

Health Risks of Commonly Abused Substances

The following chart lists the possible effects and health risks associated with the use of alcohol, illicit drugs and controlled substances.

Substance	Nicknames/Slang Terms	Short Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Alcohol		slurred speech, drowsiness, headaches, impaired judgment, decreased perception and coordination, distorted vision and hearing , vomiting, breathing difficulties, unconsciousness, coma, blackouts,	toxic psychosis, physical dependence, neurological and liver damage, fetal alcohol syndrome, vitamin B1 deficiency, sexual problems, cancer, physical dependence
Amphetamines	uppers, speed, meth, crack, crystal, ice, pep pills	increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, dry mouth, loss of appetite, restlessness, irritability, anxiety	delusions, hallucinations, heart problems, hypertension, irritability, insomnia, toxic psychosis, physical dependence
Barbiturates and Tranquilizers	barbs, bluebirds, blues, yellow jackets, red devils, roofies, rohypnol, ruffies, tranqs, mickey, flying v's	slurred speech, muscle relaxation, dizziness, decreased motor control	severe withdrawal symptoms, possible convulsions, toxic psychosis, depression, physical dependence
Cocaine	coke, cracks, snow, powder, blow, rock	loss of appetite increased blood pressure and heart rate, contracted blood vessels, nausea, hyper-stimulation anxiety, paranoia, increased hostility Increased rate of breathing, muscle spasms and convulsions. dilated pupils disturbed sleep,	depression, weight loss, high blood pressure, seizure, heart attack, stroke, hypertension, hallucinations, psychosis, chronic cough, nasal passage injury, kidney, liver and lung damage
Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate	GHB, liquid B, liquid X, liquid ecstasy, G, georgia	euphoria, decreased inhibitions, drowsiness,	memory loss, depression, severe

	homeboy, grievous bodily harm	sleep, decreased body temperature, decreased heart rate, decreased blood pressure	withdrawal symptoms, physical dependence, psychological dependence
Heroin	H, junk, smack, horse, skag	euphoria, flushing of the skin, dry mouth, "heavy" arms and legs, slowed breathing, muscular weakness	constipation, loss of appetite, lethargy, weakening of the immune system, respiratory (breathing) illnesses, muscular weakness, partial paralysis, coma, physical dependence, psychological dependence
Ketamine	K, super K, special K	dream-like states, hallucinations, impaired attention and memory, delirium, impaired motor function, high blood pressure, depression	Urinary tract and bladder problems, abdominal pain, major convulsions, muscle rigidity, increased confusion, increased depression, physical dependence, psychological dependence
LSD	acid, stamps, dots, blotter, A-bombs	dilated pupils, change in body temperature, blood pressure and heart rate, sweating, chills, loss of appetite, decreased sleep, tremors, changes in visual acuity, mood changes	may intensify existing psychosis, panic reactions, can interfere with psychological adjustment and social functioning, insomnia, physical dependence, psychological dependence
MDMA	ecstasy, XTC, adam, X, rolls, pills	impaired judgment, confusion, blurred vision, teeth clenching, depression, anxiety, paranoia, sleep problems, muscle tension	same as LSD, sleeplessness, nausea, confusion, increased blood pressure, sweating, depression, anxiety, memory loss, kidney failure, cardiovascular problems, convulsions, death, physical dependence, psychological dependence

Marijuana/Cannabis	pot, grass, dope, weed, joint, bud, reefer, doobie, roach	sensory distortion, poor coordination of movement, slowed reaction time, panic, anxiety	bronchitis, conjunctivas, lethargy, shortened attention span, suppressed immune system, personality changes, cancer, psychological dependence, physical dependence possible for some
Mescaline	peyote cactus	nausea, vomiting, anxiety, delirium, hallucinations, increased heart rate, blood pressure, and body temperature,	lasting physical and mental trauma, intensified existing psychosis, psychological dependence
Morphine/Opiates	M, morf, duramorph, Miss Emma, monkey, roxanol, white stuff	euphoria, increased body temperature, dry mouth, "heavy" feeling in arms and legs	constipation, loss of appetite, collapsed veins, heart infections, liver disease, depressed respiration, pneumonia and other pulmonary complications, physical dependence, psychological dependence
PCP	crystal, tea, angel dust, embalming fluid, killer weed, rocket fuel, supergrass, wack, ozone	shallow breathing, flushing, profuse sweating, numbness in arms and legs, decreased muscular coordination, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, delusions, paranoia, disordered thinking	memory loss, difficulties with speech and thinking, depression, weight loss, psychotic behavior, violent acts, psychosis, physical dependence, psychological dependence
Psilocybin	mushrooms, magic mushrooms, shrooms, caps, psilocybin & psilocyn	nausea, distorted perceptions, nervousness, paranoia,	confusion, memory loss, shortened attention span, flashbacks may intensify existing psychosis,
Steroids	roids, juice	increased lean muscle mass, increased strength, acne, oily skin, excess hair	Cholesterol imbalance, anger management problems, masculinization or women, breast

		growth, high blood pressure	enlargement in men, premature fusion of long bones preventing attainment of normal height, atrophy of reproductive organs, impotence, reduced fertility, stroke, hypertension, congestive heart failure, liver damage, psychological dependence
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