

Today's Trends

Club Drugs and Raves

RAVES, all night dance parties, migrated to the United States from Great Britain the late 1980's. Early in 1990 the RAVES quickly increased in popularity and are now a well-established form of subculture. "RAVERS" are generally between the ages of 12 and 35, largely from middle and upper class economic backgrounds. All ethnic and national backgrounds participate. This new subculture is very similar to the hippie movement of the 60's. RAVERS have been described as high-tech hippies.

One problem associated with RAVES is that a large number of young people are willing to experiment with a whole new class of "designer" drugs, as well as binge on a variety of drugs at the same time. The varying purities and sources of these drugs presents an immense danger to users who either takes the drugs willingly or are "slipped" the drugs.

Parents need to be aware that RAVES are not, in the least bit, like teenage lock-ins. RAVES are often dangerous places for young people to be. RAVES are a lucrative business. A \$20.00 ticket can bring in \$100,000 a night, while costing \$20,000 to \$30,000 to produce. While RAVES were originally intended for true music lover's enjoyment, that concept has been tarnished by the use of drugs and the potential for high profits. Gangs, drug dealers and other criminal elements are making their presence known at RAVES.

Club Drugs--Ecstasy: (E, X, XTC) GHB: (*Liquid Ecstasy, Easy Lay, Liquid X, Grievous Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy*), Ketamine (*K, Special K, Ket, Vitamin K, Kit Kat*) and Rohypnol (*Roofties, R-2*) are among the drugs used by teens and young adults who are part of a nightclub, bar, rave, or trance scene. Club drug is a vague term that refers to this wide variety of drugs.

Today Club Drugs can be found in every neighborhood, in every community. They have moved from the club scene into mainstream America and the increased use by young people is alarming.

Club Drugs affect your brain. Club drugs can damage the neurons in your brain, impairing your senses, memory, judgment, and coordination.

Club Drugs affect your body. Some common effects include loss of muscle and motor control, blurred vision, and seizures. Club drugs like ecstasy are stimulants that increase your heart rate and blood pressure and can lead to heart or kidney failure. Other club drugs, like GHB, are depressants that can cause drowsiness, unconsciousness, or breathing problems. Club Drugs affect your self-control. Club drugs like GHB and Rohypnol are used in "date rape" and other assaults because they are sedatives that can make you unconscious and immobilize you. Rohypnol can cause a kind of amnesia-users may not remember what they said or did while under the effects of the drug.

Club Drugs are not always what they seem. Because club drugs are illegal and often produced in make- shift laboratories, it is impossible to know exactly what chemicals were used to produce them. The strength and level of danger of any illegal drug is varied each time.

Club Drugs can kill you. Higher doses of club drugs can cause severe breathing problems, coma, or even death.