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# DRUG IMPAIRED SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

**Presented by Impaired Driving Unit**



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# INTRODUCTIONS

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## OBJECTIVES

- **Identify signs and symptomology of certain drug categories**
- **Identify packaging commonly used in the drug trade**
- **Observe the application of Standardized Field Sobriety**



# HOW POLICE DETERMINE DRUG IMPAIRMENT

- Standardized Field Sobriety Tests
- Or Approved Drug Screening Equipment
- Subject fails SFST/ADSE and a specially trained Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) conducts an evaluation.
- Involves physical tests along with clinical symptomology





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## APPROVED DRUG SCREENING EQUIPMENT (ADSE)

- can be used when there is reasonable suspicion that the person has a drug in their body, after reading the demand.
- ADSE currently only show the presence of Cannabis and Cocaine and do not determine impairment.





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## DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)

- Specially trained police officer that uses a 12 step standardized and systematic evaluation to determine if a subject is impaired by drugs and by which drug category(s).
- A DRE calls impairment by a drug category, not a specific drug.
- A DRE's call must be confirmed by toxicological exhibit (urine/blood) prior to criminal charges.



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IT USUALLY LOOKS LIKE THIS



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## 7 DRUG CATEGORIES

1. CNS Depressants
2. Inhalants
3. Dissociative Anesthetics
4. CNS Stimulants
5. Hallucinogen
6. Narcotic Analgesics
7. Cannabis







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## CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEPRESSANT

A Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressant is a substance that can slow down brain activity.

Common examples include:

- anti-anxiety medications (e.g., Valium),
- sleeping pills
- some antihistamines (e.g., Gravol, ZzzQuil)
- muscle relaxants (e.g., Robaxacet),
- Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)



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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CNS DEPRESSANTS USAGE?

- Drowsy
- Disorientated
- Uncoordinated
- Droopy Eyelids
- Thick Slurred Speech
- Sluggish
- A common sign is a person who you think may be drunk but there is no odor of alcohol beverage



# CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) DEPRESSANT



Xanax - Zbars



GHB



Diazepam



Clonazepam

## Paraphernalia:

Empty pill bottles, drug rig, cut up straws, pill splitter



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## DISSOCIATIVE ANESTHETIC

A form of general anesthesia.

- Dissociative: disconnect of mind and body
- Anesthetic: numbness to pain

Common examples include:

- Ketamine
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Dextromethorphan (DXM or DM) Slang term used may be Triple C or CCC



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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT DISSOCIATE ANESTHETIC USAGE?

- Hallucinations
- Blank Stare
- "Moon Walking"-taking careful steps
- Chemical Odor
- Repetitive Speech
- Incomplete Responses
- Perspiring
- Confusion
- Agitation
- Resting nystagmus (jerky eye movement even when eyes are looking straight ahead)
- Behaviour can be unpredictable and cycle between cooperative and combative or violent
- Risk of self-harm (lack of pain perception)

# DISSOCIATIVE ANESTHETIC



PCP



Dextromethorphan (DXM)



Ketamine Special



PCP Dipped Cigarette

## Paraphernalia:

Cold medication packaging, small drug packaging, drug rig, empty bottles of cough syrup, menthol cigarettes, eye droppers



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## CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM STIMULANT

A Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulant is a drug that can boost brain activity.

Common examples include:

- Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) drugs (Ritalin and Adderall)
- Narcolepsy drugs (Ritalin and Adderall)
- Weight loss drugs
- Cocaine (including crack cocaine)
- Methamphetamine (speed, ice and crank)
- Designer Drugs (bath salts) (MDPV)



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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CNS STIMULANT USAGE?

- Bizarre behaviours
- Talkative
- Dry mouth
- Excited
- Agitated
- Anxious
- Irritable
- Decreased appetite
- Insomnia
- Increased alertness
- Restlessness
- Nasal Redness
- Runny Nose
- Euphoria
- Muscle Tremors
- Fast and jerky movements
- Dilated pupils
- Sweating
- Overconfidence
- Very high heart rate





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# CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) STIMULANTS

**A substance that can boost brain activity.**



Crack Cocaine



Bath Salts



Methamphetamine  
Tablets



Drug "flaps" or  
"bindles"

## **Paraphernalia:**

Corners of plastic bags, cut straws, mirror or other hard surface with residue, crack pipes (glass pipe, steel wool, etc.), drug rig



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## CRASH PHASE

CNS Stimulant usage is often accompanied later by a “crash” phase. This is also referred to as the “downside” of a stimulant. This phase is characterized by:

- Excessive drowsiness, irritability, anxiety, slow movements and small pupils.
- Finding someone asleep at the wheel, single motor vehicle collision (MVC), or swerving.
- Extreme fatigued, unable to focus on tasks.

This phase is just as dangerous as the “high”. Their behaviour may mimic impairment, which is consistent with being impaired by a Narcotic Analgesic.



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# NARCOTIC ANALGESIC

A Narcotic Analgesic is a drug that relieves acute and chronic severe pain.

- Narcotic = From narcosis “to induce sleep”.
- Analgesic = Relief of pain.
- This class of drugs are derived from opium (These drugs are also known as opioids). Does NOT include regular pain relievers like Tylenol and Advil.

Common examples include:

- Heroin
- Morphine
- Methadone
- Oxycodone (e.g., Percocet)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Fentanyl



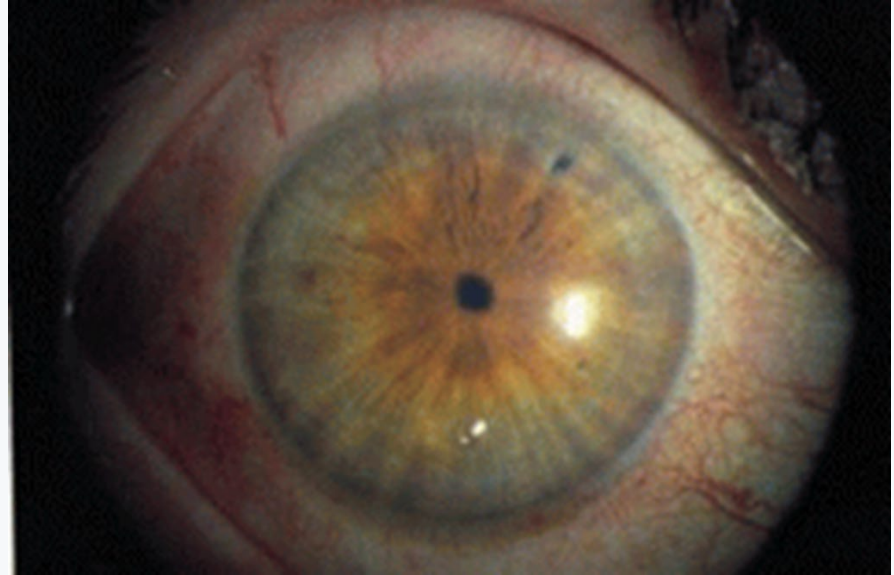
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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT NARCOTIC ANALGESIC USAGE?

- Drowsiness
- Droopy eyelids
- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow movements
- Incoordination,
- "On The Nod" – a state of deep relaxation that looks like sleep but person can perk up and respond when spoken to
- Pasty mouth
- Dry mouth i.e. a white sticky substance in the corners of their mouth
- Low, Slow or raspy speech
- Track marks
- Fresh punctures
- Nausea
- Depressed reflexes
- Facial itching
- Euphoria

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# CONSTRICTED PUPILS





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## CANNABIS

A psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational use. The main active impairing substance in Cannabis is **delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**

Cannabis is also known as

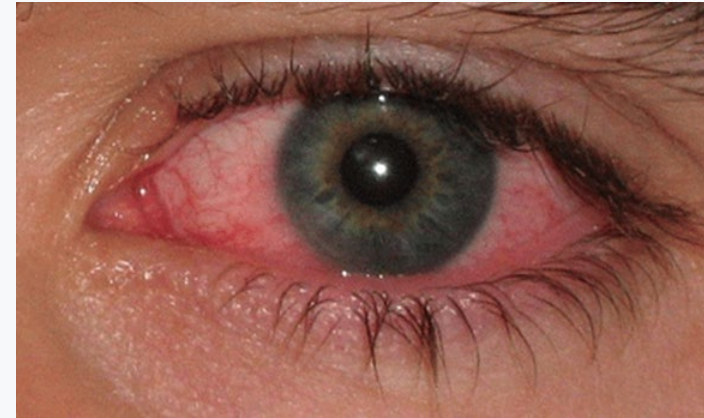
- Grass
- Hashish
- Shatter
- Marijuana
- Pot
- Oil
- Weed



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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CANNABIS USAGE?

- Red and blood shot eyes
- Increased appetite
- Odor of Cannabis
- Impaired awareness of time/distance
- Relaxed inhibitions
- Disorientation
- Muscle tremors
- Eyelid tremors
- Possible dilated pupils





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# CANNABIS



Shatter



Cannabis Wax



Hash Oil



Hashish

## **Paraphernalia:**

Packaging (e.g. baggies, ziplockbags, shatter envelopes), cigarettes, rolling papers, marihuana grinder (i.e. busters), vaporizers, pipes, bongs/oil rigs, butane torches





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# CANNABIS

**More ways than one....**



Edible



Vaporisers/Epen



Energy Drinks



Candies



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# CANNABIS EDIBLES

- Edibles come in many forms: Bars, cookies, gum, hard candies, lollipops and drinks.
- A standard edible serving size is generally 10mg of THC and there can be 100 mg per product for recreational use.
- Some drinks will contain 18 dosage units in 1 bottle.
  
- **Concern with Edibles?**
  - As it can take approximately **30 minutes to 2 hours** to feel the effects of edible cannabis, it is easy to over consume due to slow absorption and time to feel the effects.



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## EPS STATS!

- In 2016 EPS had:
  - 11 DREs
  - 30 SFST trained members
  - 16 Drug Impaired investigations
  
- In 2018 EPS had:
  - 34 DREs
  - 145 SFST trained members
  - 175 Drug Impaired Investigations





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## STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TEST (SFST)

- SFST trained members use 3 validated tests to determine impairment.
- Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus
- Walk and Turn
- One Leg Stand



QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?  
CONCERNS?