



Learn About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness

Drug	Description	Common Names	Signs Of Use	Long-Term Effects
Marijuana	A combination of flowers and leaves of the hemp plant. Also known as <i>Cannabis Sativa</i> . It has a dark green color and looks like ground leaves.	Hierba mala, yerba, Acapulco gold, pot, THC porro, monte, pito, herbajo, mota, mafú, pasto, María, moy, blunt, regs, krips or kripto, reefer or joints, churro, pace.	Unhealthy appearance, reddish eyes, mood swings, behavioral changes, hostility, irritability, withdrawal from the family, opposition to discipline, lower grades, messages or symbols in their belongings related to drugs, use of eye drops, increased appetite.	Sudden loss of weight, irregular heart beats or cardiac arrhythmia, breathing difficulties, severe anxiety, panic spells, hallucinations. Later on: heart and lung problems, memory impairment, lung cancer. For men, lower sperm count and lower sperm mobility. For women, interference of the menstrual period and ovulation.
Cocaine	A chemical substance obtained from leaves of the coca plant. It is a white dust that can be inhaled. For intravenous use, it can be warmed up and mixed with ether and bicarbonate of sodium.	Coca, escamas, nieve, polvo blanco, pase, C, niña blanca, polvo feliz, oro en polvo, terrón de azúcar, blow, candy.	Increased blood pressure and feelings of euphoria; the person that uses it can stay awake for long periods of time and later sleep for hours; loss of appetite and interest in friends, entertainment and other activities.	Restlessness; increased body temperature; hallucinations; shock; possible death due to cardiac arrest or respiratory failure; feelings of uneasiness, irritability, anxiety and paranoia.
Alcohol	A substance produced from the fermentation of mixed sugar and yeast.	Drinks, beer, liquor, cocktails, chupe, pisto, chelas	Impaired coordination; confusion and lack of concentration; violent behavior or depression.	Brain, pancreas and kidney damage; elevated blood pressure; alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver; stomach and duodenum ulcers; colitis; irritable colon; sexual impotence and infertility; premature aging.
Inhalants	Vapors of chemical substances that affect the brain.	Nail polish remover, liquid insecticides, cleaning fluids, ether, hair spray, glue, gasoline, painting from spray cans, aerosols.	Dizziness, severe headaches, unusual 'high' behavior, altered perception of time and space.	Brain damage, violent behavior, loss of consciousness, permanent damage of the nervous system, death.
Tobacco	Leaves of a plant that contain nicotine, a dangerous chemical substance often used as an insecticide.	Smoke, cig, butt.	Use of things not used before, such as incense, air fresheners, excessive use of mouth rinse and mints.	Elevated blood pressure, bad breath and stained teeth, decreased sense of smell and taste, heart and lung damage, lung, mouth or throat cancer, death.

(continued)

Learn About Alcohol, Tobacco, & Illicit Drugs

Drug	Description	Common Names	Signs Of Use	Long-Term Effects
Heroin	A derivative of morphine which comes from opium. It tastes bitter and its color can be white or dark brown.	Smack, stuff (cosa), horse, droga, boy.	Euphoria, sleepiness, slowed breathing, constricted pupils and nausea.	Physical and psychological problems; weak breathing, nausea, panic, insomnia.
Crack	A chemical derivative of cocaine.	Crack.	Insomnia, runny nose or nose bleeding, diminished appetite, skin irritation, talkativeness, fever.	Hoarseness, bronchitis and other breathing problems; increased heart rate of about 50%, sometimes becoming irregular and producing cardiac arrest.
Stimulants	Chemical products for speeding activity of the central nervous system. They are prescribed to treat depression, obesity, and narcolepsy and for hyperactive children.	Ritalina, Preludina, Inamina.	Excitability, irritability, nervousness; long periods without sleep or food; excitement and talkativeness.	Increased cardiac rate and breathing rhythm; elevated blood pressure; irritation of the respiratory system, brain damage, shock and death.
PCP Phencyclidine	A chemical substance used as an anesthetic for animals.	PCP, angel dust, hog (puerco).	Changed senses, moods and consciousness.	Disconnection with reality, possible death.
Depressants	Chemical substances that decrease psychological and physiological activity. They are used as sedatives and tranquilizers.	Downers.	Confusion, lack of orientation, tremors, contraction of pupils, decreased blood pressure and breathing rhythm.	Depressed brain activity, loss of motor control, paralysis of the vital centers, coma and possible death.

Information Provided By:
 U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services, 2001
 SAMHSA - *A Toolkit for Hispanic/Latino Community Groups*