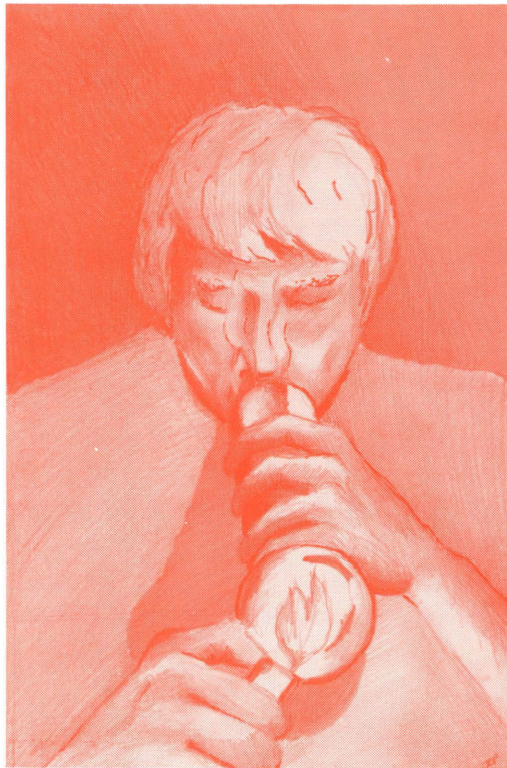


306-017

May 1987

CRACK

Nationwide and within the Commonwealth, drug rehabilitation centers are straining under the load of a new drug epidemic caused by **CRACK**, a potent and deadly form of cocaine. Crack is smokeable cocaine prepackaged in small, ready-to-smoke amounts. Known as "rock" on the west coast, crack has been described by drug abuse experts as the most addictive drug ever sold. Crack is so easy to manufacture that dealers are able to offer it at prices affordable to almost anyone.



Regrettably, the **CRACK** business is a booming cottage industry that needs virtually no technology or central organization to manufacture and distribute the drug. It is made by mixing cocaine hydrochloride crystals with baking soda and water to create a solution that is heated, cooled, and dried to form a paste purer and more concentrated than regular cocaine. The substance is then cut into chips called crack rocks, which are sold by dealers in tiny plastic vials for as little as five or ten dollars.

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Dealers who process crack in home-style laboratories often distribute the drug by using juvenile "front men" to peddle crack on the streets. Some dealers provide rooms where crack can be smoked. These locations are called "basehouses," "rockhouses," or "crackhouses." The dealer rents a location and brings in a crew of teenagers to work it. Teenagers are hired because the laws in most states do not impose heavy penalties on teenagers arrested for dealing drugs in small amounts.

Despite several widely publicized celebrity deaths involving cocaine, teenage use of the drug and its deadly offspring crack is increasing. The "high" or euphoria produced by crack is so intense and the depression that follows so powerful that even first-time crack users develop a craving for the drug. Crack transforms the occasional cocaine user into a dependent addict. Startling increases in crime have been recorded in cities where crack has become epidemic. Crack can cause sudden death from heart failure and strokes and can trigger a schizophrenic-like psychosis.

Suggested Uses:

To serve as a graphic warning against the use of crack. To educate the audience about the physical, psychological, and legal aspects of crack use.

Recommended For:

Community and corporate drug prevention and rehabilitation programs. Substance abuse prevention programs and health classes, in schools, colleges, and universities.
4-H youth programs.

Producers:

Syndistar, Inc.
648 Hickory Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70123
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

CONCLUSION

The Community Resource Development (CRD) staff feels that law enforcement officials and other concerned citizens can perform a valuable community service by making parents and teenagers aware of the dangers of crack. Many users — some taking the drug for the first time — are unaware of the extremely dangerous addictive properties of the drug. They may slip almost unaware into the nightmare of drug addiction. Police officers can make a difference by bringing the truth about crack to the attention of potential users who may not realize the extreme dangers posed by the drug to first time and experimental or occasional users.

The CRD staff is pleased, as part of its crime prevention programming effort, to have purchased **CRACK** from Syndistar Inc. Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD programs.



Community Resource
Development

James Douglas McAlister
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Community Resource Development

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