



If you have any questions about alcohol or other drugs, call:

Illinois Department of Human Services
Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

1-866-213-0548 (toll-free Voice)

1-866-843-7344 (toll-free TTY)

If you have questions about Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) programs or services please call or visit your local Family Community Resource Center (FCRC). We will answer your questions. If you do not know where your FCRC is or if you are unable to go there, you may call the automated helpline 24 hours a day at:

1-800-843-6154

1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

You may speak to a representative between:
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday (except state holidays)

Visit our website at:
www.dhs.state.il.us



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DEPRESSANTS

(Barbituates & Benzodiazipines)

Facts You Should Know About



Depressant drugs are drugs that depress the brain and central nervous system. These depressants can slow the body and mind down. Barbituates and Benzodiazepines are depressants. They have a sedative, hypnotic, anticonvulsant, or anesthetic effect. They are most commonly found in the form of multi-colored capsules and can be legally prescribed by a doctor to treat disorders like sleeplessness, anxiety, tension, and epileptic seizures.

Slang Terms:

Barbs	Red devils
Yellow jackets	Block busters
Reds and blues	Christmas trees
Rainbows	Stumblers
Sleepers	Goof balls
Downers	Pinks

Methods of Intake:

Swallowed	Injected
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THE HIGH:

Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines create a sense of euphoria and relaxation. They are also used in combination with stimulants such as cocaine, amphetamines, and crystal meth/crank to reduce the unpleasant effects of these stimulants.

THE LOW:

Tolerance develops quickly and larger doses are used, increasing the danger of an overdose. If an overdose occurs or if these drugs are taken with other drugs like alcohol, death may result due to the depression of the respiratory center in the brain.

Side Effects:

Slurred speech	Shallow breathing
Sluggishness	Fatigue
Dilated pupils	Impairment of memory
Irritability	Paranoia
Impairment of judgement	
Suicidal ideation	
Lack of coordination	

Withdrawal Symptoms:

Tremors	Elevated blood pressure
Elevated Pulse	Sweating
Seizures	Eating Disorders
Hallucinations	Vomiting
Sleep disorders	Disorientation

Sources:

- <http://www.drugfreeamerica.org> ;
- <http://www.encarta.msn.com/find/Concise.asp?ti=001A0000> ;
- <http://www.lec.org/DrugSearch> ;
- <http://www.hfni.gsehd.gwu.edu/~sapc/barbiturates.htm> ;
- <http://www.ric.goer.state.ny.us/wbt/drugfree/drugs/depressa.html>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITY LOCATOR

If you would like to know what substance abuse treatment providers are in your community, contact one of the following helplines:

- 1-800-662-HELP
- 1-800-662-9832 (Espanol)
- 1-800-228-0427 (TTY)

OR, visit the following website:

<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/TreatmentLocator>