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Husky headlines: January 2012

Northeastern University - Office of Prevention and Education at Northeastern

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Alcohol & Drugs

What could happen if I mix Alcohol with other drugs?

Mixing Alcohol with other drugs (legal or not), can lead to a variety of unintended consequences. Often times people are not aware of what the potential interactions may be, and can find themselves in situations that are undesirable and potentially harmful. Take a look at some of the information below, and as always, please contact OPEN with any questions!

Medication & Alcohol

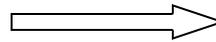
<i>ASPRIN</i>	Intensifies Alcohol's effects and is very irritating to the stomach
<i>ACETAMINOPHEN</i>	Increases drowsiness and can create liver problems
<i>ANTI-INFLAMATORY, NON-STEROID</i>	Possibility for stomach irritation, bleeding or ulcer, and can create liver problems
<i>ANTIBIOTICS</i>	Reduces the medication's effectiveness
<i>ANTIDEPRESSANTS</i>	Increases sedation, increases depression, increases intoxication effect, possible blood pressure changes
<i>ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES</i>	Intoxication is felt more quickly and lasts longer
<i>NARCOTIC PAIN RELIEVERS</i>	Enhances the sedative effect of both substances, increasing the risk of death from overdose
<i>SEDATIVES</i>	Alcohol can prolong the sedative effects of barbiturates and can sometimes lead to drowsiness, low heart rate, coma or fatal respiratory depression

Other Drugs & Alcohol

• Marijuana & Alcohol:

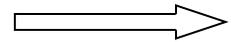
For most people, the effects of mixing alcohol and marijuana depend on a few things: Which substance is used first, AND the amount of each consumed.

ALCOHOL then MARIJUANA



MAGNIFIES THE ALCOHOL EFFECTS

MARIJUANA then ALCOHOL



MASKS THE ALCOHOL EFFECTS

Drinking first and then smoking magnifies the effects of alcohol by 4 times.³ It can lead to feeling nauseous or "getting the spins," becoming disoriented, and experiencing memory loss and motor impairment.

Smoking first and then drinking masks the effects of the alcohol. This can be risky because people may over-drink to try to feel the effects of the alcohol.

Depressants & Alcohol:

A SYNERGISTIC EFFECT or...1 + 1 = 3 to 10 (or more)

When you mix alcohol with depressants, the depressant effect is multiplied and slows down your central nervous system. This mixture can create a serious and potentially fatal level of depression by slowing down major organs like your heart and respiratory system; ultimately resulting in complete organ failure if there is enough of the depressants present.

Stimulants & Alcohol:

A MASKING EFFECT

When you mix alcohol with stimulants, the stimulants mask the effects of how your body is experiencing the alcohol. Depending on how much is consumed, over the course of however many hours, your Blood Alcohol Levels may feel inaccurate due to the fact the stimulants are interrupting the body's natural ability to process the alcohol and send you the appropriate messages. This mixture can create potentially fatal situations due to a tendency to drink more to try and achieve the desired effects of the alcohol. This increases the risk of having an alcohol emergency.

