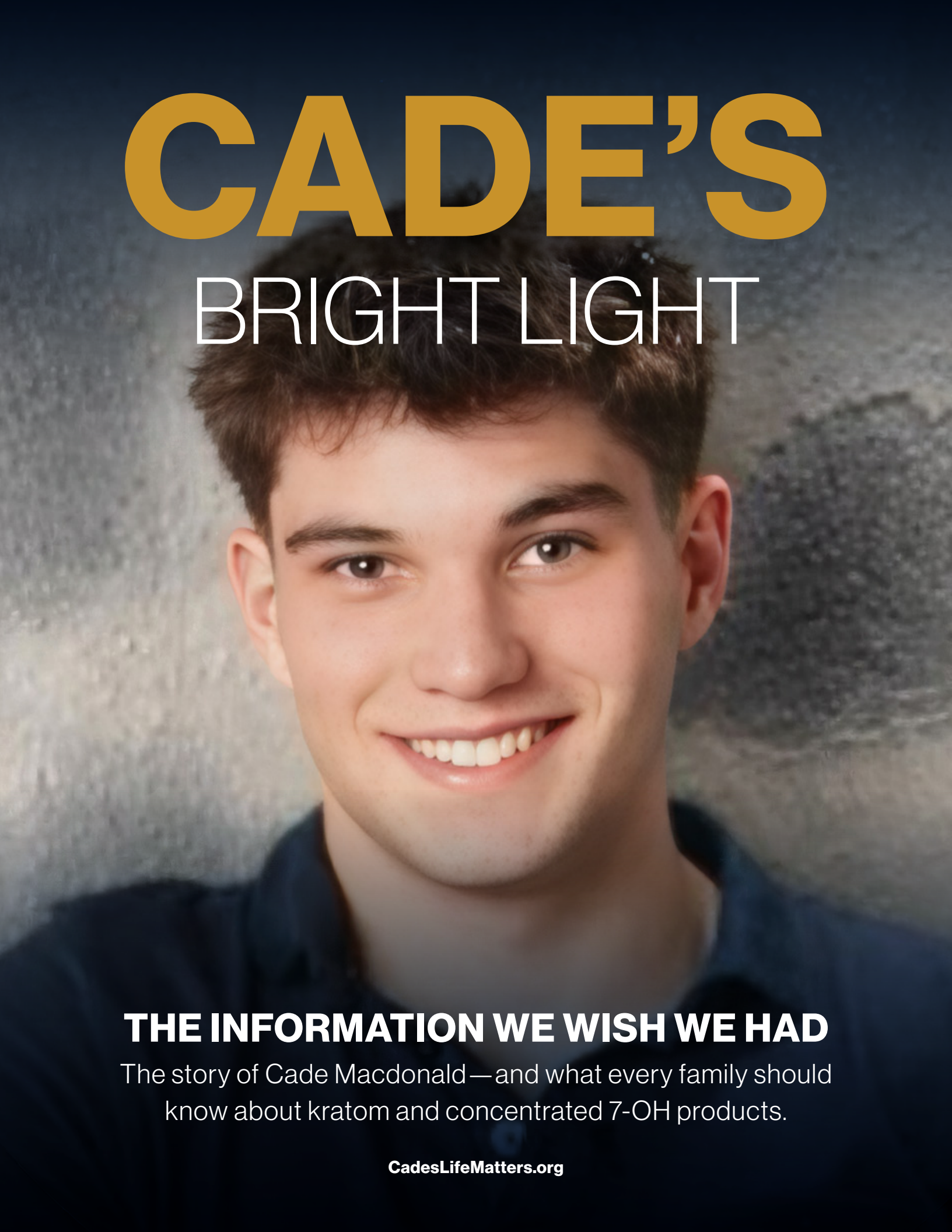


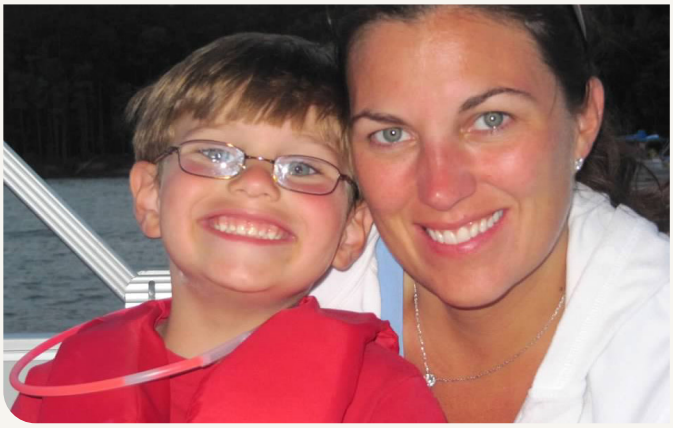
CADE'S BRIGHT LIGHT

THE INFORMATION WE WISH WE HAD

The story of Cade Macdonald—and what every family should know about kratom and concentrated 7-OH products.

CadesLifeMatters.org

Meet CADE





Cade Farren Macdonald

March 20, 2005 — January 8, 2026

Cade was a 20-year-old college student with his future ahead of him. He was a son, a twin brother, a younger brother to his older sister, a grandson, a nephew, and a friend to so many. He showed up for others, especially the people he loved. His friends described him as a positive influence in their lives — a bright light wherever he went.

Like many young adults, Cade and his twin brother Colt visited a smoke shop with a friend. An employee recommended a kratom product based on its taste. That recommendation introduced them to a product they did not understand was opioid-like in its effects.

Neither Cade nor Colt was warned that kratom acts on the same receptors in the brain as opioids, can lead to dependence, and has been associated with serious adverse events including death. They also did not know that relatively little research has been conducted on kratom's long-term effects.

Had they been given that information, they would have had the opportunity to make a fully informed decision. Instead, they believed, reasonably, that products sold openly in shops and convenience stores were generally safe, or at least unlikely to be life-threatening. Cade did not view kratom as an opioid or as a substance that could pose a fatal risk.

According to the Medical Examiner:

Cade would not have died had he not ingested mitragynine, the primary active compound found in kratom products.



A Cycle

NO ONE WARNED THEM ABOUT

As Cade's kratom use continued, he experienced increasing difficulties he could not explain. What began as a product presented as harmless became associated with growing anxiety, physical dependence, and confusion about what was happening to his body.

The very substance he believed was helping him was, in fact, making things worse. As his anxiety intensified, he took more in an effort to find relief, not understanding that the product itself was contributing to his condition. Because it was marketed and sold as a dietary supplement, the risk was invisible to him. He did not fully recognize the serious risks associated with its use or its potential for dependence.

His twin brother Colt, also affected, sought medical care at college while experiencing symptoms. Despite disclosing kratom use to healthcare providers, no testing was performed for mitragynine exposure. **Kratom's compounds are not detected by standard drug screens. Specialized testing is required, and awareness varies significantly between healthcare providers.**

Only after Cade's death did Colt understand the role kratom had been playing in his own life. When he tried to stop, he could not do so on his own. He required professional treatment to overcome his dependence. During treatment, Colt met others who had turned to kratom in an effort to move away from opioids, another complex and often overlooked dimension of this product's reach.

WHAT FAMILIES OFTEN DON'T SEE

Families often describe watching their loved one struggle to understand why they no longer felt like themselves, while continuing to seek relief from the very product they initially believed was helping them. It is a devastating cycle that far too few consumers are ever warned about.

Cade's story also serves as a reminder: when a young adult is not feeling like themselves, whether experiencing changes in mood, energy, anxiety, or overall well-being, it is important to consider all substances and supplements they may be consuming. Products marketed as natural, herbal, or dietary supplements can have powerful effects on the body and mind.

> *If not us, who?*
> *If not now, when?*
>
> — John F. Kennedy

We refuse to let Cade's life be reduced to a statistic. By sharing his story, we hope to help other families understand the risks, ask questions, and make informed decisions before tragedy has the chance to strike their own home.

Cade deserved the opportunity to make an informed choice. Every young adult deserves that same opportunity.



What Is KRATOM

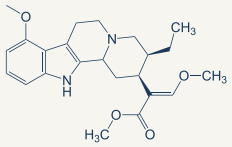
Kratom is a plant from Southeast Asia. In the United States, it is sold openly in gas stations, smoke shops, vape stores, and online. No prescription is required, there is no FDA approval, no standardized labeling, and in most states no age restriction.

KRATOM



Tree native to Southeast Asia. Products derived from its leaves contain mitragynine and related alkaloids.

MITRAGYNINE



Psychoactive ingredient in kratom plant.

Attaches to opioid receptors causing confusion, slowed breathing or other dangerous side effects.

7-OH



Potent opioid-active alkaloid. Low or undetectable in some traditional fresh-leaf preparations. Sold in highly concentrated commercial products.

Source: RiverStone Health

WHAT IT DOES IN YOUR BODY

Kratom's active compounds — mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) — attach to the same receptors in the brain targeted by opioids like morphine, heroin, and fentanyl. Researchers describe them as "atypical opioids" because they activate the same brain pathways associated with dependence, withdrawal, respiratory depression, and fatal drug interactions.

Your body also produces 7-OH after consuming kratom, meaning the product becomes more potent inside the body, not less. Some commercial products have also been found to contain additional 7-OH added during manufacturing, up to 500% above natural levels, according to Florida Department of Law Enforcement intelligence reporting. 7-OH has been estimated to be up to 13 times more potent than morphine.

WHAT NO ONE TELLS YOU

- There is no standard dose. There is currently no universally accepted toxic dose for mitragynine or kratom products
- Published studies suggest mitragynine may remain in the body for extended periods and can accumulate with repeated use
- It interacts unpredictably with prescription medications including anti-anxiety drugs
- Long-term safety data is very limited, particularly regarding everyday use
- Products are not subject to the same safety testing as prescription medications

"Natural" does not mean safe.

"Legal" does not mean approved.

"Supplement" does not mean tested.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE

This is not a fringe concern. The data below comes from poison control centers, peer-reviewed research, and medical examiner reports, all publicly available and independently verified.

6,500%
Increase in U.S. poison control calls related to kratom since 2010

1,200%
Increase from 2015 to 2025 alone

14,449
Total poison control reports over that 11-year period

3,434
Cases in 2025 alone, a record high

1 in 7
Single-substance kratom exposures required hospital admission

1 in 16
Required critical care

233
Deaths reported between 2015 and 2025

38
Deaths directly attributed to kratom in a 2026 Florida study

Source: CDC. Increases in Kratom-Related Reports to Poison Centers, MMWR, March 26, 2026.

Hundreds of deaths in Florida have been linked to kratom. Because kratom is not routinely tested during autopsies, the true number may be higher. The CDC, FDA, DEA, and NIH have all raised serious concerns.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have banned kratom use across all personnel.



"Kratom-related adverse effects are increasing in number and complexity in the United States."

They Were Not Seeking Opioids.
THESE ARE OUR KIDS.

THE CONTRADICTION *The Kratom Industry's Bait And Switch*

WHAT THE INDUSTRY SAID ABOUT KRATOM



- ✓ Bans create black markets
- ✓ Prohibition doesn't work
- ✓ Adults should have freedom to choose
- ✓ Education is better than prohibition

WHAT THE INDUSTRY NOW SAYS ABOUT 7-OH



- ✗ It should be banned
- ✗ It is too dangerous
- ✗ It creates addiction
- ✗ It threatens public health

IF THOSE ARGUMENTS WERE TRUE FOR KRATOM, WHY DON'T THEY APPLY TO 7-OH?

Some argue that kratom fills a void, helping people manage pain or ease opioid withdrawal. That conversation exists, and it matters. But it has consistently obscured another conversation: what happens to everyone else?

Many consumers have no history of opioid use. They are not seeking addiction treatment. They are students, young adults, and people managing everyday stress, buying something from a shelf because it was presented as natural, legal, and available. They had no way to know it acted on the same brain receptors as heroin or morphine.

BANNING ONE COMPOUND IS NOT ENOUGH

When 7-OH was restricted in Florida, manufacturers introduced different compounds with similar opioid-like effects. The product name changes. The molecule changes. The danger does not.

A peer-reviewed study published in the journal Addiction examined 8,919 kratom exposures reported to U.S. poison centers over 14 years. States with Kratom Consumer Protection Acts showed no meaningful reduction in poisonings, severe outcomes, or hospital use compared to states with no regulation at all. States with outright bans had substantially lower rates of exposures and serious harm.

Kratom is being distributed as free samples at events, slipped into online orders, and stacked at gas station counters. That is not education. That is recruitment. It mirrors the same tactics used to create addiction for profit throughout history.

WHAT CONSUMERS DESERVE TO KNOW, AND ARE NOT TOLD

- What active compounds are in the product
- Whether those compounds act on opioid receptors
- The real potency and strength of the product
- Whether the product has been independently tested
- The known risks of dependence, overdose, and interactions with other substances

Regulation without restriction did not work. The data says so.

"NATURAL LEAF" IS NOT TRADITIONAL KRATOM

A peer-reviewed article published October 1, 2026 concludes that U.S. products sold as natural kratom - including dried-leaf powders, capsules and tea bags - are chemically different from fresh-leaf preparations traditionally consumed in Southeast Asia.

TRADITIONAL SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Freshly harvested, unprocessed leaves
- Leaves chewed or prepared as a water-based drink
- Mitragynine and related alkaloids found in organic, water-soluble salt forms
- Preliminary testing did not detect 7-OH in fresh-leaf decoction

NOT THE SAME

U.S. COMMERCIAL "NATURAL LEAF"

- Dried and processed leaf material
- Powders, capsules and tea bags
- Drying and processing can alter product chemistry
- Historical fresh-leaf safety claims cannot automatically be transferred to these products

THE CENTRAL FINDING: A centuries-old history of fresh-leaf use cannot, by itself, establish the safety of modern American commercial products.

WHY THIS DISTINCTION MATTERS

LABELING

Claims of "traditional use" may not describe what is actually sold.

REGULATION

Rules can distinguish fresh-leaf history from U.S. processing and formulation.

EXPERT TESTIMONY

The paper gives experts a peer-reviewed basis for challenging equivalence claims.

PRODUCT SAFETY

Warnings and risk analysis should address the commercial product, not just the plant name.

IMPORTANT CONTEXT

This scientific article does not prove that every U.S. leaf product is adulterated, determine the cause of any individual death, or create a new legal rule. It does show that the traditional-use comparison cannot simply be assumed.

READ THE ARTICLE

Journal of Addiction Medicine
October 1, 2026

RESEARCHERS Thiruventhan Karunakaran, Kasinather Vicknasingam and Marek C. Chawarski

Journal of Addiction Medicine. DOI: 10.1097/ADM.0000000000001785 | PMID: 42822000

TREAT SERIOUS 7-OH POISONING AS AN OPIOID EMERGENCY

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) has issued a peer-reviewed position statement giving clinicians and policymakers a clear response framework.

THE ACMT POSITION

ACMT supports measures to prevent the unrestricted, nonprescription sale of opioid agonists. It advises avoiding 7-OH outside monitored clinical research and states that no safe dose can currently be recommended.

THE CLINICAL RESPONSE

01

IDENTIFY

Ask specifically what was used: kratom or 7-OH, product form, dose and duration.

02

SUPPORT BREATHING

Treat respiratory depression with immediate airway and ventilatory support.

03

GIVE NALOXONE

Administer naloxone to restore ventilation when opioid-like poisoning is suspected.

04

TREAT DEPENDENCE

Offer evidence-based opioid-use-disorder care, including buprenorphine and follow-up.

BOTANICAL KRATOM IS NOT PHARMACOLOGICALLY NEUTRAL

ACMT states that mitragynine - kratom's primary alkaloid - has mu-opioid activity and produces opioid-like effects. The statement also notes that dependence on natural kratom was documented more than 50 years ago.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR FLORIDA

- Hospitals: a published response framework for opioid-like poisoning
- Poison centers and medical examiners: product-specific history and reporting
- Patients: naloxone access and evidence-based treatment for dependence
- Policymakers: specialty guidance supporting stronger protections and warnings

IMPORTANT CONTEXT

This is professional medical guidance. It is not a law, does not replace clinical judgment, and does not prove causation in an individual death.

READ THE FULL ACMT POSITION STATEMENT

Authors: Michael J. Moss, Jacob Altholz, Kavita Babu, Jeanmarie Perrone and Andrew Stolbach
Journal: Journal of Medical Toxicology | Published online August 26, 2026
DOI: 10.1007/s13181-026-01154-4

A New Warning For Families

NEW PEDIATRIC SAFETY EVIDENCE

A peer-reviewed study published online on August 29, 2026 analyzed 169 U.S. poison-center cases involving children exposed to kratom alkaloids.



MEDIAN AGE

2 years

The median age of children in the study was 2 years.



97%

ACCIDENTAL

97% of reported exposures were accidental.

2.5×

SERIOUS BREATHING PROBLEMS

Compared with mitragynine exposure, 7-OH or mitragynine pseudoindoxyl exposure was associated with approximately 2.5 times the odds of serious breathing problems.

2.6×

SERIOUS NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS

Compared with mitragynine exposure, 7-OH or mitragynine pseudoindoxyl exposure was associated with approximately 2.6 times the odds of serious neurological effects.

NEARLY 2×

MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE NALOXONE

Children exposed to 7-OH or mitragynine pseudoindoxyl were nearly twice as likely to receive naloxone.

Source: Hoffmann et al., American Journal of Emergency Medicine (2026).

WHY IT MATTERS FOR FLORIDA



This provides stronger evidence for child-resistant packaging, prominent opioid warnings, emergency-department preparedness, and treating concentrated products differently from ordinary kratom leaf. It may also be relevant when evaluating whether manufacturers reasonably anticipated accidental child poisoning.

IMPORTANT CONTEXT

This is an **observational poison-center study** — not proof that every reported product caused the effects — and the analysis grouped 7-OH and pseudoindoxyl together. It is new scientific evidence, not a new law or agency rule.

READ THE STUDY

Scan the QR code to read the study in The American Journal of Emergency Medicine.

KRATOM AND 7-OH WITHDRAWAL TIMELINE

WHAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE AFTER YOUR LAST DOSE.

FIRST 24 HOURS

- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Cravings
- Muscle aches
- Chills
- Stomach discomfort
- Sweating
- Fatigue
- General discomfort
- Runny nose

DAYS 2–3

- Nausea
- Sweating
- Insomnia
- Irritability
- Anxiety
- Diarrhea
- Cravings

DAYS 4–7

Physical discomfort may ease, but many still experience:

- Sleep problems
- Mood swings
- Fatigue
- Cravings

WEEKS 2–4

Physical symptoms continue to fade.
Emotional symptoms may still come and go:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Cravings
- Sleep issues

ONE MONTH AND BEYOND

Lingering symptoms may include:

- Low mood
- Cravings
- Anxiety
- Trouble finding pleasure
- Poor sleep

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE.

Medical and treatment support is available.

Support resources → Page 9

Resources For Quitting Kratom

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

KRATOM QUITTERS

KratomQuitters.com

Support and recovery from people who understand.

SAMHSA NATIONAL HELPLINE

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Free and confidential treatment referrals, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TREATMENT LOCATOR

FindTreatment.gov

Search for licensed addiction treatment providers in your area.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Call or text 988

Free, 24/7 support for mental health or substance use crises.

NEVER USE ALONE

1-800-484-3731

A hotline for people using drugs alone. Someone will stay on the line with you.

POISON HELP

1-800-222-1222

If you or someone you know has taken too much kratom or another substance, call right away.



WHERE DID THE PROTECTIONS STOP?

Ask for answers. Listen. Keep the conversation moving.

No recorded "no" votes killed HB 1205 or SB 994. Committee inaction ended them.

HB 1205
HOUSE BILL

FEBRUARY 12
17–0 YES

FEBRUARY 16
Sent to the House Budget Committee

MARCH 13
Died Without A Hearing Or Vote

HB 1205 was not voted down. It passed 17–0, reached the Budget Committee, and was never scheduled for a hearing.

SB 994
SENATE BILL

POSTPONED

NEVER HEARD AGAIN

SB 994 was postponed in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee and never heard again.

THANK THE 17 WHO VOTED YES

Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee | February 12, 2026

Bruce Hadley Antone [D]
Yvette Benarroch [R]
Nathan Boyles [R]
Dr. Anna V. Eskamani [D]
Richard Gentry [R]
Mike Giallombardo [R] — *Chair*
Yvonne Hayes Hinson [D]
Fiona McFarland [R]
Monique Miller [R]
Angela "Angie" Nixon [D]
Vanessa Oliver [R]
Tobin "Toby" Overdorf [R]
Juan Carlos Porras [R] — *Vice Chair*
Judson Sapp [R]
Leonard Spencer [D]
Susan L. Valdés [R]
Bradford "Brad" Yeager [R]

17 YES • 0 NO • 0 MISSED

Thank them for advancing stronger kratom protections.

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
ASK WHAT HAPPENED

HB 1205 was referred to the House Budget Committee but was never placed before the committee for a recorded vote.

Lawrence McClure [R] — *Chair*
Susan L. Valdés [R] — *Vice Chair*
Fentrice Driskell [D] — *Democratic Ranking Member*

SENATE COMMERCE & TOURISM
ASK WHAT HAPPENED

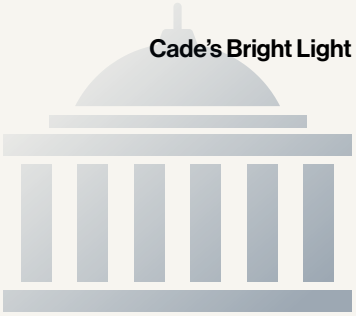
Committee Chair: Sen. Tom Leek

St. Augustine • District 7
District: 386-446-7610
Capitol: 850-487-5007
leek.tom.web@flsenate.gov

IMPORTANT NOTE: These members did not cast a recorded vote against HB 1205. The bill was never heard by the Budget Committee. Membership alone does not establish who supported, opposed, or blocked it.

THANK FIRST.
THEN ASK.

Thank the Lawmakers who Took Action



These lawmakers introduced or supported stronger kratom protections.

THANK THEM — AND ASK HOW FLORIDIANS CAN HELP MOVE MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION FORWARD.

REP. DEAN BLACK
Sponsored HB 1205

- Jacksonville • Nassau + part of Duval
- Capitol: 850-717-5015
- District: 904-717-9750
- Official House contact form: FLHouse.gov

SEN. JOE GRUTERS
Sponsored SB 994

- Sarasota • District 22
- gruters.joe.web@flsenate.gov
- District: 941-378-6309
- Capitol: 850-487-5022

SEN. JONATHAN MARTIN
Co-introduced SB 994

- Fort Myers • District 33
- martin.jonathan.web@flsenate.gov
- District: 239-338-2570
- Capitol: 850-487-5033

SEN. CLAY YARBOROUGH
Sponsored SB 432

- Jacksonville • District 4
- yarborough.clay.web@flsenate.gov
- District: 904-723-2035
- Capitol: 850-487-5004

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL

Thank them first. Then ask what prevented these protections from advancing — and what families can do to help next session.

WHAT TO SAY

THANK THEM

Thank them for supporting stronger kratom protections.

ASK FOR A RESPONSE

Why was HB 1205 not placed on the February 24 Budget Committee agenda? Who influenced that decision, and what must be addressed for comprehensive legislation to advance in 2027?

ASK THESE OFFICES FOR ANSWERS

LAWRENCE McCLURE
House Budget Committee Chair
(850) 717-5068

DEAN BLACK
HB 1205 Sponsor
(850) 717-5015

DANIEL PEREZ
Speaker of the Florida House
(850) 717-5000

SUSAN L. VALDÉS
Budget Committee Vice Chair
(850) 717-5064

Be gracious. Be specific. Ask for a response.

Public office contact information verified August 2026.

Why Is This
STILL ON THE SHELF?

Kratom is not an approved medicine and remains largely unregulated in the United States. While several states and countries have banned or restricted it, it is still widely sold in gas stations, smoke shops, vape stores, and online.

A 2026 peer-reviewed study found states with Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) laws experienced higher exposure rates, more severe outcomes, and greater healthcare utilization than states with kratom bans.

KCPA STATES

- **2.5x** Higher Exposure Rate
- **3.2x** Higher Severe Outcomes
- **2.4x** Higher Healthcare Use

VS

BAN STATES

- Lower Exposures
- Fewer Severe Outcomes
- Fewer Hospitalizations



KEY FINDING

The only approach associated with substantially lower rates of harm was a ban.

Source: Comstock et al. (2026), Addiction.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FLORIDA?

A recent Bay News 9 investigation reported a growing number of patients seeking treatment for kratom dependence in Tampa. One overdose involving a kratom-derived product purchased at a gas station required emergency treatment with Narcan.

The report also highlighted concerns that manufacturers quickly introduced alternative products after Florida's temporary 7-OH restrictions took effect.

Florida's earlier emergency restriction expired in June 2026, but a new emergency rule took effect August 18, 2026. It temporarily classifies certain concentrated 7-OH products and related compounds as Schedule I substances under specified concentration and alkaloid-ratio thresholds. Because the rule is temporary, permanent legislation is still needed.

WE ARE CALLING FOR:

- Federal scheduling and regulation of kratom and related compounds
- Clear warning labels disclosing dependence and opioid-like effects
- Age restrictions at point of sale
- Routine toxicology testing at autopsy
- Independent safety standards before products reach retail shelves

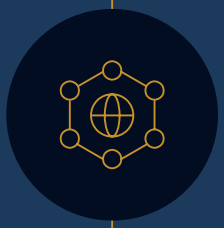
INFORMATION. ACTION. CHANGE.

Cade did not receive the information he needed to make an informed choice. Together, we can help make sure other families do.



1. LEARN

Know that products sold as natural, herbal, legal, or dietary supplements may still have powerful effects on the body and mind. Ask what active compounds are present, how strong the product is, and whether it has been independently tested.



2. SHARE

Share Cade's story and this brochure with families, students, healthcare providers, schools, colleges, community organizations, and retailers. Awareness begins when people understand that kratom and 7-OH products can lead to dependence and serious medical harm.



3. SPEAK UP

Contact Florida lawmakers respectfully. Thank those who supported stronger protections. Ask why HB 1205 and SB 994 stopped in committee, what concerns need to be resolved, and what safeguards they will support in the next session.



4. SUPPORT

Help Cade's Bright Light continue its work through education, public outreach, advocacy, and the distribution of resources to families who need them.

Thank first. Be specific. Ask for a response.
Keep the conversation moving.

Sources & Further Reading

SCAN TO READ, LEARN MORE, AND TAKE ACTION

NATIONAL POISON-CENTER STUDY

Comstock, G., Gulotta, A. P., Rein, L. E., & Feldman, R. (2026). "Association between state-level kratom regulations and poison center-reported severe medical outcomes and healthcare use: A United States national analysis." Addiction, 121(9), 2457–2467.

READ THE STUDY

https://doi.org/10.1111/add.70416

PEDIATRIC SAFETY STUDY

"Risk of respiratory and neurologic effects in children ingesting kratom and related alkaloids." The American Journal of Emergency Medicine. Published online August 29, 2026.

The study analyzed 169 U.S. poison-center cases involving children exposed to kratom alkaloids.

PEDIATRIC EVIDENCE

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0735675726004407

CADE'S BRIGHT LIGHT

Learn more, access educational resources, share your story, or support the awareness effort.

CADESLIFEMATTERS.ORG

https://CadesLifeMatters.org

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Find current representatives, legislation, committee information, and official contact details.

FLORIDA HOUSE

https://FLHouse.gov

FLORIDA SENATE

https://FLSenate.gov

FURTHER READING

Tampa Bay Times — How the Tampa Bay Times Investigated the Kratom Industry
https://www.tampabay.com/investigations/2023/12/07/deadly-dose-kratom-industry-tampa-bay-times-investigation/

DEA — Kratom Drug Fact Sheet
https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0.pdf

Lydecker et al. — Suspected Adulteration of Commercial Kratom Products with 7-Hydroxymitragynine
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5135684/

USC Center for Health Journalism — Kratom's Path Across the U.S. Is Marked by Deception and Secrets
https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/part-3-kratoms-path-across-us-marked-deception-and-secrets

CNN — Kratom Poison Center Calls Surge
https://www.cnn.com/2026/03/27/health/kratom-poisoning-center-calls-study-wellness

Tampa Bay Times — The Kratom Supply Chain
https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-industry-opms-supply-chain-indonesia-florida/

FDA — Warning on OPMS Black Liquid Kratom
https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-warns-consumers-not-use-optimized-plant-mediated-solutions-opms-black-liquid-kratom

Tampa Bay Times — Hundreds Died Using Kratom in Florida. It Was Touted as Safe.
https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/

NBC 6 South Florida — Synthetic 7-OH Is Now Banned in Florida
https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/highly-addictive-synthetic-drug-7-oh-is-now-banned-in-florida/3677244/

WVLT News — Tennessee Kratom Ban Takes Effect July 1
https://www.wvlt.tv/2026/05/28/tennessee-kratom-ban-takes-effect-july-1/

Spectrum Bay News 9 — Kratom Usage Increasing as Statewide Ban Expires
https://baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2026/04/28/kratom-usage-increasing-statewide-ban-expiring

CARRY CADE'S LIGHT FORWARD

Cade's Bright Light was created to increase awareness, promote consumer education, support advocacy, and help other families access the information Cade and his family never received.

YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP US

- Print and distribute educational materials
- Continue public education and advocacy
- Reach families, students, schools, colleges, and communities
- Work toward stronger, lasting consumer protections
- Share practical treatment and crisis resources
- Secure professional support to advance meaningful legislation.

TURN AWARENESS INTO ACTION

Help another family receive the information Cade and his family never did.

LEARN

Understand the risks of kratom, 7-OH and emerging derivatives.

SHARE

Put this brochure in the hands of families, schools and community leaders.

SPEAK UP

Ask lawmakers for stronger warnings, meaningful protections and accountability.

Every conversation, every shared resource, and every act of support helps shine light where information is missing.

In Loving Memory of

Cade Farren Macdonald

March 20, 2005 — January 8, 2026



Forever in our hearts, Cade will live. He lived a life full of laughter and love for others. To know him is to love him.

ABOUT CADE'S BRIGHT LIGHT

Cade's Bright Light was created in his honor to increase awareness, promote consumer education, and help other families understand the risks that were never disclosed to Cade or to us. Our goal is simple: to shine light where information is missing, encourage informed decision-making, and help prevent other families from experiencing a similar loss.

To learn more, access educational resources, share your story, or support our awareness efforts, please visit CadesLifeMatters.org.

If you or someone you know uses kratom:
Do not stop abruptly. Withdrawal can be serious and medical support is available.

Crisis support: Call or text 988
Treatment referral: 1-800-662-4357
Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222
Local support: Dial 211
Peer support: KratomQuitters.com

CadesLifeMatters.org

Because every family deserves the information we wish we had.