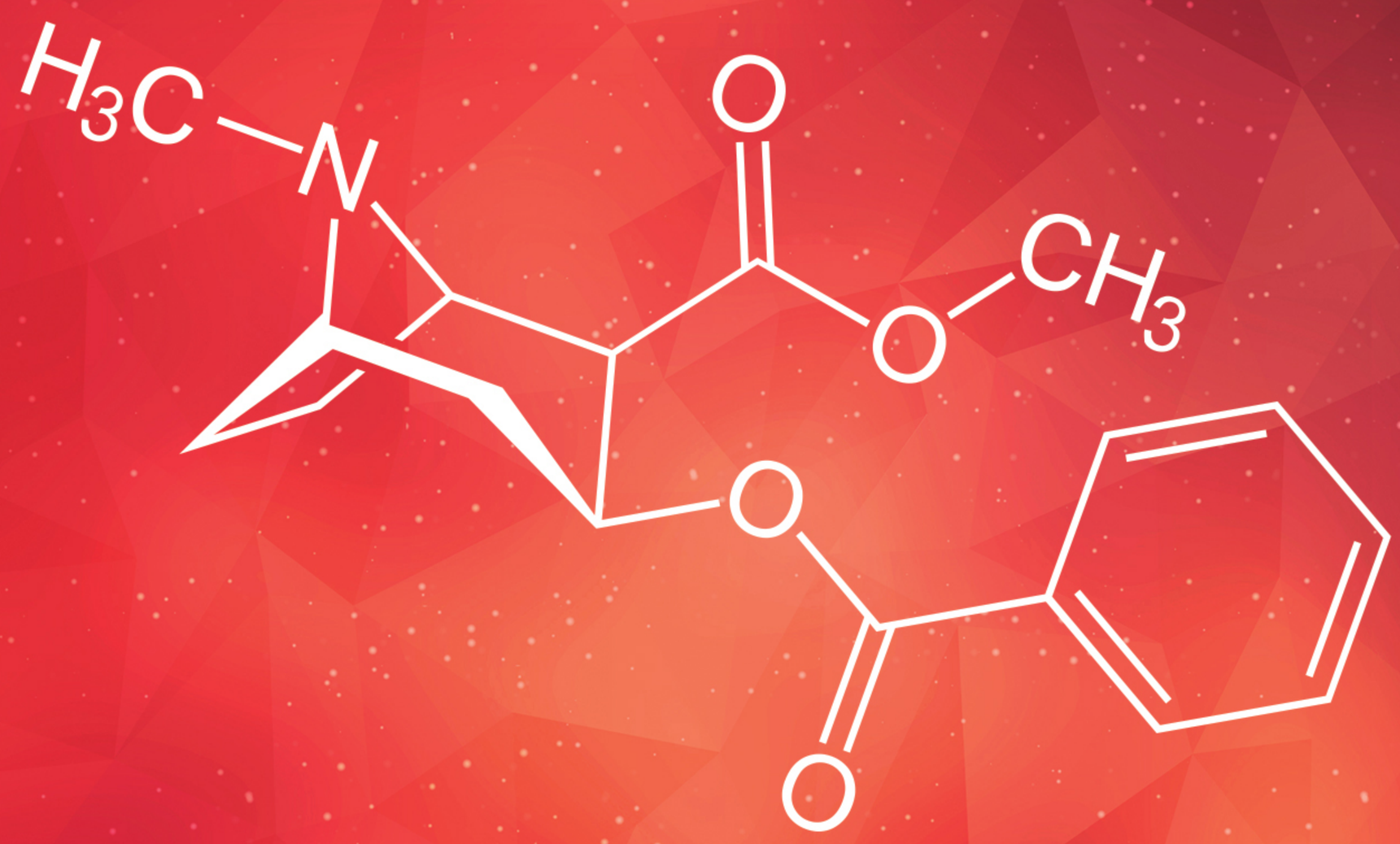

COCAINE

coke, crack, blow, yayo, snow, white lady

What is Cocaine?

- Cocaine hydrochloride is a stimulant derived from the leaves of the coca plant, which grows mainly in South America. It known for popularity in powdered and freebase (crack) forms.
- Cocaine was historically useful as a topical anesthetic in eye and nasal surgery, but has since been largely replaced in by synthetic local anesthetics such as benzocaine, lidocaine, and tetracaine.
- “Crack” is made by chemically altering cocaine hydrochloride into freebase crystals or "rocks".
- Other names include "coke", "blow", and "snow".
- Cocaine is a Schedule 2 controlled substance and is illegal to possess, distribute, or manufacture in the United States.

How is Cocaine used?

- The leaves of the coca plant can be chewed or made into a tea. Coca leaves are used this way legally in many countries as a mild stimulant similar to caffeine.
- Most often powder cocaine is snorted in small lines. The effects come on gradually and peak after about 15-30 minutes, with a total duration of about an hour.
- When smoked in the form of "crack", the effects come on immediately but wear off much more quickly.
- When injected, the effects are felt immediately and much more intensely.
- Repeated snorting can damage the membranes of the nose.
- Snorting and injecting anything increase your risk for HIV and Hep C transmission, therefore users should never share straws, spoons, or needles.

What are the effects of Cocaine?

- Cocaine is a stimulant drug like amphetamine, but much shorter acting.
- Cocaine causes a sudden increase in heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature and breathing rate.
- Cocaine also leads to feelings of confidence, alertness, and euphoria.
- Use of any stimulant drug can lead to sleep deprivation and insomnia, which may contribute to impairment in cognition, mood, and memory.
- The after-effects can include depression, agitation, anxiety, and paranoia, and these effects can last for hours or days.
- The intensity of these effects depend on how much and how often cocaine is used and are more intense when cocaine is smoked.
- High or frequent doses have caused seizures, strokes, or heart attacks in some people.

Is Cocaine addictive?

- Cocaine can be highly addictive. Regular use can result in physical dependency with long-lasting withdrawal symptoms.
- Many users become compulsive in their use of cocaine, which can lead to physical or psychological addiction.

What is the dosage of Cocaine?

Every individual reacts differently to every chemical, This information is intended to describe the range of dosages others report using and it should not be construed as a recommendation of any sort. Individuals can respond very differently to the same dosage. What is safe for one can be deadly for another.

- A typical snorted dose is between 30mg - 70mg.
- A typical smoked dose of crack cocaine is between 15mg - 50mg
- Frequent users develop drug tolerance and tend to use more.

Harm Reduction Tips for Cocaine

- Reagent color reactions for cocaine are depicted below:

Marquis	Mecke	Mandelin	Scott

- Drinking alcohol while using cocaine substantially increases the risk of heart and liver problems.
- Cocaine and crack are very short-acting. This can lead to individuals using too much or too often. If compulsive re-dosing occurs, let others know what you are using, and how often.
- Due to issues of adulteration and misrepresentation--which are a common problem with illicit substances, take extra care when considering using these substances.
- Using stimulants with other stimulants can result in over-stimulation and potentially dangerous increases in blood pressure, heart rate/rhythm, and core temperature.
- The combined effects of stimulants and depressants often results some of the effects from one or more drug being reduced in either perceived or actual severity.
- Over 80 percent of all US cocaine is cut with levamisole (a dewormer for humans and animals), which causes a severe immune disorder in some regular users. Levamisole can be more reliably detected with the Liebermann reagent. Symptoms can include dark skin spots around extremities and respiratory infections.