

MDMA

STREET NAMES: Ecstasy, XTC, Adam, X, E, Rave, Love Drug, and Eve

WHAT IS IT?

MDMA is a psychoactive drug, chemically related to both mescaline and amphetamines. Often called a psychedelic drug, even though it acts like a stimulant and rarely produces hallucinations. MDMA was first synthesized in 1912 and has been used recreationally since the 1970's.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOUR BODY?

AT FIRST:

- Dilated pupils.
- Dry mouth and throat.
- Nervousness and physical tension.
- Rapid heart beat.
- Sometimes there are hallucinations.
- Impacts emotions and physical sensations.

OVER TIME:

- Tolerance develops quickly and overdose can happen.
- Liver damage.
- Exhaustion.
- Psychosis.

TRENDS:

In 1985, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration made the drug illegal in the U.S. It continues to be used by teenagers and the 20 something generation, mostly at dance clubs and all night parties. MDMA is a laboratory; it can be chemically reconfigured so that its formula is not the same one that is currently illegal. While this may appear to be beneficial, this makes the drug even more dangerous. New and varied forms can be extremely toxic and overdose can happen quickly and unexpectedly.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

This drug is popular with people 25 years and younger, however its use is not confined to this age group.

OTHER DRUGS IN SAME CLASS:

Ketamine. Also known as K

This is an animal tranquilizer that became popular in New York City during the 1980s. It is similar to PCP in its chemical make up and reactions that it causes. It triggers major

changes in thought and perception, ranging from a closed-eye visual to profound transpersonal states. Ketamine used with alcohol causes violent vomiting.

Gamma hydroxybutrate. Also known as GHB or GBH.

A natural component of normal brain chemistry. It was sold over the counter until the U.S. Food and Drug administration banned it in 1990. It has mild psychedelic-sedative properties. Its uses can result in nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, irritability, and violence. Toxicity symptoms include dizziness, slowed heart rate and breathing, and coma-like sleeping.

4-Bromo-2. Also known as 2C-B.

This relative newcomer on the club/drug scene produces a variety of effects similar to MDMA. There is an energy tremor, visual distortions and hallucinations, accompanied by a sense of heightened awareness and developing of new insights.

MEDICAL RISKS:

There have been cases of deaths of individuals using all of the above drugs. The major cause of these deaths has been dangerously high body temperature and dehydration. It is important to drink fluids other than alcohol and allow your body breaks from strenuous activities such as dancing while using any of these substances.