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The Marlboro Township Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse is committed to raising awareness about substance abuse. Recently in town there has been an increase in talk among our youth about a very dangerous drug. What follows is information to increase your knowledge and help raise your awareness about this dangerous substance.

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, a word too long for most of us to pronounce, is a chemical drug no one should be experimenting with. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, MDMA -- or 3, 4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, is a chemical drug most commonly known for its use in the pressed pill Ecstasy. The DEA labels it a Schedule I controlled substance, considered to have a high potential for abuse and no accepted use in medical treatment, which means it's illegal. Ecstasy is a drug that is illegally made. It is a stimulant drug that can cause hallucinations. It is known as a designer drug because it is created for the purpose of making someone feel high. The drug is popular with teens and young adults who go to clubs, concerts, or "rave parties" which seem to be on the rise once again.

Molly is the nickname for the purest form of MDMA, or Ecstasy. . It comes in colorful pills, tablets, or capsules that sometimes have cartoon-like images on them. Sometimes each pill, or batch of pills, can have different combinations of substances in the mix and cause unknown consequences. Rolling is a slang term for taking molly, short for "molecular." MDMA releases the neurotransmitter serotonin in the brain, making users feel energetic, and euphoric. It can also produce visual effects, making colors seem brighter and textures smoother. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) MDMA can also greatly enhance the enjoyment of music, making electronic music sound even better.

There are numerous slang words for ecstasy chiefly because people do not want to get caught with the drug. By using slang words, people feel that they are hiding what they are truly trying to say. Parents/guardians should make themselves familiar with some of the slang terms. Some terms are: rollin, thizzin, geekin, getting up, pills, poke-balls, rollies, skittles, X, E, Adam, rookers, running, Scooby snacks, smarties, snackies and Molly just to name a few.

Some symptoms associated with ecstasy use include, impaired memory, chronic depression, anxiety, panic attacks, hallucinations, delusions, severe dehydration, drowning because one consumes so much water, heat stroke, unstoppable bleeding, liver failure, kidney failure, swelling of the brain, coma, high blood pressure, increased heart rate and swelling of the organs.

Now that you know of the dangers of taking ecstasy, we are sure you must realize how powerful and risky this drug is. Taking ecstasy just once can be a death sentence. Like any drug, this drug is extremely unsafe to experiment with. Remember, it does not matter if it is your first time taking ecstasy or if you do it every day. In either case, you could die. The best way to avoid issues with ecstasy and other drugs is not to take them at all!

This information is being sent to heighten your awareness. Please remember that the greatest protective factor against drug abuse is parents/guardians. For information about ecstasy or other drugs please contact the Alliance Office -732-617-0186.