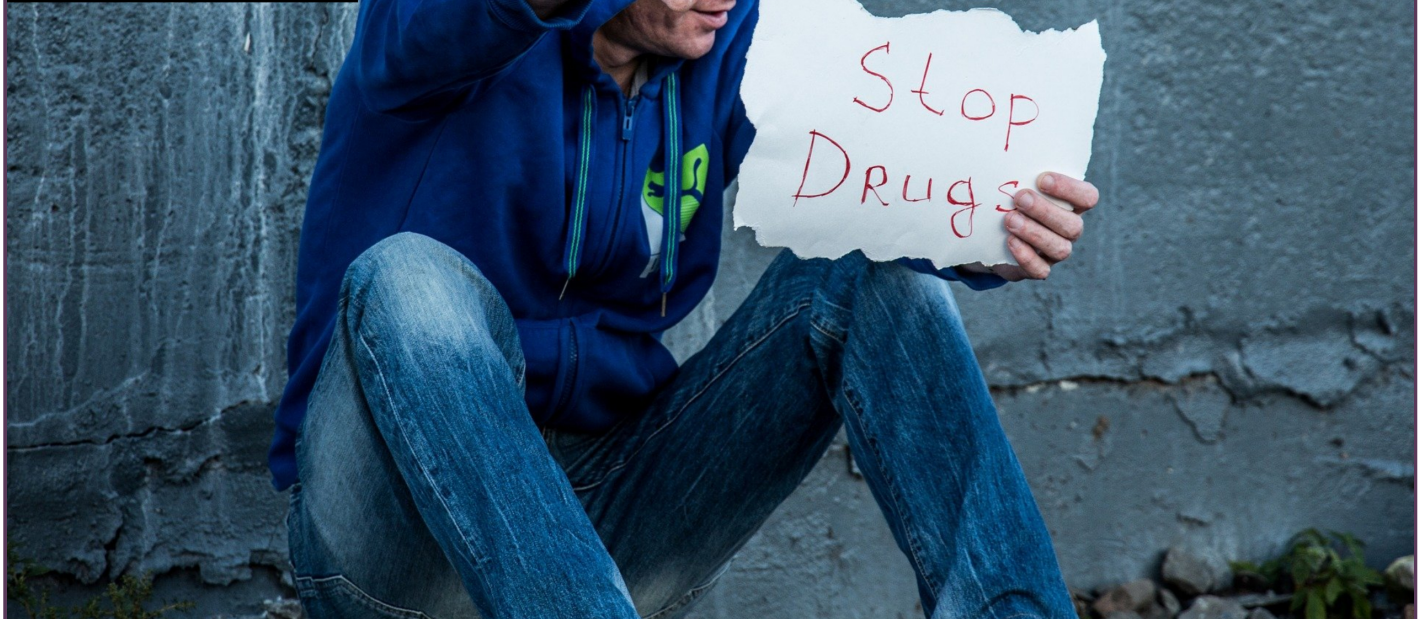




Signs and Symptoms of Drug Abuse/Addiction



Extreme drowsiness



Bluish tinge to
lips and nails



Limp muscles



Dry mouth



Low blood pressure
and slow pulse



Disorientation



Confusion



Shallow breathing



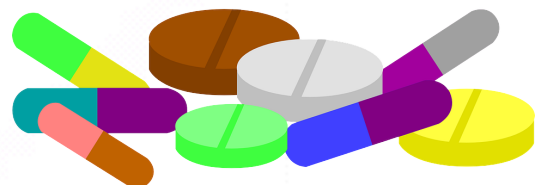
Stomach spasms



Muscle spasms



Delirium



What are the Effects of Drugs?

The sheer variety of illicit drugs available on the UK market means a comprehensive round up of all their effects is practically impossible here. Moreover, just as every human being is unique, so are every human beings responses to substances of abuse.

Even if someone is completely unfamiliar with illegal drugs, they will probably be able to recognise that alcohol affects different people in different ways (a 'happy drunk', a 'gloomy drunk', a 'horny drunk' etc), and the variety of responses to illegal drugs is much greater. However, some of the most common typical symptoms of drug consumption may be given to provide even a basic idea of what to look out for.

Drugs cost

If you take pills every weekend, you could easily end up spending quite a chunk of cash in a year just on drugs. Stealing to pay for drugs can land you with a conviction.

And there are other costs too:

- to your health
- to your safety
- to your goals

The costs are not just financial. Socially and environmentally, drugs take their toll. Because drugs won't just affect the people who use them: they impact on the lives of people who become the victims of drug-related crime, and on those who have to live with the mess that drug users leave behind.

They also affect workers in other countries who grow the raw materials, and the people who are involved in smuggling and transportation.

Jobs

Drugs can make a job-or school or college really hard work.

They can mess up the way you act, how well you can focus, what you remember and how you deal with people. And a drug conviction might stop you getting your dream job or lose the one you have.

Drug driving

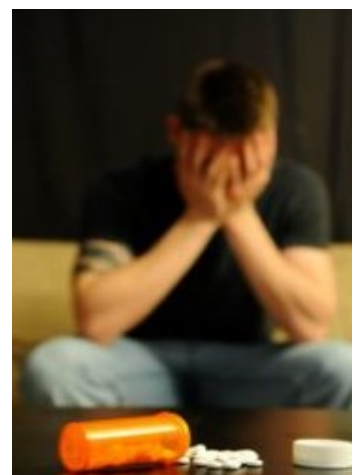
You know that drink-driving is illegal. What you might not know is that driving when high is also illegal, and you can still be unfit to drive the day after using a drug. You can get a heavy fine, be disqualified from driving and even go to prison.

You need to co-ordination, anticipation, concentration and good judgement to drive safely. And all of these things can go out of the window if you're on drugs. If you drive whilst on drugs you not only risk your life but your friends' lives too.

What is Prescription drug Addiction?

While there are many types of substance abuse, prescription drug addiction is the one that carries a unique situation because they are medicines that offer significant benefits when used to treat and manage genuine health conditions. Unfortunately, the way that they make your body feel is also one of the reasons they are so dangerous.

Furthermore, the fact that they are different to illicit drugs in terms of accessibility and stigma, it can be difficult to know when the use of prescription drugs has been problematic.



Possession

If you are caught with drugs the police will always take action even if it is only a small amount. What happens depends on the circumstances. You might get a warning and have the drug confiscated or, if it's more serious, you will be arrested. The police will think it's more serious if:

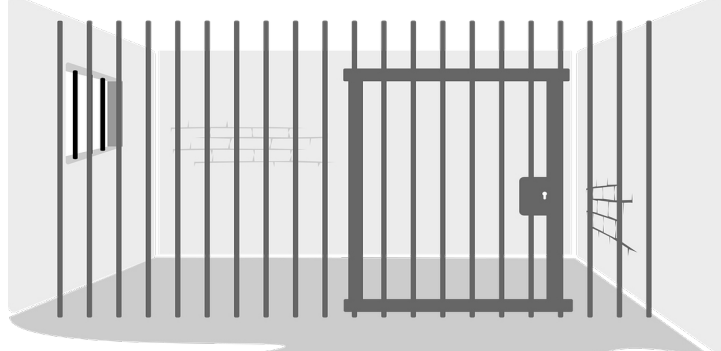
- you've been caught with class A drugs
- this isn't the first time you've been caught

Dealing (Which includes the offences Possession With Intent to Supply, Offer to Supply and Supply)

Dealing is much more serious and includes being caught with drugs



A criminal record could affect your chances of getting a job or going on holiday abroad. Remember - drug-driving is as illegal as drink-driving and carries the same penalties.



A Drug Dealer could end up in JAIL for a very long time

GET HELP NOW

The classes of illegal drugs

Illegal drugs are put into categories: Class A, B and C. Some drugs may also be temporarily illegal for up to 12 months. These are known as 'temporary class drugs'.

Drug	Maximum penalties
Class A - cocaine and crack cocaine, crystal meth, ecstasy, heroin, LSD and magic mushrooms	Possession - 7 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine Possession with intent to supply or supply - Life in prison and/or an unlimited fine
Class B - cannabis, mephedrone, synthetic cannabinoids, metoxetamine and amphetamines	Possession - 5 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine Possession with intent to supply or supply - 13 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine
Class C - anabolic steroids, GBL, katamine and tranquillisers	Possession - 2 years in prison and/or unlimited fine Possession with intent to supply or supply - 14 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine
Temporary Class Drugs	Possession - No possession offence but the police can take away and destroy a suspected temporary class drug Possession with intent to supply or supply - 14 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.



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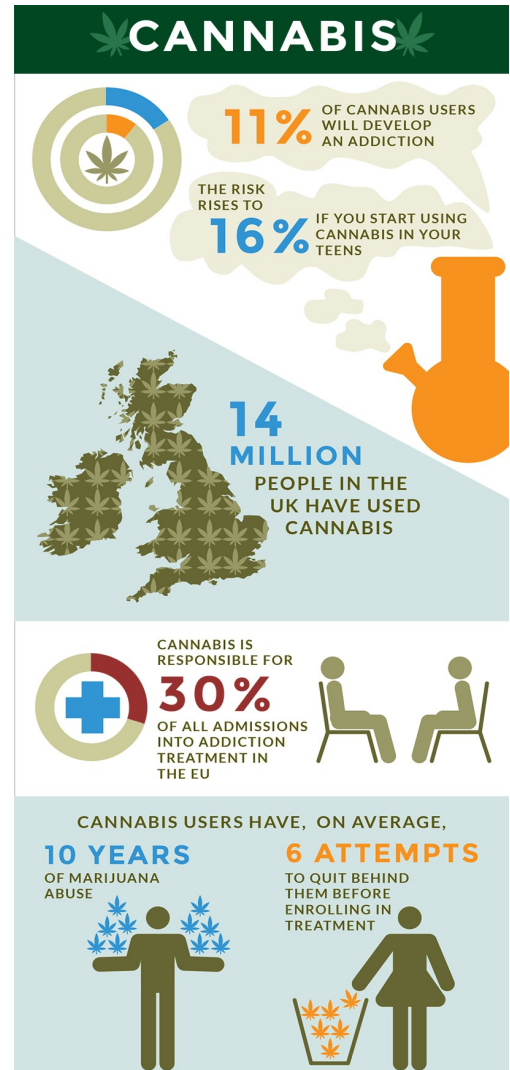
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