



## Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office



## Santa Barbara County Alcohol Drug & Mental Health Services

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Date: 11/16/2015  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

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## News Release

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### **Coroner Releases the Andres Sanchez Death Investigation and Autopsy Results**

### **Dangerous Hallucinogenic Drugs and Availability of Community Resources to Address Drug Dependency**

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner's Office is responding to media requests for the release of information about the Coroner's investigation into the October 11, 2015, death of 19 year-old Andres Sanchez in Isla Vista. The Coroner's investigation was completed on November 16, 2015. Based upon the information and evidence gathered during the Coroner's death investigation, the manner of death is being certified as Accidental. The cause of death was determined to be, "Acute hallucinogenic polysubstance intoxication," with an additional significant cause of death being, "Sharp force trauma of the upper extremity."

The toxicology results revealed that at the time of his death, Sanchez was under the influence of two powerful hallucinogenic drugs; 25I-NBOMe and ketamine, as well as marijuana. The noted sharp force trauma refers to a deep cut on Sanchez's right forearm,

which was caused when he apparently punched and broke a large residential window in Isla Vista.

### **Community Safety Message**

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner's Office, in conjunction with Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) would like to warn our community members about the dangers of hallucinogenic drugs within our communities. We are also seeking to provide information and resources that can assist in protecting our community members from the dangers of posed by drug abuse.

25I-NBOMe is a powerful synthetic hallucinogen that is distributed in a number of different forms including liquids, blotter paper and powder. The most common method of ingesting 25I-NBOMe is orally. The most prevalent street names for this drug are "25I" or "N-Bomb". Although 25I-NBOMe has been around for more than 12 years, recreational abuse rates for the drug have increased dramatically in the past few years, resulting in a significant number of hospitalizations for overdoses, as well as deaths. Ingestion of 25I-NBOMe can result in seizures, aggression, self-harm and agitation, distortions in space and time, psychosis-like symptoms, an abnormally rapid heart rate, increased body temperature, and rapid breakdown of muscle tissue. Existing case reports of 25I-NBOMe abuse indicates that there is a substantial risk of toxicity after ingesting limited quantities of this hallucinogenic substance.

Ketamine is an anesthetic, with hallucinogenic properties. Common street names for ketamine, include "K" and "Vitamin K," among many others. Although it was developed in the early 1960's as an anesthetic, its popularity as a recreational hallucinogenic drug has increased dramatically in the past ten years as result of its association with "rave" dances. Misuse of ketamine can result in hallucinations, delirium, irrational behavior and progress into cardiovascular and respiratory irregularities.

The Sheriff's Office actively investigates reports of illegal drug sales occurring within Santa Barbara County. We encourage community members to contact the **Sheriff's Office Narcotics Investigations Unit at (805) 681-4175** to provide information that may be of assistance in identifying individuals or criminal organizations that are responsible for distributing hallucinogenic drugs and any other illegal substances within our communities.

Santa Barbara County ADMHS contracts with a variety of community-based treatment providers for Alcohol and Drug treatment. The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division of ADMHS responds aggressively to drug and alcohol trends within our counties, and has educated all prevention and treatment providers on the dangers of hallucinogen abuse. ADMHS organized and sponsored town hall meetings on substance abuse and is currently developing new and alternative treatment protocols to combat substance abuse and addiction. Concerned community members may call the **ADMHS 24/7 Access line at 1-888-868-1649**, to seek help with drug and alcohol addiction needs, as well as mental health services, and help with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs. ADMHS would like to remind community members that if someone is experiencing potential drug overdose symptoms, community members should immediately call 911 and request medical assistance for the person experiencing the potential overdose.

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