

# club drugs



The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), established in 1993, is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice and a member of the Intelligence Community. The NDIC provides specific information about the risks and the short- and long-term effects to physical and mental health caused by the abuse of different drugs. This information can be found at <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/topics/facts.htm>. Overviews of some of the drugs popular in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities are listed below.

## Powder and Crack Cocaine

Powdered cocaine (cocaine hydrochloride) is a stimulant that is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant, which is native to South America. Powdered cocaine is abused for the intense euphoric effects it produces. Crack cocaine is a highly addictive and powerful stimulant that is derived from powdered cocaine using a simple conversion process. Crack emerged as a drug of abuse in the mid-1980s. It is abused because it produces an immediate high and because it is easy and inexpensive to produce—rendering it readily available and affordable. *Cocaine is illegal. It is a Schedule II substance and has a high potential for abuse. Abuse of these drugs may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.*

## Crystal Meth

Crystal methamphetamine is a colorless, odorless form of d-methamphetamine, a powerful and highly addictive synthetic (man-made) stimulant. Crystal methamphetamine typically resembles small fragments of glass or shiny blue-white “rocks” of various sizes. Like powdered methamphetamine (another form of d-methamphetamine), crystal methamphetamine is abused because of the long-lasting euphoric effects it produces. Crystal methamphetamine, however, typically has a higher purity level and may produce even longer-lasting and more intense physiological effects than the powdered form of the drug. *Crystal meth is illegal. It is a Schedule II substance and has a high potential for abuse. Abuse of this drug may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.*

## GHB

GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) is a powerful central nervous system depressant that the human body produces in small amounts. A synthetic (man-made) version of GHB was developed in the 1920s as an anesthetic. Individuals abuse synthetic GHB because of its euphoric and sedative effects. Because of its anesthetic properties, GHB also has been used by sexual predators to incapacitate

their victims. *GHB is illegal. It is a Schedule I substance and has a high potential for abuse and serves no legitimate medical purpose.*

## Ketamine

Ketamine is an anesthetic that is abused for its hallucinogenic properties. Its predominant legitimate use is as a veterinary anesthetic; however, it has been approved for use with both animals and humans. Abuse of the drug gained popularity when users discovered that it produced effects similar to those associated with PCP. Because of its anesthetic properties, ketamine also reportedly has been used by sexual predators to incapacitate their intended victims. *It is illegal to abuse ketamine. Ketamine is a controlled substance. Specifically, it is a Schedule III substance and has less potential for abuse than Schedule I (GHB) or Schedule II (cocaine) drugs. However, abuse of ketamine may lead to physical or psychological dependence on the drug.*

## Marijuana

Marijuana is the mind-altering substance produced from a plant with the scientific name *Cannabis sativa*. The drug is used because its primary active chemical, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), may induce relaxation and heighten the senses. *Marijuana is illegal. It is a Schedule I substance and has a high potential for abuse and serves no legitimate medical purpose in the United States.*

## MDMA or Ecstasy

MDMA (also known as ecstasy) is a synthetic (man-made) drug that causes both hallucinogenic and stimulant effects. The drug was developed in Germany in the early twentieth century as an appetite suppressant, but today’s users consume the drug for its hallucinogenic effects, which they claim heighten their senses and makes them feel less inhibited. Users also consume MDMA for its stimulant properties, which enable them to dance for hours at all-night parties and nightclubs. *MDMA is illegal. It is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I substance and has a high potential for abuse and serve no legitimate medical purpose.*

## Yaba

Yaba is a combination of methamphetamine (a powerful and addictive stimulant) and caffeine. Yaba, which means crazy medicine in Thai, is produced in Southeast and East Asia. The drug is popular in Asian communities in the United States and increasingly is available at raves and techno parties. *Yaba is illegal. It is a Schedule II substance and has a high potential for abuse. Abuse of these drugs may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.*

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## GLLU factsheet

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