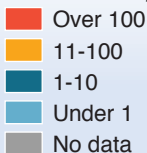


# Rise of synthetic drug use in Europe

The EU's drug agency has voiced concerns over the changing nature of Europe's drugs problem, with users turning to so-called "legal highs" instead of more "traditional" drugs such as heroin and cocaine

## Number of reported drug seizures by country (000s)



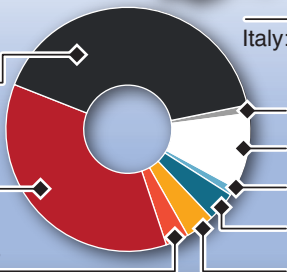
Number of seizures shown for countries with highest values

## Proportion of seizures for main drugs

Herbal cannabis 41%

Cannabis resin 36%

Cannabis plants: 3%



Norway: 25

United Kingdom 223

Belgium: 37

France: 100

Spain 400

Italy: 22

Finland: 13

Sweden: 18

Denmark: 14

Germany: 57

Turkey: 66

All data for 2011

## SYNTHETIC DRUGS

▶ 73 new substances detected by EU member states in 2012, compared to 49 in 2011

▶ Drugs sold in speciality stores or online, often given fake labels to avoid controls

▶ Substances designed to mimic effects of controlled drugs. Little is known about long-term effects. Over 40 deaths in 2010 were linked to now-banned legal highs such as mephedrone

