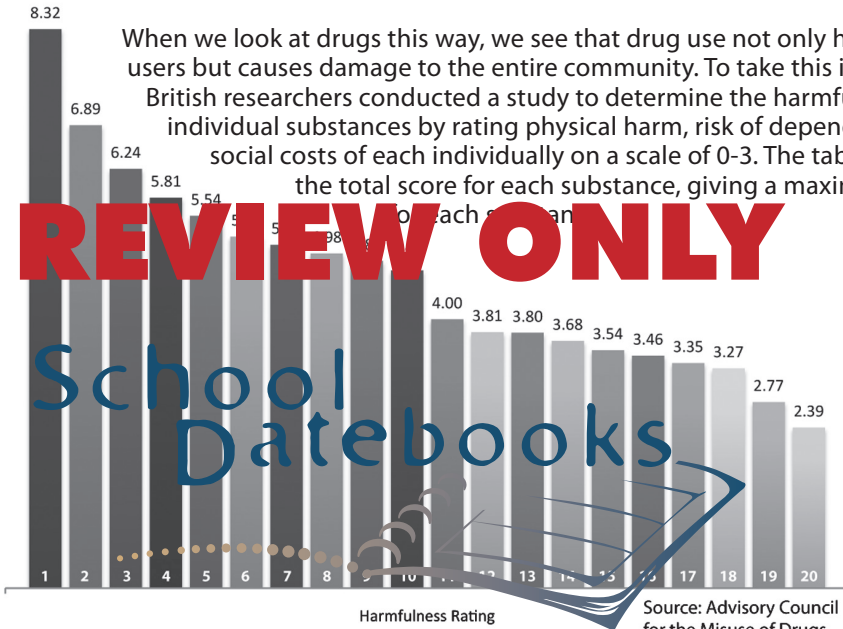


FACT AND FICTION

Drugs: Collateral Damage

Drug users will often rationalize (i.e., excuse) drug use by labeling use a personal choice which only affects themselves. This reasoning could not be further from the truth. Drug use hurts everyone around the user, from the farmer forced into working for an illegal drug organization to the average person walking down the street. We all are victims of the violence, crime, cost, and loss that stems from drug use.

1. Heroin
2. Cocaine
3. Barbiturates
4. Street Methadone
5. Alcohol
6. Ketamine
7. Benzodiazepines
8. Amphetamines
9. Tobacco
10. Buprenorphine
11. Cannabis
12. Solvents
13. 4-MTA
14. LSD
15. Methylphenidate
16. Anabolic steroids
17. GHB
18. Ecstasy
19. Alkyl nitrites
20. Khat



When we look at drugs this way, we see that drug use not only harms individual users but causes damage to the entire community. To take this into account, British researchers conducted a study to determine the harmfulness of 20 individual substances by rating physical harm, risk of dependency, and social costs of each individually on a scale of 0-3. The table below shows the total score for each substance, giving a maximum score of 9

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Addiction Rank: 2nd

Harmfulness: 2nd

Description: A colorless or white crystalline alkaloid extracted from coca leaves.

Side Effects: Sudden surges in blood pressure, constriction of the vessels in the body, elevated heart rate, reduction in appetite, increased body temperature, paranoia, irritability, restlessness, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances.

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Addiction Rank: 1st

Harmfulness: 1st

Description: A white, odorless, bitter crystalline compound that is derived from morphine and is a highly addictive narcotic.

Side Effects: Fatal overdose, possible contraction of HIV/AIDS, collapsed veins, Hepatitis, liver disease, infection of the heart lining and valves, constricted pupils, nausea, and respiratory depression, which in extreme cases may result in death.

Drug Cards:

These are substance cards. They let us know what a substance is and the harm it causes. *Can you make your own?*