



ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS
Ventura County Health Care Agency

trend report

BATH SALTS



WHAT ARE THEY?

- **Potent and addictive synthetic drugs with effects similar to methamphetamines and ecstasy**
- Come in powder, pill and liquid forms that are inhaled, swallowed, smoked or injected
- Falsely labeled as bath salts, plant food, lip balm, lady bug attractant and glass cleaner
- Brightly packaged to appeal to youth and young adults
- Costs range from \$25 – \$50+ per package
- Sold with disclaimers “not for human consumption” or “not for minors”
- Illegally sold as novelty items, despite being banned at the local, state and federal levels

Given appealing names like:

WHITE LIGHTNING

VANILLA SKY

SCOOBY SNAX

TRANQUILITY



PREVALENCE

- **Increasingly sold online and in Ventura County head shops, gas stations, tobacco shops, tattoo parlors and convenience stores**
- Initially used by those who wanted to ‘beat’ simple drug tests; now finding a wider audience, particularly among youth who may mistakenly believe they are legal and/or safe
- Increasing number of adverse events being reported countywide with sudden seizure-like symptoms, bizarre behavior, and impaired driving crashes

DANGERS

- **Highly addictive**
- Intoxicated abusers experience acute paranoia, “fight or flight” reactions, vivid hallucinations, suicidal/homicidal thoughts and short-term psychosis
- Drug makers constantly tweak molecular structure of compounds to skirt existing regulations
- Active compounds and concentrations often vary from package to package, leading to accidental overdoses
- Cause medical complications including cardiac arrhythmias, kidney failure, spikes in body and brain temperature, seizures and muscle breakdown
- Long-term effects unknown



For more resources on synthetic and other drugs, visit venturacountylimits.org/otherdrugs