

# Raves: a review of the culture, the drugs and the prevention of harm

**Table 1: Characteristics of drugs associated with raves**

Drug	Street names*	Class	Mechanism	Form	Clinical features	Toxicities
3,4-Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA, ecstasy)	E, X, XTC, Love, Adam	Hallucinogenic amphetamine	5-HT release	Powder, usually in tablets or capsules	Heightened perception and sensual awareness, mydriasis, sympathomimetic, bruxism, jaw tension, ataxia	Dysrhythmias, hyperthermia, rhabdomyolysis, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), hyponatremia, seizures, death
Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)	Acid, Hits, Blotters	Hallucinogen	5-HT <sub>2</sub> receptor agonist	Paper microdots or liquid	Mydriasis, sympathomimetic, nausea, muscle tension, visual hallucinations, agitation	Persistent psychosis, hallucinations, persisting perception disorder, "flashbacks"
Ketamine	Kit-kat, Special K	Anesthetic	NMDA receptor antagonist	White crystals or powder taken orally, snorted or injected Mimics ecstasy tablets	Nystagmus, increased tone, purposeful movements, amnesia, hallucinations, sympathomimetic,	Loss of consciousness, respiratory depression, catatonia, highly addictive
Phencyclidine (PCP)	Angel dust, Peace	Anesthetic	Glutamate agonist at NMDA receptor	White crystals or powder taken orally, snorted or injected	Miosis, nystagmus, hypertension, sympathomimetic, cholinergic symptoms	Coma, seizures, hyperthermia, rhabdomyolysis, hypoglycemia, hypertension
Crystal methamphetamine	Speed, Crystal, Crys, Jib, Meth	Amphetamine	Enhances release and blocks uptake of catecholamines	Powder taken orally, smoked or inhaled	Tachycardia, tachypnea, hypertension, hyperthermia, mydriasis, diaphoresis	Dysrhythmias, seizures, hypertension, hyperthermia, encephalopathy
Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)	G, Liquid	Anesthetic	Biphasic dopamine response	Powder mixed in a liquid, usually sold in vials and taken orally	Agitation, nystagmus, ataxia sedation, amnesia, hypotonia, vomiting, muscle spasms	Seizures, apnea, sudden reversible coma with abrupt awakening and violence, bradycardia
Cannabis Oil-resin = hashish Oil-herb = marijuana	Pot, Weed, Grass, Herb	Mild hallucinogen, relaxant	Binds to cannabinoid receptor	Smoked or eaten	Mild hallucinations, paranoia, appetite stimulant, tachycardia, conjunctival injection	Rare
Cocaine	Coke, Dust, Blow, Snow, Flake	Stimulant	Inhibits uptake of catecholamines	Sniffed, smoked or injected	Tachycardia, hypertension, pyrexia, mydriasis, ataxia, diaphoresis, agitation, delusions, rapid euphoria,	Hyperthermia, hallucinations, seizures, death

Note: 5-HT = serotonin. NMDA = N-methyl-D-aspartate.

\*Street names provided by TRIP.

Primary source: Tintinalli et al.<sup>31</sup>

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