**Substance abuse**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substance_abuse>

**Definition of Substance Abuse**

**Substance abuse**, also known as **drug abuse**, refers to a maladaptive pattern of use of a substance that is not considered dependent. The term "drug abuse" does not exclude dependency, but is otherwise used in a similar manner in nonmedical contexts. The terms have a huge range of definitions related to taking a [psychoactive drug](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychoactive_drug) or [performance enhancing drug](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Performance_enhancing_drug) for a non-therapeutic or non-medical effect. All of these definitions imply a negative judgment of the drug use in question (compare with the term [responsible drug use](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Responsible_drug_use) for alternative views). Some of the drugs most often associated with this term include [alcohol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethanol), [amphetamines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphetamines), [barbiturates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbiturate), [benzodiazepines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benzodiazepine) (particularly [temazepam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temazepam), [nimetazepam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimetazepam), and [flunitrazepam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flunitrazepam)), [cocaine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cocaine), [methaqualone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methaqualone), and [opioids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opioids). Use of these drugs may lead to criminal penalty in addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, both strongly depending on local jurisdiction.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substance_abuse#cite_note-mosby-1) Other definitions of drug abuse fall into four main categories: public health definitions, mass communication and vernacular usage, medical definitions, and political and criminal justice definitions.

More resources to use for this topic

<http://alcoholism.about.com/cs/drugs/a/aa030425a.htm>

<http://www.google.co.za/search?hl=en&biw=1276&bih=801&defl=en&q=define:substance+abuse&sa=X&ei=DweTTcDxMMGeOsvBuHk&ved=0CCEQkAE>