



Stay Ahead of Substance Abuse

Synthetic Drugs

What every parent and caregiver needs to know about synthetic drugs

What are synthetic drugs?

- Often plant material sprayed with man made chemical
- Man made and not natural
- Often marketed as “legal high”
- Labeled “not for human consumption” in order to avoid FDA regulation
- Manu factors constantly manipulate molecular structure of chemicals in order to avoid new legislation that bans known synthetic drugs
- Often sold as “bath salts” or “incense” and other common household products to mask intended use
- Each package can have a unique and potentially more harmful effect than product sold in identical packaging

LSD & PCP

LSD and PCP started out as drugs used for medical purposes in the 1950's and 1960's, however, were discontinued due to their adverse side effects including hallucinations. These are some of the first forms of synthetic drugs. Currently, these drugs do not seem to be trending as much as other synthetic drugs but are still a risk. It is not uncommon for drugs to remain dormant for several years before making becoming popular again.

Ecstasy

MDMA, more commonly known as Ecstasy, is a stimulant and a psychedelic. This is another earlier form of synthetic drug that is still used today. It is often taken in pill form. MDMA is the active component of Ecstasy; however, forms of Ecstasy sold can vary. Ecstasy pills that can be bought on the street can also have caffeine, amphetamine, dextromethorphan (cough suppressant), cocaine and a variety of other substances with varying effects.

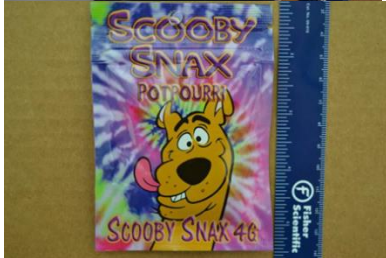
Molly

Miley Cyrus sings “dancing with Molly” in her popular song, “We Can’t Stop”. This type of portrayal can make Molly seem like a fun party drug. There are even websites such as www.whatismolly.com that coach young people on how to “roll responsibly.” However, it is always dangerous to get high despite the precautions one takes. Molly is the powder or crystal form of Ecstasy. Molly has many of the same health risks as other synthetic drugs including depression, sleep problems, hallucinations, paranoia, and confusion.

Synthetic Marijuana

- Known as K2 or Spice
- Can be 100 to 800 times more potent than regular marijuana
- Side Effects
 - Hallucinations
 - Paranoia
 - Violent behavior

- Anxiety / Panic attacks
- High blood pressure
- Increased heart rate
- Increased body temp
- Kidney Failure
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Death



Bath Salts

- Other known names
 - Ivory Wave
 - Red Dove
 - Vanilla Sky
 - Purple Wave
 - Bliss
- Synthetic cathinone
- Disrupts the transmit of dopamine
- Large dopamine spikes
- Described as a combination of methamphetamine and cocaine

- Known to many hospitals and drug control centers as “the drug that won’t let go” because it traps users in a high that they may not be able to come down from for days. Hospitals and Poison control centers are not always able to help users because each package of bath salts has unknown and unique chemical components.
- Side Effects
 - Hallucinations
 - Paranoia
 - Violent behavior
 - Dilated pupils
 - Increased heart rate
 - Increased blood pressure
 - Increased body temperature
 - Seizures
 - Depression and suicide



Synthetic drugs can come in many forms and by many names. It is important to teach our children that getting high is never safe. Consuming a product that is not regulated can have unknown and extremely dangerous effects.

It is impossible to know what these drugs contain, or who made them, or what you are going to get

Getting high – no matter how – carries risks of making unsafe or unhealthy decisions

Just because a drug is legal – or is labeled as legal – does not mean that it is safe

We don't know the long term effects of synthetic drugs because the drugs are so new