



WHAT IS COCAINE?

Cocaine is a dangerous, highly addictive and illegal stimulant that can be found in the form of a fine white powder and is usually ingested by snorting through the nose. Cocaine can often be mixed with other dangerous substances in order to make it more potent. These so-called “fillers” can sometimes include drugs like Fentanyl, a dangerous opioid responsible for countless overdoses and deaths. Around 106,000 people died from overdose related deaths in the last year, and cocaine contributes to this number.



WHAT IS CRACK?

Crack and cocaine are effectively the same substance, just in a different form. Crack is named after the crackling sound it makes as it is heated and smoked. It is much more powerful than its powdered counterpart but its effects don't last as long. The criminal charges associated with this form are also stronger.

A user being caught with crack will be charged more heavily than a user caught with powdered cocaine.

BRAIN CHANGES

Cocaine produces changes within a person's brain that encourage repeated use, eventually leading to addiction. Evidence shows that one in six people who use cocaine will develop a stimulant drug problem. That means, in addition to becoming addicted to cocaine, a person will seek out other drugs that effect the brain in a similar way. Cocaine can cause damage to the brain even after just a few uses. When the drug is used, it causes the brain to emit dopamine, a chemical the brain naturally produces that creates a pleasurable feeling. Because it effects the brain this way, one of the serious symptoms of cocaine comedown is depression.

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

While users experience a short, extreme rush that results in a period of euphoria, this quickly fades, and they are left with symptoms such as:

- Hyper-Activity
- Jumpiness
- Sleep Deprivation
- Increased Respiration
- Loss of Appetite
- Visual and Auditory Hallucinations
- Anxiety
- Erratic Behavior
- Nausea
- Hyperstimulation
- Increased Blood Pressure

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Institute on Drug Abuse:

www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cocaine

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:

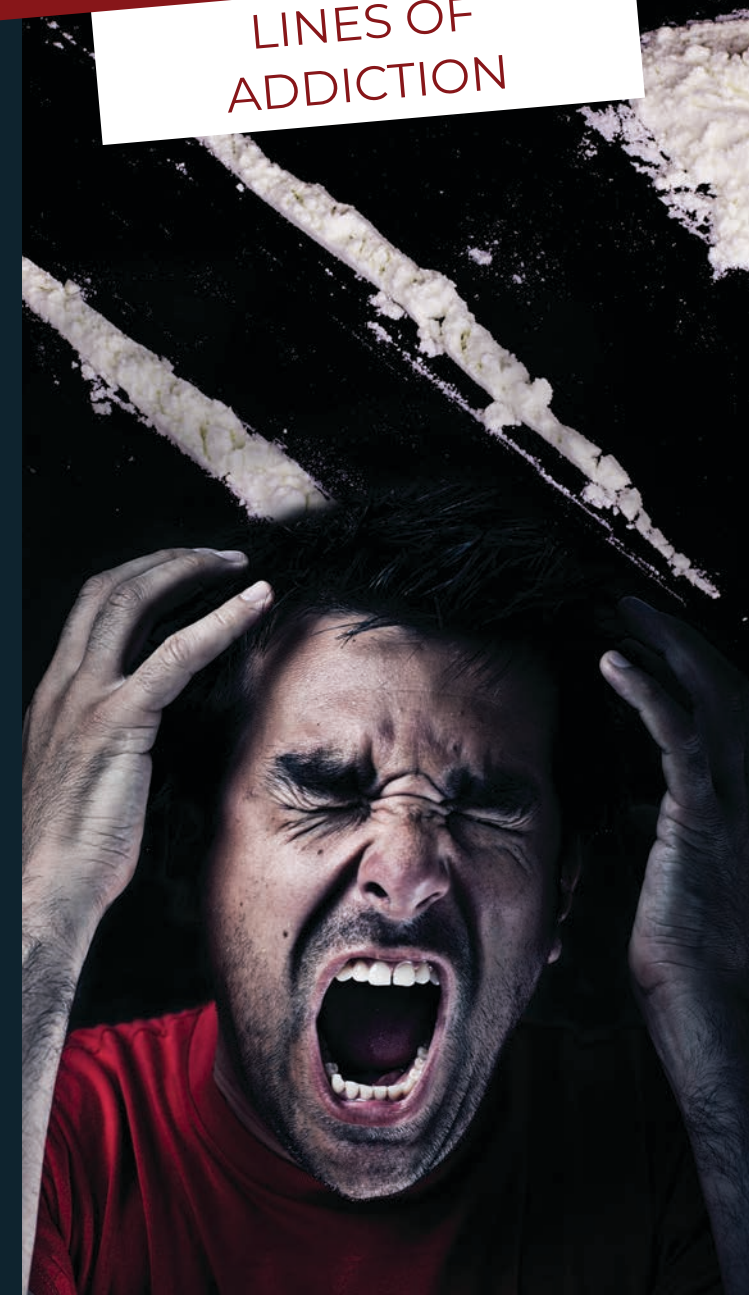
www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline

in the know

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COCAINE

LINE OF
ADDICTION





LONG-TERM EFFECTS

One of the most serious long-term effects of cocaine abuse is damage to the cardiovascular system. This means that blood flow all over the body is affected, damaging vital functions all over. The long-term effects of this include:

- Paranoia
- Damage to Tissues in Nose
- Loss of Smell
- Psychosis
- Chronic Headaches
- Blood Clots
- Malnutrition and Severe Weight Loss
- Delirium
- Depression
- Strokes
- Heart Attack
- Death

ADDICTION

No one who uses cocaine plans to become addicted. It is such a powerful drug that even after a few uses, users can easily get hooked. Cocaine comes into effect quickly and wears off quickly, making users want to take it again.

Often, users will find themselves taking cocaine as a coping mechanism for their problems. They then find the problems will still be there when the high wears off, and now an addiction is formed. Someone who is addicted may exhibit these symptoms:

- Paranoia
- Lack in Appetite
- Lack of Sleep
- Agitation
- Continual Runny Nose
- Frequent Upper Respiratory Infections
- Visual or Auditory Hallucinations
- Lack of Care for Personal Hygiene
- Weight Loss



WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal can occur when someone who has abused cocaine suddenly quits or cuts

down their intake. The effects of withdrawal can make the user constantly feel sick. The only thing on the user's mind is how they can get their hands on more cocaine, all while they are suffering these symptoms :



- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Sleepiness
- Agitation
- Lack of Pleasure
- Fatigue
- Paranoia
- Strong Desire for the Drug

OVERDOSE

Cocaine overdose happens when a user takes enough of the drug that it reaches toxic levels in their body. While it can vary with each individual, even a small amount of cocaine can be enough to cause overdose.

Cocaine overdose is extremely life threatening and almost always leads to death. Symptoms of overdose include:

- Chest Pain
- Vomiting and Nausea
- Fever
- Elevated Heart Rate
- Tremors
- Anxiety
- Paranoia
- Delirium

STREET NAMES

Sometimes, users will refer to cocaine in slang terms. If someone ever refers to a drug as one of these words, know they are likely referring to cocaine:

- Blow
- Coke
- Flake
- Snow
- Bump

Regardless of what name it goes by, cocaine is a dangerous drug and the best way to avoid addiction is to never take the first hit.



COCAINE IS A DANGEROUS DRUG
AND THE BEST WAY TO AVOID ADDICTION IS TO NEVER
TAKE THE FIRST HIT.

