

**THE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE
DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Fay is a former police officer, investigator, instructor, and training administrator.

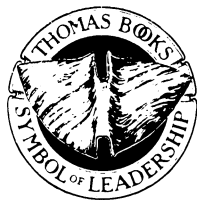
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THE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA

By
JOHN J. FAY



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PREFACE

The concern of Americans with drug and alcohol abuse runs wide and deep. On a personal level are the millions who live, work, or associate with abusers, and then there are the practitioners in medicine, sociology, and criminology who deal with it on a professional level.

While most people will agree that substances abuse is a proper object of national concern, there is at the same time considerable disagreement about the nature of the problem and what should be done about it. A curious aspect of this circumstance is the lack of a working vocabulary for communicating among ourselves concerning the issue. For example, the term “abuse” may mean for one person “wrongdoing” and for another “illness.”

This book was written to help fill that particular gap in our understanding of drug and alcohol abuse. Lay persons and professionals alike will find in these pages the basic terms and concepts so vital to clear communications. Without a common frame of reference, we can't even begin to delineate the problems, much less carry out coherent strategies.

The reader will find many unique perspectives and a diversity of language that extends from the coarse jargon of the illicit drug subculture to the complex dialect of pharmacology. Insights to the special worlds of addicts, traffickers, police officers, jurists, and others are presented, and examples are offered where they seem to be needed.

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- A-bomb.** a marihuana cigarette laced with heroin or opium.
- absolute alcohol.** the calculated amount of alcohol, free from water and other substances, in beverages such as beer, wine, and distilled spirits.
- absorption.** the passage of chemical compounds, such as nutrients or drugs, through bodily membranes, such as the intestinal lining or the skin, into the bloodstream.
- abstinence.** the total avoidance of a behavior or substance, especially with regard to food, intoxicating drinks, or drugs.
- abstinence syndrome.** the group of physical symptoms experienced by an addict when the addictive drug is withdrawn. The syndrome varies according to the drug abused. In narcotics abuse, the symptoms include watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, and perspiration from 8 to 12 hours after the previous dose. This is followed by restlessness, irritability, loss of appetite, insomnia, goose flesh, tremors, and finally yawning and severe sneezing. These symptoms peak at 48 to 72 hours, and are followed by nausea, vomiting, weakness, stomach cramps, and possibly diarrhea. Heart rate and blood pressure are elevated. Chills alternating with flushing and excessive sweating are characteristic. Pains in the bones and muscles of the back and extremities occur as do muscle spasms and kicking movements. Suicide is a possibility, and without treatment the symptoms may continue for 7 to 10 days. Also called the withdrawal syndrome.
- abuse potential.** the tendency for a certain percentage of individuals taking a drug to fall into abuse patterns; the tendency of a particular drug to be susceptible to abuse.
- Acapulco gold.** a potent strain of marihuana, so named for its color and the region where it is grown.
- acetaminophen.** a widely used nonprescription drug, sold under many trade names (e.g., Tylenol), that relieves mild-to-moderate pain and reduces fever. It contains no aspirin and is frequently used in place of aspirin; for example, to avoid the side effects of gastrointestinal upset sometimes associated with aspirin use.
- acetanilid.** a pain-relieving, fever reducing drug the use of which has been largely discontinued because of its toxicity.
- acetone.** a volatile ketone hydrocarbon commonly used as a solvent in such products as fingernail polish remover and plastic cements. It is a commonly abused inhalant.
- acetyl morphine.** an opium derivative classified as a Schedule I controlled substance.
- acetylation.** the process of introducing an acetyl molecular group into an organic compound; for example, the acetylation of morphine produces diacetylmorphine or heroin.
- acetylcholine.** a chemical that is an important neurotransmitter in the body, functioning in the transmission of impulses between nerve cells and between nerve cells and muscle.
- acetyldihydrocodeine.** an opium derivative classified as a Schedule I controlled substance.
- acetylmethadol.** an opiate classified as a Schedule I controlled substance.
- acid.** LSD.
- acid-base balance.** the normal equilibrium between acids and alkalis in the body maintained by buffer systems in the blood and the regulatory activities of the lungs and kidneys in excreting wastes to prevent the buildup of excessive acids (acidosis) or alkalis (alkalosis) in the blood and other tissues. With a normal acid-base balance in the body, the blood is slightly alkaline, registering 7.35–7.45 on the pH scale (where 7 is neutral and above 7 alkaline).
- acid head.** a user of hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD.
- ack-ack.** to dip the end of a cigarette in heroin powder, light it, and smoke it.