



Drugs of Abuse

Categories

Descriptions

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DRUG CATEGORIES FOR SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE

To assist you in locating substances in this document, the following cross-reference by category is provided.

NARCOTICS	Alfentanil Cocaine* Codeine Crack Cocaine* Fentanyl Heroin Hydromorphone Ice Meperidine Methadone Morphine Nalorphine Opium Oxycodone Propoxyphene	STIMULANTS	Amphetamine Benzedrine Benzphetamine Butyl Nitrate Dextroamphetamine Methamphetamine Methylphenidate Phenmetrazine
		HALLUCINOGENS	Bufotenine LSD MDA MDEA MDMA Mescaline MMDA Phencyclidine Psilocybin
DEPRESSANTS	Amobarbital Benzodiazepine Chloral Hydrate Chlordiazepoxide Diazepam Glutethimide Memprobamate Methaqualone Nitrous Oxide Pentobarbital Phenobarbital Secobarbital	CANNIBIS	Lorazepam Marijuana Tetrahydrocannabinol
		ALCOHOL	Ethyl Alcohol
		STEROIDS	Dianabol Nandrolone

*Cocaine, while classified under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) as a narcotic, is also discussed as a stimulant.

DEPRESSANTS

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
Barbituates	High/Moderate	Oral	1 – 16
Methaqualone	High/High	Oral	4 – 8
Tranquilizers	Low/Low	Oral	4 – 8
Chloral Hydrate	Moderate/Moderate	Oral	5 – 8
Glutethimide	High/Moderate	Oral	4 - 8

What are Depressants?	<p>Drugs used medicinally to relieve anxiety, irritability, and tension. High potential for abuse and development of tolerance. Depressants produce state of intoxication similar to that of alcohol. Combined with alcohol, Depressants increase the effects and multiply the risks.</p>
Possible Effects	<p>Sensory alteration, anxiety reduction, and intoxication. Small amounts cause calmness, and relaxed muscles. Large amounts cause slurred speech, impaired judgment, and loss of motor coordination. Very large amounts may cause respiratory depression, coma or death. Newborn babies of abusers may show dependence, withdrawal symptoms, behavioral problems, and birth defects.</p>
Symptoms of Overdose	<p>Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils. Also may include weak and rapid pulse, coma or death.</p>
Withdrawal Syndrome	<p>Anxiety, insomnia, muscle tremors, loss of appetite. Abrupt cessation or reduces high dose may cause convulsions, delirium or death.</p>
Indications of Possible Misuse	<p>Behavior similar to alcohol intoxication (without the odor of alcohol on breath). Staggering, stumbling, lack of coordination, slurred speech. Falling asleep at work, difficulty concentrating, dilated pupils.</p>

STIMULANTS

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
Cocaine*	Possible/High	Sniffed, Smoked, Injected	1 – 2
Amphetamines	Possible/High	Oral, Injected	2 – 4
Methamphetamines	Possible/High	Oral, Injected	2 – 4
Phenmetrazine	Possible/High	Oral, Injected	2 – 4
Methylphenidate	Possible/Moderate	Oral, Injected	2 – 4
Other Stimulants	Possible/High	Oral, Injected	2 – 4
Ice	High/High	Smoked, Oral, Injected, Inhaled	4 - 14

What are Stimulants?	Drugs used to increase alertness, relieve fatigue, and feel stronger and more decisive. Stimulants are used for euphoric effects or to counteract the “down” feeling of tranquilizers or alcohol.
Possible Effects	Increased heart rate and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils and decreased appetite. High doses may cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, loss of coordination, collapse. May also cause perspiration, blurred vision, dizziness, or a feeling of restlessness, anxiety, and delusions.
Symptoms of Overdose	Agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, and possible death.
Withdrawal Syndrome	Apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, or disorientation.
Indications of Possible Misuse	Excessive activity, talkativeness, irritability. Argumentativeness or nervousness. Increased blood pressure or pulse rate, dilated pupils. Long periods without sleeping or eating. Euphoria.

*Cocaine, while classified under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) as a narcotic, is also discussed as a stimulant.

COCAINE

Also known as:
Coke, Dust, Snow, Flake, Blow, Girl

You probably know why cocaine is abused –

- Carefree Feeling
- Euphoria
- Relaxation
- In Control

But did you know that –

- A cocaine “high” lasts only about 5 to 20 minutes
- Cocaine use may cause severe “mood swings” and irritability
- You need more and more cocaine each time you want a “high”
- Cocaine increases your blood pressure and heart rate – particularly dangerous if you have a heart condition
- One use can cause death!
- Possession and use are illegal and can result in fines and arrest

CRACK

Also known as:
Crack, “Crack-Cocaine”, Freebase Rocks, Rock

You probably know why crack is abused –

- Quick High
- Euphoria
- Power

But did you know that –

- Crack is almost instantly addictive
- One use could cause a fatal heart attack
- Repeated use may cause insomnia, hallucinations, seizures, paranoia
- The euphoric effects of crack last only a few minutes
- Crack possession and use are illegal in all fifty states
- There are more hospitalizations per year resulting from crack and cocaine use than any other illicit substance

ICE

Also known as:
Meth, Crystal, Crank, Methamphetamine

You probably know why ice is abused –

- Temporary mood elevation
- Exhilaration (High)
- Increased mental alertness
- Upper-increase wakefulness

But did you know that –

- Ice is extremely addictive – sometimes with just one use!
- Ice can cause convulsions, heart irregularities, high blood pressure, depression, restlessness, tremors, severe fatigue
- An overdose can cause coma and death
- When you stop using ice you may experience a deep depression
- Ice causes a very jittery high, along with anxiety, insomnia, sometimes paranoia

INHALANTS

Some of the substances that are abused:

Butyl nitrate, Amyl nitrate, Gas in aerosol cans, Gasoline and Toluene vapors, Correction fluid, glue, marking pens

You probably know why inhalants are abused –

- Cheap High
- Quick Buzz
- Fun

But did you know that inhalants may cause –

- Loss of muscle control
- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness or loss of consciousness
- Excessive secretions from the nose and watery eyes
- Brain damage and damage to lung cells

HALLUCINOGENS

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
PCP Angel Dust Loveboat	Unknown/High	Smoked, Oral, Injected	Days
LSD Acid Green/Red Dragon	None/Unknown	Oral	8 – 12
Mescaline, Peyote	None/Unknown	Oral, Injected	8 – 12
Psilocybin	None/Unknown	Oral, Injected, Smoked, Sniffed	Variable
Designer Drugs* Ecstasy – PCE	Unknown/Unknown	Oral, Injected, Smoked	Variable

What are Hallucinogens?	Drugs that produce behavioral changes that are often multiple and dramatic. Hallucinogens have no known medical use, but some block sensation to pain and use may result in self-inflicted injuries. “Designer Drugs”, made to imitate certain illegal drugs are often many times stronger than the drugs they imitate.
Possible Effects	Rapid changing feelings, immediately and long after use. Chronic use may cause persistent problems, depression, violent behavior, anxiety and distorted perception of time. Large doses may cause convulsions, coma, heart/lung failure, and/or ruptured blood vessels in the brain. Delayed effects “flashbacks” may occur long after use. One use of Designer Drugs may cause irreversible brain damage.
Symptoms of Overdose	Longer, more intense “trip” episodes, psychosis, coma and/or death.
Withdrawal Syndrome	No known withdrawal syndrome.
Indications of Possible Misuse	Extreme changes in behavior and mood; person may sit or recline in a trance-like state; person may appear fearful. Chills, irregular breathing, sweating, trembling hands. Changes in sense of light, hearing, touch, smell and time. Increase in blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar.

*Phencyclidine analogs, Amphetamine variants

HALLUCINOGENS

Some types of hallucinogens:

LSD (Acid, Red/Green Dragon), Ecstasy (Designer Drug),
PCP (Angel Dust, Loveboat), PCP & Cocaine (Beam me up Scottie),
Mescaline, Psilocybin

You probably know why hallucinogens are abused –

- Fun
- Stimulation or Depression
- Behavioral Changes

But did you know that –

- One use of LSD or PCP can cause multiple and dramatic behavioral changes
- Large doses of hallucinogens may cause convulsions, ruptured blood vessels in the brain and irreversible brain damage
- Many hallucinogens cause unpleasant and potentially dangerous “flashbacks”, long after the drug was used
- Most hallucinogens cause “hallucinations”, i.e., changes in perception of time, smell, touch, etc.

CANNABIS

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
Marijuana	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, Oral	2 - 4
Tetrahydrocannabinol	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, Oral	2 - 4
Hashish	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, Oral	2 - 4
Hashish Oil	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, Oral	2 - 4

What is Cannabis?

Hemp plant from which marijuana and hashish are produced. Hashish consists of resinous secretions of the cannabis plant. Marijuana is a tobacco-like substance.

Possible Effects

Euphoria followed by relaxation, loss of appetite, impaired memory, concentration, knowledge retention. Loss of coordination, more speech, impaired judgment, and loss of motor coordination. Very large amounts may cause respiratory depression, coma or death. Newborn babies of abusers may show dependence, withdrawal symptoms, behavioral problems, and birth defects.

Symptoms of Overdose

Fatigue, lack of coordination, paranoia, possible psychosis.

Withdrawal Syndrome

Insomnia, hyperactivity, sometimes decreased appetite.

Indications of Possible Misuse

Animated behavior, loud talking, followed by sleepiness. Dilated pupils, bloodshot eyes. Distortions in perception, hallucinations. Distortion in depth and time perception. Loss of coordination.

MARIJUANA

Also known as:

Pot, Grass, Joints, Roaches, Reefer, Weed, Mary Jane

You probably know why marijuana is abused –

- Relaxation
- Euphoria

But did you know that –

- Marijuana may cause impaired short-term memory, a shortened attention span and delayed reflexes
- During pregnancy, marijuana may cause birth defects
- Marijuana may cause a fast heart rate and pulse
- Repeated use of marijuana may cause breathing problems
- Possession of marijuana is illegal in all fifty states
- Marijuana may cause relaxed inhibitions, disoriented behavior

ALCOHOL

Also known as:
Booze, Juice, Brew, Vino, Sauce

You probably know why alcohol is abused –

- Relaxation
- Sociability
- Cheap High

But did you know that –

- Alcohol is a depressant that decreases the responses of the central nervous system
- Excessive drinking can cause liver damage and psychotic behavior
- As little as two beers or drinks can impair coordination and thinking
- Alcohol is often used by substance abusers to enhance the effects of other drugs
- Alcohol continues to be the most frequently abused substance among young adults

ALCOHOL

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
Ethyl Alcohol	Possible/Possible	Oral	1 – 4
Ethanol	Possible/Possible	Oral	1 - 4

What is Alcohol?	Liquid distilled product of fermented fruits, grains, and vegetables. Used as a solvent, antiseptic and sedative. Moderate potential for abuse.
Possible Effects	Intoxication. Sensory alteration. Anxiety reduction.
Symptoms of Overdose	Staggering. Odor of alcohol on breath, loss of coordination. Slurred speech, dilated pupils. Fetal alcohol syndrome (in babies). Nerve and liver damage.
Withdrawal Syndrome	Sweating, tremors, altered perception. Psychosis, fear, auditory hallucinations.
Indications of Possible Misuse	Confusion, disorientation, loss of motor nerve control. Convulsions, shock, shallow respiration. Involuntary defecation, drowsiness. Respiratory depression and possible death.

STEROIDS

DRUG	DEPENDENCE Physical/Psychological	HOW USED	DURATION (Hours)
Dianabol	Possible/Possible	Oral	Days – Weeks
Nandrolone	Possible/Possible	Oral	Days - Weeks

What are Steroids?	Synthetic compounds available legally and illegally. Drugs that are closely related to the male sex hormone, testosterone. Moderate potential for abuse, particularly among young males.
Possible Effects	Increased body weight, and muscle strength. Enhanced athletic performance. Increased physical endurance.
Symptoms of Overdose	Quick weight and muscle gains. Extremely aggressive behavior or “Roid Rage”. Severe skin rashes. Impotence, withered testicles. In females, development of irreversible masculine traits.
Withdrawal Syndrome	Significant weight loss, depression. Behavioral changes, trembling.
Indications of Possible Misuse	Increased combativeness and aggressiveness. Jaundice. Purple or red spots on body, unexplained darkness of skin. Persistent unpleasant breath odor. Swelling of feet or lower legs.

STEROIDS

The three types of steroids are:
Anabolic (male hormone) – Steroid most frequently abused
Cortical, Estrogenic (female hormone)

You probably know why steroids are abused –

- Increase strength
- Increase muscle size
- Help muscles recover

But did you know that abuse of steroids may cause –

- Severe acne, rashes, stunted growth
- Sexual function problems
- Women to take on masculine traits, develop excessive hair
- Behavioral changes, aggressiveness (“roid rages”)
- Long-term effects, such as cholesterol increases, heart disease, liver tumors, cancer, cataracts, and death