What This Paper Adds

What this paper adds:

Section 1: What is already known on this subject

Partly as a result of identifying substituted cathinones in so-called 'legal highs' - marketed as legal alternatives to the most popular but illicit recreational drugs, these substances were brought under the Misuse of Drugs Act in 2010. The most recent examination of the composition of 'legal highs', conducted six months after the introduction of the ban, found no presence of banned cathinone substitutes in the products they tested.

Section 2: What this study adds

This paper draws the medical literature on novel psychoactive substances together with the research examining the chemical composition of these substances together, to illustrate the public health issues arising from this new genre of drugs. Our study shows that, eighteen months after the introduction of the ban, illegal cathinone substitutes are, once again, readily available for purchase in the UK in large (1Kg) quantities with little known about their clinical effects.