

Ecstasy



Facts on Ecstasy

- Ecstasy was developed during the early 1900's. The drug is chemically similar to methamphetamine (Ice) and mescaline (peyote).
- Other names for Ecstasy include:
 - **Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), XTC, X, Adam, Clarity, Lover's Speed, Rolls, Green Triangle, PLUR Drug (Peace, Love, Unity and Respect), Liquid X (GHB)**
- Ecstasy is categorized as a synthetic (designer) drug—(created from man-made chemicals, not natural compounds) and is produced in clandestine drug labs in Europe, Israel, Asia and the United States.
 - Ecstasy is most often taken orally, but it's also snorted, or even taken rectally (Liquid X—or GHB—has been known to be added to enema kits used to cool off during raves).
 - Effects last approximately from 4-6 hours per hit.
- Ecstasy is considered the *number one* "club drug."
 - The term "club drug" refers to drugs used mainly by young adults at all night parties known as "raves" or "trances." Raves are often last-minute, secret venues held in night clubs/bars, underground nightclubs known as "acid houses," abandoned buildings, warehouses, outdoors and other miscellaneous places.
- Deaths related to MDMA are due to several factors: mixing it with other drugs (especially alcohol), Hyperthermia (overheating of the body), Hyponatraemia (water poisoning—drinking too much water), lethal impurities added during production in and overdose.



Effects of Ecstasy Use

Research links long term use of Ecstasy to damage in parts of the brain critical to thought, memory, and pleasure; effects that are similar to those found in people with Alzheimer's.

Psychological Effects:

- **Confusion**
- **Depression**
- **Sleep problems**
- **Severe anxiety**
- **Paranoia**
- **Visual hallucinations**
- **Drug craving**

Physical Problems:

- **Muscle tension**
- **Involuntary teeth clenching**
- **Nausea**
- **Blurred vision**
- **Faintness**
- **Chills or sweating**
- **Increased heart rate and blood pressure**

Paraphernalia of Possible Use

A variety of drug related paraphernalia is an essential part of the rave-subculture. Many of these things are used by ravers as a means to advertise their participation in the party. This paraphernalia not only offers ravers a sense of belonging, but also serves other purposes such as physical and mental stimulation (when on the drug), covering up the drug, keeping hydrated, etc.

- **Lollipops and Pacifiers**

- For involuntary teeth grinding caused by the drug

- **Vicks Inhalers, Glow Sticks, Painter's Masks**

- To intensify the stimulation and effect of drug

- **Water Bottles**

- To keep hydrated or hide ecstasy in its liquid state

- **Candy or Vitamin Containers, Candy Necklaces**

- To hide or disguise the tablets

- **Flyers**

- Upcoming raves are announced through flyers with intricate, elaborate designs, psychedelic, and 3-D images that are often collected by frequent party-goers. These flyers are found at record and alternative shops, as well as other raves. They announce details about the party such as where it is, who is deejaying, directions and other related information.



In Hawaii and Nationally

- In 2005 U.S. hospitals surveyed reported 10,752 nationwide emergency room visits where ecstasy was involved.
 - 18-20 year olds were the largest age group admitted.
- Among high school students surveyed nationally in the 2004 Monitoring the Future study, 8% of 12th graders, 4% of 10th graders, and 3% of 8th graders reported using Ecstasy at least once in their life.
- According to the 2007 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 5% of Hawai'i high school students tried ecstasy at least once.
- Ecstasy use is rising among the large military population in Hawaii and it is considered the major drug use issue affecting active duty military in the state.

REV. 08/08

Prevention Resource Center
(808) 545-3228 x34
(800) 845-1946
prc@drugfreehawaii.org
www.drugfreehawaii.org



COALITION FOR A
Drug-Free Hawaii
Prevention Through Education

All information was compiled by the Prevention Resource Center of Drug-Free Hawaii for educational purposes only. Sources: *Honolulu Advertiser*; ONDCP; NIDA; Join Together On-line; NIDA Media Advisory 12/21/98; Drug Enforcement Administration; DAWN 2005 Report; YRBSS 2007.