



Methamphetamine “Meth”



What are they?

- ◆ Methamphetamine or Meth is a powerful synthetic (man-made) stimulant that is highly addictive. It is long-lasting and toxic for the brain
- ◆ Its chemistry is similar to amphetamine, or speed but meth has far more dangerous effects on the body's central nervous system (CNS)
- ◆ Meth usually comes in the form of a crystalline white powder that is odorless, bitter-tasting, and dissolves easily in liquids
- ◆ Other colors of powders include: brown, pink, yellow-gray, and orange. It can also be compressed into pill form
- ◆ Crystal Meth comes in chunky crystals resembling ice, it can come in a variety of colors as well



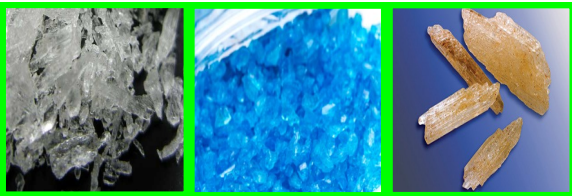
Street Names
There are many other names

Meth:

- ◆ Beannies
- ◆ Chalk
- ◆ Crank
- ◆ Fast
- ◆ Speed
- ◆ Tick Tick
- ◆ Tweak
- ◆ Tina
- ◆ Wash

Crystal Meth:

- ◆ Batu
- ◆ Blade
- ◆ Cristy
- ◆ Crystal
- ◆ Glass
- ◆ Hot Ice
- ◆ Ice
- ◆ Quarts



Did you Know?

- ◆ People who use meth long-term can experience anxiety, confusion, insomnia, and mood disturbances and display violent behavior
- ◆ They may also show symptoms of psychosis such as: paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations (hearing and seeing things that are not real), and delusions (for example, the sensation of insects crawling under their skin, these are known to users as “crank bugs”)
- ◆ Chronic meth use changes the chemical and molecular make up of the brain
- ◆ Meth use can cause reduced motor skills, impair verbal learning, impaired/loss of memory, as well as many other emotional and cognitive problems
- ◆ Methamphetamine was developed in Japan in 1919, during World War II meth was used on both side to help keep troops awake
- ◆ In the 1950's meth was prescribed as a diet aid and to help fight depression, in 1970 the U.S. government made it illegal

How is it used?

Methamphetamine is taken **orally**:
smoked, snorted, or dissolved in water
or alcohol and **injected**

Because the pleasure of meth fades quickly, users often take repeated doses in a “binge and crash” pattern

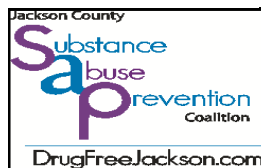
What are the side effects?

Short-Term Effects:

- ◆ Loss of appetite
- ◆ Increased heart rate, blood pressure, and body temperature
- ◆ Bizarre, erratic, sometimes violent behavior
- ◆ Hallucinations, hyper-excitability, irritability
- ◆ Panic and psychosis
- ◆ Convulsions and seizures

Long-Term Effects:

- ◆ Permanent damage to blood vessels of heart and brain, high blood pressure leading to heart attack, strokes and death
- ◆ Liver, kidney, and lung damage
- ◆ Respiratory (breathing) problems if smoked
- ◆ Infectious diseases and abscesses if injected
- ◆ Severe tooth decay
- ◆ Permanent Psychosis
- ◆ Damage to the brain similar to Alzheimer's disease, stroke and epilepsy



Information From:
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Drug Free World
Above the Influence