

- **MDMA (Ecstasy or “Molly”)**
  - MDMA, more commonly known as ecstasy or Molly, causes feelings of increased euphoria, energy, emotional warmth, empathy, and distortions of time and sensory perception. It is a synthetic and proactive drug similar to that of amphetamine and mescaline. Its popularity originated at “raves” and nightclubs and among White adolescents, but is now common among a more widespread range of users and ethnicities. (drugabuse)
  - **Street Names:** Ecstasy is otherwise called E, X, XTC, pills, rolls, E-Tarts, ADAM, go, speed for lovers, love drug, hug drug, and scooby snacks. When a pill is believed to be more effective than others it is called Double-Stacked, Triple-Stacked, speedy, or dopey. When under the influence of the drug one is said to be “roll” or “rolling”. A person who uses a lot of ecstasy or uses it often is called an E-Tard. LSC and ecstasy is candy-flipping. Using mushrooms with ecstasy is referred to as flower-flipping or hippy-flipping. PCP and ecstasy is called elephant-flipping. Ketamine and ecstasy is kitty-flipping and mescaline with ecstasy is love-flipping (cesar).
  - **Uses:** Typically, MDMA is taken orally through capsules or tablets. It is common to take multiple doses of the drug after the first dose wears off and is often combined with other drugs (drugabuse). Some users have taken the drug anally. Others have consumed the drug through what’s called “parachuting”; they crush a pill into a napkin and then swallow a piece of the napkin in order to speed up its effects. It can also be snorted or smoked in powder form (cesar).
  - **Physical Effects:** Examples of short-term effects include muscle tension, heightened senses, hallucinations, euphoria, empathy for others, anxiety, paranoia, involuntary teeth or jaw setting, nausea, extreme relaxation, severe dehydration, heat exhaustion, increased body temperature, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, increased breathing rate, chills or sweating, faintness, and blurred vision (cesar).
  - **Psychological Effects:** MDMA increases the activity of serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine. Serotonin influences mood, accounting for the affect the drug has on the user’s emotional and prosocial state. It also triggers a release of oxytocin and vasopressin, which plays a role in love, trust, sexual arousal, and other social experiences. The increase of serotonin also negatively affects the user by causing confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving, and anxiety (drugabuse). Other psychological effects include senses, hallucinations, euphoria, empathy for others, anxiety, and paranoia (cesar).
  - **Long-Term Effects:** Some users experience long-lasting confusion, depression, sleep abnormalities, and issues with memory and attention (drugabuse). MDMA can also cause severe anxiety and even lead to death (cesar).
  - **Withdrawal:** Whether or not the drug is addictive is still unknown, although some users have experienced varying withdrawal symptoms. (drugabuse)

**Sources:**

**Center for Substance Abuse Research** [<http://www.cesar.umd.edu>]

**Drugabuse** [<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts>]