

Coalition Against Chronic Candy (Kronic Kandy)
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FACT SHEET

CHRONIC CANDY

- Chronic Candy (Kronic Kandy) is manufactured by food companies in Amsterdam and Germany. It is packaged with images of bright green marijuana leaves. The product taste like marijuana.
- The company and product names use pot-related slang commonly associated with marijuana including “Acapulco Gold” and “Sticky Icky Skunk”.
- Chronic (Kronic) candy, which is packaged like a lollipop, is being targeted in a number of communities, particularly in minority communities.
- Chronic (Kronic) candy is sold like marijuana in ‘nickel bags’ and is sold in smoke stores, some community or convenient stores, gas stations and over the internet nationwide.

MARIJUANA USE FACTS

- According to a federal funded survey, “2004 Monitoring the Future Study,” conducted by the University of Michigan, 16.3% of eighth graders, 35.1% of tenth graders, and 45.7% of twelfth graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes. ⁽¹⁾
- A 2002 SAMHSA report, *Initiation of Marijuana Use: Trends, Patterns and Implications*, concludes that the younger children are when they first use marijuana, the more likely they are to use cocaine and heroin and become dependent on drugs as adults. ⁽²⁾
- Marijuana abuse is associated with many detrimental health effects. These effects can include frequent respiratory infections, impaired memory and learning, increased heart rate, anxiety, panic attacks and tolerance. ⁽³⁾
- Someone who smokes marijuana regularly may have many of the same respiratory problems that tobacco smokers do, such as daily cough and phlegm production, more frequent acute chest illnesses, a heightened risk of lung infections, and a greater tendency toward obstructed airways. ⁽⁴⁾

KEY CONCERNS

- Chronic (Kronic) Candy (and other marijuana flavored products) is a threat to youth because it gives the false impression that marijuana is fun and safe.
- Products such as Chronic (Kronic) Candy and other marijuana flavored products packaged as lollipops can fall into the hands of unsuspecting youth and can serve as a gateway product for future marijuana use.

- Merchants who sell this product are promoting marijuana and are creating new customers for marijuana and other drug dealers.

CALL TO ACTION

“This is a loathsome idea. The product promotes drug use among youngsters.”

- According to senior spokesperson for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in Washington, D.C.

- ▶ State and local policymakers need to create laws to prevent the sale of products that promote drug use among youth.
- ▶ Community leaders must reach out to merchants to ensure that Chronic (Kronic) Candy and other marijuana-flavored products are not sold in the community.
- ▶ Youth leaders, parents, school administrators, and law enforcement officials must establish policies to help protect youth from Chronic (Kronic) Candy and other marijuana flavored products. Also, educate youth about the dangers of using products intended to promote drug use.
- ▶ Business leaders and merchants should not sell, support or promote any products that can encourage drug use among youth.

REFERENCES

1. National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future 2004 Data from In-School Surveys of 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-Grade Students, December 2004.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, Initiation of Marijuana Use: Trends, Patterns and Implications, July 2002.
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Marijuana Infobox, October 2001.
4. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Research Report Series - Marijuana Abuse, October 2001.

For more information, contact the

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