



# Drug Fact Sheet

## Hallucinogens

### WHAT ARE HALLUCINOGENS?

Hallucinogens are among the oldest known group of drugs used for their ability to alter human perception and mood.

### WHAT IS THEIR ORIGIN?

Hallucinogens can be synthetically produced in illicit laboratories or found in plants or fungi.



*MDMA/Ecstasy*



*LSD Blotter Sheet*

### What are common street names?

Common street names include:

- Acid, Fry, Mind Candy, Mushrooms, Shrooms, Special K, STP, X, and ecstasy (or XTC)

### What do they look like?

Hallucinogens come in a variety of forms. MDMA or ecstasy tablets are sold in many colors with a variety of logos to attract youth. LSD is sold in the form of saturated paper (blotter paper), typically imprinted with colorful graphic designs. Other hallucinogens are sold as powders.

### How are they used?

The most commonly used hallucinogens such as psilocybin-containing mushrooms, LSD, and MDMA (ecstasy) are typically taken orally or smoked.

### What is their effect on the mind?

Sensory effects include perceptual distortions that vary with dose, setting, and mood. Psychological effects include distortions of thought associated with time and space. Time may appear to stand still. Forms and colors may change, and may take on new significance. Weeks or even months after some hallucinogens have been taken, the user may develop an uncommon disorder called Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder or experience "flashbacks." HPPD can include fragmentary recurrences of certain aspects of the drug experience in the absence of actually taking the drug. The occurrence of HPPD is unpredictable, but may be more likely to occur during times of stress and seems to occur more frequently in younger individuals.

### **What is their effect on the body?**

Physiological effects include elevated heart rate, increased blood pressure, dilated pupils, and often can induce nausea and vomiting.

### **What are their overdose effects?**

Serious psychological harm can occur after administration. Effects such as fear, depression, anxiety, and paranoia can occur and be long-lasting. Deaths exclusively from acute overdose of LSD, psilocybin-containing mushrooms, mescaline, and other hallucinogens are less common. Deaths generally occur due to suicide, accidents, dangerous behavior, inadvertently eating poisonous plant material, or poly-substance use.

Some hallucinogens, including phencyclidine (PCP) and some synthetic hallucinogens such as those in the NBOMe-drug class can cause acute overdose that may lead to death.

A severe overdose of PCP or ketamine can result in:

- Respiratory depression, coma, convulsions, seizures, and death due to respiratory arrest

### **What is their legal status in the United States?**

Many hallucinogens are under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that they have a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.



*MDMA/Ecstasy tablets*