



METHAMPHETAMINE

A drug with immense abuse potential, meth is a central nervous system stimulant of the amphetamine family. Like cocaine, it is a powerful “upper” that produces alertness and elation, along with a variety of adverse reactions. This is a synthetic stimulant that is a extremely addictive drug. The effects of meth are much longer lasting than the effects of cocaine, yet the cost is less expensive. For that reason, meth is often called the “poor man’s cocaine” or “red-neck cocaine.”

Slang Names

Amp	Fast	Tick
Batu	Glass	Trash
Beannies	Ice	Uppers
Black Beauty	Meth	White cross
Blade	Mexican Crack	Work
Chalk	Quartz	Yaba
Clear	Rock	Yellow bom
Crank	Spackle	Shabu
Crypts	Speed	Cristy
Crystal	Spoosh	Zip

History of Meth Use

Amphetamines were first synthesized in 1887 but were not regularly used until the 1930s, when they were used to treat nasal congestion, narcolepsy and the behavioral syndrome that is now known as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Methamphetamine was first produced in Japan in 1919 and used in World War II to help soldiers stay alert and to energize factory workers, leading to many addiction problems. Use of all amphetamines surged during the 1960s until they were made illegal without a prescription by the 1970 Controlled Substance Act. During the 50s and 60s amphetamine sulfate (Benzedrine) and dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine) pills were abused extensively. These pills were commonly prescribed by physicians, most often for weight loss, and were massively diverted to the illicit market. Methamphetamine was traded on the street, mostly as a powder that could be snorted or made into an injectable solution. The emergence of smokable meth in the late 1980s led to another increase in use, particularly in Hawaii and west coast cities of the United States. In 2003, the National Drug Intelligence Center reported that methamphetamines were widely available in the western and central United States and were becoming increasingly available in the rest of the country. When some users began shooting the drug into their veins to achieve a more intense “high” these “speed freaks” would often be overcome by exhaustion or psychosis. The aggressive behavior of these users, their volatile temper, physical depletion and profound weight loss gave rise to the once-familiar warning—“speed kills.”

A large amount of illicit meth remains available today from clandestine labs in the United States. Some labs are run by outlaw motorcycle gangs. Production is concentrated in the Western and Southwestern United States and disputes over the illegal meth market is responsible for gang-related violence once restricted to the cocaine trade. Although domestic suppliers still operate, Mexico is responsible for a new surge in meth production.

Quick Facts

- Meth is a strong central nervous system stimulant, the most intense of the amphetamines.
- It produces a temporary increase of energy, suppressed appetite and elevated mood.
- Chronic use can lead to malnutrition, paranoia, confusion, anxiety, sleeplessness, aggressiveness and even death.
- People can become dependent on meth.
- Meth can harm a developing fetus.
- Chronic use can make a person susceptible to disease.
- “Ice” is a smokable form of meth which has become a serious social problem in certain parts of the United States.

How Meth Is Used

Meth can be swallowed, smoked, snorted or injected. In powder form, it can be mixed with water for injection or sprinkled on tobacco or marijuana and smoked. Chunks of clear high-purity meth (“ice”, “crystal”, “glass”), which resemble rock candy, are smoked in a small pipe, much like “crack” cocaine is smoked. Some users spread powdered meth on aluminum foil, heating the foil and inhaling the fumes that are released. Others make “speed ball,” combining meth and heroin. No matter how it is administered, users get very high very rapidly and want to recapture the feeling as soon as it begins to fade.

Short-term Effects

- Enhanced alertness, energy and talkativeness.
- A sense of well-being and heightened mood.
- Elevated body temperature and blood pressure.
- Increased heart and respiratory rates.
- A need to perform tasks repeatedly.
- Confusion and anxiety.
- Dizziness, headaches, palpitations and tremors.
- Paranoia.
- Aggressive behavior or violence.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.
- Muscle twitches and uncontrolled movements.
- Jaw clenching.
- Acne, body sores, and obsessive scratching.
- Convulsions.

Crack Is an Illegal Drug!

Long-term Effects

Using meth for any extended period of time results in physical and psychological damage, even “amphetamine psychosis.”

- Tooth decay
- Anxiety, paranoia and insomnia
- Psychotic behavior and violence
- Auditory hallucinations and delusions
- Homicidal or suicidal thoughts
- Elevated blood pressure
- Strokes
- Heart infections
- Kidney and liver damage
- Brain damage similar to Alzheimer’s disease
- Premature delivery and/or birth defects
- Risk of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B and C
- DEATH

Don’t Be Fooled

Meth is a vicious widely addictive drug. It can make people dangerous and violent. Protect your health and sanity and make the smart choice. ***Never Try Meth!***