

Street Drugs:

- Heroin

- Crack Cocaine

- Crystal Methamphetamine

HEROIN



Black Tar



Powder

Crack Cocaine



CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE



WHAT IS CRYSTAL METH?

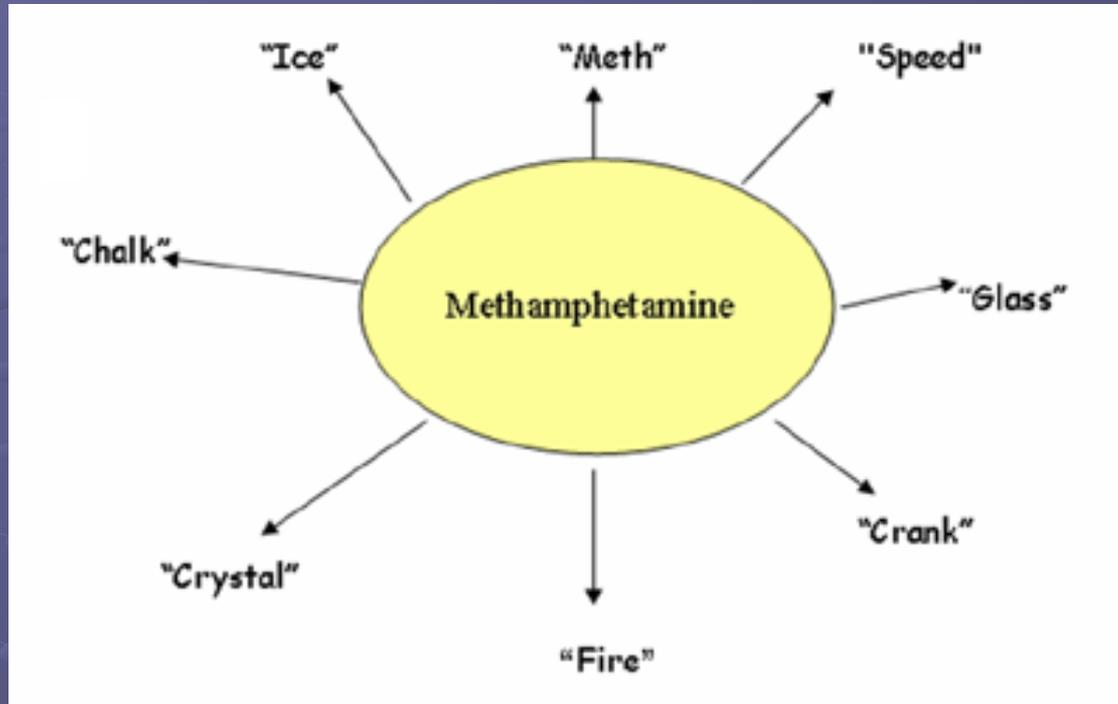
Crystal meth is one form of the drug, methamphetamine hydrochloride, which comes in clear, chunky crystals, which are then inhaled or smoked.

Crystal meth has become the most widespread and popular form of the drug, largely because it is so easy to make. Motorcycle gangs are becoming dominant at trafficking in this 'new' drug.



Methamphetamine crystals
Photo by Payin2Much, © 2002 Erowid.org

THE MANY NAMES OF METH



Also referred to as:

Bitch, Chrissy, Crystal, Gak, Jib, Meth, P, Quartz, Sketch, T, Tina, and Tweak.

The HIGH!

- Crystal methamphetamine is a powerful addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system. When taking Meth, you become more sociable, feel smart, feel sexier, feel 'powerful' and are more confident. Crystal's dangerous effects include an overstimulation of the body's adrenal glands. The crystal user will experience hyper activity and inability to properly sleep. In all forms, the drug stimulates the central nervous system, with effects lasting anywhere from 4 to 24 hours.
- Crystal Meth, like LSD or Ecstasy, has a longer effect on the body than other stimulants due to its crystal chemical structure and therefore stores deeply in the body fat and other tissues of the body. These fat cells and tissues break down with stress and age and can retrigger cravings in the body for the drug.

Why is Meth Addictive?

- All addictive drugs have two things in common: they produce an initial pleasurable effect, followed by a rebound unpleasant effect. Methamphetamine, through its stimulant effects, produces a positive feeling, but later leaves a person feeling depressed. This is because it suppresses the normal production of dopamine, creating a chemical imbalance. The user physically demands more of the drug to return to normal. This pleasure/tension cycle leads to loss of control over the drug and addiction.
- Methamphetamine short-circuits a person's survival system by artificially stimulating the reward center, or pleasure areas in the brain. This leads to increased confidence in meth and less confidence in the normal rewards of life. This happens on a physical level at first, then it affects the user psychologically. The result is decreased interest in other aspects of life while reliance and interest in meth increases. In one study, laboratory animals pressed levers to release methamphetamine into their blood stream rather than eat, mate, or satisfy other natural drives. The animals died of starvation while giving themselves methamphetamine even though food was available.

Would YOU ingest
drain cleaner



and
antifreeze?

If you use crystal meth you already do, along with hydrochloric acid, battery fluid and lead acetate. Meth: your biological weapon of self-destruction!

www.lifeormeth.com

Crystal meth can be easy to produce in small, clandestine labs, sometimes in a kitchen or bathroom, by mixing a cocktail of about 15 substances, mostly pseudo ephedrine (a cold remedy), red phosphorous and iodine.

THE INGREDIENTS

Products used to produce Meth include: salt, sulfuric acid, drain cleaner, camping fuel, car fuel system fuel cleaners, ephedrine, alcohol, methanol, Sudafed, allergy products, grease cleaners and paint thinner. The more difficult to acquire ingredients include lithium strips, usually from batteries, and anhydrous ammonia. Production of 1 pound of meth yields 5 pounds of hazardous waste.

In one recipe, red phosphorous, usually extracted from matchstick heads, and iodine, are used rather than lithium and anhydrous ammonia. While most of these precursors are destroyed or consumed in the manufacturing process, residues are readily apparent in batches of finished crystal meth.

Phosphine gas is a by-product of CRYSTAL METH production and has caused severe lung damage and death among several individuals.



PORTABLE METH LABS



THE MIXTURE



WHAT METH DOES TO YOU!

METH = DEATH



tooth decay - respiratory distress - skin lesions
impotence - stroke - suicidal tendencies - self-destructiveness
high risk sexual behavior - paranoia - psychotic episodes - coma
convulsions - violent episodes - HIV/Hepatitis/Syphilis - hair loss
CARDIAC ARREST

 **LIFEorMETH.COM**

Tooth decay 'Meth mouth'

Respiratory distress

Skin lesions

Impotence

Stroke

Suicidal tendencies

High risk sexual behavior

Paranoia

Psychotic episodes

Convulsions

Episodes of violence

Hair loss

Cardiac arrest

Anatomy of a Meth User



- Extreme loss of appetite
- Malnutrition
- Anorexia

- Infected sores or "Meth Bugs" appear and are slow to heal

- Breakdown of muscle tissue which may lead to kidney failure

- Bone loss from mineral and vitamin deficiencies

- Loss of vision
- Tooth decay
- Drying of salivary glands
- Permanent nerve damage

- Respiratory failure
- Toxic vapors scorch or burn the esophagus and lungs
- Crystals form in lungs

- Chest pain
- High blood pressure
- Build-up of fluid in the lungs and brain
- Internal bleeding & ruptured blood vessels



METH. YOUR FUTURE STOPS HERE™

3 YEARS OF METH USE



Unaltered Booking photos from Australia – (same person) photos NOT altered.

'FACES OF METH'



Jennifer



Perry



Theresa



Joseph

Spotting a Meth User

- The person may exhibit anxiousness; nervousness; excessive talking; extreme moodiness and irritability; purposeless, repetitious behavior, such as picking at skin or pulling out hair; sleep disturbances; false sense of confidence and power; aggressive or violent behavior; disinterest in previously enjoyed activities; and severe depression.
- Symptoms of prolonged meth abuse can resemble those of schizophrenia and are characterized by anger, panic, paranoia, auditory and visual hallucinations, repetitive behavior patterns, and formication (delusions of parasites or insects on the skin). Methamphetamine-induced paranoia can result in homicidal or suicidal thoughts.

HOW IS IT USED

- Methamphetamine may be swallowed, smoked, snorted, or injected. Some take advantage of the drug's rapid vaporization by spreading it in powdered form on aluminum foil, heating it, then inhaling the fumes.
- There is evidence that the risk of addiction is greater when smoked or injected. Swallowing is considered by some to be the safest method. It is also taken anally by "bootie bumps".



CAN AN ADDICT RECOVER?

Experts say that CRYSTAL METH is one of the most addictive street drugs and one of the hardest to treat. Some addiction counselors say the relapse rate of 92 per cent is worse than cocaine.

The withdrawal symptoms, especially the depression and physical agony, are reported by addiction counselors to be worse than heroin or cocaine, and often addicts will drop out of recovery programs.

With increasing use of the drug, there are strong indications that users suffer brain damage, including memory impairment and an increasing inability to grasp abstract thoughts. Those who do manage to recover from addiction and retain memory and the ability to function in society are usually subject to some memory gaps and extreme mood swings.