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## **Summer festivals spur popular drug trend**

*Illinois Poison Center warning festivalgoers about dangerous “party” drugs*

**(Chicago) June 11, 2015** - With Spring Awakening just days away, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) is warning of a continued trend involving the use of hallucinogenic stimulants, that are sometimes sold under the name as Ecstasy or Molly, at summer concerts and festivals.

“Other parts of the country have seen a marked increase in people injured by these drugs that are commonly used at parties and concerts,” said Michael Wahl M.D., IPC Medical Director. “Stimulants such as Flakka have been an issue in the southern and eastern parts of the country. With dozens of festivals this year, it’s likely we might see a summer surge of this or similar drugs in Illinois.”

Use of these drugs may result in hallucinations, fast heart rate, increased blood pressure, severe dehydration, nausea, vomiting, agitation and seizures. In severe cases, users may experience an elevated temperature, kidney or liver failure, uncontrolled bleeding, coma or possible death.

Illinois serves as a national example in the fight against designer and synthetic drugs and continues to partner with law enforcement agencies, public health departments and the Illinois Attorney General’s office to combat synthetic drug sales and synthetic drug use in the state.

If you have additional questions about synthetic drugs or any other potentially hazardous substance, please call the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

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*The Illinois Poison Center is a nonprofit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour helpline staffed by specially trained physicians, nurses and pharmacists.*