The Learn More Series is distributed by the Rural Methamphetamine Education Project (RMEP).

The RMEP is directed by the Rural Crime & Justice Center (RCJC), a Center of Excellence located at Minot State University.

The primary goal of the RMEP is to develop and deliver a public awareness and education campaign to children, schools, teachers, parents, and communities.

The RMEP offers presentations, booth displays, brochures, and other resources FREE of charge to schools, businesses, agencies, community organizations, and individuals.

To utilize the RMEP resources, to schedule a presentation or to simply Learn More, contact:

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Bath Salts

Another synthetic drug is becoming popular with drug users and is a growing concern for parents, health care workers, and law enforcement. According to DEA Special Agent, Gary Boggs, "Synthetics are not new, but right now, we're seeing a lot more synthetics on the market."

Bath salts are available in select convenience stores and head shops, but the widest variety seems to be online. They are sold in plastic baggies or quarter-size plastic containers holding 250mg, 500mg, or 1g. The cost ranges from $30 to $50 per package. With names like Ivory Coast, Vanilla Sky, Blue Silk, Cloud 9, and Purple Wave, they sound harmless, but emergency rooms and poison control centers across the country are reporting hundreds of incidents involving life-threatening side effects.

Most packages are labeled “not for human consumption,” but users are smoking, snorting, injecting, and even drinking the bath salts in order to get high. Many side effects are similar to stimulant drugs: not eating, not sleeping, increased heart rate, hypertension, anxiety, and paranoia. According to Mark Ryan, director of the Louisiana Poison Center, "If you take the very worst of some of the other drugs -- LSD and Ecstasy with their hallucinogenic-delusional type properties, PCP with extreme agitation, superhuman strength and combativeness, as well as the stimulant properties of cocaine and meth -- if you take all the worst of those and put them all together this is what you get."

Effective February 2010, the ND Board of Pharmacy recognized several substances “which bear risk to the public health” and placed them into Schedule I, meaning they have no medical value and a high potential for abuse. Included in that list are some common ingredients in bath salts: mephedrone and methylenedioxypyrovalerone or MDPV. These ingredients can also be found in certain plant foods and insect repellants.

Drug testing for these chemicals has become difficult because they do not show up on standard urinalysis drug tests. Street chemists are also developing chemical derivatives to mephedrone and MDPV, making testing even more problematic.

RESOURCES

http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/welcome/MessageBathSalts211.html
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40797021/ns/health-addictions/?ns=health-addictions#
http://www.aapcc.org/dnn/default.aspx
http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/649596.html