

Solon Community Action Team Parent Tip Sheet #6

Club Drugs: Designer Names – Unfashionable Games

General Facts

- ?? The term "club drugs" is a general term for certain illicit substances, primarily synthetic, that are usually found at nightclubs, bars, and raves (all night dance parties).
- ?? To some, club drugs are harmless, but in reality these substances can cause serious physical and psychological problems—even death. Raves are often promoted as alcohol-free events, which gives parents a false sense of security that their children will be safe attending such parties. Raves may actually be havens for the illicit sale and abuse of club drugs.
- ?? The encouraging downtrend for use of illicit drugs such as cocaine and heroin is not indicative of current trends for club drugs. According to a December, 2000, DAWN Report on club drugs, the number of nationwide hospital emergency department mentions of GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) increased approximately 5,400 percent, from 55 in 1994 to 2,973 in 1999.
- ?? The fact that club drugs are often produced in unsanitary laboratories, make them even more threatening. The quality and potency of these substances can vary significantly from batch to batch; therefore, it is impossible for users to know exactly what they are ingesting.
- ?? Substitute drugs are sometimes sold in place of the real thing without the user's knowledge. For example, PMA (Paramethoxyamphetamine) has been used as a substitute for MDMA. When users take PMA thinking they have taken weak Ecstasy. They then ingest more of the substance to attain a better high, which sometimes results in death.

Some club drugs and their dangers:

- ?? **MDMA (Ecstasy)** can increase users' blood pressure and heart rate to dangerous levels and even lead to heart or kidney failure. It can also cause severe hyperthermia from the combination of the drug's stimulant effect with the often hot, crowded atmosphere of a rave.
- ?? **GHB and Rohypnol** (Flunitrazepam) are central nervous system depressants that are often connected with drug-facilitated sexual assault and robbery. These drugs cause muscle relaxation, loss of consciousness, and an inability to remember what happened during the hours after ingesting the drug.
- ?? **Ketamine** is an animal anesthetic that, when used by humans, can cause impaired motor functions, high blood pressure, amnesia, seizures, and respiratory depression.
- ?? **Methamphetamine (Meth)** is a powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system. Increased energy and alertness, decreased appetite, convulsions, high body temperature, shaking, stroke, and cardiac arrhythmia are all symptomatic of meth abuse. Chronic users of meth are also characterized as having a gaunt complexion, poor hygiene, and sores on their body from scratching at "crank bugs", which result from the common delusion that bugs are crawling under their skin.
- ?? **Rohypnol (Flunitrazepam)** is a benzodiazepine, no longer marketed in the United States that is obtained by prescription in Mexico (and sometimes in Colombia) and smuggled across the border. It has been involved in numerous drug rapes, but its most common abuse pattern is episodic use by teenagers and young adults as an "alcohol extender" and disinhibitory agent, most often in combination with beer.
- ?? **Nitrous oxide** is an inhalant often referred to as laughing gas.
- ?? **Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)** ("acid") is a hallucinogen, most commonly distributed on blotter paper and taken orally.

What is Being Done About Club Drugs:

- ?? Communities and law enforcement agencies are developing anti-rave initiatives to curb the use of club drugs.
- ?? For example, they are passing new ordinances that establish juvenile curfews and licensing requirements for large public gatherings and are enforcing existing fire codes and health, safety, and liquor laws.
- ?? However, according to a statement made to Congress (July 25, 2000) by Alan Leshner, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, research has indicated that MDMA use is spreading beyond the more traditional rave setting and into both urban and rural populations and that MDMA is being combined with other drugs, such as LSD and alcohol, resulting in a potentially more lethal situation.

Club Drug User and Seller Characteristics

Club drugs	Who Uses?	Where Reside?	Where Used?	Who Sells?	Where Sold?
GHB, GBL, 1, 4-BDL	White middle-class youth Males Young adult body builders	Suburban areas	Raves Nightclubs Private residences	White, male, middle-class Companies (many international) over the Internet	Raves Nightclubs College campuses Health clubs and gyms Health food stores Internet
Ketamine	White middle class youth	Suburban areas Gay communities Urban areas	Raves Nightclubs Private residences Private parties	White middle-class youth who divert them from pharmacies or veterinary offices	Raves Nightclubs Private parties College campuses
Rohypnol	Hispanic and white youth	Urban areas Suburban areas	Raves Private parties Urban high schools	Hispanic and white male youth from legal prescription drug sales in Mexico	Raves Nightclubs Private parties College campuses High schools Gyms
Nitrous oxide	White adolescents	Suburban areas	Raves Outdoor concerts		Raves Outdoor concerts

Web-Based Resources

Club Drugs.org <http://www.clubdrugs.org>
 Prevention Online (PREVLINe) <http://www.health.org>
 An Overview of Club Drugs (DEA Intelligence Brief)(NCJ 18890)
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/intel/20005intellbrief.pdf>
 Club Drugs: Community Drug Alert Bulletin <http://165.112.78.61/ClubAlert/ClubDrugAlert.html>.
 DAWN Report: Club Drugs <http://www.health.org/govpubs/PHD856/index.pdf>.
 Fact Sheet: Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)(NCJ 172867)
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/factsheet/ghb/bhb.pdf>.
 Fact Sheet: MDMA (Ecstasy)(NCJ 181141)
 Fact Sheet: Methamphetamine (NCJ 175677) <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/pdf/95653-6.pdf>

Local Resources

First Call for Help 216-436-2000
 Alcohol & Drug Referral Hotline 800-252-6465

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