



POPPERS:

Poppers are small bottles filled with liquid chemicals called alkyl nitrites. They're usually sniffed straight from the bottle and deliver a short, sharp high. Poppers are often sold in sex shops, clubs and gay bars.

Slang: Street names for drugs can vary. Ram, Thrust, Rock Hard, Kix, TNT, Liquid Gold

Appearance and use

Poppers is in a glass bottle and usually have brand names like Ram, Thrust and Rock Hard. You sniff from the bottle and will feel the effects straight away – this will faded quickly.

The effects

- Poppers will give you an initial head rush that lasts a short time, about 2 minutes.
- It can extend orgasms and some say it can make erections last longer.

The law

Amyl nitrite (the ingredient in Poppers) is controlled under the Medicines Act. Possession is not illegal but supply can be an offence.

Cost

£2 - £5 per bottle

The risks

- After sniffing popper, you can feel sick, faint and weak. It can also give you a bad headache after.
- While you might experience short term sexual effects, some men can struggle getting an erection after sniffing poppers.
- Poppers are toxic and can kill you if you swallow them.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS:

The male hormone, testosterone, is an anabolic steroid. The effects of the other anabolic steroids are often very similar to the effects of testosterone.

Slang: Street names for drugs can vary. 'Roids'.

Appearance and use

Anabolic steroids can be bought as tablets to be swallowed or as a liquid which is injected. Steroids are common amongst body builders and athletes and are used in doses up to 100x those recommended.

The effects

- Sports enthusiasts claim steroids make them able to train harder and help them to build muscle.
- You can become psychologically addicted to steroids, using them while you know they are harmful to you.
- You may also withdraw when you stop using them, experiencing headaches, lethargy and depression.

The law

Anabolic steroids are Class C drugs. You can get them with a doctor's prescription unless they are imported legally for personal use. You can get up to 14 years for possession with intent to supply.

Cost

Approximately £20 for 100 tablets.

The risks

- You can become more aggressive, violent and experience mood swings if you abuse steroids.
- It can stunt your growth if you start using young.
- If you inject, you are at risk of experiencing vein damage, and if you choose to share needles, you can also contract HIV/AIDs and hepatitis virus infections.
- As a male, if you use steroids regularly you can develop bad acne, have problems getting an erection and grow breasts.
- As a female, if you use steroids regularly you can also develop bad acne, facial, a deep voice, shrinking breasts, and changes in your sex drive.