FACT SHEET: LSD/"ACID"/Hallucinogens

What is LSD?
“LSD” or D-lysergic acid diethylamide is one of the most potent members of the hallucinogenic drug class. Hallucinogens alter the user’s awareness of their surroundings, thoughts and feelings. These types of drugs also cause hallucinations; Images that seem real but are not.

*Other names for LSD include:* Acid, Blotter, Doses, Hits, Microdots, Mellow Yellow, Sugar Cubes, Trips, Tab or Window Panes

How is LSD used: In its initial form LSD is a crystalline that can then be used to produce tablets known as "microdots" or thin squares of gelatin called “Window Panes.” The MOST common form of LSD is LSD soaked paper punched into squares and sold as "Blotters." LSD can also be diluted in water or alcohol and be consumed in a liquid form.

What symptoms does LSD produce: The effects of LSD are generally unpredictable and depend on the amount taken, the user’s personality and the surroundings in which the drug is used. 30-90 minutes after taking the drug, users will exhibit rapid swings of emotions, delusions, visual hallucinations, and misperceptions of time and self. Users may also report “hearing colors and seeing sounds.” Physical signs and symptoms of LSD use include: dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, increased heart rate, dry mouth, tingling fingers or toes, blurred vision, dizziness or seizures. A “bad trip” or negative effects include: emotional distress, anxiety, depression, disorientation or paranoia. The effects of the drug may last up to 12 hours.

How is LSD Overdose treated? LSD can be contaminated/combined with other drugs and therefore produce effects different than what the user has experienced in the past or is used to. The severe disorientation associated with a “bad trip” can result in violent behavior or accidents that end in homicide or suicide.

Call 911 immediately. Treatment will depend upon the severity of the symptoms and include: providing a calming environment, IV fluids and protection of the airway. Benzodiazepines may be used for seizure control.

Is there are antidote for LSD? No antidote is presently available for an LSD overdose.

Is LSD Detectable via a standard drug screen? No, LSD is not usually tested for on a standard drug screen.