



Drug Alert Watch

2C-E Causes Death in Minnesota

U . S . D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

EWS Report 000010

March 25, 2011

This SENTRY Watch is based on source materials that have not been validated and/or researched by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). It is intended to serve as an immediate alert to law enforcement and public health officials of potential substance abuse.

Law enforcement authorities in Minnesota reported the death on March 16, 2011, of a 19-year-old male, and the hospitalization of 10 others between the ages of 16 and 21, caused by the use of a synthetic hallucinogen, 2C-E. This marks the first reported death in the United States related to this substance.



Sometimes known as “Europa,” 2C-E (2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethylphenethylamine), is a phenethylamine of the 2C family and a psychedelic. The substance is available for purchase on Internet web sites and often is marketed as “research chemicals” and labeled “not intended for human consumption.” According to the *National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) 2009 Annual Report*, 27 drug items analyzed by federal, state, and local forensic laboratories in the United States in 2009 were identified as 2C-E. The drug is a scheduled/controlled substance in Denmark, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; 2C-E-related deaths have occurred in these countries.

Forms of 2C-E include colorless oil, clear gelatin capsules containing coarse white powder, fine white powder, grayish powder, or white crystalline powder. Abusers typically ingest the drug orally in capsule form or inhale a line of powder. Some users describe the effects as similar to those of LSD or club drugs, such as MDMA (ecstasy), while others state that 2C-E combines the effects of LSD and psychedelic mushrooms, including vivid hallucinations. Effects may be overly intense for those not experienced with psychedelic drugs and the drug can also cause the user to have trouble breathing. Some abusers may become extremely aggressive, punching walls and breaking items. Effects typically last from 6 to 10 hours.

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Photo Credit: Tulsa (OK) Police Department Forensic Laboratory

POC: SENTRY Management Team, www.justice.gov/ndic/sentry or (814) 532-5888

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