THIS SUMMER was enormously successful for us. We now have local chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and Vancouver. Donations have been steady and have enabled us to provide our laboratory pill analysis service for free to US residents. We have distributed over 250 Ecstasy Testing Kits to users across the country, and have successfully implemented an on-site pill testing program in the Oakland rave scene. The onsite testing program has contributed to a measurable decrease in the number of fake and adulterated ecstasy tablets, as well as the number of medical emergencies, in the Bay Area. Below is a summary of our programs and accomplishments.

**Laboratory Analysis Program**

Last Spring we launched a laboratory pill analysis program whereby US residents can anonymously send street ecstasy tablets to a professional lab for qualitative analysis using full-scale gas chromatography. The results are posted regularly to our website (www.harmreduction.net/dancesafe).

Since July the laboratory has received twenty-eight pills from cities around the US including San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Nashville, Seattle, Orlando, San Antonio, Oakland, St. Petersburg (FL) and Birmingham.

Of these twenty-eight pills, fifteen contained entactogenetic compounds. Eleven of them were pure MDMA, while one contained MDMA and caffeine, one contained MDA only, one contained MDA and MDE, and one contained a combination of MDMA and MDE. Of the remaining thirteen, three contained no drugs at all, one contained only caffeine, one contained a combination of Guaifenesin and Ephedrine, and the remaining eight contained only Dextromethorphan (DXM).

The prevalence of DXM tablets on the ecstasy market is of particular concern. DXM is a cough suppressant that in high doses is a dissociative similar to ketamine. We had been receiving numerous emails from ecstasy users reporting extremely unpleasant experiences from supposed ecstasy tablets, particularly a brand known as “green triangles” which had surfaced everywhere around the country. Users who had taken these pills reported nausea, delerium, itchy skin, loss of motor control, and audio and visual hallucinations. Effects were reported by some to have lasted 36 hours or longer, particularly in users who had taken multiple pills. Some users reported that they or their friends had been hospitalized after taking these pills, and the

Dancesafe volunteers personally witnessed over a dozen medical emergencies requiring hospitalization in Oakland where users had consumed the green triangles.

The rumor going around was that these pills contained heroin and/or mescaline. After testing five of these pills at the laboratory we discovered that they contained high doses of DXM (averaging 127mg per pill). We immediately posted warnings on our website and through various rave email lists. While relatively safe in the proper dosage and environment, an overdose of DXM in a rave setting, particularly by someone not expecting the drug, can be dangerous. Furthermore, DXM is contraindicated with MDMA. It is both a serotonin releaser and a reuptake inhibitor, as well as being metabolized by the same liver enzyme as MDMA, thus preventing the proper

The “yin yang” pill below contained MDE only. The “mitsubishi” contained caffeine only. The “wildflower” (far right) contained MDA only. All other pills pictured below contained DXM only. A brand known as “green triangles” which contained DXM only surfaced everywhere around the country. Users who had taken them reported nausea, delerium, itchy skin, loss of motor control, and audio and visual hallucinations.