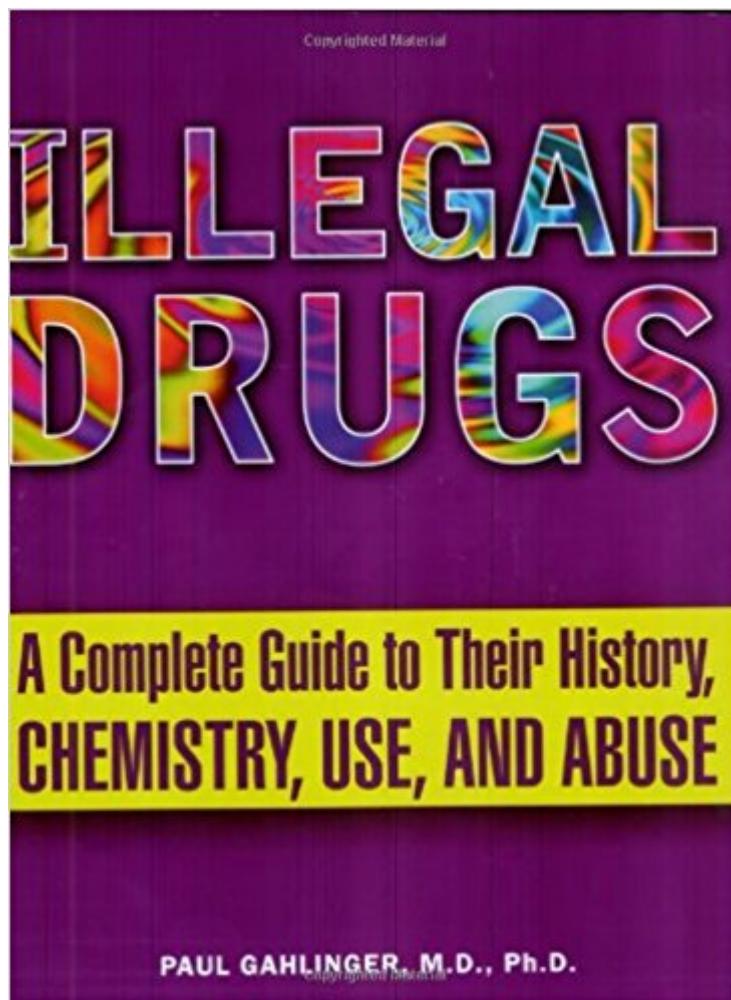


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# Illegal Drugs: A Complete Guide To Their History, Chemistry, Use, And Abuse



## **Synopsis**

Does Ecstasy cause brain damage? Why is crack more addictive than cocaine? What questions regarding drugs are legal to ask in a job interview? When does marijuana possession carry a greater prison sentence than murder? *Illegal Drugs* is the first comprehensive reference to offer timely, pertinent information on every drug currently prohibited by law in the United States. It includes their histories, chemical properties and effects, medical uses and recreational abuses, and associated health problems, as well as addiction and treatment information. Additional survey chapters discuss general and historical information on illegal drug use, the effect of drugs on the brain, the war on drugs, drugs in the workplace, the economy and culture of illegal drugs, and information on thirty-three psychoactive drugs that are legal in the United States, from caffeine, alcohol and tobacco to betel nuts and kava kava.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Plume; Updated edition (December 30, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452285054

ISBN-13: 978-0452285057

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 113 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #199,683 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Reference > Drug Guides #204 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Drug Dependency #277 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Reference

## **Customer Reviews**

a ton of information ... for anyone who wants the facts, I'd say this is the one book to find them. -- Bookviews --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Dr. Paul Gahlinger has been involved in drug research since 1984 and is a professor of medicine at the University of Utah. He is a certified substance abuse medical review officer, an FAA aviation medical examiner, and a consultant for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center, and a passionate spokesperson on drug issues.

Illegal Drugs: A Complete Guide to their History, Chemistry, Use, and Abuse by Paul Gahlinger is a book that classifies and gives information about many different illegal drugs, common and uncommon. I have learned a lot of new information from this book, and have built on the information I previously had. This book was written to inform people about the effects of drugs. This book presents information in a reader friendly way and has many side notes and references to history and different people. Although the writer does not have a high school degree, he was accepted into college and has a B.A. in Philosophy, M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology, M.P.H. in Epidemiology, and M.D. degrees. The author classifies each drug by category, which is helpful. He has many statistics to back up his arguments. Non information stated conflicts with what I have learned in the past. I do not believe this book is to tell people to not do drugs. The book does a good job of informing people about drugs, not telling them what to do. This book has increased my understanding of illegal drugs. I would recommend it to anyone in a heartbeat.

Illegal Drugs: A Complete Guide to Their History Chemistry, Use, and Abuse is written by Paul Gahlinger. The book is about the chemistry behind many of the more common illegal drugs. Gahlinger is an American scientist, physician, and author from Greenbay, Wisconsin. While he did not finish high school, he was still able to go to college and receive degrees from Berkeley and UC Davis where he earned several awards. However, in 2014, he was forced to surrender his Utah medical license. The main point of this book is to inform readers of the effects and dangers of drugs. The book gives readers the background and uses of drugs that were illegal in the year of 2001 in the United States. Illegal Drugs reveals the scientific evaluation of these drugs, which are commonly misrepresented in society. Gahlinger's expertise on the world of drugs is a key for this book's revelations about the common day's abuse of drugs. The goal of Gahlinger's book is to represent the drugs from a scientific evaluation and publish facts relating to these drugs. This book correlates closely to high school chemistry, as it discusses the chemical properties, molecular structure, and formula of said drugs. It is relevant for a high school student because during this time, teenagers are likely to experiment with these illegal drugs. This book is impactful to a teenager, although I found it somewhat scattered and not put together. It does, however, handle the task of publishing information about these relevant and dangerous drugs. It seems to be a useful handbook for someone researching illegal drugs, although it could backfire and spark interest in them. While not a book one should just pick up at random, it can play a necessary purpose at times.

The book *Illegal Drugs A Complete Guide to Their History, Chemistry, Use, and Abuse* was written by Paul Gahlinger, M.D., Ph.D. Gahlinger is a professor at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. This book was assigned by my Advanced Chemistry teacher. We read it for class and take quizzes on the different chapters. The book, theme being illegal drugs, tries to increase awareness as well as understanding of the different types of drugs there are. The point is to inform the reader and further their knowledge on this controversial topic. Furthermore, the book has this feeling of fighting all the bad propaganda regarding legalizing or illegalizing drugs. This book does an amazing job of informing the reader as well as make the topic quite interesting. *Illegal Drugs* talks about a myriad of topics that surround the history, use, abuse, and chemistry of the drugs. The book starts with breaking the drugs into different topics for the first seven chapters or so and talk about different aspects that tie them together. For example, the first chapter talks about the discovery of drugs, the reasons why they're bad or illegal, and the author's personal opinion on whether the drug problem can be solved. Other overarching topics include the history of psychoactive drugs, the war on drugs, and the use and abuse of drugs. After these chapters, the author goes in specifically to each and every type of drug there is. Examples include amphetamines, cathinones, cocaine, and MDMA. Each chapter goes over the history, chemical make up, symptoms of use, overdose, and withdrawal, legal status, and what to do in case of an overdose. The chapters are extremely informative and thorough. It goes through everything that one may want to know about the drug. The intro to the book talks about the origins of drugs. It can go extremely deep in detail such as the estimated dates in which the drugs were in as well as explaining different cultures and their uses. The information is formatted in a way in which the reader can easily find a specific detail. When it goes to the individual drug chapters, Gahlinger provides a lot of knowledge such as bufotenine and its relatives. He talks about all the different natural variants and artificial versions. One interesting thing that I remembered was how these drugs can be found in the slimy mucus-like substance on bufo toad backs. One thing I must note is that the book isn't necessarily suited for one's pleasure reading. The book is more of a reference book for studies, research, or perhaps general curiosity. The facts are extremely interesting but the chapters format themselves to which the facts can be very repetitive and sometimes quite overwhelming. As I have said before, chapters 1-7 encompass several drugs under a general idea but those facts and ideas are repeated again in the individual chapter and sometimes and again and again in those chapters. After reading it for a certain amount of time, the book can get drawn out and a bit long. This book is extremely informative and a great buy for those in interest of this topic. It is especially great for students learning about the matter or

teachers trying to integrate some new things into their curriculum. The book does an amazing job of informing the reader on this controversial yet intriguing topic. The book is also helpful in drug related situations by giving steps to helping or treating drug related problems. Overall, a great buy and amazing reference book.

I am a student and my chemistry teacher assigned this book for my class to read. At first, I was a bit skeptical about this book (because it is literally about illegal drugs and their uses and uses), but it actually grew on me. Paul Gahlinger (an American scientist, physician, and author) does a great job explaining each drug in an interesting way and goes into detail on how the chemistry behind the drug affects the outcome. It even helped me understand my chemistry class a bit more too. This book is quite interesting and very out there. Not many chemistry books are made to be easily read by students, but this one is great! This was the last book (of the year) that my chemistry teacher assigned for us to read, and it is by far my favorite.

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