

The drug situation in Malta

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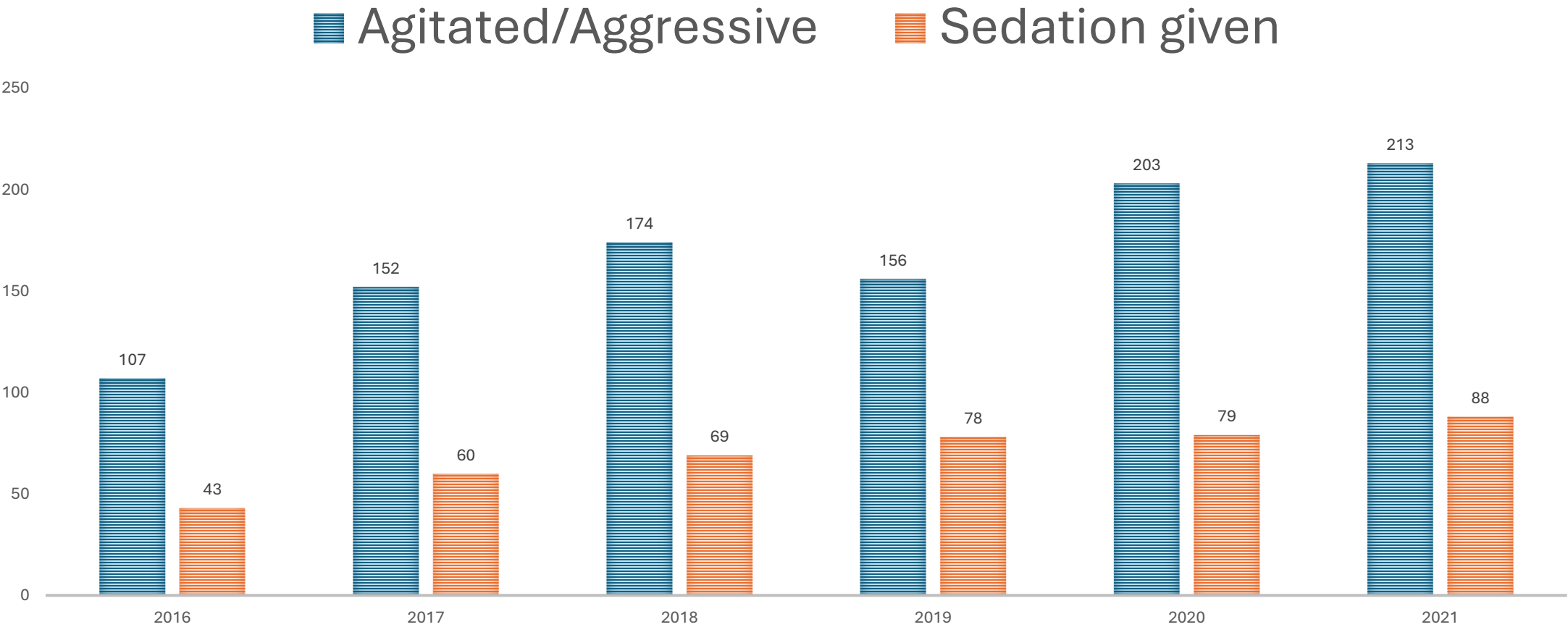
Data from the Emergency Dept of MDH

- Number of admissions to Mater Dei 2023:
 - Cocaine – 326
 - Cannabis – 193
 - Heroin – 82
 - SCRA – 41
 - MDMA – 22
- It is estimated to have resulted in 1266 attendances to the Emergency dept of MDH for 2023.

Cocaine attendances are increasing

- Associated with increased violence, agitation, agitation, paranoia
- Associated with increased heart attacks, strokes, vascular problems, seizures, aortic dissection
- Associated with increased risk of dangerous driving, poor judgement

Agitated following drug use in MDH 2016-2021



Total: 1005 agitated patients over 6-year period 2016-2021

Cannabis – Classic (THC)

- 2nd most common recreational drug resulting in attendances to Mater Dei Emergency Dept
- Usually smoked
- Attendances can vary from confusion, loss of consciousness, psychosis, vomiting.
- Recently increased attendances from persistent vomiting secondary to heavy cannabis use – cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome.
- Cannabis (THC) edibles, vapes are on the rise.

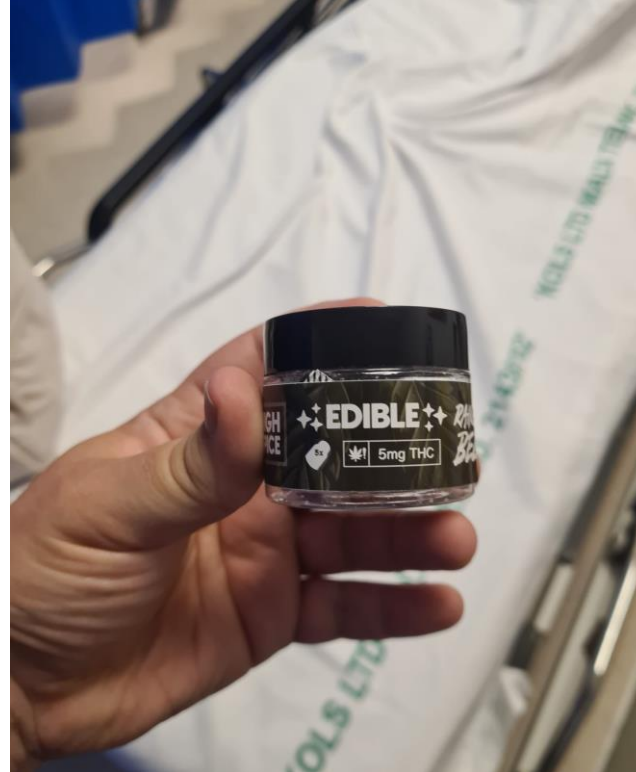
Synthetic cannabis - SCRA

- Used to be mostly smoked synthetic cannabis.
 - Malta has the highest number of synthetic cannabis-related Emergency dept attendances from more than 30 other Emergency depts in Europe
- **New trends –**
 - Synthetic cannabis edibles – HHC, CC8, CC9 etc
 - Past 3 weeks we had 7 admissions from self reported CC9 and another 4 from likely CC9
 - **Very protracted symptoms lasting many days, with vomiting, confusion.**

Cannabis and SCRA edibles – cookies, gummies, cakes,

- Based on our review of emergency department documentation from 2023, we have identified 14 admissions to MDH specifically attributed to cannabis edibles.
 - However, it should be noted that clinical records do not consistently document the method of cannabis consumption, which suggests the actual number of edible-related admissions could be significantly higher than our confirmed cases indicate.
- In 7 of these, the patients self-reported that they had taken either HHC (5) or THCP (2) (synthetic cannabis edibles). For the other 7, only a cannabis edible was mentioned.
- Interestingly in 6 of these 14 admissions, cannabis (THC) was found on toxicological analysis, despite some had self-reported synthetic cannabis ingestion.

It is not just synthetic edibles that we're seeing



Confectionaries, Cannabis shops in Malta



Bugibba



Labelled as
not for
human
consumption

The 0.2% THC content should not be applied to edibles

- The US and Canada have put a limit to 10mg of THC **per serving**.
- 25mg of THC is a lot of THC.
- For a 100g cake, you can put up to 199mg of THC and it will still be legal.
- These edibles are easily be produced locally.

Cannabis edibles online shops in Malta

NO SALE TO MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Home Shop ▾ Cannabis Strains How to Buy About Reviews  Cart

Blog Earn Money ▾ Harm Reduction Legal Updates

 **CANNABIS BAKERY** 
THC INFUSED CONTAINS THC CONTAINS THC

Sort by: Default ▾

 CALI KUSH CAKE 150MG THC : HYBRID	 Cannabis Bakery Bundle (150Mg THC) €60.00 €39.99	 LEMON HAZE 50MG THC : SATIVA	 AMNESIA HAZE 50MG THC : SATIVA	 WHITE WIDOW 50MG THC : SATIVA
Cali Kush Cannabis Space Cake (150Mg THC) From €30.00		Lemon Haze Sativa Cannabis Cookie (50Mg THC)	Amnesia Sativa Cannabis Muffin (50Mg THC)	White Widow Sativa Cannabis Brownie (50Mg THC)

Other "new" recreational drugs



Nitrous oxide –
laughing gas