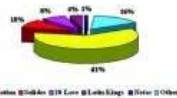


Ecstasy & Dust

Between 1994 and 1997, a national effort to intercept gangs and drug dealing across the country resulted in the imprisonment of many gang members in Connecticut. This opened up opportunities for small, independent groups or crews to get involved in drug selling, and they used the same pre-established gang connections to bring PCP, also known as Dust, into Hartford. At the same time, raves and Ecstasy use were big news in New York City and Boston. These raves were frequented by suburban Connecticut youth, and some brought back Ecstasy to share with their friends in the Hartford area. At the same time they established connections to facilitate the distribution of Dust back to the suburbs.

Gang Affiliation 1994-1997



Ecstasy...

...methylendioxyamphetamine, or MDMA for short, is Ecstasy in its pure form. However, the pills available on the streets may contain other compounds like caffeine, methamphetamine (speed), ephedrine, heroin, PCP, ketamine, DXM, and many other substances.

...is also known on the streets as candy, adam, 'E,' 'X,' and rolo. People sometimes label ecstasy according to the logo on the pill, such as Playboy, Calvin Klein, Batman, and 007, but pills with the same logo may not necessarily have the same ingredients.

...is typically ingested in whole pill form, though it can also be crushed and snorted; crushed, wrapped in tissue and swallowed (parachuting); or dissolved into a liquid. Other less common methods of use are by IV injection, smoking and anal suppository.

"SO I CAME TO THE POINT THAT I COULDN'T EVEN TRUST MY OWN PEOPLE, YOU KNOW I COULDN'T TRUST THEM AT ALL BECAUSE UH, A COUPLE OF THEM WAS BEING JEALOUS OR YOU KNOW, THEY START TALKING AMONGST THEMSELVES, SO IT DON'T MATTER, YOU KNOW, BEING IN A GANG OUT THERE."

FROM MOVIN' AROUND SO MUCH WITH MY MOM I GOT ALL THESE PEEPS THAT I SELL WEED TO EASY. NOW THIS KID KEITH FROM MY JOB PUT ME ON TO E. I TRIED IT AND IT FELT GOOD, MY BOYS GOT TO TRY IT.



I BEEN GANG-BANGING SINCE I WAS A KID. SOME OF THE OG'S TURNED ME ON TO E. AFTER SELLING FOR A WHILE, AND I SEEN HOW MUCH PEOPLE LIKED IT, I DECIDED TO TRY IT FOR MYSELF.

"YEAH, WE WERE SMOKING WEED, IN THE PROCESS ...THEY WERE TELLING ME ABOUT IT (DUST). 'I GOT SOME HEEMEE, I GOT SOME HEEMEE.' I SAID, 'WHAT'S THAT?' HE SAID, 'THAT'S DUST NIGGA, THAT'S DUST.' I SAID, 'YEAH!?!' HE SAID, 'YOU WANNA TRY SOME?' I SAID, 'HELL YEAH!' SO HE ROLLED UP A BLUNT OF IT, IT LOOKED LIKE...NOTHING! IT LOOKED LIKE, YOU JUST TAKE A LITTLE BIT OF THE POWDER AND PUTS IT IN."



Dust...

...is a liquid or powder substance that contains either formaldehyde, the chemical phencyclidine (PCP), or both. It can also be mixed with acetone, ketamine, roach spray and other household solvents to achieve a "better high" when used.

...is also known as ily, heemee, tical, and leek leek. There are not different names for different batches of dust, but 'wet' is used almost exclusively for when the substance is in its liquid form mixed with a smokeable base (mint leaves or parsley) and is still moist, and 'matrix' is used for the mixing of dust and marijuana.

...is always smoked. The substance is typically applied to a cigarette or a pre-rolled blunt through dipping, or added to some other smokeable base like marijuana and subsequently rolled and smoked. It can also be smoked in a pipe or bong (not typical).