



Effects of Illegal Drugs

Health and Family Life



Effects of Illegal Drugs

- Medicines are legal drugs if they are used correctly. Illegal drugs are drugs that are not medicines and that are against the law to sell, buy, have or use.
- Illegal drugs used in any amount can harm the body. Common illegal drugs are Cocaine, Crack and Marijuana.

Effects of illegal Drugs: Marijuana

- Marijuana is made from the hemp plant and is sometimes called grass, weed or pot.
- Marijuana users usually smoke it.
- Marijuana is sometimes eaten in high doses in food rather than smoked.
- Marijuana users experience short and long term effects.



Marijuana: Short Term Effects

- Distorted perception (sight, sound, time , touch)
- Causes problems with memory, learning and coordination, trouble with thinking and problem solving
- Increased heart rate and reduced blood pressure



Marijuana: Long Term Effects

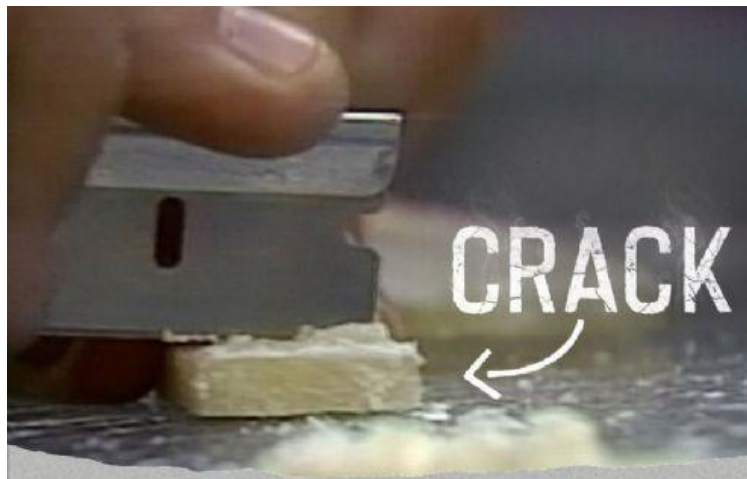
- Impairs speech, reading, comprehension and disorientation
- Causes asthma, heart disease and lung cancer (burning and stinging of the mouth & throat and causes heavy coughing and lung infections)



Marijuana: Long Term Effects

- Lowers the body's defenses against other diseases
- Can also produce anxiety, fear, distrust or panic
- It affects the brain and interferes with memory, coordination, speech, reading, comprehension and problem solving





Effects of illegal Drugs: Cocaine and Crack



Effects of illegal Drugs: Cocaine and Crack

- Increase blood pressure
- Speed up breathing and heartbeat rate
- Is addictive



Effects of illegal Drugs: Cocaine and Crack

- Make user violent (can lead to death)
- User hears and see things that are not there
- Destroy the inside of the nose