



WHAT IS KRATOM?



Overview

Kratom is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, its leaves are used to produce over-the-counter herbal supplements. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), consuming its leaves may result in psychotic symptoms and psychological/physical dependence.¹



What is the potential for abuse and addiction to Kratom?

Kratom has become well-known as a natural supplement for pain management, mood enhancement, and as an alternative to opioids. Kratom exhibits stimulant-like properties at lower doses, promoting alertness, while higher doses act as a sedative and produce opioid-like effects.¹ The active ingredients in kratom bind to the brain's opioid receptors, similar to scheduled opioids, and some users report being addicted to kratom.²

Several safety issues related to kratom use have been identified:³

- Liver toxicity
- Kratom-related substance use disorder
- Contaminated kratom products (with heavy metals, bacteria)
- Seizures
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (infants suffering from withdrawal)
- Death (in rare cases, typically when kratom is used alongside other substances)

Kratom is marketed in many forms

- Tablets/Capsules
- Powder
- Liquid Extract
- Gummies



Legal Status of Kratom

Kratom is not scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act, however, some states have banned or regulated its use. In New Jersey, kratom is legal to purchase, sell and consume.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers against using kratom, and the DEA lists kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern.

1. Drug Enforcement Administration, Kratom (October 2022).
 2. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Kratom Drug Facts (April 2019).
 3. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, FDA and Kratom (July 2023)

Request for Information and Contact Information:
Any agency with additional information regarding this topic, or with questions about this product, may contact the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI), Office of Drug Monitoring & Analysis at DMI@njsp.gov.