



## Fact Sheet: Facts and Figures on Cocaine

Cocaine is a highly addictive drug. It belongs to a class of drugs known as stimulants, which produce a short-lived sense of euphoria, limitless power, enhanced energy and mental alertness, and increased self-esteem. Depending on the route of administration, these effects begin within a few seconds and diminish within 10 to 40 minutes. As the effects of the drug wear off, the user is left with feelings of anxiety and confusion, and craving more of the drug.

Cocaine is an odorless, white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected. Crack is a form of cocaine that has been chemically altered so that it can be smoked. Because it is smoked, crack is absorbed rapidly in the lungs, heart and brain producing a quick high. Crack is also sold in low-cost single doses, making it available to a larger number of people.

## Prevalence of Use in the United States:

The 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) estimated that 1.7 million Americans age 12 and older were current cocaine users. Of these, about 406,000 used crack. The number of cocaine users increased over the past year.

## **Extent of Use in California:**

In 2001, NHSDA estimated 553,000 Californians age 12 and older used cocaine in the past year. The following table shows

the trends in the number of cocaine-related deaths, hospital discharges, and treatment admissions in California over a five-year period.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Deaths	*	*	43	32	37
Hospital Discharge s	2,822	2,765	2,59 2	2,42 8	2,213
CADDS Treatment Admission s	20,61 4	22,91 3	26,3 66	25,3 63	26,24 5

<sup>\*</sup> Death data prior to 1999 used ICD-9 coding for cause of death making data incomparable.

Crack comprised 83 percent of cocaine treatment admissions in California in 2002. The demographic differences between crack and cocaine users are shown below:

	Crack	Cocaine
Total CADDS	22,495	4,452
Treatment		
Admissions		
	% of	% of total
	total	
Sex		
Male	60.2	74.9
Female	39.8	25.1
Race/Ethnicity		
White	16.9	28.1
African	65.3	24.1
American		
Latino	15.1	44.8

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Other	2.7	3.0
Age at		
Admission		
Under 21	2.9	9.3
21-24	5.3	11.7
25-34	23.0	31.3
35-44	46.3	33.4
Over 45	22.5	14.3

<sup>\*</sup>Changes in reporting and extraction of hospital discharge data may account for lower numbers.

<sup>\*\*</sup>California Alcohol and Drug Data System