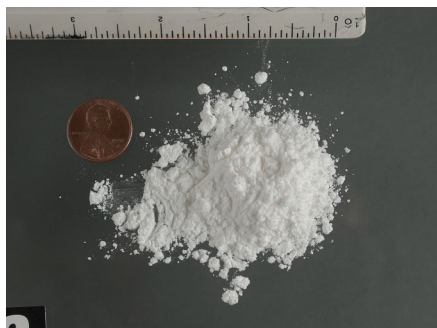


COCAINE



Top: Cocaine in powder form
Center: "Crack" cocaine
(top and center image source: Drug Enforcement Agency)
Lower: Pipe used to smoke "crack" cocaine

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF USE

Violent and/or paranoid behavior; missing spoons, pens, razor blades, credit cards, or money; sudden change in appearance and/or attitude; unexplained absences.

SHORT AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Short-term: increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, abnormal heartbeat, increased breathing rate, increased body temperature, convulsions, nausea, feelings of euphoria

Long-term: addiction, heart attack, stroke, infections (Hepatitis C or HIV/AIDS), blood clots, collapsed veins, lung damage (emphysema or cancer), decreased sexual desire, anxiety, depression, losing touch with reality (psychosis)

STREET NAMES

Crack, Rock—refers to the smokable version of the drug
Coke, C, Blow, Snow, Girl, Powder, Yayo, Lines—refers to cocaine in general

HOW IT'S USED

Snorted, injected, or smoked

WHY IT'S DANGEROUS

Cocaine is considered to be one of the most highly addictive substances known to man. It may cause immediate changes in the brain, which may lead to the brain disease of addiction. Cocaine also causes many people to overdose and die. It affects the portion of the brain responsible for the heart, and it may cause the heart to become overworked, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

For help or information, call NCADA at
314.962.3456 or visit ncada-stl.org

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