

GET TO KNOW — the drug — MOLLY

*TFMPP is used as an intermediate in chemical synthesis. 'Molly' has **no known** medical use in the United States.*

70%

30%

80%

20%

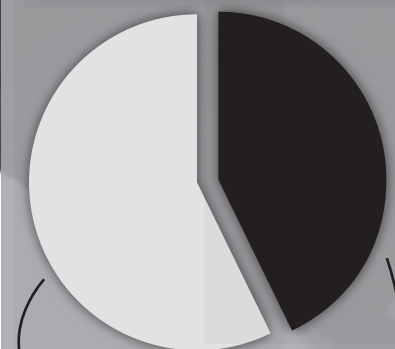
Of students **knew** about it before this school year

Of students **didn't know** about it before this school year

Of students **know** someone who has done the drug

Of students **don't know** someone who has done the drug

Used most **amongst youth and young adults**. Promoted as a legal alternative to Ecstasy.



57% are **not aware** of the drug

43% are **aware** of the drug

***Based on a poll of 107 students**

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"Most people who are taking drugs are kind of weary about taking bath salts," Kufeldt said, "because they don't know what's in them — they don't know what it is."

According to Kufeldt, this drug swapping and mixing often is what leads to negative reactions.

"It's very dangerous [to the buyer] because they know their tolerance level for Ecstasy or molly," Kufeldt said. "When they're taking something that's not molly, that's when you'll see a lot of overdoses or even death."

Junior Angela Potter*, who was told that her molly was MDMA, says she had suspicions that she didn't get the right drug about an hour into her first usage. The pill, at a concert, only helped her focus more on the music. Her friends told her that the drug would make her feel "completely happy" but she felt like it was kind of a letdown. According to her, there was never any strong sensation. She thinks it may have been an ADHD pill.

According to Potter, this kind of thing happens all the time. She said that naive kids who are looking for something fun to do may be easily coerced into buying something that is not what they wanted. Potter, who has tried the drug multiple times, says sometimes the powder in the pill has looked white and crystallized while other times it's been more like "powder sugar." She says it's often hard to tell what you're getting.

"I think that definitely by the time it gets to Johnson County, it's probably been mixed with a ton of stuff and, like, I've heard of Tylenol being added to it, I've heard of Adderall being in it," Potter said. "There aren't a ton of people that are huge drug dealers in Mission Hills and Prairie Village, so I'm sure it's not necessarily as clean and pure as it would be somewhere that's a big drug capitol."

Potter, who was "so scared" the first time she tried it, said that before she did the drug she asked her dealer a list of questions; she wanted to make sure she wasn't getting "random powder in a pill." She says that she inquired about everything from the drug's effects to the person's background. It made her feel better. She said that as long as she was with people she trusted, she didn't see why not to give it a shot.

"You know, you only have one life to live," Potter said. "Might as well try it."

Carreno counters this point; she says that using any form of molly is reckless and can, in fact, waste a human life.

"Legal doesn't mean safe. Molly is an industrial chemical that was not made for human consumption, and you put your health and safe-

ty at risk when you use it," Carreno said. "And it's important to think critically about things people want you to do or to buy — don't just accept anything that anyone has to say, because it may not be accurate or in your best interests. You live your life through your body, and you only get one — take as good care of it."

While there have been efforts by the DEA to make TFMPP illegal, Carreno says that it comes down to Health and Human Services (HHS). Back in 2002 when molly first made a name for itself, she says the DEA temporarily made it illegal and sent their recommendation to the HHS that it be a "controlled substance." After they conducted scientific studies, however, the DEA was overruled.

"When Health and Human Services sends us a recommendation that says don't control it, we can't control it," Carreno said. "So it had to go back to being just a regular legal substance, we had to lift our temporary control on it — so the DEA did try [to make it illegal] but Health and Human Services didn't agree with us."

But dealing illicit substances like bath salt is a completely different story, according to Carreno.

"If someone is dealing bath salts, they can get in trouble for that -- that's illegal," Carreno said. "And especially if it's anywhere near a school, there's extra penalties for doing something around a school on top of the basic penalties."

Student Resource Officer Joel Porter said that while he hasn't run into any cases of students buying or selling anything referred to as "molly," it doesn't surprise him that it may be at East. He points out that drugs often can move from district to district as kids get bored with alcohol or marijuana.

"It doesn't surprise me if [molly] is here and if it's not here, I would expect to see it show up," Porter said. "It's always a revolving door, things are always coming through and going out."

Although he accepts that the drug may be at East, Porter stresses to kids that they can't trust anyone. He points out that in the past he has run into students who have told him they got a different drug than they expected — especially with molly, he said that drug dealers will do "anything to get their money." But Porter, who knows he may see and hear more about molly in the coming future, feels there's no reason at all why students should waste their time on it.

"My advice to people getting involved in [molly] is...don't get involved with it — obviously there's the legal side to it but there's also the health side of it and the dangers it presents to you," Porter said. "It's not worth it, you're throwing a lot of your life away for that stuff."

***name changed to protect identity**

