Dancing with Death: Club and Designer Drugs

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History of Drug Abuse

- Throughout history man has used plants to become intoxicated.
- Today, advances in science allow man to custom design drugs.
- Illicit drug chemists manipulate the basic molecular structure of intoxicating compounds to make new drug analogs.
Future of Drug Abuse

- Avoid Police Detection and Prosecution: It often takes years for the govt. to detect, classify, and make drugs illegal. Example: MDMA: sell derivatives not listed as a controlled substance
- Improve an existing drug: Fentanyl: 3 Methyl Fentanyl...500 times more potent than heroin
- Remove unwanted side-effects from drugs: Meth...remove the “speed”
What Drugs Are We Talking About?

- Ecstasy
- GHB
- Ketamine
- Methamphetamine
- DXM
- Nitrous Oxide
- Ritalin
- Ephedra
- Fantasi
- Rohypnol
- Oxycontin
- Wet
What We are NOT talking about

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Alcohol
Our Perception of Drug Abuser
Typical Club Drug User...
Nicole Hansen Miss Teen Teen Utah
Why Teens Like Club Drugs

- Easy to Obtain
- Pills, Capsules...don’t have to inject
- Come from a society where taking pills is the “norm” ...pill for pain, pill for decongestant...
- Teens who don’t fit in elsewhere can fit in with a rave society...drugs make everyone love each other
What Are Club Drugs?

- Club drugs include a variety of drugs used at bars and dance parties, especially by high school and college students.
- Many people wrongly believe club drugs are safe.
LSD microdot, 2.3mm x 1.5mm, 7.5 mg pill weight

2C-B tablet, 5.1mm x 1.5mm, 45 mg pill weight

LSD blotter, 6.0mm x 0.2mm, 6 mg total weight

2C-T-2 tablet, 6.9mm x 3.3mm, 166 mg pill weight

MDMA tablet, 8.9mm x 3.5mm, 260 mg pill weight

U.S. Dime, 17.7mm x 1.1mm, 2280 mg total weight
Raves

- Raves evolved from 1980’s House Music: Secretive, after hours, by invitation only
- First Raves in 1980’s in LA, San Francisco
- By 1990’s spread to metropolitan areas
- Raves are generally night long dances often held in warehouses
Raves

- MDMA (ecstasy), Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine are among the drugs used by teens and young adults who are part of a nightclub, bar, rave.
- Many new U.S. rave promoters were career criminals who recognized the profitability of organizing events tailored to teens.
- Promoters were able to capitalize on the growing popularity of raves.
- Specialized industries were developed to market clothes, toys, drugs, and music.
- Private clubs and secret locations were replaced by stadium venues with off-duty police security.
Rave Clubs

- Attract underage clientele
- Open 2-3 nights/week
- Admission averages $10-$12
- No alcoholic beverages are sold
- Bottled water and lollipops are sold inside the clubs (to help with side effects of various club drugs)
Rave Parties

- One time events held in temporary locations: leased warehouses, halls, etc. where everything from disc jockeys, lighting, special effects, security (often ex-convicts), are contracted.
- Usually charge $12-$20 for admission.
DJ MICRO - “MUSIC THROUGH ME”

Saturday, 23rd November

Music styles at this event: trance, drum ‘n’ bass, techno

DJs: DJ Micro, Tzeeech, Roundtable Djs TBA

Info: 410-659-9500

Venue: 200 East Redwood Street

Tickets: Admission: $10 for Buzz members | $15 for non-members

Time: 9pm - 2am
SUMMER OF LOVE

Saturday
06 August 05
at MASS Nightclub
St. Matthews Church, Bristol, Canada, 8PM - 8AM

www.deshava.com
Freak Fest

Saturday May 23rd, 1998 (Memorial Day Weekend)

UNO Lakefront Arena Field 6801 Franklin Ave. New Orleans, LA...outdoor venue
ER visits

The following numbers of club drug emergency department mentions were reported in 2001 (Emergency Department trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network 1994-2001, 2002)

- MDMA: 5,542
- GHB: 3,340
- Ketamine: 679
- Methamphetamine: 14,923
MDMA (Ecstasy)

- Ecstasy
- XTC
- X
- Adam
- Clarity
- Lover’s Speed
Who is using it?

- 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse
  Data indicate that more than 8 million people have used MDMA at least once during their lifetime, representing 3.6% of the population (2001 National Survey on Drug Abuse, 2002)
Who is Using It?

- 2005 Survey of High School Students by the CDC indicated 6.3% of students had used MDMA at some point
- This was down from 11.1% in 2003
MDMA

- Originally developed in 1913 as an anorexiant
- Re-surfaced in 1970 when it was used by psychiatrists to facilitate patient insight by decreasing inhibitions and freeing emotions
- Schedule I drug in 1988
MDMA

- Ecstacy is a hallucinogen
- Produces stimulant effects like amphetamine
- Marketed as a “feel good drug”: feelings of well being, elimination of anxiety, extreme relaxation
- Supresses need to eat, drink, sleep
- Distributed in pill or capsule form
MDMA

- Very appealing to young people
- Comes in a pill, so you don’t have to inject it, snort it, or smoke it
- Designer pills: Christmas trees, Shamrocks, Nike, Mitsubishi, etc.
- Effects begin within 1hr and last up to 6hrs
- Some people take multiple pills to extend the effects: up to 10 a night
- Cost: $7-$30 per dose
MDMA: Not pure

- Amphetamines, valium, caffeine, dextromethorphan
- Common for ketamine, ephedrine, and other substances to be sold as ecstasy
COMMON CONTAMINANTS

- CHALK
- LSD
- AMPHETAMINES
- HEROIN
- CAFEINE
- KETAMINE
- EPHEDRINE
MDMA packaged for bulk distribution.
MDMA

- Ecstasy is made in laboratories similar to Methamphetamine
- Pressed into pills or placed in capsules
- 90% is produced in the Netherlands and Belgium...smuggled into the US
- Approximately 2,000,000 ecstasy tablets are smuggled into the US each week
- In 2000 9,300,000 ecstasy tablets were seized by US customs officers
Paraphernalia used with Ecstacy

- Pacifiers, Blo-pops, Popsicle sticks
- M&M’s, skittles, Tootsie Rolls, Candy necklaces
- Glo-Sticks, Bottled water
- Dust/ Surgical Masks
- Vicks Vapor Rub
- Strobe Lights
- Suppository Bottles
Physical Effects

- In high doses, MDMA can interfere with the body’s ability to regulate temperature.
- On rare, but unpredictable occasions this can lead to hyperthermia, causing kidney failure, liver failure, cardiovascular collapse, and death.