

Increased Volume of Calls Related to Kratom/Mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) to Pennsylvania's Poison Centers

DATE:	August 4, 2025
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Increased Volume of Calls Related to Kratom/Mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) to Pennsylvania's Poison Centers
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	N/A
STREET ADDRESS:	N/A
COUNTY:	N/A
MUNICIPALITY:	N/A
ZIP CODE:	N/A

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” which provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary

- Pennsylvania Poison Centers are seeing increased call volume around both kratom and 7-OH consumption.
- Unregulated products marketed as “Kratom” and “7-hydroxymitragynine” (aka 7-OH) are increasingly sold online, in smoke shops, and at gas stations.
- Kratom refers to an herbal product that is derived from *Mitragyna speciosa*, a tree native to Southeast Asia.
- While kratom has been marketed as a “natural alternative” for management of chronic pain and opioid withdrawal, there are currently no FDA-approved indications, and it is prohibited from being marketed as a dietary supplement.
- Recently, concentrated, semi-synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine products have become more readily available.
- If you have any questions, or to report suspected cases, please call your local Poison Center at 1 (800) 222-1222.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is forwarding the following advisory from the Philadelphia Poison Center* to health care providers.

Background

- Products marketed as “kratom” and “7-hydroxymitragynine” are increasingly sold online, in smoke shops, and at gas stations.
- Additionally, the experts at Pennsylvania's Poison Centers have increasingly received inquiries related to kratom.
- These products lack clinical safety data and put consumers at risk of significant harm, including

toxicity and developing dependence.

- Kratom refers to an herbal product that is derived from *Mitragyna speciosa*, a tree native to Southeast Asia.
- It has been marketed as a “natural alternative” for management of chronic pain and opioid withdrawal, while also being used for intoxication.
- Other names for kratom (typically used in Asia) include Biak-biak, Ketum, Kahuam, Ithang, and Thom.
- Currently, there are [no FDA-approved indications](#), and it is prohibited from marketing as a dietary supplement.
- “Standard” kratom products typically contain low 7-OH concentrations ([1-2% total content or less](#)). Recently, concentrated, semi-synthetic 7-OH products ([up to 98% 7-OH](#)) have become more readily available.
- Earlier this month, the FDA [issued warning letters](#) to companies for illegally marketing products containing 7-OH.
- On July 29, the FDA issued a [press release](#) detailing its recommendation to schedule 7-OH products, along with an accompanying [Dear Colleague letter](#) educating health care professionals about the products.

Kratom Specifics:

- Kratom contains the alkaloids mitragynine and 7-OH.
- At lower doses, mitragynine exhibits stimulant properties, resulting in symptoms of anxiety and agitation.
- At higher doses, mitragynine causes opioid-like toxicity (i.e., sedation, miosis, respiratory depression) and is 13-times more potent than morphine.
- 7-OH is approximately 10-times more potent than mitragynine.
- Other commonly reported symptoms of toxicity from these products include palpitations, seizures, nausea, and abdominal pain.
- Habitual use/overuse may result in an opioid-like withdrawal syndrome, as well as liver toxicity, seizures, dependency, and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers:

- Provide general emergency and critical care medical support as warranted.
- Administer naloxone for reversal of respiratory depression.
- Observe for and manage symptoms of opioid use disorder following cessation of kratom or 7-OH use.
- If possible, collect information on the product use, including the name, place and date of purchase.
- Please report all suspected cases to Pennsylvania’s Poison Control Centers (1-800-222-1222).
- Report adverse events from kratom to FDA MedWatch <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program>

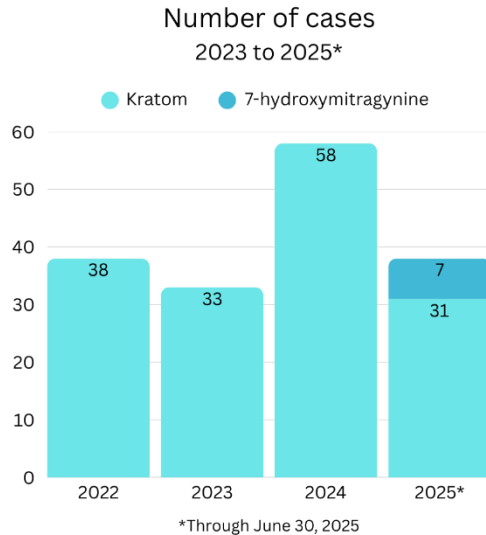
Other Resources:

- National Drug early Warning System Weekly Briefing, Issue 233: May 30, 2025: <https://ndews.org/newsletter/ndews-weekly-briefing-issue-233/>
- FDA resource for kratom: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
- FDA warning for 7-hydroxymitragynine: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-warning-letters-firms-marketing-products-containing-7-hydroxymitragynine>
- Previously published poison center data: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6529a4.htm>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse: Kratom <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom>
- FDA scheduling recommendation: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-steps-restrict-7-oh-opioid-products-threatening-american->

[consumers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery](#)

- Smith, KE et al. Letter to the Editor: The Rise of Novel, Semisynthetic 7-hydroxymitraginine products. Addiction, Volume 120, Issue 2, pp 387-388. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.1672>

Summary of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) cases reported to Pennsylvania Poison Centers*, from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025.



Age range: 12 months to 80 years

Gender: 49 Female, 117 Male, 1 Unknown

Top impacted counties: Allegheny (18 cases), Montgomery (14 case), Philadelphia (13 cases)

Coded Reasons for exposures:

- Abuse: 71
- Misuse: 22
- Withdrawal: 12
- Suspected suicide: 10
- Other reasons: 52

Severity of Toxicity:

- 81 individuals with significant illness, no deaths
- Naloxone administered in 25 individuals
- 14 individuals were mechanically ventilated
 - 5 cases involved kratom only
 - 4 cases also involved tianeptine

*Pennsylvania's Poison Centers are hosted at [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) and [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center](#). Their teams of nurses, pharmacists, and medical toxicologists are available for 24/7 consultation at 1 (800) 222-1222.

**Case reports made to poison centers are voluntary and under-represent the true burden of drug toxicity in the community. Most hospital laboratories are unable to identify kratom alkaloids on urine drug testing, and most reports are based on users' report and do not have laboratory confirmation.

For questions, or to report suspected cases, please call your local Poison Center at 1 (800) 222-1222.

Individuals interested in receiving future PA-HANs can register at:

<https://ondemand.mir3.com/han-pa-gov/login/>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of August 4, 2025 but may be modified in the future.