“Bath Salts” Health Care Provider Fact Sheet

Question: What are “bath salts”?

Answer:
“Bath salts” is one way of referring to the “designer drugs” methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), 4-methylmethcathinone (mephedrone), 3,4-Methylenedioxymethcathinone (Methylone), 4-Methoxymethcathinone, 4-Fluoromethcathinone and 3-Fluoromethcathinone and Ethylpropion which are central nervous system stimulants with effects similar to cocaine and amphetamines. They are specifically synthesized with a similar but slightly modified structure of the Schedule I controlled substance Cathinone to avoid existing drug laws. Examples of other Schedule I controlled substances include heroin and LSD. “Bath salts” are snorted, ingested mixed with water, injected or inserted rectally or vaginally. “Bath salts” have no history of FDA approved medical use.

Question: How are these substances marketed?

Answer:
Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products containing these chemicals, marketed as “bath salts”, “plant food” or “research chemicals”, have become drugs of abuse. They are sold as, crystals, powders and liquids with a variety of names including, but not limited to:

Blue Silk
Charge+
Cosmic Blast
Disco Concentrate Bath Salts
Ivory Snow
Ocean Burst
Pure Ivory
Purple Wave
Snow Leopard
Stardust (Star Dust)
Tranquility Bath Salts
White Dove
White Knight
White Rush
Zeus 2
Ivory Wave
White Lightening

Hurricane Charlie
White Girl
Blue Magic
Silverback Bath Salts
Raving Dragon
Cloud 9
Purple Tranquility
Zoom 2
Aura
Red Dove
Vanilla Sky
Bliss
White Horse
Ivory Coast
Energy 1
MDPK
Magic
Super Coke
PV
Ocean
Charge Plus
Scarface
White Dove
Explosion
4-MMC
Meow-Meow
M-Cat
Bounce
Bubbles
Mad Cow
Eight Balls Ultra Premium
Sky Blitz
Up Powder
Bolivian
Himalyan
Ivory Gold
Lust
Magic Powder

Question: Is this an emerging drug abuse issue?

Answer:
Over the past several months, poison control centers throughout the United States have received hundreds of calls regarding instances of poisoning from products containing the subject compounds, including instances resulting in accidental death and suicide. Calls received by poison control centers generally reflect only a small percentage of actual instances of poisoning.

Question: What are the patterns of abuse?

Answer:
Although NYS Poison Control Centers have reported primary usage in the 20-26 year old range, use has also been reported in the age range of 18 to 48.

Question: What are the signs and symptoms of use?

Answer:
These compounds stimulate the body's central nervous system, and cause effects similar to those caused by cocaine and amphetamines, including but not limited to, increased heart rate and blood pressure, hallucinations, paranoia, suicidal thoughts, violent behavior, and nausea and vomiting. Symptoms may progress to rhabdomyolysis, renal failure or liver failure.

Question: What is the legal status of these compounds in NYS?

Answer:
Effective May 20, 2011, these compounds are prohibited from sale and distribution pursuant to an Order for Summary Action signed by the Commissioner of Health. Any individual or entity that receives notice of the Order will be prohibited from selling or distributing products containing these compounds.

Question: How may I contact the Poison Control Center?

The Poison Control Center can be reached at (800)222-1222.