

METHAMPHETAMINE

Crystal Speed

COMMON & BRAND NAMES

Meth; Speed; Crystal; Glass; Crank; Tweak; Yaba

Methamphetamine, crystal meth, ice, crank, shabu

EFFECTS CLASSIFICATION

Euphoric Stimulant

CHEMICAL NAME

D-N-methylamphetamine

DESCRIPTION

Methamphetamine is a strong physical and mental stimulant available in both prescription and street forms. It is relatively easy to synthesize which has contributed to its widespread use.

EFFECTS

Onset

Oral use takes about half an hour to produce effects. When injected or smoked, effects are almost instantaneous, and nearly as quick when snorted.

Duration

4-8 hours when smoked.

DESCRIPTION

Methamphetamine is a synthetic stimulant commonly used as a recreational drug. On the street, it is generally found as an odorless, white or off-white, bitter-tasting powder, in pills, capsules and larger crystals. It is frequently snorted, but is also used orally, smoked, and injected.

Methamphetamine production is a relatively simple process, especially when compared to many other recreational drugs. It is frequently reported on in the media when home based producing labs are busted.

LAW

Methamphetamine is illegal to buy, sell, or possess. It is legally controlled in most countries.

CHEMISTRY

Powder methamphetamine is the hydrochloride salt form which is strongly hygroscopic (absorbs water from the air quickly). The HCl salt is smokable as is. Crystal "Crystal Meth" or "Ice" refers to methamphetamine grown into crystals. Though many people believe that Crystal is the freebase form of methamphetamine HCl, this is not true. Methamphetamine is smokable in its normal HCL form, but taking the time to grow it into crystals makes it easier to smoke. Meth in visible crystals (rather than powder) is likely to be relatively pure as it is difficult to grow crystals from impure material. Methamphetamine freebase is an oil and is uncommon on the street.

PRODUCTION

The production of Methamphetamine is a fairly simple process which makes it easy to produce in makeshift home laboratories

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MORE INFORMATION?

For more information specifically on crystal, there are two comprehensive booklets to download from this website:

1. Crystal: Effects, Health, Sex, Help
2. Crystal: Reducing, Quitting.

These can be found under Alcohol and other Drugs.

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PROBLEMS

Methamphetamine use generally increases the heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and rate of breathing of the user. Chronic use can lead to what is called 'Methamphetamine induced Psychosis', resulting in paranoia, auditory and visual hallucinations, self-absorption, irritability, aggressive and erratic behaviour, and picking at the skin. This can be magnified by lack of sleep which often accompanies heavy use of methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine is an anorexiant, meaning it causes most people to lose interest in food. This is considered a benefit for many light users, but in regular or heavy users can lead to malnutrition. Methamphetamine is also believed to be neurotoxic.

DEPENDENCE POTENTIAL

Methamphetamine can cause significant tolerance, as well as psychological dependence. This combination can be problematic as people may develop strong cravings for more while at the same time being unable to reach a satisfactory high. Withdrawal from high doses can produce physical symptoms.

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