

Crack

Addicts now say that kicking ordinary cocaine can be even tougher than withdrawal from heroin. For 10 years, this increasingly popular menace has been plaguing our youths. Named "Crack" for the cracking sound it makes when smoked. Other's call it "Rock", for it's similarity to small chips of stone. It is also known as "freebase", because when it's refined from the cocaine hydrochloride, it is freed from it's base.

Crack is the white or tan precipitate formed when cocaine powder is cooked with water and baking soda. It has been described as resembling soap chips, crystals, or small pellets. The significant difference between it and ordinary cocaine has caused its abuse to explode across our country, coast to coast.

It's cheaper

At \$10 a hit everyone can afford to get started. Even kids as young as 10 years old get sucked into the quicksand of crack. But just one hit is never enough; in 1 hour, the average user consumed five vials and vaporizes \$50. Although crack is sold in inexpensive quantities, the price per gram is almost double that of cocaine powder.

It's easier

Crack is sold in handy, see-through vials legitimately made to hold perfume samples, in clear or multicolored cold preparation capsules, or in glassine envelopes. It can be broken up and loaded into a cigarette or vaporized by heating in a glass tube or a water pipe with matches, a lighter or even a butane torch, then inhaled-no messy powder, no risky needles. It's also easy to conceal, exacerbating the difficulty of enforcement efforts.

It's quicker

Crack's deadly effects reach the brain in a 6-second flash, producing instant euphoria...

...and then it's over


In only a minute the fragile hold on ecstasy begins to slip and after 7 to 10 minutes, it's only a memory...Time for more! The vicious cycle of chemical dependency has begun.

It's more addictive

Crack is so seductive that users quickly build their lives around getting more of the pernicious drug. Families are destroyed; years of achievement are tossed aside and careers derailed; and both physical and mental health is utterly wrecked by the crack compulsion. People speak of depleting first their current incomes, then their life savings, then selling all their possessions and even murder when their money runs out.

And it's more deadly

Crack is the very essence of cocaine. Since its purity has been found to range between 60% and 90%, the user is playing a sinister form of roulette when he/she takes a puff. The higher concentration may stop the heart, burst the blood vessels in the brain, or destroy the lungs. With continued use, the brain is depleted of the chemicals necessary to experience pleasure, and the user is plunged into unremitting depression, paranoia, irritability, and impotence. At the time, desperation sets in, and the user is most likely to seek help- or commit suicide.



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SOME SCARY FACTS

Crack / Meth Pipe

crack cocaine or methamphetamine is placed in the pipe



some pipes are designed with a water bowl which cools the vapor prior to being drawn into the lungs

heat is added, usually with a cigarette lighter causing the crack or meth to vaporize so it can



A recent sample of persons calling "800-COCAINE" Hotline showed 33% of 458 callers were addicted to crack. This is significant because...

-78% reported the onset of compulsive use and significant drug related problems within 2 months of their first use. Some have become addicted in just 2 weeks.

-Of all the callers to the hotline, 94% were from 20-39 years old, and 82% reported the compulsion to use the drug again as soon as the brief high wore off.

-The callers were spending \$100 to \$500 a week on crack

-In a study done at Yale, cocaine freebase users smoked almost twice as much cocaine weekly as intravenous users or snorters consumed, and used almost twice as much per session as did the rest of the sample

-Many crack users also become addicted to alcohol, tranquilizers, or heroin, which are taken to alleviate the abysmal misery of crack use.

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