



Methamphetamines

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug, whether injected, snorted or smoked, that affects the brain and central nervous system. Methamphetamine increases levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which stimulates brain cells, enhancing mood and body movement.

Meth is manufactured using pseudoephedrine and many highly toxic and dangerous chemicals. Most of the ingredients can be purchased at any grocery or hardware store. This process requires "cooking" the ingredients which may be hazardous due to chemical vapors and or fire and explosion.

Dangers of Meth Use

Even taken in small amounts, methamphetamine can cause increased wakefulness, increased physical activity, decreased appetite, increased respiration, hyperthermia, increased heart rate and blood pressure, irregular heartbeat and cardiovascular collapse.

Long Term Dangers

Chronic meth use can result in violent behavior, psychotic behavior, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, delusions, paranoia, and homicidal or suicidal thoughts.

Before Meth

After Meth



Drug Dealers

People who deal drugs are motivated by greed and money. Many are users themselves and can be very unpredictable and dangerous.

Robbery, rapes and homicides are commonly associated with drug dealing and drug use. Criminal organizations known as drug trafficking organizations or DTO'S as well as criminal street gangs run the illegal drug trade. These gangs and DTO's are violent

A majority of crimes can be traced back to illegal drugs.

Local dealers are becoming heavily armed and are making use of available technology. Cell phone and other two-way communication devices, counter surveillance techniques and aggressive arrest evasion techniques are commonly encountered even at the street level.



LARAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Emergency 9-1-1

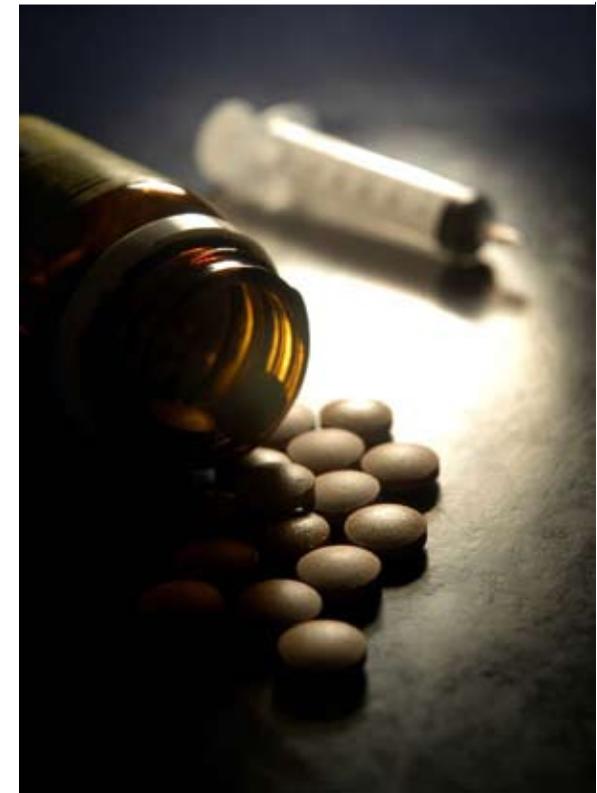
**Non-Emergency
307-637-6525**

www.lcsd.net



Sheriff Danny L. Glick

COMMONLY ABUSED DRUGS





Marijuana/ Cannabis

Called pot or weed on the street, marijuana is the most commonly abused drug in the nation and probably the world. It is a depressant which causes disorientation, dulled senses, false sense of euphoria, and other health problems.

Long Term Effects

In addition to the possible effects on your brain, smoking marijuana may also be hazardous to your developing lungs. Marijuana smoke contains 50% to 70% more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke. You may have heard people argue that marijuana is a “gateway drug” to harder drug use. Some say this is a myth while others insist it is a fact. The truth is that there is a link. Research shows that the earlier you start using marijuana, the more likely you are to become dependent on it or other types of drugs later in life.

The Bottom Line

Some movies and music make the “stoner” culture seem like it’s cool, natural and not a big deal. But if being fit and getting good grades are some of your goals, using marijuana can become a big deal - fast. Marijuana limits your brain’s effectiveness, slows your thinking and impairs your coordination. A number of studies have also shown an association between chronic marijuana use and increased rates of anxiety, depression and schizophrenia.



Crack Cocaine

Crack cocaine is a highly addictive and powerful stimulant that is derived from powdered cocaine. Crack is made by dissolving powdered cocaine in a mixture of water and ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). The mixture is boiled until a solid substance forms. It is removed from the liquid, dried, and then broken into the chunks (rocks) that are sold as crack cocaine.

Crack is nearly always smoked, delivering a large quantity of the drug to the lungs, producing an immediate and intense euphoric effect. Because of its availability and intense effects, crack has grown in popularity. Health risks and problems resulting from crack use are the same as those listed for cocaine, however because of the intensity of the drug it is a higher risk.



Cocaine

Cocaine is a drug (paste) extracted from the leaves of the South American coca plant. This strong stimulant affects the body’s central nervous system. It is a white crystalline powder. It is often mixed with sugar, cornstarch, vitamins and flour. It can be injected, smoked, sniffed, or snorted.

Cocaine is the second most commonly used illicit drug in the U.S. Nearly one percent of Americans, or 2.1 million people, are currently using cocaine. Users can be from all economic statuses, all ages and all genders.

Street Names

Coke, Powder, Dust, Toot, Line, Nose Candy, Snow, Sneeze, Powder, Girl, White Pony, Flake, C, The Lady, Cain, Neurocain, Rock, Crack

Effects of Cocaine

The drug creates a strong sense of exhilaration. Users generally feel invincible, carefree, alert, euphoric and have a lot of energy. This is usually followed by agitation, depression, anxiety, paranoia and decreased appetite. The effects of cocaine generally last about two hours.

Dangers of Cocaine Use

Cocaine is a potent and dangerous. The short-term and long-term effects of cocaine are equally dangerous. The dangers of experiencing cardiac arrest or seizures followed by respiratory failure is equal in both short and long term abuse. Other reactions include insomnia, loss of appetite, blurred vision, vomiting, high anxiety, irritability, constricted blood vessels, dilated pupils, nasal infections, nose bleeds, rapid breathing, sweating, violent behavior, twitching, hallucinations, and chest pain.



Prescription Drugs

Prescription drugs meant for a legitimate medical purpose can be abused and can be as dangerous and deadly as illegal drugs. These “diverted” prescription drugs cause more overdose deaths than illegal drugs.

Prescription Drug Dangers

Misusing prescription drugs can cause a number of problems. Prescription drugs can be especially dangerous when taken in high doses, when combined with other prescription medications, or when taken with alcohol or illegal drugs. Prescription drugs, especially painkillers can be highly addictive. Associated risks include withdrawal sickness, weight loss, depression and even death.



Heroin

Heroin is a highly addictive drug that is processed from morphine, which comes from the seedpod of the opium Asian poppy plant. It is a depressant that inhibits the central nervous system.

Heroin in its purest form is usually a white powder. Less pure forms have varied colors ranging from white to brown. “Black tar” heroin is dark brown or black and has a tar-like sticky feel to it. It can be injected in a user’s veins, smoked or snorted.

Street Names

Smack, H, Ska, Junk, Big H, Blacktar, Brown sugar, Dope, Horse, Junk, Mud, Skag

Effects of Heroin

Users who inject heroin will feel a euphoric surge or ‘rush’ as it is often called. Their mouths may become dry. They may begin to nod in and out and their arms and legs will feel heavy and rubbery. They may experience a diminished mental capacity and dulled emotions. The effects of heroin lasts three to four hours after each dose has been administered.

Dangers of Heroin Use

There are many health risks to using heroin. The short-term risks include fatal overdose and the high risk of infections such as HIV/AIDS. The long-term user has additional risks such as collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, cellulitis, and liver disease.



Ecstasy or MDMA

Ecstasy or MDMA is a synthetic, psychoactive (mind-altering) drug with hallucinogenic and amphetamine-like properties. Its chemical structure is similar to two other synthetic drugs, MDA and methamphetamine, which are known to cause brain damage.

Ecstasy comes in a tablet form that is often imprinted with graphic designs or commercial logos. It is usually swallowed in pill form, but can also be crushed and snorted, injected, or used in suppository form.

Street Names

Adam, Xtc, X, Hug, Go, Hug Drug, Beans and Love Drug

Dangers of Ecstasy

Ecstasy produces problems similar to those found among amphetamine and cocaine users. This can include psychological problems, confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving, severe anxiety, paranoia, and psychotic episodes.