

COCAINE

Quickly addictive and devastating

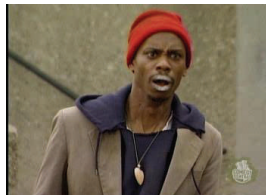


FACTS ON COCAINE

- ◆ Cocaine is a stimulant and is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant.
 - ◆ Coca grows primarily in South America with 97% of the world's crop located there.
- ◆ Street names include: **coke, blow, the white, crack, ma'a, rocks, crank,** and **bolo.**
- ◆ Pure cocaine or cocaine hydrochloride
 - ◆ Resembles a white crystalline powder and is normally either snorted or converted into liquid and injected into the blood stream.
- ◆ Crack or freebase cocaine
 - ◆ A form of cocaine in a smokable form; this is what is referred to as "rocks."
- ◆ Cocaine can be snorted, injected and smoked. Chewing the leaves of the coca plant is another way of ingesting the drug that native tribes of South America have been using for hundreds of years.
- ◆ Some chemicals used in the cocaine refinement process can include: lime, gasoline, kerosene, acetone, sulfuric or hydrochloric acid and ammonia.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF USE

- ◆ Runny nose or sniffing
- ◆ Dilated pupils
- ◆ Red, bloodshot eyes
- ◆ Shifty eyes and body movements
- ◆ Talking and walking fast
- ◆ Decreased appetite
- ◆ Increase in blood pressure and heart rate (often accompanied by sweating)
- ◆ Muscle twitches
- ◆ Paranoia
- ◆ Severe mood swings and irritability
- ◆ Angry, hostile, and anxious feelings



LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- ◆ Mental illness
- ◆ Strong chest pains
- ◆ Convulsions and body tremors
- ◆ Severe respiratory problems

WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal can last for months, even years depending on the quantity of prior use.

Symptoms:

- ◆ Anhedonia (a lack of ability to feel pleasure)
- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Insomnia
- ◆ Anergia (a total lack of energy)
- ◆ Loss of motivation

HOW DOES COCAINE AFFECT YOUR BODY?

- ◆ Constricts blood vessels making it harder for the heart to pump blood throughout the body.
- ◆ Affects the brain almost instantly, sometimes so powerfully it can burst blood vessels in the brain.
- ◆ The "high" is a result of its effect on the brain's neurotransmitters.
 - ◆ Cocaine blocks the reuptake of these neurotransmitters, resulting in a flood of pleasure-giving chemicals.
- ◆ The "crash" results from the quick depletion and eventual deficit of these neurotransmitters.
 - ◆ This causes cocaine addiction; the user cannot feel happy or even normal without the drug anymore.
- ◆ Cocaine is highly addictive, giving users cravings for the drug that are very hard to ignore.
- ◆ Can lead to spontaneous abortion or cause severe life-long emotional, physical and mental disabilities for children exposed in the womb.
- ◆ Takes away the desire to eat, leading to malnutrition and unhealthy weight loss.
- ◆ Makes users hallucinate and see things that aren't real, which can make people a danger to themselves and others.



COCAINE IN HAWAII AND NATIONALLY

- ◆ The distribution and abuse of cocaine in Hawaii is associated with homicides, assaults, and child abuse/neglect cases.
- ◆ In 2006 280 arrests were made in Hawai'i for powder and rock cocaine.
 - ◆ In Hawai'i 10 kilos of rock and powder cocaine was seized in 2006, while nationally 96,713 kilos were seized in 2007.
- ◆ In Hawaii 6% of high school students have tried cocaine at least once; 2% report using it within the last 30 days.
- ◆ In FY06-07 about 4% of admissions to State funded treatment facilities were due to cocaine use.



LEGAL ISSUES

- ◆ Cocaine is considered a schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970.
- ◆ Schedule II drugs are considered by the DEA to have a high abuse potential with possible physical and psychic dependence, even if there are medical uses for the drug.

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COALITION FOR A
Drug-Free Hawaii
Prevention Through Education

All information compiled by the Prevention Resource Center of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii. Sources include: Honolulu Police Department Narcotics/Vice Division 2007; Hawaii HIDTA 2008; YRBSS 2007; ADAD 2007; DEA 2008.