

# The Drugs Wheel

a new model for substance awareness

### **About the Drugs Wheel**

The Drugs Wheel was originally designed as a training tool. By 2012 there was an increasing number of new psychoactive substances on the market that didn't fit within the old methods of drug classification, and adding new categories meant that all drugs could now be placed within one model.

Classifying drugs in this way allows for advice and harm reduction information to be given by category, meaning that workers don't need to know in-depth details of all the drugs currently on the market.

The inner and outer rings of the wheel can be adapted; for example they could refer to prescribed or non-prescribed drugs, risk levels or licenced/non-licenced.

rocaine Dihydrocodeine Fentanyl O-desmethyltramadol Non AH-7921 W-15 Diazepam W-18 Temazepam Etizolam GHB, GBL Depressants Pyrazolar Chlordiazepoxide Poppers Gabapentin Solven Pregabalin Zopiclone Methaqualone Alprazolam Funitrazepam Cannabis

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### **Updates & Downloads**

The Drugs Wheel is updated regularly to reflect emerging chemicals and/or changes to the law. To receive updates use the contact form on the website to join the mailing list.

The Drugs Wheel licencing allows you to download, use and adapt the wheel to meet the needs of your service or clients. Downloads are free of charge however licensing restrictions apply; please check the website for licensing information.

The **Wheels** section of the website features a range of free materials, including pdf and png versions of the Drugs Wheel, the Effects Wheel (left) and Powerpoint slides for use in training sessions.

In the **Resources** section are free drug information sheets (including AMT, GBL, MPA and synthetic cannabinoids) and a Drugs & The Brain workbook.

## The Drugs Wheel game

The game has been designed as a learning tool to help people understand and navigate the landscape of psychoactive drugs.

It has been trialled in various settings with young people, adults and a range of professionals working in fields such as teaching, health and social work.

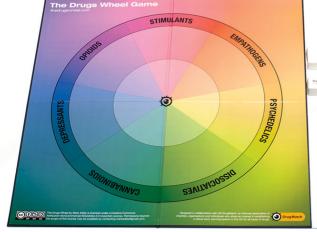


#### **PLEASE NOTE**

There are no more of these printed versions of the game available, they were made in a limited edtion of 100 and sold out several years ago.

You can still download and print a free version of the game from thedrugswheel.com

The Drugs Wheel Game



## The Drugs Wheel game

The game can be played on an individual or group basis. These are simplified versions of the instructions:

**Round 1:** The seven drug categories are placed around the wheel and the effects of each are discussed. Explain/elicit how drugs can overlap categories.

**Round 2:** The drug labels are placed on the wheel in their correct category, and inner or outer ring. Explain or elicit how prescription drugs can be both legal or illegal depending on whether you have a prescription.

**Groups:** When conducting this as a group exercise points can be given to each team; for example one point for placing the drug in the right category, and a second point for placing the drug correctly in the inner or outer ring.







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Designed in collaboration with DrugWatch: an informal association of charities, organisations and individuals who share an interest in establishing a robust early warning system in the UK for all types of drugs.

