

HEALTH RISKS OF NPS

The use of NPS may cause:

Respiratory depression (breathing problems), Unconsciousness, Seizures, Hyperthermia (extremely high body temperature), Convulsions (e.g., uncontrollable knee jerking), Stiffening of the muscles, Dehydration, Nausea, Drowsiness, Excessive salivation

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

The use of NPS may cause:

Acute Psychosis, Anxiety, Alterations in mood, Confusion, Depression, Mood swings and violent outbursts, Paranoia/ Irrational Thoughts, Hallucinations, Feelings of disconnection and loss of control Dependence

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

Prolonged use may result in:

Financial issues (leading to poverty/homelessness etc), Social Isolation, Secret keeping and violations of trust, Increased risk or impulsive behaviours, Poor academic / work performance (leading to job loss etc.) due to addiction.

National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)

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NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

WHAT IS AN NPS?

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are chemicals designed to mimic the effects of existing illicit drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, and ecstasy but are not yet controlled under international law, and may pose a public health threat. Due to the unknown purity and composition of NPS products, its use is commonly associated with health issues, as persons who use NPS often end up in the hospital due to severe intoxication.

WHAT IS KETAMINE?

Ketamine is an anaesthetic used in surgery and veterinary medicine but is also misused, for example, as a date rape drug. This co-use of ketamine can increase the effects of other sedatives like benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and opiates, which can lead to death.

Street names: Cat Tranquilizer, Cat Valium, Jet K, Kit Kat, Purple, Special K

Dosage Form: Clear liquid, white or off-white powder.

Ketamine was approved as an anesthetic in 1960 for animals and FDA approved in 1970 for human use.

KETAMINE-DERIVED DRUG - ESKETMINE

Esketamine is used for the treatment of persistent depression. It causes temporary amnesia, similar to ketamine, and has also been misused as a date rape drug.

WHAT IS METHAMPHETAMINE (CRYSTAL METH)?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a synthetic stimulant that is highly addictive. Chronic meth use can lead to many long-term effects even when a person stops using the drug. These effects include severe withdrawal, heart attack or stroke, and skin itching leading to blisters and/or sores.

Street Names: Speed, Upper, Meth, Crystal Meth, Chalk, Ice, Glass, Christmas Tree, and Crank (when injected)

Form: Pills, powders, or chunky crystals called ice.

STIMULANT EFFECTS

- Euphoria, weight loss, intense feelings of alertness and concentration and increased libido
- Users may self-medicate for these effects which can last 6-12 hours
- Tolerance builds quickly, causing users to take higher doses to achieve the same effects

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid originally developed for pain management. However, it is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, making even a small amount extremely dangerous.

Illicitly made fentanyl mixed with heroin can cause respiratory depression resulting in death. Fentanyl overdose is a major cause of drug overdose deaths after heroin.

3,4-MDMA ALSO KNOWN AS (ECSTASY)

MDMA, also known as ecstasy or molly, is a synthetic drug that affects the brain's natural balance. It can be swallowed, snorted, or mixed with liquid. Using MDMA can be dangerous, and overdosing may lead to coma or even death.

Street Names: Ecstasy, Molly, X, XTC, Zesser pill

Forms: Pill or powder (crushed pill)

In Trinidad and Tobago, it is illegal to possess MDMA, Ketamine, Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth), and other dangerous drugs without a license.

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- Stiffening of the muscles
- Dehydration
- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Salivation