

ATOD Alert

Information to keep our kids safe.

Drugs in Disguise

What is being marketed and sold as “bath salts” at convenience shops, smoke shops and online is actually a dangerous, stimulant drug. These “bath salts” are not your grandma’s bubble bath variety, but are instead specially-made powders that contain manufactured crystallized chemicals that users snort, swallow or smoke. The two powerful stimulants in these synthetic drugs mimic cocaine, LSD and methamphetamine. Local emergency room officials and law enforcement officers report an increased use of these substances in our communities. Users experience paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, suicidal behavior, violence, chest pain and increased blood pressure. As of October 17, 2011 Ohio House Bill 64 makes it illegal for anyone to buy, sell or possess bath salts.

According to Dr. Joseph Lee, a physician at Hazelden’s Center for Youth and Families, parents need to be aware of three categories of teens at risk for experimenting with synthetic drugs;

1. Young people are intrigued by synthetic drugs because they are experimental by nature at this age. Many don’t intend to get addicted, but decide to use drugs simply because their “friends are doing it, too”.
2. Young people who are already in trouble with the law and are being monitored will use synthetic drugs because the drugs are often undetectable by standard screenings.
3. Young people who seek peer-approval, maybe a little more than what would be considered normal, are attracted to the idea that they can know more about synthetic drugs than others. This group of youth receives a certain sense of authority and credibility among their network. They will often try chemicals that others might not to demonstrate their mastery.

Dr. Lee advises that we are making a dangerous mistake by waiting for kids to show the signs of addiction before we educate children about synthetic substances.

For additional reports on Bath Salts, please see the following:

MSNBC Video Report on Bath Salts

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/41366667#41366667>

DEA report on Methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) (aka Bath Salts)

http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drugs_concern/mdvp.pdf

ATOD Alert is provided by “Takin’ It To The Schools”

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* Your community alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention program. *