



LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

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ALERT NOTICE

TO: Lake County Principals/School Nurses
FROM: Officer George "Pat" Willis
RE: Starter Heroin
DATE: May 2007

According to an article in USA Today, April 26, 2006, and the Associated Press report, May 12, 2007 some teens have found a new approach to heroin. "A new heroin-laced powder known as "CHEESE" is popping up in middle and high schools in Texas, where dozens of youth have been caught with the drug." Dallas Independent School District Police Department has made 212 arrests involving "cheese" in their middle and high schools through 2005-2007 school years. The use of this new approach to heroin became aware to school officials at the beginning of the 05-06 school year. May 2007, the Dallas County medical examiner has reported 2 deaths associated with a combination of heroin and Tylenol PM.

"Cheese" is a mixture of ground up cold medicines (usually Tylenol PM) and a small amount of heroin. The mixture is a tan powder made mostly of acetaminophen and diphenhydramine HCL - *ingredients in Tylenol PM; Diphenhydramine trade name is Benadryl* - and up to 8% heroin. The crushed power is mixed together and typically folded up in notebook paper to reduce suspicion. Once under the influence the user will first feel euphoric and then sleepy, lethargic and hungry. The cost in the Dallas area is about \$5.00/quarter-gram, and \$2.00 for a single dose.

With teens snorting everything from sugar, to non-sugar sweeteners, to powdered lemonade, to ground up beef jerky, et.al., in the school cafeteria we need to be aware that this behavior is not just due to "a dare" but may also constitute a whole other issue that on the surface looks benign.



If you have any questions please contact Lake County Narcotics Agency
Community Drug Education Supervisor, Officer Willis: (440) 350-3302

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