

# 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 for cocaine include:
  - ⇒ *Coke, blow, the white, crack, ma'a, rocks, crank, C, snow, flake* 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 & 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 & Anxiety
- ◆ Severe mood swings and irritability
- ◆ Angry, hostile, and anxious feelings

### LONG — TERM EFFECTS

- ◆ Mental illness
- ◆ Heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrest
- ◆ Convulsions and body tremors
- ◆ Respiratory failure
- ◆ Liver, kidney and lung damage

### WITHDRAWAL

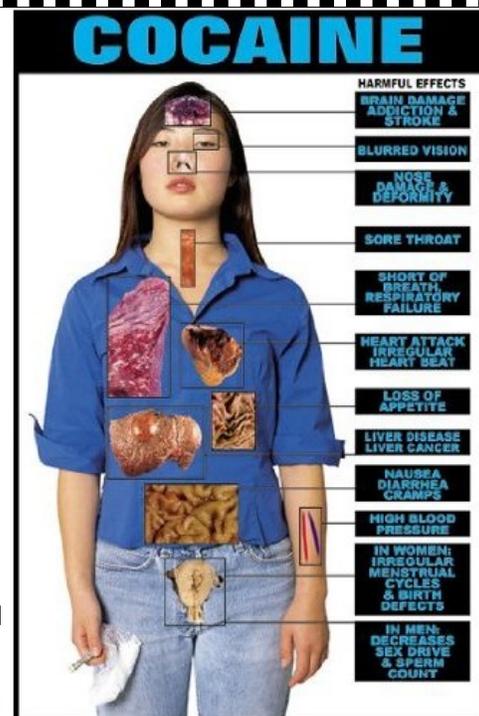
Withdrawal can last for months, even years depending on the quantity of prior use.

#### *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 Hawaii 6.4% of high school students have tried some form of cocaine at least once (YRBS 2011); while 2.9% of middle school students tried some form of cocaine at least once (YRBSS 2011).
- ◆ In Hawaii 25 kilos of rock and powder cocaine were seized in 2010, and nationally 19,324 kilos were seized in 2009.
- ◆ In 2008 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.
  - ⇒ Crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses are prosecuted differently; individuals found guilty of crack cocaine possession or use are sentenced more harshly than those guilty of similar crimes involving powder cocaine.



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**Drug-Free Hawaii**  
Prevention Through Education

All information compiled by the Prevention Resource Center of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii and is for educational use only. Sources include: Honolulu Police Department Narcotics/Vice Division 2007; Hawaii HIDTA 2011; YRBSS 2011; ADAD 2008; DEA 2008; NDIC 2010.

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