THE PROBLEM WITH SPICE

ITS USE AND ABUSE IN CUSTODY - A CONSULTATION WITH PRISONERS 684 prisoners surveyed (users and non-users),120 focus group participants, in 9 prisons

SPICE N.

Also known as 'black mamba' is a class B synthetic cannabinoid drug, that is much stronger than cannabis.

REASONS FOR SPICE USE



EXISTING



SELF MEDICATION



COPING **STRATEGY**



BOREDOM

HABIT

"I DON'T TAKE ANY **OTHER DRUGS EXCEPT CANNABIS,** AND I SMOKED IT FOR 25 YEARS. SO VHEN I COME ISIDE, IT WAS REPLACEMENT FOR IT, IT WAS SPICE'



SUICIDAL, SO THAT'S A GOOD THING INNIT"

"THEY LOVE WHAT IT DOES TO THEM AS THEY'RE IN A **LOT OF MENTAL PAIN INSIDE IT TAKES THEM AWAY FOR A** WHILE TO STOP THE PAIN"

"YOU'RE BANGED **UP FOR 23 HOURS SO YOU TAKE IT TO GET OUT YOUR HEAD CAUSE NOTHING ELSE TO OFFER SUPPORT**"

"I JUST SAT THERE LIKE THAT **BUZZING FOR A** LITTLE WHILE AND THEN YOU LET IT **WEAR OFF AND IT'S** LOVELY. I DON'T **KNOW I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT"**

ENJOYMENT

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

- PERCENTAGES REPORTED BY CURRENT PRISONERS -

HEALTH

"GENUINELY THE BIGGEST ISSUE WE CURRENTLY FACE FROM A PRISONER HEALTH PERSPECTIVE."



60% MENTAL HEALTH

PRISON

GOVERNOR

PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS

ANXIETY HALLUCINATIONS DEPRESSION SELF HARM & SUICIDE

PARANOIA

SEE DIE FROM IT, AND **SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, THERE'S ONLY ONE** WAY YOU'RE GONNA GO" PHYSICAL HEALTH 51%

"THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE I

IRREGULAR HEART RATE

DECREASED BLOOD PRESSURE CONFUSION & DIZZYNESS VOMITING & SEIZURES HEART ATTACKS HARM BY VIOLENCE

ADDICTION

73%

DEBT

'GREEN CRACK' "IN MY EXPERIENCE,

SPICE NICKNAMED

SPICE IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN HEROIN."

SPICE COSTS 10X MORE INSIDE

PRISONERS CELLS TO PAY EITHER THEIR DEBT OR BUY MORE OF THE STUFF"

"THIEVING FROM OTHER

VIOLENCE

LEADS TO

"THERE IS LOADS OF VIOLENCE DUE TO IT KICKING OFF OVER DEBT AND SPICE"

"AND THE VIOLENCE. WHEN THEY TAKE IT, THAT PERSON IS IN A DIFFERENT FRAME OF MIND... ONE MINUTE THEY COULD BE THE NICEST

PERSON TO BE AROUND BUT WHEN THEY TAKE IT THEYRE LIKE A MONSTER"

BULLYING

"SWAPPING CLOTHES AND TRAINERS FOR

SPICE ONCE IN DEBT, THEY ARE BEING

BULLIED AND YOU WATCH IT HAPPEN"

61%

"WHEN SOMEBODY IS INCAPACITATED, YOU KNOW THEY CAN BE TARGETED, IN A VERY DEROGATORY FUCKING **HORRIBLE WAY**"

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM

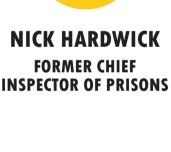
IN PRISON NOW?

"SELLING ALL THEIR CANTEEN FOR ONE EVENING'S SMOKE; GETTING INTO DEBT, MAKING THEMSELVES ILL, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, DESTROYING THEIR HEALTH, BEING BULLIED FOR BEING IN DEBT..."

ENGLISH AND "[PRISONS ARE] **WELSH PRISONS PLACES OF**

"WORST STATE IN 10 YEARS" STAFF & PRISONER STRESS LEVELS HIGH

ARE IN THEIR



SQUALOR AND **IDLENESS**"

VIOLENCE,

RELEASE FROM **IMPROVEMENT LESS JOBS OUTSIDE CELL PRISON CLASSES**

DRUG

POSSESSIONS

£900

MILLION

CUTS



700

LESS TIME

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF

LESS TEMPORARY

THE PROFESSIONAL TRADES UNION FOR PRISON, CORRECTIONAL & **SECURE PSYCHIATRIC WORKERS**

LESS SELF



HIGHEST

IMPRISONMENT

RATE IN WESTERN

EUROPE

THE LAST MONTH

1,248

2010

2,255

2015

USED SPICE IN

USE OF DRUGS

15 **737** # SPICE **SEIZURES** 2010 2014 DAY, SO THEY CAN **CATCH UP WITH**

TRAINING

"I THINK THEY

NEED A TRAINING

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE JAIL."

OF £900 IF THEY'RE SELLING

AT £1000"

"QUICK PROFIT

WHY IS IT THE **MOST POPULAR**



UNDETECTED **BY DRUG TESTS**





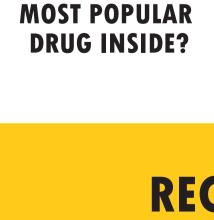
NUMBS



RECOMMENDATIONS





















BETTER USE

OF PEER









REVIEWING

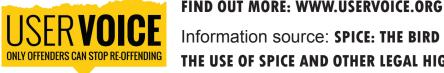
PRISONER



FEEL MORE **EQUIPPED**



FOCUS SOME RESOURCES ON NON-USERS



SUPPORT SALARIES **SERVICES**

Information source: SPICE: THE BIRD KILLER - WHAT PRISONERS THINK ABOUT

THE USE OF SPICE AND OTHER LEGAL HIGHS IN PRISON BY USER VOICE