



METH 101: An Introduction to Methamphetamine

A PRESENTATION PROVIDED BY www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com



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Meth 101: An Introduction to Methamphetamine

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com

- An educational outreach and awareness website that helps parents and caregivers identify and prevent drug abuse
- Located at www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com
- Provides a number of resources parents can use to get help if they suspect their child has a problem with drugs



Presentation Outline

- Overview of Methamphetamine
- How Methamphetamine is Made
- The Effects of Meth Abuse
- Signs of Meth Abuse
- Addressing Meth Abuse with Your Children



Overview of Methamphetamine

- A highly addictive stimulant drug
- Strongly affects certain systems in the brain
- Usually produced and distributed illegally
- Can have serious side effects, including death
- Most widely-abused, domestically-produced synthetic drug in the United States

Source: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/Methamphetamine.html>



Street Names

- Crank
- Speed
- Chalk
- Ice
- Crystal
- Crypto

Source: White House Office of National Drug Control Policy: "Street Terms"



Forms of Meth Abuse

Methods of abuse include:

- Taking Orally
- Injecting
- Snorting
- Smoking

Source: <http://www.theantidrug.com/drug-information/commonly-abused-drugs/meth/default.aspx>



How Methamphetamine is Made

Meth Labs:

- Meth is Made in Very Crude “Laboratories”
- “Superlabs” produce large quantities of meth
- “Small toxic labs” produce smaller quantities of meth



Ingredients

- Pseudoephedrine or ephedrine
- Paint thinner
- Freon
- Acetone
- Anhydrous ammonia
- Iodine crystals
- Red phosphorus
- Brake cleaner
- Drain cleaner
- Battery acid
- Lithium

Source: DEA – “Environmental Impacts of Methamphetamine”
http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/meth_environment.html



Signs of a Meth Lab

- Large number of cold tablet containers
- Unusual chemical smells like ether, ammonia, or acetone
- Chemical containers
- Containers or coffee filters with white or red sludge or crystals
- Spent propane containers with green residue
- Rubber tubing
- Lithium batteries, especially ones that have been stripped

U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Victims of Crime: "Children at Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs: Helping Meth's Youngest Victims." OVC Bulletin, June, 2003.



The Effects of Meth Abuse

The Effects of Meth On...

- The Mind
- The Body
- The Environment
- Society



Effects on the Mind: The Short Term

Initially, meth...

- Induces euphoria
- Provides an intense rush

Then...

- Agitation
- Violent behavior
- Impaired judgment
- Risky behavior

Sources:

- NIDA InfoFacts: "Methamphetamine." www.theantidrug.com/drug-information/commonly-abused-drugs/meth/default.aspx
- 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: <http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/yrbs/09/09Meth.pdf>



Effects on the Mind: The Long Term

- Addiction
- Higher tolerance
- Irritability, confusion, anxiety
- Inability to sleep
- Aggressive behavior
- Depression
- Psychotic behavior, paranoia

Source: NIDA InfoFacts: "Methamphetamine" www.theantidrug.com



Effects on the Body: The Short Term

- Feeling of pleasure
- Boost in energy
- Sense of control
- Suppressed appetite
- Increased metabolism

Source: <http://www.methresources.gov/signs.html>



Effects on the Body: The Long Term

- Deterioration of brain areas
- Reduced motor skills
- Impaired verbal learning
- Convulsions
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Damaged blood vessels in the brain
- Cardiovascular problems
- Extreme anorexia
- Hyperthermia

Source: NIDA InfoFacts: "Methamphetamine" www.theantidrug.com



Effects on the Environment

- Meth causes major damage to the environment
- Chemicals often dumped into the ground, potentially contaminating soil and ground water
- 1-lb meth produced = 5- to 7-lbs toxic waste
- Combined toxic chemicals can have explosive effects

Source: Senate Congressional Record, April 6, 2000



Effects on Society

- Clouded judgment leaves meth abusers susceptible to criminal activity
- High incidence of meth-related domestic violence
- Severe impact on drug-endangered children

Sources:

- *"Helping Children Exposed to Clandestine Methamphetamine Sites":*
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/children/197590.pdf>
- The Source, Vol. 15 No. 1 (Spring 2006) *"Prevalence and Treatment of Methamphetamine Dependence: Implications for Women and Children,"* pp. 2&3
- ABC News/Money, *"Do Meth Addicts Want Your Identity?"*
<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/FinancialSecurity/story?id=793760&page=2>



Financial Impact on Society

- Every family pays an annual \$1,500 in taxes to cover drug related costs to society
- DEA spent an estimated \$215 million in FY 2009 to combat meth production and trafficking
- Total lifetime costs associated with caring for drug-exposed children ranges from \$750,000 to \$1.4 million
- Drug possession and distribution can lead to loss of eligibility for federal student loans



Signs of Meth Abuse

- Physical signs
- Behavioral signs
- Meth paraphernalia



Physical Signs

- Extreme anorexia
- Tremors and convulsions
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure

Source: <http://www.theantidrug.com/drug-information/commonly-abused-drugs/meth/default.aspx>



Physical Signs: The Faces of Meth



Jennifer

Photos courtesy of Sheriff's Department, Multnomah County, Oregon

<http://www.facesofmeth.us/main.htm>



Physical Signs: The Faces of Meth



Patrick

Photos courtesy of Sheriff's Department, Multnomah County, Oregon

<http://www.facesofmeth.us/main.htm>



Physical Signs: The Faces of Meth



2005© "Faces of Meth"

11 Months Later

Photos courtesy of Sheriff's Department, Multnomah County, Oregon

<http://www.facesofmeth.us/main.htm>



Physical Signs: “Crank Bugs”



Source: www.justthinktwice.com



Physical Signs: “Meth Mouth”

Meth can cause severe tooth decay because:

- Meth causes dry mouth, reducing the amount of protective saliva around the teeth
- Meth users crave high-calorie, sugared, carbonated soft drinks
- Meth users tend to lack personal oral hygiene
- Meth causes tooth grinding and jaw clenching

Source: www.ada.org



Behavioral Signs

- Irritability, dizziness, or confusion
- Inability to sleep
- Increased sensitivity to noise
- Nervous physical activity, like scratching
- Paranoia
- Hallucinations

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland:
<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/drugs/meth.asp>



Meth Paraphernalia

- Razor blades
- Mirrors
- Straws
- Syringes
- Heating spoons
- Surgical tubing



Addressing Meth Abuse with Your Children

- Children who learn about the risks of drug abuse from their parents are 50% less likely to use than those who do not.
- Take advantage of “teachable moments”
- Encourage your children to think and act responsibly.



Finding Treatment

Hotlines for drug abuse:

- **Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Hotline:**
800-662-HELP (4357)
- **Girls and Boys Town National Hotline:**
800-448-3000
- **National Alcohol Substance Abuse Information Center:**
800-784-6776

For more resources, visit: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Finding Treatment

Online resources for finding treatment

- **The Partnership at Drugfree.org's "Get Treatment" page:**
www.drugfree.org/get-treatment
- **Just Think Twice - "Find Help":**
www.justthinktwice.com/content/find_help.html
- **SAMHSA Substance Abuse Facility Locator:**
<http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>
- **NIDA Treatment Research:**
<http://www.nida.nih.gov/drugpages/treatment.html>

For more resources, visit: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Online Resources

Government Agencies:

- **DEA**
 - www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com
 - www.justthinktwice.com
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse**
 - <http://www.nida.nih.gov/nidahome.html>
- **Center for Substance Abuse Prevention**
 - www.prevention.samhsa.gov

For more resources, visit: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Online Resources (continued)

Drug Prevention Organizations

- The Partnership at Drugfree.org:
<http://www.drugfree.org>
- American Council for Drug Education:
www.acde.org
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America:
www.bgca.org
- The Anti-Drug:
<http://www.theantidrug.com>
- D.A.R.E. America:
www.dare.com
- Join Together:
www.jointogether.org

For more resources, visit: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Online Resources (continued)

Drug Prevention Organizations

- U.S. DEA information on Methamphetamine:
<http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/meth.html>
- Meth Resources:
<http://www.methresources.gov>
- The Anti-Drug, Methamphetamine information page:
<http://www.theantidrug.com/drug-information/commonly-abused-drugs/meth/default.aspx>
- Helping Children Exposed to Clandestine Methamphetamine Sites:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/children/197590.pdf>

For more resources, visit: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Conclusion

- Know the facts about methamphetamine
- Be aware of the risks associated with meth
- Learn to detect signs of meth abuse
- Talk to your children about the risks associated with meth, and keep them safe
- Share your knowledge about meth with others

Local Information

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has not provided or verified local information

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U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has not provided or verified local information