MDMA/Ecstasy (Molly)

What You Need to Know

What is MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly)?
MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine), popularly known as ecstasy or more recently as “Molly,” is a synthetic, psychoactive drug that is similar to both the stimulant amphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline. “Molly” (slang for “molecular”) refers to the pure crystalline powder form of MDMA. MDMA is popular in the nightclub scene or at “raves” (long dance parties) because of its energizing effect and enhancing of the senses.

What are street names for MDMA?
Adam, Beans, Clarity, Disco Biscuit, E, Ecstasy, Eve, Go, Hug Drug, Lover’s Speed, MDMA, Peace, STP, X, XTC, among others.

What does MDMA look like?
MDMA tablets are sold with logos, creating brand names for users to seek out. The colorful pills are often hidden among colorful candies.

How is MDMA abused?
MDMA is taken orally, as a capsule or tablet. Sometimes it is crushed and snorted, or smoked, but rarely injected. Effects last approximately 3 to 6 hours. It is not uncommon for users to take a second dose of the drug as the effects of the first dose begin to fade. Users may mix MDMA with other substances, such as alcohol and marijuana.

What are the health effects of MDMA/Ecstasy?
MDMA may increase the risk of long term, perhaps permanent, problems with memory and learning.
High doses of MDMA can cause a sharp rise in body temperature that requires immediate medical attention as it can rapidly lead to muscle breakdown and possible kidney failure. In addition, dehydration, hypertension, heart failure and death may occur.

Health effects include:
- perception changes
- depression
- nausea
- blurred vision
- kidney failure
- anxiety
- drug craving
- muscle cramping
- heart failure
- confusion
- increased sensitivity to touch, energy, sensual and sexual arousal
- involuntary jaw clenching/teeth grinding
- sleep problems
- sweating
- dehydration
- marked rise in body temperature
- paranoia
- chills
- high blood pressure
- arrhythmia
What are symptoms of MDMA overdose?

- high blood pressure
- faintness
- panic attacks
- loss of consciousness
- seizures

What is the legal status in the United States?

MDMA is a Schedule 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning it has a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

What do parents need to know?

Many ecstasy tablets contain not only MDMA but also a number of other drugs or drug combinations that can be harmful, such as: methamphetamine, ketamine, cocaine, dextromethorphan (over-the-counter cough suppressant), ephedrine (diet drug), and caffeine.

What can parents do?

- Talk to their children about the dangers of using MDMA (Ecstasy/"Molly")
- Know their child’s friends
- Supervise their child’s activities
- Monitor their child’s spending
- Monitor where their children spend their time and their surroundings for drug paraphernalia or evidence of drug use.

Resources:

- Oakland County Health Division/Office of Substance Abuse Services (OCHD/OSAS)
  http://www.oakgov.com/health/Pages/program_service/osas/sas_about.aspx
  248-858-0001

- Prior Authorization and Central Evaluation Program (PACE Program)
  PACE is the first step to substance abuse treatment services for low income residents in Oakland County.
  248-858-5200 or 888-350-0900, ext. 85200

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
  Alcoholics Anonymous ................................................................. 248-332-3521
  Alanon ......................................................................................... 248-706-1020
  Narcotics Anonymous ................................................................. 248-543-7200
  Program and Prevention Information .............................................248-858-0001
  Treatment Information PACE ...................................................... 1-888-350-0900, ext. 85200

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.