

Partnership for a Drug-Free Community

Partnership Press

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Is Kratom the New Bath Salts?



Kratom is a drug of paradoxes. The botanical substance is both a stimulant and a sedative. It is touted as a safer alternative to heroin but it, too, is addictive and potentially life-ruining. It is common and illegal in Thailand, where it grows naturally, but little-known and largely legal in the United States. It has a long and confusing list of possible side effects. And for now, it is relatively easy to obtain—but perhaps not for much longer.

The federal government is cracking down on kratom. Last month, the FDA asked U.S. Marshals to **seize** nearly 90,000 bottles of dietary supplements containing kratom, which is derived from tropical trees that grow throughout Southeast Asia. In 2014, the Marshals took over 25,000 pounds of raw kratom from a company in Van Nuys, California at the FDA's request. The FDA has also issued an "import alert" for kratom and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) lists it as a "Drug and Chemical of Concern".

The increased federal scrutiny comes on the wake of its emergence in the past few years as a hot new "Internet drug." The kratom faithful say that it is psychoactive but safe, and that it acts like an opioid with a much lower risk of overdose-related death.

Kratom has been relatively easy to obtain stateside despite the FDA import alert because it is not currently regulated under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. It can be bought online and consumed as a tea, taken orally as a pill, or chewed as a leaf, and it has only been formally criminalized in **four states**. But the recent action from the FDA and the DEA has Kratom users fearing criminalization.

Some kratom users take it for its opioid-like effects to **manage chronic pain** or to replace an opioid addiction. The American Kratom Association promotes it as a "natural analgesic which has been used for hundreds of years to safely alleviate pain." But, as *The New York Times* reported, addicts seeking an opiate replacement risk relapse.

One heroin addict the *Times* interviewed, Dariya Pankova, started drinking a kratom beverage to treat her withdrawal symptoms without knowing that it, too, could be addictive. After getting hooked on kratom, she started craving heroin again and went back to abusing the more dangerous drug. "It's preying on the weak and the broken," she said of kratom's growing popularity.

Excerpted from an article by Samantha Allen.

For more information, visit <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/02/27/is-kratom-the-new-bath-salts.html>

Shade out Drugs theme for Legacy FunDay 2016



Save the Date— Friday, June 3, 2016. Partnership's Annual Legacy FunDay will be held at the Jaycee building from 1 pm—3pm. FunDay is a FREE, fun-filled event geared toward kids ages 5 –10. There will be a moonbounce, clowns, cotton candy, ice cream, popcorn, face painting and more! FunDay reminds us that a drug-free lifestyle is super FUN! While the event is FREE, **reservations are required by May 27**. Call or email the Partnership to let us know if you're coming.

FunDay also gives local businesses an opportunity to demonstrate their support for the Partnership and the vital services the agency provides the community. For **just \$100**, your company can sponsor a FunDay activity. A **\$1,000** contribution gets your company logo on the staff T-shirt! There are sponsorship levels in between too! Partnership will

recognize all contributors at the event. Don't hesitate — make your donation to the Partnership NOW!

Got Drugs?



The Partnership for a Drug-Free Community and local law enforcement agencies along with the Drug Enforcement Administration invite you to turn in medications at the Spring Medication Take Back event to be held on **Saturday, April 30 from 9 am—12 pm**.

You can bring your medications to one of the following locations:

- Jaycee Building,, 2180 Airport Rd., Huntsville
- Madison Police Dept., 100 Hughes Rd., Madison
- CVS Pharmacy, 12275 Hwy. 231/431 North, Meridianville
- CVS Pharmacy, 5859 Hwy. 53, Harvest

If you are unable to bring meds to the above locations on April 30, you can drop them at Medication Drop Boxes located at the Huntsville Police Department and Madison County Sheriff's Department Annex. Note addresses and times.

Huntsville Police Department

Drop box is accessible 24/7
Huntsville Police Department
815 Wheeler Avenue, Huntsville

Madison County Sheriff's Department

Drop box is accessible M– F, 8 am– 4 pm
Sheriff's Department Annex
715 Wheeler Avenue, Huntsville



Acceptable Items

- Prescription medications
- Medication samples
- Pet medications
- Medicated ointments
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Liquids

Partnership for a Drug-Free Community

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