

DEWS ALERT

Ketamine

Drug Scan (the DEWS interview project) contacts in Anne Arundel, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and Queen Anne's counties report the presence of a small but stable ketamine market. Ketamine users are reported to be primarily white youth from middle- to upper-socioeconomic backgrounds.

What is Ketamine? Ketamine is a rapid-acting dissociative anesthetic. It was the most widely used battlefield anesthetic in Vietnam and is now used most often in veterinary procedures. Ketamine's popularity in the illicit marketplace has risen dramatically over the past few years. Eighteen states have classified this drug as a controlled substance (most often schedule III). Maryland has not classified ketamine as a controlled substance.

How is Ketamine used? Ketamine is sold in liquid, powder, or capsule form and can be injected or taken orally or nasally. According to Drug Scan contacts, ketamine is usually taken in social environments such as parties, clubs, or raves.

How is Ketamine obtained? Burglaries of veterinary offices have been reported throughout the country. In Maryland, Anne Arundel and Frederick counties reported a number of ketamine-related burglaries of veterinary offices. In recent months, Howard County undercover agents have been approached by individuals selling ketamine. A recent drug bust in Baltimore County netted Ketamine and a number of designer drugs.

What are the effects of Ketamine use? A dose of 1.0 to 2.0 mg per kilogram of body weight produces an intense experience lasting about one hour. The effects include a sense of floating and dissociation, stimulation, and hallucinations. Larger doses of ketamine may produce what users refer to as a "K-hole." A K-hole is generally reached when the user is on the brink of being anesthetized and is likened to an out-of-body or near-death experience. The adverse effects of ketamine use are increased blood pressure and arrhythmia. High doses of ketamine may result in severe respiratory depression, muscle twitches, dizziness, slurred speech, nausea, and vomiting.

What are the street names for Ketamine? Cat Valium, Green, Honey Oil, K, Keller, Kelly's Day, Ket, KitKat, Purple, Special K, Special la Coke, Super Acid, Super C, Vit K, and Vitamin K.

SOURCES: A complete list of sources is available on the DEWS website (www.cesar.umd.edu/DEWS.html).

Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Seeking a Network Administrator for a 50-user LAN

A Novell Administrator certificate with 2 years related experience is preferred. Interested parties should send a cover letter, resume, and three references by June 15, 1999 to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, ATTN: Terris King, 300 E. Joppa Rd., Ste. 1105, Baltimore, MD 21030.