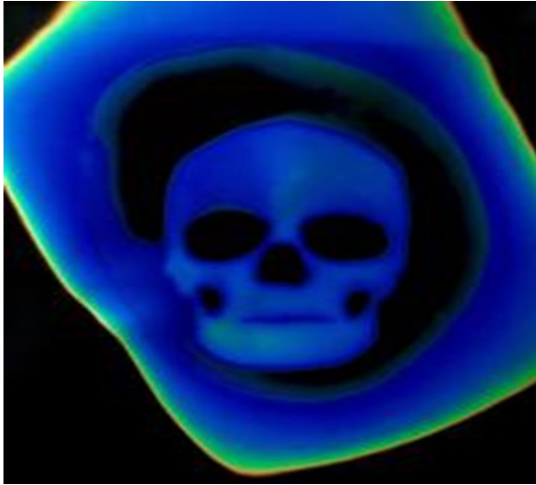


DID YOU KNOW?

COCAINE

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM

Aug 2016



Cocaine makes your heart beat faster, your blood pressure and body temperature go up. It can make a person's heart beat abnormally. Cocaine is so dangerous that using it just once can make you have a heart attack, a stroke or could kill you.

Cocaine is a powerful drug that stimulates the brain. People who use it can form a strong addiction. They may have to use more and more of the drug to get high. It's sold on the street as a fine, white powder. There are two forms of cocaine: hydrochloride salt and freebase. The salt dissolves in water. People can take it in a vein or in the nose. The freebase form can be smoked. Crack is the street name of the smoked form of cocaine.

RISKS:

You may hear that it will keep you wired and ready to party all night. What you may not hear is that even the first time you snort it or smoke it, your blood vessels constrict immediately. This increases your heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature. At first, this may make you sweaty and shaky, but seizures, cardiac arrest and even death are the real gamble you take when you use this drug.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS:

Because it's so highly addictive, it's easy to get hooked, and the long-term effects can get really ugly. Prolonged cocaine snorting can cause scabs to form on your mucus membranes, damage your nasal septum (the thin wall that separates your left and right nostrils) and eventually make your nose collapse. Smoking cocaine or crack lets the drug reach your brain quickly, and the risk of addiction appears to be higher the faster the drug reaches the brain. Smoke a lot of crack, and you can quickly become a new person—one who's aggressive, paranoid and anxious.



What It Is:

Cocaine is a white powder that comes from the dried leaves of the coca plant that is found in South America. **Crack** cocaine is a form of the drug that gives a very quick, intense high.

No matter how cocaine is taken, it is dangerous. Some of the most common serious problems include

- Heart problems, including heart attacks
- Respiratory effects, including respiratory failure
- Nervous system problems, including strokes
- Digestive problems

Any of these can be fatal. Using cocaine with alcohol is a common cause of drug-related death.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Using cocaine or crack—even only once—is dangerous, and the more you use, the worse the effects are on your brain and heart. Continued use can make you depressed, agitated or manic. Cocaine users can experience panic attacks or episodes of full-blown paranoid psychosis. Cocaine is one of the most addictive drugs out there. It harms your body and can make it so that the only thing that matters is your next fix.