Fact Sheet

- These products are marketed to teens and young adults through online and retail establishments such as head shops, tattoo parlors, truck stops, and convenience stores under such names as “Cloud 9”, “Ivory Wave”, “Hurricane Charlie”, “Vanilla Sky”, “Purple Wave”, “Red Dove”, White Lightening”, and “Pure”.

- They are not related to legitimate water-softening, or aroma therapeutic salts typically sold in bath and beauty stores.

- The active ingredient found is methylenedioxpyrovalerone or MDVP, a central nervous stimulant that produces effects similar to that of cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA (Ecstasy).

- The bath salt stimulants are inhaled, ingested, or injected similar to traditional drugs.

- Bath salts are reported to have 4x’s the potency of Ritalin and Concerta.

- They are white, odorless, a fine-grain powder similar in appearance to baby powder or flour.

- The cost typically is $25-$35 for ¼ gram.

- Bath salts are also sold as plant food and insect repellant.

- On June 23, 2011, PA Governor Corbett banned the sale of bath salts, synthetic marijuana, and hallucinogenic plant salvia divinorum; effective in 60 days.

- Some known side effects are as follows: paranoia, agitation, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, hallucinations, suicide/suicidal behaviors, intense cravings, overstimulation, increased energy, delirium, insomnia, chest pain, heart attack, stroke, binge use and death.

If you need assistance in accessing treatment, please contact the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Department at 610-782-3555.