



WHAT IS FLAKKA?

Flakka is a potent, addictive, and dangerous lab-created stimulant. Sometimes called “the insanity drug,” flakka is known for causing disturbing behavior in users and poses huge health risks.

Flakka is part of a chemical class called cathinones – a class which includes bath salts and “Molly.” Most cathinones are produced in China, Pakistan, and India, and bought and sold over the internet.

“Flakka” is a term commonly used to refer to the synthetic compound alpha-Pyrrolidinopentiphenone (alpha-PVP).

Flakka is also known by the street name “gravel,” due to its crystalline chunks that resemble the colorful gravel that you might find at the bottom of an aquarium tank. Some users also refer to it as “\$5 insanity,” since the cost of a single dose is about five dollars. The term “flakka” comes from the Spanish word “flaco,” for thin.

Some experts have called flakka “a guinea pig drug” and compared users to lab rats.

HOW IS IT ABUSED?

Flakka can be crushed and snorted, swallowed, smoked, inhaled as a vapor via an electronic cigarette, or injected. Flakka is often mixed with other drugs such as methamphetamine.

Those who use flakka are prone to uninhibited, bizarre, and dangerous behavior. Flakka may cause rapid elevation of body temperature, causing the user to strip off their clothing. Flakka users often report an increased feeling of paranoia, which may cause the user to feel like they are being followed or chased.

INEXPENSIVE & DEADLY

Flakka may be sold and labeled as any number of synthetic products, including “Molly.” Many users believe that Molly is MDMA, but the truth is that these products are unregulated, so there is no telling exactly what chemical compounds may be present in them. Users are easily misled, unaware of flakka’s dangerous high potency. Because its exact chemical content is generally unknown, it becomes easy for users to take too much flakka. And how much is “too much” cannot be judged simply by looking at the capsule or baggie in which the substance is packaged.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.intheknowzone.com for more information on substance abuse. Increase your knowledge using the information, statistics, images, and links. Test your understanding with a quick quiz.

**Don’t stay in the dark.
Get In the Know!**

in the know

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FLAKKA
the insanity drug





OUT OF CONTROL

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, flakka use has skyrocketed 780% in recent years. In 2010, there was not a single case of flakka use reported in the U.S. In 2012, there were 85 cases. By 2014, there were 670.

Cathinone use caused the deaths of 123 people in Florida in 2013, according to the United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse.

Matthew Kenney, a 35-year-old Fort Lauderdale man, allegedly ran naked through the streets after using flakka, claiming that people had stolen his clothing. Another Fort Lauderdale man, impaled himself on a spiked fence outside of a police station after using flakka. He was fortunate to survive. Another man who was high on flakka, James West, allegedly attempted to kick down a police station door. He claimed that cars were chasing him. Surveillance footage showed him trying to use large rocks to shatter the police station's hurricane-proof glass windows.

INSANE RISKS

Since flakka is a recently-created synthetic drug, individuals are taking a huge risk by using it. Some experts have called flakka “a guinea pig drug” and compared users to lab rats. The long-term effects of flakka simply aren't known, which makes using it incredibly risky.

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF FLAKKA USE

- “Excited delirium”
- Feeling of euphoria
- Hallucinations
- A rise in body temperature to 105 degrees or more
- Paranoia
- Heart problems
- Kidney failure
- Violent behavior
- Loss of mental competency
- Death

Flakka may cause a disorienting high or a feeling of euphoria, enhanced alertness and wakefulness, and increased movement. Users may hallucinate or behave violently. Users may become very sick, lose mental

hallucinations



potent & deadly



COMEDOWN

Like cocaine and meth, flakka users experience a comedown once the drug leaves their body. The user is left feeling depressed or fatigued. This sensation often leads the user to return to abusing the drug to get rid of the negative comedown sensation, establishing a cycle of use that can lead to abuse and addiction. Like cocaine and meth, flakka may alter brain chemistry in a way that makes users require progressively larger doses to achieve the same high.

OVERDOSE

Because of flakka's deadly mix of potent chemicals, the possibility of an overdose becomes more likely. If you believe that you or someone you know is experiencing a flakka overdose, go to a hospital emergency room or call 9-1-1 immediately. Emergency responders will try to counteract the effects of flakka in the person's system by injecting a sedative such as the benzodiazepine Ativan. If they are unable to administer such a treatment, the user may die.

lethal consequences

competency or their focus on reality, and may become addicted. Users may display heightened or “superhuman” strength, as well as increased resistance to force. Law enforcement officers have reported cases in which flakka users are resistant to taser shocks.

UNKNOWN EFFECTS

Much of the research on flakka is derived by examining its “chemical cousins” – cocaine and amphetamines. These drugs cause a surge in two chemicals: dopamine (which is responsible for the euphoric sensations that users may experience) and norepinephrine (which raises the user's heart rate and blood pressure and can raise alertness). Flakka also prevents brain cells from reabsorbing these brain chemicals, meaning the effects of the drug may linger in the system longer than users anticipate.

FLAKKA DEVASTATES THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO TRY IT.

RESPECT YOUR BODY AND MIND. DON'T MESS WITH FLAKKA.