



COMPILED BY THE CUSTOMS ANTI-NARCOTIC UNIT
JULY, 2024

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AND ITS



.HEALTH

.SOCIAL

.LEGAL

A GUIDE TO THE APPEARANCE, CHEMISTRY, USE, ABUSE, AND EFFECTS

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INTRODUCTION

Illicit drug use remains a serious threat to public health, safety, and national security. It fuels crime, undermines communities, and strains law enforcement and healthcare systems. This booklet serves as a reference guide for law enforcement officers, health professionals, and community workers, providing critical insights into drug types, classifications, effects, and legal frameworks relevant to Guyana.

Given the dynamic and transnational nature of drug trafficking networks, agencies like the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) play a central role in detection, interdiction, and prosecution. This guide enhances operational readiness and awareness among personnel dealing with drug-related incidents.

When it comes to criminal cases, many investigations by forensic science labs involve illegal substances. Marijuana and cocaine are examples of naturally occurring narcotics, while heroin is a substance that can be synthesised from natural sources. In contrast, amphetamines and many prescription drugs are entirely manufactured. Illegal substances can also be categorised based on the significant



effects they produce, such as stimulants, depressants, opioids, and hallucinogens.

The Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) has created this booklet to distribute information regarding the different types of narcotics encountered by the Drug Enforcement and information shared by prevention and treatment facilities in Guyana.

It also aims to provide information about facilities facilitating prevention and treatment. The goal is to enhance awareness of each drug type by emphasising their classifications and characteristics and improving knowledge and comprehension of different substances. The main objective of the unit is to safeguard the nation from the detrimental consequences of drug consumption and illicit drug trade.

This is achieved by implementing a comprehensive strategy that involves collecting intelligence, employing cutting-edge technology, and applying stringent methods.



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
CANU	Customs Anti Narcotic Unit
GPF	Guyana Police Force
ADHD	ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It is a medical condition. A person with ADHD has differences in brain development and brain activity that affect attention.
EVALI	E-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury. It was initially known as VAPI, the term for the lung disease that can develop due to vaping.
MDMA	Methylenedioxyamphetamine is a potent substance that increases an individual's feeling of empathy and kindness, and increases feelings of being socially.
THC	Tetrahydrocannabinol (Also known as THC) is a medicinal compound utilised to manage and treat chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and stimulate appetite.
Schedule I Drugs	Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Some examples of Schedule I



	<p>drugs are: heroin, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), marijuana (cannabis), 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), methaqualone, and peyote.</p>
<p>Schedule II Drugs</p>	<p>Schedule 2 drugs can put a person at a high risk for developing a substance use disorder. This class of drugs includes both illicit and prescription drugs. It's important to note that when an individual takes prescription Schedule 2 drugs as directed and under a doctor's supervision, their risk for developing a substance use disorder is minimised. Some familiar drugs in the schedule 2 class include: Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Phencyclidine...</p>
<p>Schedule III Drugs</p>	<p>Schedule 3 drugs relate to the cultivation of prohibited plants: Cannabis, Coca Plant, Papaver Somniferum, and Papaver Setigerum.</p>



ILLICIT DRUGS – GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DRUG?

An illicit drug is illegal to have (for example, cannabis, heroin, and cocaine), and the non-medical use of legally available drugs, such as pain killers and sleeping pills.

WHAT ARE THE HARMS OF USING ILLICIT DRUGS?

Using illicit drugs can lead to health problems, including:

Injury, chronic disease (heart and liver problems), blood-borne viruses (infections like hepatitis and HIV), lower levels of social and emotional wellbeing (mental health problems), and increased risk of suicide.

The whole community can be affected by the negative impacts associated with illicit drug use, such as an increased risk of harm to children and families, as well as violence, assault and crime.

REGULATION AND CONTROL

The regulation of illicit substance use involves various methods. Some laws aim to decrease the supply of illicit/ illegal drugs and their precursors by disrupting or controlling them through border control,



targeting supply networks, and criminalizing the supply and use of illicit drugs. In Guyana, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act (The Act) is the legal mechanism for controlling and regulating illicit drugs.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Several approaches can be used to prevent the use of illegal substances and to educate individuals about the potential consequences of their use. The unit continues to work on various strategies to prevent illegal drug trafficking, drug abuse and misuse. These include:

- Increasing community awareness of the negative consequences of substance use
- Providing prevention programs to community-level organisations and institutions
- Offering early intervention programs for at-risk adolescents in schools
- Developing and promoting culturally appropriate strategies for professionals, families, and communities regarding illegal drug trafficking and abuse
- Involving communities and stakeholders in the development of prevention programs



DRUG CLASSIFICATION

There are thousands of different drugs, both legal and illicit. Because of this diversity, it is often necessary to categorize drugs into multiple categories for legal, medical, and therapeutic purposes. There are several methods for categorising substances, such as their effects on the mind and body, chemical similarities, and legal definitions.

DRUG CLASSIFICATIONS BASED ON CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

ALCOHOL

Alcohol is the most frequently abused drug worldwide and is legal to some extent in Guyana. It affects various physiological systems and has a range of side effects. While it reduces inhibitions and induces euphoria,

it also significantly impairs judgment, perception, and reaction times. Long-term

alcohol use can cause severe damage to the liver, and it acts as a

central nervous system (CNS) depressant. Some varieties of alcohol include Wine, Beer, Liqueurs...



OPIOIDS

Opioids, also known as opiates, are derived from compounds intended to mimic opium or from the drug opium itself. They act on brain receptors, mimicking the actions of neurotransmitters and can be effective painkillers, as well as induce pleasure and lead to addiction. Opioid addiction is a major issue in America. Among the most well-known opioids are Oxycodone, Heroin, Fentanyl...



BENZODIAZEPINES

Benzodiazepines interact with the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid-A (GABA-A). Each benzo interacts with GABA-A differently, leading to varying effects on the body and mind. They are prescribed to treat psychiatric and sleep disorders but are also commonly abused. Highly addictive, benzos can lead to physical and psychological issues when used improperly. Read more about Benzodiazepines pg. 39.



CANNABINOIDS

Cannabinoids chemically resemble tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main ingredient in marijuana. They produce a high and interfere with mental and physical performance. Cannabis is the most widely used substance after alcohol and is increasingly gaining legal acceptance. Although considered less addictive than other drug categories, cannabis can have adverse effects on mental and physical health. Read more about Cannabinoids pg. 17- pg. 30.

BARBITURATES



Barbiturates act by slowing down the operation of the central nervous system. They are variations on the chemical barbituric acid. Historically used to treat psychiatric and sleep

problems, barbiturates are currently used for anaesthesia and the treatment of conditions such as headaches and epilepsy. However, they carry a high risk of overdose and are highly addictive. Some barbiturates include Amytal, Luminal, Phenobarbital.



DRUG CLASSIFICATIONS BASED ON EFFECT

DEPRESSANTS



Depressants, also known as "downers," cause lethargy and relaxation. While they have legitimate uses in treating mental illness and sleep deprivation, they are often

abused due to their euphoric effects. Depressants are among the most addictive and harmful pharmaceuticals and are likely to cause overdoses. Examples of depressants include alcohol and opiates.

STIMULANTS



Stimulants, or "uppers," generally increase energy, focus, and wakefulness. They produce a rush and can enhance performance and create a pleasurable high in the short term. However, they have a high

potential for abuse and long-term addiction. Examples of stimulants include Adderall, cocaine, and meth.



HALLUCINOGENS

Hallucinogens alter the user's perception of reality, often leading to auditory and visual hallucinations, a state known as "tripping." They are less addictive than other drugs but



can have dramatic and immediately dangerous effects. Examples of hallucinogens include LSD and psilocybin mushrooms.

INHALANTS



Inhalants are a wide range of substances typically inhaled or "huffed." They are often common household products not intended for human consumption. Despite

their variation, most inhalants produce a significant high. Although less research has been conducted on inhalants compared to other drugs, their use poses significant health risks and can lead to numerous negative impacts. Commonly abused inhalants include paint thinner, nail polish remover, and gasoline.



ECSTASY/ MDMA

WHAT IS ECSTASY/MDMA?

MDMA, also known as ecstasy, is a stimulant and psychedelic used by adolescents and young adults to induce euphoria, intimacy, empathy, and sexuality. However, its use with other drugs can pose serious

health risks, including overdose and death.

WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: Molly, Adam, Beans, Clarity, Disco Biscuit, E, Ecstasy, Eve, Go, Hug Drug, Lover's Speed, MDMA, Peace, STP, X, and XTC.



WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

MDMA, a substance used to enhance enjoyment, can cause symptoms such as increased motor activity, alertness, heart rate, and blood pressure, as well as physical effects like muscle tension, tremors, and impaired vision. Prolonged use can also harm the serotonin system.

WHAT ARE ITS OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

- Interference with the body's temperature regulation.
- Potential hyperthermia leading to liver, kidney, and cardiovascular system failure.
- Potential death due to potential harm from repeated drug use.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

According to the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10, "Ecstasy" or MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is categorized as a Schedule I substance. **Schedule I** includes any substance listed in the First Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule. It also consists of any psychotropic substance listed in the Second Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule.



COCAINE



WHAT IS COCAINE?

Cocaine is a powerful stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America. It is classified as a Schedule II drug, which means it has a high potential for abuse. The cocaine manufacturing process takes place in remote jungle labs where the raw product undergoes a series of chemical transformations. A doctor can administer this drug for legitimate medical uses, such as local anaesthesia for some surgeries.

WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: Blow, Coca, Coke, Crack, Flake, Snow, and Soda Cot.



WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

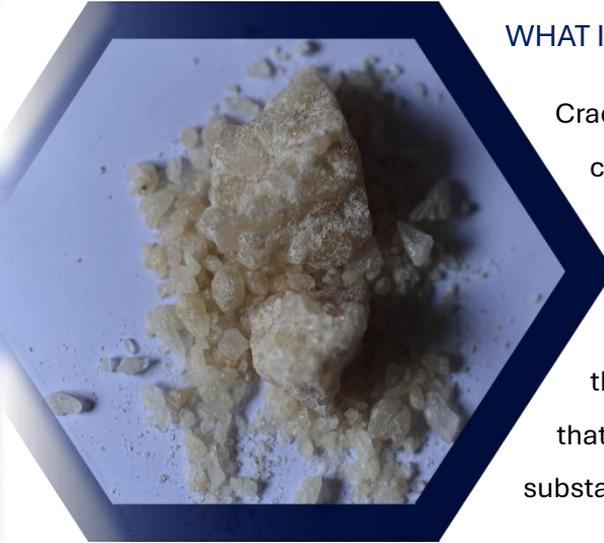
Physiological effects of cocaine include increased blood pressure and heart rate, dilated pupils, insomnia, and loss of appetite. The widespread abuse of highly pure street cocaine has led to many severe adverse health consequences such as: Irregular heartbeat, ischemic heart conditions, sudden cardiac arrest, convulsions, strokes, and death in some users, the long-term use of inhaled cocaine has led to a unique respiratory syndrome, and chronic snorting of cocaine has led to the erosion of the upper nasal cavity.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Cocaine is classified as a Schedule I substance under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10. Schedule I includes any substance or substance-containing product listed in the First Schedule, as well as any psychotropic substance or substance-containing product listed in the Second Schedule.



CRACK-COCAINE



WHAT IS CRACK-COCAINE?

Crack cocaine, often referred to as crack, is a highly potent and addictive form of cocaine. It is derived from powdered cocaine hydrochloride through a chemical process that creates a crystal or rock-like substance.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Crack is highly addictive, with rapid highs and quick comedowns leading to repeated use. It can cause cardiovascular issues like heart attacks, strokes, and respiratory damage. Smoking crack can cause chronic cough, respiratory distress, and lung trauma. It can also lead to neurological effects like paranoia and depression. Users may experience weight loss, malnutrition, and physical deterioration.



WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL CONSEQUENCES?

Legal Penalties: Possession, distribution, and manufacture of crack cocaine are illegal and carry severe legal consequences.

Social Impact: Crack addiction often leads to significant social problems, including strained relationships, job loss, financial difficulties, and involvement in criminal activities.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10, Crack Cocaine is classified as a **Schedule I** substance. Schedule I includes any substance listed in the First Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule. It also encompasses any psychotropic substance listed in the Second Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule.



CANNABIS/ MARIJUANA



WHAT IS MARIJUANA?

Marijuana is a mind-altering (psychoactive) drug, produced by the Cannabis sativa plant. Marijuana has over 480 constituents. THC (delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is believed to be the main ingredient that produces the psychoactive effect.

WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: Sours, Cush, Sour Diesel, Creepy, Poppy, Aunt Mary, BC Bud, Blunts, Chronic, Dope, Gangster, Ganja, Grass, Hash, Herb, Hydro, Indo, Joint, Kif, Mary Jane, Mota, Pot, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Skunk, Smoke, Weed, and Yerba.



WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE MIND?

Marijuana, a drug, contains THC, which enters the bloodstream and affects the brain through cannabinoid receptors. These receptors influence pleasure, memory, thought, concentration, sensory perception, and coordination.

SHORT-TERM effects include memory and learning problems, distorted perception, difficulty in thinking, and loss of coordination.

LONG-TERM use can lead to physical dependence and withdrawal, as well as psychological addiction.

Clinical studies show that the physiological, psychological, and behavioural effects of marijuana vary among individuals. Common responses include dizziness, nausea, tachycardia, facial flushing, dry mouth, and tremor, joy, happiness, and exhilaration at high doses. Common responses to cannabinoids include dizziness, nausea, tachycardia, facial flushing, dry mouth, and tremor, happiness, and exhilaration at high doses. Common responses to cannabinoids include disinhibition, relaxation, enhanced sensory perception, heightened imagination, time distortions, illusions, impaired judgment, reduced coordination, ataxia, emotional lability, and increased appetite.

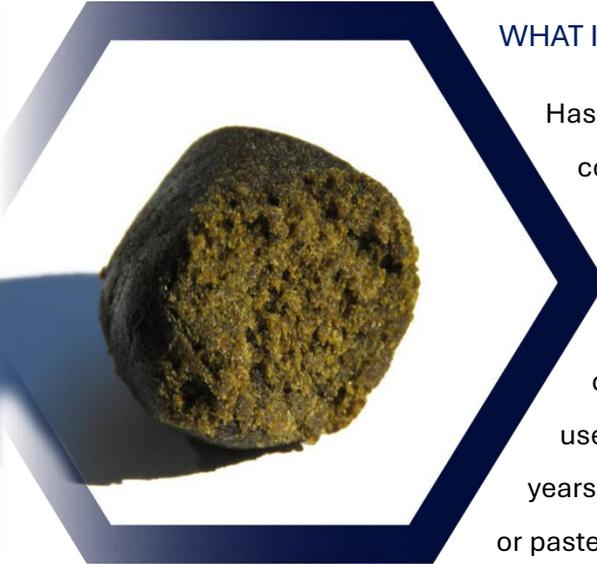


WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Cannabis is classified as a Schedule I substance under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10. **Schedule I** includes any substance listed in the First Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule. It also encompasses any psychotropic substance listed in the Second Schedule or any substance-containing product listed in that Schedule.



HASHISH



WHAT IS HASHISH?

Hashish, often called hash, is a concentrated form of cannabis made from the resin of the cannabis plant. It is one of the oldest forms of cannabis consumption, with historical use dating back thousands of years. Hashish can appear as a solid or paste-like substance. Its texture can vary from soft and pliable to hard and brittle.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Hashish has more substantial and more potent effects than regular cannabis because of its high THC concentration. These effects include euphoria, relaxation, a distorted sense of time, and an intensified sensory experience. Hashish is also used for potential medical benefits, such as treating multiple sclerosis and chronic pain and relieving nausea and discomfort.



Short-Term Effects: impaired judgment, coordination difficulties, and short-term memory impairment. Excessive doses may cause delusions, anxiety, and paranoia.

Long-Term Effects: Regular use may lead to dependence, cognitive decline, and respiratory problems (if smoked). There can also be negative impacts on mental health, such as an increased risk of developing anxiety or depression.

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES?

Legal Penalties: In regions where hashish is illegal, possession, distribution, and production can result in severe legal consequences.

Social Impact: Use of hashish can affect relationships, employment, and other aspects of social life, especially if it leads to dependency or legal issues.

Under Chapter 10:10, Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control), Cannabis is classified under **Schedule I**. Schedule I typically includes any psychotropic substance listed in the Second Schedule, or any substance containing material specified in the First Schedule. It also encompasses any substance specifically listed there.



MARIJUANA CONCENTRATES

WHAT ARE MARIJUANA CONCENTRATES?



Marijuana concentrate is a highly potent form of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) that has a thick consistency resembling honey or butter. Street names for marijuana concentrates include "honey oil" or "budder." These

concentrates have significantly higher THC levels, ranging from 40 to 80 percent, compared to high-grade marijuana, which typically contains around 20 percent THC.

WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: 710 (the word "OIL" flipped and spelt backwards), wax, ear wax, honey oil, budder, butane hash oil, butane honey oil (BHO), shatter, dabs (dabbing), black glass, and "erl".



HOW IS IT USED?

The most common way to use marijuana concentrates is by smoking them, either through oil or water vaporisers. However, these concentrates can be taken orally or mixed with various food and drink products. A concerning issue is the inhalation of concentrates using electronic cigarettes or vaporisers. Many users prefer these methods due to the lack of odour, smoke, and the ease of concealment. Inhaling marijuana concentrates using an e-cigarette or vaporiser is commonly known as "vaping" or "dabbing."

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF USING MARIJUANA CONCENTRATES?

The psychological and physical effects of this highly concentrated form of marijuana may be more intense than those of plant-based marijuana. The long-term consequences of marijuana concentrate use are not yet completely understood; however, the effects of marijuana use are well-documented. These effects include anxiety, hallucinations, panic attacks, and paranoia. Furthermore, the consumption of plant marijuana elevates one's blood pressure and heart rate; however, prolonged use



may result in hypotension. Plant marijuana consumers may also experience addiction and withdrawal symptoms.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Cannabinoids are listed in **Schedule I** of the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) chapter. Psychotropic substances (those on the Second Schedule) and substances containing psychotropic substances (those on the First Schedule) are typically categorised under Schedule I. The specific substance in question is also included in that category.



VAPING



WHAT IS VAPING?

Vaping is inhaling and exhaling the aerosol or vapour created by heating a liquid or dry substance in an electronic device called an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette. The liquid may contain flavourings, nicotine, or concentrated marijuana extracts. Dry herb vaporisers are designed to heat dry marijuana without combustion and the need for additional liquid. Generally, a vaping device consists of a battery, a cartridge for holding the e-liquid or dried marijuana, and a heating element. Vaping devices come in various forms and sizes, some of which look like USB flash drives, pens, or other everyday objects, posing challenges for parents and teachers to identify them.



WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: E-cigs, e-hookahs, mods, vape pens, vapes, tank systems, and Juuls or Juuling (after the Juul brand of vaping devices)

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

E-cigarettes contain nicotine, and in some instances THC, which can lead to addiction, respiratory issues, and long-term lung damage. Long-term effects include chronic bronchitis, heart disease, and brain development issues. Nicotine in e-cigarettes can also contain harmful chemicals and heavy metals, which can cause lung disease and lead to cancer. Long-term effects include EVALI, cardiovascular issues, and harmful brain development during adolescence.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Tobacco Control laws—The law permits the sale of e-cigarettes. The use of e-cigarettes is prohibited where smoking is prohibited, which includes all indoor public places, workplaces, public transport, and specified outdoor places. All e-cigarette advertising, promotion, and sponsorship

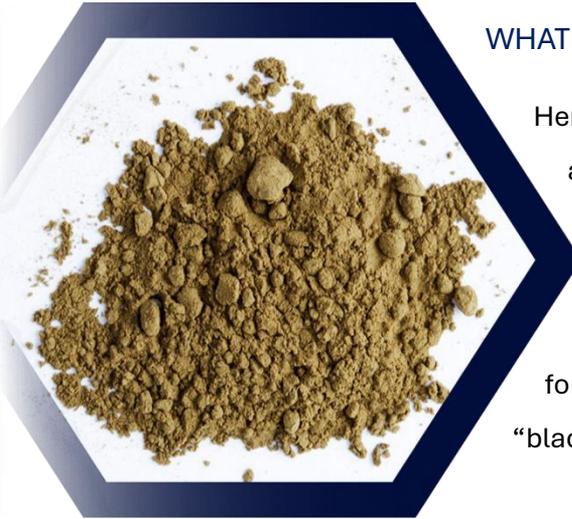


is prohibited, as is product display at the point of sale. Health warnings are currently not required on product packaging. The sale of e-cigarettes is restricted to persons under the age of 18.

If the liquid contains cannabinoids, Cannabinoids are listed in **Schedule I** of the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) chapter. Psychotropic substances (those on the Second Schedule) and substances containing psychotropic substances (those on the First Schedule) are typically categorised under Schedule I. The specific substance in question is also included in that category.



HEROIN



WHAT IS HEROIN?

Heroin is processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants. Heroin comes in several forms, primarily white powder, “black tar” and brown powder.

WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names for heroin include Big H, Black Tar, Chiva, Hell Dust, Horse, Negra, Smack, and Thunder.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Addiction is a significant outcome of opiate use. Tolerance to heroin develops with regular use, leading individuals to consume more heroin to achieve the same effect. As higher quantities of the drug are used over time, physical dependence and addiction develop.



Effects of heroin use include: Drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea, a warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth, and heavy extremities

WHAT ARE ITS OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

Because heroin users do not know the actual strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at a high risk of overdose or death.

The effects of a heroin overdose are: Slow and shallow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE MIND?

The rapidity at which heroin enters the brain makes it highly addictive, both psychologically and physically. Heroin users report feeling a short-lived sense of euphoria or "rush" followed by a state of semi-consciousness.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

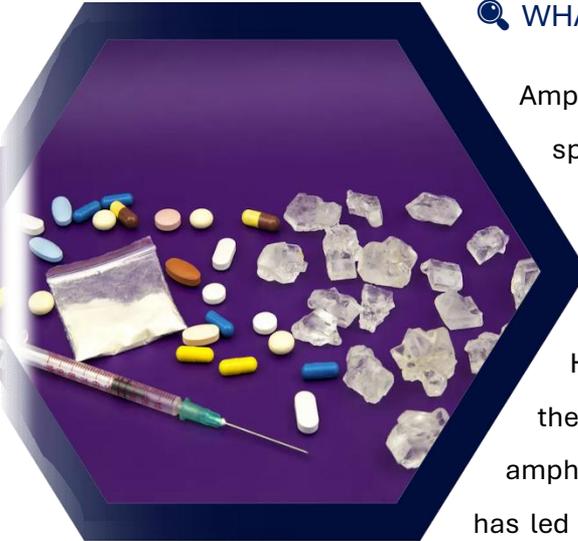
Heroin is classified as a **Schedule I** substance under Chapter 10:10 of the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act. Schedule I typically includes any substance specified in the First Schedule or



anything that contains any substance listed in that Schedule. Schedule II includes any psychotropic substance specified in the Second Schedule or anything that contains any substance defined in that Schedule.



AMPHETAMINE



🔍 WHAT ARE AMPHETAMINES?

Amphetamines are stimulants that speed up the body's processes.

They are legally prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

However, there has been a rise in the misuse of illicitly manufactured amphetamines over the years. This has led to an increase in amphetamine addiction and an expansion of clandestine laboratories producing the substance.

🔍 WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: Bennies, Black Beauties, Crank, Ice, Speed, and Uppers.



WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Chapter 10:10 of the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act classifies amphetamine as a **Schedule II** drug. Psychotropic substances are typically listed in Schedule II. "Psychotropic substance" refers to any drug listed in the Second Schedule or any product containing a drug listed in that Schedule.



METHAMPHETAMINE



WHAT IS METHAMPHETAMINE?

Methamphetamine, which is more commonly referred to as "meth," is a stimulant that is both potent and highly addictive, affecting the central nervous system. Methamphetamine is chemically similar to amphetamine, a substance that is used to treat narcolepsy and ADHD.

However, methamphetamine has a significantly more substantial influence on the brain and body.

🔍 WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include: Batu, Bikers Coffee, Black Beauties, Chalk, Chicken Feed, Crank, Crystal, Glass, Go-Fast, Hiropon, Ice, Meth, Methlies Quick, Poor Man's Cocaine, Shabu, Shards, Speed, Stove Top, Tina, Trash, Tweak, Uppers, Ventana, Vidrio, Yaba, and Yellow Bam.



WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Using meth, even in small amounts, can lead to a range of side effects. These can include overheating, rapid breathing and heartbeat, high blood pressure, reduced appetite, increased physical activity, and heightened alertness. Larger doses could result in seizures, heart failure, death, and dangerously high body temperatures, sometimes leading to fatalities. Additional side effects of meth use may include severe weight loss, memory problems, and serious dental issues.

WHAT ARE ITS OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

High doses may result in death from stroke, heart attack, or multiple organ problems caused by overheating.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Methamphetamine is classified as **Schedule II** under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10. Schedule II typically contains a list of Psychotropic Substances. The term "psychotropic substance" refers to any substance listed in the Second Schedule or any preparation containing a substance listed in that Schedule.



BENZODIAZEPINES



🔍 WHAT ARE BENZODIAZEPINES?

Benzodiazepines are a type of depressant that can induce sleepiness, reduce anxiety and muscle spasms, and lessen the frequency and severity of seizures. Currently, the only legal way to obtain benzodiazepines is with a prescription. Some people obtain benzodiazepines illegally by forging prescriptions or buying them through illegal means to maintain their supply.

🔍 WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include Benzos and Downers.

The most common benzodiazepines are the prescription drugs:

Valium®, Xanax®, Halcion®, Ativan®, Klonopin®



HOW ARE THEY ABUSED?

Many cases of substance abuse involve adolescents and young adults who either consume the substance orally or crush and inhale it to get high. This behaviour is prevalent among users of heroin and cocaine. Additionally, opioid users often combine benzodiazepines with opioids to enhance their feelings of euphoria.

WHAT IS THEIR EFFECT ON THE MIND?

Benzodiazepines are associated with amnesia, hostility, irritability, and vivid or disturbing dreams.

WHAT IS THEIR EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Benzodiazepines slow down the central nervous system and may cause sleepiness and a relaxed mood.

WHAT ARE THEIR OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

Be aware of the following effects of an overdose: extreme sleepiness, confusion, reduced coordination, diminished reflexes, respiratory depression, coma, and the possibility of death. When benzodiazepines and opioids are used together, some of the overdose symptoms that can



occur include profound drowsiness, respiratory depression, coma, and even death.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Benzodiazepines are classified under **Schedule 10** of the Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10. Narcotic substances are typically listed in Schedule I, which includes all drugs listed in the First Schedule or anything containing a drug listed in that Schedule. Schedule II includes all psychiatric drugs listed in that Schedule or anything containing a drug listed in that Schedule.



K2/SPICE (SYNTHETIC CANNABIS)



WHAT IS K2/SPICE (SYNTHETIC CANNABIS)?

Two popular brands of synthetic designer drugs designed to mimic THC, the main psychoactive component of marijuana, are K2 and Spice.

These designer synthetic drugs, along with other synthetic cannabinoids, are often sold as "herbal incense" or "potpourri."

Synthetic cannabinoids are man-made chemical compounds produced in a laboratory, rather than occurring naturally. These drugs are marketed as substitutes for marijuana and are misused because of their psychoactive effects. They are distributed without any indication of their health and safety risks.



WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Synthetic cannabinoids have multiple street names because drug manufacturers aim to attract and entice young people and young adults by branding their products with exotic and flamboyant labels.

Some of the many street names of K2/Spice synthetic marijuana are Spice, K2, Blaze, Red X Dawn, Paradise, Demon, Black Magic, Spike, Mr. Nice Guy, Ninja, Zohai, Dream, Genie, Sence, Smoke, Skunk, Serenity, Yucatan, Fire, and Crazy Clown.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The "herbal incense" products are typically made by dissolving chemical compounds in solvents such as acetone and then applying them to dried plant material. These compounds usually come in bulk powder form.

Local distributors apply the drug to the dry plant material and package it for retail distribution. Unfortunately, they often don't follow any control mechanisms to prevent contamination or to ensure a consistent, uniform concentration of the powerful and dangerous drug in each package, as pharmaceutical-grade chemical purity standards are not adhered to. The bulk powder can also be dissolved in a solution for e-cigarettes or other vaping devices.



WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE MIND?

Use of synthetic cannabinoids has been linked to acute psychotic episodes, dependency, and withdrawal. Others have experienced severe hallucinations, extreme agitation, disorganised ideas, paranoid delusions, and violence after smoking products contaminated with these drugs.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Abuse of herbal incense products containing synthetic cannabinoids can lead to various adverse health effects. These may include increased heart rate, high blood pressure, unconsciousness, tremors, convulsions, vomiting, hallucinations, agitation, anxiety, pallor, numbness, and tingling.

WHAT ARE ITS OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

The misuse of synthetic cannabinoids has been associated with severe side effects, such as agitation, anxiety, seizures, stroke, coma, and even death due to heart attack or organ failure. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention have also reported instances of acute renal damage requiring hospitalisation and dialysis in many patients who are believed to have used synthetic cannabis.



WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

The amendment to the laws regarding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances Bill has been approved. This means that individuals found in possession of synthetic drugs not previously covered by Guyana's legislation will now be charged and brought before the courts. The National Assembly has approved **the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control Amendment) Bill No.2**.



PSILOCYBIN AND PSILOCIN (MAGIC MUSHROOMS)



WHAT IS PSILOCYBIN AND PSILOCIN (MAGIC MUSHROOMS)?

Psilocybin, commonly known as magic mushrooms, occur naturally and are used for their hallucinogenic effects. These psychedelic substances can influence all the senses, altering an individual's thinking, perception of time, and emotions. Psychedelics may induce hallucinations, making a person see or hear things that are nonexistent or distorted. The primary component of magic mushrooms is psilocybin. Once ingested, psilocybin is converted in the body into psilocin, which possesses psychoactive properties.



WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include Shrooms, mushies, blue meanies, golden tops, and liberty caps.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Magic mushrooms look much like ordinary mushrooms. There are many different types of magic mushrooms. Magic mushrooms look similar to poisonous mushrooms that can cause a person to become very sick and can result in death. They can also come as dried material in capsules. Synthetic psilocybin is a white crystalline powder that can be processed into tablets or capsules or dissolved in water.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Magic mushrooms, containing the psychoactive compound psilocybin, produce varying effects depending on factors such as the user's body size, overall health, dosage, mushroom strength, prior experience, and the physical and emotional environment in which they are taken. When consumed, effects typically begin within 30 minutes, or faster when brewed as tea, lasting between four to six hours. Common effects include euphoria, altered mood and perception, hallucinations, dilated pupils, increased heart rate, nausea, and fluctuations in body temperature.



Though life-threatening symptoms are rare, consuming a high dose or potent strain can lead to vomiting, agitation, diarrhoea, muscle weakness, panic, paranoia, psychosis, seizures, or even coma. Users may also experience “bad trips,” marked by intense anxiety, fear, and disturbing hallucinations.

After the effects wear off, residual symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, depression, and anxiety may occur. Some individuals may experience flashbacks, where sensations from previous trips resurface unexpectedly, sometimes triggered by stress or drug use, weeks or months later. The user’s mindset (“set”) and environment (“setting”) play a significant role in the outcome; a calm, familiar, and supportive setting with trusted individuals is more likely to result in a positive experience, while noisy or unfamiliar environments may increase the risk of a bad trip. Furthermore, combining magic mushrooms with other substances can be dangerous, as stimulants like ice, speed, or ecstasy can amplify adverse psychological effects, and those on psychiatric medications are particularly at risk of relapse or worsening symptoms. Caution, preparation, and a supportive context are critical to minimising harm.



WHAT IS THEIR LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Fentanyl is classified as **Schedule II** under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10.



FENTANYL



WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the FDA for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.

🔍 WHAT ARE COMMON STREET NAMES?

Common street names include Apache, China Girl, China Town, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Jackpot, King Ivory, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

According to the DEA's Fentanyl Drug Fact Sheet, fentanyl that is clandestinely produced is found either in powdered form or within counterfeit tablets and is sold either independently or in combination



with other substances such as heroin or cocaine. Currently, pharmaceutical formulations of fentanyl are available in the following dosage forms: oral transmucosal lozenges commonly referred to as fentanyl “lollipops” (Actiq®), effervescent buccal tablets (Fentora®), sublingual tablets (Abstral®), sublingual sprays (Subsys®), nasal sprays (Lazanda®), transdermal patches (Duragesic®), and injectable formulations.

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is often compared to other widely used opioid analgesics, such as morphine. Its effects are diverse, impacting both the mind and body. When administered, fentanyl induces a state of relaxation and euphoria, making it desirable for pain relief. Patients often experience significant reductions in physical pain, but they may also encounter several side effects. These include sedation, which can lead to drowsiness and confusion, dizziness, and nausea. Some may experience vomiting and urinary retention, while others may notice pupillary constriction. Moreover, a critical concern is its impact on respiration, which can become dangerously slowed or compromised. The breadth of these effects highlights the potent nature of fentanyl,



underscoring the need for careful medical oversight when used for pain management.

WHAT ARE ITS OVERDOSE EFFECTS?

An overdose may result in stupor, changes in pupillary size, cold and clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death. The presence of a triad of symptoms, such as coma, pinpoint pupils, and respiratory depression, is strongly suggestive of opioid poisoning.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS IN GUYANA?

Fentanyl is classified as **Schedule I** under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act Chapter 10:10.



ILLICIT/ ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING/ DRUG POSSESSION AND THE LAW

THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUB- STANCES (CONTROL) ACT (THE ACT) PROVIDES HEAVY PENALTIES FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFENCES CONNECTED WITH THE POSSESSION OF, TRAFFICKING IN, AND GROWING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS (NARCOTICS). THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF NARCOTICS, INCLUDING OPIUM, HEROIN, COCAINE AND CANNABIS.

POLICE POWERS

1. Any police officer who reasonably suspects that you have committed, attempted to commit, or are about to commit an offence under the Act has the authority to arrest you without a warrant.
2. Any police officer who reasonably suspects that you are carrying a drug has the authority to stop and search you.
3. Any police officer has the authority to stop and search your car or any other mode of transportation, as well as anyone within it, if they have a reasonable suspicion that it is being used to commit any offence under the Act.



4. If the authorities have reasonable suspicion that evidence of narcotics transactions can be found in your home or other property, they have the authority to obtain a warrant to search it and anyone present or who has recently left. The authorized police officer specified in the warrant is permitted to conduct the search with any assistance they deem appropriate during a one-month period starting from the date of the warrant. Justifiable force may be employed.

5. The police have the authority to seize any illegal drugs and assets (such as your vehicle) that they believe constitute evidence of a violation under the Act.

6. Admissible evidence in court may include information collected through an unlawful search or deceptive means.

7. A police officer has the authority to enter and investigate land without a warrant, either alone or with assistance that they deem necessary, if they have a reasonable belief that the land is, has been, or is about to be used for the cultivation of cannabis, coca plants, or any other illicit plant.



POWERS OF THE CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT

Customs officers, under the authorisation of the Comptroller of Customs, have the same rights and responsibilities as police officers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act.

In terms of enforcing the Act on ships and on the high seas, enforcement officers, including police officers, Coast Guard officers, officers authorized by the Comptroller of Customs, or other designated individuals responsible for national security, are authorized to:

- Intercept and board any ship
- Demand that any ship be brought to a port in Guyana and detain it there
- Arrange for the ship to be taken to another designated country
- Conduct a thorough check of the ship, its occupants, and any items on board, including the cargo
- Compel all individuals aboard the vessel to provide details pertaining to their own identity or any relevant information on the ship
- Conduct tests and collect samples of any item found on the ship
- Demand the submission of documents, books, or records pertaining to the ship or any item onboard



- Capture images or make copies of any item provided in response to such request

The enforcement officer must provide written notice to the ship's master, informing them that the ship is being detained until the notification is rescinded. The enforcement officer must also provide proof of authorisation to carry out their duties if necessary. An enforcement officer has the authority to apprehend someone without a warrant if there are reasonable grounds to believe they are guilty of a crime. Additionally, they can confiscate and retain any items that appear to be related to the commission of a crime.

An enforcement officer is authorized to employ justifiable force, if required, while carrying out their duties.

Note: Only individuals of the same gender are permitted to conduct a search on you.



ILLICIT DRUG OFFENCES

PENALTIES FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT AND HIGH COURT IMPOSED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. If an individual is found using or in possession of opium, cannabis, heroin, or cocaine, or associated paraphernalia, or is found in a location known for drug consumption, they may face a fine:

HIGH COURT: **GYD \$30,000** or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever is the greater, and a 5 to 10 -year prison sentence.

MAGISTRATE COURT: not less than **GYD \$30,000**, together with imprisonment for not less than 3 years nor more than 5 years

If drugs are found in their possession within the vicinity of a school or a location where individuals under 18 are present, the minimum fine:

HIGH COURT: **GYD \$75,000** or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever amount is higher, in addition to a life sentence in prison.



MAGISTRATE COURT: GYD \$30,000 or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever amount is greater. In addition, a jail term of 3 to 5 years will be imposed.

2. Engaging in the illegal trade of drugs without a license may result in a minimum fine of **GYD \$30,000** or three times the value of the drug, along with a potential life imprisonment.
3. Responsibility for possessing large quantities of drugs will be determined based on the intent to engage in drug trafficking.
4. Causing the death of an individual under 18 due to drug consumption may lead to capital punishment and contributing to a minor's involvement in drug use within a 3-month period prior to their death may result in **The Death Penalty**.
5. Bringing or removing drugs to or from a prison will result in a minimum fine:

HIGH COURT: GYD \$30,000 or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever is the greater, and a 5 to 10 -year prison sentence.

MAGISTRATE COURT: GYD \$15,000 - \$30,000, together with



imprisonment for not less than 3 years nor more than 5 years

6. The government will take over ownership and control of your land, property, rights to live on the property, and any tools, equipment, or assets used for growing illegal crops. It's important to report any unauthorized cultivation of illegal drugs on your property to the Drug Enforcement Organizations (GPF or CANU) to show that you didn't give permission for these activities.
7. Handling any substance containing narcotics without a licence may result in a fine of **GYD \$9,000** and a 1-3 years prison sentence, unless it is related to trafficking, in which case the fine can be at least **GYD \$30,000** with a potential life imprisonment.
8. Mailing illegal drugs can result in a penalty of:

HIGH COURT: GYD \$30,000-\$60,000 or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever is the greater, and a 3 -10 years prison sentence.

MAGISTRATE COURT: GYD \$15,000-\$30,000, together with imprisonment for 1-3 years.



9. Bringing or sending any narcotic substance to Guyana may result in a minimum fine:

HIGH COURT: GYD \$30,000 or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever amount is higher, in addition to a sentence of 5-10 years in prison.

MAGISTRATE COURT: GYD \$15,000 or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever amount is greater. In addition, a jail term of 3- 5 years will be imposed.

10. Obstructing a police officer in the performance of their duties or impeding the course of justice under the Act is punishable by a minimum fine of **GYD \$5,000** and a maximum prison sentence of **2 years**.
11. Failure to provide necessary information or documents as required by the Act, or providing false information, may result in a minimum fine of **GYD \$30,000** and a maximum prison sentence of **5 years**.
12. Producing, possessing, transporting, or providing any substance listed in the Act, with knowledge or reasonable suspicion that it



will be used for the illegal production of a narcotic, may result in a fine of **GYD \$200,000** and a prison sentence of 10 years.

13. Engaging in the trade or handling of these substances and failing to maintain required records, failing to produce these records when requested, or intentionally providing false information, may result in a fine of **GYD \$25,000** and a prison sentence of 1 year.
14. Possession of a narcotic while on a ship, or knowingly hiding such a narcotic with reasonable grounds to believe that it is intended to be brought into or has been taken out of Guyana, may lead:

HIGH COURT: life imprisonment sentence.

MAGISTRATE COURT: **GYD \$50,000** or three times the market value of the narcotic, whichever amount is higher, in addition to a sentence of 5-10 years in prison.

15. Obstructing a law enforcement officer in the execution of their duties may result in a fine of **GYD \$5,000** and a prison sentence of 2 years.



16. Failure to comply with a requirement from an enforcement officer, knowingly making a false statement on an important matter, or intentionally withholding relevant information may result in a fine of **GYD \$5,000** and a prison sentence of 2 years.

Please remember the following:

- If found guilty of any of the acts in the High Court and having a previous conviction, a life sentence may be imposed.
- Any property used in relation to a violation under the Act can be confiscated if found guilty.
- The rights of individuals with legitimate claims to the confiscated property are safeguarded.
- If accused of committing any of these acts, a court can issue an order that prohibits selling or dealing with the property or appoint the Official Receiver to take control of the property. If the conviction is overturned on appeal, restitution of any confiscated property can be requested.
- Bail for crimes related to narcotic substances will only be given under exceptional circumstances. However, if trial delays are unreasonable, this can be considered in granting bail.



In cases where a person is found guilty of a crime as outlined in the Act, the court is only allowed to substitute a death sentence or imprisonment with an alternative punishment under exceptional circumstances. If the offender was under 18 at the time of the crime, this may be considered as a mitigating factor. Other forms of punishment may include being granted bail under specific conditions, being placed on probation, or being sent to a training school.

If a person is found guilty of possessing cannabis, specifically an amount not exceeding 30 grammes, and the court determines that it was for personal use, the court may reduce the punishment to a fine of \$6,000 with no imprisonment. The court is also authorized to require community service for a maximum of 9 months as an alternative to jail, with the option to specify the number of hours per day, excluding holidays.

The legislation also includes provisions for the rehabilitation of individuals struggling with substance abuse.



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ILLICIT
DRUGS AND ITS
EFFECTS
HEALTH .SOCIAL .LEGAL



CUSTOMS ANTI NARCOTIC UNIT



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