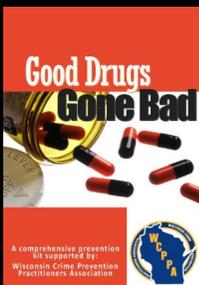


Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

Emerging Drug Threats

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Krokodil

Krokodil, pronounced “crocodile”, is a new synthetic opiate that has its origins in Russia and is now starting to surface in the United States. With the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and now the abuse of heroin, some users are starting to turn this new drug as a cheaper alternative with a stronger high.

What is Krokodil

The medical name for the drug is **desomorphine**. It is made at home by acquiring codeine, sold over the counter for headaches, and cooking it with paint thinner, gasoline, hydrochloric acid, iodine and the red phosphorous from matchbox strike pads.

How is it used

This drug is primarily injected into veins.

Signs of use

The scary thing with Krokodil is that the chemicals used in the manufacturing process destroy the blood vessels near the injection site and begins killing skin tissue. The first warning sign users will see are redness and blackness around the needle mark. Gangrene will then begin develop and gives the dead skin a scaly green appearance which leads to the drug being given the Krokodil name. As one can imagine, this must be painful, however with the pain medication that is used to make the drug, the pain is covered up.

What are the dangers

Reports indicate that Krokodil is about three times as potent as heroin and eight to ten times more potent than morphine. It produces a high very similar to that of heroin, but is shorter. A heroin high lasts anywhere between four to eight hours while Kokodil has a high of less than two hours.

Krokodil is also a fraction of the cost of heroin. Users in the Chicago area report that a hit of Krokodil costs about \$8 as opposed to heroin which is \$30.



