

Cocaine Encyclopedia Of Psychoactive Drugs

Chapter 1 : Cocaine Encyclopedia Of Psychoactive Drugs

Psychoactive drug use can be traced to prehistory. There is archaeological evidence of the use of psychoactive substances (mostly plants) dating back at least 10,000 years, and historical evidence of cultural use over the past 5,000 years. The chewing of coca leaves, for example, dates back over 8,000 years ago in Peruvian society. Common or street names: coke, c, blow, snow, flake; the base form is called freebase or crack. What is cocaine? Cocaine (C₁₇H₂₁NO₄) is a powerfully addictive, psychoactive, stimulant drug. On the street it is usually sold as a fine, white powder. Psychoactive drugs are a class of chemical substances that act on the central nervous system and can alter behavior and cognition. Psychoactive drugs are highly fat-soluble and thus cross the blood-brain barrier readily.

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