

# Cocaine

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Cocaine is a drug taken from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a powerful stimulant and is highly addictive. Cocaine is made in two main forms: *cocaine hydrochloride*, a white powder made of crystals; and *crack*, a form of cocaine processed with ammonia or baking soda and water into a “purer” form. Crack is generally shaped like small rocks or chunks. Other names for cocaine are: “Big C,” “blow,” “coke,” “flake,” “freebase,” “lady,” “nose candy,” “rock,” “snow,” “snowbirds” and “white crack.”
- Cocaine can be snorted, or dissolved in water and injected. Crack can be smoked. The term “crack” refers to the crackling sound heard when the mixture is heated or smoked.



Cocaine



Crack Cocaine

- Cocaine is said to be Hawai'i's third most used drug.
- Short-term effects of cocaine include bigger pupils; increased body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure; insomnia; loss of appetite; feelings of restlessness, irritability and anxiety. The faster the body absorbs cocaine, the more intense the high, but with the faster absorption, the high is shorter. The high from snorting may last 15–30 minutes while the high from smoking may last 5–10 minutes. Once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a “coke crash” where he feels depression, irritability and fatigue.
- High doses of cocaine or continued use can cause paranoia and erratic, bizarre and violent behavior. Smoking crack cocaine can produce a particularly aggressive paranoid behavior in users. When addicts attempt to stop use, they can become depressed. Regularly snorting cocaine can cause: damage to the tissue inside the nose (chronically inflamed and runny nose), a loss of sense of smell, nosebleeds, problems with swallowing and hoarseness.