LSD Effects

The average time for onset for LSD is 1 hour, but can range from 30-120 minutes. The primary effects last for 6-8 hours.

Positive effects include:
- increase in energy
- increase in associative and creative thinking
- mood lift
- increased awareness and appreciation of music
- increased awareness of senses
- closed and open eye visuals
- profound life-changing spiritual experiences

Neutral effects include:
- general change in consciousness
- pupil dilation
- difficulty focusing
- increased salivation and mucus production
- unusual body sensations (chills, goosebumps)
- unusual thoughts and speech
- change in perception of time
- quickly changing emotions

Some Facts About LSD

LSD is a very common psychedelic substance. It was discovered in 1938, and is one of the most potent mood-changing chemicals. It is manufactured from lysergic acid, which is a fungus that grows on rye and other grains, called ergot. LSD is odorless, colorless, and has a slight bitter taste. It comes in many forms including small squares of paper called blotters, pills, gelatin sheets, shapes such as pyramids or cubes, liquid, liquid sugar cubes, and powder. The more common blotter is a sheet of paper that is decorated with artwork or designs, perforated, and then soaked in liquid LSD and dried. It is more common because it is easy to produce, easy to conceal, and allows for less adulterant chemicals.

Each form contains different quantities and purifies of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). The standard dose of pure LSD is 50-150 ug, with 25-75 ug. being light, and 150-400 ug. being strong. A blotter is divided into 1/4” squares (called a tab) and generally contains between 30-100 ug. of LSD. Since the dilution can vary significantly from one batch to another, there is no exact way to know the dosage of a particular tab. A single drop of potent liquid LSD could be 50 times a normal dose, although it is normally diluted enough that one drop is equal to that of one dose. There is no way to gauge the potency of liquid LSD. A single square of gelatin LSD is normally stronger than a single blotter tab of LSD.

Since 1975 the Monitoring the Future Study (MTF) has been annually surveying almost 17,000 high school seniors nationwide to determine the trends in drug use, as well as measure attitudes and beliefs about using drugs. In 1997, 34.7 percent of seniors stated that they perceived great risk in using LSD once or twice, and 76.6 percent perceived great risk in using LSD regularly.
Negative effects include:

- anxiety
- tension, jaw tension
- increased perspiration
- nausea
- dizziness, confusion
- megalomania
- over-awareness and over-sensitization to music and noise
- paranoia, fear and panic
- unwanted and overwhelming feelings
- unwanted life-changing spiritual experiences
- flashbacks

information received from Erowid at www.erowid.org

More than 80 percent of the seniors surveyed disapproved of people trying LSD once or twice, and almost 93 percent disapproved of people taking LSD regularly. Close to 51 percent of these seniors said that it would be pretty easy to get LSD if they wanted it.

The 1996 LSD lifetime prevalence rate for 12 to 17 year-olds was 4.3 percent, and 13.9 percent for 18 to 25 year-olds.

- information received from NIDA at www.nida.nih.gov
- information and pictures received from Erowid at www.erowid.org

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