STAY INFORMED STAY ALIVE

POLYSUBSTANCE USE
EDUCATION

Vol. 1

POLYSUBSTANCE USE IS WHEN TWO OR MORE SUBSTANCES ARE USED TOGETHER OR WITHIN A SHORT TIME PERIOD, EITHER INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY.

POLYSUBSTANCE USE INVOLVING ALCOHOL INCLUDES DRINKING AND USING OTHER SUBSTANCES SUCH AS MARIJUANA, OPIOIDS, HEROIN, OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS NOT AS PRESCRIBED.

INTENTIONAL POLYSUBSTANCE USE OCCURS WHEN A PERSON TAKES A DRUG TO INCREASE OR DECREASE THE EFFECTS OF A DIFFERENT DRUG OR WANTS TO EXPERIENCE THE EFFECTS OF THE COMBINATION.

UNINTENTIONAL POLYSUBSTANCE USE OCCURS WHEN A PERSON TAKES DRUGS THAT HAVE BEEN MIXED OR CUT WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES, LIKE FENTANYL, WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR NOT, MIXING DRUGS IS NEVER SAFE BECAUSE THE EFFECTS FROM COMBINING DRUGS ARE OFTEN STRONGER, MORE UNPREDICTABLE, AND EVEN DEADLY.

THE DANGERS OF POLYSUBSTANCE USE ALSO APPLY TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. ALWAYS LET YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST KNOW WHAT DRUGS YOU ARE TAKING TO PREVENT ANY **ADVERSE** REACTIONS WITH NEWLY PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS. IN 2020, THERE WERE

801

DEATHS DUE TO DRUG OVERDOSE IN NEW MEXICO. TO PUT THAT IN CONTEXT, ONE NEW MEXICAN DIED FROM DRUG OVERDOSE ABOUT EVERY

11 HOURS.

MIXING STIMULANTS

(EX. ECSTASY (MDMA), COCAINE, METHAMPHETAMINES, AMPHETAMINES A.K.A. SPEED)

STIMULANTS (ALSO KNOWN AS UPPERS) CAN INCREASE YOUR HEART RATE AND **BLOOD PRESSURE TO** DANGEROUS LEVELS AND INCREASE YOUR RISK OF SEVERAL SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. COMBINING STIMULANTS MAY EVEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INCREASE YOUR RISK OF:

- BRAIN INJURY
- LIVER DAMAGE
- HEART ATTACK
- STROKE

SIGNS OF USE/OVERDOSE THAT MAY OCCUR WHEN MIXING STIMULANTS:

FAST/TROUBLED BREATHING

INCREASED BODY TEMPERATURE

NAUSEA OR VOMITING

CHEST PAIN

SEIZURES OR TREMORS

MIXING DEPRESSANTS

(EX. OPIOIDS (HEROIN, MORPHINE, OXYCODONE, HYDROCODONE, FENTANYL), BENZODIAZEPINES)

DEPRESSANTS (A.K.A.
DOWNERS) CAN SLOW
DOWN YOUR BREATHING
AND INCREASE YOUR RISK
OF SEVERAL ADVERSE
HEALTH OUTCOMES.
COMBINING DEPRESSANTS
CAN ALSO DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY INCREASE
YOUR RISK OF:

-DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN AND OTHER ORGANS -OVERDOSE

-DEATH



-SLOW BREATHING

-WEAK PULSE

-ALTERED MENTAL STATUS OR CONFUSION

-PASSING OUT

MIXING STIMULANTS AND DEPRESSANTS DOES NOT BALANCE OR CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT. MIXING DRUGS IS UNPREDICTABLE, OFTEN CHANGING OR COVERING THE EFFECTS OF ONE OR BOTH DRUGS. THIS MAY LEAD YOU TO THINK THE DRUGS ARE NOT AFFECTING YOU. MAKING IT EASIER TO OVERDOSE.

DRINKING ALCOHOL WHILE USING OTHER DRUGS ISN'T SAFE. ALCOHOL IS A DEPRESSANT WITH SIMILAR EFFECTS TO OTHER DOWNERS. MIXING ALCOHOL WITH OTHER DRUGS CAN **INCREASE YOUR RISK OF OVERDOSE** AND SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN. HEART, AND OTHER ORGANS.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK OVERDOSING SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING

IT MAY BE HARD TO TELL WHETHER A PERSON IS HIGH OR EXPERIENCING AN OVERDOSE. IF YOU AREN'T SURE, TREAT IT LIKE AN OVERDOSE-YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE.

- 1. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.
- 2. ADMINISTER NALOXONE, IF AVAILABLE.
- 3. TRY TO KEEP THE PERSON AWAKE AND BREATHING.
- 4. LAY THE PERSON ON THEIR SIDE (RECOVERY POSITION) TO PREVENT CHOKING.
- 5. STAY WITH THE PERSON UNTIL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ARRIVES.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE CAN SAVE A LIFE HERE OOK SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- SMALL, CONSTRICTED "PINPOINT PUPILS"

-FALLING ASLEEP OR LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

-SLOW, WEAK, SHALLOW, OR NO BREATHING

-CHOKING OR GURGLING SOUNDS

-LIMP BODY

-COLD AND/OR CLAMMY SKIN

-PALE, BLUE DISCOLORED SKIN (ESPECIALLY IN LIPS AND NAILS)

NEW MEXICO GOOD SAMARITAN LAW:

YOU (AND THE PERSON EXPERIENCING AN OVERDOSE) ARE LEGALLY PROTECTED. BARRING A WARRANT. PROBATION. OR PAROLE. WHEN YOU **CALL 911 SEEKING HELP** FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER EXPERIENCING AN OVERDOSE.

NARCAN/NALOXONE IS A LIFE-SAVING MEDICATION THAT CAN REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE AND SAVE LIVES. IT IS AVAILABLE IN NEW MEXICO FOR FREE* AND CAN BE PURCHASED FROM A PHARMACY WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION.

NEW MEXICO HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM SERVICES:*

- SYRINGE SERVICES (INCLUDING SYRINGE EXCHANGE) & RELATED HARM REDUCTION SERVICES.
- OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING.
- NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION.
- AURICULAR DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT.
- HOME DELIVERY SYRINGE SERVICES AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING (IN SOME AREAS).
- COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE REFERRALS.
- BUPRENORPHINE OPIATE
 SUBSTITUTION THERAPY
 REFERRALS (IN SOME AREAS).

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*TO FIND YOUR LOCAL HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM & TO GET FREE NARCAN/NALOXONE VISIT:



https://www.doseofreality.com/



Scan With Your Phone