

For one of my classes, I have been urged to start a conversation with Facebook friends about a topic that pertains to life, society, and drugs. Desomorphine aka krokodil is a drug that originated in Russia around 2003, when the Russian government cracked down on heroin production and trafficking. It's finally reached the U.S. and Utah is one of the first states to be affected by this flesh-eating drug. Please tell me what you think of the drug, what should be done about it, etc. Anything you can think of to keep the conversation going would be much appreciated. Thank you so much in advance!

Two more cases of flesh-eating krokodil suspected in Utah as killer drug spreads through streets of U.S.

By JAMES NYE

PUBLISHED: 18:38 GMT, 17 October 2013 | UPDATED: 13:58 GMT, 18 October 2013

24 shares 60 View

comments

Health officials in Utah have confirmed that the deadly flesh-eating drug krokodil may have been detected in the state.

The drug is a noxious cocktail of codeine and gasoline eats the body from inside out and causes horrific skin damage that leads to the loss of limbs and reduces users to 'zombie-like' states.

Just days after a MailOnline report revealed that the horrific drug has been on the streets of America for over a year, a spokeswoman for the Utah Department of Health said that it too had encountered two cases of users ravaged by krokodil.

Hospital: Utah's Intermountain Medical Center - the state has reported two suspected cases of krokodil use

Hospital: Utah's Intermountain Medical Center - the state has reported two suspected cases of krokodil use

The department did not record the cases because the use of the drug which is dubbed the 'poor man's meth' is not considered to be a disease.

Barbara Insley Crouch, the executive director of the Utah Poison Control Center said that the majority of users believe they are buying heroin - when in fact they are injecting the rancid concoction into the bodies.

'What they do is de-fat tissues,' she said Wednesday to Fox 13 Now.

'If you spilled gasoline on your skin, you get a little burn from it as it erodes the fat from your tissues. Imagine it internally doing to the same thing.'

Earlier this week, an exclusive MailOnline investigation uncovered the proof that krokodil is sweeping America and taking a terrible toll on addicts around the country

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2465422/Krokodil-drug-2-cases-suspected-US.html#ixzz2kXHEDoFB>

Follow us: @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMail on Facebook

Two more cases of flesh-eating drug krokodil suspected in US

www.dailymail.co.uk

Health officials in Utah have confirmed that the deadly flesh-eating drug krokodil has been detected in the state.

1 Like · Share · Unfollow Post · Promote

• Vicente Alvarez and Celeste Godfrey like this.



Mallory Andersen Well, there should probably be some Harm Reduction outreach to all the heroin users out there to be on the look out for it. They should be given specific information regarding how to identify the drug, and then some medical tips for what to do if they realize they have symptoms of use. Also, there needs to be some way for user to safely report if they have come in contact with the drug so that investigators can track it more accurately. All of that deals with protecting the user. As far as getting the drug off the street, I'm not quite sure how that is done, or how successful efforts are. With all the street drugs that are available, it does not appear that police are really that effective. Utah Poison Control should hopefully be able to study the drug further and develop treatment methods..

19 hours ago · Like · 1



Danielle Penman Wow!

19 hours ago via mobile · Like



Rachel Hilton Awesome, thanks Mallory! All of those suggestions sound great. I was looking up whether people could tell a difference in appearance of heroin versus krokodil, and it seems they look almost identical. I feel bad for anyone who thinks they are buying heroin and ends up with lesions and necrosis of tissue. Sadly, it seems that once the drug is injected, it starts killing tissue immediately. I guess this means that your suggestion about

some Harm Reduction outreach needs to be put to action immediately. Ultimately, krokodil could be the drug that strikes fear in heroin users and makes them take the necessary steps to get the help they need to combat their addiction.

19 hours ago · [Like](#)



Warren Knapp This documentary went viral in Europe 2 years ago, a lot of good information about krokodil and the culture behind it.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsUH8llvTZo>

Krokodil: Russia's Deadliest Drug (NSFW)

www.youtube.com

A homemade drug called Krokodil is gaining popularity in Siberia and its effects...See More

19 hours ago · [Like](#) · [Remove Preview](#)



Lauren Bradley Does Utah have any needle exchange programs? That would be a good place to hand out information about the drug.

19 hours ago · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton Thanks for that video, [Warren](#), it was quite informative. It's sad to see the hold krokodil has on so many people first hand. I found the part about Narco-Terrorism interesting. I guess I have never thought about how many types of terrorism there are in this world.

18 hours ago · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton Lauren, I did a search for needle exchange programs in Utah and found an article published in March of 2011 stating that "The Utah House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of a bill that aims to allow clean-needle-exchange programs aimed at reducing infectious diseases." Other than that, I have never seen or heard of any clean needle programs in Utah. It may take a while for them to put the bill into action. I think handing out information about krokodil at these programs is a great idea! Thanks Lauren.

18 hours ago · [Like](#) · 2



Vicente Alvarez As if heroin wasn't bad enough, we now have this stuff becoming available. As far as what to do about it, both Lauren and Mallory covered it pretty well. There is no needle exchange program yet, but a pending bill should change that. From what I've read, It looks the same as heroin, but it's begin sold at a cheaper price. So an extremely low price seems like a good warning that it might not be heroin. Tell that to a heroin addict though, who's already a slave to a deadly addiction, and often, without the means to fund it.

16 hours ago · Edited · [Like](#) · 1



Rachel Hilton Vince, I think that Mallory and Lauren brought up some great points! I agree that any drug with a small price tag should be a red flag, but trying to sway heroin addicts from purchasing something that makes them high, regardless of the consequences, could prove difficult. Sadly, drug addicts are not top priority on most agendas, so unless this "zombie" drug actually starts reanimating people, I don't see the U.S. government doing much about it. Hopefully, clean needle clinics will open in Salt Lake soon and get the word out.

16 hours ago · [Like](#)



Lauren Bradley Frankly, I'm pleasantly surprised that Utah is passing a bill that's pro-needle exchange program! That's quite a progressive move for help drug abusers with their problems.

15 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Rachel Hilton Oh definitely! Honestly, I had never heard of such a thing until I saw it in a Workaholics episode! When I was researching I found something from 2004 about how the Clinton Administration was trying to implement clean needle exchanges all over the U.S. and Orrin Hatch vetoed it, because he thought it would give the wrong idea. It's almost ten years later and I think it'll do the world a great service.

15 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Alley Hodgman I don't know that I completely agree with a needle exchange program. It's in line with the debate on plan b, is it encouraging it? Clean needle programs are enabling drug addicts to continue using. Although it makes a drug user less prone to contract aids etc, is that really societies problem? If you make the poor choice to do drugs should everyone else need to front the cost of needle exchange to protect you from yourself?

15 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton I totally understand where you're coming from [Alley](#). I'm not a heroin addict so I can't say that I would or would not use the system if something like a clean-needle program existed, but I could see it being a buffer for "safe" drug abuse. Same goes for Plan B; I think some women may think they can have unprotected sex and just use it as a precautionary measure. I guess I'm on the fence about clean needle programs too. I guess any measure to prevent the spread of disease may be good, no matter the cost to taxpayers.

15 hours ago · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman True [Rachel Hilton](#) I see both sides. However as someone whose sister died of a drug overdose and now I have custody of her kid, it's hard to support anything that makes it okay. I think if you make the choice you live with the consequences.

15 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Katie Boyack It's not saying that everyone needs to front the costs. And I think that people should know what they're talking about before they vote on things like this. Using dirty needles not only ups the chance of addicts getting hep c and hiv but it also makes non-addicts be at a higher risk. Homeless and children get poked by dirty needles all the time. Without needle exchange addicts have nowhere safe to throw away their used points, even when careful it ends up in areas around non-addicts. Needle exchange would help addicts but non-users too. Giving them a place to get rid of the used points and not allowing them new ones unless they turn in their old ones...I find it really sad that people who know nothing about what it's really like to live the

life of an addict are so quick to judge. Live one day in the shoes of an addict or even in the shoes of an addicts family member and you'll learn not to judge people so fucking fast. addicts are not the scum of the earth like people treat them to be. It's a fucking disease yes its started most times by a person's bad choices but over time the choice is gone and their left with a disease of hell. making it a little easier to deal with their addiction and helping keep the spread of disease down is a great fucking option. point I'm trying to make is that it's not encouraging it it's simply reducing risk to users and non users. It saddens me that we have options to help out our people and yet we refuse all because we don't understand. ... its pathetic. ..

15 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton I see the validity of your statement. I don't condone drug use and I'm confused as to how needle exchange programs will do anything but convince drug users to keep using without the risk of contracting fatal illnesses. I hope if they implement these clean-needle programs, they come up with some sort of "bribe" to convince addicts that they should find some other way to find bliss without injecting poison into their bodies...

15 hours ago · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman Maybe katie needs to go read what I said up above before she spouts off about my comments.

15 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman And let me just say if you think society doesnt front the cost of such a program you are grossly naive. It would be much cheaper to provide sharps containers than new needles.

15 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman Just so you know it is 13000.00 per drug user per year that uses the needle exchange program, on average, once you calculate cost of passing the bill, workers, disposal, supplies, etc. In infection, on average, takes 3100.00 to treat. So really, is it in our best interest?

14 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Katie Boyack I read every word u said. I never said society doesn't pay for it I only stated that they don't have to. I understand why people think all it is is a way for addicts to use more but I can assure you it's not true. addicts are addicted 90%or more of them use cuz without the drug they are sicker than any flu known to manx10. They use to make their physical body act normal like a non addicts body does normally. Majority of users hate the fact that the drug and wish they didn't have to use every day. They have no where to go to*kick* the addiction and get clean. They try endlessly to just stop and fail over and over again as soon as the intense physical pain hits. They try to fight but it only gets worse. The human body is not adapt for that kind of torture. All I was saying is that the program would benefit more than just users. It doesn't allow a user to get a clean needle until they hand over their old ones. They pay for their needles now and would pay for them then to if need be. The program is a great option and shouldn't be denied so quickly. It's not about allowing addicts to use more its about another aid to help society rid itself of disease.

14 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton Both are valid arguments. **Katie** has brought up the point that having people turn in their used needles in order to get new ones can reduce the number of outside people affected by running into needles on the street and becoming infected with something, yet **Alley** suggests that

providing sharps containers could reduce the problem altogether. I guess in the case of the latter suggestion, it would be up to the addicts to find clean needles after disposing of them, therefore, putting it in their hands to be responsible for what illnesses they contract. But, if clean-needle programs existed, there would be an urge to give your needles to sanctioned outlets and get new ones, thereby, possibly preventing the careless discarding of used needles.

14 hours ago · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman And how exactly do you think users are going to pay for these new needles? They wont, they will pay for another fix instead.

14 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton I think the program sounds like it could benefit a lot of people, but it seems as though everyone needs to do a bit of research first. Sadly, I think a lot of people are not willing to do such research, as the end result will most likely not benefit them in a first-person manner.

14 hours ago · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton Alley, that statistic is astounding! I had no idea! It seems as though the government would come up with a better solution to this problem. I guess addicts are not their priority though.

14 hours ago · [Like](#)



Katie Boyack Rachel I agree with you. I even agree with the idea sharps containers. addicts will pay for their needles they are paying for them now they have to have them before they get their"next fix". they already have to plan money aside for needles now so they would continue to do so. Nothing would change in that regard. I also want to say I did not see your message about your sister it was sent while I was sending mine I'm responding via smart phone so I don't get your responses immediately. I'm sorry to hear I to have lost family and friends to this disease. I feel that any positive measure we can take to help users and non users alike be further protected is always worth the cost.

14 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Breanna Baker The ideal would be for this information to be easily accessible to everyone, not just regular users or people who are already addicts. From my understanding, an active addict will have a hard time turning down their drug of choice when it is presented to them. What's to stop the use of the drug? Think of the multitude of active users there are in the drug world, (not just heroin). Most of these drugs have terrible effects not only internally, but externally as well. These truths may deter some light users from becoming long term users, but the people who are already deep into the addiction either care so little that they don't care what damage they're causing or are "blissfully" unaware of what long term damage they could be causing. I do think information on the drug should be shared in whatever way it can (the mentioned needle exchange programs, methadone clinics, etc.). Hopefully this would make users more aware of what they're putting into their bodies. I think what would really be helpful would be to have this discussion much more openly than has been the norm (esp. in America). Drug use is just "illegal" therefore that's the reason given for kids not to partake. If there was a more informative, ongoing conversation being had instead of the "demonizing" conversation, perhaps kids/people would be more apt to ask questions and make informed decisions before injecting harmful things into their bodies.

14 hours ago · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman I appreciate that. Most users I know (I've been a medic for 10 years and I am in nursing school now) reuse needles until they are too dull to hit a vein, its not a cost issue per se. Also its fairly easy to find improperly disposed of needles if you know where to look. Its sad but thats their reality. The focus needs to be on rehab and education as opposed to enabling in my opinion.

14 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton I like what **Breanna** brought up...the fact that they need to educate children on more than just the fact that drugs are illegal and you can go to jail for using them. Since I have been out of highschool for some time, I would trust **Katie** and Breanna as to what is being taught in drug education classes in high school. They need to change their curriculum monthly or more to keep up with the rapid change of the world. When I was in school, it seemed as though they were using visual aids and such from the 70's.

14 hours ago · [Like](#)



Alley Hodgman **Rachel Hilton** did you see the thing I posted like a week ago on common core drug education?

13 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#)



Rachel Hilton I tried looking for it just now and could not find it. I may have been out of town when you posted it. I looked it up and found the Drug Free World website that had some great information.

13 hours ago · [Like](#)



Jewely Swensen I know this is a crazy answer, but we need to legalize all drugs. These people are desperate. they want to get high, and they can make this at home. Drugs need to be cheap and legal so desperate people have access to regulated drugs. Look at Uruguay and Portugal. Addiction rates dropped over 50% when they legalized drugs....I am not just saying this as someone who believes in the failed drug war, but I honestly believe if people have access to drugs that are regulated by a dr, it is less harmful then those that are made at home to avoid getting into trouble with police. I believe Amsterdam has a place for addicts to go in to a facility, get a dose of Heroin that is enough where you don't overdose, and they have a safe haven to take that drug...after all aren't we all addicted to drugs....caffeine, sex, food, sports...

12 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Rachel Hilton **Jewely**, awesome points! I've honestly thought that legalizing all drugs could ultimately cut down on the desire to do them. I don't know if that's true, but countries like Portugal have proved that the desire lessens when the demand lessens. It would be interesting if the whole U.S. government legalized marijuana, would there be such a demand for the drug?

12 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Ryan Shiley I agree with **Jewely Swensen** on this one. After all, drugs like krokodil, bath salts, spice, etc. most likely wouldn't exist if the war on drugs had never happened.

12 hours ago via mobile · [Like](#) · 1



Ryan Shiley Furthermore if we really want to curtail drug use we need to find and address the problems that are making people feel the need to escape their reality.

12 hours ago via mobile · Like · 2



Rachel Hilton Good point, [Ryan](#). Synthetic drugs seem to do more harm than their purer counterparts do. Without the war on drugs, I think the drive to make moonshine drugs would not have evolved. This is not to say that there should be no war on drugs. I wish drugs never existed in the first place, but they are part of our culture. Legalizing the less dangerous ones may be the way to go...