

Drugs of Abuse

Evolution Consulting LLC

Drug Awareness Programs

Categories

Descriptions

Effects

Symptoms of Overdose

Withdrawal Symptoms

Indications of Misuse

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 Benedrine Benzphetamine Butyl Nitrite Dextroamphetamine Methamphetamine Methylphenidate, Phenmetrazine
		HALLUCINOGENS	Bufotenine LSD MDA MDEA MDMA Mescaline MMDA Phencyclidine Psilocybin
DEPRESSANTS	Amobarbital. Benzodiazepine Chloral Hydrate Chloz diazepoxide Diazepam. Glutethimide Meprobamate Methaqualone Nitrous Oxide Pentobarbital Phenobarbital Secobarbital	CANNABIS	Lorazepam Marijuana Tetrahydrocannabinol
		ALCOHOL	Ethyl Alcohol .

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

Drug Category Profile

NARCOTICS

Drug	Dependence Physical/ Psychological	How Used	Duration (hours)
Opium	High/High	Oral, smoked	3-6
morphine	High/High	Oral, smoked, injected	3-6
Codeine	Mod./Mod.	Oral, injected	3-6
Heroin	High/High	Smoked, injected sniffed	3-6
Hydromorphone	High/High	Oral, injected	3-6
Meperidine	High/High	Oral, injected	3-6
Methadone	High/High	Oral, injected	12-24

What are Narcotics?

Drugs used medicinally to relieve pain
High potential for abuse
Cause relaxation with an immediate "rush"
Initial unpleasant effects - restlessness, nausea

Possible Effects

Euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression
constricted (pin-point) pupils

Symptoms of Overdose

Slow, shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions,
coma, possible death

Withdrawal Syndrome

Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, cramps, loss of appetite,
irritability, nausea, tremors, panic, chills, sweating

Indications of Possible Misuse

Scars (tracks) caused by injections, constricted (pin-point) pupils, loss of appetite, sniffles, watery eyes, cough, nausea, lethargy, drowsiness, nodding, syringes, bent spoons, needles, etc.

Drug Category Profile

Depressants

Drug	Dependence Physical/Psychological	How used	Duration (hours)
Barbiturates	High/mod.	Oral	1-16
Methaqualone	High/High	Oral	4-8
Tranquilizers	Low/Low	Oral	4-8
Chloral Hydrate	Mod./Mod.	Oral	5-8
Glutethimide	High/Mod.	Oral	4-8

What are Depressants? Drugs used medicinally to relieve anxiety, irritability, tension
High potential for abuse, development of tolerance
Produce state of intoxication similar to that of alcohol
Combined with alcohol increase effects, multiply risks

Possible Effects Sensory alteration, anxiety reduction, intoxication
Small amounts cause calmness, relaxed muscles
Larger amounts cause slurred speech, impaired judgment, loss of motor coordination

Very large doses may cause respiratory depression, coma, death
Newborn babies of abusers may show dependence, withdrawal symptoms, behavioral problems, birth defects

Symptom of Overdose Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, death

Withdrawal Syndrome Anxiety, insomnia, muscle tremors, loss of appetite, abrupt cessation or reduced high dose may cause convulsions, delirium, death

Indications of Possible Misuse Behavior similar to alcohol intoxication (without odor of alcohol on breath), staggering, stumbling, lack of coordination, slurred speech, falling asleep while at work, difficulty concentrating, dilated pupils

Drug Category Profile

STIMULANTS

Drug	Dependence Physical/Psychological	How used	Duration (hours)
Cocaine*	Possible/High	Sniffed, smoked injected	1-2
Amphetamines	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Methamphetamine	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Pherimetrazine	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Methylphenidate.	Possible/Mod.	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, feel stronger and more decisive; used for euphoric effects or to counteract the "down" feeling of tranquilizers or alcohol

Possible Effects Increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils and decreased appetite; high doses may cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, loss of coordination, collapse; may cause perspiration, blurred vision, dizziness, a feeling of restlessness, anxiety, delusions

Symptom of Overdose Agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death

Withdrawal Syndrome Apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, 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.**

Drug Category Profile

HALLUCINOGENS

Drug	Dependence Duration Physical/Psychological	How Used	Duration (hours)
PCP Angel Dust Loveboat	Unknown/High	Smoked, oral,	Up to days injected
LSD Acid Green/Red Dragon Mescaline, Peyote	None,/Unknown	Oral	8-12 hrs.
Psilocybin	None/Unknown	Oral, injected	8-12 hrs.
Designer Drugs* Ecstasy - PCE	Unknown/Unknown	Oral, injected, smoked	Variable

What are Hallucinogens? Drugs that Produce behavioral changes that are often multiple and dramatic. 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 drugs they imitate

Possible Effects Rapidly changing feelings, immediately and long after use. Chronic use may cause persistent problems, depression, violent behavior, anxiety, distorted perception of time. Large doses may cause convulsions, coma, heart/lung failure, ruptured blood vessels in the brain. May cause hallucinations, illusions, dizziness, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, loss of control. Delayed effects - "flashbacks" may occur long after use. Designer drugs - one use may cause irreversible brain damage.

Symptoms of Overdose Longer, more intense "trip" episodes, psychosis, coma, 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.

Drug Category Profile

CANNABIS

Drug	Dependence Physical/Psychological	How Used	Duration (hours)
Marijuana	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, oral pot, grass	2-4
Tetrahydro- cannabinol	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 vivid sense of taste, sight, smell, hearing; stronger doses cause fluctuating emotions, *fragmentary* thoughts, disoriented behavior, psychosis; may cause irritation to lungs, respiratory system; may cause cancer

Symptoms of Overdose Fatigue, lack of coordination, paranoia, possible psychosis.

Withdrawal Syndrome Insomnia, hyperactivity, sometimes decreased appetite.

Indications of Possible Animated behavior, loud talking, followed by sleepiness.

Misuse Dilated pupils, bloodshot eyes.
Distortions in perception; hallucinations.
Distortions in depth and time perception, loss of coordination.

Drug Category Profile

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 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		