COCAINE & CRACK

A powerful stimulant with heart risks at any age.

Know the Basics

What it is

A powerful stimulant made from the coca plant. Powder cocaine is usually snorted. Crack is a form that's smoked.

Short high, hard crash

Cocaine brings a brief, intense high, then a crash. It raises heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature.

Heart danger at any age

Cocaine can cause heart attacks, strokes and seizures, even in young, healthy people and even on first use.

Often mixed with fentanyl

Much of the cocaine supply is contaminated with fentanyl. Many cocaine overdose deaths also involve opioids.

Worse with alcohol

Together, alcohol and cocaine form cocaethylene, a substance that's even harder on the heart.

BY THE NUMBERS

99.8%+

of Indiana students in every grade, 7th–12th, did **not** use cocaine or crack in the past month.
2026 Indiana Youth Survey

0.2%

of Indiana 12th graders used cocaine or crack in the past month, a significant drop from 0.4% in 2024.
2026 Indiana Youth Survey

1.4%

of U.S. 12th graders used cocaine in the past **year** in 2025, up from 0.9% in 2024.
Monitoring the Future 2025 (national)

Data Check: Using These Numbers Right

- **Indiana down, nation up? Not so fast.** Indiana measures the past month and the national survey measures the past year, so the two trends can't be compared directly.
- **One question, two forms.** The Indiana survey combines cocaine and crack into a single item.
- **Tiny numbers:** 0.2% is about 1 student in 500. Say it that way, and don't build a campaign around a change this small.

Laws & Safety in Indiana

- **Possessing cocaine is a felony** in Indiana, and dealing carries much heavier penalties.
- **Emergency signs:** chest pain, seizure, overheating, or slow breathing if opioids are mixed in. Call 911, and give naloxone (Narcan) if they're hard to wake.
- **Aaron's Law** protects people who give naloxone in good faith, call 911 and cooperate from certain charges.

Campaign Angles

- **Lead with the majority:** nearly every Indiana student stays cocaine-free.
- **Bust the myth:** cocaine isn't a "party drug" without risk, and the supply is often laced with fentanyl.
- **Teach response skills:** overdose signs, calling 911 and naloxone.

Sources: 2026 Indiana Youth Survey, Prevention Insights, IU School of Public Health-Bloomington; Monitoring the Future 2025, University of Michigan/NIDA; National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); CDC; Indiana Code.