MDMA or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine is a synthetic, psychoactive drug that is more commonly known as ecstasy. It is both a stimulant and psychedelic controlled substance. Ecstasy usually comes in colorful tablets or capsule form, appearing as pills. Users of the drug administer it orally. It is considered a club drug and can usually be obtained at large warehouse parties known as “raves.”

**Street Names**
XTC, E, X, STP, Clarity, Beans, Adams, Hug Drug, Eve, Lover’s Speed, Disco Biscuit, and Go.

**EFFECTS**
MDMA use mainly affects brain cells that use the chemical serotonin to communicate with each other. The drug effects of ecstasy use include increases in heart rate and blood pressure, increased body temperature leading to hyperthermia, nausea, blurred vision, faintness, chills, sweating, and teeth clenching. All of these effects occur within 30 to 45 minutes of swallowing the drug and usually last 4 to 6 hours, but they may occur or last weeks after ingestion. In high doses, ecstasy can lead to liver, kidney, and cardiovascular failure which could result in death.

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In 1988, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration classified MDMA as a Schedule I substance under the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970. This means that MDMA currently has a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use in treatment, and a lack of accepted safety for the use under medical supervision.

According to SAMHSA’s Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) 2009 estimates, there was a 123 percent increase in the number of emergency room visits involving MDMA. Among Indiana youth, MDMA use is lower when compared to national statistics. According to the IPRC 2011 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents Survey, Indiana adolescent use of MDMA has not changed considerably between 2005-2011 for monthly or lifetime use with both rates staying similar for the past six years.

Source: IPRC 2011 ATOD Use By Children & Adolescents Survey*

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