Pharming, the new way to party

Presented by: Carrie Terrill, LCDC
The contents of your medicine cabinet may seem harmless, but have the potential to be dangerous, addictive, and even deadly.
What is Pharming
Dextromethorphan (DXM)
"About 3.1 million persons aged 12 to 25 (5.3 percent) had misused OTC cough and cold medications at least once in their lifetime. Young adults aged 18 to 25 were more likely than youths aged 12 to 17 to have misused OTC cough and cold medications in their lifetime (6.5 vs. 3.7 percent)."

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association
“If I take 16, I will be high for one whole day; if I take 32, it will last for two days.” – 16 year old client

**Why Teenagers Abuse DXM**
1. Cheap
2. Easily accessible
3. Believed to be less dangerous than illicit drugs
4. Often stolen from drug stores

**Side Effects of DXM Abuse**
- Nausea and vomiting
- Confusion
- Double or Blurred Vision
- Impaired Physical Coordination
- Drowsiness
- Numbness of Fingers and Toes
- Disorientation
- Liver Damage or Failure
- Stomach Pain
- Dizziness
- Slurred Speech
- Rapid Heart Beat
- Seizures

StopMedicineAbuse.org
Attention
Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder
Medication

Methylphenidate and Amphetamines
(Vyvanse and Adderall)
After Marijuana, Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications 1 Account for Most of the Commonly Abused Drugs Among High School Seniors 2

About 1 in 9 youth

or 11.4 percent of young people aged 12 to 25 used prescription drugs nonmedically within the past year. 3

1 Past Year Use
2 Monitoring the Future Survey, 2011
3 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010
ABUSE POTENTIAL

- Crushing the pill to snort
- Dissolve in water and inject
- Taking more than prescribed
- Selling to peers or trading for other drugs
“All stimulants work by increasing dopamine levels in the brain—dopamine is a brain chemical (or neurotransmitter) associated with pleasure, movement, and attention.”

“When taken in doses and routes other than those prescribed by a physician, stimulants can increase brain dopamine in a rapid and highly amplified manner—as do most other drugs of abuse—disrupting normal communication between brain cells, producing euphoria, and increasing the risk of addiction.”

- National Institute on Drug Abuse

Other reported reasons for abuse

- Appetite suppressant
- Study for a Test and/or improve grades
- Increase Energy
- Difficult to Detect
- Readily Available
• **Increased**
  - Blood Pressure
  - Heart Rate
  - Hostility
  - Paranoia

• ** Decreased**
  - Sleep
  - Appetite
    - Leads to malnutrition

• **Serious Cardiovascular Complications including Stroke**

• **Addiction**
  - Withdrawal Symptoms
    - Fatigue
    - Depression
    - Disturbed sleep patterns

  - National Institute on Drug Abuse
Xanax (alprazolam)

Four Bars

Mixing with alcohol (2 depressants) exponentially slows down the central nervous system and respiratory system and is deadly.

Also is mixed with heroin, which produces a similar effect.

Xanax and alcohol are the only 2 drugs from which withdrawals are life threatening.

“It’s a fast-acting high and rapidly metabolized out of the body. The high disappears really fast, and [the users] want another one so they take it again. Sometimes they forget they took the first one, so they take another one; now they have ingested two even though they don’t feel high. They think they can take another one. Taking more and more in a short period of time can be lethal.”

- licensed clinical social worker Kirk Broaddus

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht5vX22IN9Y
“Not for Human Consumption”

AKA

“Legal”

“Spice”

“Synthetic”
In 2011 5 chemicals used in the production of K2 were classified as Schedule 1, but criminals are smart.

**Past-Year Use of Illicit Drugs by High School Seniors (percent)**

- Marijuana/Hashish: 36.4%
- Synthetic Marijuana: 11.3%
- Hallucinogens: 4.8%
- Salvia: 4.4%
- MDMA (Ecstasy): 3.8%
- Cocaine: 2.7%

*Source: University of Michigan, 2012 Monitoring the Future Study*
Effects of Synthetic Marijuana

"Spice abusers who have been taken to Poison Control Centers report symptoms that include rapid heart rate, vomiting, agitation, confusion, and hallucinations. Spice can also raise blood pressure and cause reduced blood supply to the heart (myocardial ischemia), and in a few cases it has been associated with heart attacks. Regular users may experience withdrawal and addiction symptoms."
Say What?

Common Street Names
Lean AKA Purple Drank
Molly AKA
Ecstasy AKA
Pure MDMA
“Cheese” = Heroin
+ Tylenol PM
OR Heroin + Xanax

What Does “Cheese” Look Like?

“Cheese”: The New Face of Heroin

Black Tar Heroin + Tylenol PM or generic = “Cheese”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otqERpzSd8I
Wax

“Experts tell us most marijuana wax is more than 80% pure THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Compare that with the average marijuana leaf with 20% to 30% THC, according to reports. The problem is that making it - can also blow up your house. These kitchen chemists who make wax use long tubes packed full of marijuana leaves. They then shoot compressed butane through the tube. The butane apparently leeches the THC from the vegetation and as it flows out in a greenish muck into a pan. (Do NOT try this at home.)”

Warning Signs of Teenage Drug Abuse

- Missing Prescription Medications
- Empty cough medicine or cold/sinus medicine bottles or boxes in their room
- Decrease in Grades or skipping school
- Increased Agitation or Aggressive Behavior
- Hearing your teen use slang terms for drugs discussed earlier
- Changes in friends, appearance, eating or sleeping habits
- Loss of Interest in hobbies or favorite activities
- Unexplained disappearance of money
- Illegal behaviors
- Sneaking out, running away, or leaving the house without permission
What Can You Do?

Talk to your kids: educate them, listen to them, and openly discuss drug use

“I thought it was legal and couldn't hurt me”
- Emily Bauer (17 year old who was left brain damaged and paralyzed after smoking synthetic marijuana)

Be aware: of where your kids are, who they are with, and what they are doing; know their friends and their friend’s parents

“My parents should have known.”
- Statement by Emily Bauer, noting her rebellious behavior, friends in their twenties, and green hair. While her parents were supporting her ‘individuality,’ she was going down a deep dark path.

Know your children's’ Facebook and Twitter passwords; monitor their social media activity; privacy is not important when their lives are in danger.

“I saw it all over Facebook, all over YouTube, and I thought it would be fun”
- Dejah Reed (16 year old whose lung collapsed and almost lost her life doing ‘the cinnamon challenge’)
Thanks,

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