

COCAINE



WHAT IS IT?

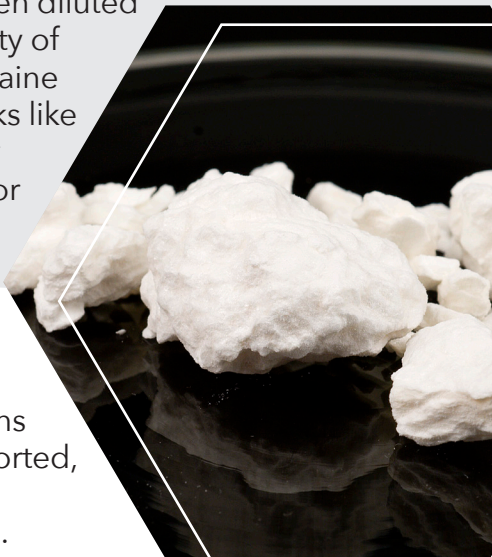
Cocaine is an intense, euphoria-producing stimulant drug with strong addictive potential made from the coca plant. Colombia produces almost 90% of the cocaine powder reaching the United States, most of which enters the U.S. through Mexico.

STREET NAMES

Blow, Coca, Coke, Crack, Flake, Snow, and Soda Cot

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

It is usually distributed as white, crystalline powder, and often diluted (cut) with a variety of substances. Cocaine base (crack) looks like small, irregularly shaped chunks or rocks.



HOW IS IT USED?

Cocaine can be injected into veins and muscles, snorted, and smoked. Crack is smoked.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN AND BODY?

Cocaine increases levels of dopamine, which controls movement and reward, ultimately changing the way the brain works. The intensity of cocaine's euphoric effect depends on how quickly the drug reaches the brain.

Short-term effects include extreme happiness or energy; mental alertness; hypersensitivity to sight, sound, and touch; irritability; and paranoia.

Long-term effects include loss of smell; nosebleeds; frequent runny nose (from snorting); cough, asthma, respiratory disease (from smoking); severe bowel decay from reduced blood flow (consumed by mouth); and higher risk of HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases (injection).

DID YOU KNOW?

- Death from overdose can result from the first use of cocaine.
- Street dealers often mix it with things like cornstarch, talcum powder, or flour to increase profits.

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cocaine



FOR DRUG USE PREVENTION INFORMATION, VISIT DEA'S WEBSITES:

For parents, caregivers, and educators
GetSmartAboutDrugs.com

For college and university campuses
CampusDrugPrevention.gov

For teens
JustThinkTwice.com