



Commonly Used Drugs – Signs and Symptoms

	SUBSTANCE NAME (<i>Slang Name</i>)	APPEARANCE	SOURCE	CLASS	MEDICAL USE	METHOD OF USE	LENGTH OF STAY IN BODY*	DEPENDENCE		POSSIBLE INDICATIONS OF USE	EFFECTS ON THE BODY	LEGAL	
								Physical	Psychol.				
DEPRESSANTS	ALCOHOL (Booze, Brew, Sauce, Juice)	Liquid	Fruits & Grains (Plants)	Central Nervous System Depressant	Solvent Antiseptic Sedative	Swallowed	Urine – Excreted in 8-12 Hours Blood – Will Fall Below 0.10 Level in 24-36 Hours.	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Change in Appearance, Such as Flushed Face, Red Eyes Hand Tremor Memory Blackouts Moody or Unusually Sensitive – Argues or Disinterested in Job Increasingly Careless in Dress/ Appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth Defects Slows Action of Brain Slows Reflex Centers that Control Breathing and Other Body Functions <p>Long-Term Heavy Drinking Can Cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gastritis Cirrhosis of Liver Heart Disease 	Legal (Illegal to drive with Blood Alcohol level of .08 or higher)	
	BARBITUATES (Barbs, Reds, Yellow Jackets, Downers, Goofballs, Sleeping Pills)	Tablet Capsule Liquid	Synthetic	CNS Depressant	Sleep Sedation Epilepsy	Swallowed Or Injected	Urine – Excreted In 2 Days to 2 Weeks. (Depends If drug is Fast-Medium-, or Slow-Acting.) Blood - 48Hours.	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggering or Stumbling Falling Asleep at Work Appears Disoriented Slurred Speech Dilated Pupils Has Difficulty Concentrating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Dependency/Tolerance Develops Quickly Overdose Can Lead to Coma or Death <p>Deadly When Combined with Alcohol</p>	Legal, If Prescribed	
	MINOR TRANQUILIZERS -- Valium -- Librium	Tablet Capsule Liquid	Synthetic	CNS Depressant	Sleep Sedation Tension Muscle Spasms	Swallowed Or Injected	Urine – Excreted in 48 Hours	Yes	Yes				
	NON BARBITUATES -- Methaqualone (Ludes, Soapers)	Tablet	Synthetic	CNS Depressant	Sleep	Swallowed	Urine – Excreted in 48 Hours Blood – 4-80 Hours	Yes	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excitation of "Vomiting Center" of Brain Muscle Rigidity (with Vomiting) Can Lead to Choking <p>Deadly When Combined with Alcohol</p>	Laws regarding use may vary by state although still illegal Federally	
STIMULANTS	COCAINE (Crack, Girl, C. Snow, Coke, Blow, Nose Candy, Rock)	Powder Liquid Rock	Coca Leaves (Plant)	CNS Stimulant Topical Anesthetic	Topical Anesthetic	Snorted, Injected Smoke	Urine – Excreted in 48 Hours Blood – 5 Hours	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euphoric Energetic; then Anxious, Depressed Pupils are Dilated and Fixed Tremors may Occur Indicates Feeling of Superiority/ Overconfidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Heart Rate/Blood Pressure Sever Weight Loss, Anorexia Birth Defects Snorting can Damage Nasal Membranes Injecting can Result in Hepatitis and Abscess Formations Smoking can Cause Heart Attacks and Strokes 	<i>Illegal to Use, Possess or Sell in All 50 States</i>	
	AMPHETAMINES (Speed, Uppers, Dexies, Bennies, Co-Pilots, Black Beauties)	Tablet Capsule Powder (White)	Synthetic	CNS Stimulant	Appetite Control Narcolepsy	Swallowed or Injected	Urine – Excreted in 24 Hours Blood – 30 Hours	Possible	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessively Active, Irritable, Argumentative, or Nervous Excited, Euphoric, Talkative Dilated Pupils Goes Long Periods without Eating or Sleeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Blood/Pulse Pressure Abnormal Heart Rhythm Psychosis (From Continuous Misuse) Severe Weight Loss 	Legal, If Prescribed	



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								Physical	Psychol.			
HALLUCINOGENS	MARIJUANA (Reefer, Hash, Grass, Pot, Weed, Joint)	Plant Material (Dark Green or Brown) solid Brown to Black Resin	Cannabis Sativa (Plant)	Mild Hallucinogen	Experimental Research	Smoked or Swallowed	Urine – 50% Excreted in 7 days. Detectable from 3-10 Days. Blood – 4 Hours	Possible	Yes	In Early Stages, Animated with Rapid, Loud Talking and Bursts of Laughter In Later Stages, may be Sleepy Dilated Pupils, Pink Eyes May have Distorted Perception	Increases Heart Rate 50% when High Depressed Immune System Birth Defects Long-Term Use Can Cause: Lung Cancer, Bronchitis, Emphysema	Medical and recreational use varies by state – still illegal Federally
	PSYCHEDELICS (LSD, Psilocybin, MDMA, Acid, Microdots, Window Pane, California Sunshine)	Tablet Capsule Liquid	Fungi and Synthetic	Hallucinogen	None	Swallowed	Urine – Excreted in 24 Hours. (Difficult to Detect.)	No	Yes	Loss of Coordination Confusion Impaired Judgment Depression Depersonalization (Withdrawal) May Exhibit Violent or Bizarre Behavior	Increased Heart Beat Hallucinations Can Recur After Discontinuing Use	Laws regarding use may vary by state although still illegal Federally
	PCP (Angel, Dust, Crystal, Supergrass, Rocket Fuel, DOA)	Powder Liquid Tablet	Synthetic	Hallucinogen	Veterinary Anesthetic (Animal Tranquilizer)	Smoked, Injected, or Swallowed	Urine – Excreted in 24 Hours	No	Yes	Reduced sensitivity to pain Feelings of super-strength Sense of invulnerability Apathy Euphoria	Increased Heart Beat Numbness of Extremities Increased Respiration/Blood Pressure Overdose can Cause Convulsions, Coma, Death Hallucinations can Recur After Discontinuing Use	Illegal to Use, Possess or Sell in All 50 States
NARCOTICS	HEROIN (Horse, Boy, Smack, Stuff, Brown Sugar)	Powder (White, Brown)	Semi-Synthetic (From Morphine)	CNS Depression	None	“Snorted” or Injected	Urine – 90% Excreted in 24 Hours. Traces Up to 48 Hours. Blood – 10 Hours	Yes	Yes	Scars on Arms or Backs of Hands Pupils Constricted and Fixed	Physical/Psychological Dependence Develops Rapidly Substances Used to Cut Powders can be Toxic, Cause Allergic Reactions or overdose	Legal, If Prescribed
	MORPHINE (White Stuff, First Line, Miss Ema, Cube)	Powder (White) Tablet Liquid	Opium Poppy (Plant)	CNS Depressant	Relieve Pain	Swallowed or Injected	Urine – 90% Excreted in 24 Hours. Traces Up to 48 Hours Blood – 10 Hours.	Yes	Yes	Scratches Self Frequently Loss of Appetite May have Sniffles, Red Watery Eyes Lethargic, Drowsy, and May Doze Off During Withdrawal may Be Nauseated and Vomiting	Possibly Systemic Infections from Re-Using Needles Increased Risk of HIV Infection from Needle Sharing	
	METHADONE (Dollies, Dolly, Meth)	Tablet Liquid	Synthetic	CNS Depressant	Relieve Pain	Swallowed or Injected	Urine – 90% Excreted in 24 Hours. Traces Up to 48 Hours Blood – 10 Hours	Yes	Yes		Small Particles from Powders or Dissolved Tablets can Block Small Blood Vessels Throughout Body Damaging Liver, Eyes, Lungs, Etc.	
	DILAUDID (D's, Drugstore, Heroin)	Tablet Liquid	Semi-Synthetic (From Morphine)								Infections, Possible Tetanus, From Injecting Just Under Skin	

*Typical retention times for one dose. Retention time will vary based on frequency of use, drug purity, diluting compounds, drugs taken in tandem, liver and/or kidney function, body weight, quantity of substances used, and other variables.