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

Smokable Meth Slang

- hiropon
- hot ice
- L.A. glass
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 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.