



## Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team: Online mentions of Phenibut

**What was found?** The drug phenibut has had consistently high activity in online discussions over the past 3 years. Its mention-to-commenter ratio implies that the drug has a small, continually active, online community of users.

**What is Phenibut?** Phenibut is a central nervous system depressant. It was originally synthesized and launched clinically in Russia during the 1960s as an anti-anxiety medication. The drug is currently legally attainable in the US as a nutritional supplement. It is most often marketed in the US as a "nootropic."

**How is it being discussed?** Phenibut is often discussed as a non-prescription, anti-anxiety drug. Many online commenters describe its addictive potential.

**Drug Terms:** Phenibut, Anvifen, Fenibut, Noofen, Phenigamma