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Salvia divinorum The Canadian Experience

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Suzanne Desjardins Ph.D.
Director, Office of Research and Surveillance
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate



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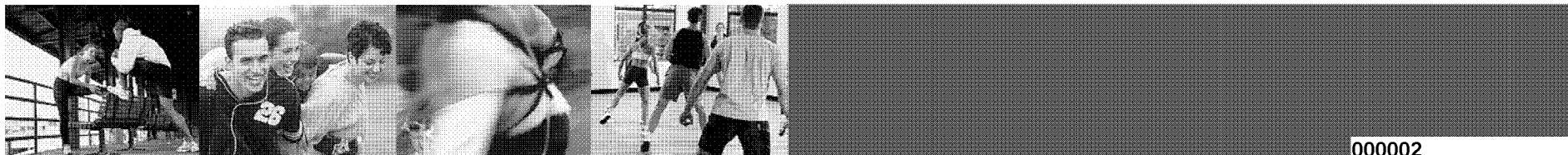
Outline of presentation

Legal Status

Historical Perspective

``Monitoring the situation``

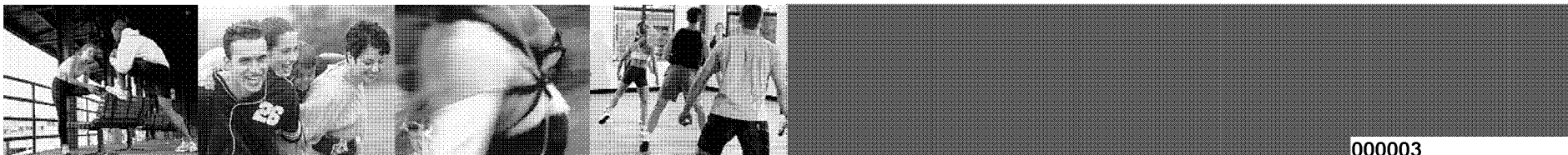
Decisions Regarding Control



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Legal Status of Salvia in Canada

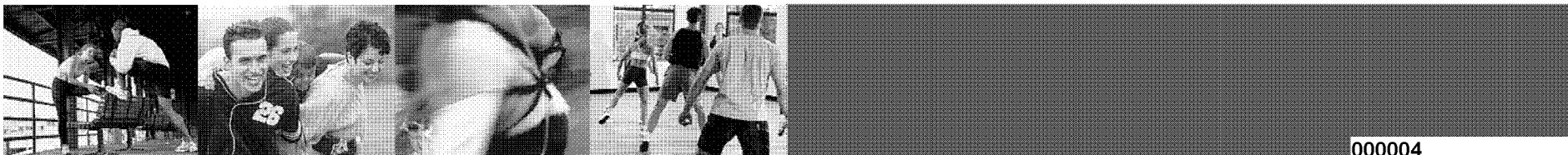
- Salvia meets the definition of a Natural Health Product (NHP) in accordance with the *Natural Health Products Regulations* and the definition of a drug under the *Food and Drugs Act*.
- It is illegal to sell NHPs in Canada unless they have market authorization.
- No salvia products have been approved for sale by Health Canada.
- All unauthorized drugs and NHPs may be subject to compliance and enforcement actions.



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Historical Perspective

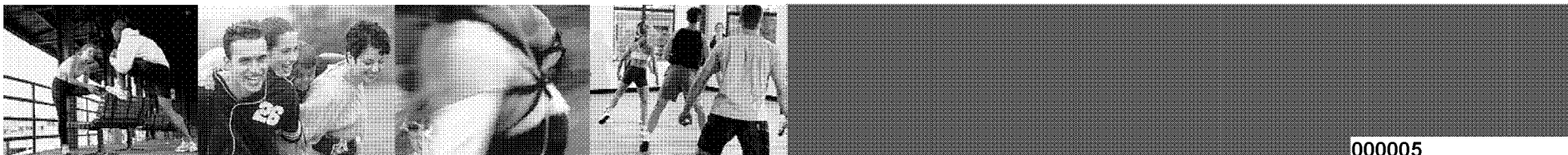
- 2002 - Awareness:
 - anecdotes (media), requests from custom officers regarding legal status, issue sheet published in the US
 - informal calls to Canada Border Service Agency, Natural Health Products Directorate and others to encourage them to provide information/evidence as it becomes available
- 2004 - Adverse Drug Reactions reported (n=4) through the “Canada Vigilance Program” of Health Canada



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Historical Perspective (2)

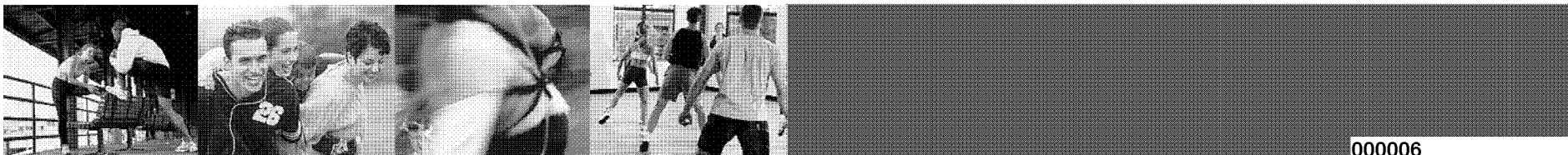
- 2005 – Signal Assessment and first Issue Analysis Summary
 - What we knew about the substance
 - International situation
 - Gaps in knowledge
 - Risks
- 2007 - Initial scheduling assessment
 - Need to seek more information, in particular regarding extent of abuse



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``Monitoring the Situation``

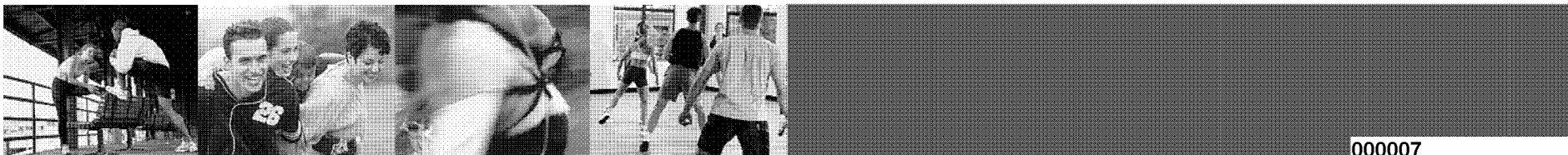
- 1) Seizure data
- 2) Emergency room visits
- 3) Prevalence of use



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Seizure Data

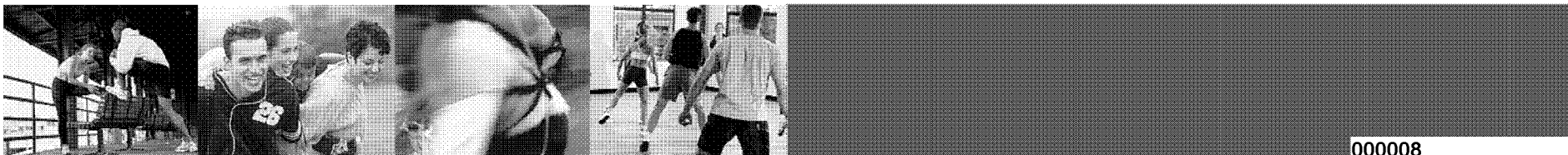
- Exhibits from drug seizures made by police forces and custom officers are analysed for content by the Drug Analysis Service of Health Canada mainly for prosecution purposes; data are stored in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
- Salvia is not a controlled substance
 - Exhibits containing salvia are usually a result of police suspecting the substance is controlled.
- Exhibits containing salvia were first seen in LIMS in 2006 (n=9).
- Number of exhibits containing salvia has remained small : 2007 (n=8), 2008 (n=4), 2009 (n=20), 2010 (n=36)



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Emergency Room Visits

- Pilot project in 2 centres in British Columbia starting in 2007
 - Interviews in ER with people showing signs of intoxication
 - Did not identify salvia
- Pilot project in one hospital in Montreal in 2010
 - ER cases reviewed for alcohol and drug mentions
 - Did not identify salvia
- Early Warning System Pilot project (Data Fusion) under development: use of electronic ER records and other sources (e.g. ambulance and poison centre calls) to identify new substances, patterns etc...
 - No data yet



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Prevalence of Use

High-risk population surveys (street youth, street entrenched adults, bar/party scene)

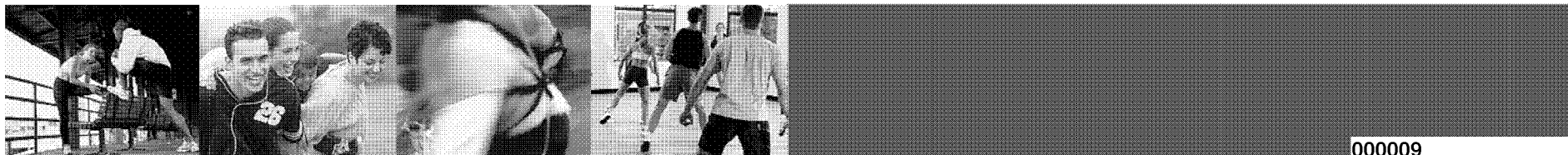
- Don't provide rates but rather early indication of use
- Pilot project in 2 provinces (starting in 2007 in British Columbia): did not identify salvia

National population surveys

- Youth Smoking Survey (YSS) 2008-2009 data released in May 2010
- Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (CADUMS) 2009 data released in June 2010

Provincial student use survey

- Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDHS) 2009 data released in November 2009



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Youth Smoking Survey 2008-2009

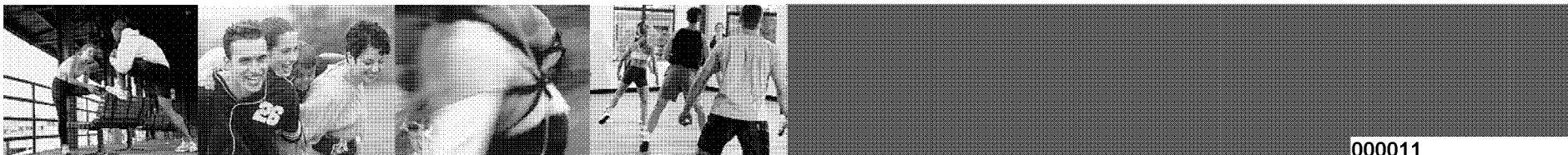
- Student survey – grades 7-12
 - Salvia monitored for the first time
- 4.9% of students reported having used salvia in the past year
 - 2.6% for grades 7-9 and 7% for grades 10-12
 - 6.9% for hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, magic mushrooms, mescaline)
 - 27.3% for cannabis



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Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (CADUMS) 2009

- Ongoing general population survey 15 years and older (minimum about 10,080 respondents per year)
 - Opportunity to add/change/remove questions every year
 - In 2009 : question on salvia asked for the first time
- 1.6% of 15y+ reported having used salvia in their lifetime (and 0.2% in the past year)
- 7.3 % of youths aged 15-24 reported having used salvia at least once in their lifetime (0.5% among adults 25 years and older)

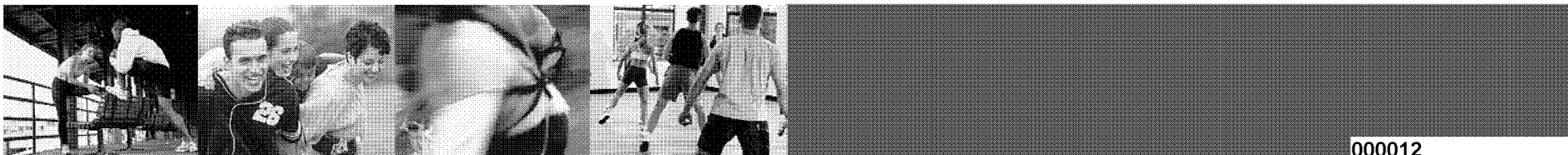


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Decisions Regarding Control

Factors considered in determining whether the scheduling of a substance under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) is warranted:

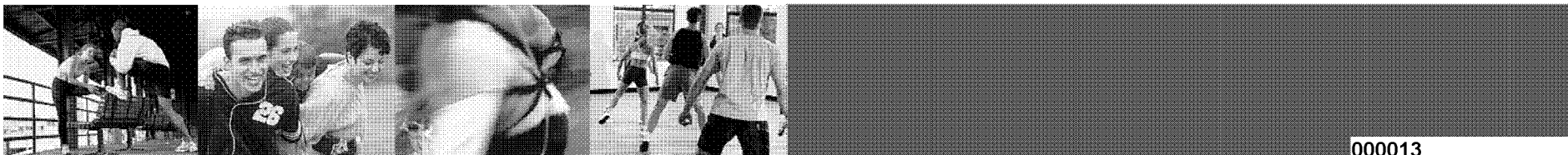
- Overall risk to public health and safety posed by the substance.
- Chemical and pharmacological similarity to other substances already regulated under the CDSA;
- Legitimate uses of the substance (i.e., therapeutic, industrial or commercial);
- Potential for abuse and risk of addiction associated with the substance;
- Extent of actual abuse of the substance in Canada and internationally;
- International requirements and trends in international control.



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Conclusions

- Anecdotal/ad hoc nature of the initial sources of information trigger the need for further monitoring rather than quantitative/solid information
- General population prevalence of use may be informative but may not be timely and often limited by low rates
- Available tools need to include more than one target population and data sources



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