

persistent effects of the drug—ataxia, dysarthria, and impairment of mental function, with confusion, loss of emotional control, poor judgment, and occasionally a toxic psychosis. The harm to society is related to both the individual's preoccupation with drug taking and the drug's effect on interpersonal relationships.

With cocaine, the individual detrimental effect may be indirect, resulting from the individual's preoccupation with drug taking, again with malnutrition and infection as frequent consequences, or direct, a severe toxic reaction accompanying rapid and repeated administration in episodic drug use. The harm to society is related to preoccupation with drug taking by the individual, with economic loss and crimes against society as consequences. When drug dependence of cocaine type is brought about through chewing of coca leaves, anorexia, a change in working habits, and loss in weight are additional characteristics.

The amphetamines tend to cause anorexia, persistent and exaggerated psychomotor disturbances, and disruption of mental function, even to the occurrence of a toxic psychosis. For society, the harm is related in part to the drug's psychomotor effects (involvement in accidents, for example).

With cannabis, lasting disturbance of mental function has been alleged but not proven. Distortion of perception, one of the effects of the drug, may lead to disruption of interpersonal relationships, and abuse of the drug to criminal behaviour.

The risk to public health should be and usually is of paramount importance as a criterion for the establishment of control for a dependence-producing drug of any of the types described and in deciding on the degree of control. At the same time, socio-economic factors and social harm associated with drug dependence and drug abuse must be taken into account and may determine the appropriateness of control in a particular case. The socio-economic factors largely determine society's attitude towards the individuals involved in drug abuse, but they are not characteristics that need to be considered in medical and scientific differentiation of the types of drug dependence.

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