





Drug & Substances A-Z List

	= Opioids
	= depressants/sedatives
	= stimulants
	= psychoactive/hallucinogen/mixed type

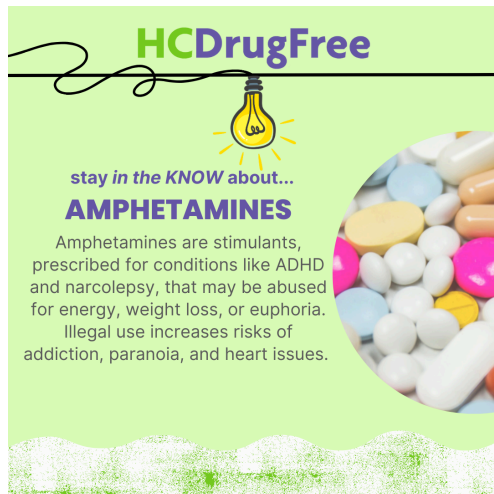
Alcohol

Alcohol is the depressant substance commonly found in beverages like beer, wine, and “hard” liquor. It is often consumed socially or recreationally, but misuse can lead to addiction, impaired judgment, and health risks. Excessive or binge drinking can cause immediate effects such as slowed reaction time, coordination loss, and alcohol poisoning, which can be fatal. Long-term abuse increases the risk of liver disease, heart problems, mental health disorders, and addiction. Despite its legality for adults over 21, alcohol remains one of the most commonly abused substances and poses significant dangers when consumed irresponsibly.



Amphetamines

Amphetamines, such as Adderall, are stimulants prescribed for conditions like ADHD and narcolepsy. They may be abused for energy, weight loss, or euphoria, and illegal use increases risks of addiction, paranoia, and heart issues.



Barbiturates

Barbiturates are strong sedatives misused for their calming effects or to enhance other drugs. They can be prescribed for seizures and anxiety, although this treatment has become less common with the increased availability of safer alternatives. They are highly addictive, and abuse can cause respiratory depression with high risk of overdose and death, especially in combination with other depressants such as alcohol.



Benzodiazepines

Benzodiazepines, also known as "benzos", are a class of depressant drugs that are prescribed to treat anxiety, insomnia, and seizures, but are often abused. Although safer than Barbiturates, long term use of Benzodiazepines such as Xanax can lead to dependence and addiction.



Cannabis


Cannabis refers to products derived from the *Cannabis sativa* plant species, including those containing THC that are often smoked or consumed for its psychoactive effects. Cannabis products can be used medically, but abuse can impair memory, concentration, and coordination.



Carfentanil

Carfentanil, a synthetic opioid used in veterinary medicine, is illegally abused and is 100 times more potent than fentanyl. Even tiny amounts can cause fatal overdoses, a risk that is increased when it is unknowingly mixed with other illicit substances.


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CARFENTANIL

Carfentanil is a highly potent synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times stronger than morphine and originally designed as a veterinary tranquilizer. Even a tiny amount can be deadly to humans, and it is often mixed with other drugs, increasing the risk of overdose and fatal respiratory failure.



Cocaine

Cocaine is an illegal stimulant created from the coca plant, abused for its short-lived euphoric and energizing effects. It can be snorted, smoked, or injected, and poses serious risks including addiction, heart attack, stroke, and fatal overdose.

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COCAINE

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Crack Cocaine

Crack cocaine is a powerful, smokable form of cocaine made by processing powder cocaine with baking soda or ammonia. It produces an intense, immediate high that fades quickly, often leading users to take more in rapid succession. Crack is highly addictive and can cause serious health issues, including heart attacks, seizures, respiratory failure, and overdose.



Counterfeit pills

Fake versions of prescription opioids (like oxycodone or hydrocodone) that often contain fentanyl or other dangerous substances and can be bought both online on social media or the dark web, and in-person through dealers. Since they look identical to real medications, users often have no idea they are taking a fake and dangerous drug. Overdoses from counterfeit pills have skyrocketed, especially among young adults and teens.



Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid and major source of overdoses, as even a tiny amount can be deadly, especially when mixed with other substances. It is used medically to treat pain, but can be illegally manufactured as a powder or tablets, and may be laced into drugs such as heroin or cocaine.



Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB)

GHB is a depressant drug often used illegally for recreation or as a date rape drug due to its sedative effects. It can cause drowsiness, confusion, unconsciousness, and overdose, especially when mixed with alcohol.



Hallucinogens

Hallucinogens are substances that alter perception, thoughts, and feelings, often causing users to experience sights, sounds, or sensations that seem real but are not. These drugs, which

include LSD, psilocybin (magic mushrooms), and PCP, can lead to unpredictable effects and potential risks such as confusion, paranoia, and impaired judgment.



Heroin

Heroin is an illegal opioid that is highly addictive and often mixed with other substances, increasing overdose risks. It is typically used by injecting, snorting, or smoking it. Injection poses the highest risk for overdose and infections, while smoking and snorting can still lead to addiction and serious health issues, including respiratory failure and death.



Ketamine

Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic used in both human and veterinary medicine, typically for pain relief and sedation. Illegally, it is often misused in powder or liquid form—snorted, injected, or added to drinks—for its hallucinogenic and out-of-body effects. Abuse can lead to memory

loss, confusion, impaired motor function, and increased risk of addiction, overdose, and long-term cognitive problems.

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KETAMINE

Ketamine, a veterinary anesthetic, is abused for its dissociative and hallucinogenic effects. Illegal use can cause memory loss, confusion, and high risks of addiction, overdose, and long-term cognitive problems.



Kratom

Kratom is a plant-based substance with both stimulant effects at low doses and opioid-like effects at higher doses. Some people turn to it for opioid withdrawal management, but it is not approved for medical use by the FDA and its safety and potential as a therapeutic agent remain widely debated. Misuse can lead to dependence, withdrawal, and serious health risks including liver damage, confusion, severe sedation, and death.

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KRATOM

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LSD

Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD or “acid”) is a powerful hallucinogen used recreationally to alter perception and mood. It can cause extreme psychological distress, flashbacks, and impaired judgment.



Marijuana

Marijuana, derived from the cannabis plant, is commonly used for relaxation or euphoria. It specifically refers to cannabis products containing higher levels of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the psychoactive compound that produces a "high." It is primarily associated with recreational and some medical use, and long-term abuse can impact brain development, especially in young users.



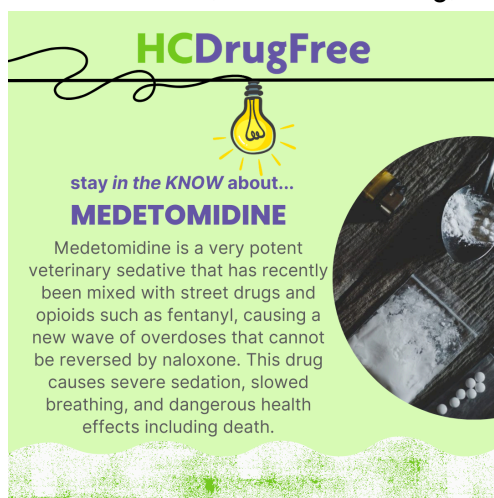
MDMA

MDMA, also known as ecstasy, is a synthetic drug abused for its euphoric and hallucinogenic effects, often used at parties or clubs. Its use can lead to dehydration, overheating, and long-term damage to the brain and heart.



Medetomidine

Medetomidine is a very potent veterinary sedative that has recently been mixed with street drugs and opioids such as fentanyl, causing a new wave of overdoses that cannot be reversed by naloxone, the current life-saving treatment for opioid overdoses. Medetomidine causes severe sedation, slowed breathing, and dangerous health effects including death.



Methamphetamine

“Meth” is a powerful stimulant illegally created and abused in powdered form or smoked for energy, euphoria, or weight loss. It can cause severe addiction, paranoia, and permanent damage to the heart and brain.



Nicotine

Nicotine is a highly addictive chemical compound that is found in tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Nicotine is a stimulant, affecting brain chemistry and leading to physical effects like high blood pressure, increased heart rate, and long term decreased cognitive function.



Nitrous Oxide

"Whippets" are small silver canisters filled with nitrous oxide, the same laughing gas you might see at a dentist's office. But these are being misused by teens for a quick high, risking nerve damage, unconsciousness, or worse. They're cheap, legal, and easy to hide-- making them all the more dangerous. Risks include unconsciousness, vitamin B12 deficiency, permanent brain and nerve damage, paralysis, and death.



Opioids

Opioids are a class of drugs, both natural and synthetic, that interact with specific receptors in the brain and body to reduce pain signals. Opioids like oxycodone, morphine, and fentanyl may be prescribed and used medically for pain relief, but are often misused and lead to addiction. There are also illegal opioids, including street fentanyl and heroin. Misuse of any opioid can lead to addiction, respiratory depression, and fatal overdoses.



Rohypnol

Rohypnol is a powerful benzodiazepine that is illegal in the U.S. but prescribed in some countries for severe insomnia. It is often misused recreationally for its sedative and amnesia-inducing effects and is commonly known as a "date rape drug" due to its ability to incapacitate victims. When mixed with alcohol or other depressants, it can cause extreme drowsiness, confusion, blackouts, and even life-threatening respiratory depression.



Xylazine

Xylazine is a veterinary sedative not approved for human use but increasingly found in illicit drug supplies, often mixed with fentanyl or heroin. It can cause extreme drowsiness, slowed breathing, dangerously low blood pressure, and severe skin ulcers that may lead to infections or amputations. Because it is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects, increasing the risk of fatal overdose.

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