

# Drug Categories

To assist you in locating substances in this document, the following cross reference by category is provided.

## Narcotics

Alfentanil  
Codeine  
Fentanyl  
Heroin  
Hydromorphone  
Meperidine  
Methadone  
Morphine  
Nalorphine  
Opium  
Oxycodone  
Propoxyphene

## Stimulants

Amphetamine  
Benzedrine  
Benzphetamine  
Butyl Nitrite  
Cocaine  
Crack Cocaine  
Dextroamphetamine  
"Ice"  
Methamphetamine  
Methylphenidate  
Phenmetrazine

## Depressants

Alcohol (Ethyl Alcohol)  
Amobarbital  
Benzodiazepine  
Chloral Hydrate  
Chlordiazepoxide  
Diazepam  
Glutethimide  
Meprobamate  
Methaqualone  
Nitrous Oxide  
Pentobarbital  
Phenobarbital  
Secobarbital  
**Lorazepam**

## Hallucinogens

Bufotenine  
LSD "Acid"  
MDA  
MDEA  
MDMA "Ecstasy"  
Mescaline  
MMDA  
Phencyclidine  
Psilocybin

## Cannabis

Marijuana  
Tetrahydrocannabinol

## Drug Category Profile:

### ***Narcotics***

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Risk of Dependence</b> Physical/Psychological	<b>How Used</b>	<b>Duration</b> (hours)
Opium	High/High	Oral, smoked	3-6
Morphine	High/High	Oral, smoked, injected	3-6
Codeine	Mod./Mod.	Oral, injected	3-6
Heroin	High/High	Smoked, injected, sniffed	3-6
Hydromorphone	High/High	Oral, injected	3-6
Meperidine	High/High	Oral, injected	3-6
Methadone	High/High	Oral, injected	12-24

**What are Narcotics?** Drugs used medicinally to relieve pain  
High potential for abuse  
Cause relaxation with an immediate "rush"  
Initial unpleasant effects - restlessness, nausea

**Possible Effects** Euphoria  
Drowsiness, respiratory depression  
Constricted (pin-point) pupils

**Symptoms of Overdose** Slow, shallow breathing, clammy skin  
Convulsions, coma, possible death

**Withdrawal Syndrome** Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, cramps  
Loss of appetite, irritability, nausea  
Tremors, panic, chills, sweating

**Indications of Possible Misuse** Scars (tracks) caused by injections  
Constricted (pin-point) pupils  
Loss of appetite  
Sniffles, watery eyes, cough, nausea  
Lethargy, drowsiness, nodding  
Syringes, bent spoons, needles, etc.

## Drug Category Profile: *Depressants*

Drug	Risk of Dependence Physical/Psychological	How Used	Duration (hours)
Barbiturates	High/Mod.	Oral	1-16
Methaqualone	High/High	Oral	4-8
Chloral Hydrate	Mod./Mod.	Oral	5-8
Glutethimide	High/Mod.	Oral	4-8

<b>What are Depressants?</b>	<p>Drugs used medicinally to relieve anxiety, irritability, tension</p> <p>High potential for abuse, development of tolerance</p> <p>Produce state of intoxication similar to that of alcohol</p> <p>Combined with alcohol, increase effects, multiply risks</p>
<b>Possible Effects</b>	<p>Sensory alteration, anxiety reduction, intoxication</p> <p>Small amounts cause calmness, relaxed muscles</p> <p>Larger amounts cause slurred speech, impaired judgment, loss of motor coordination</p> <p>Very large doses may cause respiratory depression, coma, death</p> <p>Newborn babies of abusers may show dependence, withdrawal symptoms, behavioral problems, birth defects</p>
<b>Symptoms of Overdose</b>	<p>Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils</p> <p>Weak and rapid pulse, coma, death</p>
<b>Withdrawal Syndrome</b>	<p>Anxiety, insomnia, muscle tremors, loss of appetite</p> <p>Abrupt cessation or reduced high dose may cause convulsions, delirium, death</p>
<b>Indications of Possible Misuse</b>	<p>Behavior similar to alcohol intoxication (without odor of alcohol on breath)</p> <p>Staggering, stumbling, lack of coordination, slurred speech</p> <p>Falling asleep while at work, difficulty concentrating</p> <p>Dilated pupils</p>

## Drug Category Profile: *Stimulants*

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Risk of Dependence</b> Physical/Psychological	<b>How Used</b>	<b>Duration</b> (hours)
Cocaine and Crack Cocaine	Possible/High	Sniffed, smoked injected	1-2
Amphetamines	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Methamphetamine	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Phenmetrazine	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
Methylphenidate	Possible/Mod.	Oral, injected	2-4
Other Stimulants	Possible/High	Oral, injected	2-4
"Ice"	High/High	Smoked, oral injec., inhaled	4-14
<b>What are Stimulants?</b>	Drugs used to increase alertness, relieve fatigue, feel stronger and more decisive; used for euphoric effects or to counteract the "down" felling of tranquilizers or alcohol		
<b>Possible Effects</b>	Increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils and decreased appetite; high doses may cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, loss of coordination, collapse; may cause perspiration, blurred vision, dizziness, a feeling of restlessness, anxiety, delusions		
<b>Symptoms of Overdose</b>	Agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death		
<b>Withdrawal Syndrome</b>	Apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, disorientation		
<b>Indications of Possible Misuse</b>	Excessive activity, talkativeness, irritability, argumentativeness or nervousness Increased blood pressure or pulse rate, dilated pupils Long periods without sleeping or eating Euphoria		

## Drug Category Profile: *Hallucinogens*

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Risk of Dependence</b> Physical/Psychological	<b>How Used</b>	<b>Duration</b> (hours)
<b>PCP</b> Angel Dust Loveboat	Unknown/High	Smoked, oral,	Up to days injected
<b>LSD</b> Acid Green/Red Dragon	None/Unknown	Oral	8-12 hrs.
<b>Mescaline, Peyote</b>	None/Unknown	Oral, injected	8-12 hrs.
<b>Psilocybin</b>	None/Unknown	Oral, injected, smoked, sniffed	Variable
<b>Designer Drugs*</b> Ecstasy - PCE	Unknown/Unknown	Oral, injected, smoked	Variable

### **What are Hallucinogens?**

Drugs that produce behavioral changes that are often multiple and dramatic  
No known medical use, but some block sensation to pain and use may result in self-inflicted injuries  
"Designer Drugs", made to imitate certain illegal drugs, are often many times stronger than drugs they imitate

### **Possible Effects**

Rapidly changing feelings, immediately and long after use  
Chronic use may cause persistent problems, depression, violent behavior, anxiety, distorted perception of time  
Large doses may cause convulsions, coma, heart/lung failure, ruptured blood vessels in the brain  
May cause hallucinations, illusions, dizziness, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, loss of control  
Delayed effects - "flashbacks" may occur long after use  
Designer drugs - one use may cause irreversible brain damage

### **Symptoms of Overdose**

Longer, more intense "trip" episodes, psychosis, coma, death

### **Withdrawal Syndrome**

No known withdrawal syndrome

**Indications of  
Possible  
Misuse**

Extreme changes in behavior and mood; person may sit or recline in a trance-like state; person may appear fearful

Chills, irregular breathing, sweating, trembling hands

Changes in sense of light, hearing, touch, smell, and time

Increase in blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar

\*Phencyclidine analogs, Amphetamine variants

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## Drug Category Profile: *Cannabis*

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Risk of Dependence</b> Physical/Psychological	<b>How Used</b>	<b>Duration</b> (hours)
Marijuana	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, oral pot, grass	2-4
Tetrahydro- cannabinol	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, oral	2-4
Hashish	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, oral	2-4
Hashish Oil	Unknown/Moderate	Smoked, oral	2-4

<b>What is Cannabis?</b>	Hemp plant from which marijuana and hashish are produced; Hashish consists of resinous secretions of the cannabis plant; Marijuana is a tobacco-like substance
<b>Possible Effects</b>	Euphoria followed by relaxation; loss of appetite; impaired memory, concentration, knowledge retention; loss of coordination; more vivid sense of taste, sight, smell, hearing; stronger doses cause fluctuating emotions, fragmentary thoughts, disoriented behavior, psychosis; may cause irritation to lungs, respiratory system; may cause cancer
<b>Symptoms of Overdose</b>	Fatigue, lack of coordination, paranoia, psychosis
<b>Withdrawal Syndrome</b>	Insomnia, hyperactivity, sometimes decreased appetite
<b>Indications of Possible Misuse</b>	Animated behavior, loud talking, followed by sleepiness Dilated pupils, bloodshot eyes Distortions in perception; hallucinations Distortions in depth and time perception; loss of coordination

## Drug Category Profile: *Alcohol*

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Risk of Dependence</b> Physical/Psychological	<b>How Used</b>	<b>Duration</b> (hours)
Ethyl Alcohol	Possible/Possible	Oral	1-4
Ethanol	Possible/Possible	Oral	1-4
<b>What is Alcohol?</b>	Liquid distilled product of fermented fruits, grains and vegetables Used as solvent, antiseptic and sedative Moderate potential for abuse		
<b>Possible Effects</b>	Intoxication Sensory alteration Anxiety reduction		
<b>Symptoms of Overdose</b>	Staggering Odor of alcohol on breath Loss of coordination Slurred speech, dilated pupils Fetal alcohol syndrome (in babies) Nerve and liver damage		
<b>Withdrawal Syndrome</b>	Sweating Tremors Altered perception Psychosis, fear, auditory hallucinations		
<b>Indications of Possible Misuse</b>	Confusion, disorientation, loss of motor nerve control Convulsions, shock, shallow respiration Involuntary defecation, drowsiness Respiratory depression and possible death		