



One Minute Brief

Drug: Purple Drank



Codeine and Promethazine

Codeine is a **narcotic** and Promethazine is an anti-histamine. Taken in large enough quantities, they can lead to a sedated state and/or altered levels of consciousness. Purple Drank is made by mixing Codeine/Promethazine with soda (mainly Sprite). The codeine/promethazine is generally found in prescription cough syrup (generally a purple color...hence the name "Purple Drank"). Sometimes, jolly ranchers are added to the drink for flavor.



(prescription cough syrup)

+



(soda)

+



(Jolly Ranchers)

Purple Drank

Street Names

Purple Drank

Purple

Syrup

Sizzurp

Lean

Purple Jelly

Barre

Drank



Purple Drank History

It has been around for quite a while, but mainly only popular in the south...especially Houston, Texas in the 1990's. Now, thanks to exposure in several hip-hop songs, it is gaining popularity in all regions of the US. Purple Drank has been ruled as contributing to the death of several rap artists, among many others around the nation. The cause of death is usually respiratory depression.



What to Look For

Any drink with a purple hue. Any drink with jolly ranchers. Missing prescription cough syrup. Empty bottles of prescription cough syrup (many times with the labels scraped off).



What to Look For (paraphernalia)



What to Look For (paraphernalia)



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What to Look For (paraphernalia)

Rapper Lil Wayne promotes Purple Drank...look for it in his paraphernalia:



U.S. ARMY 1st Space Brigade / All Over Screen Printing / Discharge / Alstyle 5301 Black

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Alternatives to Codeine/Promethazine

Hydrocodone cough syrup is sometimes used as an alternative. DXM (Dextromethorphan) is rarely substituted, although it happens from time to time. That being said, DXM is often abused (just not usually in Purple Drank) in other ways and acts as a dissociative, rather than a narcotic. But, that is another half-day workshop in itself!



On July 8, 2008, Houston police arrested Johnny Jolly (Green Bay Packers) for possession of at least 200 grams of codeine, with intent to sell prescription cough syrup for use in making Purple Drank. On March 25, 2011, Jolly was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute after police allegedly found 600 grams of codeine in his vehicle. Jolly was ultimately sentenced to 6 years in prison. After parole, the good news is that he is 19 months sober and is back on the Green Bay Packers roster. Let's hope he uses his experience and notoriety as a professional football player to share the dangers of codeine abuse with kids!

On a side note...I sent out the One-Minute Brief on Krokodil last week...recall that Desomorphine (Krokodil) is synthesized from Codeine. So, its all in the family, so to speak.