

FIGURE 12.8 Ways in Which Different Drugs Influence the Brain

This figure shows the manner in which different drugs affect the brain. One particular neurotransmitter, dopamine, is a critical component of the effects of many drugs.

Source: Nestler & Malenka (2004, p. 84).

DIFFERENT DRUGS, SAME ULTIMATE EFFECT

DRUGS OF ABUSE hit various targets in the brain, but all directly or indirectly enhance the amount of dopamine signaling in the nucleus accumbens, thereby promoting addiction. Knowledge of the targets raises ideas for therapy

