



Wall Street's Favorite Drugs

Courtney Comstock | May 10, 2011, 12:32 PM | 57,967 | 14



Here's one sign Wall Street won't get crushed by the recent regulation attacks.

The people on Wall Street are getting stronger, physically and mentally. From an informal survey of sources, we've learned that there's a bit of a health craze happening on Wall Street.

People are cleansing with juices and spending more hours at the gym to get in fighting shape.

Of course, vices call. But the drugs that Wall Streeters do use regularly are often performance-enhancing drugs. Rather than brain-eating drugs like heroin and ecstasy, Wall Street turns to drugs that will make them operate at 150%.

Out of our list of the 11 most popular drugs on Wall Street, there are only 3 drugs that are considered "depressants," (we included marijuana in that, although technically, it's a stimulant). Most of them purport to make you sharper, smarter, and in some cases, better looking (at least in your own opinion).



Image: Dean812 via Flickr

Lorazepam or Xanax

Type of drug: 3-hydroxy benzodiazepine

Prescribed for: Anxiety (short term)

Wall Street use: To calm, to counter-act and come down from uppers taken during the day, for courage

Effects: Lorazepam dissolves on your tongue and delivers a fast calm-down effect, kind of like a shot of alcohol without the loss of judgment and coordination.

When to take: Before a big meeting, or after a long day instead of alcohol. It would also work well before you appear in your after you get caught insider trading.



Lorazepam

Lexapro or Zoloft

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Type of drug: Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

Prescribed for: Anxiety (long term), depression

Wall Street use: For anxiety, depression, working too hard, hating your job (studies show an improvement of the subjective quality of life at work).

Effects: If it works, greater happiness. If you're lucky, weight loss.

When to take: Everyday as prescribed, otherwise it doesn't work.



Marijuana

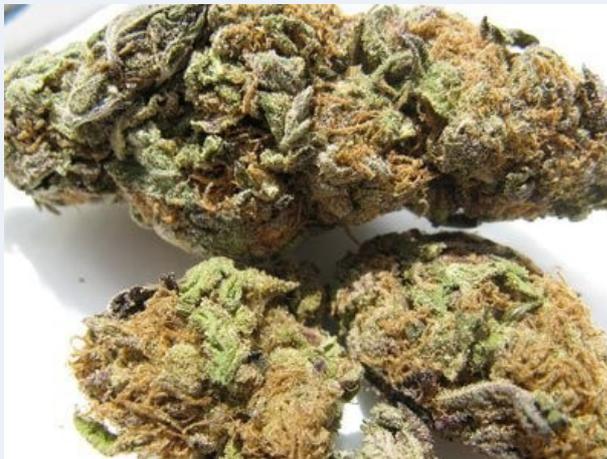
Type of drug: Psychoactive

Prescribed for: Pain, loss of hunger, anxiety (only in 16 states: California, Colorado, etc)

Wall Street use: To chill, laugh, beat boredom of not killing it.

Effects: Judgment loss, short-term memory loss, trouble with thinking and learning. Increased heart rate.

When to take: At the end of a long day, on the weekend. On Nantucket for 4th of July weekend.



Lipitor

Type of drug: statin

Prescribed for: Lowering cholesterol

Wall Street use: For older men, to maintain 18 hour work days at age 50, and eat well. Or for younger men, for whom bad cholesterol runs in the family.

Effects: Stabilizes plaque and prevents strokes

When to take: Every day, as prescribed.



Provigil

Type of drug: Analeptic



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Prescribed for: Narcolepsy (military soldiers and air force pilots who need to stay awake at night are rumored to use it).

Wall Street use:

Concentration, hangover cure

Effects: Feeling very awake, cognitive enhancing, improves memory in areas such as digit span, digit manipulation and pattern recognition.

When to take: In the morning after a long night. Studying for your Series 7, Series 63, CFA, etc.



Sources: [Modafinil](#), [cognitive effects study](#), [follow-up cognitive effects study](#), [effects on working memory study](#)

Adderall

Type of drug: A

psychostimulant and dopamine reuptake inhibitor and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor

Prescribed for: ADHD

Wall Street use:

Concentration, improved performance, hangover cure.

Effects: Increases heart beat, increases the amount of dopamine and norepinephrine in the brain. Weightloss. Directly affects the mesolimbic reward pathway in the brain. Similar to cocaine.



When to take: Not after 3 pm or you'll be up all night. The average half life is 10 hours in adults.

UH OH: There's [reportedly](#) a shortage of Adderrall right now.

Ritalin

Type of

drug: Psychostimulant

Prescribed for: ADD

Wall Street use: Performance enhancing, improving focus, attention, alertness, and for combating fatigue.

Effects: Increases the levels of dopamine and norepinephrine in the brain through reuptake inhibition of the monoamine transporters. Works by increasing the activity of the central nervous system.



When to take: When you need drugs to get you on your A-game.



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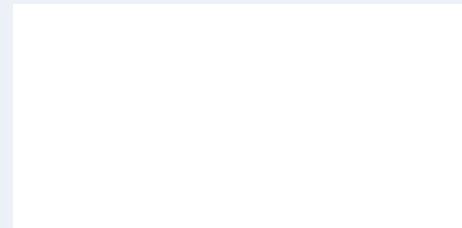


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Cocaine

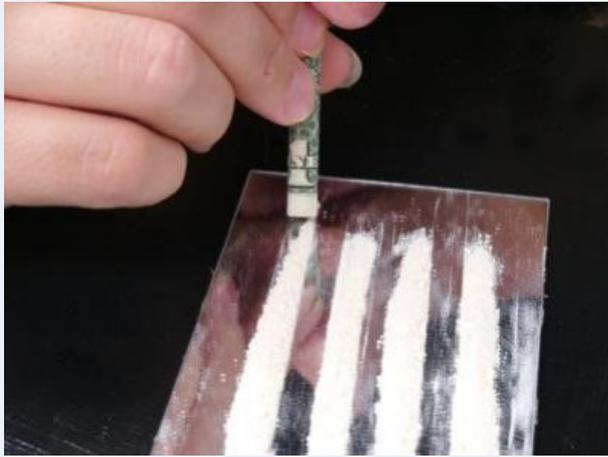
Type of drug: Serotonin–norepinephrine–dopamine reuptake inhibitor

Prescribed for: It is not prescribed. It is illegal.

Wall Street use: To improve a night out.

Effects: Like Adderall, it affects the mesolimbic reward pathway. It increases alertness, feelings of well-being and euphoria, energy and motor activity, feelings of competence and sexuality.

When to take: At night on the weekends, but only when you have absolutely no chance of getting caught with it.



Caffeine

Type of drug: Psychoactive stimulant

Prescribed for: Apnea in premature newborns

Wall Street use: Daily stimulant, appetite suppressant, work aid

Effects: Temporarily wards off drowsiness, restores alertness, stimulates awareness, and elevates your mood.

When to take: In the morning, at lunch, after dinner ... Whenever!

Source: [Medline](#)



Alcohol

Type of drug: Psychoactive

Prescribed for: Maybe in Ireland.

Wall Street use: Intoxication, courage.

Effects: The body metabolizes alcohol as an energy-providing nutrient. It then has depressive effects on the central nervous system including relaxation, impaired sensory and motor function, slowed cognition, and stupefaction. In the morning, dehydration. After years of use, liver and brain damage.

When to take: At night, on celebratory occasions.



Viagra

Type of drug: cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor

Prescribed for: Erectile dysfunction

Wall Street use: For erectile dysfunction, to improve sexual performance, to get it up after an Adderall-filled day or cocaine-filled night, to counteract the side effects of hair-loss drugs.

Effects: Ability to sustain a satisfactory erection, improved sexual performance, increased libido.

When to take: Before sex.



Don't do drugs! Lloyd Blankfein is watching you.

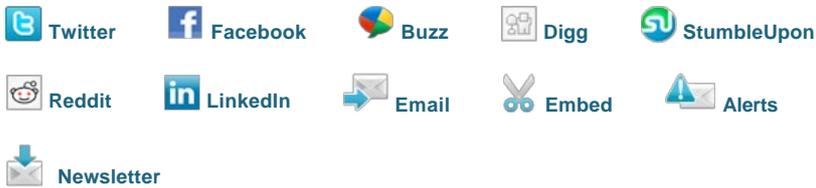
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Courtney Comstock

Contact:

e-mail: [use contact page](#)

AIM: [cstockatbi](#)

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The Water Cooler

14 Comments

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Andrew2 on [May 10, 1:57 PM](#) said:

19 1

I thought their favorite drug was Government Bailout?

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woah ! on [May 10, 2:00 PM](#) said:

9 1

@[Andrew2](#): Yeah, that too helps in performance (bonus) enhancement

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Comment flagged as offensive.

Anti-WallStreet on [May 10, 3:56 PM](#) said:

2 7

Yea your brain operates at 900% capacity but then you will have to always take the pill if you don't you get really really sick...

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Haven't we seen this movie already?

U take pills it will ALWAYS come back to bite you... in the form of a crash and burn

Huey Lewis on [May 10, 4:06 PM](#) said:

12 0

@[Anti-WallStreet](#): Man, are you out of touch. After years of looking, I finally found it...

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Anti-WallStreet on [May 10, 4:06 PM](#) said:

0 6

@[Huey Lewis](#): Found what? Sure as hell ain't yourself!

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cB on [May 10, 4:48 PM](#) said:

0 0

Where's the Altoids for PB?

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KM on [May 10, 4:55 PM](#) said:

3 0

"No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power"

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PJ O'Rourke

JK on [May 10, 6:46 PM](#) said:

0 1

Your "sources"? Come on. So you basically just made this up?

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Hmmm... Cocaine! on [May 10, 6:56 PM](#) said:

1 0

I was getting bored until I saw Cocaine. Back in the late 70's & early 80's it was THE drug of choice. Then in the 90's I saw those people again, looking like mall rats. ya gotta know when enough is enough.

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black swan on [May 10, 7:02 PM](#) said:



Lord Blankcheque and drugs:

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"When it comes to the non-stop screwing of the middle class, why should anyone begrudge the use of Viagra? It's no easy task maintaining one's status as America's biggest prick."

"We're very important," Blankfein is quoted as saying in The Times of London. "I know I could slit my wrists and people would cheer," he says, but no matter how they feel, we are "doing God's work".

CNA Classes Hawaii (URL) on [May 11, 2:50 AM](#) said:



Your "sources"? Come on. So you basically just made this up?CNA Classes Texas

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CNA Classes Texas (URL) on [May 11, 2:51 AM](#) said:



>>>.Where's the Altoids for PB?

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Jennifer on [May 17, 12:38 AM](#) said:



Ha, I've finally formed a message for that movie, maybe, condemning the use of drugs to get ahead, specifically targeted toward wall street? Ha ha, finally. Because, otherwise, that movie had no meaning.

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These drugs, wow. They symbolize what happens everywhere, with college students cheating and taking ADHD pills... It is strange though how you can manipulate the mind into performing exactly how you want it to. Now if only we could get rid of the side effects...

But there will always be side effects. Unless, unless there are none, so whatever it is gets mass produced, so everyone has it, so you're not really "ahead", like maybe, say, a multivitamin?

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