

Appendix 4

What are the health impacts?

Some of the main health effects of drug misuse include:

- Lung disease and lung cancer
- Respiratory problems
- High blood pressure
- Impotence
- Infertility
- Depression and other mental health problems
- Extreme weight loss and malnutrition
- HIV
- Hepatitis B & C
- Liver damage
- Kidney damage
- Brain damage

Injecting drug users are at risk of contracting hepatitis B, C and HIV due to the risks associated with dirty / sharing needles and other risky behaviour e.g. unprotected sex.

[Guardian - Health timebomb as rising cocaine use threatens heart problems in young](#)

[BBC News - Cocaine users 'ending up in A&E'](#)