



Kratom: What it is and why it's a concern

Board of Health Presentation



December 11, 2018

What is Kratom?

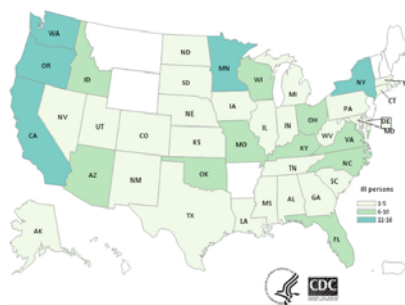
- Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, primarily Malaysia and Thailand
- Leaves can be brewed as tea, chewed or used in capsules
- Active chemicals bind to same receptors as an opioids



Why is There a Concern?

- Considered a food supplement, it's not regulated
- Nationwide salmonella outbreak linked to kratom; one in Snohomish County
- FDA and DEA have raised concerns & issued warnings about kratom
- Four deaths in 2018 in Snohomish County with kratom in their system

People infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* (14,15,12b:, Javiana, Okatie, Heidelberg, Weltevreden and Thompson, by state of residence, as of May 24, 2018 (n=199)



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Is it in Snohomish County?

- Available online and through smoke and vape shops
- 56% of smoke and vape stores surveyed (n= 25) sold kratom
- Most have done so at the request of their customers



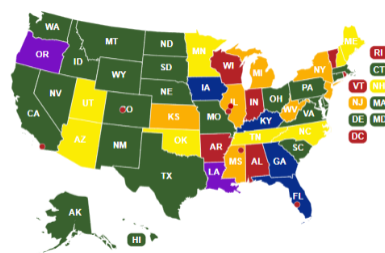
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What is Being Done Around the U.S.?

Kratom Legality Map

- ✓ Green: Kratom is legal and no restrictions
- ✓ Yellow: Legislation in yellow states have been amended
- ★ Orange: There is pending legislation on Kratom in these states
- ✗ Blue: States with failed legislation and remains legal.
- ⊗ Red: banned states schedule 1 for kratom
- ✓ Purple: Study involving kratom
- Red Dot: banned city for kratom
- ✓ Light Green : Natural Form ONLY



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Proposed Resolution

Calls on the Washington State legislature to take meaningful action to address kratom that could include:

- Enacting a ban on kratom and/or its active compounds mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine
- Placing age restrictions
- Requiring additional research and data collection
- Providing for an educational campaign

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Discussion/ Questions

