

## UPDATE: DRUGS OF ABUSE

Studies conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Justice present an alarming profile on American drug abuse:

- \* Five million people use cocaine regularly.
- \* Eighteen percent of the workforce use dangerous drugs regularly on the job.
- \* One-third of the general household population admits to having used an illicit drug at least once.
- \* Two-thirds of all major crimes are drug related
- \* Ten billion dollars of taxpayer money is spent every year to fund fighting illegal drugs.



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The crisis of drug addiction has finally spawned a nationwide movement to declare war on drugs. Not only are private and public industries requiring drug tests of employees, but the anti-drug message has come right from the White House. "Just Say No" is the standard response school children across America are urged to make when enticed by drug dealers.

The Community Resource Development (CRD) program staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service observes that the federal government is increasing spending on anti-drug efforts, supporting tougher laws against drug-related crimes, and supporting research on drug abuse and treatment facilities. Continuing educational efforts seem to be the ultimate solution, however, in slowing the drug crisis. Responsible use of information concerning the health hazards of drugs has made a positive impact, for instance, on marijuana use. At the same time, however, the scourge of crack has broken out all over the country.

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The battle to combat drugs, therefore, is an ongoing one. More and more people are realizing that drugs are everyone's problem because they have crept into the fiber of everyday life. Whether it is on the job, through crime, from loss of a life, or experienced in some other tragic way, drugs take their toll on all of us.

**Suggested Uses:**

To provide select audiences with accurate, current knowledge of drugs of abuse. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion on drugs of abuse.

**Recommended For:**

Community and corporate prevention and rehabilitation programs, schools, colleges and universities, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chamber of Commerce, merchant associations, and civic groups.

**Producers**

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

**CONCLUSION**

Although there is an overwhelming amount of information to be learned about drugs, one need not be intimidated about not knowing it all. There are basically five categories of drugs, each with its own set of symptoms and problems. Not everyone experiences the same effects, and the effects are not always extreme. It should be remembered, however, that the worst may happen to even first-time users of certain drugs since reactions to them cannot be predicted.

With the deaths of some of America's star athletes, the public witnessed the fact that even perfectly healthy people can die of heart attacks and strokes from cocaine or other drugs. The information in **UPDATE: DRUGS OF ABUSE** by Syndistar presents an 18 minute video overview of drug abuse in America. It is intended to inform and enlighten rather than to preach and to use scare tactics.

Detailed questions concerning drug abuse or any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Please consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.



**Community Resource  
Development**

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