



DRUG FACT SHEET

# Cocaine and Crack

Cocaine and alcohol is the most common two-drug combination that results in drug-related deaths.

<b>Class of drug:</b>	Stimulant
<b>Main active ingredient:</b>	Cocaine hydrochloride is extracted from the leaf of the Erythroxylon coca bush. Crack is processed from powdered cocaine (hydrochloride is removed).
<b>What it looks like:</b>	<b>Cocaine:</b> fine crystalline powder <b>Crack:</b> light brown or beige pellets or crystalline rocks (often packaged in small vials)
<b>Street names:</b>	<b>Cocaine:</b> Coke, Snow, Blow <b>Crack:</b> Freebase Rocks, Rocks
<b>How it is used:</b>	<b>Cocaine:</b> sniffed or injected <b>Crack:</b> smoked
<b>Duration of High:</b>	<b>Cocaine effects</b> appear almost immediately and disappear within a few minutes or hours (depends on route of administration). <b>Crack effects</b> are felt within 10 seconds and disappear within five to 10 minutes (very intense high). It is not uncommon for users to binge on crack to try to sustain the short, but intense high.
<b>Withdrawal symptoms:</b>	Mood swings/changes, depression, anxiety—unpleasant but not life threatening
<b>Detection in the body:</b>	Three to five days
<b>Effects:</b>	<b>Physical</b> —increased energy, dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, sudden death <b>Mental</b> —euphoria, tactile hallucinations, large amounts can cause bizarre and violent behavior <b>Long-term</b> —mood disturbances, paranoia, heart attacks, respiratory failure, heart disease, strokes, seizures, death



Approximately 100 years after cocaine entered into use, a new variation of the substance emerged. This substance, crack (above), became enormously popular in the mid-1980s due in part to its almost immediate high and the fact that it is inexpensive to produce and buy.

## Illinois information

During FY 2011, 35.2 percent of the federally-sentenced defendants in Illinois had committed a drug offense. Almost two-thirds of the drug cases involved powder cocaine or crack cocaine.

(U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2011 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Illinois)

Sources: American Medical Association, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drug Abuse Warning Network, National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of National Drug Policy