

# Scientists want new drug rankings

starting with minimum harm = 20 ( Note Nr. 5 & 9 )



## 20. Khat

**Street names:** Abyssinian tea, African salad

**Street price:** £4/bunch

**UK users:** 40,000

**UK deaths per year:** 0 recorded

This legal stimulant makes users feel alert and energised but in excess it can cause insomnia, impotence and high blood pressure.



## 19. Alkyl nitrites

**Street names:** poppers, liquid gold

**Street price:** £2-6 a bottle

**UK users:** 400,000

**UK deaths:** 0 recorded

Alkyl nitrite is a non-addictive, legal drug. Sniffed straight from the bottle, it delivers a short high and relaxes sphincter muscles. Poppers may leave users sick and weak and are toxic if swallowed.



## 18. Ecstasy

**Street names:** E, hug drug, love drug

**Street price:** £1-8

**UK users:** 500,000

**UK deaths/year:** 27

An illegal class-A stimulant, ecstasy can cause mild hallucinations, feelings of euphoria, empathy and energy. It causes increases in body temperature and heart rate.



## 17. GHB

**Street name:** liquid ecstasy

**Street price:** £5/cap full

**UK users:** not known

**UK deaths/year:** 3

An illegal class-C sedative, GHB makes you happy, sensual and uninhibited in small doses. However, the difference between a buzz-inducing dose and a lethal one is barely noticeable. GHB can also kill when mixed with alcohol.



## 16. Anabolic steroids

**Street price:** £20 for 100 tablets

**UK users:** 42,000

**UK deaths/year:** 0

A class-C illegal drug used in muscle building, anabolic steroids can make users aggressive and violent and cause sterility, liver failure, strokes and heart attacks.



## 15. Methylphenidate

**Street name:** vitamin R

**Street price:** £15/hit

**UK users:** 15,000

**UK deaths/year:** 0 recorded

The active ingredient in drugs such as Ritalin, this class-A stimulant is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Illegal users crush the tablets and snort them for a quick high. Abuse can cause vomiting, convulsions, tremors, and delirium as well as dependency.



## 14. LSD

**Street names:** Lucy, trips, paper mushrooms

**Street price:** £1-5/tab

**UK users:** 83,000

**UK deaths/year:** 0 recorded

Lysergic acid diethylamide is an illegal class-A drug and gives users feelings of well being, powerful hallucinations and emotional journeys. LSD is physiologically non-toxic.



## 13. 4-MTA

**Street names:** flatliner, goldeneagle

**Street price:** £1-8

**UK users:** not known

**UK deaths/year:** 0 recorded

Dealers often sell this class-A stimulant as a replacement for ecstasy, but it does not produce the same euphoric high. Users take more thinking it hasn't worked and can overdose.



## 12. Solvents

**Street price:** from £2

**UK users:** 30,000

**UK deaths/year:** 50-60

These legal substances are inhaled so they get into the lungs very quickly and give users a quick high. Many solvents are poisonous chemicals like toluene and have a very toxic effect on the heart.



## 11. Cannabis

**Street names:** dope, hash and bob

**Street price:** £40-140/ounce

**UK users:** 3 million

**UK deaths/year:** 1

This class-C drug is usually smoked. In small doses cannabis induces euphoria, relaxation and pain relief but in high doses it can bring on paranoia and short-term memory loss. Use can also lead to some form of dependency.



## 10. Buprenorphines

**Street names:** subbies, temmies

**Street price:** £2 for 4 x 8mg capsules

**UK users:** unknown

**UK deaths/year:** 2

A class-C opiate normally used to treat severe pain and heroin dependence, this drug is used illegally for its euphoric and hallucinogenic effects. Without medical guidance buprenorphines are highly addictive, and users are at high risk of overdosing.



## 9. Tobacco

**Street price:** from £5

**UK users:** 10 million

**UK deaths:** 114,000

Tobacco is an extremely addictive drug responsible for 20% of UK deaths, a 10-year reduction of average life expectancy and 40% of all hospital illnesses.



## 8. Amphetamine

**Street names:** speed, whiz, dexies or billys

**Street price:** £8-12/wrap

**UK users:** 430,000

**UK deaths/year:** 35

A class-A&B drug, amphetamines can make users feel energetic and confident. They can be intensely addictive. As tolerance builds up consumption increases, leading to paranoia, depression, panic attacks and violent mood swings.



## 7. Benzodiazepines

**Street names:** benzos, downers

**Street price:** £1 for 4 x 5mg capsules

**UK users:** 100,000

**UK deaths/year:** 406

These class-C drugs are minor tranquilizers, such as vallium, prescribed to treat anxiety, insomnia and seizures. Illegal abuse can cause memory loss, nausea, anxiety and depression. Consuming benzos with alcohol often kills.



## 6. Ketamine

**Street names:** special K, vitamin K

**Street price:** £15-40/g

**UK users:** 100,000

**UK deaths:** 1

This class-C drug is normally used as a horse tranquiliser. It has very strong pain-killing effects but has become a popular illegal drug because it is also a strong hallucinogen.



## 5. Alcohol

**Street price:** from £1

**UK users:** 40 million

**UK deaths/year:** 40,000

Alcohol is a depressant but removes inhibitions at low doses. At higher doses, drinkers may experience slurred speech, reduced coordination, nausea and vomiting. Long-term use can damage the heart, liver and stomach.



## 4. Street methadone

**Street names:** the precious, slime, green

**Street price:** £10/100ml

**UK users:** 33,000 illegal users

**UK deaths/year:** 295

Prescribed medically, methadone reduces the withdrawal effects of heroin and tends to reduce heroin use. Illegal methadone is often diluted with other ingredients and the strength of doses can be hard to judge.



## 3. Barbiturates

**Street names:** pink ladies, red devils

**Street price:** £1-2/tablet

**UK users:** not known

**UK deaths/year:** 20

Doctors prescribe barbiturates for depression, anxiety and insomnia. Illegal users can feel relaxed and sociable. A normal dose and an overdose are difficult to tell apart, making barbiturates very dangerous. Class: A (injected) and B (capsules).



## 2. Cocaine

**Street names:** Charlie, coke, base

**Street price:** £30-60/g powder; £10-20 crack rock

**UK users:** 780,000

**UK deaths/year:** 214

Users snort cocaine powder and smoke or inject the rock form, crack. Both forms of this class-A drug are dangerous. Crack reaches the brain almost instantly and leaves users very vulnerable to dependence.



## 1. Heroin

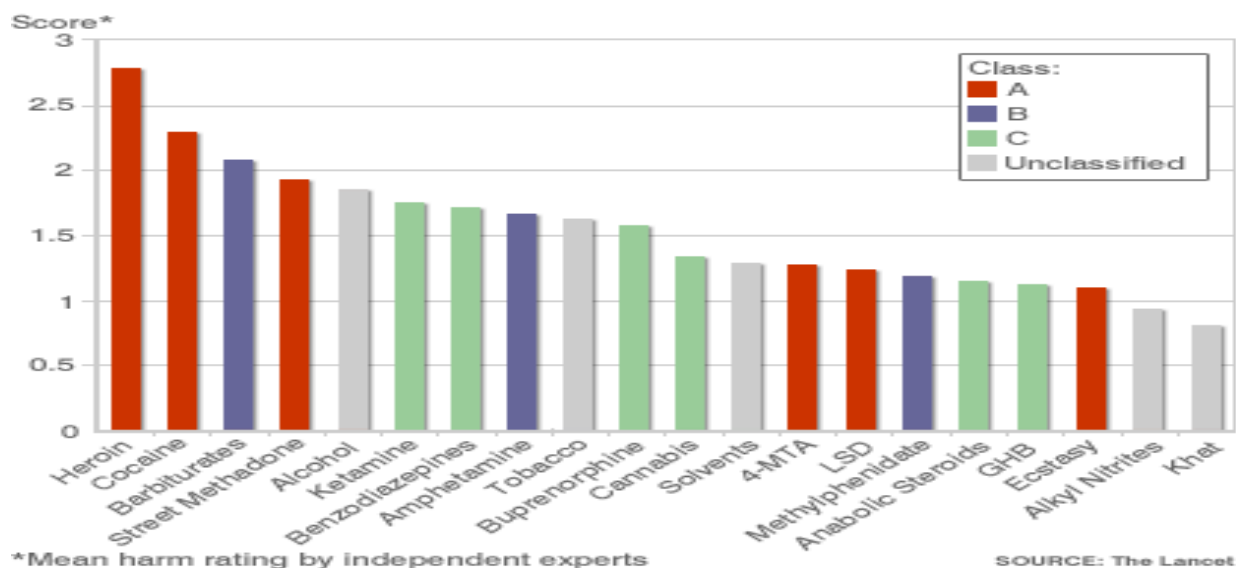
**Street names:** brown, skag, gear, smack

**Street price:** £10-20/bag

**UK users:** 300,000

**UK deaths/year:** 700

An extremely addictive class-A drug, heroin may be injected or smoked. When injected it can produce feelings of euphoria. As it affects the part of the brain that controls breathing, an overdose can kill.



Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/6474053.stm>  
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