

D-2K

COCAINE & CRACK COCAINE FACTFILE

KNOW IT Cocaine is known as coke, charlie, C, white.

Crack is known as rocks, wash, stones, pebbles.

Cocaine is a crystalline white powder that can be snorted up the nose. Some users inject it.

Crack is a freebase form of cocaine which can be smoked.

THE LAW Cocaine and crack are illegal and are Class A drugs.

The maximum penalty for possession of a Class A is seven years in prison and/or a fine.

The maximum penalty for supply (giving or selling it to someone else) is life imprisonment and/or a fine.

A drugs record can cause serious problems at home and school, and could affect job prospects.

If you have a drugs record, it can be difficult to get a visa to travel to some countries.

The information given here is general. If specific legal advice is required, please consult a solicitor.

EFFECTS Cocaine is a powerful stimulant.

The buzz creates a sense of well-being, making users feel alert and confident.

The effects last roughly 30 minutes and users are often left craving more.

The comedown leaves users feeling depressed, irritable and generally unwell.

**national
drugs
helpline**
0800 77 66 00

Users often take more to delay the comedown (tiredness and depression).

The effects of smoking crack are similar to snorting cocaine, but more intense.

The high lasts as little as 10 minutes. Because the high can be so intense, crack use can be difficult to control. Users often 'chase' the high by repeating the dose.

RISKS

Cocaine and crack are addictive.

Crack is very addictive. Users who form a habit can end up taking the drug just to feel normal. Addicted users need a constant supply of crack. Getting the money to buy the drug can dominate their lives. Some users resort to crime to pay for their habit.

Heavy use of cocaine and crack can cause heart problems. Heavy use can also cause convulsions (a seizure or fit).

Regularly snorting cocaine may permanently damage the inside of the nose.

Smoking crack can seriously harm the lungs.

Users often report chest pains.

Large or frequent doses over a short period of time can leave users feeling anxious, restless, confused and paranoid.

Crack and cocaine users have died from overdosing.

Some people inject cocaine, which increases the risk of physical damage to the user.

Sharing injecting equipment puts users at risk of infection.

Injecting increases the risk of taking an overdose, as the drug enters

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the system all at once.

Injecting a mixture of drugs, like cocaine and heroin, is VERY DANGEROUS.

A common problem reported by cocaine and crack users is spending too much money on the drug and getting into debt. Getting into debt can lead to users committing crime to support their habit.

While under the influence of cocaine or crack, users are more likely to take risks. This can result in accidents.