

PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP)

A mind-altering dissociative drug.

ABOUT PHENCYCLIDINE

Phencyclidine, or PCP, is a dissociative anesthetic that was developed in the 1950s for use in surgical procedures. Its sedative and anesthetic effects are trance-like. Its use in humans was disallowed in the United States in 1965 due to the high rates of side effects while its use in other animals was disallowed in 1978. PCP is a bitter-tasting, white crystalline powder that is easy to dissolve in water or alcohol.

ABUSE

PCP powder is often intranasally absorbed (snorting) or swallowed as tablets or capsules. In its liquified form some users will inject it or apply it to tobacco or marijuana cigarettes.

Because it is soluble in water or alcohol illicit drug manufacturers sometimes mix it into other drugs. The powder is often mixed into leafy substances like marijuana, oregano, or mint and smoked for more immediate effect and to mask the bitter taste. It may be dyed various colors and often is sold as a tablet, capsule, liquid, or powder.

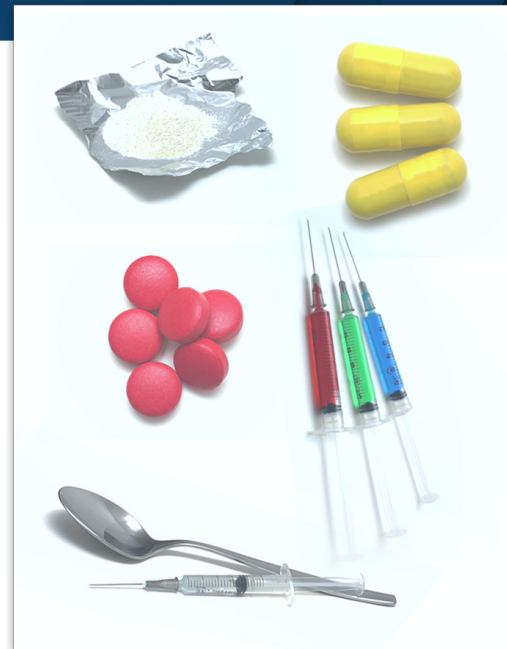
EFFECTS

Recreational doses of the drug occasionally appear to induce a psychotic state that resembles schizophrenia. Users report feeling detached from reality. Low doses produce a numbness in the fingers, hands and feet. Other effects can include shallow breathing, flushing, profuse sweating, and poor muscular coordination. Loss of balance or staggering is common. Moderate doses will produce analgesia and anesthesia.

High doses have been known to cause hallucinations and seizures, and mood may be altered unpredictably. As with hallucinogenics like LSD, a user may lose sense of self or suffer delusions, disordered thinking and in some cases catatonia. Over time, a habitual user can form a psychological dependence on the drug.

REASONS TO ADD TO YOUR DRUG PANEL

- Although not commonly seen, the adverse effects of this drug ingested intentionally or cut into other drugs makes it one that is worth watching.
- Up to 24% of street marijuana---the most commonly used illicit drug---is believed to be tainted with PCP, therefore exposing unwitting users to dangerous interactions and possible mood-altering effects.



SLANG / STREET TERMS

PCP

Angel Dust, Hog, Ozone,
Rocket Fuel, Zoom, Wack,
Crystal and Embalming Fluid

PCP / Marijuana

Killer Joints, Super Grass, Fry,
Lovelies, Wets, and Waters



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