

## Current Drug Trends Signs & Symptoms



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Northeastern Summer Academy 8/9/2022

1

## Law Enforcement Training and Experience

- Trained with, Massachusetts State Police, A.T.F., D.E.A., and Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council
- NHTSA S.F.S.T. Inst. 2005 /M.P.T.C. Narcotics Inst. 2005
- NHTSA/IACP Drug Recognition Expert Certification; 2008, Inst 2009
- Currently on staff with M.A./N.H./R.I./C.T. Academies
- Northwestern District Attorney's Anti Crime/Drug Task Force



2

## Law Enforcement

- Petersham Police Dept. 02/1996-Present
- Athol Police Department 09/1999 to Present
- Mass State Police; Office of Alcohol Testing
- Northwestern District Attorneys Office; Anti-Crime Task Force (2016-2021)



3

## E.M.S. Training and Experience

- Emergency Medical Technician; Basic-MAST in 1993.
- EMT-I in 1996-1997; E.R./O.R./Trauma rotations with Baystate Medical Center & UMASS Medical Center
- EMT/CPR & First Responder Inst
- Tactical Casualty Combat Care Inst
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Inst
- Tactical Medic/E.M.T.-T



4

## Before we get started... 33-7-22



John P. Buck 5/5/1941-5/27/2021

5

## Purpose of Today's Class

- Obtain a working knowledge of the current drug trends/drug abuse crisis.
- Patient Assessment; Physical and Clinical signs of use and impairment.
- Identify the paraphernalia associated with the substance abuse.
- Patient and Family Education

6

## Goals & Objectives

- Identify current Substances that are being used in Massachusetts
- Recognize Paraphernalia that is commonly being used to package and ingest drugs
- Identify Physical & Clinical Signs of Impairment

7

## What is a "drug"?



Professional Development 04/13/2022

4

8

## Working Definition of “Drug”

Any substance which, when taken into the human body, can impair the ability of the person to ...

5

9

## What is a Drug?

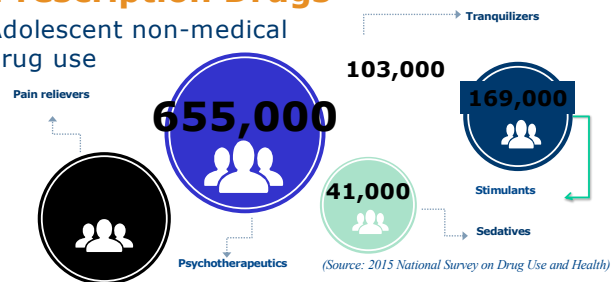
Any substance that alters perception or behavior, reducing that individual's ability to function appropriately in the academic environment.



10

## Prescription Drugs

Adolescent non-medical drug use



11

## Seven Major Drug Categories

- Central Nervous System Depressants
- Central Nervous System Stimulants
- Hallucinogens
- Dissociative Anesthetics
- Narcotic Analgesics
- Inhalants
- Cannabis

12

## Methods of Ingestion

- Oral: Medication, Alcohol, edibles
- Snort: Powder Substances
- Smoke: Plant based, Cocaine/Crystal
- Inhalation: Solvents, Gases, Chasing the Dragon/Free Base
- Absorption: Transdermal Meds/Acid
- Injection: Medications/heroin/Cocaine
- Insertion: Alcohol saturated items
- Vape: Very similar to Inhalation... But

13

## Pharmacokinetics

•How a chemical substance is transported through the body in terms of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination.



14

## Psychoactive Drugs

•A chemical that alters brain/body function resulting in temporary changes in:

- Perception
- Mood
- Consciousness
- Behavior



15

## Major Systems of the Human Body

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| • Muscular     | • Integumentary (skin) |
| • Urinary      | • Nervous              |
| • Respiratory  | • Circulatory          |
| • Digestive    |                        |
| • Endocrine    |                        |
| • Reproductive |                        |
| • Skeletal     |                        |

16

## Homeostasis

- Homeostasis is the dynamic balance, or steady state, involving levels of salts, water, sugars, and other materials in the body's fluids.
- 
- *The body's systems are said to be in "dynamic equilibrium"*

17

## Examples of Homeostasis



18

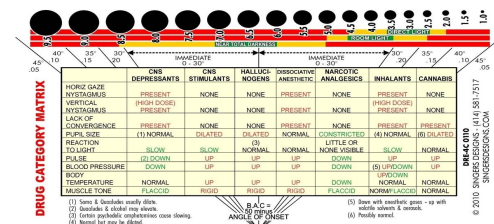
## Frequently Abused Substances

Brief over view of the Substance,  
Delivery routes, and signs of  
impairment

19

## Drug Matrix

- Recognize current drugs of abuse.
- Identify sign and symptoms of substance abuse. (Physical and Clinical)
- Common pathways that substances are obtained.





Alcohol is a CNS Depressant

IL-17

21

## Standard-Sized Drinks



Riddle me this... How do you take your alcohol?

22

## Vaping Alcohol 101

Old School "Bottle with Air Pump"



"Upscale" Whiskey Bar



23

## Powder Alcohol Est 2015...

- Released in 2015, Quickly became banned, but where there is a will there is a way...



Palcohol is powdered alcohol The federal government approved Palcohol on March 10, 2015 and it is now legal to be sold in the United States.

24

## Signs of Impairment

- Glassy, Blood shot eyes
- Odor of “Alcoholic beverage on breath”
- Slurred speech
- Fumbling fingers
- Unsteady on feet
  - \*When documenting alcohol related incidents, remember to state “Odor of an alcoholic beverage!”



25

## Anti-Depressant Meds

- Klonopin; May cause drowsiness. When taken appropriately, it will help to control anxiety attacks.
- Prozac; Anti-anxiety, depression med. Rare side effect of violence.



26

## Most common CNS Depressant Drug found on the streets 2021

- Gabapentin (Neurontin)
- GABA/Gabbies
- Johnnies
  - Prescribed to treat nerve pain, and Alcohol & Cocaine withdrawals.
  - Causes a “Calm, euphoric high similar to marijuana”

27

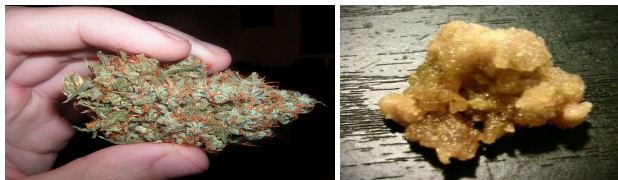
## Cannabis



28



## Marijuana



- Marijuana Bud/THC
- Potency can often be determined by odor, color, texture.
- Waxy Marijuana
- 82-99% THC
- One "hit" is the size of the tip of a pin.

29

## New Cannabis Products

- Delta 8
- Three basic ways to make Delta 8, most common means is to synthesize it from CBD. Solvents and Strong acids are used.



30

## Signs of Impairment

- Red and Glassy eyes, dilated pupils (CaSH)
- Conjunctiva
- Odor of burnt marijuana



31

## THC/CBD Edible



32



## Cocaine



33

## Cocaine

- Stimulant Class "B" Drug
- Coke, blow, nose candy
- White crystalline powder
- Snorted, dissolved into water and injected, sometime smoked, or rubbed onto soft tissue.



34

## Crack Cocaine Paraphernalia

- Glass pipes, thick gage glass tubes.
- Lighters
- Baking soda
- Water
- Spoon; look for charred resin



35

## Signs of Impairment

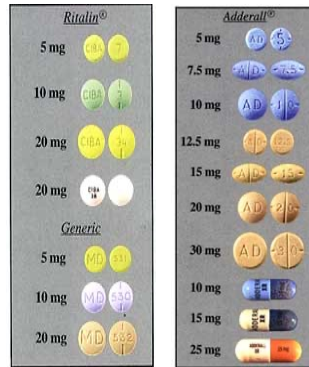
- Dilated pupils (CaSH)
- Red and Glassy eyes
- Sweating, dry mouth, flushed skin
- Tremors, Hyper-activity
- Raised pulse
- Tense muscle tone



36

## Ritalin and Adderall

- Stimulant class medications, commonly found in school settings.
- Used to assist ADHD.
- Potential of abuse. School staff reported one incident where two students were found to be snorting the pills in class.



37

## Meth... Is it in Massachusetts?



38

## Crystal Meth

### Common Street names:

- Shards
- Glass
- Cookies
- "Tina" After Tina Turner, based on the fact that Meth will spin or "dance" when dropped into water. Many users will drop a shard into water to determine if it is good product vs. junk or bunk.

### Interview with Andrew

- "Meth is a really cool drug, it is the only drug that can go from a solid, to a liquid, then a gas and return to a solid, all in a short time"
- "I like to party or party & Play" meaning that I will use T and G at the same time.

39

## Crystal/Meth

### Meth & Poly Drug

- Speedballs:
  - Stimulant & Depressant
  - T&G or Meth and Fentanyl
- Meth users often take blood thinners...
  - Meth is an extreme stimulant, causing the vessels to constrict and the heart to race. Users take a blood thinner to help protect themselves from clots, heart attacks and "to make the high better."

40

## Heroin

- Narcotic
- Dope, Dirt, Brown, "H," Smack, Thunder, Big H, Nose Drops
- White/Brown/Gray powder substance
- Injected, Smoked, Snorted.



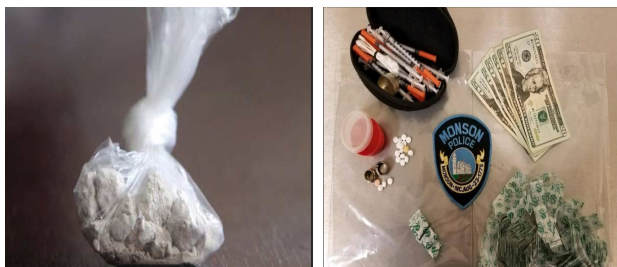
41

## Heroin Powder and Works



42

## Heroin Knots and Works



43

## 12,000+ Baggie arrest



44

## Pill Factory



45

## New mix of Heroin on streets, Known as Cheese Heroin

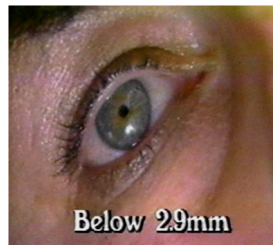
- Base drug is powder form heroin, with crushed Tylenol PM, which then becomes “Cheese Heroin” which was designed to be used by first time Heroin users, for a more comfortable experience.



46

## Signs of Impairment

- Pin point pupils
- Slowed pulse rate, pale in color
- Decreased breathing
- Track marks, reddening of nostrils
- Unconsciousness
- Flaccid muscle tone
- Sedated “On the Nod.”



47

## Before we leave opioids...

- HUGE uptick in other Opioid family abuse...
  - Purple Drank: Prescription cough medicine containing Promethazine-codeine products.
  - Street Name: Sizzurp, Lean, Texas Tea and Purple Sprite.
  - 2021: Law Enforcement Bulletin warning of false prescriptions for Codeine liquid medications.

48

## Opiate Treatment

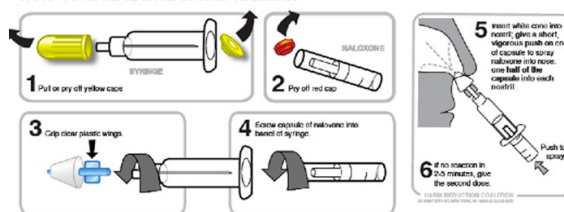


49

## NARCAN/Rescue kit components

Mucosal Atomization Device (MAD)      Prefilled ampule of naloxone  
Luer-lock syringe

### HOW TO GIVE NASAL SPRAY NARCAN



50

## MDMA/MOLLY

- Crystal form
  - Pink
  - Off white
- Also found in capsules



51

## Psilocybin Mushrooms

- Psilocybin Mushrooms, also known as Shrooms, nuggets, psychedelic shrooms.
- Ingested by eating (taste like crap) possibly made into a shroom tea.



52



## Coricidin “Triple C” “Skittles”

- Coricidin HBP is the most popular
- Overdose results in seizures, comma, uncontrolled bleeding
- Most popular w/abusers due to having 30mg of DXM, where other cough and cold meds only have 10-20mg.



53

## Hides



54

## Closing & Contact Information

- Peter Buck
  - Massachusetts Statewide Coordinator DEC Program
    - Drug Recognition Expert
    - Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
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55