

Designer Drugs

- Designer drugs include analogs of fentanyl and analogs of meperidine (synthetic heroin), analogs of amphetamines and methamphetamines (such as “Ecstasy”), and analogs of phenacyclidine.
- Illegal drugs are defined in terms of their chemical formulas. Underground chemists modify the molecular structure of certain designer drugs. These drugs can be several hundred times stronger than the drugs they are designed to imitate.
- The narcotic analogs can cause symptoms such as those seen in Parkinson’s disease—uncontrollable tremors, drooling, impaired speech, paralysis, and irreversible brain damage. Analogs of amphetamines and methamphetamines cause nausea, blurred vision, chills, or sweating, and faintness. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and paranoia. As little as one dose can cause brain damage. The analogs of phenacyclidine cause illusions, hallucinations, and impaired perceptions.