

THE TRUTH ABOUT

CRACK

Cocaine

Base Ball
Jelly beans
Nuggets Rock

drugfreeworld.org



WHY THIS BOOKLET WAS PRODUCED

There is a lot of talk about drugs in the world—on the streets, at school, on the Internet and TV. Some of it is true, some not.

Much of what you hear about drugs actually comes from those selling them. Reformed drug dealers have confessed they would have said anything to get others to buy drugs.

Don't be fooled. You need facts to avoid becoming hooked on drugs and to help your friends stay off them. That is why we have prepared this booklet—for you.

Your feedback is important to us, so we look forward to hearing from you. You can visit us on the web at drugfreeworld.org and e-mail us at info@drugfreeworld.org.

What is Crack Cocaine?

Crack cocaine is the crystal form of cocaine, which normally comes in a powder form.* It comes in solid blocks or crystals varying in color from yellow to pale rose or white.

Crack is heated and smoked. It is so named because it makes a cracking or popping sound when heated.

Crack, the most potent form in which cocaine appears, is also the riskiest. It is between 75% and 100% pure, far stronger and more potent than regular cocaine.

Smoking crack allows it to reach the brain more quickly and thus brings an intense and immediate—but very short-lived—high that lasts about 15 minutes. And because addiction can develop even more rapidly if the substance

is smoked rather than snorted (taken in through the nose), an abuser

can become addicted after his or her first time trying crack.

Because of cocaine's high cost, it has long been considered a "rich man's drug." Crack, on the other hand, is sold at prices so low that even teens can afford to buy it—at first. The truth is that once a person is addicted, the expense skyrockets in direct ratio to the increasing amount needed to support the habit.




* For more information about cocaine in its powdered form, see *The Truth About Cocaine* booklet in this series.



Street Names

Of the dozens of street terms for crack cocaine in use today, the most common are:

- 24-7
 - Apple jacks
 - Badrock
 - Ball
 - Base
 - Beat
 - Candy
 - Chemical
 - Cloud
 - Cookies
 - Crack
 - Crumbs
 - Crunch & munch
 - Devil drug
 - Dice
 - Electric kool-aid
 - Fat bags
 - French fries
 - Glo
 - Gravel
 - Grit
 - Hail
 - Hard ball
 - Hard rock
 - Hotcakes
 - Ice cube
 - Jelly beans
 - Kryptonite
 - Nuggets
 - Paste
 - Piece
 - Prime time
 - Product
 - Raw
 - Rock(s)
 - Rock star
 - Rox/Roxanne
 - Scrabble
 - Sleet
 - Snow coke
 - Sugar block
 - Topo (Spanish)
 - Tornado
 - Troop
- 



I lived with a crack addict for nearly a year. I loved that addict, who was my boyfriend, with all my heart but I couldn't stick [with] it any more.

“The police stopped and searched me; we were raided at 6 A.M. My ex stole incessantly and couldn't tear himself away from his pipe.

“I think crack is more evil than heroin—one pipe can be all it takes to turn you into an immoral monster.” — Audrey

International Statistics

In US Federal courts in 2007, 5,477 individuals were found guilty of crack cocaine-related crimes. More than 95% of these offenders had been involved in crack cocaine trafficking.

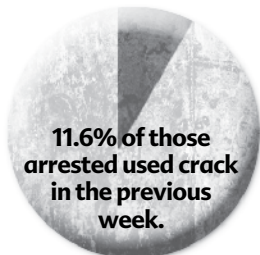
The situation is different in Europe. The European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction reports abuse of crack cocaine is commonly restricted to minority communities in large cities with high levels of unemployment and poor living conditions. In 2006, 20 European countries reported that crack cocaine abusers represented only 2% of all drug users entering substance abuse treatment, and most of them were reported by the United Kingdom.

The 2007 US National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that 8.6 million Americans aged 12 and older reported having used crack. Among those 18 to 25, 6.9% of those surveyed said they had used crack within the last year. The 2007 US Government's Monitoring the Future survey found that among high school students, 3.2% of 12th graders had used crack cocaine at some point in their lives.

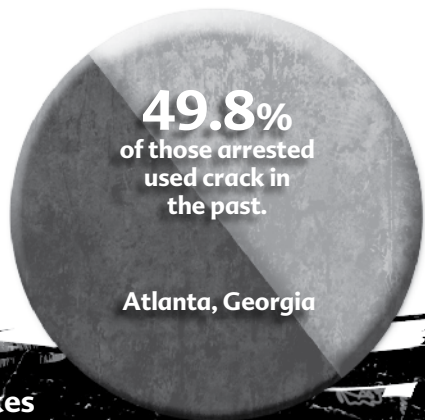
In the United States, crack cocaine was the primary drug of abuse in 178,475 admissions to treatment in 2006. This represented 71% of all primary cocaine admissions to treatment that year.



CRACK & CRIME



Honolulu, Hawaii



Atlanta, Georgia

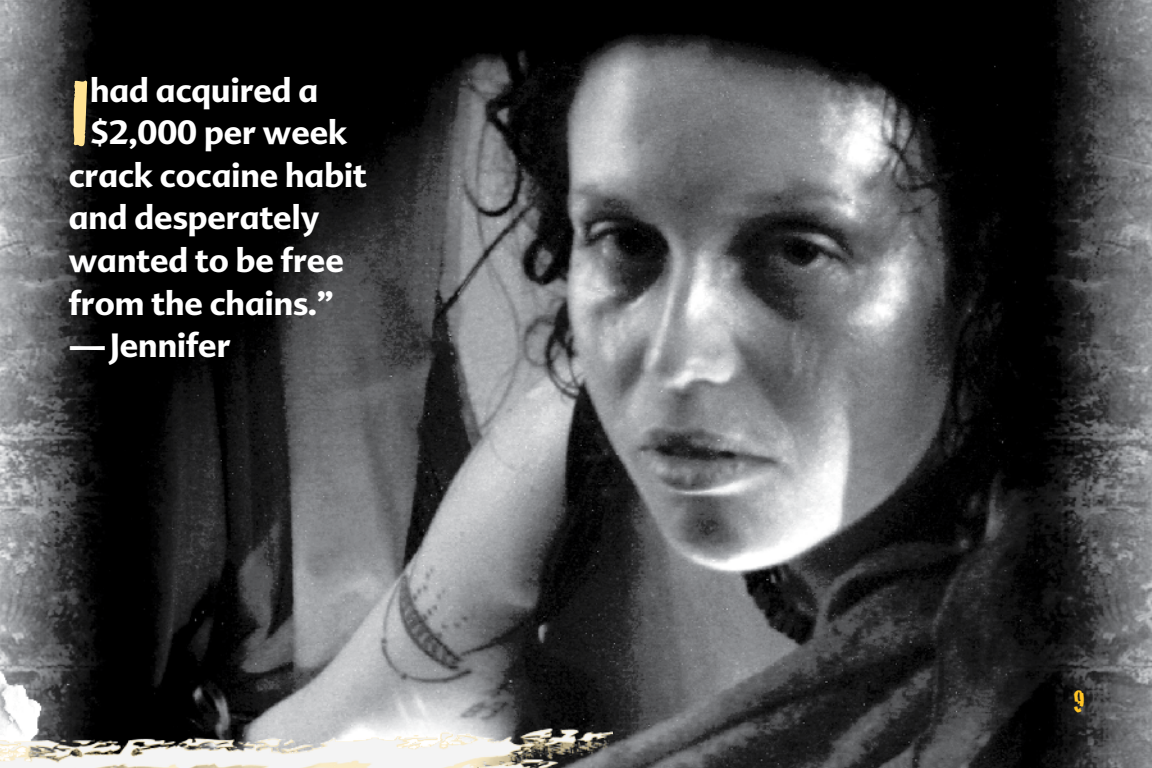
It's a totally selfish drug, this crack. It takes over your life. Crack grabs ahold quickly. It doesn't take long at all. The cravings it produces are massive. And you end up using it more frequently because the high is short-lasting." — Peter

Why is Crack Cocaine So Highly Addictive?

Crack cocaine is one of the most powerful illegal drugs when it comes to producing psychological dependence. It stimulates key pleasure centers within the brain and causes extremely heightened euphoria. Compulsive crack use develops soon after the person

starts using, because the substance is smoked and enters the blood stream rapidly. A tolerance develops quickly—the addict soon fails to achieve the same high experienced earlier from the same amount of crack cocaine.





**I had acquired a
\$2,000 per week
crack cocaine habit
and desperately
wanted to be free
from the chains.”
— Jennifer**



Effects of Crack Cocaine

WHAT ARE THE SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF CRACK COCAINE?

Crack causes a short-lived, intense high that is immediately followed by the opposite—intense depression, edginess and a craving for more of the drug. People who use it often don't eat or sleep properly. They can experience greatly increased heart rate, muscle spasms and convulsions. The drug can make people feel paranoid,* angry, hostile and anxious—even when they aren't high.

Regardless of how much of the drug is used or how frequently, crack cocaine increases the risk that the user will experience a heart attack, stroke, seizure or respiratory (breathing) failure, any of which can result in sudden death.

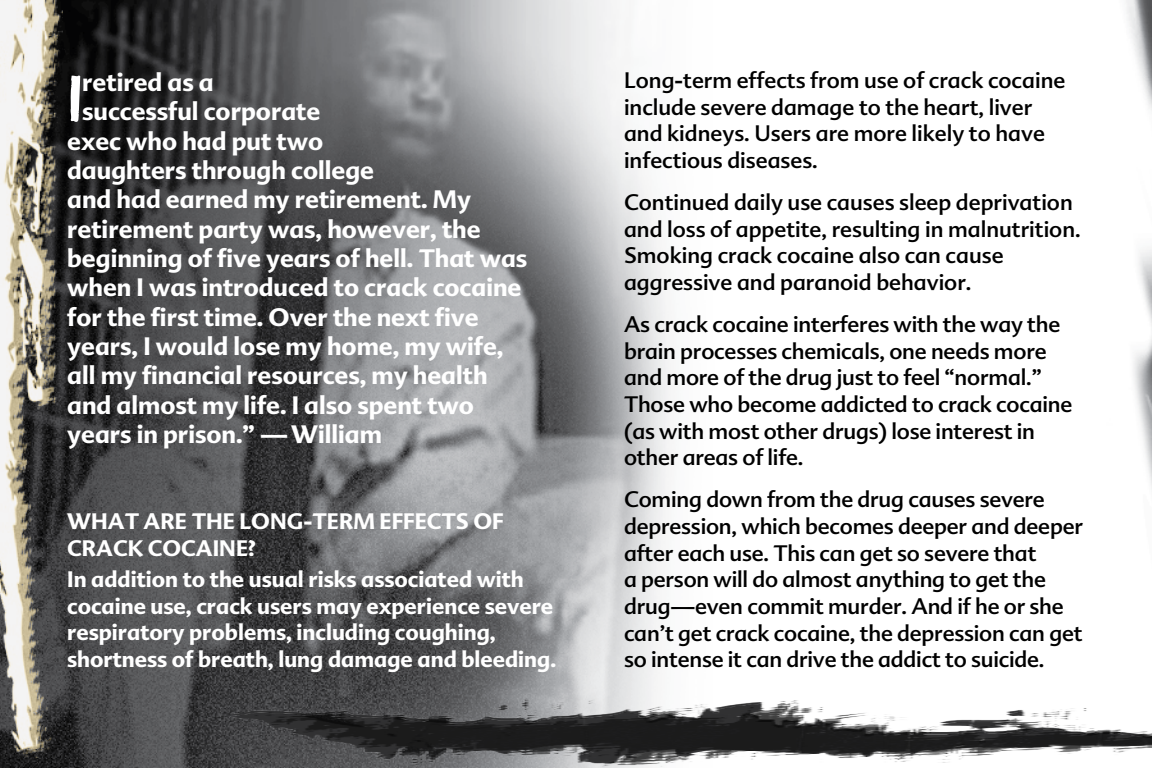
* paranoid: suspicious, distrustful or afraid of other people.

Smoking crack further presents a series of health risks. Crack is often mixed with other substances that create toxic fumes when burned. As crack smoke does not remain potent for long, crack pipes are generally very short. This often causes cracked and blistered lips, known as “crack lip,” from users having a very hot pipe pressed against their lips.

The only thing on my mind was crack cocaine. And if somebody offers you any of it, you'll jump at it and take it. It's like offering a starving man a loaf of bread if he walks for miles....

“Things came to a head for me when I'd been smoking constantly for a couple of weeks. One day I just decided I'd had enough—I couldn't live like this any more. And I tried to commit suicide.

“I'm going to have to try and fight.... I hope my survival instincts kick in.” — John



Retired as a successful corporate exec who had put two daughters through college and had earned my retirement. My retirement party was, however, the beginning of five years of hell. That was when I was introduced to crack cocaine for the first time. Over the next five years, I would lose my home, my wife, all my financial resources, my health and almost my life. I also spent two years in prison.” — William

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF CRACK COCAINE?

In addition to the usual risks associated with cocaine use, crack users may experience severe respiratory problems, including coughing, shortness of breath, lung damage and bleeding.

Long-term effects from use of crack cocaine include severe damage to the heart, liver and kidneys. Users are more likely to have infectious diseases.

Continued daily use causes sleep deprivation and loss of appetite, resulting in malnutrition. Smoking crack cocaine also can cause aggressive and paranoid behavior.

As crack cocaine interferes with the way the brain processes chemicals, one needs more and more of the drug just to feel “normal.” Those who become addicted to crack cocaine (as with most other drugs) lose interest in other areas of life.

Coming down from the drug causes severe depression, which becomes deeper and deeper after each use. This can get so severe that a person will do almost anything to get the drug—even commit murder. And if he or she can’t get crack cocaine, the depression can get so intense it can drive the addict to suicide.