

Toxicology & Controlled Substances

Toxicology

study of drugs, chemicals and poisons within the body or another living organism

Forensic Toxicology

application of toxicology to cases which involves law or criminal investigation

Forensic Chemist

individual responsible for identifying unknown, non-biological trace evidence and analyzing substances found at a crime scene

Forensic Toxicologist

individual responsible for examining toxins found in the body

Illicit Drugs

drugs prohibited by international laws

Hallucinogens

drugs which affect perception, thoughts and moods

Hashish

plant which secretes a resin or sticky organic substance

Narcotics

drugs which numb pain and produce sleep

Opium

milky substance which comes from Asian poppy flowers

Opiates

based on another source of opium; includes morphine, heroin and codeine

Methadone

synthetic opiate which was developed to help addicts overcome heroin addictions

Stimulants

collection of drugs which stimulate the central nervous system to produce feelings of euphoria, alertness and high-energy

Amphetamine

commonly known as methamphetamine; can include intense feelings of pleasure and hyperactivity

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Depressants

collection of drugs which slow down the central nervous system

Anabolic Steroids

substance used to mimic testosterone in order to develop muscle and other male characteristics

Controlled Substances

drugs which are federally regulated by the government

Physical Dependence

user may become ill if they stop taking a substance

Psychological Dependence

users become conditioned to the psychological effects of a substance and require it to cope with daily life

Designer Drugs

compounds which have slightly different chemical structures, are not federally regulated and the safety is unknown

Presumptive Test

limits the identification possibilities and can help analysts make a more informed choice on how to analyze a substance more thoroughly

Acute Poisoning

occurs when an individual has been exposed to a single dose

Chronic Poisoning

occurs when exposure to a substance is spread over a long period of time

Lethal Dose

measurement of the amount of a substance which will kill an individual

Absorption

process of a chemical entering the body and getting into the bloodstream