

Commonly Abused Drugs Chart

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Lists substances of abuse, including tobacco, alcohol, illicit and prescription drugs, listing their common and street names, how they are generally administered, and their potentially harmful health effects.

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Tobacco			
Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Nicotine	Found in cigarettes, cigars, bidis, and smokeless tobacco (snuff, spit tobacco, chew)	Not scheduled	Smoked, snorted, chewed
<p>Acute Effects - Increased blood pressure and heart rate</p> <p>Health Risks - Chronic lung disease; cardiovascular disease; stroke; cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, cervix, kidney, bladder, and acute myeloid leukemia; adverse pregnancy outcomes; addiction</p>			

Alcohol			
Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Alcohol (ethyl alcohol)	Found in liquor, beer, and wine	Not scheduled	Swallowed

Acute Effects - In low doses, euphoria, mild stimulation, relaxation, lowered inhibitions; in higher doses, drowsiness, slurred speech, nausea, emotional volatility, loss of coordination, visual distortions, impaired memory, sexual dysfunction, loss of consciousness

Health Risks - Increased risk of injuries, violence, fetal damage (in pregnant women); depression; neurologic deficits; hypertension; liver and heart disease; addiction; fatal overdose

Cannabinoids

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Marijuana	Blunt, dope, ganja, grass, herb, joint, bud, Mary Jane, pot, reefer, green, trees, smoke, sinsemilla, skunk, weed	I ?	Smoked, swallowed
Hashish	Boom, gangster, hash, hash oil, hemp	I ?	Smoked, swallowed

Acute Effects - Euphoria; relaxation; slowed reaction time; distorted sensory perception; impaired balance and coordination; increased heart rate and appetite; impaired learning, memory; anxiety; panic attacks; psychosis

Health Risks - Cough, frequent respiratory infections; possible mental health decline; addiction

Opioids

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Heroin	<i>Diacetylmorphine</i> : smack, horse, brown sugar, dope, H, junk, skag, skunk, white horse, China white; cheese (with OTC cold medicine and antihistamine)	I ?	Injected, smoked, snorted
Opium	<i>Laudanum, paregoric</i> : big O, black stuff, block, gum, hop	II, III, V ?	Swallowed, smoked

Acute Effects - Euphoria; drowsiness; impaired coordination; dizziness; confusion; nausea; sedation; feeling of heaviness in the body; slowed or arrested breathing

Health Risks - Constipation; endocarditis; hepatitis; HIV; addiction; fatal overdose

Stimulants			
Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Cocaine	<i>Cocaine hydrochloride</i> : blow, bump, C, candy, Charlie, coke, crack, flake, rock, snow, toot	II <input type="checkbox"/>	snorted, smoked, injected
Amphetamine	<i>Biphetamine, Dexedrine</i> : bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers	II <input type="checkbox"/>	swallowed, snorted, smoked, injected
Methamphetamine	<i>Desoxyn</i> : meth, ice, crank, chalk, crystal, fire, glass, go fast, speed	II <input type="checkbox"/>	swallowed, snorted, smoked, injected

Acute Effects - Increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, metabolism; feelings of exhilaration; increased energy, mental alertness; tremors; reduced appetite; irritability; anxiety; panic; paranoia; violent behavior; psychosis

Health Risks - Weight loss, insomnia; cardiac or cardiovascular complications; stroke; seizures; addiction

Also, for cocaine – Nasal damage from snorting

Also, for methamphetamine – Severe dental problems

Club Drugs			
Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
MDMA (methylene-dioxy-methamphetamine)	Ecstasy, Adam, clarity, Eve, lover's speed, peace, uppers	I <input type="checkbox"/>	swallowed, snorted, injected
Flunitrazepam **	<i>Rohypnol</i> : forget-me pill, Mexican Valium, R2, roach, Roche, roofies, roofinol, rope, rophies	IV <input type="checkbox"/>	swallowed, snorted
GHB **	<i>Gamma-hydroxybutyrate</i> : G, Georgia home boy, grievous bodily harm, liquid ecstasy, soap, scoop, goop, liquid X	I <input type="checkbox"/>	swallowed

Acute Effects, for MDMA - Mild hallucinogenic effects; increased tactile sensitivity; empathic feelings; lowered inhibition; anxiety; chills; sweating; teeth clenching; muscle cramping

Also, for Flunitrazepam - Sedation; muscle relaxation; confusion; memory loss; dizziness; impaired coordination

Also, for GHB - Drowsiness; nausea; headache; disorientation; loss of coordination; memory loss

Health Risks, for MDMA - Sleep disturbances; depression; impaired memory; hyperthermia; addiction

Also, for Flunitrazepam - Addiction

Also, for GHB - Unconsciousness; seizures; coma

Dissociative Drugs

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Ketamine	<i>Ketalar SV</i> : cat Valium, K, Special K, vitamin K	III ?	injected, snorted, smoked
PCP and analogs	<i>Phencyclidine</i> : angel dust, boat, hog, love boat, peace pill	I, II ?	swallowed, smoked, injected
Salvia divinorum	Salvia, Shepherdess's Herb, Maria Pastora, magic mint, Sally-D	Not Scheduled	chewed, swallowed, smoked
Dextromethorphan (DXM)	Found in some cough and cold medications: Robotripping, Robo, Triple C	Not Scheduled	swallowed

Acute Effects - Feelings of being separate from one's body and environment; impaired motor function

Also, for ketamine - Analgesia; impaired memory; delirium; respiratory depression and arrest; death

Also, for PCP and analogs - Analgesia; psychosis; aggression; violence; slurred speech; loss of coordination; hallucinations

Also, for DXM - Euphoria; slurred speech; confusion; dizziness; distorted visual perceptions

Health Risks - Anxiety; tremors; numbness; memory loss; nausea

Hallucinogens

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
LSD	<i>Lysergic acid diethylamide</i> : acid, blotter, cubes, microdot yellow sunshine, blue heaven	I ?	swallowed, absorbed through mouth tissues
Mescaline	Buttons, cactus, mesc, peyote	I ?	swallowed, smoked
Psilocybin	Magic mushrooms, purple passion, shrooms, little smoke	I ?	swallowed

Acute Effects - Altered states of perception and feeling; hallucinations; nausea

Also, for LSD - Increased body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure; loss of appetite; sweating; sleeplessness; numbness, dizziness, weakness, tremors; impulsive behavior; rapid shifts in emotion

Also, for Mescaline - Increased body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure; loss of appetite; sweating; sleeplessness; numbness, dizziness, weakness, tremors; impulsive behavior; rapid shifts in emotion

Also, for Psilocybin - Nervousness; paranoia; panic

Health Risks, for LSD - Flashbacks, Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder

Other Compounds

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Anabolic steroids	<i>Anadrol, Oxandrin, Durabolin, Depo-Testosterone, Equipoise</i> : roids, juice, gym candy, pumpers	III <input type="checkbox"/>	Injected, swallowed, applied to skin
Inhalants	<i>Solvents (paint thinners, gasoline, glues); gases (butane, propane, aerosol propellants, nitrous oxide); nitrites (isoamyl, isobutyl, cyclohexyl)</i> : laughing gas, poppers, snappers, whippets	Not scheduled	Inhaled through nose or mouth

Acute Effects, for Anabolic steroids - No intoxication effects

Also, for Inhalants (varies by chemical) - Stimulation; loss of inhibition; headache; nausea or vomiting; slurred speech; loss of motor coordination; wheezing

Health Risks, for Anabolic steroids - Hypertension; blood clotting and cholesterol changes; liver cysts; hostility and aggression; acne; in adolescents—premature stoppage of growth; in males—prostate cancer, reduced sperm production, shrunken testicles, breast enlargement; in females—menstrual irregularities, development of beard and other masculine characteristics

Also, for Inhalants - Cramps; muscle weakness; depression; memory impairment; damage to cardiovascular and nervous systems; unconsciousness; sudden death

Prescription Medications

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
CNS Depressants	For more information on prescription medications, please visit the Commonly Abused Prescription Drug Chart		
Stimulants			

Category & Name	Examples of Commercial & Street Names	DEA Schedule	How Administered*
Opioid Pain Relievers			

Notes

* *Some of the health risks are directly related to the route of drug administration. For example, injection drug use can increase the risk of infection through needle contamination with staphylococci, HIV, hepatitis, and other organisms.*

** *Associated with sexual assaults.*

Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment

More than three decades of scientific research show that treatment can help drug-addicted individuals stop drug use, avoid relapse and successfully recover their lives. Based on this research, 13 fundamental principles that characterize effective drug abuse treatment have been developed. These principles are detailed in [NIDA's Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide](#). The guide also describes different types of science-based treatments and provides answers to commonly asked questions.

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