

Profile: Methamphetamine

What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a highly addictive stimulant. The effects are long lasting, and users are known to stay awake for days during binges.

What does methamphetamine look like?

Meth is a white or yellowish, odorless, and bitter-tasting powder that dissolves in water. The powder, known as "crystal," can be processed into a smokable rock ("ice") or liquid form for the purpose of injection. It also comes in pill form. Ya ba is a potent form of meth mixed with caffeine in a tablet small enough to fit in the end of a drinking straw, and is often stamped with a logo. Ya ba tablets may also be scented or flavored.

How is methamphetamine used?

Meth is typically ingested orally, injected intravenously, smoked, or snorted. After smoking or injecting meth, users

experience a short but intense rush that lasts only a few minutes. Those who snort meth will feel euphoria rather than a rush within 3 to 5 minutes; oral ingestion produces the same effect within 20 minutes. After the initial euphoria, other effects include increased activity, decreased appetite, and a sense of well being, or agitation,

that can last 6 to 12 hours. Because tolerance occurs within minutes, chronic users binge on meth, taking increasingly higher and more frequent doses, in order to sustain their high.

What are some street names for methamphetamine?

How can I tell if someone has taken methamphetamine?

- ◆ meth
- ◆ crystal meth
- ◆ crank
- ◆ glass
- ◆ yellow barn
- ◆ poor man's cocaine
- ◆ motorcycle crack
- ◆ tina
- ◆ speed
- ◆ ice
- ◆ chalk
- ◆ trash

Smokable Meth Slang

- ◆ hiropon
- ◆ hot ice
- ◆ L.A. glass
- ◆ cristy
- ◆ batu
- ◆ quart



Methamphetamine crystals
Photo by Payin2Much, © 2002 Erowid.org



Ya ba Tablets
Photo by Yaba-Smoker, © 2002 Erowid.org



Ice Pipe

Courtesy of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University

The noticeable effects include loss of appetite, sleeplessness, performing repetitive and meaningless tasks, dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, heavy sweating, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, dry mouth, and bad breath. Chronic meth use can cause insomnia, anxiety, confusion, delusions, auditory hallucinations, paranoia, and violent behavior. Chronic meth users also

"Tweaking" is a dangerous stage of meth abuse that occurs when an abuser who has not slept in 3-15 days becomes irritable and paranoid. The tweaker craves more meth but finds it difficult to achieve the original high, causing frustration and unpredictable behavior. Such behavior can turn violent, leading to impulsive criminal behavior, domestic disputes, or more

often display poor hygiene, a pale, unhealthy complexion, and sores on their bodies from picking at "crank bugs" – the tactile hallucination that *tweakers* often experience. In addition, users

may have cracked teeth due to extreme jaw clenching during a meth high. Withdrawal symptoms include depression, anxiety, fatigue, paranoia, aggression, and intense cravings for the drug.

Online Resources

Center for Substance Abuse Research
www.cesar.umd.edu

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.nida.nih.gov

United States Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
www.dea.gov

Office of Drug Control Policy
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

Partnership for a Drug Free America
www.drugfreeamerica.org



Glass Grade
Methamphetamine

Adapted from www.justfacts.org, a website designed to provide sexual health, alcohol and other drug education. Provided by:



The Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR)

University of Maryland, College Park
4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501

College Park, MD 20740

Phone (301) 405-9770

Fax (301) 403-8342

Photographs courtesy of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) at Indiana University available at <http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/prevention/iprcpics.html>