

Winter 1998 Pulse Check Highlights Club Drug Use

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) biannually conducts interviews with drug ethnographers and epidemiologists, law enforcement officers, and substance abuse treatment providers to obtain current information about drug abuse trends. The most recent *Pulse Check* report includes a special analysis of the use of various illicit drugs in nightclub and rave settings. According to the report, the users are typically young, white, and middle- to upper-class. The drugs used in clubs and at raves “often span beyond the most common drugs (heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol), to so-called ‘designer drugs,’ herbal mixtures, and a variety of hallucinogens” (p. 44) (see table below). Copies of the *Pulse Check* report are available online at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov.

Club Drugs Reported in Winter 1998 *Pulse Check* Report

Drug Name/Type	Street Name	Description	Sites Reporting Use*
MDMA (synthetic psychoactive)	Ecstasy, E, X, XTC, Adam	--Typically in pill form --Mildly hallucinogenic and amphetamine-like effects	Chicago, Honolulu, Miami, New York, St. Petersburg, San Diego, Seattle,
LSD (hallucinogen)	Acid	--Tablet, capsule, liquid, or blotter form --Visual hallucinations and delusions, distorted sense of time and self	Austin, Chicago, Honolulu, Minneapolis, St. Petersburg, Seattle
Ketamine (dissociative anesthetic)	Special K, K	--Powder or liquid form --Effects similar to PCP and LSD	Chicago, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Newark, Seattle
GHB (sedative)	Georgia Home Boy, Grievous Bodily Harm, Liquid Ecstasy, Scoop	--Liquid form --Increases energy, disinhibition, relaxed muscles	Austin, Chicago, Honolulu, Miami, Newark, Seattle
Rohypnol (benzodiazepine)	Roofies	--Tablet or liquid form --Relaxes muscles, other sedative/hypnotic effects	Austin, Honolulu, Miami, Minneapolis, San Diego

*Only *Pulse Check* sites with ethnographic reporters (Austin, Bridgeport, Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York City, Newark, St. Petersburg, San Antonio, San Francisco, and Seattle) are included.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), “Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse January-June 1998,” Winter 1998.