

THE FACTS

About Drug Abuse

Spring Edition 2011

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More Teens Taking Ecstasy - ER Visits Up 75%

According to a new study released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) medical emergencies relating to the illegal drug Ecstasy jumped 75% between 2004 and 2008. More than two-thirds of these ER patients were between 18 and 29 years old, but a sizable number, nearly 18 percent, were from 12 to 17, the report said, noting Ecstasy use is increasing among teens.

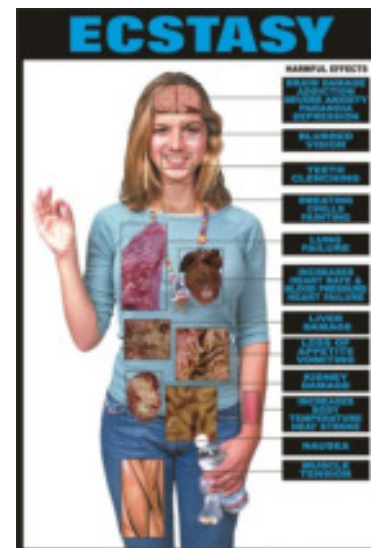
The resurgence of Ecstasy use is cause for alarm that demands immediate attention and action, said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde in an agency news release.

Ecstasy, also known as MDMA,

is often used at parties and gatherings by teens that are unaware of its potential dangers. Its reputation as a "club" or party drug can give teens the false impression that casual use of the drug is harmless.

Addiction, blurred vision, high blood pressure, heat stroke, muscle cramping and kidney failure are linked to Ecstasy use, the report said.

Ecstasy users risk significant brain damage; damage that is evident through brain scans showing actual holes in the brain. The brain of a young person having used Ecstasy is similar to that of a 60 to 70-year old who has had a number of strokes.



"The resurgence of Ecstasy use is cause for alarm that demands immediate attention and action."

- Pamela Hyde, SAMHSA Administrator

View the full article: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/health/kids-doctor/118828094.html>

Notes from Dr. George Elder

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is in the air and that long awaited summer is right around the corner. Before you make those summer plans, please remember to share with colleagues in other schools the powerful story of the remarkable deterrent that drug testing with hair by Psychemedics provides. You have the power to save lives beyond your own.

Here is some food for thought: There is no way to completely ascertain the destructive impact of drugs on the undeveloped brain of a young person, the emotional and financial burden suffered by families with students in rehab, the negative outcomes experienced by schools and colleges following a serious drug issue involving their students, or the catastrophic results of the loss of a beloved student, teacher or employee. It doesn't have to happen! We educators are perfectly positioned to significantly reduce the likelihood of such moments. We are deeply involved in the futures of our students and are perhaps the only ones that can use this powerful influence and our unique position to impact this deadly menace that is wrecking our country. We indeed have a moral responsibility to do everything in our power to protect our best and brightest and to insure that they inherit a country worthy of their talent and intellect. If not we, who?

Thank you all for what you are doing in this fight and please encourage others to join you. Psychemedics and I are ready to help.

Warmest Regards,



Dr. George Elder,
 Vice President, Schools & Colleges

DRUG STATISTICS

25% of teens admit to smoking marijuana in the past month.

- Partnership at
 DrugFree.org

Teenage girls are 3 times as likely as boys to attempt suicide for drug-related reasons.

- SAMSHA

Kids With ADHD Much More Likely to Develop Substance Abuse Problems

Children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder are two to three times more likely than children without the disorder to develop serious substance abuse problems in adolescence and adulthood, according to a study by UCLA psychologists and colleagues at the University of South Carolina.

"This greater risk for children with ADHD applies to boys and girls, it applies across race and ethnicity — the findings were very consistent," said Steve S. Lee, a UCLA assistant professor of psychology and lead author of the study. "The greater risk for developing significant substance problems in adolescence and adulthood applies across substances, including nicotine, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and other drugs."

Lee and his colleagues analyzed 27 long-term studies that followed approximately 4,100 children with ADHD and 6,800 children without the disorder into adolescence and young adulthood — in some cases for more than 10 years. These carefully designed, rigorous and lengthy studies, Lee said, are the "gold standard" in the field.

The researchers combined all the published studies that met rigorous criteria and analyzed them together. They found that children with ADHD were at greater risk for serious problems such as addiction, abuse and trying to quit but being unable to, Lee said.

"Any single study can be spurious," he



said, "but our review of more than two dozen carefully designed studies provides a compelling analysis."

ADHD is common, occurring in approximately 5 percent to 10 percent of children in the U.S., and figures in many other industrialized countries with compulsory education are comparable, according to Lee.

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/children-with-adhd-much-more-likely-192085.aspx>

ASTOUNDING FACTS

Originally heroin was marketed as both cough medicine and as a **non-addictive** replacement for morphine.

The Bayer company produced and sold Heroin for 15 years.

When it was first tested on workers at Bayer, some claimed it made them feel "heroic," which resulted in the name Heroin.

Drugs In The News

Elementary Student Shares Cocaine With Classmates

An elementary school student in Washington, D.C. is facing drug charges, for sharing cocaine with classmates. School officials say four, eight, and nine -year-old students, ingested the drugs, while others sniffed it.

The students were taken to the hospital, but they're expected to be okay. A letter was sent home to parents alerting them of the incident.

The student who brought the cocaine to school has been charged with possession of a controlled substance.

<http://tinyurl.com/3zf89kp>

Prescription Drug Bust at Middle School

A recent bust at a mid-state middle school is shedding light on the growing problem of prescription drug abuse among teens.

Seven students at a Middle School were expelled after a teacher caught them with prescription pills on campus.

"Most parents are not expecting it, they say their kids know better, they don't know what their kids were thinking," said system spokesman James Evans. "But the suburban counties are seeing it more and more."

<http://tinyurl.com/67dwzmw>

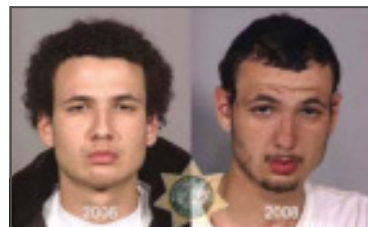
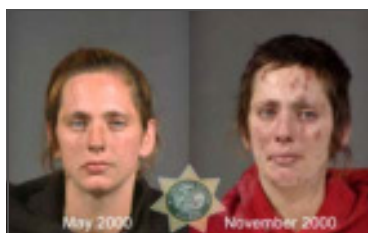
Mass Overdose - 1 Teen Dead, 10 Hospitalized

One teen died and 10 teenagers and young adults were hospitalized after an apparent mass overdose on a designer hallucinogen at a suburban Minneapolis home.

Eleven people ranging in age from 16 to 21 were taken to area hospitals. Two remained hospitalized in critical condition.

They allegedly took the substance at a party hosted by one of the boys, who is now hospitalized.

<http://tinyurl.com/5r7hhvq>



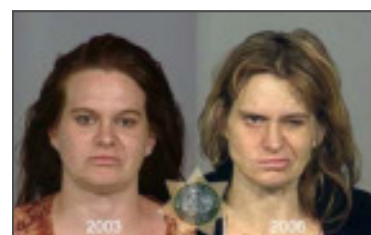
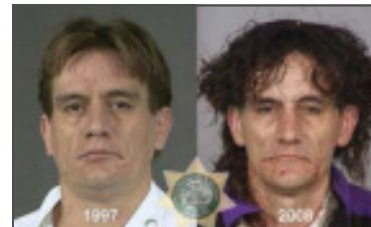
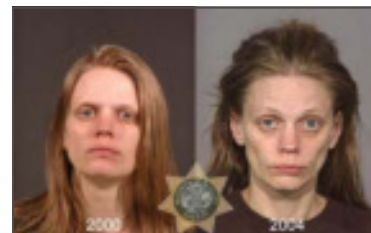
From Drugs to Mugs

With disturbing before and after photos of drug users' faces, a new anti-drug campaign may succeed where others have failed, grabbing teens' attentions by appealing to their vanity. The pairs of mug shots, which graphically display the damage drugs can do to the face, were collected by the sheriff's office in Multnomah County, Ore.

Faces that were normal - even attractive - in initial photos, shot when addicts were first arrested, metamorphose over years, and sometimes just months, into gaunt, pitted, even toothless wrecks.

The photos are part of a 48-minute documentary called "From Drugs to Mugs," created by Deputy Bret King. King hopes that the documentary, which is available on a DVD along with a CD of mug shots, will help scare kids straight by showing them concrete evidence of damage that can occur within months from using meth, heroin or cocaine.

http://www.facesofmeth.us/drugs_to_mugs.html



Schools Can Make a Difference in Teen Drug Use!

Experts say teen drug and alcohol use has surged in recent years, but many parents struggle to help their kids deal with the problem. Now a new University of Florida study says school can make a big difference in teens' lives outside the classroom.

UF researchers examined surveys from kids in Chicago inner city schools about their drug use between sixth and eighth grade. The kids that went to schools that have a higher than expected academic

achievement and attendance record were 25% less likely to use drugs, steal, and participate in fights.

Researchers say this study suggests schools may be able to break the links between social disadvantage, drug use, and delinquency.

Researchers say this study also highlights that schools can do more than promote academics, but can also advance preventive interventions.



<http://news.ufl.edu/2011/03/31/teen-drug-use/>

Did You Know ??

Psychemedics has gone social!

"Like" our Facebook Page to receive company announcements, "Follow" us on Twitter to get breaking drug news and "Stay Connected" with us on LinkedIn.



*Superior Detection
of Drug Abuse*

**PSYCHEMEDICS
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About Psychemedics:

Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 20 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.