



# Coke Is It

May 1, 2002 By [Walter Armstrong](#)

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When cocaine is given to mice infected with HIV, the stimulant increases the virus' ability not only to reproduce (200-fold!) but also to infect CD4 cells. This UCLA AIDS Institute research helps explain the long-observed fact that HIVers who use coke or crack get sicker faster and have more opportunistic infections than do non-users. Of course, nobody ever said cocaine improved your health or health care, either.

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/Coke-Is-It-851-7891>