



Scribble's

RED RIBBON

Drug Danger ANSWERS

How much do you know about drugs? *Fill in the blanks for these drug facts!*

* **Marijuana** is typically smoked, and causes short-term memory loss because of the drug's effect on the brain. It affects the part of the brain involved in learning and memory. It may increase the risk of heart attacks and lung cancer, and has the same cancer-causing substances as tobacco.

Marijuana affects the hippocampus, the part of the brain involved in learning and memory. Additionally, puff for puff, smoking marijuana may increase the risk of cancer more than smoking cigarettes does.

* **Ecstasy** is known and a "club drug" because teens frequently use it at all-night dance clubs. It is usually taken as a pill, tablet, or capsule. One of the dangers is hyperthermia, or extreme overheating. It can also affect thought and memory, and often includes other chemicals or substances.

Ecstasy (aka: MDMA) became popular at all night dance clubs known as "raves". Hyperthermia is a danger because of dehydration through excessive sweating. Makers of ecstasy can add anything they want, so its purity is always questionable.

* **Steroids** are synthetic versions of testosterone, and stimulate muscle growth. They can cause men to develop breasts and women to experience excessive growth of body hair and deeper voices.

Testosterone is a male sex hormone. Steroid abuse can disrupt the normal production of hormones, resulting in Gynecomastia (breast development in men). This disruption can also cause reduced sperm count and shrunken testicles. In females, it can cause voices to deepen, body hair to grow, and breast size to decrease.

* **Alcohol** is a drug that lowers the activity in your brain. It is found in beer, wine, whisky, and many other drinks. It can cause people to do things they don't really want to do, like fights, accidents, and other bad situations. Long term, it can damage the liver, heart and brain.

Heavy drinking can also lead to loss of appetite, vitamin deficiencies, stomach trouble, skin problems, sexual problems, and memory loss.

* **Cocaine** comes as a powder for snorting, liquid for injecting, or crystals for smoking. It elevates mood and increases feelings of well-being, but is very dangerous. Long term use can result in addiction, panic attacks, feelings of restlessness, irritability and anxiety. An overdose can damage the heart or brain, resulting in death.

Cocaine is very addictive, and while not everyone who uses cocaine becomes addicted, it can be one of the hardest drugs to quit. Crack (the smokable form) is the most addictive form of cocaine. Cocaine can kill, even when snorted, and even people who have used cocaine once have died from it. After it wears off, people can have a "crash", feeling depressed, tired, or even suicidal.

Alcohol Cocaine Ecstasy Marijuana Steroids