

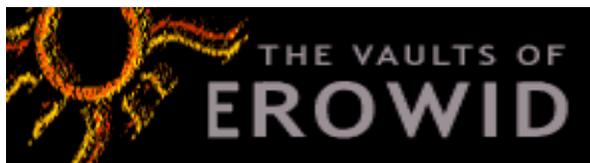
Drug and Poison Information Center (DPIC) DrugScope

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Erowid.org ~ an overview

Sara Stover RPh

Professionals involved in substance abuse treatment and education have a myriad of traditional resources available to find scientifically accurate information. It can be more difficult though to find anecdotal information that might help identify trends or developing issues. People who are going to use psychoactive drugs anyway also do not have a lot of places to find more comprehensive information. One website that can be helpful for these purposes is Erowid.org.



The Erowid website was created to provide information about psychoactive plants, chemicals, and related issues. Erowid is a created word meaning "Earth Wisdom." The founders go by the names Earth Erowid and Fire Erowid. The website developers believe that psychoactive drugs play a positive role in many people's lives, and they seek to provide balance to the risks and problems of psychoactives. The website is funded through donations. Usage figures from the website report an average of 55,000 visitors to the site daily, and they estimate more than 12 million visitors yearly.

It is helpful for professionals to understand the kind of information readily available to people who use these products.

The following types of information can be found on the Erowid website:

- Research and journal articles (some full text or links)
- Experience reports posted by users
- Product images
- Media coverage
- Legal summaries
- Government resources
- Non-English resources
- Creative writing such as poetry, fiction and satire

The information about various psychoactive substances is pulled together from a variety of sources from peer-reviewed scientific articles to purely anecdotal information. Per the website, some of the information has never been published anywhere else (such as dosage information about uncommon illicit recreational drugs) and is based primarily on testimony of those who have used a substance. This website also provides information on obscure psychoactive substances that may not be available or readily found through other venues. Awareness of the information available on Erowid.org can be helpful to professionals who develop abuse prevention and treatment plans. Note: Those using this website are advised to consider the origin, quality, and source of information.

How many ways can you say Cocaine?

Sheila Goertmoeller RPh, CSPI, ICPS

There are many slang words in existence for various drugs of abuse. Learning the terminology can be an invaluable tool for health care professionals, law enforcement officials, teachers and parents. Following is a list of the many slang terms used to describe cocaine. It should be noted that slang words for cocaine continually change and evolve, and this list is by no means all inclusive. Another important point to note is that many drugs share the same slang name to add to the confusion.

- **All American Drug:** Cocaine
- **Base:** Cocaine free base
- **Beam me up Scottie:** Cocaine + PCP
- **Blow:** Cocaine
- **Coke:** Cocaine
- **Crack:** Cocaine free base
- **Flake:** Cocaine
- **Foo Foo:** Cocaine
- **Free-Base:** Cocaine free base
- **Ghost busting:** Searching for cocaine availability

- **Pimp:** Cocaine
- **Readyrock:** Crack cocaine free base
- **Rock:** Cocaine free base
- **Sleigh Ride:** Cocaine
- **Snow:** Cocaine
- **Snowball:** Cocaine and heroin
- **Toot:** Cocaine
- **Twinkie:** Crack cocaine
- **White Horse:** Cocaine or heroin
- **Witch:** Cocaine or heroin

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'Un-Bath Salt Update'

As a follow up to our Spring 2011 publication on bath salts, Ohio retailers can no longer sell these synthetic recreational drugs. As of October, 2011 the following chemicals commonly used in 'bath salt' products now bear a **Schedule I rating in the state of Ohio: Mephedrone, 3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV), Methyone, 4-MMC, 3-FMC, 4-4, FMC.** Schedule I means that the drug has no accepted medical use and has a high rate of abuse. Possession and trafficking of bath salts will now fall under the felony penalties for Schedule I controlled substances such as cocaine. In addition: 5 synthetic cannabinoids have also been categorized as Schedule I substances including: **JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH 200, CP – 47,497, CP- 47,497 C8 homologue.**

In addition to the legality update, it is important to note that these products often referred to as 'bath salts' actually may be under numerous other product types / names including: plant food, research chemicals, air fresheners, stain removers, scratch removers and more. These products contain hallucinogenic amphetamine drugs and are highly dangerous. New products may not yet be illegal.

