

Flakka (alpha-PVP)



- Alpha-PVP is popularly known as Flakka.
- Flakka is a dangerous synthetic drug.
- Flakka is chemically similar to the synthetic drug called bath salts.
- Vaporizing Flakka may make it particularly easy to overdose.
- Flakka has been linked to deaths by suicide as well as heart attack.

Use of a dangerous synthetic cathinone drug called alpha-pyrrolidinopentiophenone (alpha-PVP), popularly known as "Flakka," is surging in Florida and is also being reported in other parts of the country, according to news reports.

Alpha-PVP is chemically similar to other synthetic cathinone drugs popularly called "bath salts," and takes the form of a white or pink, foul-smelling crystal that can be:

- eaten
- snorted
- injected
- vaporized in an e-cigarette or similar device

Vaporizing, which sends the drug very quickly into the bloodstream, may make it particularly easy to overdose. Like other drugs of this type, alpha-PVP can cause a condition called "excited delirium" that involves:

- hyperstimulation
- paranoia
- hallucinations that can lead to violent aggression and self-injury

The drug has been linked to deaths by suicide as well as heart attack. It can also dangerously raise body temperature and lead to kidney damage or kidney failure.

National Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov
1.800.662.HELP (4357)

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.drugabuse.gov



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