

Effects of Depressants on the Body

Depressants are a class of psychoactive drugs that affect the brain and slow down the activity of the central nervous system, reducing an individual's alertness, increasing the opportunity for accidents, as their reactions are slowed. It also slows down an individual's breathing and heart rate.

Depressant drug examples include:
Alcohol
Cannabis
Heroin
Extensive use of medicinal codeine

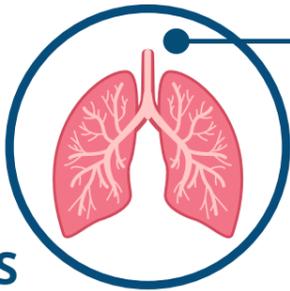
Lower dose effects include: reduced inhibitions, enhanced mood and slowed reaction times.



BRAIN

Whereas, higher doses may cause impaired judgement and coordination, blackouts and memory loss. For some individuals, higher doses may also result in irritability, paranoia, psychosis and suicidal thoughts.

This psychosis is apparent after strong Cannabis use.



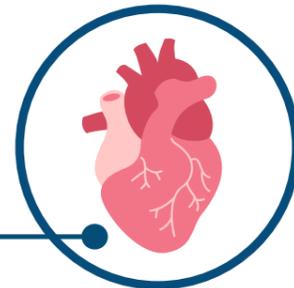
LUNGS

Slowed, irregular or shallow breathing, causing a lack of oxygen which ultimately, reduces brain function. A mixture of certain drugs could lead to apnea (stopping breathing) and death.



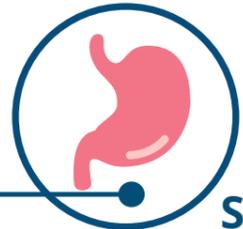
BLADDER

Urinary retention, in which the individual cannot empty all the urine from their bladder.



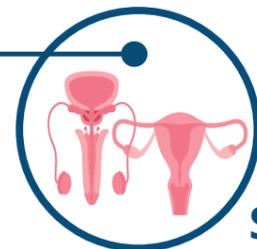
HEART

Slowed pulse and low blood pressure.



STOMACH

Stomach upset including nausea and vomiting. Food cravings especially after Cannabis.



SEXUAL ORGANS

Depressant drugs have different effects. Cannabis nicknamed the 'Happy Horny, Hungry' drug. Whereas, other depressants lead to impaired sexual function and loss of libido. Long-term use may also lead to infertility.

Tolerance, in which more and more drug is needed to produce the usual effects, can develop rapidly, and 'psychological dependence' occurs. Addiction, the next step means a person cannot function without that drug.