COCAINE & CRACK

Cocaine and crack are the same drug, prepared in different ways. Both are super-addictive. Both can cause death— sometimes suddenly, sometimes after years of suffering.

Cocaine is a white powder. Dealers often mix in talcum powder or cornstarch so they can make more money.

Crack is made by cooking cocaine with other chemicals. The cooking process forms a "rock," which makes a crackling sound when smoked.

DRUG ID

Looks: Fine white powder (cocaine); light-colored chunks or "rocks" (crack)

Street Names: Coke, blow, cane, rails, lines, Q; Rock, base

Methods of Use: Sniffed or injected; crack is smoked

Actions: Cocaine users feel energetic, powerful, and happy — for a while. After about 5-10 minutes (crack), or 15-30 minutes (powdered cocaine), they crash. Then they feel worse than ever.

Warning Signs: Dilated pupils, dry mouth, shaking, muscle twitches, constant talking, constant motion

8.2% of 12th graders used cocaine at least once in their lives; 2.1% use it regularly.

THE NUMBERS

Cocaine or crack abuse ted to over 193,000 emergency room visits in 2001.

- Dry mouth
 - · Racing heart
 - Blurry vision
 - Inability to sleep
 - Lack of appetite and stomachache
- Addiction
- Irritability and depression
- Hearing imaginary things
- Heart attacks, stroke, and seizures
- Infections and respiratory failure

WAY TO GO

Cocaine is not a drug a person can take and leave. It is terribly addictive and destructive. Addicts push-away family and friends. They focus on getting cocaine. Too many times, it gets them first. Cocaine ruins lives, and it ends them. Stay away from cocaine.

