TIPSfor**TEENS**

METHAMPHETAMINE



THE TRUTH ABOUT METHAMPHETAMINE (METH)

SLANG: METH/SPEED/CRYSTAL/CRANK/ CHALK/TINA/TWEAK/GO-FAST/ICE/ GLASS/UPPERS

GET THE FACTS

METHAMPHETAMINE AFFECTS YOUR BRAIN. Meth causes changes in the brain circuits that control reward, stress, decision-making, and impulse control, making it more and more difficult to stop using even when it is having negative effects on your life and health. Frequent use also can lead to tolerance and withdrawal, so you need more of the drug just to feel normal. Additional effects of using meth can include anxiety and depression, chronic fatigue, paranoid or delusional thinking, and serious psychological illness.^{2,3}

METHAMPHETAMINE AFFECTS YOUR BODY. Using meth increases heart rate, blood pressure, and risk of stroke. Other negative consequences of long-term meth use are extreme weight loss, severe dental problems ("meth mouth"), and skin sores caused by scratching.⁴ Meth use affects the levels of dopamine in your brain. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that affects, among other things, movement, motivation, emotions, and feelings of pleasure.⁵ Because meth causes a flood of dopamine to the brain, the natural supply gets depleted. As a result, activities that would normally increase dopamine and, therefore, pleasure (such as listening to music or eating a delicious meal) may no longer do so, which can lead to depression.⁶

METHAMPHETAMINE AFFECTS YOUR SELF-CONTROL. Meth is an addictive drug that can cause aggression, violent behavior, and psychosis (loss of contact with reality).⁷⁸

METHAMPHETAMINE IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS. As much as 60 percent of what a person injects, snorts, or smokes is not meth. Powder sold as meth may contain many other substances, including lead acetate or mercury, both of which are toxins that can lead to poisoning.^{9,10}

METHAMPHETAMINE CAN KILL YOU. High doses can cause the body to overheat to dangerous levels. Death can result from stroke, heart attack, or multiple organ problems caused by overheating.¹¹

METHAMPHETAMINE ADDICTION IS TREATABLE. Behavioral treatments can help someone stop using methamphetamine and recover from addiction.¹²

? Q&A

Q. WHAT DOES METH LOOK LIKE?

Methamphetamine is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting, crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol.¹³ It can be made from ingredients that are used in products such as batteries, drain cleaner, fertilizer, nail polish remover, and paint thinner.¹⁴

Q. WHAT IS THE "CRASH" EFFECT OF USING METH?

Lsing meth causes the brain to release a chemical called dopamine, which gives the user a feeling of pleasure. However, once the drug is no longer in the user's system, this pleasurable sensation can be followed by unpleasant feelings of drug withdrawal, sometimes called a "crash." These feelings can include depression, anxiety, fatigue, and intense craving for more of the drug. The "crash" often leads a person to use more meth to avoid these uncomfortable physical and psychological effects.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Methamphetamine (meth) is illegal, addictive, and dangerous. Talk to your parents, a doctor, a counselor, a teacher, or another adult you trust if you have questions.

LEARN MORE:

Get the latest information on how drugs affect the brain and body at **teens.drugabuse.gov**.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT METHAMPHETAMINE, CONTACT:

SAMHSA

1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727) (English and Español)

TTY 1-800-487-4889

www.samhsa.gov store.samhsa.gov





BEFORE YOU RISK IT!



KNOW THE LAW. Methamphetamine is illegal in all states.¹⁸



GET THE FACTS. The ignitable, corrosive, and toxic nature of the chemicals used to produce meth can cause fires, produce toxic vapors, and damage the environment.19



KNOW THE RISKS. There are a lot of risks associated with using methamphetamine, including:20,21

- Meth use can cause a "crash" after the effects wear off.
- Meth use can cause long-lasting damage to the brain.
- Meth users who inject the drugs and share needles are at risk for acquiring HIV and hepatitis.



LOOK AROUND YOU. Not everyone is using methamphetamine. In 2015, less than 1 percent of adolescents ages 12 to 17 reported currently using methamphetamine.22





KNOW THE SIGNS

How can you tell if a friend is using meth? It may not be easy to tell, but symptoms of methamphetamine use may include: 23,24

- Inability to sleep or unusual sleep patterns
- Psychotic behaviors such as paranoia and hallucinations
- Mood swings or increased aggression
- Nervous obsessive activities, such as scratching
- Irritability, anxiety, or confusion
- **Extreme anorexia**
- Changes in physical appearance, including deteriorating skin
- Presence of injecting paraphernalia, such as syringes, burnt spoons, or surgical tubing

MORE INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR RESOURCES USED IN THIS "TIPS for TEENS," visit store.samhsa.gov or call 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

> (English and Español). PEP NO. 18-03 REVISED 2018

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BE A FRIEND. SAVE A LIFE.

Encourage your friend to stop using or seek help from a parent, teacher, or other caring adult.

For 24/7 free and confidential information and treatment referrals in English and Spanish. call SAMHSA's National Helpline at:

1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)

or visit the SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at findtreatment.samhsa.gov

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Behavioral Health

For information on substance use disorder treatment services in San Bernardino County call (909) 421-4601(711 for TTY users) or visit www.sbcounty.gov/DBH

CONSEJOS para JÓVENES METANFETAMINA

LA VERDAD SOBRE METANFETAMINA (METH)¹

OBTEN LOS DATOS

METANFETAMINA AFFECTA TU CEREBRO. La metanfetamina provoca cambios en los circuitos cerebrales que controlan la recompense, el estrés, el tomar decisiones y el control de los impulsos, lo que hace que sea cada vez más difícil dejar de usar, incluso cuando está teniendo efectos negativos en tu vida y salud. El uso frecuente también puede conducir a la tolerancia y la abstinencia, por lo que necesitas más de la droga solo para sentirte normal. Los efectos adicionales del uso pueden incluir ansiedad y depresión, fatiga crónica, pensamiento paranoico o delirante y psicológicas graves.^{2,3}

METANFETAMINA AFECTA TU CEREBRO. El uso de metanfetamina aumenta la frecuencia cardíaca, la presión arterial y el riesgo de accidente cerebrovascular. Otras consecuencias negativas del uso prolongado de metanfetamina son la pérdida extrema de peso, problemas dentales graves ("boca metanfetamina") y llagas en la piel causadas por rascarse. El uso de metanfetamina afecta los niveles de dopamina en su cerebro. La dopamina es un neurotransmisor que afecta, entre otras cosas, el movimiento, la motivación, las emociones y los sentimientos de placer. Debido a que la metanfetamina provoca una inundación de dopamina en el cerebro, el suministro natural se agota. Como resultado, actividades que normalmente aumentarían la dopamina y, por lo tanto, el placer (como escuchar música o comer una comida deliciosa) ya no puedes hacerlo, lo que puede conducir a la depresión.

METANFETAMINA AFECTA TU AUTOCONTROL. Metanfetamina es una droga adictiva que puede causar agresión, comportamiento violento y psicosis (pérdida de contacto con la realidad). ^{7,8} METANFETAMINA NO SIEMPRE ES LO QUE PARECE. Hasta el 60 por ciento de lo que una persona inyecta, resopla o fuma no es metanfetamina. El polvo vendido como metanfetamina puede contener muchas otras sustancias, incluido el acetato de plomo o el mercurio, que son toxinas que pueden provocar intoxicación. ^{9,10}

METANFETAMINA PUEDE MATARTE. Las dosis altas pueden hacer que el cuerpo se sobrecaliente a niveles peligrosos. La muerte puede ser el resultado de un derrame cerebral, ataque cardíaco o problemas de múltiples órganos causados por el sobrecalentamiento. ¹¹

LA ADICCIÓN A LA MENTANFETAMINA ES TRATABLE. Los tratamientos conductuales pueden ayudar a alguien a dejar de usar metanfetamina y recuperarse de la adicción. ¹²

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PREGUNTAS & RESPUESTAS

P. ¿CÓMO SE VE LA METANFETAMINA?

R. Metanfetamina es un polvo cristalino blanco, sin olor, de sabor amargo que se disuelve fácilmente en agua o alcohol.¹³ Puede estar hecho de ingredientes que se usan en productos como baterías, limpiadores de drenaje, fertilizantes, quitaesmaltes y diluyentes de pintura.¹⁴

P. ¿CUÁL ES EL EFECTO "CHOQUE" DE USAR METANFETAMINA?

R. El uso de metanfetamina hace que el cerebro libere una sustancia química llamada dopamina, que le da al usuario una sensación de placer. Sin embargo, una vez que la droga ya no se encuentra en el sistema del usuario, el placer puede ser seguido por sentimientos desagradables de abstinencia de drogas, a veces llamado "choque." Estos sentimientos pueden incluir depresión, ansiedad, fatiga y ansia intensa por más de la droga. El "choque" a menudo lleva a una persona a usar más metanfetamina para evitar estos incómodos efectos físicos y psicológicos. 17

LA CONCLUSIÓN ES QUE:

Metanfetamina es ilegal, adictivo y peligrosa. Habla con tus padres, un médico, un consejero, un maestro u otro adulto en el que confíes si tienes preguntas.

OBTÉN MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Obtén la información más reciente sobre como las drogas afectan el cerebro y el cuerpo en: teens.drugabuse.gov.

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL MENTANFETAMINA, COMUNÍCATE CON:

SAMHSA

1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

(Inglés y Español)

TTY 1-800-487-4889 www.samhsa.gov store.samhsa.gov





ANTES DE ARRIESGARTE!

CONOCE LA LEY. Metanfetamina es ilegal en todos los estados.¹⁸

CONOCE LOS HECHOS. La naturaleza inflamable, corrosiva y tóxica de los productos químicos utilizados para producir metanfetamina puede causar incendios, producir vapores tóxicos y dañar el medio ambiente. 19

CONOCE LOS RIESGOS. Existen muchos riesgos asociados con el uso de metanfetamina, que incluyen: ^{20,21}El uso de metanfetamina puede causar un "choque" después de que los efectos desaparezcan.

- El uso de metanfetamina puede causar daños duraderos al cerebro.
- Los usuarios de metanfetamina que se inyectan las drogas y comparten agujas corren el riesgo de contraer el VIH y la hepatitis.

MIRA A TU ALREDEDOR. No todos están usando metanfetamina. En 2015, menos del 1 por ciento de adolescentes 12 al 17 informaron que actualmente usan metanfetamina. ²²



CONOCE LOS SIGNOS

¿Cómo puedes saber si un amigo(a) está usando metanfetamina? Puede que no sea fácil saberlo, pero los síntomas del uso de metanfetamina pueden incluir: ^{23, 24}

- Incapacidad para dormir o patrones de sueño inusuales
- Comportamientos psicóticos como paranoia y alucinaciones
- · Cambios de humor o mayor agresión
- Actividades obsesivas nerviosas, como rascarse
- · Irritabilidad, ansiedad o confusión
- · Anorexia extrema
- Cambios en la apariencia física, incluido el deterioro de la piel y los dientes
- Presencia de parafernalia de inyección, como jeringas, cucharas quemadas o tubos quirúrgicos

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN O PARA LOS RECURSOS UTILIZADOS EN ESTE

"CONSEJO PARA JÓVENES,"

Visita store.samhsa.gov o llama 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1877-726-4727) (Inglés y español).

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SE UN AMIGO.

Anima a tu amigo a dejar de usar o buscar ayuda de un padre, maestro u otro adulto que se preocupe.

Para información gratuita y confidencial las 24 horas del día/7 días a la semana, y referencias en inglés y español, llama a la Línea de Ayuda Nacional de SAMHSA al:

1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)

o visita la página de los Servicios SAMHSA de Tratamiento de Salud Mental:

findtreatment.samhsa.gov

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Behavioral Health

Para más información sobre los servicios de abuso de sustancias en el condado de San Bernardino, llama a (909) 421-4601(711 para usuarios de TYY) o visita www.sbcounty.gov/DBH