



Bell-Ringer



Legal and Illegal Drugs

Part 1 Forensic Science



Introduction

- Crime Scene Investigators should be familiar with basic pharmacology since legal and illegal drugs can be closely linked with crime.
- Drugs are often discovered in bulk form or in specimens of blood and urine at the crime scene.
- The presence of drugs are very common in traffic accidents and DUI of alcohol as well as in their illegal manufacture in home based laboratories.



Introduction Continued

- The term drug refers to the solid or liquid form and are sometimes called bulk drugs.
- The term Toxicology refers to the study of the type of drug, amount present , and its physiological effect on the body.
- The Toxicological specimen, then, is the sample of blood or urine taken from a suspect or victim involved at the crime scene under investigation.



Investigators Need to Know...

- Should be aware of how certain drugs affect and individual.
- One misconception, is the term Narcotic.
- Narcotic refers only to those drugs which can cause an addiction.
- The term “**Controlled Drugs or Controlled Substances**”, refers to all drugs, which are covered by law and are restricted in some manner.



Implication @ the crime scene: Drug Addiction and Abuse.

- Addiction is primarily a matter of physical dependency of the user on the drug.
- Once the addiction stage is reached, the user will become physically ill if he/she is deprived of a specific dosage of the drug.
- Some drugs do not produce a physical dependence, but most do.
- According to the professionals of Psychiatry, there is usually a psychological maladjustment which proceeds the addiction stage of drug abuse.
- There is also a strong physical dependence which occurs in many individuals after the initial physical rejection has occurred in the body.



Marijuana

- Marijuana is a drug which is not physically addictive. However, there are strong indications that the frequent user can become psychologically and emotionally dependant on marijuana.
- As the user develops a tolerance for a drug, the body tries to compensate and accept the foreign substance. The user is forced to take increasingly larger doses of the drug in order to obtain the original effect of the drug.



People take drugs because...

- One of the most documented reasons for drug abuse to shut out problems release anxiety and sometimes troubling students!
- Drug use is not restricted to any age group, race or culture, but is widespread throughout a wide cross-section of our society.



Street Drugs

- Street Drugs (drugs produced by unqualified individuals in home labs) are especially dangerous to the user.
- There is no quality control or guarantee which the large Pharmaceutical companies provide.
- On many occasions, street drugs are sold which contain lethal substances.
- There is no guarantee about dosage, so the danger of overdose is real with every dose.



Therefore Dude...Drugs...

- Drugs Abuse then applies to any use of drugs, whether or not legally possessed, so the user has been or is likely to be adversely affected by the drug.
- Controlled substances (Which require a medical doctors prescription) and over the counter drugs (do not require a prescription) are two terms commonly used by Crime Scene Investigators.
- Even very low doses of over the counter drugs by some individuals could qualify as drug abuse.
- Many drugs which are widely recognized for their medicinal value by Doctors which are legally prescribed for patients are also widely abused by some individuals.



Classification

- There are various classifications used to describe a general category of drugs. Depressants and Stimulants (drugs which affect the central nervous system), marijuana, hallucinogenic, designer drugs, non prescription drugs, and inhalants are all potential crime scene evidence.



Thanks for Your Attention!

- Please refer to the plan of the week for upcoming assignments!