

what is

# crack

Called crack or rock, this drug is a dealer's dream and a parent's nightmare — the most potent form of one of the most addictive drugs. It's a killer that can leave a person seriously addicted after just one use.

Crack is a smokeable, fast-acting form of cocaine hydrochloride that is processed into white or off-white chips, or "rocks," and is then smoked in a pipe or mixed with other drugs.

Crack gained frightening popularity after its introduction because of its portability, relative small cost, and its quick high. And because crack is more concentrated than powdered cocaine, it is more likely to result in immediate addiction.

## Put Up a

One of the best ways you can help fight drug abuse is to set a good example by leading a healthy, **Good**


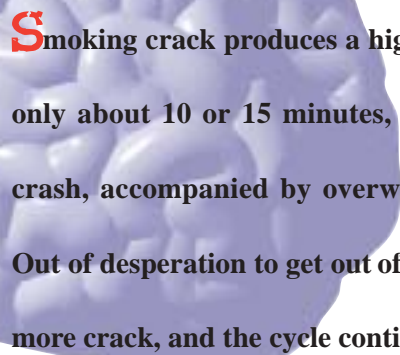
drug-free life. Talk to children as early on as possible about the dangers of drugs. Report any knowledge you have about drug activity in your community to the police.

## Fight

# crack kills

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**S**moking crack produces a high with feelings of invincibility that lasts only about 10 or 15 minutes, at most. This period is followed by a severe crash, accompanied by overwhelming feelings of depression and dependency. Out of desperation to get out of this condition, the user has an intense craving for more crack, and the cycle continues.

# Crack

takes over your mind...



## Cripples Your Body ...

Inhaling heated crack vapors causes the drug to be rapidly absorbed through the lungs, affecting the brain within seconds and possibly causing:

- a dangerous rise in blood pressure, heart rate, and body temperature
- a stroke or a heart attack brought about by a narrowing of the arteries
- an abnormal and ineffective beating of the heart which can be deadly
- tremors, convulsions, nausea and vomiting
- failure of the respiratory system

People have died of heart attacks and respiratory failure the first time they ever tried crack.

Other complications that multiply crack users' medical risks:

- users tend to combine crack use with that of other dangerous drugs
- they tend to ignore serious medical problems
- crack reduces the body's ability to fight infection
- promiscuity and prostitution associated with crack use leads to an increase risk of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

## And Devours Your Soul

Crack users may find it difficult to function at school or work. They can lose interest in their family, friends, and the activities they once enjoyed. They may also lose interest in eating, resulting in rapid weight loss.

Crack users often get in trouble with the law, turning to robbery, prostitution, and

even murder to pay for their habit. Use of the drug can also result in increased aggressiveness and acts of violence.

And many crack users suffer from cocaine psychosis, losing touch with reality, becoming paranoid, and sometimes experiencing hallucinations. They are often confused and have problems with depression.

The consequences of crack withdrawal are severe, and can even cause addicts to attempt suicide. Withdrawal symptoms can include:

- a strong craving for the drug
- tremors
- changes in brain activity
- eating disorders
- sleep disturbances
- depression
- paranoia
- suicidal thoughts

## What You Can Do If You Suspect That Someone You Know Is On Crack?

Wait until the person is not under the influence and confront him or her with

your evidence and concerns, calmly and rationally.

Be firm but not accusatory.

Be prepared for the user to

lie and for the possibility

that you might have to seek

outside help to deal with

the problem. Your doctor,

hospital, local mental health

or substance abuse coun-

selor, certain drug hotlines,

and the yellow pages can

all be helpful resources

for drug abuse information

and can refer you to

drug treatment programs

in your area.

