

Long Term Effects: decline in brain function, long term memory loss, impaired thinking, inability to learn and perform complex tasks, and addiction.

of coordination, and increased risk of stroke.

tion time, increased heart rate, increased appetite, lack

Short Term Effects: short term memory loss, anxiety, paranoia, psychosis, panic, hallucinations, slowed reac-

infuse gummies, baked goods, candies, etc.

in color. The mind altering chemical can be used to

It is a leafy substance that may be green, brown, or gray

hemp plant, which contains THC that causes the “high.”

smoking, vaping, or eating. Marijuana is part of the

common drugs of abuse. Marijuana may be ingested by

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is one of the most

Cannabis

Common Types: Ayahuasca, DMT, Peyote, LSD, Dextromethamphetamine (DMT), D-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), Phencyclidine (PCP), Salvia divinorum (Salvia).

Psilocybin

tent psychosis, flashbacks, and even death.

Long Term Effects: anxiety, memory loss, weight loss, speech problems, depression, suicidal thoughts, persis-

paranoia, and psychosis.

periences, panic, excessive sweating, sleep deprivation,

appetite, feeling of detachment from self, spiritual ex-

tions, changes in perception of time, dry mouth, loss of

rate, nausea, intensified emotions, intensified sensa-

Short Term Effects: hallucinations, increased heart rate, nausea, intensified emotions, intensified sensa-

not actually exist.

users hear, see, and feel things that seem real but do

These types of drugs cause hallucinations and can make

Hallucinogens

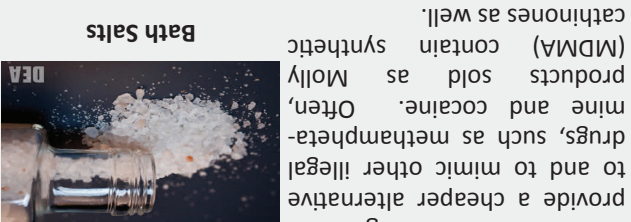
Drug Identification & Awareness

Recognizing and understanding the signs and appearance of some common drugs within Pennsylvania.



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Bath salts, also known as synthetic cathinones, are syn-

sold in liquid form for use in vaporizers.

with bright colors and catchy or popular names. It is also

marijuana is typically sold in small metallic packaging

cinations while taking synthetic marijuana. Synthetic

extreme psychotic episodes, anxiety, paranoia and hallu-

juana is none of these things and some users experience

being marketed as safe, natural and legal, synthetic mari-

sprayed unevenly and the potency varies widely. Despite

herbs and spices can be

ance of marijuana. The

cals giving them the appear-

sprayed with liquid chemi-

other leafy substances are

lab where herbs, spices, or

or K2, are synthesized in a

by the street names of Spice

binoids or more commonly

Synthetic Marijuana

Synthetic Marijuana, also known as synthetic canna-

and cheap to obtain.

as being natural, safe, and legal and they are often easy

avoid health and safety rules. They are often marketed

“jewelry cleaner” to mask their intended purpose and

man consumption,” “plant food,” “bath salts,” or

and are frequently labeled with things like “not for hu-

They are often sold as herbal smoking blends or incense

stores, which helps create the illusion that they are safe.

divine substances can be sold legally on the internet or in

body and mind are largely unknown. Novel psychoac-

identified. The effects of these chemicals on the human

tured in China and some of the chemicals have yet to be

them. A significant number of these drugs are manufac-

significantly by the chemists and methods of creating

active substance are unknown by the user and often vary

drug testing. The exact components in any novel psycho-

being classified as illegal and to avoid being detected by

chemicals can be altered slightly, as needed, to avoid

drug, commonly referred to as designer drugs. The

thetic drug that is chemically created to mimic an illegal

(NPS) is a type of syn-

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

OTC Drugs & Vaporizers

Promethazine is a drug that acts as a sedative and may

be found, along with **codeine**, in cough

syrups. The codeine is an opiate which

creates a feeling of euphoria. These

drugs may be used in a substance called

Purple Drank, also known as *Lean*. It has been made

popular and glamorized by famous individuals. It is a

mixture of soda, most commonly Sprite® or Mountain

Dew®, Jolly Ranchers®, and codeine-based cough syrup

mixed in a Styrofoam® cup. Users will typically drink

until they have an “out of body” experience that may last

from 3 to 6 hours. The effects of the drug cause eupho-

ria, disassociation, motor skill impairment, depression of

the central nervous system and may even cause death

due to the heart and lungs ceasing to function.

Dextromethorphan (DXM) is a common ingredient

found in cough and cold medications. If taken in high

doses, it may give users the feeling of eu-

phoria, disassociation, and hallucinations.

The street name for this drug is *Triple C’s*, named after the common Coricidin®

cough and cold medication. Some users

are taking anywhere from 15 to 60 pills at a time. Over-

dose may occur and extreme abuse may cause organ

damage, serious health issues, coma, and even death.

Loperamide is typically used as an antidiarrheal agent.

Opioid users though have reported using Loperamide to

get high when they cannot obtain their opioid drug of

choice or to self-treat opioid withdrawal. It has been

referenced to as “the poor man’s methadone”. Exces-

sive use may cause life-threatening irregular heartbeat.

Vaporizers & Inhalers are a common form of ingestion

most commonly associated with tobacco products. Ille-

gal drugs may also be used with vaporizers as long as the

drug is in liquid form. Some inhalers are specifically mar-

keted for marijuana use. Vaporizers and inhalers range

in price from \$40 for a starter kit to hundreds of dollars

for a more “sophisticated” device.



methamphetamine, cough medicine, etc.

may last approximately 3-6 hours. Ecstasy and Molly may

synthetic cathinone instead of MDMA. MDMA effects

found in crystalline powder. This form usually contains

typically in a capsule, is alleged to be the purest form

Molly, may also be snorted or swallowed in liquid form.

ingested via capsule or tablet, but

ature increase. MDMA is typically

warmth, pleasure, and body temper-

tion, sensory loss, emotional

increased energy, distorted percep-

gens and stimulants. It produces

Chemically, it is similar to hallucino-

ly known as “ecstasy” or “molly,”

MDMA is an additional synthetic drug which is common-

and inhale it, or insert it rectally.

powdered form, breathe it through the nose, vaporize

the blotter paper on their tongue, inject it, smoke the

prompting some dealers to add flavoring. Users can put

has a strong, bitter, metallic taste,

form or on soaked blotter paper. It

bomb is sold in liquid or powdered

last for up to 12 hours or longer. N-

small doses and the effects of it can

powerful hallucinogen in extremely

“N-bomb” or “Smiles.” N-BOME is a

alternative to LSD. It is also known as

N-BOME is another synthetic drug, which is sold as an

synthetic cathinones.

swallow, snort, smoke, or inject

es and deaths. Generally, users

and has been attributed to overdos-

pain, cannibalistic, extremely strong,

be overly aggressive, unable to feel

bath salt which has caused users to

considered a second generation

Alpha-PVP, also known as Flakka, is

violent psychotic episodes.

in liquid form. They have caused users to experience

Bath salts may come in capsules, tablets, in small jars, or

Novel Psychoactive Substances, cont.

Inhalants

Using inhalants means that a user is

deliberately sniffing common items

with the goal of getting high. It

is also referred to has huffing, sniffing,

dusting, or bagging. Ingestion meth-

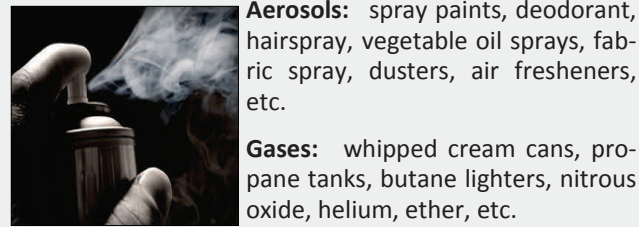
ods consist of inhaling through the

nose or mouth. Common forms of inhalants and the

types of products they consist of:

Liquids: paint thinner, paint remover, degreasers, gaso-

line, glues, felt-tip markers, nail polish remover, etc.



Different chemicals can provide a different reaction to

each user. Sudden Sniffing Death may occur even for first

time users.

Depressants

Depressants are drugs that depress the nervous system

and are sometimes referred to as “downers.” They are

typically found in tablet, capsule, or liquid form and are

categorized as antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, and

barbiturates.

Common types—Antipsychotics consist of Zyprexa,

Seroquel, and Haldol.

Common types—Benzodiazepines consist of Xanax,

Klonopin, Halcion, and Librium.

Common types—Barbiturates consist of Amytal, Num-

bital, and Seconal, most commonly used as sedatives

and sleeping pills.

Short Term Effects: slowed pulse, low blood pressure,

confusion, fatigue, dizziness, slurred speech, fever, di-

lated pupils, lack of coordination, difficulty urinating,

depression, visual disturbances, slow brain function.

Long Term Effects: depression, chronic fatigue, breathing difficulties,

insomnia, anxiety, panic, delirium, agitation, hallucinations, convulsions,

and death.



Opioids

Opioids are a class of drug used to treat pain that bind to the opioid receptors in the brain. The most commonly abused, non-pharmaceutical, opioid is heroin. Heroin is synthesized from morphine which is a natural substance extracted from the opium poppy plant. It is the most rapidly acting of opiates leading to being highly addictive both physically and psychologically. Legal opioids consist of pharmaceuticals, such as Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Methadone, Buprenorphine, Morphine, and Fentanyl.

Short Term Effects: euphoria, alternately alert and drowsy state, dryness of the mouth, warm flushing skin, slowed breathing, muscular weakness, dilated pupils.

Long Term Effects: addiction, tolerance, physical dependence, pneumonia, infection of heart lining and valves, collapsed veins, decreased liver function, abscesses.

Users may complain of constipation, nausea, vomiting, morning sickness, mood changes, have changes in sleep patterns, neglectful grooming, not eating, scratching, slurred speech, and wearing long sleeves to cover up track marks from injecting the drug.

Heroin is a brown or white powdered substance commonly packaged in glassine bags commonly called stamp bags. It also may be disguised as a pressed pill or within a gel cap. Users swallow, snort, inhale, or inject the drug. Common paraphernalia items consist of a burnt/bent spoon, anything that may be used as a tourniquet, syringes, glass pipes, plastic baggies, tin foil, lighters, razor blades, wax paper, adulterants, powder residue, etc.



Heroin

Fentanyl & Analogs

A synthetic opioid, fentanyl, and additional fentanyl analogs have been distributed on the streets to opioid users as heroin. These analogs range from being 10 times to 1,000’s of times more potent than heroin. It is easily mixed with heroin as it is most commonly a white or tan powdered substance.

Fentanyl and the analogs may also be distributed in liquid form. This is one of the most lethal synthetics. These synthetic opioids are easily purchased online from Chinese vendors and sent through the mail. Fentanyl has been attributed to numerous overdoses and fatal overdoses in the United States.

Fentanyl has also been mixed with cocaine. Due to its powdered composition, it may be easily added to any illegal substance to make it more potent. Common fentanyl analogs consist of: acetyl fentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, furanyl fentanyl, carfentanil, butyryl fentanyl, and U-47700.

Stimulants

Stimulants are referred to as “uppers” and increase an individuals level of alertness and energy. The most commonly abused pharmaceuticals in this category are Ritalin®, Adderall®, and Dexedrine® while the most common street drugs are cocaine and amphetamines.

Short Term Effects: alertness, focus, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, high body temperature.

Long Term Effects: paranoia, insomnia, extreme weight change, addiction.



Pills

Cocaine

Crack

Stimulants, cont.

Cocaine is derived from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a fine, white powder typically snorted, rubbed into the gums, or injected. Crack is an inhalable “freebase” form of cocaine which is a rock crystal. Users experience mental alertness, hypersensitivity to sound, sight, and touch, happiness, irritability, and extreme paranoia. Additional effects consist of increased body temperature, convulsions, hallucinations, agitation, and even death.

Cocaine may also be used in conjunction with heroin which is called “speed balling”. This method of use provides the high of cocaine without the anxiety and paranoia due to the heroin depressing the user’s system.

Amphetamines are commonly found in pill form but may also be found in powder form. They are typically taken orally or injected.

Users may experience a similar high to cocaine but the onset is slower and the duration is longer. Chronic use of the drug may cause psychosis that resembles schizophrenia, agitation, convulsions, hallucinations, increased body temperature, and even death.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive amphetamine that affects the central nervous system. This drug may be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally.

There is also a form called “ice” which is the crystalized methamphetamine hydrochloride form and it is typically smoked.

One-pot laboratories are commonly found in Pennsylvania. They are typically plastic bottles, sometimes glass, that contain mixtures of organic solvent, lye, ammonium nitrate, pseudoephedrine, and lithium metal which results in methamphetamine.

Short Term Effects: euphoria, loss of appetite, dilated pupils, nausea, erratic behavior, hallucinations, irritability, panic, convulsions, seizures, and death.

Long Term Effects: addiction, tolerance, dependence, organ damage, breathing problems, tooth decay, psychosis, depression, malnutrition, infectious diseases, abscesses, brain damage, stroke, and epilepsy.

Common Drug Paraphernalia & Packaging*



- Syringes
- Bottle caps
- Candles, lighters, matches, etc.
- Cotton balls, cotton pieces, or cigarette filters
- Aluminum foil or aluminum gum wrappers
- Soda cans
- Burnt and bent metal spoons or measuring spoons
- Rolled paper, money, cut up straws, pen shell, etc.
- Shoe laces, string, rubber bands, belt, etc.
- Pipes and bongs
- Metal dish pad
- Razor blades, credit cards, ID cards
- Pill grinder
- Children’s vitamin containers
- Pacifiers
- Glow sticks
- Vaporizers
- Uninflated Balloons



Heroin Glassines—Stamped and Unmarked



Heroin Capsules



Heroin pressed pills (mimic pharmaceuticals)



Crack Cocaine



Heroin in balloons



Marijuana Lollipop



Cocaine



Regular

Marijuana

Marijuana Peach Ring Candy



Marijuana Candy

**Drug users are very creative in their methods of ingestion, concealment, and packaging. This is not an all inclusive list as each user has learned their own specific techniques.*