

# KRATOM – Danger In A Bottle!



**Kratom** is an herbal substance that is being sold in gas stations, convenience stores, and head shops as an energy supplement, an herb that reduces pain, anxiety and depression. The active ingredients are **mitragynine** and **hydroxymitragynine**.

## There are serious dangers that all parents should know:

- Researchers compare the effects of kratom to opiates (prescription pain killers) and heroin because it attaches to the same receptors in the brain. Kratom is often referred to as “synthetic heroin”; however, it is not classified as a Synthetic.
- Kratom is addictive. Other side effects may include: nervousness, nausea/vomiting (can be severe and prolonged), psychotic episodes, hallucinations and paranoia. The effects of kratom are felt quickly and can last between 5 and 7 hours, although high doses can last longer.
- Kratom is not detected by typical drug screens, which experts believe make it very attractive to youth who are trying to hide their use from adults.

Since the packaging is similar to 5-hour energy drinks, young people may think it is a safe alternative to energy shots. It is not! Please talk to your children and loved ones.

***For more information, call the Drug Education Council, 478-7855***