

## Long-term effects

Methamphetamine causes increased heart rate and blood pressure and can cause irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain, producing strokes. Other effects of methamphetamine include respiratory problems, irregular heartbeat, and extreme anorexia. Its use can result in cardiovascular collapse and death.

## Meth History

Methamphetamine was discovered in Japan in 1919. The crystalline powder was soluble in water, making it a perfect candidate for injection. It is still legally produced in the U.S., sold under the trade name Desoxyn.

During World War II, amphetamines were widely used to keep the fighting men going (during the Vietnam war, American soldiers used more amphetamines than the rest of the world did during WWII). In Japan, intravenous methamphetamine abuse reached epidemic proportions immediately after World War II, when supplies stored for military use became available to the public.

## Anhydrous Ammonia

Chemical companies, feed stores and farmers are desperate to safeguard their supplies of anhydrous ammonia, a staple in the latest, simplest way to make meth.

This waterless version of ammonia is 82 percent nitrogen. At \$1.15 a gallon, that



makes it a highly desirable fertilizer. By day farmers use it on the fields where crops grow.



By night the ammonia tanks, way out in the fields or nearby in storage sheds, are vulnerable to the thieving ways of meth manufacturers. If they don't want to pay the going rate of \$100 a gallon on the black market, they steal it. The return will be high: A gallon can be used to make meth valued at \$3,000 to \$5,000.



**TO REPORT  
METHAMPHETAMINE  
ABUSE, SALES OR  
MANUFACTURING  
CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCY  
OR  
TASK FORCE**



# METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS



*Leading the  
Ohio Law  
Enforcement  
Task Forces  
to higher  
levels of  
professionalism  
and innovation.*



## METHAMPHETAMINE A HIGHLY TOXIC AND ADDICTIVE DRUG

Speed, meth, chalk, crystal, ice, glass. These are all names for the drug methamphetamine. Methamphetamine comes in many different forms and is snorted, swallowed, injected, or smoked. The smokable form is known as "ice" or "crystal," due to its appearance.



Methamphetamine is a powerful drug. It acts by changing how the brain works. It also speeds up many functions in the body. Methamphetamine has a chemical structure that is similar to another drug called amphetamine.

### You can identify methamphetamine users by...

- Signs of agitation, excited speech, have decreased appetites, and increased physical activity levels. Other common symptoms include: dilated pupils, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, and elevated body temperature.
- Occasional episodes of sudden and violent behavior, intense paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and bouts of insomnia.
- A tendency to compulsively clean and groom and repetitively sort and disassemble objects, such as cars and other mechanical devices.

## POTENTIAL FOR WIDESPREAD ABUSE

The drug can easily be made in clandestine laboratories from relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients and can be purchased at a relatively low cost. These factors make methamphetamine a drug with a high potential for widespread abuse.

### METHAMPHETA- MINE PRECURSORS

Precursors are substances that, in nature, might be inactive. However, when combined with another chemical the result is a new product. Methamphetamine starts with an inactive or marginally-inactive compound (ephedrine or pseudoephedrine) and other chemicals are added to produce the drug.

The processing required to make methamphetamine from precursor substances is easier and more accessible than ever. There are literally thousands of recipes and information about making meth on the Internet. An investment of a few hundred dollars in over-the-counter medications and chemicals can produce thousands of dollars worth of methamphetamine. The drug can be made in a makeshift "lab" that can fit into a suitcase. The average meth "cook" annually teaches ten other people how to make the drug. (Several meth precursors are pictured to the right.)



**Methamphetamine is one of the most damaging and violent drugs on the street**

**Communities are at risk from a wide range of problems associated with methamphetamine manufacture, trafficking, and addiction:**

*Our parks and streams are dumping ground for dangerous chemical byproducts of meth "cooking."*



*Our children and young people face an addiction that dwarfs the severity of even heroin.*

*Property and public health are at risk where labs are left behind or improperly dismantled.*

*Our drug teams, hospitals, mental health professionals, and courts cannot keep pace with the crime and hazards that drive a fully mobile, 24-hour-a-day criminal enterprise.*