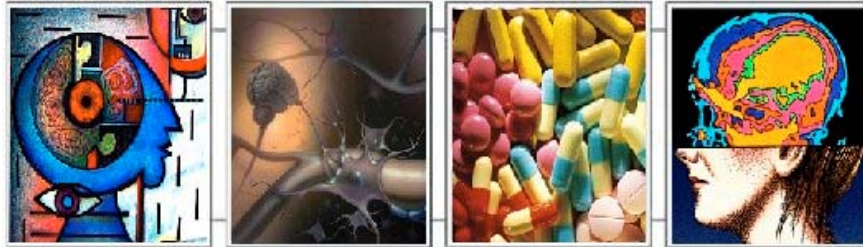


# Foresight: Drugs Futures 2025



## *Foresight's* aim

Foresight projects:

- produce challenging visions of the future to
- ensure effective strategies now

It does this by:

- providing a core of excellence in science-based futures expertise and
- access to leaders in government, science and business

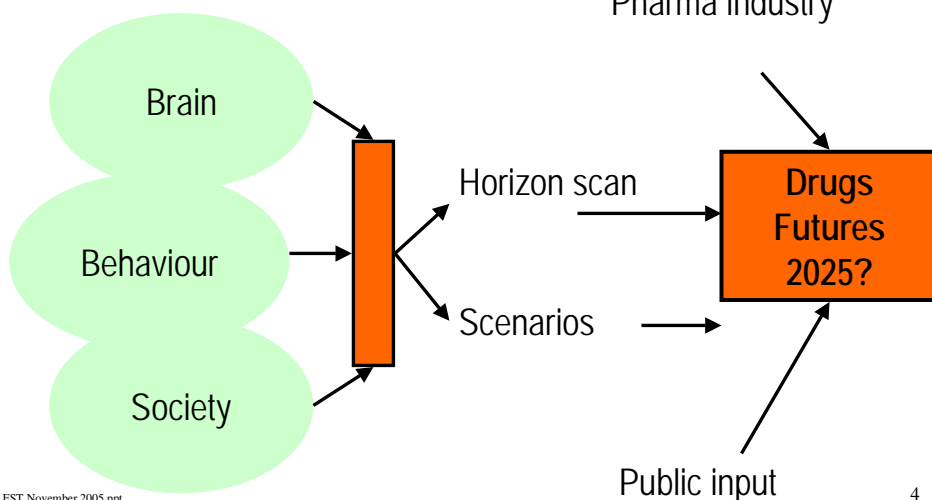
## Project's Aims

How can we manage the use of psychoactive substances in the future to best advantage for the individual, community and society.

- What will the psychoactive substances of the future be?
- What are the effects of using psychoactive substances?
- What mechanisms do we have to manage psychoactive substances?

State of science reviews

The project process



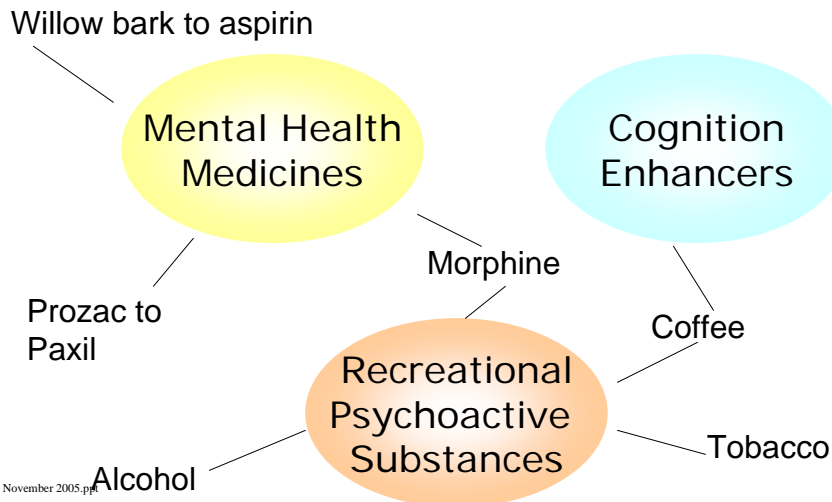
## State of science topics

- Clinical Psychology
- Experimental Psychology
- Neuroscience
- Genomics
- Pharmacology and Treatments
- Cognition Enhancers
- Imaging
- History of Addiction
- Drug Testing
- Behavioural Addiction
- Life Histories and Narratives
- Social Policy
- Sociology
- Economics
- Ethics

## Introduction

- **Future psychoactive substances**
- Context for the changes
- Strategic choices

## Psychoactive Substances have always been an integral part of society

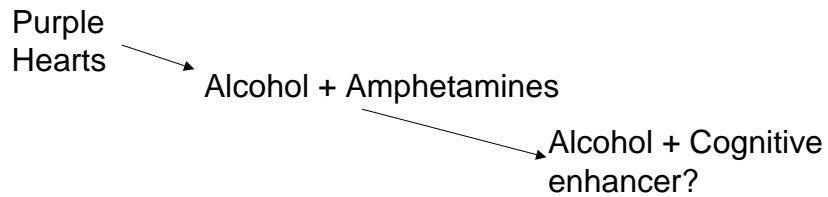


## Recreational PS use will continue

- Old and new
- Potential fewer side effects
- Experience shaping
- More sophisticated use
- New combinations

## We will see new combinations of PS

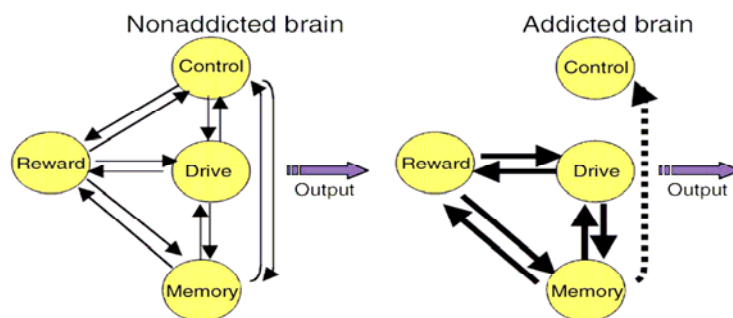
Psychoactive substances + psychoactive substances



Psychoactive substances + behaviour

Psychoactive substances + technology

## There may be new treatments for addiction



Model proposing a network of circuits involved with addiction (Volkow et al, 2003)

## We will see new cognition enhancers



### PERFECT PEOPLE PILLS

Prescriptions for happiness? The new generation of drugs that make you who you want to be

## Potential for new medicines for mental health

Chemical pathways

Preventative treatment for Alzheimer's, schizophrenia

Neurogenesis

New treatments for mood disorders

Pharmacogenetics

Safer, more effective treatments

## Introduction

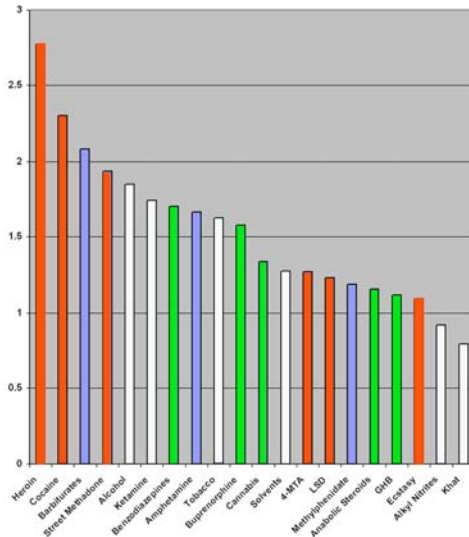
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## What the public said

3 key issues:

- Individual rights versus public interest
  - Preference on individual choice based on concern over coercive use
- Community safety versus normalised society
  - Valuing diversity in society
- Prevention versus treatment
  - Preventing versus dealing with problems as they arise

## Increasing pressure to take decisions based on harms



Police foundation assessment

## But there are many factors involved in decisions on management

### CULTURAL CONTEXT

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>+ Aim</b>	<b>= View</b>
Benefits	Health	
Harms to individual	Crime reduction	
Harms to others	Economic	
Individual's rights		

Restriction in established freedom only with evidence of harm to others.

Where existing right the trend is better information.



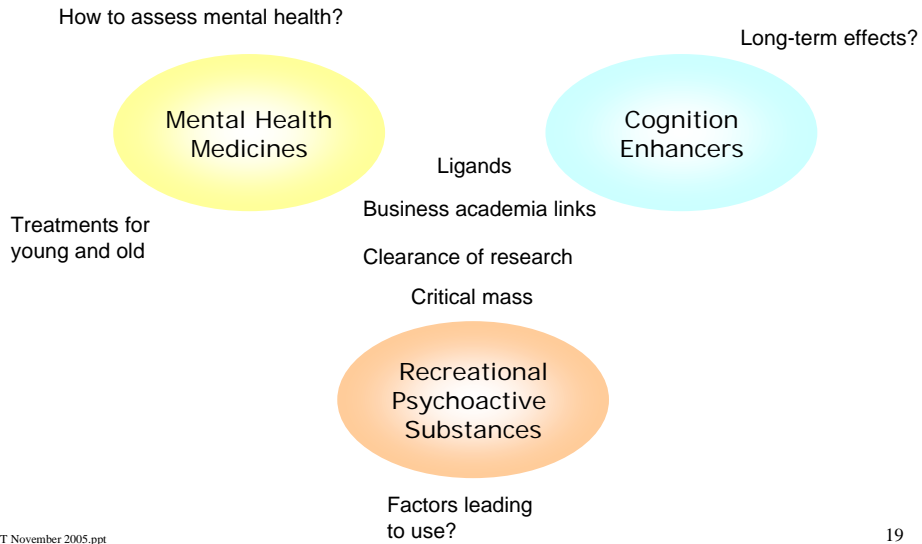
## New learning on management of recreational drugs

- Susceptibility of brains of young
- Mode of delivery has impact on harm
- Early identification and response can reduce impact of harmful behaviour
- Need to understand cultural context of any change in management

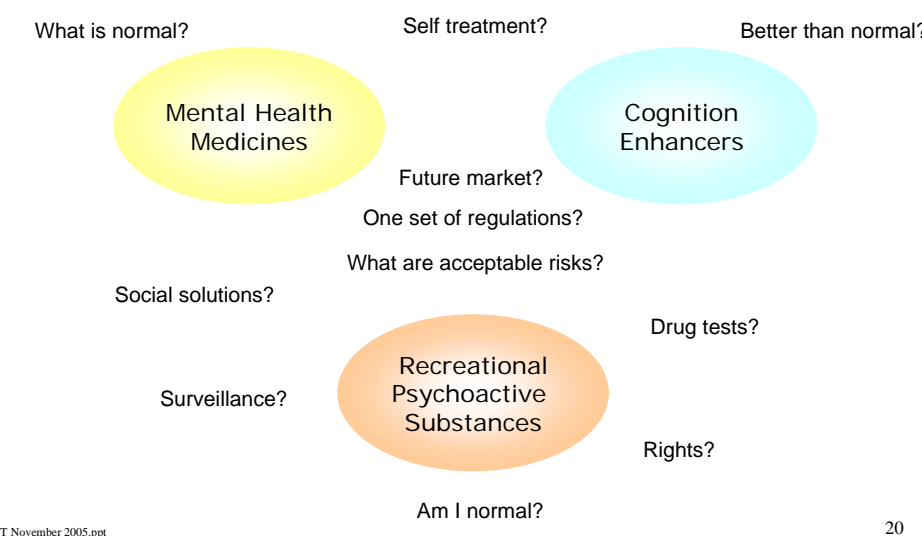
## Introduction

- Future psychoactive substances
- Context for the changes
- **Strategic choices**

## Some of the research issues



## 18 strategic choices



## Next steps

- Academy of Medical Sciences is undertaking a major review of the issues raised by the project
- This will include seeking input from those working in the area and a public engagement exercise
- For more information on the project see

[www.foresight.gov.uk](http://www.foresight.gov.uk)