

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

EMERGING DRUG TRENDS

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Marijuana Wax

WHAT IS IT

Dabs are concentrated doses of marijuana that are made by extracting THC using a solvent like butane. This results in a sticky like substance that are commonly referred to as was, budder, shatter, BHO (Butane Hash Oil).

The user then inhales the smoke to get high. This concentrated form of marijuana is heated quickly on a very hot surface, vaporized, and then inhaled through a special apparatus, sometimes called a “dab rig” or an “oil rig.” This process is called dabbing. Dabbing can create much more of a euphoric and intense high compared to the usual way people smoke it.

WHAT IS THE CONCERN

While the typical joint is 11 to 21 percent THC, a dab can be 80 percent or more. The high potency of the wax has proven to increase the risk of an accidental overdose. Dabbing can lead to rapid heartbeat, blackouts, psychosis, paranoia and hallucinations, as well as to accidents and falls. Some are also concerned about the potential for abuse posed by a drug that delivers such a rapid, potent high.

In addition to the concerns of using the drug, the method of making it is very dangerous. One method involves forcing butane through a marijuana packed pipe to extract the concentrated drug from the plant material. Sometimes this works and sometimes this results in an explosion!

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO

There is a growing acceptance of the use of marijuana. This form of marijuana is one to be concerned about.

Parents can do three things: **Start Talking**—do some research on the products and have a chat; **Set Up a Plan**—if your child is using, work together to set up a plan of action to quit; and **Set a Good Example**—if you are smoking or vaping, maybe it’s time to quit as well.



