Whitney Houston was a successful singer whose life ended too soon. She had amazing gift in her singing and her voice made her a fan favorite amongst many people. Unfortunately, she had many struggles in her life, one of which was drug addiction (Samuels). Her legacy continues to live on through her music. Through her death, people can learn how fame and being in the spotlight can sometimes lead celebrities to turn to drugs to cope with pressure and attention.

Whitney Houston was born into a musical family in New Jersey in 1963. She sang a lot as a child and grew up around some amazing talents (“Whitney Houston”. Her first album was released when she was 22 years old. Throughout her career she had many number one hits and won Grammy awards. She married musician Bobby Brown on 1993 and their relationship was rocky. There were documented instances of both emotional abuse and domestic violence during their time together (Samuels). Whitney started using drugs sometime after she married to Bobby and this caused her family members to become concerned about her.

Cocaine was Whitney’s drug of choice and it was found in her system after her death. According to Teen Health and Wellness, cocaine stimulates the central nervous system and activates the pleasure center in the brain (“Cocaine”). The effects that cocaine have on the central nervous system are increased heart rate, increased blood pressure and constriction of all the blood vessels in the body (Chastain). These side effects can have serious, if not deadly, consequences on a person. Cocaine is highly addictive because of the immediate pleasurable feeling the person experiences after using the drug. People started noticing that Whitney became too thin and was in poor health. The media documented her marital problems and erratic behavior and she cancelled concerts/performances. Her mom forced her to go to rehabilitation. Eventually, Whitney divorced Bobby Brown in 2007 and made a musical comeback.

Unfortunately, Whitney at some point started using cocaine again. She was found dead in a bath tub on February 11, 2012 and the autopsy showed heart disease and that there was cocaine in her system (Samuels). She had been seen out partying on the nights before her death. Obviously, her time in rehab helped her stay clean for some period of time, but she ended up relapsing and she suffered the most serious of consequences- death.

Cocaine is a very powerful drug that harms the body and mind. It is also highly addictive. Even after using it one time, a person craves more and more cocaine (Chastain). Obviously for Whitney Houston, cocaine had a devastating effect on her life. It negatively affected her relationships with her family and her career. It also caused her serious health problems and caused her early death. People should not even experiment with cocaine or start using because it can lead to abuse of the drug. People should also educate themselves about the harmful effects of cocaine and learn the myths and facts. People are playing with death when they use cocaine.