

# Cocaine/Crack

**STREET NAMES:** Blow, 'Caine, Coke, Cola, Freeze, Snow, Base, Rock, Toot, Flake, Lady, Basay, Boulya, Pasta, Hubba, Bazooko. Pestillos.

## **WHAT IS IT?**

A chemical from the leaves of the coca plant. It speeds up the brain and body. Cocaine in all of its forms is highly psychologically and physically addictive. It is thought to be the most addictive of all drugs. Crack is a form of cocaine that has been freebased in order to be smoked. Crack is approximately 95% pure cocaine, and reaches the brain about 8 seconds after smoking.

## **AT FIRST:**

- Heart beats faster. Blood pressure rises.
- Body temperature rises.
- Breathe faster.
- Can't sit still or sleep.
- Become more alert.
- Irritability, anxiety, depression and violence.
- Sudden death can occur after using even a small dose.

## **OVER TIME:**

- Permanent lung damage.
- Holes and ulcers inside your nose.
- Personality changes and violent behavior.
- Fear of people and things (Paranoia).
- See things that aren't real (Hallucinations).
- Heart problems, seizures, and chest pains.

## **COCAINE AND OTHER DRUGS:**

The alarming increase in cocaine-related hospital admissions and deaths in the past decade may be in part due to increased use with other drugs. Often cocaine is used along with alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs to supposedly enhance effects. Cocaine use combined with alcohol use leads to a 5 times greater chance of having heart and circulation side effects. Cocaine has also been used combined with heroin (i.e., speedballing). Many over the counter medications used in combination with cocaine appear to have similar side effects. Use of cocaine with other drugs clearly increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

## **MEDICAL USES:**

Once commonly used as a local anesthetic and as treatment for depression, cocaine has been replaced almost entirely by less toxic drugs. Today, it's used only as a topical anesthetic in the respiratory tract.

**DURATION:**

Depending on the dose and how it is being used, typical lasts for about 30 minutes. People who do these drugs tend to use continually for many hours and sometimes days. This continual use can lead to toxic effects and overdose. In cases of overdose, the victims often die before help can arrive. Overdose symptoms include rapid, irregular heart beating, shallow erratic breathing, and unconsciousness.

**TRENDS:**

Cocaine use was limited for most of the 20th century, but exploded during the 1970s as the supply of other stimulant drugs declined. Prior to that time, cocaine was considered fairly harmless, due to its rarity and high price. Problems skyrocketed with the appearance of freebase and crack in the 1980s.

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**

Cocaine use has dropped sharply since the peak years of the 1980s. Users tend to be between 20-40 years old.