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ECSTASY



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

WHAT IS ECSTASY?

Ecstasy is a psychoactive drug. It can produce feelings of well-being and emotional closeness to others, an enhancement of sensual and emotional experiences and an increase in physical energy.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Tablet or pill form but may come in capsules or as a powder. Shapes, sizes, colors and imprints of tablets vary.

HOW IS IT USED?

Usually ingested; sometimes injected.

DURATION OF EFFECTS:

Effects start 20-60 minutes after taking the drug and can last up to several hours.

CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES:

The term "ecstasy" was originally given to MDMA, but now it's used to describe a wide range of substances that are similar in chemistry and effects (e.g. MDA, MDEA).

RISKS:

*Can trick the body into ignoring distress signals such as dehydration, muscle cramping, dizziness and exhaustion.

*Tablets sold as "ecstasy" may contain other potentially dangerous substances. Tablets may also vary widely in strength.

*Long-term use may cause damage to certain brain regions, which may result in serious depression and memory loss.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS:

*Panic, confusion, anxiety and paranoia;

*Nausea, chills and sweating, dry mouth and throat;

*Liver damage, kidney failure; and

*Increased heart rate and blood pressure, high body temperature, sometimes leading to convulsions and heart failure.