

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

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Pulse Check Report Highlights Increasing Use of Club Drugs

Since 1992 the Office of National Drug Control Policy has conducted periodic interviews with law enforcement officials, epidemiologists, ethnographers, and treatment providers from selected sites across the nation. While these interviews typically focus on cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine, concern about the increasing use of club drugs prompted the inclusion of specific questions about these drugs in the most recent round of interviews. According to the Mid-Year 2000 *Pulse Check* report, “law enforcement, epidemiologic, and ethnographic sources provided most of the information, whereas **treatment sources had little first-hand knowledge of club drug use, suggesting that club drug users have not yet entered the treatment system in large numbers**” (p. 56). Other findings from the report include:

- **Ecstasy** was reported as the most available club drug; more than 90% of the respondents reported it as somewhat or widely available in their area. In addition, more than 80% report that ecstasy availability increased between 1999 and 2000. Ecstasy users continue to be predominantly white adolescents and young adults. The most common type of ecstasy available is the tablet, followed by powder and liquid forms. Street-level prices of ecstasy range from \$10 to \$45 per pill, with the highest prices found in the Midwest and the lowest in the South.
- Nearly one-half of *Pulse Check* sources reported that **GHB** was somewhat or widely available in their area, and all of these sources were from cities in the western or southern United States—Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, and Seattle. Users are reported to be white, middle-class males, and young adult body builders. Sources report increasing use of the internet to sell GHB.
- **Rohypnol** was reported to be widely available by respondents only in Denver, El Paso, and Los Angeles. In addition to white youths from urban and suburban areas, Hispanic youths are also reported to use this drug.
- **Ketamine** availability increased or remained the same across the nation. This drug, also known as “K” or “special K” in most cities, is used primarily by white, middle-class youths. Ketamine is often associated with veterinary break-ins and pharmacy diversions.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check, Trends in Drug Abuse, Mid-Year 2000*, March 2001. Available online at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/pulsechk/midyear2000/midyear2000.pdf.