

ECSTASY

STREET NAMES:

- E
- XTC
- X
- Adam
- Hug
- Beans
- Clarity
- Lover's Speed
- Love Drug

Ecstasy is usually taken orally in pill, tablet or capsule form. Taking more than one at a time is called “bumping.”

Ecstasy is a synthetic (man-made) drug made in a laboratory. Makers may add anything they choose to the drug, such as caffeine, amphetamine* and even cocaine. Ecstasy is illegal and has effects similar to hallucinogens and stimulants. The pills are of different colors and are sometimes marked with cartoon-like images.

Mixing Ecstasy with alcohol is extremely dangerous and can be lethal.

The stimulative effects of drugs such as Ecstasy enable the user to dance for long periods, and when combined with the hot, crowded conditions found at raves, can lead to extreme dehydration and heart or kidney failure.

Short-term Effects:

- Impaired judgment
- False sense of affection
- Confusion
- Depression
- Sleep problems
- Severe anxiety
- Paranoia†
- Drug craving
- Muscle tension
- Involuntary teeth clenching
- Nausea
- Blurred vision
- Faintness
- Chills or sweating

Long-term Effects:

- Prolonged use causes long-lasting and perhaps permanent damage to the brain, affecting the person's judgment and thinking ability.

Ecstasy made me crazy. One day I bit glass, just like I would have bitten an apple. I had to have my mouth full of pieces of glass to realize what was happening to me. Another time I tore rags with my teeth for an hour.” — Ann

* amphetamine: a central nervous system stimulant, often called “speed.”

† paranoia: suspicion, distrust or fear of other people.