

COCAINE & CRACK

(coke, blow, freebase)

What is it?

Cocaine is a naturally-occurring central nervous system stimulant found in the leaves of the coca plant. It is typically sold as a white/off white powder. Because cocaine tends to burn rather than vaporize at high temperatures, freebase cocaine (aka crack) is created by adding baking soda (and potentially other chemicals) to powdered cocaine and then cooked. This produces a hard, brittle, off-white/tan cocaine substance that can be smoked.

How do I take it?

Powdered cocaine is most frequently snorted but can also be injected. Crack is smoked or vaporized and inhaled in to the lungs.

Dosage?

Dose depends on desired effects, personal tolerance, concentration of cocaine compared to cutting agents, and if you are mixing it with other substances. When snorted, a standard dose of powdered cocaine could be from 50mg - 100mg while a standard dose of crack cocaine could be from 15mg - 50mg. Because of all of the potential variables, start low and go slow.

How does it work?

Cocaine and crack cocaine binds to the dopamine transporter in the brain,

causing an accumulation of dopamine in the synapse, which produces the effects of the drug.

Onset/Duration

The onset and duration of effects depends on how the drug is taken, but cocaine and crack are fast acting with relatively short effects. When cocaine is snorted, effects will be felt within minutes and last up to 45 min. When injected, effects will be felt immediately and last for about 15 minutes. When crack is smoked, effects will be felt immediately and last for up to 20 minutes.

Effects

Initial effects may include euphoria, sociability, rapid thoughts, increased energy, and irritability.

At higher doses or with extended use, effects can include anxiety, aggression, paranoia, mood swings and heart palpitations. Withdrawal symptoms can be similar to these effects as well.

What are we finding?

Cocaine samples that are brought in to be tested are often cocaine with no cutting agent. When cutting agents are present, we commonly see phenacetin (a drug used to relieve pain and fever), levamisole (a drug used to treat used to treat parasitic worm infections), procaine (a local anesthetic), or benzocaine (a local anesthetic).

Harm Reduction

- Cocaine can be difficult to quit after frequent, long term use - when possible, give yourself some days off to eat, hydrate and rest.
- Snorting cocaine can irritate and cause damage to nostrils and sinus cavities. Rinsing out your nostril with water will help keep these areas clean. Vitamin E oil or lotion can be used to help keep the nostril from drying out and to support healing processes.
- Whether snorting, injecting or smoking, try not to share your gear with others. If possible, carry a few extra straws or rigs to reduce sharing in a social situation.


More Info


<https://psychonautwiki.org/wiki/Cocaine>
<https://harmreductionto.ca/cocaine-crack>
<https://drugs.tripsit.me/cocaine>
<https://www.erowid.org/chemicals/cocaine/>

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