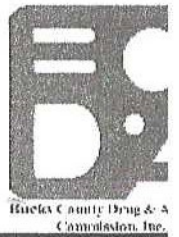


# SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF DRUG USE & ABUSE



Substances of Use and Abuse: Alcohol, Tobacco, Vaping, Marijuana (smoked, edibles, vape), Opiates (prescription drugs, heroin), Methamphetamines, Cocaine, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Synthetics (K2, Spice), Tranquilizers and Sedatives, Cough and Cold Medicine

## Physical Changes to Look For:

- Change in pupils
- Clenching teeth
- Nosebleeds/runny nose (not caused by allergies or cold)
- Sores, spots around mouth
- Unexplained physical health problems
- Wetting lips or excessive thirst (known as cotton mouth)
- Sudden or dramatic weight loss or gain
- Accidents/injuries/skin abrasions
- Sweatiness
- Slurred speech
- Gaunt and pasty skin
- Unusually tired

## Behavioral Changes to Look For:

- Mood changes
- Change in relationship (family and friends)
- Changes in behavior and personality
- Loss of interest in school and activities
- Concerns voiced by others
- Police contact
- Truancy
- Frequently breaks curfew
- Going out every night
- Asking for money (cash flow problems)
- Aggression
- Irritability
- Change in sleeping patterns- up all night, sleeping during the day
- Change in hygiene habits

## Items to Look For:

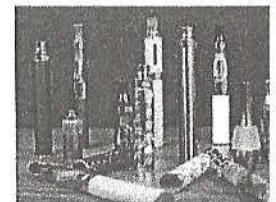
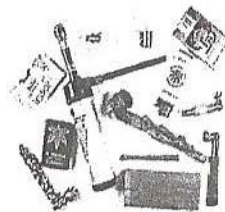
- Tin foil
- Tiny balloons
- Visine
- Brown or white powdery substances
- Butane lighters
- Vape pens, oils (can be disguised as flash drives)
- Small baggies often with a stamp on it
- Syringes (or orange cap from syringe)
- End of cigarette butts
- Missing spoons or spoons with blackened bottom
- Missing prescription drugs
- Missing alcohol or cigarettes
- Disappearance of money or valuables
- Smell in car, drug paraphernalia in car
- Pipes, rolling papers, small medicine bottles
- Unusual containers (cans aka stash cans can be disguised as aerosol or soda cans)
- Wrappers, or seeds left on surfaces (used clean marijuana like frisbees)

## Common Household Items Used:

**Huffing/Inhalants:** Nail polish, whipped cream and markers

**Medicine Cabinet:** Cough and cold medicine, antihistamines, mouthwash, hand sanitizers, laxatives, and diet pills

**Kitchen Cabinet:** Nutmeg and Vanilla Extract, and energy drinks



For more information, resources, and other questions, please call the Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.  
600 Louis Drive, Suite 102A Warminster, PA 18974 215-773-9313