

Bath Salts Often Added to "Molly," Making the Drug More Dangerous



The club drug "Molly" is often laced with other synthetic drugs such as bath salts, making it more dangerous, according to law enforcement officials.

Molly, a club drug blamed for several recent deaths among young people attending music festivals, is sold as a pure form of Ecstasy, or MDMA.

Drug dealers are now selling a variety of potentially more dangerous drugs under the name Molly, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Jeff Lapoint, an attending physician at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, says while Molly generally leads to feelings of empathy, bath salts "are potent stimulants and tend to induce paranoia and hallucinations. It's like the worst combination: While they're agitated, now they're seeing things, too."

"Molly is just a marketing tool," said Rusty Payne, a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, told the newspaper. "It could be a whole variety of things."

MDMA is difficult to manufacture, so some drug makers get bath salts ingredients and repackage them as Molly, explained James Hall, an epidemiologist at the Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health

Disparities in Miami. Payne noted bath salts ingredients, such as methyldone, are much less expensive than MDMA.

Molly is suspected of causing two deaths at a recent New York City music festival. A 19-year-old girl in Boston died of a suspected overdose of Molly following a concert, and a man in Washington state died after taking the drug, with dozens more treated for Molly overdoses.