Methamphetamine
The New Epidemic
Meth

- Jib
- ice
- crystal
- crank
- poke
- grit
- speed
What Is Methamphetamine

- Central nervous system stimulant.
- More powerful than cocaine.
- Longer lasting high than cocaine.
- Cheaper than cocaine.
- Users become paranoid and violent.
- Easily produced in simple home-based labs and ingredients are readily available.
What Is Methamphetamine

• Does not occur in nature but is similar to adrenaline and dopamine
• Meth is fat soluble and easily absorbed into the brain
• It releases dopamine and noradrenaline from the nerves in the brain
• It prevents dopamine brake down
• So it both CAUSES nerves to fire and AMPLIFIES the existing nerve endings
How Does It Work?
Dopamine

Pleasure

Movement

Coordination
Dopamine Transmission

Dopamine

Crystal Meth
Why Do People Start Using it?

- Improve mental and physical performance
- Alert
- Weight loss
- Energy
- Feel really good
Short Term Effects

• Pleasure
• Confidence
• Sexy
• Joy

• Irritability
• Aggression
• Power
• Fatigue
Short Term Effects

- Increased wakefulness, breathing, and heart rate
- Decreased appetite
- Dry mouth
- Overheating
- Tremors and Convulsions
- Depression as it wears off
Long-Term Effects

- Anxiety, confusion, and sleep problems
- Hallucinations and delusions
- Methamphetamine Psychosis
- Psychotic behaviour
- Chronic depression
- Severe weight loss
- Brain damage
Physiological and Physiological Reactions

- Intense high
- Agitated
- Paranoid
- Social withdrawal
- Difficulty focusing and remembering
- Extreme depression, suicide
- Damage to lungs from smoking
- Kidney / liver damage
Physiological and Psychological Reactions

- Aggressive behavior
- Uncontrollable movements (Tweaking)
- Loss of appetite
- Itching, welts
- Insomnia
- Nausea, diarrhea
- Increased heart rate
- Blood pressure
- Body temp
Controlled by Meth

• Highly Addictive
• First time feels great
• False sense of being in control
• Adrenaline and Dopamine release
Cycles of a Meth Binge

• Binge - 2 to 14 day high with diminishing rush until no rush can be achieved
• Rush - intense pleasure lasts 5-30 min
• High - consumer feels aggressive, smarter, and sometimes argumentative - lasts 4 to 16 hours
Cycles of a Meth Binge

• Tweaking - most dangerous. User can’t get rid of the emptiness. Will take V’s, alcohol, heroin to ease feeling. Very violent and often hallucinations persist.
• Crash - sleeps for 1 - 3 days
• Normal - 2-14 days. The more binges the less time normal
• Withdrawal - body needs more
What Does Meth Look Like?

$60 - $80 / gram
Coloring/Packaging

- Could be white, clear, green, blue, pink, yellow, etc
- Normally a powder or glass like shards
- Packaged in jewelry bags, gel caps, condoms
SMOKED
Meth Pipes
Snorted
Injected
Injected
The Look of Meth

- **Smoking:** Face acne or pock marked face
- **Injecting:** Bad bruising/sores at injection site. Often injected in crook in arm, inner thigh, forearms, etc.
- **Snorting:** Septum in nose erodes
HOW DO THEY MAKE METH
Sulfuric acid
Sodium hydroxide
Where do we find labs?
POSSIBLE LAB LOCATIONS
Signs of a Meth User

- Burnt Lips and Fingers
- Bad Body Odor
- Tweaking / Scratch marks
- Unpredictable – Paranoid / Violent
- Heavy bags around eyes – no sleep
- Very Poor hygiene
Signs of a Youth Meth User?

• Changes in school performance
• Changes in attitudes toward sports or other activities
• Changes in weight or physical appearance
• Changes in eating and sleeping habits
• Changes in behavior
Signs of A Youth Meth User

- Runny nose
- Frequent coughing
- “hyper-talk”
- Difficulty in concentrating
- Change in friends
- Mood swings and/or depression
- Increased secrecy
- Increased need for money or abundance of cash
1981
31 years old  
41 years old
Even Celebrities are not immune to Meth effects....