

# **Stoners 2.0 and Experimental Psychonauts – an Online Survey on Legal Highs Use in Germany**

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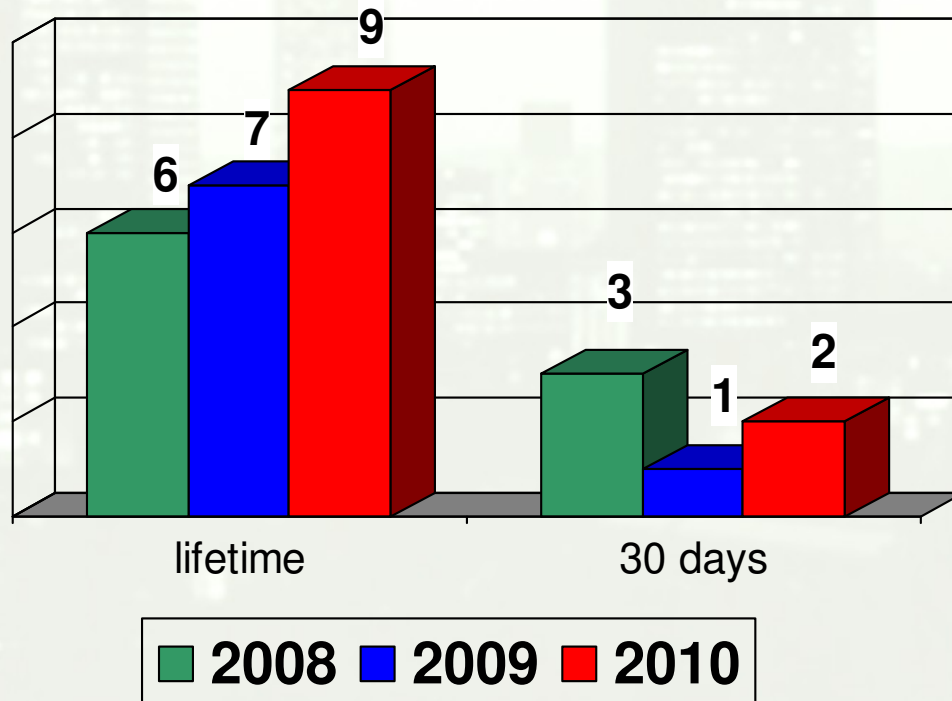
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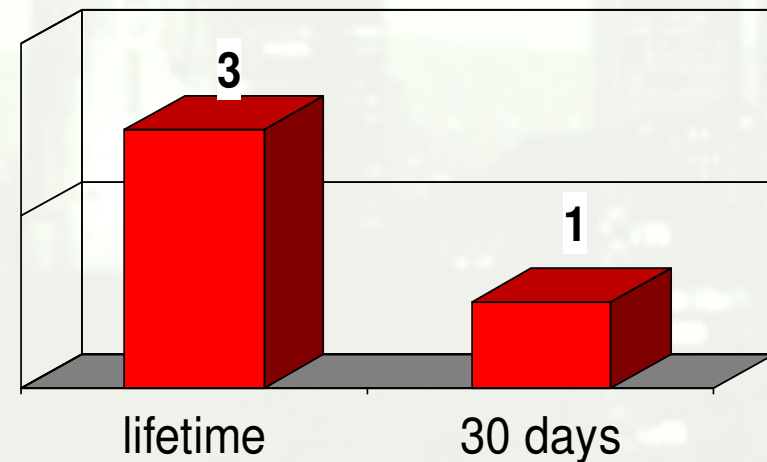


# Some representative data on novel synthetic drugs among youth in Frankfurt (15-18-y-o; %)

## Spice/ herbal incense



## other legal highs or research chemicals (2010)

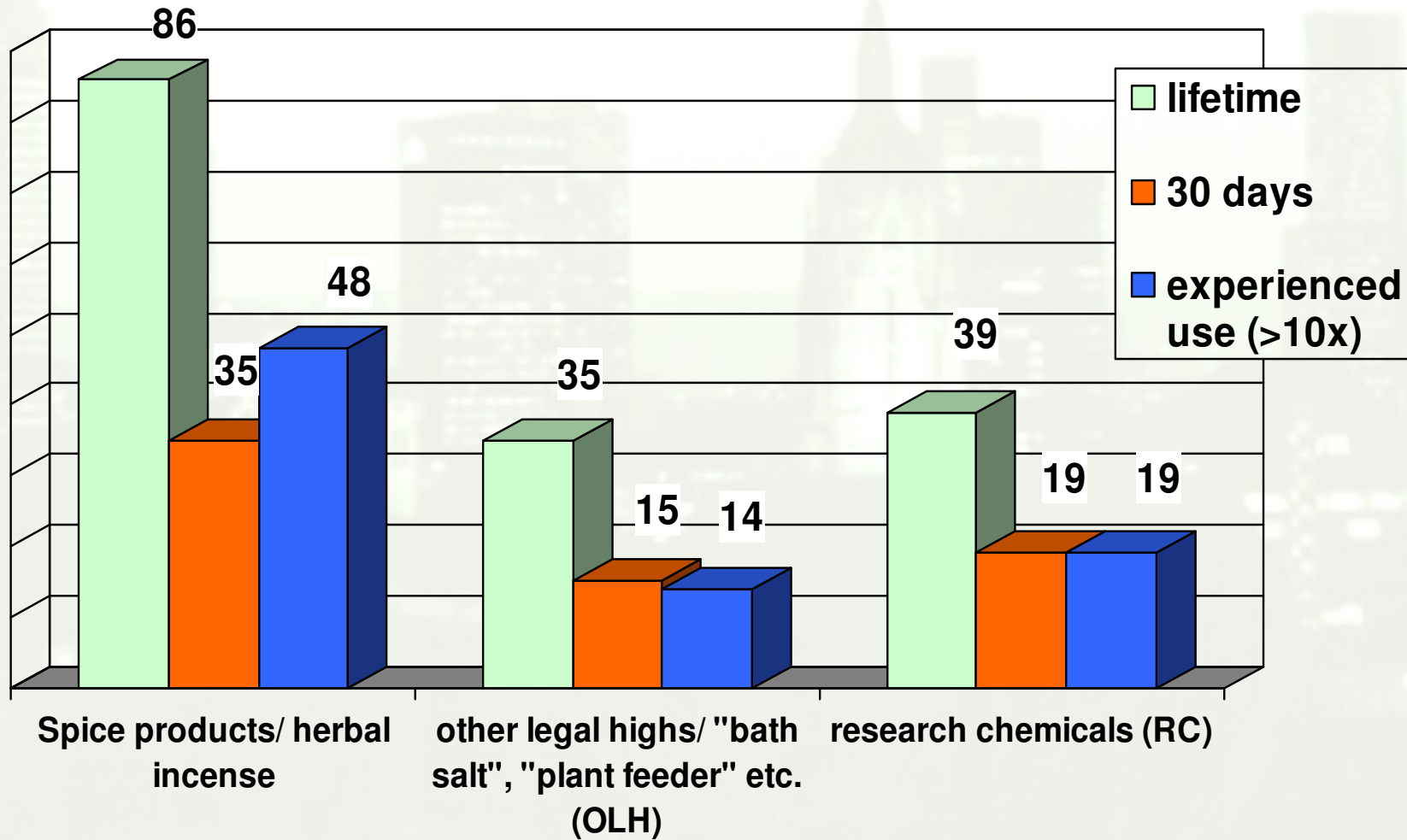


## **Online survey on the use of new synthetic drugs/ legal highs: methods and sample**

- on behalf of the German Ministry of Health/  
German drug commissioner
- survey online from June-September 2011
- promoted via forums, Facebook, online shops,  
prevention websites etc.
- n = 860 (completed questionnaire and legal highs  
lifetime prevalence)
- 89% male, average age: 24,2 years
- states (*Länder*) with more repressive drug  
policy/ law enforcement are overrepresented

# Online survey - prevalence

(n= 860, users with legal highs lifetime experience)



## Online survey – prevalence

- cannabis lifetime prevalence: 97%
- cannabis last-month prevalence: 69%
- other illegal drugs\* lifetime prevalence: 80%
- other illegal drugs\* 30-days prevalence: 33%
- 45% of the respondents have tried herbal incense, but no other legal highs/ research chemicals
- RC users showed the highest levels of other illicit drug use
- 16% of the respondents were *frequent users* of „herbal blends“ (more than 10 times per month)  
→ half of them have also used cannabis in the last month

\* *At least one of these substances (in descending order): amphetamine, ecstasy/MDMA, psychoactive mushrooms, cocaine, LSD, GHB/GBL, methamphetamine, heroin, crack cocaine*

# Online survey – most prevalent products/ substances

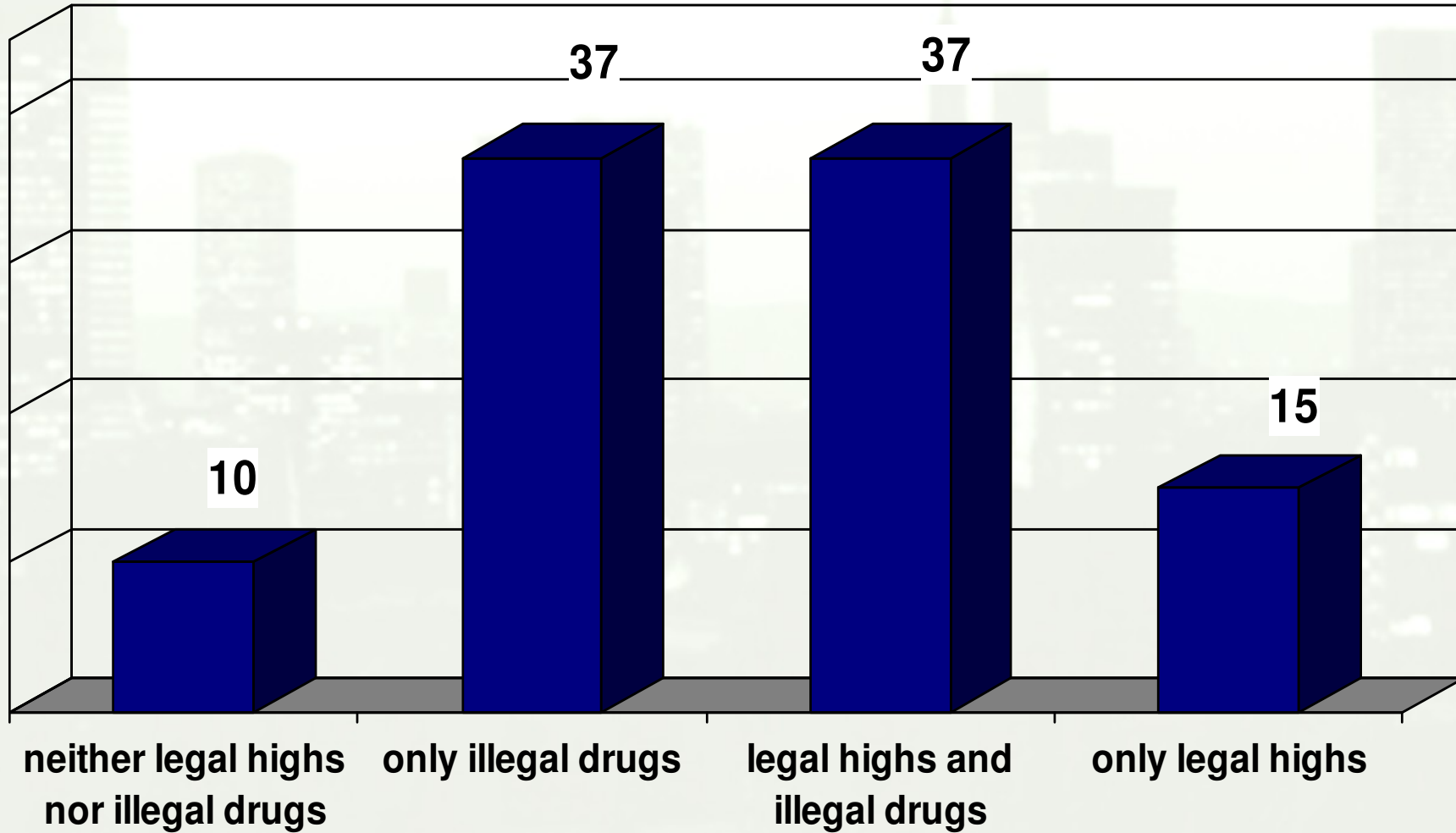
research chemicals	lifetime
<i>mephedrone</i> *	<b>14 %</b>
methylone	<b>13 %</b>
4-fluoroamphetamine	<b>7 %</b>
MDPV	<b>6 %</b>
methoxetamine	<b>5 %</b>

other legal highs/ „bath salt“ etc.	lifetime
Charge +	<b>14 %</b>
Mojo	<b>7 %</b>
Raz	<b>6 %</b>
Volt 220	<b>5 %</b>
Exposion	<b>4 %</b>

herbal incense	lifetime
<i>Spice (different varieties)</i> *	<b>48 %</b>
Monkees go Bananas	<b>31 %</b>
Lava Red	<b>29 %</b>
Bonzai (different varieties)	<b>29 %</b>
OMG	<b>25 %</b>

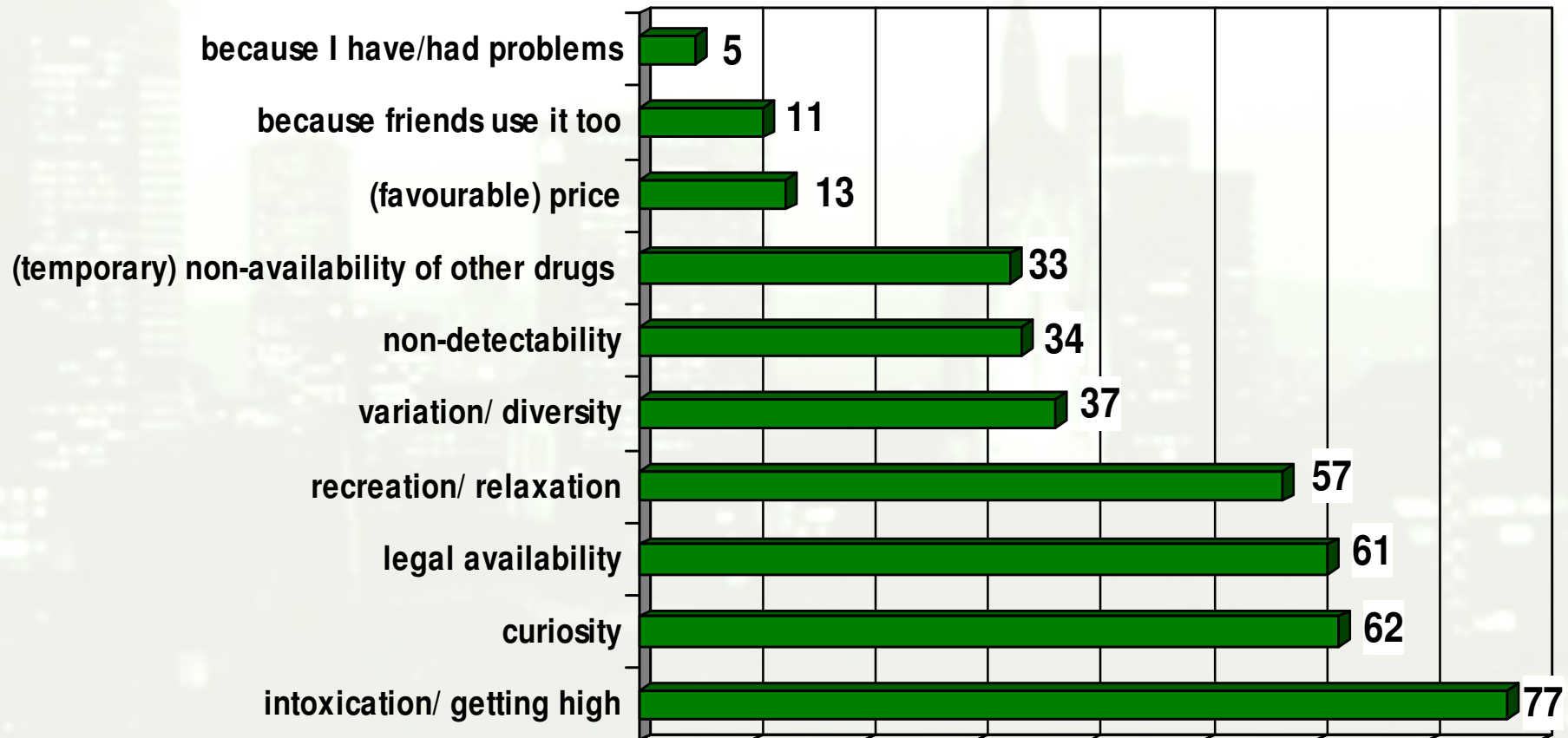
**\* already illegal  
in Germany**

## Online survey - use in the last 30 days (%)



# Online survey - motivations for use (%)

"important/ very important"





## Online survey – regional features

- particularly users from **Bavaria** were heavily overrepresented
- among those, the shares for current and frequent herbal incense users were significantly higher
  - Bavaria is known for its repressive approach in drug policy
- availability as a motive for legal highs use ranks higher than elsewhere among herbal incense users
- while this is not the case for non-detectability
  - repressive drug policy seems to encourage the use of legal highs as ‚substitute drugs‘



## **Novel psychoactive substances/ „Legal Highs“: types of users**

- experimental/ occasional users
- substitutors
- stoners 2.0
- specialist psychonauts
- omnivores



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# Thank you very much for your attention!

**A short English language report of the survey is  
now available online:**

<http://tinyurl.com/germanhsurvey>



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