

# DRUG TRENDS

Criminal Investigations Bureau

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# AGENDA

- ▶ Marijuana (THC)
- ▶ MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly)
- ▶ Psilocybin (Mushrooms)
- ▶ Cocaine
- ▶ Drug Investigations



- ▶ Primary psychoactive cannabinoid extracted from the cannabis (marijuana) plant
- ▶ In 2022, nearly 20.6% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they vaped marijuana in the past year and 2.1% reported that they did so daily
- ▶ How is it abused?
  - ▶ Smoked as a cigarette or in pipe or bong. Smoked in blunts (cigar emptied of tobacco and filled with marijuana, and sometimes mixed with additional drugs). Mixed with food (edibles) or Brewed as tea.

## MARIJUANA (THC)

# THC - EFFECTS

- ▶ Dysphoria
- ▶ Hallucinations
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Euphoria
- ▶ Hypotension
- ▶ Seizures



The popularity of edibles increases the chance of harmful reactions. Edibles take longer to digest and produce a high. Therefore, people may consume more to feel the effects faster, leading to dangerous results.

# MARIJUANA (THC) - EDIBLES





- ▶ MDMA acts as both a stimulant and hallucinogen, producing an energizing effect, distortions in time and perception, and enhanced enjoyment of tactile experiences.
- ▶ Adolescents and young adults use it to reduce inhibitions and to promote:
  - ▶ Euphoria, feelings of closeness, empathy, and sexuality
- ▶ Known as a party drug, ecstasy comes in pill or powder form; pill has a variety of logos and colors.
- ▶ Street Title: Adam, Beans, Biscuit, Clarity, Disco Biscuit, E, Eve, Go, Hug Drug, Lover's Speed, MDMA, Peace, STP, X, XTC
- ▶ How are they abused?
  - ▶ Swallowing gel capsules (Molly), pills, tablets. Powder, Crystal, liquid. Crushed or snorted. Occasionally smoked.

# MDMA (ECSTASY/MOLLY)

# MDMA - EFFECTS

- ▶ MDMA increases the activity of three brain chemicals:
  - ▶ Dopamine (increased energy, reward system to reinforce behaviors)
  - ▶ Norepinephrine (increased heart rate and blood pressure)
  - ▶ Serotonin (affects mood, appetite, and sleep. It triggers hormones that affect sexual arousal)
- ▶ Nausea
- ▶ Muscle cramping
- ▶ Involuntary teeth clenching
- ▶ Blurred vision
- ▶ Chills
- ▶ Sweating
- ▶ In high doses, MDMA can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature. On occasions, this can lead to a sharp increase in body temperature (hyperthermia), resulting in liver, kidney, or cardiovascular system failure, swelling of the brain, and even death.



- ▶ Psilocybin is a chemical obtained from certain types of fresh or dried mushrooms.
- ▶ How is it abused?
  - ▶ Psilocybin mushrooms are ingested orally. They may also be brewed as a tea or added to other foods to mask their bitter flavor.

## PSILOCYBIN (MUSHROOMS)



# PSILOCYBIN - EFFECTS

- ▶ Nausea
- ▶ Vomiting
- ▶ Muscle weakness
- ▶ Lack of coordination
- ▶ Hallucinations
- ▶ Panic reactions
- ▶ Overdose
  - ▶ Longer, more intense “trip” episodes, psychosis, and possible death



- ▶ White, crystalline powder derived from coca leaves. Cocaine base (crack) looks like small, irregularly shaped white rocks. Cocaine is an intense, euphoria-producing stimulant drug with strong addictive potential.
- ▶ How is it abused?
  - ▶ Snorted or dissolved in water and injected. Cocaine users usually binge on the drug until they are exhausted or run out of cocaine. Crack cocaine is smoked.

# COCAINE

# COCAINE - EFFECTS

- ▶ Restlessness
- ▶ Irritability
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Dilated pupils
- ▶ Insomnia
- ▶ Irregular heartbeat, sudden cardiac arrest, convulsions, strokes, and death.



The Criminal Investigations Bureau responds to all drug related overdoses

- ▶ Purpose:
  - ▶ Preserve evidence
  - ▶ Identify responsible party
  - ▶ Drug network
- ▶ Overdose related deaths
  - ▶ Investigated like a homicide

# INVESTIGATIONS



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QUESTIONS