



Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team: Online mentions of Diphenhydramine

What was found? This drug has had consistently high activity over the past three years. There have been two large spikes in early and late 2020. The mentions to commenters ratio implies the drug has a consistent but dedicated community.

What is Diphenhydramine? Diphenhydramine, also known as Benadryl, is an over-the-counter medication that functions as an antihistamine to relieve allergy symptoms when used at recommended doses. At high doses, it can function as a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), anticholinergic, and inhibitor of sodium and potassium channels. However, at extremely high doses, it has been shown to cause serious side effects such as permanent brain damage and heart attacks.

How is it being discussed? Diphenhydramine is frequently mentioned as an accessible drug that carries serious risks. It is often used recreationally at high doses to enhance mood and induce hallucinations.

Drug Terms: Diphenhydramine, DPH, Dimedrol, Benadryl