



IS CRACK LESS ADDICTIVE THAN COCAINE?

Both crack and cocaine are powerful central nervous system stimulants. They are both highly addictive.

PARAPHERNALIA:

- Lighters
- Tin Cans
- Glass Tubes
- Copper Cleaning Pads
- Razor Blades
- Vials
- Baggies

WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF CRACK?

The effects of crack are similar to those of cocaine, with some additional risk. Dilated pupils, increased body temperature, restlessness, irritability, and anxiety are some of the physical effects. In addition, the heart rate and blood pressure can rise very rapidly. Smoking crack can produce aggressive paranoid behavior in addicted individuals. When they attempt to stop smoking crack they may become depressed. This depression causes users to use the drug to alleviate their depression.

Long term use can result in ulceration of the mucus membrane of the nose and damage the septum enough to cause it to collapse. Additional risk include respiratory problems such as shortness of breath, chest pains lung trauma and bleeding. It can also result in cardiac arrest or seizures.

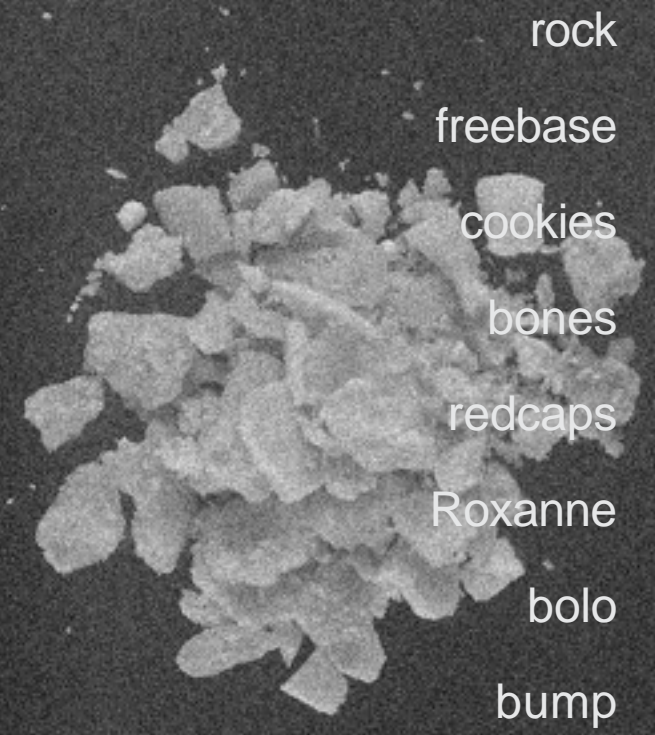
For additional information related to the contents of this brochure, please contact the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

Truth & Choices

The Office of Attorney General has created this new anti-drug program to introduce middle and high school students to Shane. A popular kid from a suburban Pennsylvania school, Shane shares this true story of hard choices and near death experiences due to drugs and alcohol. The presentation features interviews with Shane (from prison), his family, law enforcement and the medical community. It's a reality check for all students and will open a unique dialogue about the realities of substance abuse. There is also a program for parents. Both programs are available on DVD and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

To order a copy of the DVD and/or to request a "Truth & Choices" school or community presentation to be given by the Office of Attorney General, please contact our Education & Outreach Unit toll-free at 800-525-7642 or via email at education@attorneygeneral.gov.

CRACK





Crack, a common street drug, is the smokable form of cocaine. It is one of the most powerful and addictive drugs, sometimes leaving a person seriously addicted after just one use.

The effects of crack are similar to those of cocaine, but there are some additional risks. Its high potency and easy ability to mix with other drugs makes crack a serious state and national concern, while its low price makes crack attractive to young users.

Please read over the information in this brochure, educate yourself about the problem and report suspected crack use to my office or your local police department.

Tom Corbett
Attorney General

WHAT IS CRACK?

A smokable form of cocaine that is altered to a free base so that it may be smoked. Crack is the street name given to the drug because it makes a crackling sound when it is smoked. Crack can also be injected by needle use or inhaled (snorted). It may appear to be chips, rocks or chunks in a white, off-white or yellow color. It may look like little chips of soap. Smoking allows the high doses of cocaine to reach the brain very quickly and brings about an immediate high. It is a central nervous system stimulant. The effects of cocaine and crack are the same. But smoking crack produces a more rapid onset of these effects. Crack users experience a euphoria within six to ten seconds. The “crash” or depression following a crack high is usually more intense and profound than from inhaling (snorting) powder cocaine.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Crack delivers an intensity of pleasure completely outside the normal range of consciousness and human experience. Because of the tolerance built up during its use, crack leads to severe addiction.

Crack is one of the most addictive drugs, sometimes leaving a person seriously addicted after just one use. It is smoked in a glass pipe and can also be mixed with other drugs such as marijuana and heroin. Because of the rapid high, cheaper price and availability, crack is extremely attractive to lower social economic groups and young users. Users crave more and more of the substance.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Crack is sold for as little as \$5 for a small “rock” or \$10 a packet or vial.

IS CRACK ILLEGAL?

Yes. Cocaine and crack are Schedule II drugs and are illegal to possess and to sell. Cocaine was one of the first substances to be made illegal in the United States as a controlled substance.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF USE?

- red bloodshot eyes
- runny nose and frequent sniffing
- being alert and acting very nervous
- sudden weight loss
- frequently needing money
- losing interest in family, friends, school, work or other activities
- appearing tired
- withdrawn or careless about your personal appearance
- dramatic mood changes
- insomnia
- denial and lying

PACKAGING:

Crack is sold as “rocks” and is packaged in a variety of ways.

- small brown vials
- film canisters
- aluminum foil
- plastic wrap or small plastic baggies

Because of its small size, it can be concealed almost anywhere.

STREET NAMES:

crack	cookies	Roxanne
rock	bones	bolo
freebase	redcaps	bump