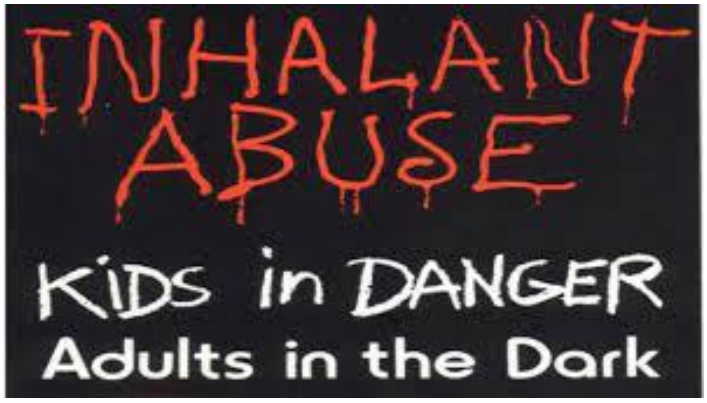


DRUG USE IN THE AREA

The Parish and surrounding villages have seen an increase in inhalant drug use. There have been large amounts of nitrous oxide canisters with crackers and balloons, deodorant cans, bags with residue and solvent soaked rags.

Listed below are a few of the most common side effects of nitrous oxide include:

- dizziness, **nausea**, or **vomiting**.
- fatigue.
- **headache**.
- excessive **sweating**.
- **shivering**.

If someone does experience an **overdose**, they may have any of the following symptoms:

- tightness in the chest
- eyes, throat, and nose irritation
- difficulty breathing -hallucinations or psychosis
- choking
- blue tint to the toes, lips, or fingers
- increased blood pressure and risk of heart attack or stroke
- seizures
- increased heart rate

If an individual has too much nitrous oxide at once with limited or no oxygen, they may also develop brain damage.

If someone suspects they have overdosed on nitrous oxide, they should seek immediate medical attention. If left untreated, a person could go into a coma or die.

When people use nitrous oxide as a recreational drug, the gas belongs in the inhalant category. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, younger teens or preteens are more likely to use inhalants than older teens.

Since a high only lasts for a few seconds, a user will often repeatedly take a hit of the gas over several minutes or hours, which can lead to an accidental overdose.

Find more infor: https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/325910#overdose

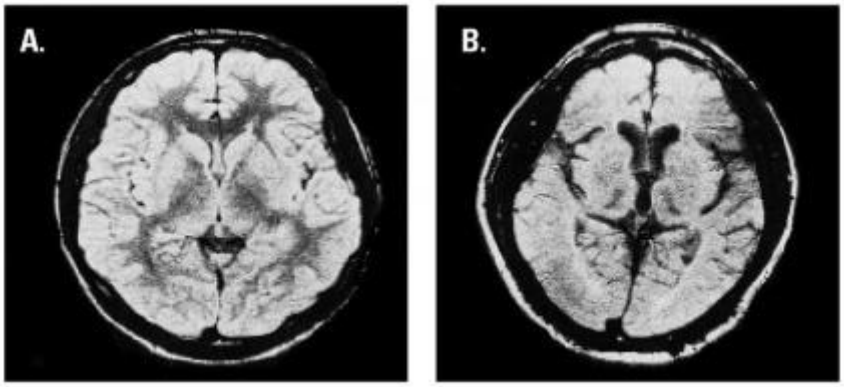
INHALANT ABUSE

Early identification and intervention are the best ways to stop inhalant abuse before it causes serious health consequences. Parents, educators, family physicians, and other health care practitioners should be alert to the following signs:

- Chemical odours on breath or clothing
- Paint or other stains on face, hands, or clothes
- Hidden empty deodorant cans, spray paint or solvent containers, and chemical-soaked rags or clothing
- Drunk or disoriented appearance
- Slurred speech
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Inattentiveness, lack of coordination, irritability, and depression

What are the other medical consequences of inhalant abuse?

Image



Compared with the brain of an individual with no history of inhalant abuse (A), that of a chronic toluene abuser (B) is smaller and fills less of the space inside the skull (the white outer circle in each image). Courtesy of Neil Rosenberg, M.D., NIDA Research Report (NIH 05-3818).

Inhalant abusers risk an array of other devastating medical consequences. The highly concentrated chemicals in solvents or aerosol sprays can induce irregular and rapid heart rhythms and lead to fatal heart failure within minutes of a session of prolonged sniffing. This syndrome, known as "sudden sniffing death," can result from a single session of inhalant use by an otherwise healthy young person. Sudden sniffing death is associated particularly with the abuse of butane, propane, and chemicals in aerosols. Inhalant abuse also can cause death by—

- **asphyxiation** — from repeated inhalations that lead to high concentrations of inhaled fumes, which displace available oxygen in the lungs;
- **suffocation** — from blocking air from entering the lungs when inhaling fumes from a plastic bag placed over the head;
- **convulsions or seizures** — from abnormal electrical discharges in the brain;
- **coma** — from the brain shutting down all but the most vital functions;

- **choking** — from inhalation of vomit after inhalant use; or
- **fatal injury** — from accidents, including motor vehicle fatalities, suffered while intoxicated.

Animal research raises the possibility that there may also be a link between abuse of nitrites and the development and progression of infectious diseases and tumors. The research indicates that inhaling nitrites depletes many cells in the immune system and impairs mechanisms that fight infectious diseases. A study found that even a relatively small number of exposures to butyl nitrite can produce dramatic increases in tumor incidence and growth rate in animals.

more information can be found:

https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/inhalants/what-are-inhalants