



## Hallucinogens

### WHAT ARE HALLUCINOGENS?

Hallucinogens are found in plants and fungi or are synthetically produced and are among the oldest known group of drugs used for their ability to alter human perception and mood.

### WHAT IS THEIR ORIGIN?

Hallucinogens can be synthetically produced in illicit laboratories or are found in plants.



*MDMA/Ecstasy*



*LSD Blotter Sheet*

### What are common street names?

Common street names include:

- Acid, Blotter, Cubes, Fry, Mind Candy, Mushrooms, Shrooms, Special K, STP, X, and XTC

### What do they look like?

Hallucinogens come in a variety of forms. MDMA or ecstasy tablets are sold in many colors with a variety of logos to attract youth. LSD is sold in the form of saturated paper (blotter paper), typically imprinted with colorful graphic designs.

### How are they abused?

The most commonly abused hallucinogens among junior and senior high school students are hallucinogenic mushrooms, LSD, and MDMA (ecstasy). Hallucinogens are typically taken orally or can be smoked.

### What is their effect on the mind?

Sensory effects include perceptual distortions that vary with dose, setting, and mood. Psychic effects include distortions of thought associated with time and space. Time may appear to stand still, and forms and LSD powder and capsules colors seem to change and take on new significance. Weeks or even months after some hallucinogens have been taken, the user may develop an uncommon disorder called Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder (HPPD) or experience “flashbacks.” HPPD can include fragmentary recurrences of certain aspects of the drug experience in the absence of actually taking the drug. The occurrence of HPPD is unpredictable, but may be more likely to occur during times of stress and seems to occur more frequently in younger individuals.

### What is their effect on the body?

Physiological effects include elevated heart rate, increased blood pressure, dilated pupils, and often can induce nausea and vomiting.

### What are their overdose effects?

Deaths exclusively from acute overdose of LSD, magic mushrooms, and mescaline are extremely rare. Deaths generally occur due to suicide, accidents, and dangerous behavior, or due to the person inadvertently eating poisonous plant material.

A severe overdose of PCP or ketamine can result in:

- Respiratory depression, coma, convulsions, seizures, and death due to respiratory arrest

### What is their legal status in the United States?

Many hallucinogens are Schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that they have a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.



*LSD powder and capsules*