

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

Emerging Drug Threats

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Sizzurp

This mixture can trace its origin back to the 1960's and 1970's with the abuse of liquid codeine. It really became popular in the 1990's when the hip hop community in the southern United States embraced its use and popularized it through songs and media.

What is Sizzurp

Sizzurp is a slang term for a drink that contains a prescription strength cough syrup. The drink actually can trace its roots back to the 1960's but has become increasingly popular in the past few years due to it being glamorized on the internet and in several songs. Other names that have been used include: *Purple Drank*, *Drank*, *Purple Stuff*, *Texas Tea*, *Lean*, and *Sippin' Syrup*.

How is it used

Sizzurp typically is made with a prescription strength cough syrup containing codeine and promethazine. The cough syrup is then mixed with a clear or light colored soda (Sprite, Mt. Dew) and oftentimes has a hard candy (Jolly Rancher) added for flavor. Users will then drink this concoction typically out of a Styrofoam cup.

Signs of use

Some of the signs of use can include: slurred speech; lethargy; blurred vision; euphoria; disassociation from one's body; and impaired motor skills. The reason for nickname *Lean* is that it causes some people to want to lean on objects for support after taking it.

What are the dangers

This drink is quite addictive due to the codeine in the cough medicine and the sweetness encourages people to drink large amounts. Users will end up drinking this excessively, not realizing how much they have consumed. The amount of cough syrup used can exceed the recommended dose by 25 times!

The appeal to users is the euphoric effects that it produces. In addition to these, users have experienced motor skill impairment, drowsiness, and lethargy. Promethazine is a depressant on the central nervous system and also contains a sedative while codeine is a respiratory depressant that when taken in large amounts can stop breathing. Many times this drink is taken at parties where alcohol and other drugs are involved which invariably exacerbates these problems.



