



Drug Prevention



Drugs

- Substances that are addictive.
 - The word "addictive" means that a person will want to keep taking the drug, even if it is making them sick.



Legal & Illegal Drugs

- Legal:
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
- Illegal
 - Cocaine
 - Crack
 - Ecstasy
 - Heroin
 - Marijuana



Alcohol



- **Street Names**

- Booze

- **What is Alcohol?**

- Alcohol is a depressant.

- **How is it used?**

- Alcohol is drunk. Types include beer, wine, and liquor.

- **What are its short-term effects?**

- When a person drinks alcohol, the alcohol is absorbed by the stomach, enters the bloodstream, and goes to all the tissues.

Cocaine



- **Street Names**

Blow

Snow

Nose Candy

- **Derived**

Cocaine is a powerful stimulant drug that comes from the leaves of the South American coca plant.

- **Description**

Cocaine is a white powder that people either snort or dissolve and inject with a needle.

- **Use**

Cocaine, at first, makes people feel energetic and powerful. As these feelings wear off, however, they quickly become depressed and edgy—and they start really craving more to get their high back

- **Dangers and Effects**

Cocaine is among the most addictive drugs out there. Not only can it harm your body, it can mess up your life to the point where all that matters is your next fix.

Crack



- **Street Names**

Rock
The Chunk

Derived

"Crack" is the street name given to cocaine that has been processed from cocaine hydrochloride to a free base for smoking. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when the mixture is smoked (heated).

Description

"Crack," or the "rock" form of cocaine, is a ready-to-use freebase. It is sold in small, inexpensive dosage units that are smoked. Once introduced in the mid-1980s, crack abuse spread rapidly throughout America. It is noteworthy that the emergence of crack was accompanied by a dramatic increase in drug abuse problems and drug-related violence.

Use

There is great risk whether cocaine is ingested by inhalation (snorting), injection, or smoking. It appears that compulsive cocaine use may develop even more rapidly if the substance is smoked rather than snorted. Smoking allows extremely high doses of cocaine to reach the brain very quickly and brings an intense and immediate high. The injecting drug user is at risk for transmitting or acquiring HIV infection/AIDS if needles or other injection equipment are shared.

Dangers and Effects

Smoking crack cocaine can produce a particularly aggressive paranoid behavior in users.

Ecstasy

- Ecstasy is a stimulant like various classes of amphetamines, but the popular club drug is more likely to kill young and otherwise healthy users



Heroin



- **Street Names**

Tootsie Roll
Smack
Junk

Description

Heroin is produced from opium, which is obtained from seedpods of the oriental poppy. In its pure form it is a white to dark brown powder. Heroin is one of the most widely feared drugs. Another form of heroin, "black tar," has also become increasingly available in the United States. The color and consistency of black tar heroin results from the crude processing methods used to illicitly manufacture the substance in Mexico. Black tar heroin may be sticky, like roofing tar or hard like coal, and its color may vary from dark brown to black.

Use

Most users dissolve it in water, and then use a needle to inject it directly into a vein. Many users just snort the powder, which is just as dangerous.

Dangers and Effects

Because people, who are high on heroin, or craving the next fix, don't use good judgment, they often share needles with other users. And sharing needles means massive risk for HIV infection and hepatitis...two incurable diseases, which can kill.

Marijuana



- **Street Names**

Weed
Grass
Chronic

Description

Marijuana is a green or gray mixture of dried, shredded flowers and leaves of the hemp plant *Cannabis sativa*.

Use

It can be eaten in certain foods or smoked. Marijuana is usually smoked in the form of loosely rolled cigarettes called "joints" or hollowed out commercial cigars called "blunts."

Dangers and Effects

Smoking marijuana may impair short-term memory while people are using the drug. This happens because all forms of marijuana contain THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the main active chemical in marijuana, which alters the way the brain works.

Tobacco



- **Description**
 - Nicotine is one of more than 4,000 chemicals found in tobacco smoke and is the primary component that acts on the brain. Smokeless tobacco products such as snuff and chewing tobacco also contain high levels of nicotine as well as other toxins.
- **Use**
 - Nicotine is absorbed through the skin and mucosal lining of the mouth and nose or by inhalation into the lungs. Depending on how tobacco is taken, nicotine can reach peak levels in the bloodstream and brain rapidly. Cigarette smoking, for example, results in rapid distribution of nicotine throughout the body, reaching the brain within 10 seconds of inhalation. Cigar and pipe smokers, on the other hand, typically do not inhale the smoke, so nicotine is absorbed more slowly through the mucosal membranes of their mouths, the same as for smokeless tobacco.
- **Dangers**
 - An estimated 46.5 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes even though this single behavior will result in death or disability for half of all regular users. Cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths each year, or one in every five deaths. Additionally, if current patterns of smoking persist, over 5 million people currently younger than 18 will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease. Paralleling this enormous health toll is the economic burden of tobacco use: more than \$75 billion in medical expenditures and another \$80 billion in indirect costs.
- **Health Effects**
 - Smoking tobacco is the chief avoidable cause of death in our society. Smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to contract heart disease - some 170,000 die each year from smoking-related coronary heart disease. Lung, larynx, esophageal, bladder, pancreatic, and kidney cancers also strike smokers at increased rates.



BSA Program

Drugs: A Deadly Game

