

Cocaine and Alcohol

Added Danger: Cocaethylene

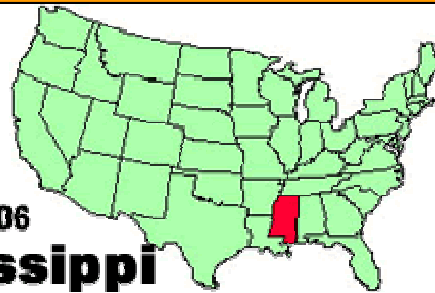
When people mix cocaine and alcohol consumption, they are compounding the danger each drug poses and unknowingly forming a complex chemical experiment within their bodies. NIDA-funded researchers have found that the human liver combines cocaine and alcohol and manufactures a third substance, cocaethylene, that intensifies cocaine's euphoric effects, while potentially increasing the risk of sudden death.

Production and Trafficking

Cocaine is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant, which is indigenous to the Andean highlands of South America. According to interagency estimates, potential cocaine production in the Andean region of South America (Colombia, Bolivia and Peru) accounts for virtually all worldwide cocaine production.

Much of the cocaine available in the US is transported from South American nations, particularly Columbia, through the Mexico-Central America Corridor. Recent data suggests that a rise in retail-level cocaine prices and a decrease in retail-level cocaine purity may have occurred during a period of February through September 2005, indicating a potential decrease in the availability at the retail level in domestic drug markets.

Mississippi Drug Seizures Report



2006 Mississippi

2005 Federal Drug Seizures
 Cocaine: 797.0 kgs.
 Heroin: 0.0 kgs.
 Methamphetamine: 54.3 kgs./501 du
 Marijuana: 419.0 kgs.
 Hashish: 0.0 kgs
 MDMA: 0.0 kgs /10,042 du
 Methamphetamine Laboratories: 184 (DEA, state, and local)

Cocaine is widely used and trafficked throughout Mississippi. Cocaine, in both powder form (HCl) and base form (crack), is the most problematic drug for communities and law enforcement in Mississippi. There is often a direct connection between the use and/or sale of cocaine and crime, especially violent crime. In Mississippi, cocaine is being illicitly trafficked and used by people from all racial and socioeconomic groups throughout the state's 82 counties. Crack cocaine is still the drug of choice among users and traffickers in the African American population in both urban and rural areas of Mississippi.

Unique to the Mississippi Gulf Coast counties of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson are Vietnamese gangs involved in drug trafficking. These Vietnamese gangs, primarily operating in the Biloxi area, are heavily involved in the distribution of powder cocaine and the club drug ecstasy. The primary cocaine sources for these Vietnamese dealers are located in Texas and California. Vietnamese dealers are known to supply some of the African American dealers with powder cocaine which is then converted or "cooked," into crack cocaine for local sale.

Mexican traffickers are loosely organized in Mississippi but are believed to be associated with large Mexican gangs operating in Memphis, Tennessee. Overall, the Mexican population in Mississippi is steadily growing and Mexican drug trafficking groups are increasing in the rural, agricultural areas of the state.



The Make A Promise Coalition for a Drug-Free Warren County

Let's Talk about...

Cocaine

Common Terms Associated with Cocaine

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
Blow	Cocaine	Bingers	Crack ad-
Horn	To inhale cocaine	Oolies	Marijuana laced with crack
Nose	Cocaine	Tornado	Crack
Snowball	Cocaine and heroin	Wicky stick	PCP, marijuana, and crack

Presented by:
 The Make a Promise Coalition for a Drug-Free Community

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The History of Cocaine

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, (ONDCP), pure cocaine was first used in the 1880's in eye, nose and throat surgeries as an anesthetic and for its ability to constrict blood vessels and limit bleeding. However, many of its therapeutic applications are now obsolete because of the development of safer drugs.

What is Cocaine?

Cocaine is the most potent stimulant of natural origin. It is an alkaloid found in leaves of the South American shrub *Exthroxylon Coca*. This substance can be snorted, smoked or injected.

When snorted, cocaine powder is inhaled through the nose where it is absorbed into the bloodstream through the nasal tissues.

When injected, the user uses a needle to release the drug directly into the bloodstream.

Smoking involves inhaling cocaine vapor or smoke into the lungs where absorption into the bloodstream is as rapid as injection.

Each method of administration poses a great risk

What is crack cocaine?

Crack is cocaine that has been processed from Cocaine hydrochloride to a free base for smoking. Crack cocaine is processed

with ammonia or baking soda and water. It is then heated to remove the hydrochloride producing a form of cocaine that can be smoked.



Percent of Students Reporting Cocaine Use, 2004-2005

	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Past month	0.9%	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%	2.3%	2.3%
Past year	2.0	2.2	3.7	3.5	5.3	5.1
Life-time	3.4	3.7	5.4	5.2	8.1	8.0

2005 Monitoring the Future student survey.
www.monitoringthefuture.org

According to the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 34.2 million Americans ages 12 and older had tried cocaine at least once in their lifetime, representing 14.2% of the population ages 12 and older.

Percent of Students Reporting Risk of Using Cocaine, 2005

Say "great risk" to:	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Try crack once/twice	49.6%	57.0%	48.4%
Take crack occasionally	69.4	76.9	63.8
Try powder cocaine once/twice	44.2	51.3	46.2
Take powder cocaine occasionally	65.3	72.4	60.8

Health Effects of Cocaine

Cocaine is a strong central nervous system stimulant. Physical effects of cocaine use include constricted blood vessels and increased temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure. Users may also experience feelings of restlessness, irritability, and anxiety.

Some users increase their dosage trying to achieve their first high again. While tolerance can occur, users can become more sensitive to cocaine's anesthetic and convulsant effects without increasing the dose taken. This increased sensitivity may explain some deaths occurring after apparently taking low doses of cocaine.

Use of cocaine in a binge, during which the drug is taken repeatedly in high doses, may lead to a state of increased irritability, restlessness and paranoia. This can result in a period of full-blown Psychosis, in which the user loses complete touch with reality and experiences auditory hallucinations.

Other complications associated with the use of cocaine include disturbances in heart rhythm and heart attacks, chest pain and heart failure, strokes, seizures and headaches, and gastrointestinal complications such as, abdominal pain and nausea. Because cocaine has a tendency to decrease appetite users may become malnourished.

Snorting cocaine can lead to the loss of the sense of smell, nose bleeds, problems swallowing, hoarseness, and a chronically runny nose.

Ingesting cocaine can cause severe bowel gangrene due to reduced blood flow.

People who inject cocaine can experience severe allergic reactions, and, as with all injecting drug users, the risk of contracting HIV, and other blood borne diseases.



Bags of Coca leaves for sale in a Peruvian Marketplace