

"Dust" in Connecticut

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NIDA RO1 DA11421

Pathways to High Risk Drug Use

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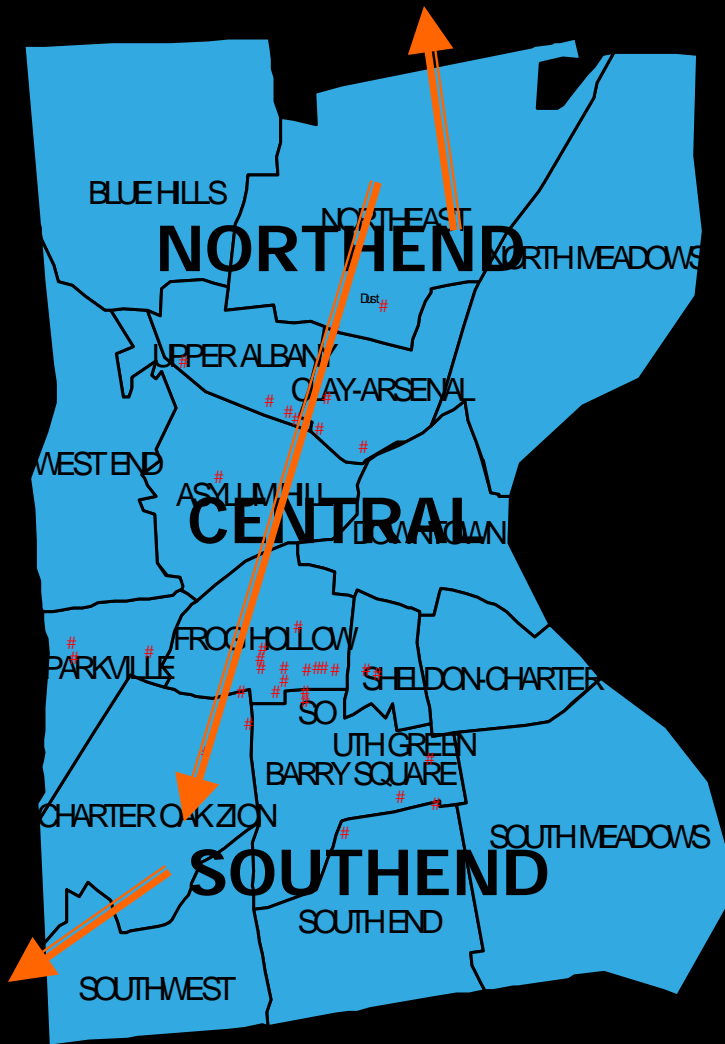
*Club Drugs, Resource Inequities and
Social Health*

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Purpose of Presentation

- Describe mixed methods for obtaining information about formaldehyde-related substances with PCP additives ("dust").
- Describe the history, presence, reported composition, distribution and use of "dust" (formaldehyde related products with or without PCP) in CT.
- Describe recent trends in use and consequences of use of these products
- Discuss need for monitoring, testing, and promoting risk avoidance strategies

HARTFORD, CT.



DOWNTOWN

Data Collection Methods

1999-2003

- Archival and published reports
 - Newspaper and magazine articles
 - Videos
 - Other internet site data
 - CEWG data
 - Published journal papers
- Indepth interviews: urban youth ages 16 – 30; providers and toxicologists
- Field observations and informal interviews in public and private settings
- Surveys with polydrug users and general population of youth and young adults
- Cognitive consensus approaches - pilesorts and social mapping to identify meanings, locations and relationships

Published Reports of PCP in Connecticut

- **1994**

New Haven – Health alert (Brewer and Pestana).

New Haven – the case of Maurice Billie and violence assoc. with “illy” (described in 2000 article in Forensic Echo).

- **1996**

New Haven – What’s “new” in street drugs: “illy” (Moriarty).

- **1999**

Green River - Drug cocktail tied to teen’s death, toxic compound includes marijuana. Guzman, K. (1999, March 27). *The Hartford Courant*.

- **2000**

Hartford – Invited presentation REACT Meeting in conjunction with CEWG; Monitoring drug trends among adolescents: comparing Ecstasy and “Dust” (Schensul)

Hartford – High on illy: monitoring an emergent drug problem in Hartford, CT (Singer et al).

Weiner, A.L. (2000). Emerging drugs of abuse in Connecticut. *Connecticut Medicine*, Vol. 64:

GPIY 2000 cites increase in high school use of PCP increased from 1.3 – 4 % 1997-2000.

Reports contd.

- **2002**

New Haven and Hartford – CNN Presents: Fried

Hartford – Illy users in Connecticut: two case reports (Modesto-Lowe).

Hartford - I felt like I wanted to Hurt People. Newsweek, July 22, Suzanne Smalley and Debra Rosenberg

PCP, BY ANY NAME, IS TROUBLE, Hartford Courant
,Aug. 23, Amy Pagnozzi

Hartford: 11 PEOPLE INDICTED ON DRUG COUNTS (liquid PCP), Hartford Courant, Nov. 20. Edmund H. Mahony

- **2003**

A Drug Feared in the '70's Is Tied to Suspect in Killings
(NY) New York Times, April 6. Shaila K. Dewan

CITY MAN SENTENCED IN PCP CONSPIRACY CASE, Hartford Courant
May 8, 2003, Edmund H. Mahony

PCP USE BROACHED IN JONES CIVIL CASE, Hartford Courant, Jun 24,
2003, Thomas D. Williams

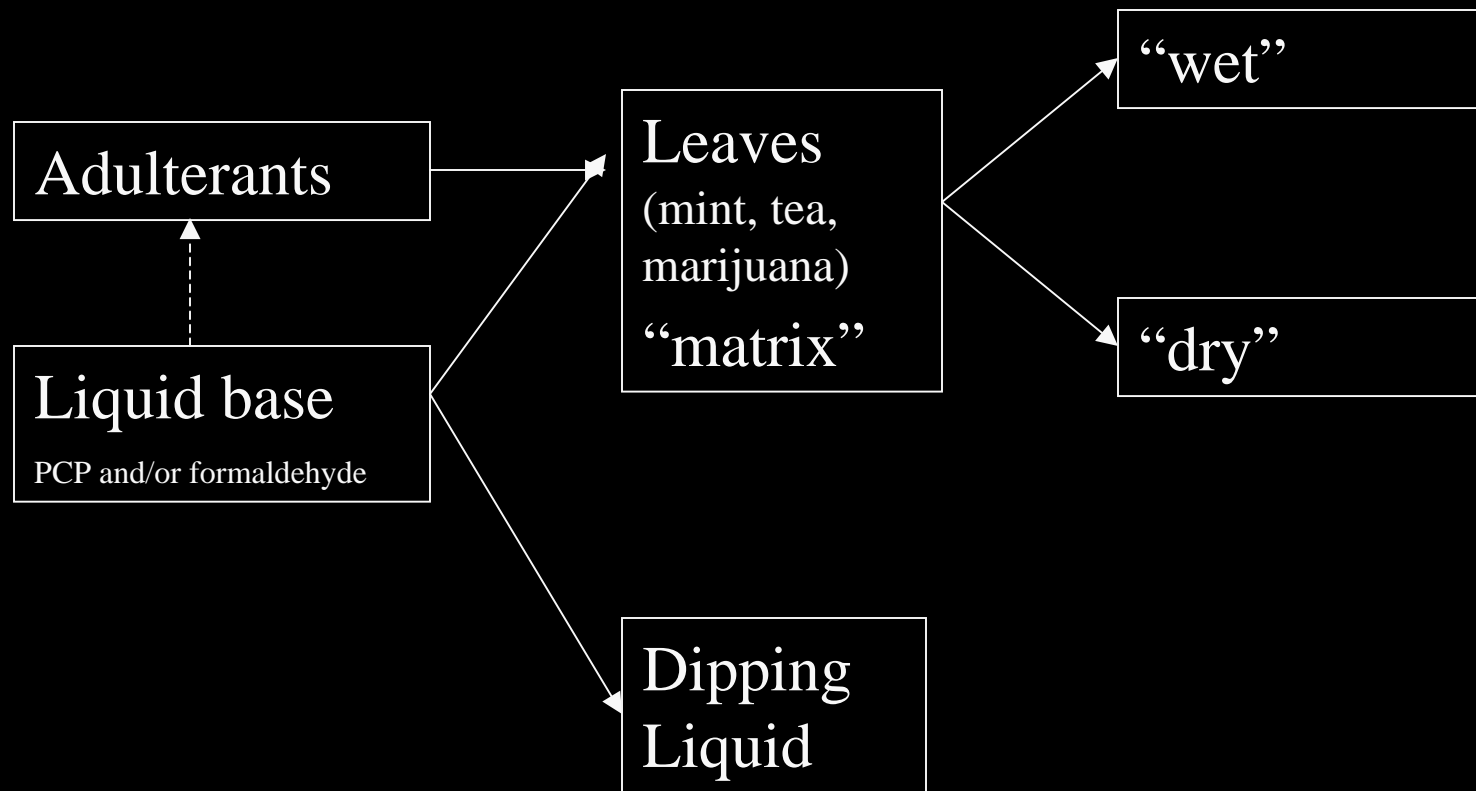
Narcotics Digest Weekly, October 8 arrest of Enfield student (from Hartford Courant).

Ethnographic Interviews: Terms

- 1994: Illy
- 1996: Illy, clickers, clickems
- 1999: dust, Illy, decal (dust with marijuana), wet
- 2000: Illy, wet, ill, tecal, suicide, leak leak, dust, let's go swimming, purple rain; (for PCP) angel dust, PCP
- 2002: Heemee, dust, wet, black, matrix ("dust" mixed with weed)

Number of terms is increasing. From 2000 on, there appears to be an effort to segment the market by appealing to different tastes with "brand" names; also to avoid attention from police.

Forms of "dust"



Production Processes (1999 – 2003)

- Imported Product:

Base product purchased in bottles from NY with PCP included; adulterated in Hartford

- Home manufacture:

Base product is formaldehyde or embalming fluid purchased or stolen. Mixed with leaves, bagged, frozen to produce a smokable product (wet form, "wet") ; soak marijuana in embalming fluid or formaldehyde, heat and bag (dry form, "dust"). Both can be used alone or with marijuana (matrix)

- Adulterants:

Include acetone, roach spray and nail polish, to enhance effect, change taste, reduce price

Ingredients: Formaldehyde/PCP?

Dust: no PCP, with adulterants

A recipe for “dust” contributed by a local producer who used this recipe several years ago is the following: “ 1 pound mint leaves, 12 oz. can of Black Flag roach spray, 10 oz. Embalming fluid, 600 cc animal tranquilizer” (ICR field notes, Jan. 2001). This producer then placed the mix in the freezer until it was “dry”, forming a powder (“dust”), or a sticky mix (“wet”), and sold it in vials or plastic packets. (ICR field notes, 2001)

Dust: with PCP

*Is it actually weed or mint leaves mixed with embalming fluid, or is it mixed with PCP? **R:** No it’s embalming fluid and PCP mixed together...yeah, that’s why they flips like that, that’s exactly what it is. I seen them cut it and everything - yeah that’s what it is I, umm, seen it. I told you I walked into somebody’s house, they had a plate full of it (black powdery dust) and everything - that’s what it is. (ICR fieldnotes, 2002-3)*

Cost, Purchase and Use

- Urban, sold in African American areas, and less often in clubs, afterhours and other parties. Small amounts sold in Latino neighborhoods, diffusing to urban campuses.
- Street price
 - 2000: \$15-20 per nickel bag (one time use); \$30 for dime bag (2-time use).
 - 2003: \$7-10 per nickel bag; \$15-20 dime bag
- Inhaled alone or in a joint, pipe, bong or blunt; or dipped
- Used while hanging out; on the street; before, during and after clubs and parties. Also used for preparing for a fight.
- Information about quality and source gained from trusted social networks
- Purchased from trusted/known dealers
- Assessed by smell; dust has a distinctive strong odor and can be readily detected

Smoking it, controlling it.....

I: If it's (dust) so dangerous, why is it so popular? R. Cause people like the high. (You feel) on top of the world, that you can do anything. It's for dead bodies...it has you burning with energy, inside it burns up and you get high... for a few hours. (ICR fieldnotes, 1999)

Then I'd just be like stuck, it's like everything's going to you real slow, and your looking at everything slow around you...I don't like that feeling, so like if I get stuck I would pop a pill. (21 yr old Hispanic female. ICR fieldnotes, 2002)

When you smoking dust and you real high you think (you) handle it, you just smoke regular weed and you calm down like...if you smoke weed first and then dust, you'll get real high. Where's if you smoke dust and than you smoke weed, it bring you down (ICR fieldnotes, 2001).

Reports of Behavior on Dust

Wet makes you crazier than illy...it's a mind control thing...you got to control it before it controls you, because once the tripping takes over you, you out to rob, steal, kill, whatever. You might find yourself running down the street butt naked...(ICR fieldnotes, 1999)

See dust is kinda like Coricidin...your body feels light and stuff like that. I stand up and like in a matter of, in like a second, tss. Faster than a second, know? I guess like an adrenaline rush or something? I thought I was gonna die, you know? My heart was just pounding. I seen things double, stuff like that. You even hallucinate. (Bl. Male, ICR fieldnotes, 2001)

But Dust that is some crazy shit like it makes you crazy. Like I have seen guys smoke dust and be like thinking they invincible. Like my friend's step father one day was smoking dust and he just flipped out and started punching "morenos" (Black males) that walked by. It was bugged cause when he's not smoking it or just chilling he's always hanging with "morenos." But once he smokes the dust he just hates them. Its crazy. (PR male, ICR, 2002)

Polydrug Sample: Demographics: Baseline: 1999-2001

- Participants: N= 401
- Mean/Median Age: 19
- Gender
 - Male 71%
 - Female 29%
- Ethnicity:
 - Puerto Rican 45%
 - African American 38%
 - Other Latino 16%
- Occupation
 - 57% Unemployed or laid off
 - 33% Working full or part time
- Education
 - 62% Less than high school graduation

Polydrug Sample: Use, Purchase and Sale of Drugs in Association with Clubs (N=206)

<u>Drug</u>	<u>%Use</u>	<u>%Buy</u>	<u>%Sell</u>
Alcohol	92	12	4
Marijuana	80	54	36
Bud	74	50	28
Dust	46	20	10
Ecstasy	46	45	13
Cocaine (sniffed)	11	10	7
Hallucinogens	11	20	9
Crack	1	8	19

Qualitative Trends: Use

- “Dust” is a social drug.
- The drug has been used for a decade with minimal “health effects.” But youth know little about its contents and long-term effects.
- These youth do not use the internet regularly for information about the drugs they ingest.
- Users mediate effects.
- These products contain PCP, but how much and how often, is not known...

Availability, Access and Consequences of Use

- Availability seems to be increasing; cost is decreasing.
- The market for dust is diversifying (more qualitative terms for the product).
- Dust expectancies are not necessarily reflective of actual experiences.
- New field reports suggest that the frequency of reported episodes of bizarre or violent behavior and addiction are increasing.
- The link between formaldehyde related products, PCP and violence is not clear, even in widely publicized events such as murders and deaths. Polydrug use, gang violence or other factors may play a greater role.

Prevention

- Not a “so-called club drug” though used in conjunction with clubs and parties; current club drug messages directed to ecstasy, ketamine, rohypnol and GHB do not apply. We need new prevention/risk reduction messages.
- There are no community-level education and prevention programs directed to PCP and formaldehyde-related products.
- An increase in negative or adverse effects (or stories about them) may reduce extent of use over time.

Recommendations for Action

Research and Monitoring

- Ethnographic monitoring to detect changes in patterns and consequences of use.
- More research on production distribution, meanings (including expectancies), use patterns and testing.
- Voluntary urine and product testing to determine contents including PCP and adulterants.

Recommendations for Action

Multi-level Education/Intervention Programs

- Public Prevention oriented educational campaigns focused on risks associated with formaldehyde products, PCP and adulterants.
- Promotion of “dust” and PCP drug safety in social sites and settings.
- Hotline for reporting PCP-like adverse reactions and requesting information.
- Addressing violence and its meanings in relation to masculinity and survival in prevention programs.
- Training ED personnel to recognize signs of PCP use, assess drug histories and test as appropriate.

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