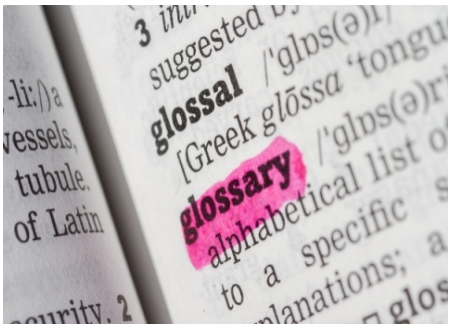
Positive Choices
Drug and Alcohol Information
Get informed, stay smart, stay safe

Factsheet

Glossary



Evidence ratings:

This resource has undergone expert review. See our Help/Q&A section for more details.

Year:

Targeted Drugs: Drugs (General)

Tags:

Origin: Australian

Cost:
Free

Glossary of Terms

Comedown

Just like getting a hangover from drinking alcohol, taking illegal drugs can lead to experiencing negative after-effects sometimes known as a 'comedown' or 'crash', which are the feelings experienced as the drug wears off. The type of effects experienced during this period depends on the type of drug(s) used. They might include feelings of depression, insomnia (inability to sleep), extreme tiredness, irritability, and anxiety just to name a few. These effects can last anywhere from a few hours to a day or so after initially taking the drug. It is different to withdrawal effects (a sign that a person is dependent).

Dependence (addiction)

People can also become physically and/or psychologically dependent on (addicted to) drugs, especially if they use regularly. They can develop tolerance, meaning that they need to take more of the drug to get the same effect.

The lifestyle of many people who are drug dependent (addicted to a drug) is difficult and often stressful and can lead to:

- Problems with school or work
- Losing touch with friends, family, and loved ones
- An inability to pay rent and bills, which can result in homelessness
- Impaired physical health
- Increased mental health problems
- Involvement in crime.

Depressant drugs

Depressant drugs reduce activity in the central nervous system. Examples include: Alcohol, GHB, Ketamine, Benzodiazepines, Opioids (e.g. Heroin).

See also What are illegal drugs?

Polydrug use

Mixing drugs or taking one drug when under the influence of another drug is known as polydrug use.

To find out more, see Polydrug Use: Factsheet

Psychosis

People affected by psychosis may experience hallucinations (e.g. seeing or hearing things that aren't really there), delusions (strong beliefs that do not reflect reality), and paranoia (feeling extremely suspicious and frightened). If symptoms last for more than a few days, this could indicate that the person may have a more serious mental illness such as schizophrenia.

Serotonin syndrome

A life-threatening condition that usually starts within 24 hours of taking the drug. It occurs when the brain is overloaded with a neurotransmitter (brain chemical) called serotonin. Symptoms include coma, seizures, shaking, confusion, rigid muscles, rapid heartbeat, and overheating.

Stimulant drugs

These increase the activity in the central nervous system. Examples include: Cocaine, Caffeine, MDMA (ecstasy), Methamphetamine (speed, ice, crystal, crystal meth, base), Ritalin, some new psychoactive drugs such as mephedrone and BZP.

See also What are illegal drugs and Emerging Drugs: Factsheet.

Withdrawal effects

People who are dependent on drugs or alcohol may also experience withdrawal effects when they stop using. Withdrawal effects can last for several days to many weeks, depending on the type of drug and severity of their dependence. Withdrawal symptoms may include feelings of anxiety, depression, restlessness, irritability, and aggression. Withdrawal can also cause muscle spasms, headaches, muscle cramps, diarrhoea, vomiting, and cravings for the drug.

A to Z of Drugs

Heard a name or street name for a drug but not sure what it is? This list will help you identify the drug. Click on the link to view a full information page and find out more about the drug, its use, effects and potential harms.

A to E | F to J | K to O | P to T | U to Z

A - E

A2 Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Piperazines. See Emerging Drugs.
Acid From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
Barbiturates From a class of drugs called Depressants. See What are illegal drugs?
Base From a class of drugs called Methamphetamine.
Bath Salts Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cathinones. See Emerging Drugs.
Benzo Fury Street name of class of drugs called Substituted Phenethylamines. See Emerging Drugs.
Benzos Street name for Benzodiazepines.
Cannabis
Charlie Street name for Cocaine.
Cocaine
Coke Street name for Cocaine.
Crack Street name for Cocaine.
Crystal Street name for Methamphetamine.
Death on Impact Street name of class of drugs called Substituted Phenethylamines. See Emerging Drugs.
Dope Street name for Cannabis.
E Street name for MDMA/Ecstasy.
Eccy Street name for MDMA/Ecstasy.
Ecstasy
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F - J

Fantasy Street name for GHB.
Foxy Street name of class of drugs called Substituted Tryptamines. See Emerging Drugs.
Freebase Street name for Cocaine.
GHB
Gina Street name for GHB.
Go-ey Street name for Methamphetamine.
Grievous bodily harm Street name for GHB.
Hallucinogens
Hash Alternate name for Cannabis.
Herbal smoking blends Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cannabinoids.
Heroin
Jungle Juice Street name for Inhalants.
Ice Street name for Methamphetamine.
Inhalants
Ivory Wave Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cathinones. See Emerging Drugs.
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K - O

K Street name for Ketamine.
K2 Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cannabinoids.
Ketamine
Kronik Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cannabinoids.
"Legal Highs" Term often used for Emerging Drugs.
Liquid ecstasy Street name for GHB.
LSD From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
M1 Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cathinones. See Emerging Drugs.
Magic Mushrooms From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
Marijuana Alternate name for Cannabis.
Meow Meow Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cathinones. See Emerging Drugs.

Mescaline From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
Meth Street name for Methamphetamine.
Methamphetamine
Methoxetamine Street name of class of drugs called Dissociative Anaesthetics. See Emerging Drugs.
M-Kat Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cathinones. See Emerging Drugs.
Moxy Street name of class of drugs called Dissociative Anaesthetics. See Emerging Drugs.
Mull Street name for Cannabis.
MXE Street name of class of drugs called Dissociative Anaesthetics. See Emerging Drugs.
N-Bomb Street name of class of drugs called Substituted Phenethylamines. See Emerging Drugs.
Northern Lights Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cannabinoids.
Opiates Class of drugs including Heroin.
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P - T

Party Drugs MDMA/Ecstasy.
Poppers Street name for Inhalants.
Rapture Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Piperazines. See Emerging Drugs.
Salvia From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
Smack Street name for Heroin.
Snow Street name for Cocaine.
Special K Street name for Ketamine.
Speed From a class of drugs called Methamphetamine.
Spice Street name of class of drugs called Synthetic Cannabinoids.
Tabs From a class of drugs called Hallucinogens.
Tina Street name for Methamphetamine.
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U - Z

Vitamin K Street name for Ketamine.
Weed Street name for Cannabis.
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