Bath Salts

“Bath Salts” are not a hygiene product. Bath Salts are designer synthetic central nervous system stimulants that are basically amphetamine/cathinone derivatives. Bath Salts produce highs similar to cocaine, ecstasy or methamphetamine. The typical active ingredients of Bath Salts include 3, 4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MPDV), methylone, and mephedrone.

Bath Salts have numerous street names including: Ivory Wave, Bliss, Purple Wave, Vanilla Sky, and Cloud Nine. For years, many of these synthetic stimulants have been sold in convenience stores, head shops, and via the Internet. Bath Salts have become increasingly popular among teens and young adults. These synthetic stimulants have never been approved by the FDA for human consumption or for medical use.

Bath Salt products have been sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages under various name brands. The active ingredients in Bath Salts, such as mephedrone, generally consist of a fine white, off-white or slightly yellow-colored powder. Bath Salts can be ingested by snorting, taken orally, smoked or put into a solution and injected into veins; it is also sold in tablet form. The typical dose in powder form is equal to the size of a crushed aspirin, and a small container of Bath Salts sells for about twenty dollars. A typical rush last about three to four hours.

Bath Salts are a highly addictive substance. People who abuse synthetic stimulants, such as Bath Salts, have reported agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, extreme paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, seizures, panic attacks, and violent episodes. Users also indicate impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control, and decreased ability to think clearly. Synthetic stimulants cause rapid heart rate (which can lead to a heart attack or stroke), chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, and vomiting. The long-term physical and psychological effects of the use of Bath Salts has not been studied, but are believed to be significant.

Funding in part provided by the City of Manhattan
Bath Salts and the Law

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, calls to poison centers about exposures to Bath Salts dramatically increased from a total of 303 in 2010 to 4,137 in the first seven months of 2011. In early 2011, Kansas outlawed the sale of Bath Salts. On October 21, 2011, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) implemented its emergency scheduling authority to control three synthetic stimulants (MPDV, methylone, and mephedrone) which are used to make Bath Salt products. This action made possessing and selling these synthetic stimulants illegal in the United States. This emergency scheduling classifies these chemicals as Schedule I substances, the most restrictive category, which are considered unsafe, highly addictive substances with no current accepted medical use in the United States. This temporary scheduling action took effect for one year, and now is on a six month extension, while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) study whether these chemicals should be permanently controlled. The DEA reported that this emergency action was necessary to prevent an imminent threat to the public safety.

Breaking News

The U.S. Senate has just passed a bill that would prohibit the sale of synthetic drugs; the bill passed 96-1. A similar bill passed the U.S. House last December. If signed into law, the bill would make it illegal to sell synthetic marijuana (K-2) and Bath Salts anywhere in the United States, regardless of local laws. First time offenders would receive up to 20 years in prison, and repeat sellers would receive up to 30 years. It is hoped that a compromise bill will be expedited and signed by the President in July.

RESOURCES

KSU Counseling Services
English/Counseling Services Bldg.
Phone: 532-6927

KSU Alcohol & Other Drug Education Service
Director: Bill Arck
214 English/Counseling Services Bldg.
Phone: 532-6927

Alcoholics Anonymous
Noon Meeting (Mon.-Sat.)
Blue Valley United Methodist Church
835 Church Ave.
Phone: 537-9260

We send “Higher Education” newsletter to a cross section of faculty and staff in KSU departments with labels generated through Human Resources in Edwards Hall. If a newsletter is addressed to someone no longer employed in your department, please forward it to someone else who did not receive one. Thanks!