

Kratom Users Say Ban Will Lead to More Drug Abuse

Kratom is a safe and effective treatment for chronic pain and a wide variety of medical conditions, according to a new survey of kratom consumers.

LA CRESCENTA, CA, USA, September 21, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Kratom is a safe and surprisingly effective treatment for chronic pain and a wide variety of medical conditions, according to a large new survey of kratom consumers. Many say banning the herbal supplement will only lead to more drug abuse and worsen the nation's opioid epidemic.

The [online survey of 6,150 kratom consumers](#) by Pain News Network and the American Kratom Association was conducted after plans were announced by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to classify two chemicals in kratom as a Schedule I controlled substances. Unless the scheduling is postponed, the sale and possession of kratom could become a felony as early as September 30.

The survey findings dispel the myth that kratom is used recreationally like marijuana by people who only want to get "high" or intoxicated. The vast majority say they use the herb in teas and supplements solely to treat their medical conditions.

Asked what was the primary reason they used kratom, over half (51%) said they used the herb as a treatment for chronic pain, followed by anxiety (14%), depression (9%), opioid addiction (9%) and alcoholism (3%). Less than two percent said they used kratom recreationally or out of curiosity.

"The survey tells us exactly what we've been trying to tell the DEA, lawmakers and the general public. The average kratom consumer is nothing like we are being portrayed as," says Susan Ash, founder of the American Kratom Association.

"The average kratom consumer is a man or woman in their 40's, 50's or 60's, who is primarily looking for alternatives to pharmaceutical drugs that either didn't work for them or had side effects that were unbearable. The survey clearly shows the majority of people are using kratom to manage chronic medical conditions."

Nine out of ten patients (90%) said [kratom was very effective in treating their pain](#) or medical conditions.

Asked if they get high from using kratom, three out of four consumers (75%) said no and 23% said "a little." Only about 2 percent said they get high from using the herb. Many likened the stimulative effect of kratom to a strong cup of coffee.

While the DEA maintains that kratom poses "an imminent hazard to public safety" and has been linked to several deaths, the vast majority of kratom consumers believe it is safe to use.

Ninety-eight percent said kratom was not a harmful or dangerous substance and 95% said banning the herb will have a harmful effect on society.

For more information, visit <http://www.painnewsnetwork.org/stories/2016/9/18/kratom-users-say-ban-will-lead-to-more-drug-abuse>

For the complete results of the survey, visit <http://www.painnewsnetwork.org/kratom-survey/>

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