

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

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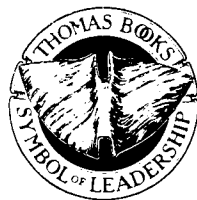
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THE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA

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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**THE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE
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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.

ACT. Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics.

acting-out-behavior. carrying repressed impulses into action; indulging or manifesting some forbidden or detrimental behavior by a patient in treatment who experiences trouble in talking about a conflict in a therapeutic session.

More broadly, unconsciously showing feelings, not in words but in action, as in impulsively breaking something without admitting anger.

activated charcoal. residue from the destructive distillation of various organic materials which has been treated to increase its absorptive power. Activated charcoal is used as an antidote in drug overdose and poisoning cases.

active ingredient. the alkaloid or chemical in a plant that produces mind-altering and toxic effects. Cocaine, for example, is the active ingredient of coca leaf. Although active ingredients may be responsible for many of the effects of drug plants, they do not exactly reproduce those effects and in pure form have higher toxicity and potential for abuse. Also called active principle or active constituent.

actuarial prediction. a set of methods for searching and identifying homogeneous subtypes or classes of individuals, and for predicting or understanding their behavior with a clinically and socially significant degree of precision. The methodology is more in the tradition of insurance research and population surveys than of psychology or sociology, in which one develops actuarial tables in order to predict such attributes as probability of a tobacco smoker's death at a given age. In psychological testing, it is used to predict a diagnostic classification from a series of test scores.

acute. intense and of short duration.

acute brain disorder. a disease syndrome resulting from temporary impairment of brain tissue function due to drugs, injury, or organic disease. Sometimes called acute brain syndrome.

ADAMHA. Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration.

addict. one who has acquired the habit of

using narcotics to such an extent that reasonable self-control has been lost; a nebulous term that generally refers to one who habitually uses drugs, especially morphine or heroin, to the extent that cessation causes severe physical or psychological trauma or both.

addict files. files maintained by the Drug Enforcement Administration which identify persons who have been arrested by any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency on a charge of illicit drug use.

addiction. a state of periodic or chronic intoxication produced by the repeated consumption of a drug. Addiction characteristics include an overpowering desire or need to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means, a tendency to increase the dose, a psychic and generally a physical dependence on the effects of the drug, and an effect detrimental to the individual and to society. Also, to give or bind a person to one thing or another. Generally used in the drug field to refer to chronic, compulsive, or uncontrollable drug use, to the extent that a person cannot or will not stop the use of some drug. Beyond this, the term is ambiguously used with a wide variety of often arbitrary meanings and connotations, and sometimes used interchangeably with, sometimes in contrast to, two other ill-defined terms, habituation and (drug) dependence. The former imprecisely refers to some lesser form of chronic drug use, the latter refers to a psychological or physical origin, often in varying combinations depending on the drug. It usually implies a strong (psychological) dependence and (physical) dependence resulting in a withdrawal syndrome when use of the drug is stopped. Many definitions place primary stress on psychological factors, such as loss of self-control and overpowering desires, i.e., addiction is any state in which one craves the use of a drug and uses it frequently. Others use the term as a synonym for physiological dependence. Still others see it as a combination.

- addiction-prone theory.** a theory of addiction holding that only certain kinds of individuals with specific psychological affinities that are satisfied by opiate narcotics will take favorably to these drugs and will continue to use them in the face of severe social opposition. More recently, the addiction-prone theory has been discounted by researchers who argue that addicts do not make up a homogeneous group but, rather, reflect divergent personality configurations.
- addictive effect.** the action obtained when the combined effect of two separate entities, such as drugs, taken together is the sum of the two separate effects.
- add-on prescription.** a prescription that has been used by a dishonest pharmacist to add-on drugs not authorized by the prescribing physician. Add-on prescriptions are used by unscrupulous pharmacists to account for drugs they have diverted to illegal channels.
- Adipex.** the trade name for phentermine hydrochloride which is regulated under the Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule IV stimulant.
- adrenergic.** indicating a relationship to epinephrine, its release, or its actions, especially in association with the sympathetic autonomic nervous system. Also called sympathomimetic.
- adrenergic system.** a system through which nerve impulses travel across neurons and their connecting synapses. The system is so-called because of its dependence on adrenergic agents (epinephrine, norepinephrine, and dopamine) that facilitate the neurotransmission process.
- adulteration.** to make a drug inferior or impure by adding an improper substance; for example, the cutting of cocaine with sugars and cheap local anesthetics to make more of the substance available for sale. Drugs are often adulterated by more active (and less expensive) substances to make users think they are getting a more potent drug. In urine testing, the addition of a foreign substance to a urine specimen for the purpose of confounding the analysis.
- adverse drug reaction.** a negative somatic or psychological reaction to drug taking. A major problem in drug research has been the lack of agreement concerning what actually constitutes an adverse reaction. Many studies do not distinguish between types of adverse reactions, or they use subjective or poorly defined definitions.
- aerosol.** a chemical compound and a gas propellant in a can with a valve through which the substance is dispensed as a suspension of ultramicroscopic solid or liquid particles. Many abused inhalants are dispensed in an aerosol form.
- affect.** a broad class of mental processes referring to a person's emotional feeling or mood, often used interchangeably with emotions; immediately expressed and observed emotion. Historically, affect has been distinguished from cognition and volition. Affect can be an important factor in drug intoxication.
- African black.** marihuana so called because of its color and origin.
- aftercare.** in drug abuse treatment, the package of services provided the client after successful discharge from the program; community interventions designed to permit a client's effective integration/ reintegration into society. Aftercare activities would include involvement in self-help groups, supported work programs, and staff followup contacts and interventions.
- agent buy.** a purchase of an illegal drug by an undercover police officer from a street peddler or dealer.
- agitation.** excessive restlessness suggestive of severe internal tension. It is manifested by pacing, hand wringing, fidgeting, and other forms of constant motor activity, and is one of the major symptoms of nonfatal drug overdose.
- agonist.** in drug abuse treatment, a substance that can bind at the molecular level with a receptor site to produce a pharmacological action. The interaction of the agonist at the receptor site can be displaced by its antagonist, which has the effect of completely or partially nullifying the pharmacological action of

the agonist. Heroin, for example, is an agonist and naltrexone is a pure antagonist to heroin. Cyclazocine is a mixed antagonist to heroin having some slight agonist properties of its own.

airhead. a drug user who has difficulty thinking or talking.

Air Opium. a nickname given to air operations that transport opium out of areas in Southeast Asia.

Al-Anon. a group that helps wives, husbands, and friends of alcoholic persons cope with related difficulties within and outside of the home.

Alateen. a sub-group of Al-Anon which assists young people whose lives have been affected by the alcoholism of a family member or close friend.

Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA). an umbrella agency within the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to its own administrative staff, ADAMHA consists of the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health.

alcoholic. a person unable to correct the physiological and other bodily disturbances which have accumulated as the result of his drinking.

alcoholic beverage. any beverage that contains ethyl alcohol (ethanol), the intoxicating sedative-hypnotic in fermented and distilled liquors. Made synthetically or produced naturally by fermentation of fruits, vegetables, or grains, alcohol is the oldest and the most widely used social drug in the world. A CNS depressant, depending on the concentration consumed, alcohol acts as an analgesic, tranquilizer, sedative-hypnotic, soporific, intoxicant, anesthetic, or narcotic. At low doses, it can act as a stimulant. At high doses, it can create stupor. Use with other depressants, or with antihistamines or solvents, can be extremely dangerous. Alcoholic beverages are usually classified into the fermented drinks beer and wine and distilled spirits. Fermented

drinks contain about 2 percent to 17 percent alcohol. Distilled spirits contain over 90 percent alcohol (e.g., grain alcohol).

alcoholic personality. a generally discredited term used loosely to describe a composite of personality traits which predispose a person to alcohol addiction. Such traits include maladjustment, sexual and emotional immaturity, low self-esteem, and low tolerance to frustration or tension.

alcoholism. a ubiquitously used term with a wide variety of ambiguous meanings about which there is little consensus. Sometimes used narrowly as a synonym for addiction and at other times to refer to alcohol abuse generally. Alcoholism is sometimes viewed as a disease syndrome, other times not. It is sometimes regarded as having physical dependence characteristics and sometimes as having psychological dependence characteristics. Other definitions include: a chronic and usually progressive disease, or a symptom of an underlying psychological or physical disorder, characterized by dependence on alcohol (manifested by loss of control over drinking) for relief from psychological or physical distress or for gratification from alcohol intoxication itself, and by a consumption of alcoholic beverages sufficiently great and consistent to cause physical or mental or social or economic disability; a learned or conditioned dependence on alcohol that irresistibly activates resort to alcohol whenever a critical internal or environmental stimulus occurs; any use of alcoholic beverages that causes any damage to the individual or society or both; a chronic disease, manifested by implicative drinking, so as to cause injury to the drinker's health or his general functioning.

Alice B. Toklas. a brownie with marijuana baked in it.

alienation. an individual's feeling of dissociation or estrangement from the surrounding society. Alienation may arise from feelings of powerlessness, normlessness, meaninglessness, depersonalization, isolation, or self-estrangement.

alkali. any substance that in solution gives