friends, jobs, doing badly at school or study and homelessness
- Financial issues when the user becomes dependent
- The risk of getting into trouble with the law for dealing or committing other illegal acts to support their drug use



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Cocaine

- AKA - coke, Charlie, blow, C, pepsi, nose candy, flake, snow, white, toot, base, basa, powder, dust, big rush, big flakes, bump, line, rail, yeyo
- Cost about \$300 a gram
- Crack Cocaine aka - Snow coke, Rocks, Black rock, Chemical, Candy, Nuggets, Gravel, Grit, Hail, Hard rock, Jelly beans, Cookies, Dice, Purple caps, Scrabble, Yam, Sleet, Tornado



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Cocaine Effects

- Intense 'rush'
- Sense of euphoria, alertness, arousal, and increased confidence
- Appetite suppression



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Cocaine - Problems

- Cocaine psychosis (paranoid delusions, hallucinations, bizarre, aggressive or violent behaviour)
- Eating and sleeping disorders
- Impaired sexual performance
- Convulsions
- Renal failure
- Increased risk of stroke/MI



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Cocaine Hypertension

- MI or CVA with HT
- Quiet safe environment
- Benzodiazepam 1st line treatment
- Then consider vasodilators
- B blocker use controversial
 - Alpha activation- worsening HT
 - May have protective effect in MI



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GHB - BUTE

- Liquid ecstasy due to its stimulating, euphoric and supposed aphrodisiac qualities
- AKA - Fantasy, grievous bodily harm (GBH), liquid ecstasy, liquid E, G, Fanta, Frank, Frankie
- \$7 - \$25 for 2ml hit
- Similar effects of euphoria to MDMA but not similar chemically



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GHB - Effects

- Depressant and Sedative
- Euphoria and hallucinogenic states
- Taken orally
- Bitter taste, often mixed in drink
- Takes 15 to 30 min to take effect
- Used as a date rape drug –
 - amnesia and impaired movement
- Also used by bodybuilder as growth hormone



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GHB Problems

- Fine line between intoxicated and needing to be intubated
- Alcohol and other sedative drugs increase potency of this drug



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Conclusion

- Drug use is a multi faceted problem
- Solutions are likely to be complex
- Increased focus on harm minimisation strategies
- The availability of drugs has never been greater



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