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(This is the third in a series of articles from the Detroit Police Department on steps citizens can take to better protect themselves, their families and their property.)

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One of the best ways parents can steer their children clear of trouble is to look for the unusual. That may be the rub for parents of today's teen-agers. What may appear to the parents to be bizarre, unorthodox or outlandish may be what's "in" with the psychedelic set.

But, the Detroit Police Department warns, what may be in with the younger crowd may be illegal, ill-advised ... and deadly. Through the first four months of this year, 895 of the Now Generation under the age of 21 have been arrested for drug violations in Detroit.

Inspector Joseph Brown advises that there are definite symptoms a drug user will display which will reflect his use of marihuana, hallucinogens, depressants, stimulants or hard narcotics.

Brown said, "Although not classified as being physically addictive, marihuana certainly is psychologically addictive."

Smoking Marihuana produces a form of intoxication which can result in unpredictable behavior, sometimes of a violent nature. Slang terms applied to it are: tea, grass, pot and Mary Jane. Cigarets rolled from marihuana are called sticks, reefers or joints.

(more)



The marihuana user may exhibit hilarity, often without apparent motivation; carelessness; euphoria; distortion of sensation, perception and emotional response; impairment of judgment and memory; irritability. Prolonged use may lower the sensory threshold, and induce hallucinations and delusions which may lead to anti-social behavior, aggressiveness and sleep disturbances.

According to a recent study of drug dependence, the use of marihuana promotes the association with groups involved with more dangerous drugs. The step from marihuana to hard narcotics would come as a result of the association with such people, rather than as an inherent effect of smoking marihuana.

Of the 895 arrests made this year in Detroit of those under 21 years of age, 234 were for the use of marihuana.

The hallucinogens have been promoted as the means of expanding consciousness, according to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. Most prominent in this group of drugs is Lysergic Acid Diethylamide, most commonly known as LSD, acid, Big D, cubes or trips.

The user experiences distortion and intensification of sensory perception, with lessened ability to discriminate between fact and fantasy.

The Food and Drug Administration states that LSD users "often speak of seeing sounds, hearing colors, etc. There is a dilation of the pupils, and dark glasses are often worn, even at night. The user may be restless with an inability to sleep until the drug wears off.

"He may, however, exhibit no noticeable signs of drug intoxication. The mental effects are quite unpredictable, but may include illusions, panic, psychotic or anti-social behavior, and sometimes impulses toward violence and self-destruction."



Other hallucinogens are Psilocybin, DMT and STP (not the oil product).

Depressants such as barbituates depress the central nervous system, relieving tensions and producing sleep. They sometimes are taken by the drug abuser in combination with alcohol---a practice which has caused death.

The abuser will exhibit the symptoms of drunkenness. The depressant will make him slower to react, less tense, more socialable. Increased doses will induce sluggishness, depression, a loss of coordination, and emotional instability.

Overdoses are common because the user often forgets how much he already has taken. This is often the cause of accidental deaths.

Depressants commonly used are referred to as Barbs, redbirds, yellow jackets, blue heavens, etc.

Stimulants act directly on the central nervous system, according to the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to produce "a feeling of excitation which manifests itself in an appetite loss, increased activity with a feeling of energy, and the ability to go without sleep for prolonged periods. Highway accidents may be the result of drivers using these drugs. The body develops a tolerance to these drugs, and abusers increase their dosage, exaggerating the effects."

The effects to look for are nervousness, tremor of hands, dilated pupils, dryness of the mouth and heavy perspiration. He may be very talkative and have hallucinations. In extreme cases of amphetamine abuse the abuser may develop a condition resembling paranoid schizophrenia.

Stimulants are known by such names as speed, bennies, pep pills, dexies, A's, drivers, crossroads or footballs.



The ultimate in drug abuse is the addiction to hard narcotics; heroin, known as H, horse, white stuff; cocaine, known as C, coke, snow; morphine, known as M, Miss Emma and white stuff.

Through narcotics the abuser is able to cut off reality and all physical and psychological pain. He also may experience a feeling of exhilaration.

But as the drug abuser uses narcotics more regularly, his system builds a tolerance. To gain the same exhilaration and escape the addict must take larger and larger doses.

"Continued use of narcotics can lead only to the ultimate deterioration of the body," said Inspector Brown. "This is one of the things the narcotics abuser can look forward to. He must get more drugs, and he knows what will happen if he doesn't get the drugs. The withdrawal symptoms are heavy perspiration, vomiting, sleeplessness, muscle twitching, nausea and diarrhea. The longer he goes without feeding his habit the more intense the pain gets."

And it is an expensive habit to feed, said Brown. He states there are 1,700 addicts in Michigan known to police. It is estimated there may be another 600 addicts who have had no police contacts. To figure the cost of feeding those habits, Brown multiplied the 2,300 addicts by 365 days per year by the average daily narcotics habit: \$25.

The total is what it costs the addicts to support their habits: \$20,987,500. And this does not include any money spent on marihuana or hallucinogens.

To get that money, many drug abusers resort to crime. It is estimated that 50 percent of all crime in metropolitan areas of the nation are related to drug abuse, either an addict trying to get money, or someone acting under the influence of drugs. In addition, Brown said, 25 percent of crime in all areas of the country is related to narcotics abuse.



He points out that the road to drug addiction is a long and lonely one, although most drug abusers get started by their friends---on a dare or through an act of "trying to belong."

The road back---if there is to be one---is even longer and harder, said Brown.

So, he advises parents, "what's in with many teen-age groups, what is accepted by them, may be wrong, illegal and deadly."

Parents whose suspicions have been aroused by the actions of their children or their friends can call the Narcotics Bureau for assistance at 224-4320.

If parents find substances around the house which they suspect to be narcotics, they can take the specimens to any police precinct station in Detroit. They will be assigned an identification number. Those turning in a sample will not have to reveal their names or address.

After three days they can call the Narcotics Bureau between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 224-4320, give the identification number, and they will be told whether the sample is narcotic or not. This is how the Analysis Anonymous program works.

Brown said, "I am always glad to be able to tell parents a sample is negative. But if the sample is positive the parents will be able to act on this information and help save their child from a most desperate and desolate future."