

THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW ECSTASY AND DUST MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE GREATER HARTFORD AREA AND HOW IT IMPACTED THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 TO 30.

THESE CHARACTERS ARE COMPOSITES OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED FROM 1997 TO 2005 BY ICR STAFF WORKING ON OUR PROJECTS. NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND IN NO WAY DO THESE CHARACTERS REPRESENT ANY SINGLE PERSON.



Dalia

Hi, I'm Dalia. I'm 28 years old, and a proud Latina from Hartford. I was never big on following rules when I was younger – I dropped out of school and have done lots of Ecstasy – but I got it together now, although not without some consequences. Once, I took some E, had a threesome and got a disease from Lex. I don't do drugs anymore.



J.R.

Hey, what's up? The name's Junior. I'm 28 and grew up in Charter Oak. When the projects closed, the fam moved to Manchester but I stayed on Park Street. I used to party all the time, doing all sorts of drugs, but I really messed things up when I got caught sellin' on the side, and now that I'm out of jail, I'm jobless and can't seem to make ends meet.



Karla

Hello, my name is Karla and I am a 28-year old West Enders who used to work at this hole-in-the-wall diner, tryin' to save up some cash for my education and to support my little girl. When money got tight, this kid Keith who used to always be up in my restaurant turned me on to selling Ecstasy. The money was good, but my life got out of control, and I ended up getting out for my daughter.



Keisha

Hello, my name is Keisha. I'm 30 and I live in Bloomfield. I went to Weaver High School, and continued on to Goodwin College where I finished as an LPN. I'm married with wonderful children and a nice home, all of which were blessings for staying true to myself and not falling into the whole "street life".



Keith

Yo, I'm Keith. I grew up in Wethersfield and eventually graduated from Central Connecticut State University, but that was the boring side of my life. Back in the mid 90s I fell hard into Ecstasy. It came up fast and I came up with it, going from casual user, to fronting runs to New York, to supplying my own peoples with Ecstasy. Things were good for a while, but once my dealers started getting arrested and the rave scene started dying, I knew it was time to get out.



Lex

What's good? I'm 32 years old and go by the name Lex. I ain't never finish high school cause I was in and out of jail so much, but I'm thinkin' about going back and getting a GED or something, maybe even computers if they make a special desk for my wheelchair. Right now, I go around talking to kids about the dangers of messin' with dust, weed – hell any kind of drug! I've done been through it all, I've done and I've seen it all.