

Pamphlet Information for Abused Prescription Drugs with focus on Purple Drank

Abused Prescription Drugs:

Medications that have mind-altering properties are sometimes abused and taken in ways or amounts not intended by a doctor, or taken by someone other than who they were prescribed for. The commonly abused classes of prescription drugs include opioids (for pain), central nervous system depressants (for anxiety and sleep disorders) and stimulants (for ADHD). Most people begin using prescription drugs voluntarily but changes in the brain caused by repeated use lead to addiction and intense withdrawal symptoms.

Where to Find More Information

- <http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/prescription-drugs>
- <http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/abuse-of-prescription-drugs>



Purple Drank is also known as “Sizzurp” or “Lean”. It is a drink made with prescription-strength cough syrup (typically Promethazine with Codeine), sprite, and a jolly rancher. The dangers associated with Purple Drank come from the dose used, which sometimes is more than 25x the recommended dose. Codeine is an opioid that increases activity at the mu-opioid receptor. Promethazine works as a H1 receptor antagonist (commonly known as an anti-histamine).

Short term effects typically begin 10 minutes after consumption and last 2-3 hours. These effects include swooning euphoria, drowsiness, slurred speech, and loss of balance. Codeine decreases breathing rate while Promethazine decreases central nervous system activity. When combined, these effects can cause the user to stop breathing and die. Codeine has a high likelihood of dependence and addiction when abused. Long-term effects of opioid abuse include decreased sexual activity, memory loss, and lack of emotion. There are multiple treatment options for opioid withdrawal and addiction.

Where to Find More Information

- <http://www.codeine.com/addiction.html>
- <http://www.narconon.org/drug-abuse/purple-drank-effects.html>
- For Treatment Information
 - http://www.addictionsearch.com/treatment_articles/article/codeine-addiction-effects-and-treatment_46.html