

Drugs of Abuse, Street Names, and Effects

Adapted from [Commonly Abused Drugs \(NIDA\)](#)

Classification/Category Name (Street Names)	Intoxication Effects	Withdrawal Effects	Chronic Use Effects
Sedatives/Depressants			
<u>Alcohol</u>	Sedation, lower anxiety, dizziness, confusion, psychomotor retardation, behavioral disinhibition, respiratory depression, blackouts, sleep, coma	Agitation, confusion, hallucinosis, seizures, delirium tremens	Wernicke encephalopathy, Korsakoff amnesia, working memory and attention deficits, decreased visuospatial functioning [Brown: 2008]
<u>Barbiturates</u> (<i>Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal, phenobarbital: barbs, reds, redbirds, phennies, tooies, yellows, yellow jackets</i>)	Sedation, lower anxiety, dizziness, confusion, psychomotor retardation, behavioral disinhibition, respiratory depression, blackouts, sleep, coma	Agitation, confusion, hallucinosis, seizures, delirium tremens	Unknown
<u>Benzodiazepines</u> (<i>Ativan, Halcion, Librium, Valium, Xanax: candy, downers, sleeping pills, tranks, K, K-pin, eggs, jellies, vallies, bars, Xanies, Z-bars</i>)	Sedation, lower anxiety, dizziness, confusion, psychomotor retardation, behavioral disinhibition, respiratory depression, blackouts, sleep, coma	Agitation, confusion, hallucinosis, seizures, delirium tremens	Unknown
<u>Methaqualone</u> - synthetic barbiturate (<i>quaalude, Sopor, Parest: ludes, mandrex, quad, quay</i>)	Dizziness, nausea/vomiting, paresthesia, respiratory depression, confusion	Agitation, confusion, hallucinosis, seizures, delirium tremens	Erectile dysfunction, other effects unknown
Cannabinoids			
<u>Hashish</u> (<i>boom, chronic, gangster, hash, hash oil, hemp</i>)	Conjunctival injection, increased appetite, dry mouth, tachycardia, impaired coordination and judgment, euphoria, sense of slowed thinking and reaction time	Irritability, anger, aggression, nervousness or anxiety, insomnia, decreased appetite, restlessness, depression, abdominal pain, tremor, sweating, fever, chills, headache	Cough, respiratory infections, impaired memory and learning, increased heart rate, anxiety, development of psychosis later in life [Pope: 2001] [Moore: 2007]

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<u>Marijuana</u> (420, blunt, dope, ganja, grass, herb, joints, Mary Jane, pot, honey oil, budder, reefer, sinsemilla, skunk, vaping, weed)	Conjunctival injection, increased appetite, dry mouth, tachycardia, impaired coordination and judgment, euphoria, sense of slowed thinking and reaction time	Irritability, anger, aggression, nervousness or anxiety, insomnia, decreased appetite, restlessness, depression, abdominal pain, tremor, sweating, fever, chills, headache	Cough, respiratory infections, EVALI, cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, impaired memory and learning, increased heart rate, anxiety, development of psychosis later in life [Moore: 2007] [Schep 2020]
<u>Synthetic cannabinoids</u> (spice, K2, black mamba, blaze, bliss, fake pot, fake weed, genie, joker, moon rocks, Scooby snacks, skunk, smoke, Yucatan fire)	Altered sense of time, paranoia, psychosis (hallucinations, delusions, agitation, and violence)	Craving, nightmares and insomnia, sweating, nausea, tremor, headaches, fatigue, irritability, depression	Unknown
Nicotine			
<u>Nicotine</u> (chewing tobacco, snuff, cigarettes, vaping)	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, salivation, pallor, weakness, elevated BP/HR, tremor, cold sweats	Irritability, frustration, anger, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, increased appetite, restlessness, depressed mood, insomnia	Working memory and learning deficits [Kenney:2008]
Stimulants			
<u>Amphetamine</u> (bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers)	Euphoria, hypervigilance, anxiety, anger, irritability, impaired judgment, autonomic instability, mydriasis, sweating and chills, decreased appetite and weight loss, psychomotor agitation, chest pain and cardiac arrhythmia, confusion, seizures, psychosis	Dysphoria, anhedonia, suicidality ("the crash"), fatigue, vivid and unpleasant dreams, sleep disturbance (insomnia or hypersomnia), psychomotor retardation, agitation	Tooth decay, gum disease, loss of smell, nasal damage, GI infection (loss of bowel tissue), poor nutrition, weight loss, attention and impulse-control deficits [Dalley: 2005]

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<u>Bath Salts</u> (<i>bliss, blue silk, cloud nine, ivory wave, lunar wave, red dawn, red dove, sextasy, stardust, vanilla sky, white burn, white china, white dove, white lightning, wicked x or xx</i>)	Hallucinations, agitation, euphoria, paranoia, nightmares, insomnia, suicidal thoughts, prolonged panic attacks, fever, tinnitus, bruxism, muscle cramps, chest pain, seizures	Depression	Hypertension, renal failure, hepatotoxicity, skeletal muscle tissue breakdown
<u>Caffeine</u>	Anxiety, psychomotor agitation, restlessness, muscle twitching, diuresis, GI disturbance, >1 g – rambling speech, confusion, agitation, tinnitus, >10 g – seizures, respiratory failure, death	Headache, fatigue, anxiety, irritability, dysphoria, muscle pain/stiffness	Anxiety, tremor
<u>Cocaine</u> (<i>blow, bump, C, candy, Charlie, coke, crack, flake, rock, snow, toot</i>)	Euphoria, hypervigilance, anxiety, anger, irritability, impaired judgment, autonomic instability, mydriasis, sweating and chills, decreased appetite and weight loss, psychomotor agitation, chest pain and cardiac arrhythmia, confusion, seizures, psychosis	Dysphoria, anhedonia, suicidality (“the crash”), fatigue, vivid and unpleasant dreams, sleep disturbance (insomnia or hypersomnia), psychomotor retardation, agitation	Cognitive deficits [Hernandez: 2005] tooth decay, gum disease, loss of smell, nasal damage, GI infection (loss of bowel tissue), poor nutrition, weight loss, attention and impulse-control deficits [Dalley: 2005]
<u>Khat</u> (<i>Abyssinian tea, African salad, kat, oat</i>)	Euphoria, hyperarousal, increased heart rate and blood pressure, irritability, insomnia	Depression, nightmares, low energy	GI problems, tooth decay, gum disease, arrhythmia, myocardial infarction
<u>Methamphetamine</u> (<i>chalk, crank, crystal, fire, glass, go fast, ice, meth, speed</i>)	Euphoria, hypervigilance, anxiety, anger, irritability, impaired judgment, autonomic instability, mydriasis, sweating and chills, decreased appetite and weight loss, psychomotor agitation, chest pain and cardiac arrhythmia, confusion, seizures, psychosis	Dysphoria, anhedonia, suicidality (“the crash”), fatigue, vivid and unpleasant dreams, sleep disturbance (insomnia or hypersomnia), psychomotor retardation, agitation	Tooth decay, gum disease, loss of smell, nasal damage, GI infection (loss of bowel tissue), poor nutrition, weight loss, attention and impulse-control deficits [Dalley: 2005]

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Opioids			
<u>Heroin</u> (<i>brown sugar, China white, dope, H, horse, junk, smack</i>)	Euphoria or dysphoria, impaired judgment, miosis, warm skin, flushing, drowsiness, slurred speech, impaired memory, respiratory depression, seizures	Dysphoria, GI symptoms (N/V, diarrhea), muscle and bone pain, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, yawning, mydriasis, piloerection, sweating, fever, insomnia	Abscesses, endocarditis, constipation, liver and kidney disease, pneumonia, cognitive deficits [Lyvers: 2003]
<u>Natural opioids</u> (morphine, codeine, thebaine) Semi-synthetic (hydromorphone, hydrocodone, oxycodone, heroin) <u>Synthetic</u> (fentanyl, pethidine, meperidine, methadone, tramadol)	Drowsiness, meiosis, confusion, slurred speech, constipation, respiratory depression, mood swings	Nausea/vomiting, muscle aches, bone pain, severe sweating, agitation, restlessness, diarrhea, excessive tearing and rhinorrhea, shivering, abdominal pain	Hyperalgesia [Brush 2021], constipation, tolerance, endocrinopathies, sleep disorders [Harned 2016]
<u>Prescription opioids</u> (<i>codeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl</i>)	Euphoria or dysphoria, impaired judgment, miosis, warm skin, flushing, drowsiness, slurred speech, impaired memory, respiratory depression, seizures	Dysphoria, GI symptoms (N/V, diarrhea), muscle and bone pain, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, yawning, mydriasis, piloerection, sweating, fever, insomnia	Abscesses, endocarditis, constipation, liver and kidney disease, pneumonia, cognitive deficits [Lyvers: 2003]
Hallucinogens			
<u>Lysergic acid diethylamide</u> (<i>LSD, acid, blotter, boomers, cubes, microdot, yellow sunshines</i>)	Mood change (anxiety or depression), fear of "losing one's mind," intense sensory experiences, paranoia, ideas of reference, derealization, illusions or hallucinations, synesthesia, mydriasis. Tachycardia, sweating, palpitations, blurred vision, tremor, incoordination	Unknown	Scary flashbacks, psychosis, paranoia, mood swings

Classification/Category Name (Street Names)	Intoxication Effects	Withdrawal Effects	Chronic Use Effects
<u>Mescaline</u> (buttons, cactus, mesc, peyote)	Mood change (anxiety or depression), fear of "losing one's mind," intense sensory experiences, paranoia, ideas of reference, derealization, illusions or hallucinations, synesthesia, mydriasis. Tachycardia, sweating, palpitations, blurred vision, tremor, incoordination	Unknown	Scary flashbacks, psychosis, paranoia, mood swings
<u>Phencyclidine</u> (PCP, angel dust, boat, hog, love boat, peace pill)	Vertical or rotary nystagmus, hypertension, tachycardia, numbness, decreased pain response, ataxia, dysarthria, muscle rigidity, hyperacusis, seizures/coma, belligerence, agitation and violence, impulsiveness, impaired judgment, agitation	Lethargy, depression, cravings	Scary flashbacks, psychosis, paranoia, mood swings
<u>Psilocybin</u> (magic mushroom, purple passion, shrooms)	Mood change (anxiety or depression), fear of "losing one's mind," intense sensory experiences, paranoia, ideas of reference, derealization, illusions or hallucinations, synesthesia, mydriasis. tachycardia, sweating, palpitations, blurred vision, tremor, incoordination	Unknown	Scary flashbacks, psychosis, paranoia, mood swings
<u>3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine</u> (MDMA, Adam, clarity, ecstasy, Eve, lover's speed, Molly, peace, STP, X, XTC)	Mood change (anxiety or depression), fear of "losing one's mind," intense sensory experiences, paranoia, ideas of reference, derealization, illusions or hallucinations, synesthesia, mydriasis, tachycardia, sweating, palpitations, blurred vision, tremor, incoordination	Unknown	Scary flashbacks, psychosis, paranoia, mood swings

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<u>Synthetic Cathinone</u> (<i>Bath salts, Flakka, Scarface, vanilla sky, white lightening</i>)	Euphoria, Paranoia, hallucinations, increased friendliness or sex drive, panic attacks, and excited delirium or agitation. Increased HR, BP, and chest pain.	Depression, anxiety, tremors, insomnia, paranoia	
Inhalants			
<u>Inhalants</u> (<i>laughing gas, poppers,snappers, whippets</i>) <i>Amyl nitrate, isobutyl nitrate, nitrous oxide</i>	Dizziness, wheezing, nystagmus, slurred speech, unsteady gait, hyporeflexia, psychomotor retardation, incoordination, tremor, muscle weakness, diplopia, stupor, unconsciousness, impaired memory	Irritability, dysphoria, sleep disturbance, headache, dry mouth, lacrimation	Apathy, depression, sudden death (suffocation, cardiac arrhythmia), CT/MRI - diffuse atrophy with leukoencephalopathy, areas of decreased cerebral blood flow, peripheral neuropathy, memoryloss, Parkinson-like movement disorders, cognitive impairment , subacute combined degeneration [Lan 2019] [Rosenberg:1988]
Over-the-Counter Medication			
<u>Cough syrup/dextromethorphan</u> (<i>Robo, Robo-tripping, Triple C</i>)	Euphoria, slurred speech, increased HR/BP, dizziness, nausea/vomiting, paranoia, altered visual perception	Unknown	Unknown

Classification/Category Name (Street Names)	Intoxication Effects	Withdrawal Effects	Chronic Use Effects
Anabolic Steroids			
<u>Androl-50 (oxymetholone), Oxandrin (oxandrolone, formerly Anavar), Dianabol (methandrostenolone), Winstrol (stanozolol), Durabolin and Deca-Durabolin (nandrolone and nandrolone decanoate), Clen (clenbuterol, used for weight loss), Trenbol75 (trenbolone), Equipoise (boldenone, now only legally available in veterinary medicine formulations) ('Roids, juice, gym candy, andro, pumpers, stackers)</u>	Not typically associated with an immediate "high," but rather with a delayed effect of muscle and performance enhancement, persistent use can lead to a dependence syndrome similar to opioid dependence. [Kanayama: 2009]	Mood swings, fatigue, restlessness, loss of appetite, insomnia, and severe depression if discontinued abruptly	Aggression, irritability, manic episodes, paranoia, delusions, and impaired judgment resulting from feelings of invincibility, hepatic dysfunction, renal dysfunction, hypertension, heart attacks, dyslipidemia with increased LDL and decreased HDL cholesterol, tumors of the liver and kidney, severe acne. Men - testicular atrophy, azoospermia, infertility, hair loss, gynecomastia, increased risk for prostate cancer. Women - growth of facial hair, male-pattern baldness, menstrual changes, clitoromegaly, deepened voice. Adolescents - early puberty, accelerated skeletal maturation with possible stunted growth and reduced height if anabolic steroids are taken prior to pubertal growth spurt [Casavant 2007]
Club Drugs / "Date-Rape" Drugs			
<u>Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB, Georgia home boy, grievous bodily harm, liquid ecstasy)</u>	Euphoria, drowsiness, confusion, hallucinations, psychomotor agitation/excitation, low thyroid, low blood, pressure, low heart rate, unconsciousness, seizures, nausea/vomiting	Insomnia, anxiety, tremor, sweating, elevated heart rate and blood pressure	Unknown

Classification/Category Name (Street Names)	Intoxication Effects	Withdrawal Effects	Chronic Use Effects
<u>Ketamine</u> (<i>Ketalar SV: cat Valium, K, Special K, vitamin K</i>)	Attention/memory problems, dreamlike state, hallucinations, sedation, confusion, memory loss, profound psychomotor retardation, respiratory depression	Unknown	Depression, memory loss, kidney problems, bladder ulcers, and pain
<u>Rohypnol/flunitrazepam</u> (<i>forget-me pill, Mexican Valium, R2, roche, roofies, roofinol, rope, rophies</i>)	Sedation, lower anxiety, dizziness, confusion, psychomotor retardation, behavioral disinhibition, respiratory depression, blackouts, sleep, coma	Agitation, confusion, hallucinosis, seizures, delirium tremens	Unknown

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