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CLUB DRUGS

Contributed by Jean Spence

There is a need to inform and educate the community about the recent alarming increase in the use of some very dangerous substances known collectively as “club drugs”. With many of these drugs there is no way for the user to know what the ingredients are or how much of an ingredient the drug contains. Because of these unknowns, the drug’s effects on a person can be very unpredictable.

What are CLUB DRUGS?

The term “club drugs” is used to describe a group of designer drugs sometimes found at dance clubs and “raves” (dance parties). Raves are parties that occur after bars close, between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Young adults are increasingly being enticed and encouraged to join these parties. The RAVES are usually located in a non-licensed, non-permitted site such as a warehouse, open land or private home. Safety is not the concern of promoters of the large parties especially when it comes to fire or crowd control. There is also heavy exposure to designer drugs and alcohol. No matter where or how these drugs are used, they’re dangerous—even deadly.

DESIGNER DRUGS are all man made and the potency is not regulated, and therefore, may cause overdoses. Another commonly used group of drugs at raves are tranquilizer type drugs called “rape drugs” such as GHB and Rohypnol. These drugs are slipped into drinks and the victim has no memory of the evening’s events the day after.

Some EXAMPLES of club drugs are:

Ecstasy (MDMA)—this acts as both a stimulant and a hallucinogen. Stimulants speed up the central nervous system. Hallucinogens affect thinking, awareness and senses. Slang or street names: Ecstasy, XTC, X, Adam, Clarity, Hug Drug

Rohypnol and GHB—these are depressants. They slow down the central nervous system. Slang or street names: Roofies, Forget-me pill: G, Liquid Ecstasy

Ketamine—acts as both a hallucinogen and an anesthetic. Slang or street names: K, Special K, Vitamin K, Super K, New Ecstasy.

Methamphetamine—acts as an addictive stimulant that affects many areas of the central nervous system. Slang or street names: Speed, Ice, Meth, Crank, Crystal, Chalk, Fire, Glass, Go Fast.

LSD—acts as a hallucinogen. Causes abnormal sensory perceptions. Slang or street name: Acid, Boomers, Yellow Sunshine

For more information please contact: Substance and Alcohol Intervention Services for the Deaf (SAISD) at (716) 475-4978 (V/TTY). Website: www.rit.edu/sa/coun/saisd