

## Q & A

### FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF DALLAS BALDWIN



Q. Is Cocaine really still a problem?

A. Yes. While the number of cocaine users has decreased from what was witnessed in the mid-1980's, there have been nearly 2 million cocaine users since 1992.

Q. Isn't crack less addictive than cocaine because it does not stay in your body very long?

A. No. Both cocaine and crack are powerfully addictive. The length of time it stays in your body doesn't change that.

Q. Don't some people use cocaine to feel good?

A. Any positive feelings are fleeting and often followed by some very bad feelings, like paranoia and intense cravings. Cocaine may give users a temporary illusion of power and energy, but it often leaves them unable to function mentally, physically and emotionally.

<http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>

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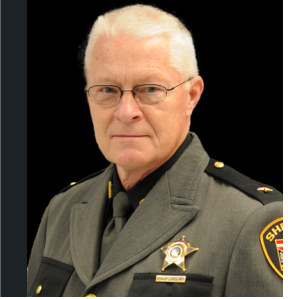
*This information is provided by the  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office.*

SHR-TIPS Cocaine (Rev. 02-2017)

SHERIFF **DALLAS BALDWIN'S**

## Tips for Teens

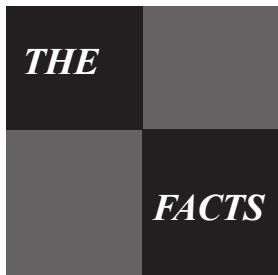
THE TRUTH  
ABOUT:  
COCAINE



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### COCAINE AFFECTS YOUR BRAIN.

The word “cocaine” refers to the drug in both a powder (cocaine), and crystal (crack) form. It is made from the coca plant and causes a short-lived high that is immediately followed by opposite, intense feelings of depression, edginess, and craving for more of the drug. Cocaine may be snorted as a powder, converted into a liquid form for injection with a needle, or processed into a crystal form to be smoked .

### COCAINE AFFECTS YOUR BODY.

People who use cocaine often do not eat or sleep regularly. They experience increased heart rate, muscle spasms, and convulsions.

### COCAINE AFFECTS YOUR EMOTIONS.

Using cocaine can make you feel paranoid, angry, hostile, and anxious, even when you are not high.

### COCAINE IS ADDICTIVE.

Cocaine interferes with the way your brain processes chemicals that create feelings of pleasure, so you need more and more of the drug just to feel normal. People who become addicted to cocaine start to lose interest in other areas of their life, like school, sports, and friends.

### COCAINE CAN KILL YOU.

Cocaine use can cause heart attacks, seizures, strokes, and respiratory failure. People who share needles can also contract hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, or other diseases.

## BEFORE YOU RISK IT....

### *Know the law.*

Cocaine - in any form - is illegal.

### *Stay Informed.*

Even first time cocaine users can have seizures or fatal heart attacks.

### *Know the risks.*

Combining cocaine with other drugs or alcohol is extremely dangerous. The effects of one drug can magnify the effects of another, and mixing substances can be deadly.

### *Be aware.*

Cocaine is expensive. Regular users can spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars each week on cocaine.

### *Stay in control.*

Cocaine impairs your judgment which may lead to unwise decisions.

### *Look around you.*

The vast majority of teens are not using cocaine. According to a 1998 study, less than 1 percent of teens are regular cocaine users. In fact, 98 percent of teens have never even tried cocaine.

## KNOW THE SIGNS....

### *How can you tell if a friend is using Cocaine?*

Sometimes it is tough to tell. But there are signs you can look for. If your friend has one or more of the following warning signs, he or she may be using cocaine or other illicit drugs:

- Red or bloodshot eyes.
- A runny nose or frequently sniffing.
- A change in groups of friends.
- Acting withdrawn, depressed, tired.
- Careless about personal appearance.
- Losing interest in school, family, or activities that he or she use to enjoy.

### *What can you do to help someone who is using cocaine?*

Be a real friend. Save a life. Encourage your friend to stop or seek professional help. For information and referrals, contact:

Maryhaven Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center  
(614) 445-8131



## COCAINE

**Coke, Blow, Toot, Dust, Powder,  
Sneeze, Lines, Rock (crack)**

\*\*\*\*Information contained in this section was obtained from literature published by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.