

HALLUCINOGENS

This class of drugs is noted for altering the perception of the user. The effects are unpredictable. Since these drugs are produced in kitchens or illicit labs, the user can never be sure of what he is getting. The user may experience feelings ranging from a mild high to a lack of reality to profound anxiety, which usually occurs between thirty and ninety minutes after ingesting the drug. Pulse and heart rate and blood pressure increase, sweating, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, dry mouth, tremors and a rise in body temperature are usual symptoms.

A sense of time and self are altered. Many different emotions may be experienced simultaneously. Dramatic mood swings may occur. Synesthesia is a state in which the senses become crossed, so that the user hear colors or sees sounds. Flashbacks are sudden, unexpected recurrences of the original experience when the drug was taken. They may occur over a two-year period and may be experienced several times or not at all.



LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide - 25) is so strong it is measured in micro or one millionth of a gram - sufficient for a trip. LSD is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It is sold in tablet, capsule or liquid form. Currently, it is popularly distributed on absorbent paper with art work. A dose lasts six to twelve hours. Mental and emotional side effects may be long lasting.

Mescaline, from the peyote cactus, is used for religious ceremonies by the Native American Church.

Psilocybin is derived from a mushroom, which is chemically similar to LSD.