

METHAMPHETAMINE

By: Barbara Seitz de Martinez, Ph.D., Bilesha Perera, M.Sc., and JoBeth McCarthy-Jean, M.P.H.

THE DRUG

Methamphetamine (also known as meth, crystal, speed, ice, chalk, fire, drag, glass, and crank) is a highly addictive drug that over stimulates the central nervous system. Whether smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally, it causes a quick and powerful high. The effects can last between six to eight hours per dose. It is common for people to binge on meth, maintaining a continuous high for hours or even days.

APPEARANCE

In Indiana, methamphetamine generally appears as a white or off-white, odiferous bitter powder. Two other highly pure forms resemble slivers of clear ice (also known as glass) and chunks of rock candy (crystal, tweak, crank). Another form, a reddish-orange or green colored methamphetamine tablet, is also available, but is most prevalent in northern California and the Los Angeles area.



USERS

Users of methamphetamine in Indiana range in age and status. Because of the ease of accessibility and nature of this highly addictive drug, adolescents and adults of all ages, income potential, and educational background are susceptible to falling for the allure of this drug. More recently, young adults are choosing to use the drug to enhance

physical and mental performances and some use it to maintain ideal weight.

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that nearly 0.4 million adolescents between twelve and seventeen years of age, and 1.5 million young adults between eighteen and 25 years of age, were lifetime methamphetamine users. Nearly 2% of high school seniors in the United States report monthly usage of the drug. In Indiana, an increasing trend of methamphetamine use is observed, and adolescents living in a rural setting are more likely than their urban counterparts to use the drug. In 2003, 1,260 methamphetamine laboratories in Indiana were seized, a 26% increase from 2002.

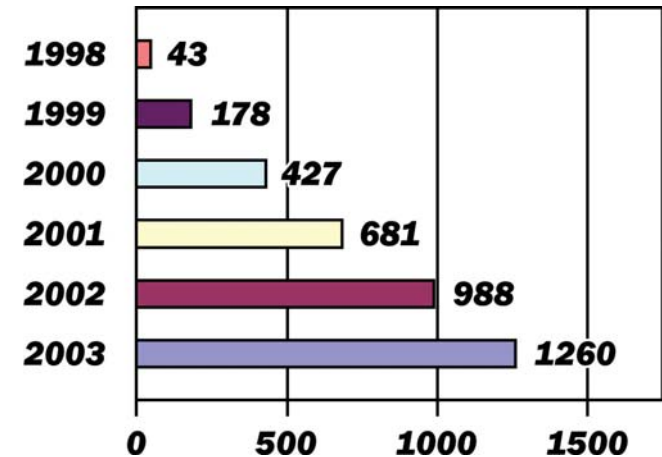
ACQUIRED

Methamphetamine can be imported or cooked in underground labs. Farming chemicals and other household products are the primary ingredients, resulting in a drug that is poisonous and easily accessible. The recipe to cook a number of varieties is readily available on the Internet by means of a simple search.

Escalating seizures of underground methamphetamine labs highlight the growing impact and availability of the drug in Indiana communities. The number of lab seizures has grown as has the number of people using the drug. In fact, authorities estimate that the year 2003 will

peak its volume of meth lab seizures. The dangers, complexity, and cost of cleaning-up these labs are taxing law enforcement and economic resources.

METHAMPHETAMINE LAB BUSTS
STATE TOTALS



Source: Indiana State Police, 2003

EFFECTS

Frequently associated with violent, aggressive behavior, this highly dangerous drug detrimentally affects the respiratory, digestive, and circulatory systems, most notably, the liver and kidneys.

Short term effects include dilated pupils, temporary euphoria, tremors, paranoia, violent and aggressive behavior, and increased energy. Potential long-term effects include a movement disorder resembling Parkinson's disease, irreversible brain damage, stroke, respiratory difficulties, irregular heartbeat, and extreme weight loss. Withdrawal leads to severe depression that can last for days or even months.

IMPACT

Production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine is a threat to the health and well-being of Indiana's families and communities. Children and adolescents suffer the greatest

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hardships when parents suffer from addiction, manufacture the drug in the home or become incarcerated or placed in treatment as a result of use, possession or manufacturing the drug. Children and adolescents are more likely to become users of methamphetamine as a result of parental/familial exposure. Economic and social deterioration of the families and the communities in which children and adolescents live are significant cause for the prevention of this widespread epidemic.

PREVENTION

Prevention efforts in Indiana range from enforcement and educational campaigns to community activism. School officials, youth serving entities, community centers, and law enforcement agencies are applying evidence-based and theory-driven prevention, treatment, and enforcement tactics. Prevention efforts resulting in the decline of use, production, and distribution of methamphetamine are vital to the social and economic fabric of our great state.

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STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: JoBeth McCarthy-Jean, M.P.H.

Copy Editor: Jonathan Agle

Layout Editor: Joshua Pugh, B.A.

Indiana Prevention Resource Center

Indiana University

Creative Arts 110

2735 East 10th Street

Bloomington, IN 47408-2602

Phone: 812.855.1237

Toll Free in Indiana: 1.800.346.3077

FAX: 812.855.4940

E-Mail: drugprc@indiana.edu

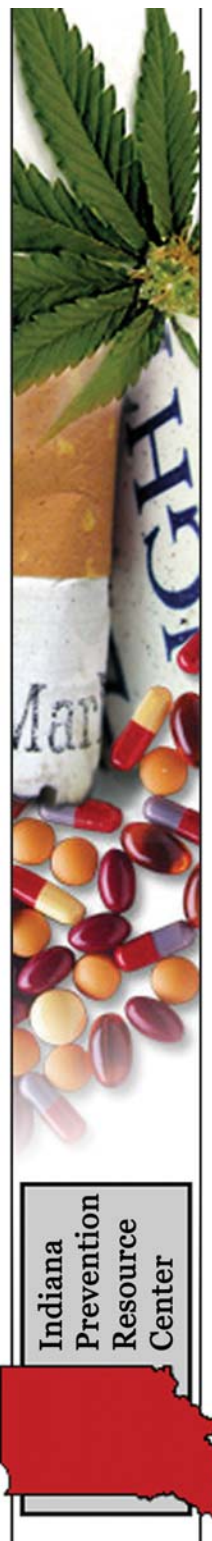
WWW: <http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/>

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School of Health
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY



Indiana
Prevention
Resource
Center

Factline

2735 E. 10th St. Rm. 110, Creative Arts
Bloomington, IN 47408-2602

Phone: 812.855.1237

Toll Free in Indiana: 1.800.346.3077

Fax: 812.855.4940

E-Mail: drugprc@indiana.edu

WWW: <http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/>

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