

Cocaine - The white line on the highway to Death!

What is Cocaine, and who uses it?

Cocaine- particularly in the form of crack – is one of the most powerfully addictive drugs of abuse. Cocaine causes chemical changes in the brain that trigger an intense craving for more of the drug.

Anyone who tries cocaine risks becoming addicted. The drug can become the center of a user's life – more important than family and friends, career, or possessions. For those dependent on cocaine, relationships, professional obligations, and responsibilities to the community lose all meaning.

Users fit no easy stereotype: a large proportion are successful, well-educated, upwardly mobile professionals in their 20's and 30's. But a cocaine user can be anyone – poor or rich, young or old, man or woman.

Physical and Emotional signs that someone is using Cocaine

- ◆ Weight loss
- ◆ Loss of interest in physical appearance
- ◆ Chronic runny nose
- ◆ Frequent upper respiratory infections
- ◆ Loss of interest in friends, sports, hobbies or other non-cocaine related activities
- ◆ Hearing voices when no one has spoken
- ◆ Feeling Depressed
- ◆ Repetitious, compulsive acts such as tapping of fingers or playing with hair
- ◆ Change of mood to be less patient, more nervous, or angry



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Why is cocaine so dangerous?

Like other powerful stimulants, cocaine acts directly on the limbic system or "old brain", where the chemical centers for instinctive pleasure are located. In evolution, the stimulation of these pleasure centers is tied to the survival mechanisms of hunger, thirst, sex, and the fight-flight instinct.

When cocaine artificially triggers these centers, a detour or short circuit of the brain's biological purpose is achieved. Intense euphoria, arousal, alertness, and energy are achieved that serve no natural purpose for the health, safety, or welfare of the species. With repeated artificial stimulation, the deceived brain transforms cocaine into the force and compulsion of an instinctive, biological drive.

Experimental animals will press mechanical bars thousands of times to receive an injection of cocaine; they will choose painful electric shocks to increase their dose of cocaine; they will choose cocaine over food, water, and sex. With cocaine increasingly available, millions of Americans are "barpressing" their way to addiction and possible death. More than any other drug, cocaine can turn Homo Sapiens into Homo Slave-ians.

What can you do to help?

Drug criminals thrive on ignorance, apathy, and irresponsibility of ordinary citizens. But the situation is not yet hopeless. U.S. Customs invites you to join the national citizens' movement for a drug-free youth. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Here's how:

1. Educate yourself and your family about the health hazards of drugs.
2. Prevent the illegal use by youngsters of the GATEWAY DRUGS - alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.
3. Work for better drug education in the schools, work place, churches, and civic associations.
4. Rebuild understanding and respect for the laws concerning alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs.
5. Recognize the responsibility of the illegal consumer as well as the illegal supplier for the drug epidemic.



6. Support crop eradication and law-enforcement efforts at home and abroad.

7. Write letters to, telephone, and visit personally those members of the publishing, merchandising, and media world who glamorize, trivialize, or subsidize the drug culture



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