

Fact Sheet PDF Sample

Cocaine Facts

- ❖ Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug. ¹
- ❖ The powdered, hydrochloride salt form of cocaine can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected. ¹
- ❖ Physical effects of cocaine use include constricted blood vessels and dilated pupils as well as increased temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure. ¹
- ❖ Cocaine use can disturb the rhythm of the heart and induce heart attacks, respiratory failure, strokes, and seizures. ¹
- ❖ Chronic cocaine use tends to decrease appetite, which may lead to malnourishment. ¹
- ❖ People who inject cocaine can experience severe allergic reactions. ¹
- ❖ In 2002, rates of emergency department visits associated with drug abuse were higher for cocaine than for any other drug throughout 17 major metropolitan areas. ¹
- ❖ The term “crack” in crack cocaine refers to the crackling sound heard when cocaine is heated. ¹
- ❖ Increased use of cocaine can reduce the period of time a user feels high and increases the risk of addiction. ¹
- ❖ Many cocaine addicts report that they seek, but are unable to achieve, as much pleasure as they did from their first exposure. ¹
- ❖ Some cocaine users will increase their doses to intensify and prolong the euphoric effects. ¹
- ❖ The use of intravenous drugs, including cocaine, puts users at increased risk for contracting HIV and other blood-borne diseases. ¹
- ❖ People who snort cocaine using shared equipment are at risk for hepatitis C. ²
- ❖ According to the 1995 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1.5% of Alaska high school boys report initiating cocaine use before age 13. ³

Footnotes

¹Crack and cocaine, 2004.

²Hepatitis C, 2005.

³Youth risk behavior survey [1995 Alaska Report (1997 Update)], 1997.

Bibliography

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