

the

RED CUP

Q&A



separating alcohol fact from fiction
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

Q What are the effects of MDMA and alcohol combined?

A. MDMA, “XTC,” “Molly,” or “ecstasy” is a stimulant with hallucinogenic properties which has gained a following among some users because of its ability to produce strong feelings of euphoria, emotional openness, and arousal. First created in 1912 as a potential appetite suppressant, it later became a therapeutic medication for the treatment of depression in the 1970’s. However, that practice stopped when studies showed that MDMA was toxic to the brain and damaged cells which released the neurotransmitter, serotonin.

Those who combine MDMA with alcohol, often do so to prolong feelings of euphoria and to increase arousal.

While MDMA may reverse the feeling of sedation induced by alcohol it does not reduce the effects of alcohol on cognitive and motor abilities. And, because both drugs lower inhibitions, when combined, can further promote risky behaviors, such as having unprotected sex or driving under the influence. The risk for hangovers and alcohol poisoning increases because users may feel unimpaired and become at greater risk for dehydration and over-consumption. Additionally, the negative side effects of “crashing” from ecstasy, such as anxiety, depression and trouble sleeping, may also increase when combined with alcohol.

The “take-away” is that due to the disconnection between subjective feelings and objective reality, the combination of both drugs could lead to unintended and dangerous drug interactions along with negative consequences.

wildfact

“Good Golly, Miss *Molly*” was first recorded in 1956 by Little Richard.



Got a question about alcohol? Email it to redcup@email.arizona.edu



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