



DEA
Drug
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Administration



Methamphetamine



What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant. It is available as a powdery substance as well as in pill form. Another version of the drug is referred to as “crystal meth.” This type of methamphetamine is often smoked and resembles glass fragments or “rocks.”

Street names:

Crank, crystal, glass, ice, meth, shards, speed, tweak, ventana, trash.

How is it used?

Methamphetamine is swallowed, snorted, injected, or smoked.

What are the effects of methamphetamine?

Increased energy, decreased appetite, rapid breathing, elevated heart rate, irregular heart-beat, and overheating. Long term use has been associated with irritability, anxiety, paranoia, and aggressive and violent behavior.

What is the legal status of methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substance. This means it has a high potential for abuse and very limited medical use. As for its legitimate use, Desoxyn® (methamphetamine hydrochloride) is the only medically prescribed methamphetamine based drug. It is used to treat obesity and attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD).

How is methamphetamine made?

Clandestinely made in makeshift laboratories, methamphetamine is created by combining several chemicals such as pseudoephedrine, gasoline additives, toluene (brake fluid), sulfuric acid (drain cleaner) and several other ingredients. These makeshift laboratories may be in virtually any location to include a hotel room, apartment, or car. Often flammable and potentially explosive, the chemicals used to produce methamphetamine are very dangerous.

What is the “one-pot” or “shake and bake” method?

Possibly due to restrictions and controls on pseudoephedrine in the United States, the “one-pot” or “shake and bake” method has become a popular way to produce small amounts of methamphetamine. The chief ingredient is still pseudoephedrine, but when combined with other easily obtained chemicals, small amounts of methamphetamine can be produced. Even this one-pot method can be very volatile, causing explosions as the chemical mix and the pressure builds inside the container. Another concerning aspect of the one-pot method is that the container, often a plastic bottle, is discarded with toxic substances still present inside. This not only impacts the environment, but also puts children or others who may come across the container at risk.



Did you know?

The average age at first use among new methamphetamine users in 2013 was **18.9** years. The number of past month methamphetamine users 2013 (595,000) increased significantly compared to those in 2012 (440,000) and 2011 (439,000), but they were higher than the estimates in 2010 (353,000).

Source: 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

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