Recreational Drugs

• Let’s go through the chart
• Please share stories about yourself, your friends, your “friends”, your family, movies you have seen, and books you have read. Don’t be shy, just anonymize the story.
• Please ask questions
Recreational Drugs Chart

• Read chart
• Share
• Ask questions
Recreational drugs

Other recreational drugs:

• *Salvia divinorum* – Mechanism: probably a κ opioid receptor agonist. Effects: convincing, enveloping hallucinations, strange emotions, thoughts, and sensations, strong emotions.

• *Amanita muscaria* – Mechanism: $\text{GABA}_A$ agonist (like benzodiazepines and barbiturates). Effects: Less vivid hallucinations, perceptual changes, somewhat sedating.
Recreational drugs

Other recreational drugs:

• Nicotine – Mechanism: nicotinic ACh receptor agonist. Effects: energy, clearer thought and memory, sometimes experienced as relaxing, especially by people who already have an addiction.

• Caffeine – Mechanism: adenosine receptor antagonist, inhibits the phosphodiesterase which breaks down cAMP. Effects: energy, wakefullness, alertness, concentration, headache relief.
Recreational drugs

Other recreational drugs:

• Methaqualone (Quaalude, Sopor), thalidomide, meprobamate (Milltown), carisoprodol (Soma), glutethimide, chloral hydrate (knockout drops, Micky), ethchlorvynol (Placidyl), methyprylon, primidone – Mechanism: GABA$_A$ agonism. Effects: Relaxation, euphoria.

• Muscle relaxants (cyclobenzaprine) – Mechanism: various. Effects: Relaxation, euphoria.
Good, authentic movies with drugs

• Blow
• Go
• Trainspotting
• Goodfellas
• Basketball Diaries
• Drugstore Cowboy
• Ray
• Leaving Las Vegas
• Less Than Zero
• Spun

Spoiler alert!
Good, authentic movies with drugs

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- Cocaine
- Ecstasy
- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Prescription opioids
- Heroin
- Alcohol
- Crack cocaine
- Methamphetamine
Good movies, inauthentic drug use

- Pulp Fiction
- Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
- The Big Lebowski
- Boogie Nights
- Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle
- Dude, Where’s My Car

Terrible movie, horribly inauthentic drug use:

- Requiem for a Dream
Discussion:
Drug Laws

What do you know about drug laws?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Should marijuana be legal?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Should marijuana possession just warrant a ticket, like it does now in Massachusetts?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Should medical marijuana be legal?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Agonist substitution?
Methadone clinics?
Heroin clinics?
Discussion:
Drug Laws

Should salvia be illegal?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Should alcohol be illegal?
Discussion:
Drug Laws

Should we lower the drinking age to 18?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Is it good that we keep pseudoephedrine cold medicines behind the counter?
Discussion: Drug Laws

Should there be any legal access at all to mind-expanding or recreational drugs, like psychedelics? What about heroin?
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