

COCAINE/CRACK

Other names:

Cocaine -
coke, snow,
nose candy,
flake, blow, big
C, white,
snowbirds

Crack - rock,
freebase

How it is used:

Cocaine-
inhaled or
injected

Crack- smoked

What it looks like:

Cocaine -
white crystalline
powder

Crack - white
to tan pellets,
or crystalline
rocks that look
like soap

Cocaine is a drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs.

Cocaine is distributed on the street in two main forms: cocaine hydrochloride is a white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected; and "crack" is cocaine hydrochloride that has been processed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water into a freebase cocaine. These chips, chunks, or rocks can be smoked.

What it Does: Cocaine may be used occasionally, daily, or in a variety of compulsive, repeated-use "binges". Regardless of how it is used, cocaine is highly addictive. Crack cocaine and injected cocaine reach the brain quickly and bring an intense and immediate high. Snorted cocaine produces a high more slowly.

Cocaine can produce a surge in energy, a feeling of intense pleasure, and increased confidence. The effects of powder cocaine last about 20 minutes, while the effects of "crack" last about 12 minutes. Heavy use of cocaine may produce hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, and depression.

Cocaine's effects are short lived, and once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a "coke crash" that includes depression, irritability, and fatigue.

Effects on the mind and body:

- central nervous system stimulation
- pupil dilation
- elevated blood pressure
- elevated heart rate
- increased respiratory rate
- increased body temperature
- stuffy or runny nose
- irritation of the mucous membrane of the nose
- AIDS, hepatitis, and other diseases caused by injecting cocaine with contaminated equipment
- insomnia
- loss of appetite
- tactile hallucinations
- paranoia
- seizures
- death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure
- constricted peripheral blood vessels
- feelings of restlessness, irritability, and anxiety
- harm to health and development of infants born to women who use cocaine while pregnant

Support Groups in Lancaster County:

Alcoholics Anonymous (717) 394-3238
Narcotics Anonymous (717) 393-4546
Al-Anon (for family & friends) (877) 298-5027



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