

THC | Marijuana

THC is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects. THC attaches to cannabinoid receptors in the brain and affects a person's memory, pleasure, thinking, movements, concentration, coordination, and sensory and time perception.

COC | Cocaine

Cocaine was once the drug of choice, used as local anesthetic, stimulant, and anti-depressant. Cocaine hydro-chloride is still used for local anesthesia in oral-nasal surgery. Cocaine produces feelings of euphoria and self-confidence, without the psychedelic effects of hallucinogens. The drug's powers are intense but brief, lasting about a half hour. The body metabolizes cocaine quickly.

OPI | Opiates

Opiates have been used both recreationally and for their pain-relieving effects. Opiates can lead to dependence if used chronically because of their addictive nature. Users require larger amounts to get "high" because of their body's increased tolerance for the drug. Opiates depress body functions and reactions. In large doses, they can cause a strong euphoric feeling.

HC | Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lorcet)

Hydrocodone is a semi-synthetic opioid synthesized from codeine. It is a narcotic analgesic used orally as a cough suppressant but also commonly taken for relief of moderate to severe pain. Hydrocodone can slow or stop breathing and may be habit forming.

HM | Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)

Hydromorphone is a very potent centrally acting analgesic drug of the opioid class. It is a morphine derivative used to treat moderate to severe pain. It can slow or stop breathing and may be habit forming.

PCP | Phencyclidine

Phencyclidine was originally used as an anesthetic. It was useful because of its low potential for depressing respiration in therapeutic doses. However, its value was seriously questioned after patients recovering from surgery had problems like jumbled speech, delirium, disoriented behaviours, agitation, and hallucinations. Phencyclidine is commonly used to enhance the effects of other drugs.

AMP | Amphetamine

Amphetamines were created in 1887 as a treatment for epilepsy, opiate addiction, schizophrenia, alcoholism, migraine, irradiation sickness, and head injuries. Many users begin using amphetamines because it helps to decrease fatigue and appetite, and increase focus especially when working overnight, or during many long, consecutive shifts without time off.

6-AM-6 | Acetylmorphine

6-Acetylmorphine is 1 of 3 active metabolites of heroin. The others are morphine and the much less active 3-monoacetylmorphine. Since 6-acetylmorphine is a unique metabolite to heroin, its presence in the urine confirms that heroin was the opioid used.

MDMA | Ecstasy

MDMA (aka ecstasy) is a psychedelic amphetamine that has gained popularity over the past 20 years because of its ability to produce strong feelings of comfort, empathy, and connection to others. MDMA use is closely tied to underground rave (and dance club) scene throughout the world, but has also been widely used by therapists as an adjunct to psychotherapy. There is no set recipe to create ecstasy, resulting in variability from pill to pill which can lead to a high proportion of overdose/death.

BENZ | Benzodiazepine

Benzodiazepine are chemicals used in the treatment of anxiety and sleep disorders. This class includes alprazolam (Xanax), diazepam (Valium), clonazepam (Klonopin) and others. Benzodiazepines are commonly abused, this abuse is partially related to the toxic effects that they can produce and also to their widespread availability. They can be chronically abused or more commonly seen in hospital emergency departments, intentionally or accidentally taken in overdose. The combination of benzodiazepines and alcohol can be dangerous when taken as a "double downer."

mAMP | Methamphetamine

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PROP | Propoxyphene

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MTD | Methadone

Methadone is a synthetic opiate derivative/opioid that is most commonly used as a maintenance treatment for heroin, opiate and methamphetamine addictions.

BARB | Barbiturate

Barbiturates are a group of drugs in the class of drugs known as sedative-hypnotics, which generally describes their sleep-inducing and anxiety-decreasing effects. Barbiturates are abused to reduce anxiety, decrease inhibitions, and treat unwanted effects of illicit drugs. Barbiturates can be extremely dangerous because the correct dose is difficult to predict. Even a slight overdose can cause coma or death. Barbiturates are also addictive and can cause life-threatening withdrawal symptoms.

“ The fact that workers use illicit drugs substances, or that some misuse prescription drugs, is not new. The awareness that the use and abuse of substances may affect the workplace just as the workplace may affect how a person uses substances, however, is increasing in acceptance. ”

Many aspects of the workplace require alertness and accurate, quick reflexes. An impairment to these qualities can cause incidents, and interfere with the accuracy and efficiency of work. (CCOHS, 2021)