



Earlybird

Key Substances

A comprehensive list of the
most-abused drugs



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Amphetamines

What is it?

Prescription stimulants are used to treat Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Used as a study aid, to stay awake, and to suppress appetites. Prescribed as Adderall, Concerta, Dexedrine, Focalin, Metadate, Methylin, and Ritalin.

Street Names

Bennies, Black Beauties, Crank, Ice, Speed, Uppers

How it is used

Orally or injected, "Ice" or crystallized methamphetamine hydrochloride is smoked

Paraphernalia

- Needle
- Pipe

How does it affect the body?

- Similar to cocaine, but with slower onset and longer duration
- Increased body temperature, blood pressure, and pulse rates, insomnia, loss of appetite, and physical exhaustion
- Chronic abuse produces a psychosis that resembles schizophrenia: paranoia, hallucinations, violent and erratic behavior
- Overdose can be fatal

Image of Amphetamines



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Benzodiazepines

What is it?

Depressants that produce sedation, induce sleep, relieve anxiety, and prevent seizures. Available in prescription pills, syrup, and injectable preparations. Prescribed as Valium, Xanax, Restoril, Ativan, and Klonopin.

Street Names

Benzos, Downers, Nerve Pills, Tranks

How it is used

- Orally
- Crushed and snorted

How does it affect the body?

- Calming, euphoria
- Vivid or disturbing dreams
- Amnesia, hostility, and irritability
- Overdose may be fatal
- Signs: shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, and coma

Image of Benzodiazepines



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Cocaine

What is it?

White, crystalline powder derived from coca leaves. Cocaine base (crack) looks like small, irregularly shaped white rocks.

Street Names

Coca, Coke, Crack, Crank, Flake, Rock, Snow, Soda Cot

How it is used

- Snorted
- Dissolved in water and injected
- Crack cocaine is smoked
- Cocaine users usually binge on the drug until they are exhausted or run out of cocaine

Paraphernalia

- Needle
- Pipe
- Small spoon
- Straw or tube

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Smoking or injection creates an intense euphoric "rush"
- Tolerance builds quickly, easy to overdose
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Increased blood pressure and heart rate
- Restlessness, irritability, anxiety, and paranoia
- Insomnia
- Loss of appetite
- Stroke or death



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- Sudden cardiac arrest
- Convulsion
- The crash that follows a high is mental and physical exhaustion, sleep, and depression lasting several days. Following the crash, users crave cocaine again.

Drug category:

Stimulant

Image of Cocaine



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Dextromethorphan / DXM

What is it?

Cough suppressor is found in many over-the-counter medications, such as cough syrup, tablets, capsules, or powder. Popular over-the-counter brands include Robitussin and Coricidin HBP.

Street Names

CCC, DXM, Poor Man's PCP, Robo, Skittles, Triple C

How it is used

DXM is taken by drinking cough syrup or swallowing tablets, capsules, or powder. Extensive "how to" abuse information on various websites. Preferred by teenagers and younger for its easy accessibility. Tablets are easy to conceal and students will take them in school.

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Increase in perceptual awareness and altered time perception
- Hallucinations and confusion
- Loss of coordination, slurred speech, sweating, lethargy
- High doses of DXM with alcohol or other drugs, including antidepressants, can cause death

Image of Dextromethorphan



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Ecstasy / MDMA / Molly

What is it?

Known as a party drug, ecstasy comes in pill or powder form; the pill has a variety of logos and colors.

Street Names

Adam, Beans, Biscuit, Clarity, Disco Biscuit, E, Eve, Go, Hug Drug, Lover's Speed, MDMA, Peace, STP, X, XTC

How it is used

- Swallowing gel capsules, pills, tablets
- Powder, Crystal, liquid
- Crushed or snorted
- Occasionally smoked

Paraphernalia

- Glow sticks
- Pacifier

How does it affect the body?

- Increased motor activity, alertness, heart rate, and blood pressure
- Muscle tension, tremors, teeth clenching, nausea, and sweating
- Euphoria, empathy, and reduced inhibition
- Chills
- Blurred vision
- Confusion, anxiety depression, and paranoia
- Severe dehydration
- Sharp increase in body temperature (hyperthermia), which can lead to liver, kidney, and cardiovascular failure and death



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Drug category:

Hallucinogens

Picture of Ecstasy



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Fentanyl

What is it?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients and applied in a patch on the skin. Because of its powerful opioid properties, fentanyl is also diverted for abuse. Fentanyl is added to heroin to increase its potency, or be disguised as highly potent heroin. Many users believe that they are purchasing heroin and actually don't know that they are purchasing fentanyl - which often results in overdose deaths. Clandestinely-produced fentanyl is primarily manufactured in Mexico.

Street Names

Apace, China Girl, China Town, China White, Dance Fever, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Poison and Tango & Cash

How it is used

Injected or inhaled like heroin

Paraphernalia

- Needle

How does it affect the body?

- Intense, short-term high
- Temporary feelings of euphoria
- Slow respiration and reduced blood pressure
- Nausea
- Fainting
- Seizure
- Death



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Drug category:

Depressant/Opioid

Picture of Fentanyl



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GHB / Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid

What is it?

Prescribed as Xyrem, it is also known as the "date rape drug." It comes in a liquid or as a white powder that is dissolved in water, juice, or alcohol. In liquid form, GHB is clear and colorless, and slightly salty in taste.

Street Names

G, Georgia Home Boy, Goop, Grievous Bodily Harm, Liquid X, Scoop, Liquid Ecstasy

How it is used

- Usually a liquid, mixed in a beverage
- White powder normally dissolved in a liquid

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Hallucinations
- Euphoria, drowsiness, decreased anxiety, excitement, and aggressive behavior
- Overdose symptoms: unconsciousness, seizures, slowed heart rate, greatly slowed breathing, lower body temperature, vomiting, nausea, coma, and death
- Withdrawal symptoms: insomnia, anxiety, tremors, increased heart rate and blood pressure, and psychotic thoughts

Picture of GHB



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Heroin

What is it

An opiate (narcotic) drug is processed from morphine and extracted from certain poppy plants. Heroin comes in a white or brownish powder, or a black sticky substance known as "black tar heroin." Often "cut" with other drugs or substances such as sugar or powdered milk. The user is unaware of how much actual heroin is being used, creating the likelihood of overdose.

Street Names

Big H, Black Tar, Chiva, Hell Dust, Horse, Negra, Smack, Thunder

How it is used

- Injected
- Smoked
- Sniffed/snorted
- High purity heroin is usually snorted or smoked

Paraphernalia

- Needle
- Pipe
- Small spoon
- Straw or tube

How does it affect the body?

- Highly addictive
- Initial surge of euphoria or "rush," followed by a twilight state of sleep and wakefulness
- Physical symptoms of use include: drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea, a warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth, and heavy extremities
- Overdose symptoms: slow and shallow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death



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Drug category

Depressant/Opioid

Picture of Heroin



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Marijuana

What is it

Mind-altering psychoactive drug. Dry, shredded, green/brown mix of flowers, stems, seeds, and leaves from the cannabis sativa plant. THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main ingredient that produces the psychoactive effect.

Street Names

Aunt Mary, BC Bud, Chronic, Dope, Gangster, Ganja, Grass, Hash Herb, Joint, Mary Jane, Mota, Pot, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Skunk, Smoke, Weed, Yerba

How it is used

- Smoked as a cigarette or in pipe or bong
- Smoked in blunts (cigar is emptied of tobacco and filled with marijuana, and sometimes mixed with additional drugs)
- Mixed with food (edibles)
- Brewed as a tea

Paraphernalia

- Bong
- Pipe
- Roach clip
- Rolling papers

How does it affect the body?

- Relaxation, disinhibition, increased appetite, sedation, and increased sociability
- Affects memory and learning
- Difficulty thinking and problem-solving
- Hallucinations
- Impaired judgment
- Reduced coordination
- Distorted perception
- Decreased blood pressure, increased heart rate, dizziness, nausea, and tachycardia
- Confusion, anxiety, paranoia, and drowsiness



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- Respiratory ailments

Drug category

Cannabis

Picture of Marijuana



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Methamphetamine

What is it

Stimulant that speeds up the body's system that comes as a pill or powder. Available in prescription as Desoxyn to treat obesity and ADHD. Crystal meth resembles glass fragments and is an illegally altered version of the prescription drug that is cooked with over-the-counter drugs in meth labs.

Street Names

Meth, Speed, Ice, Shards, Bikers Coffee, Stove Top, Tweak, Yaba, Trash, Chalk, Crystal, Crank, Shabu

How it is used

- Powder or pill
- Smoked, snorted, injected
- To intensify the effects, users may take higher doses of the drug, take it or frequently, or change their method of intake

Paraphernalia

- Needle
- Pipe

How does it affect the body?

- Highly addictive
- Agitation, increased heart rate, and blood pressure
- Increased respiration and body temperature
- Anxiety and paranoia
- High doses can cause convulsions, cardiovascular collapse, stroke, or death

Drug category

Stimulant



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Picture of Methamphetamine

Morphine

What is it

Non-synthetic narcotic (opioid) made from opium, prescribed as Kadian, MS-Contin, Oramorph SR, MSIR, RMS, Roxanol. Very effective for pain relief, but comes with high potential for abuse.

Street Names

Dreamer, Emsel, First Line, God's Drug, Hows, MS, Mister Blue, Morpho, Unkie

How it is used

- Injected
- Oral solution
- Tablets, capsules, suppositories

Paraphernalia

- Needle

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Euphoria and relief of pain
- Overdose signs: cold and clammy skin, sleepiness, lowered blood pressure and slow pulse rate, coma, and possible death

Drug Category

Narcotics (opioids)

Picture of Morphine



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Oxycodone

What is it

Semi-synthetic opioid drugs are prescribed for pain as Tylox, Percodan, and OxyContin. Derived from the poppy plant and has a high potential for abuse.

Street Names

Hillbilly Heroin, Kicker, OC, Ox, Roxy, Perc, Oxy

How it is used

- Pills and tablets, chewed or swallowed
- Inhaling vapors by heating a tablet on foil
- Crushed and sniffed or dissolved in water and injected

Paraphernalia

- Needle
- Pipe

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Feelings of relaxation, euphoria, pain relief
- Chronic use of oxycodone with acetaminophen may cause severe liver damage
- Overdose may lead to coma and possible death

Drug category

Depressant/ Opioids

Picture of Oxycodone



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Psilocybin

What is it

Hallucinogenic chemicals are obtained from certain types of fresh and dried mushrooms. It has slender stems topped by caps with dark gills on the underside.

Street Names

Magic mushrooms, Shrooms, Mushrooms

How it is used

- Ingested orally
- Brewed as tea
- Added to foods to mask the bitter flavor

How does it affect the body?

- Hallucinations
- Large amounts can cause panic attacks and psychosis
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle weakness, lack of coordination
- Overdose may result in psychosis or death

Drug Category

- Hallucinogens

Picture of Psilocybin



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Spice/ K2 / Synthetic Marijuana

What is it

A synthetic version of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, K2/Spice, is a mixture of plant material sprayed with synthetic psychoactive chemicals. Often looks like potpourri and is typically labeled "not for human consumption." Dangerous to purchase from the internet because its origins and chemical amounts are unknown. The ingredients and strength of products containing synthetic cannabinoids are almost impossible for the user to know.

Street Names

Bliss, Black Mamba, Blaze, Bombay Blue, Fake Weed, Legal Weed, Genie, Zohai, Red X, Down Scooby Skunk, Snax

How it is used

- Smoked using "joints", pipes, E-cigarettes
- As a tea

Paraphernalia

- Bong
- E-cigarettes
- Pipe
- Roach clip
- Rolling papers

How does it affect the body?

- Addictive
- Paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, hallucinations, and giddiness
- Increase in heart rate and blood pressure
- Convulsions, organ damage, or death



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Drug Category

Designer drugs

Picture of Spice