



Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team: Recent growth in online discussions of mephedrone

What was found? According to the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team, led by Dr. Elan Barenholtz and PhD candidate Paul Morris of the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics (MPCR) Lab at Florida Atlantic University, a trend of rapid growth in online discussion for **mephedrone** has emerged on Reddit.

What is mephedrone? Mephedrone (4-MMC) is a stimulant NPS and Schedule I controlled substance in the United States. Mephedrone has similar structure to cathinones such as metaphedrone (3-MMC), which also saw increased mentions on Reddit this year. Mentions of terms referring to mephedrone on drug Subreddits have increased sharply each month from July through September 2021.

What is it being used for? Recent mentions highlight the drug's use as an aphrodisiac. This online trend may signal emerging real-world interest in mephedrone and other synthetic cathinones.