

BATH SALTS: A NEW DRUG FOR ADDICTS & YOUTHS

Bath Salts Being Snorted, Hospitalizations & Bans on the Rise

Recent abuses have led to increased attention to the hallucinogenic and powerful effects of commonly used bath salts. Several U.S. States, including Louisiana and Florida, have already banned the products.

The bath salts contain powders which often contain mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine, known commonly as MDPV. These salts are sold under the names including Ivory Wave, Hurricane Charlie, Bliss and White Lightning. The chemicals in these products cause hallucinations, rapid heart rates, paranoia and suicidal thoughts.

A Move to Ban the Salts in Two States

Louisiana moved to do so after over 125 calls in the last 3 months regarding exposure to chemicals. In southern Louisiana, Associated Press reported that a family of a bath salt user reported the 21-year-old man cut his own throat and committed suicide. It was an apparent case of snorted chemicals. As quoted, "It just made him crazy."



Known for their hallucinogenic effects, bath salts being snorted are now a problem for addicts and youths. States including Florida have issued statewide bans.

Bath Salt Abuse Fast Facts

- Contain powers with mephedrone and are sold at malls, head shops, convenience stores and other retail outlets
- Products sold in foil packets or small jars and range in price from \$20-35 each
- Usually sold under names including: Purple Rain, Ivory Waive, Hurricane Charlie, Bliss, White Lightning and Vanilla Sky
- Ingested by snorting, smoking and injecting
- Effects include hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, increased heart rate, suicidal thoughts and eventually kidney failure
- States including Florida and Louisiana have issued bans. Mississippi and Kentucky are looking to do the same

On January 26, 2011, the Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi temporarily banned the synthetic designer drug called MDVP, labeled as "bath salts." Bondi is worried about the bath salt product could be abused when thousands of college students arrive in Florida for spring break starting next month.

She issued a 90-day emergency order that went into effect immediately. It makes the sale or possession of the drug a third-degree felony punishable by five years in prison.

A Bay County Sheriff brought the attention to Bondi after she had an experience with a woman who took the drug and then tried to cut her mother's head off with a machete thinking she was a monster.