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# CHEMICAL · DRUG · PESTICIDE

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"Questions about Other Substances of Abuse"

from

A Federal Source Book:

Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions about Drug Abuse

MODEL AIRPLANE GLUE, GASOLINE, PAINT THINNER AND OTHER VOLATILE SOLVENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS ABUSABLE SUBSTANCES. WHAT ARE THEIR EFFECTS?

These substances, which were obviously never meant to be taken by man, contain a variety of chemicals, some quite dangerous. Others are toxic only when used over long periods. They provide a clouded mental state that can develop into a coma. Temporary blindness has been reported. Death is known to occur when the solvent is inhaled without sufficient oxygen as, for example, when the individual loses consciousness and his mouth and nose fall into the plastic bag containing the solvents. Damage to bone marrow, kidneys and lungs has been described in autopsy reports.

CAN NUTMEG BE ABUSED?

If large amounts of nutmeg or mace are taken, they can induce a drunken, confused state. This requires a substantial quantity, which can irritate the kidneys. Abuse has been reported in immature adolescents, and in prisoners who have access to these spices while working in prison kitchens.

WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT BELLADONNA AND JIMSON WEED ABUSE?

A large number of wild plants can cause delirium or death, depending upon the amount ingested. They include belladonna and Jimson weed (stramonium) which grow in many parts of the country. They have long been used as intoxicants; they were the constituents of the witches' brews of earlier days. The notion that witches flew on broomsticks was the result of the hallucinations of those under the influence of these powerful plants.

Dryness of the mouth and skin, a high fever and dilated pupils are characteristic of these weeds.

Asthmador is a drug that contains a combination of belladonna and stramonium and is prescribed as an asthma remedy. It, too, has been occasionally misused.

Released by the Chemical, Drug & Pesticide Unit