

THE HISTORY OF THE

CRACK & COCAINE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

IN THE UNITED STATES

Cocaine is one of the oldest, most potent and most dangerous stimulants in existence. Since before the birth of Christ to current day,

cocaine has gone from ancient Incans chewing it to counter the effects of their environment, to being used in religious ceremonies of the Peruvians, to being the number one killer of people during a boom in the 1980s. After it's spike, cocaine evolved into it's crystallized form in the mid-1980s, crack cocaine. A drug dealer's dream, crack cocaine was a cash cow that took hold of many inner-city, low socioeconomic households in the United States.

3000
B.C.

Cocaine

is used by the ancient Incans to counter the effects of living in the harsh climates of the Andes.

Until
15321855-
1859

Peruvians chew coca leaves during religious ceremonies. In 1532, this taboo is broken when Spanish soldiers invade Peru. **Laborers are supplied coca leaves** to help control and exploit them.

German chemist Friedrich Gaedcke extracts cocaine from the **Erythroxylon coca** plant. German chemist Albert Niemann perfects the extraction process in 1859.

1884

1886

1850s-
1900

Sigmund Freud

an Austrian psychoanalyst, publishes an article promoting the drugs benefits, calling it "magical." As a cocaine user he is a non-objective observer.

As a result of the drug's popularity, John Pemberton includes the leaves as an ingredient in his new soft drink, Coca-Cola. It's euphoric and energizing effects on the consumer skyrocket sales of Coca-Cola into the 1900s.

Cocaine is **mixed into elixirs, tonics, and wines**. During this period, prominent figures in society, such as Thomas Edison, promoted them. The film industry creates pro-cocaine messages that influence millions.

1903

1905

Snorting cocaine becomes popular. This prompts doctors and physicians to begin reporting cases of nasal damage.

The dangers of cocaine use become increasingly evident. Public pressure forces **The Coca-Cola Company** to **remove the drug** from their soft drink.

1912

1922

1970s

The U.S. government **reported 5,000 cocaine-related deaths** in one year. This is the United States' first cocaine epidemic.

Jones-Miller Act

(a.k.a. The Narcotic Drugs Import & Export Act) sponsored by Sen. Wesley L. Jones and Rep. John F. Miller is passed by the 67th United States Congress.

As **high amounts of cocaine flood the U.S. market**, drug dealers created **crack cocaine** as a cheaper way to sell cocaine. This new drug brought a short, intense high when smoked making it more addictive.

1980s

1982-
1983

Cocaine, traditionally the rich man's drug, becomes linked to poverty, crime, and **becomes America's deadliest** and addictive drug.

In 1982, the first crack house is discovered Miami, FL. Believing this to be a localized phenomenon, **the DEA dismisses it as an epidemic**. By 1983, crack began spreading to other major cities, such as New York.

Mid to Late
1980s

1986

TODAY

The number of **cocaine users spike from 4.2 million to 5.8 million**. This spikes crime in some major cities. By 1988, 32 percent of all homicides and 60% of drug-related homicides were tied to drugs.

Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986

established a disparity between the amount of crack and cocaine were needed to trigger certain criminal penalties.

Since its boom in the 1980s, cocaine and crack have spread globally. While the demand for the drugs are on the down-swing worldwide, **coca cultivation in Columbia has increased** in recent years. This may answer the question, "Where does cocaine come from?" Furthermore, the number of cocaine overdose deaths was at its highest in 2015.

If you or a loved one believe that long-term addiction treatment will be beneficial, contact GateHouse today at **(855) 448-3588**. You can **heal**, and we can **help** you achieve long-term sobriety through long-term treatment.

Sources:

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