

Emerging Drugs



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology Workgroup

While tobacco, alcohol and marijuana are the most commonly used drugs, other drugs can suddenly gain prominence. Sometimes these drugs gain a foothold and use becomes more common, sometimes these drugs are more of a media scare story than an actual epidemic. Below are a few drugs that have gained attention recently.

- ✦ Molly: Molly refers to the pure crystalline powder form of the club drug MDMA, which in pill form is known as ecstasy. This is a drug that has been seen before and is now regaining national attention. While it is sold as “pure MDMA”, it often contains a variety of other substances including cocaine, heroin, and methylene (a dangerous stimulant commonly found in bath salts).¹
- ✦ Krokodil: Krokodil is a homemade synthetic form of a heroin-like drug that is made by combining codeine tablets with various toxic chemicals including lighter fluid and industrial cleaners.¹ While this drug is starting to receive a lot of media attention, to date there has been no officially confirmed American cases of krokodil abuse and only a handful of suspected cases.²
- ✦ Honey Oil or Dab: Honey oil is marijuana infused into a solvent which is then evaporated, making an extremely potent resin. While strong strains of marijuana may contain 25% THC, some of these infusions are upwards of 60-90% THC. In addition to the dangers of consuming this³, the process for making it can lead to explosions.⁴
- ✦ N-bomb or Smiles: N-bomb refers to any of three closely related synthetic hallucinogens that are being sold as legal substitutes for LSD or mescaline.¹ N-Bomb is a liquid that most commonly is soaked into blotter paper, which users put on their tongue. St. Louis County police say undercover drug officers have reported purchasing the drug in the last year.⁵
- ✦ Craze: Craze is sold as a pre-workout powder. The powder is marketed as containing only natural ingredients however it contains a meth-like chemical. While some stores pulled this product after lab studies showed the potential danger, other stores continue to make it available.⁶ Its stimulant, addictive and other adverse effects in humans are entirely unknown.⁷

¹ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/emerging-trends>

² <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/16/health/krokodil-zombie-drug/>

³ <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs182/1101799884402/archive/1114624160540.html>

⁴ <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/emr-isac/infograms/ig2013/6-13.shtm#1>

⁵ http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/police-warn-of-new-bsd-like-drug-in-st-louis/article_22b0ca94-99ac-57e0-b762-d1e896f32e1a.html

⁶ <http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/drugs/sports-supplement-craze-contains-meth-like-chemical-study>

⁷ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/dta.1578/abstract>