# Health Risks Associated with the Abuse of Drugs and Alcohol

Outlined below is a listing of drugs of abuse and their health risks taken from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration website. <u>A complete resource guide</u> provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration can be obtained by following this link.

## Alcohol

Alcohol (beer, wine, or liquor) has a high potential for physical and psychological dependence as well as resulting in increased tolerance. Possible effects include impaired memory, slurred speech, drunken behavior, slow onset, vitamin deficiency, and organ damage. Overdose may result in vomiting, respiratory depression, loss of consciousness,

and possible death. Withdrawal may include trembling, anxiety, insomnia, vitamin deficiency, confusion, hallucinations, and convulsions.

Females who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give

may result in shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma and possible death. Withdrawal may include anxiety, insomnia, tremors, delirium, convulsions, and possible death.

#### Stimulants

St imulants (including cocaine, met hamphet amine, and met hylphenidate) have a possible risk of physical dependence and high risk for psychological dependence. Tolerance can develop in all st imulants. The possible side effects include increased alertness, excitation, euphoria, increased pulse rate and blood pressure, insomnia, and decreased appetite. Overdose may result in agitation, increased body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, and possible death. Withdrawal may result in apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, and

t est icular at rophy, gynecomast ia, acne, and aggressive behavior. Effects of overdose are unknown. Withdrawal may possibly include depression.

### Inhalants

I nhalants (including amyl and but yl nitrite, nitrous oxide, and others) vary in their level of psychological dependence, with less known about their potential for physical dependence and tolerance. Possible effects may include flushing, hypotension, and headache, impaired memory, slurred speech, drunken behavior, slow onset, vitamin deficiency, and organ damage. Over dose may result in methemoglobinemia, vomiting, respiratory depression, loss of consciousness, and possible death. Withdrawal may result in agitation, trembling, anxiety, insomnia, vitamin deficiency, confusion, hallucinations, and convulsions.

## Warning Signs of Drug / Alcohol Abuse

Some common behavior changes you may not ice if someone you know is abusing drugs and alcohol are:

Sudden or extreme change in friends, eating habits, sleeping patterns, physical appearance, [ats,)]TJET (000) (3) [TJET (000)