

COCAINE



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WHAT IS IT?

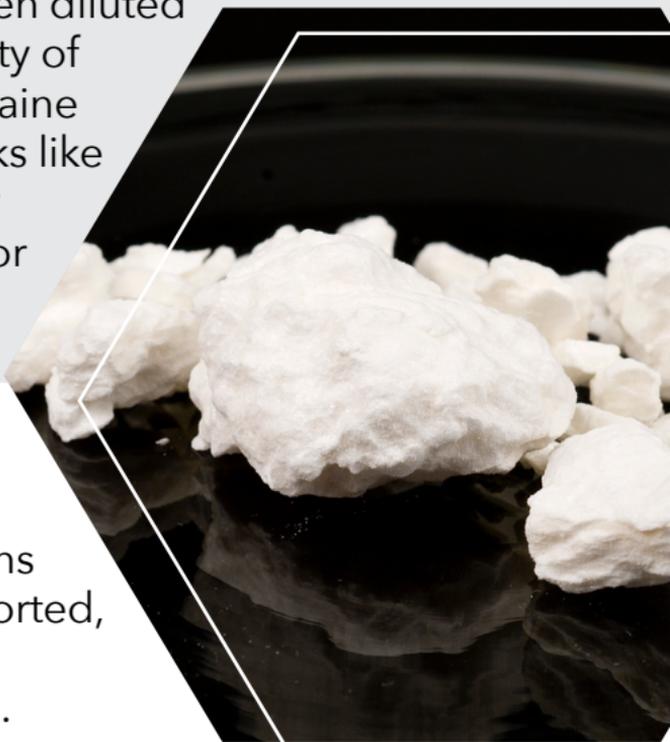
Cocaine is an intense, euphoria-producing stimulant drug with strong addictive potential made from the coca plant. Colombia produces almost 84% of the cocaine powder reaching the United States, most of which enters the U.S. through Mexico.

STREET NAMES

Blow, Coca, Coke, Crack, Flake, Snow, and Soda Cot

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

It is usually distributed as white, crystalline powder, and often diluted (cut) with a variety of substances. Cocaine base (crack) looks like small, irregularly shaped chunks or rocks.



HOW IS IT USED?

Cocaine can be injected into veins and muscles, snorted, and smoked. Crack is smoked.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN AND BODY?

Cocaine increases levels of dopamine, which controls movement and reward, ultimately changing the way the brain works. The intensity of cocaine's euphoric effect depends on how quickly the drug reaches the brain.

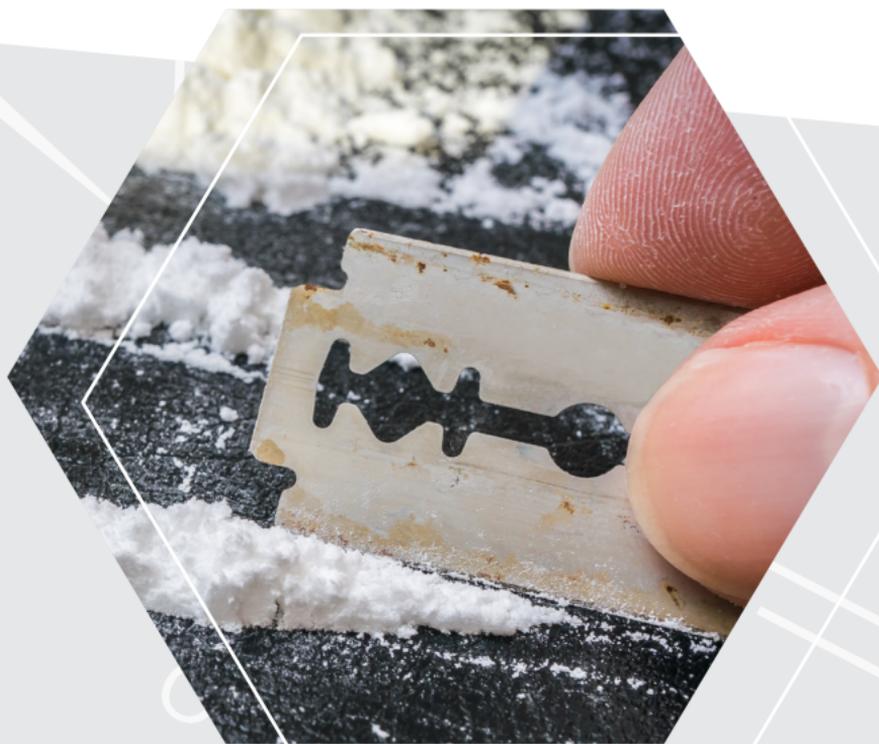
Short and long-term effects include extreme happiness or energy, increased alertness and excitation, restlessness, irritability, anxiety, and paranoia.

Additional effects could include mental and physical exhaustion, depression, increased blood pressure and heart rate, insomnia, loss of appetite, irregular heartbeat, sudden cardiac arrest, convulsions, stroke, and death.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Death from overdose can result from the first use of cocaine.
- Street dealers often mix it with things like cornstarch, talcum powder, or flour to increase profits.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse



FOR DRUG USE PREVENTION INFORMATION, VISIT DEA'S WEBSITES:

For parents, caregivers,
and educators
[GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)

For teens
[JustThinkTwice.com](https://www.justthinktwice.com)

For college and university
campuses
[CampusDrugPrevention.gov](https://www.campusdrugprevention.gov)