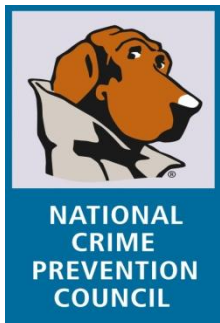


Methamphetamine Abuse and Clandestine Laboratories

National Crime Prevention Council



This presentation is provided by
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Overview

- History of Meth
- What is Meth
- What does Meth look like
 - Street names
 - Signs, symptoms and methods of use
 - Side effects of meth abuse
- Abuse patterns and treatment
- Types of Clandestine labs
- Dangers associated with clandestine labs

History of Methamphetamine

- Early 1900s
- WW II
- 1950s
- 1960s
- Vietnam War
- 1970

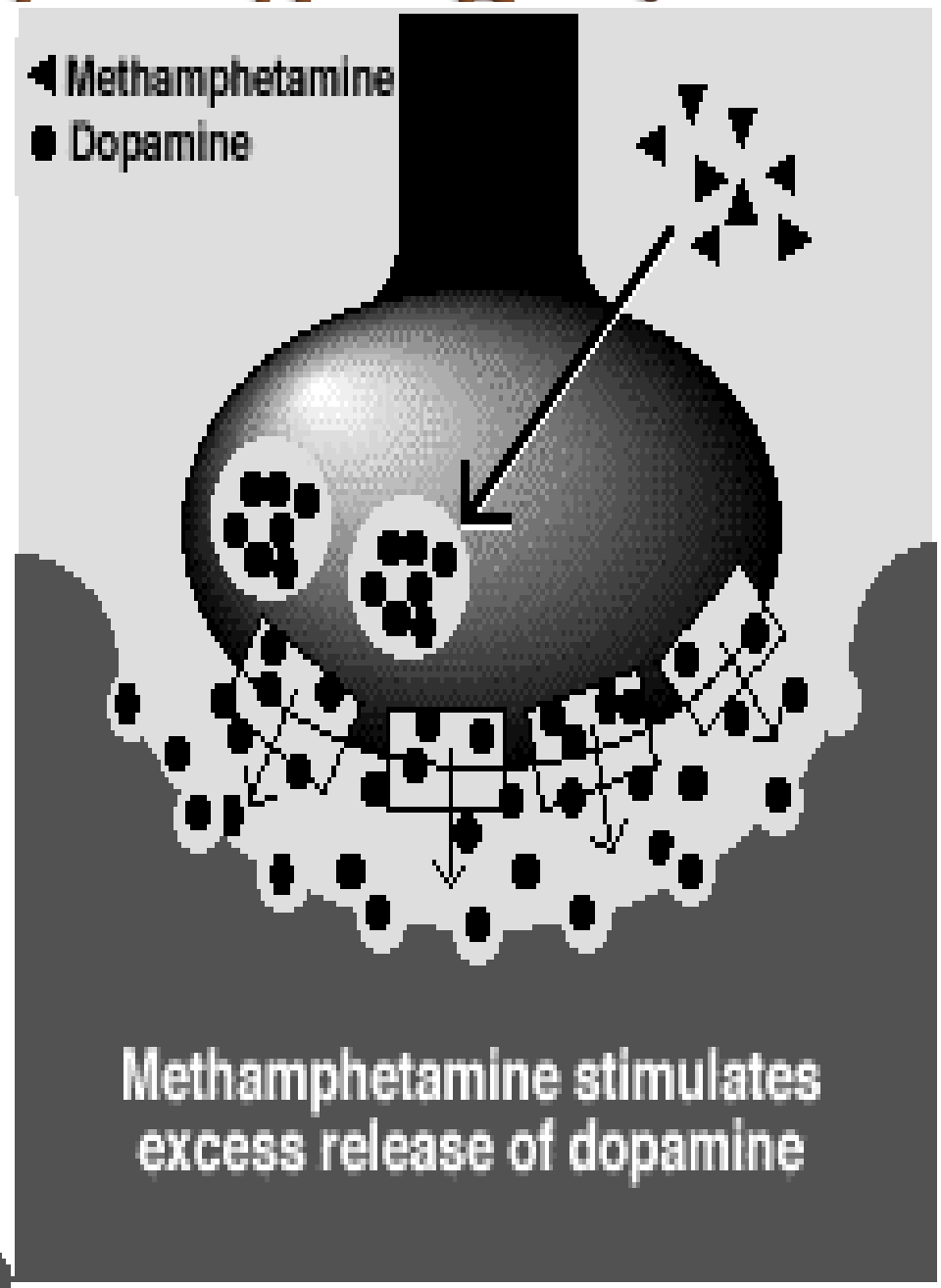
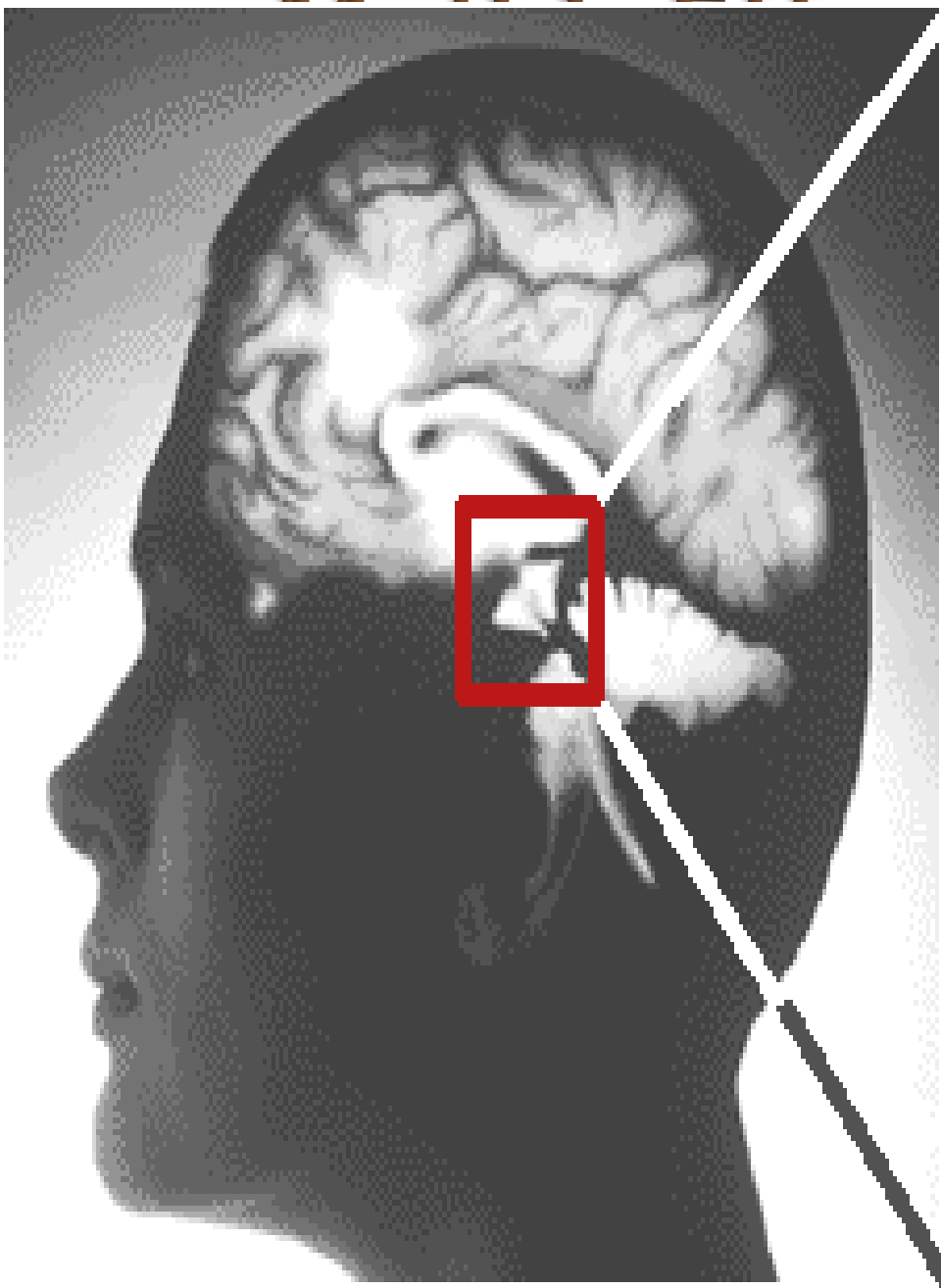
What is Methamphetamine?

- Meth is a Schedule II controlled substance.
- It is manufactured in clandestine labs.
- It is easily made using household chemicals. No formal chemistry training is needed.
- The FDA currently approves of pharmacologically prepared meth for treatment of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and short term weight loss. Also for treatment research for narcolepsy, a rare sleeping disorder.

What is Methamphetamine?

A powerful stimulant

- Meth is a strong central nervous system stimulant that activates certain systems in the brain.
- The pleasurable effects of meth result from the stimulation of the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain.



Why Methamphetamine?

- Easy to make.
- Easy to obtain ingredients.
- HUGE profit margin.
\$600 worth of chemicals produces
\$2,000 worth of Methamphetamine.

What Meth Looks Like

- Typically, meth is a white, odorless powder that easily dissolves in water.
- Another form is clear chunky crystals (crystal meth).
- It can also be in the form of a small, brightly colored tablet called “yaba”
which is Thai for “crazy medicine.”

What Meth Looks Like



Methamphetamine Powder



Methamphetamine Crystal



Methamphetamine Pills



Street Names

- Speed
- Crank
- Ice
- Crystal Meth
- Glass
- Fire
- Crypto

Methods of Use

- Orally Ingested: “**NO RUSH**”
Bitter taste. Effects last 15-20 minutes.
- Inhaled /Snorted: “**NO RUSH**”
Burns linings of nostrils. Effects last 3-5 minutes.
- Smoked: (Highly addictive) “**RUSH**”
Heat and inhale vapor. Effects immediate, last only a few minutes.
- Injected: (Highly addictive) “**RUSH**”
Dangers associated with shared needles. Effects same as smoking.

Signs and Symptoms

- Methamphetamine use dilates the pupils and produces temporary hyperactivity, euphoria, and a sense of increased energy, tremors, and increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and rate of breathing.

Side Effects

Meth is **HIGHLY ADDICTIVE**.

Short term side effects:

- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and respiration. Alertness, insomnia, euphoria, clouded mental functioning, possible tremors and convulsions, and decreased appetite.

Side Effects

Long term side effects:

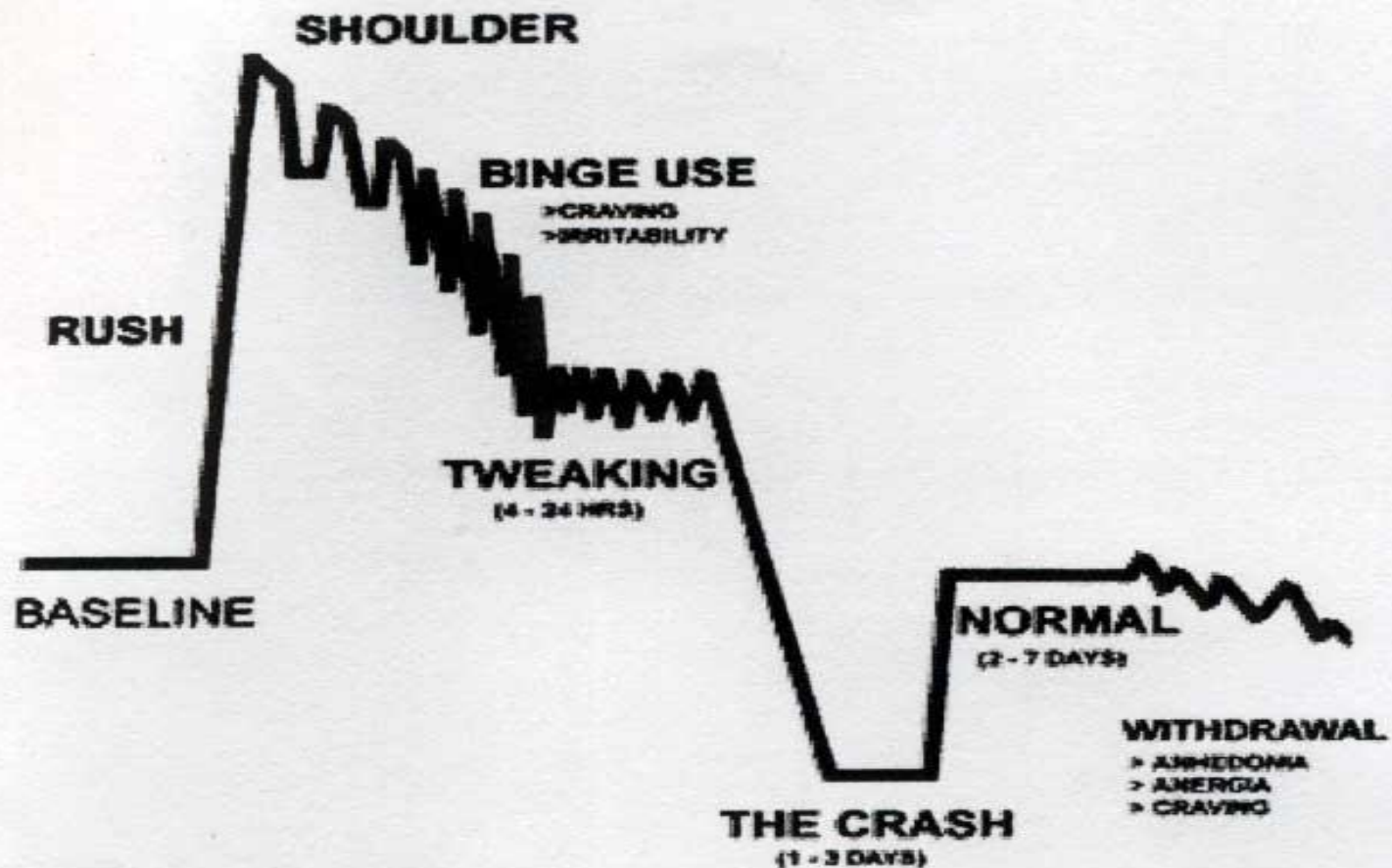
- Dependence, tolerance, addiction, psychosis (paranoia, violent behavior, hallucinations, delusions, mood disturbances), weight loss, stroke, irregular heart beat, high blood pressure, skin abscess, acute lead poisoning.
- Damage to the brain is similar to Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and epilepsy.

Abuse Patterns

Meth abuse has three patterns:

1. Low intensity
2. Binge
3. High intensity

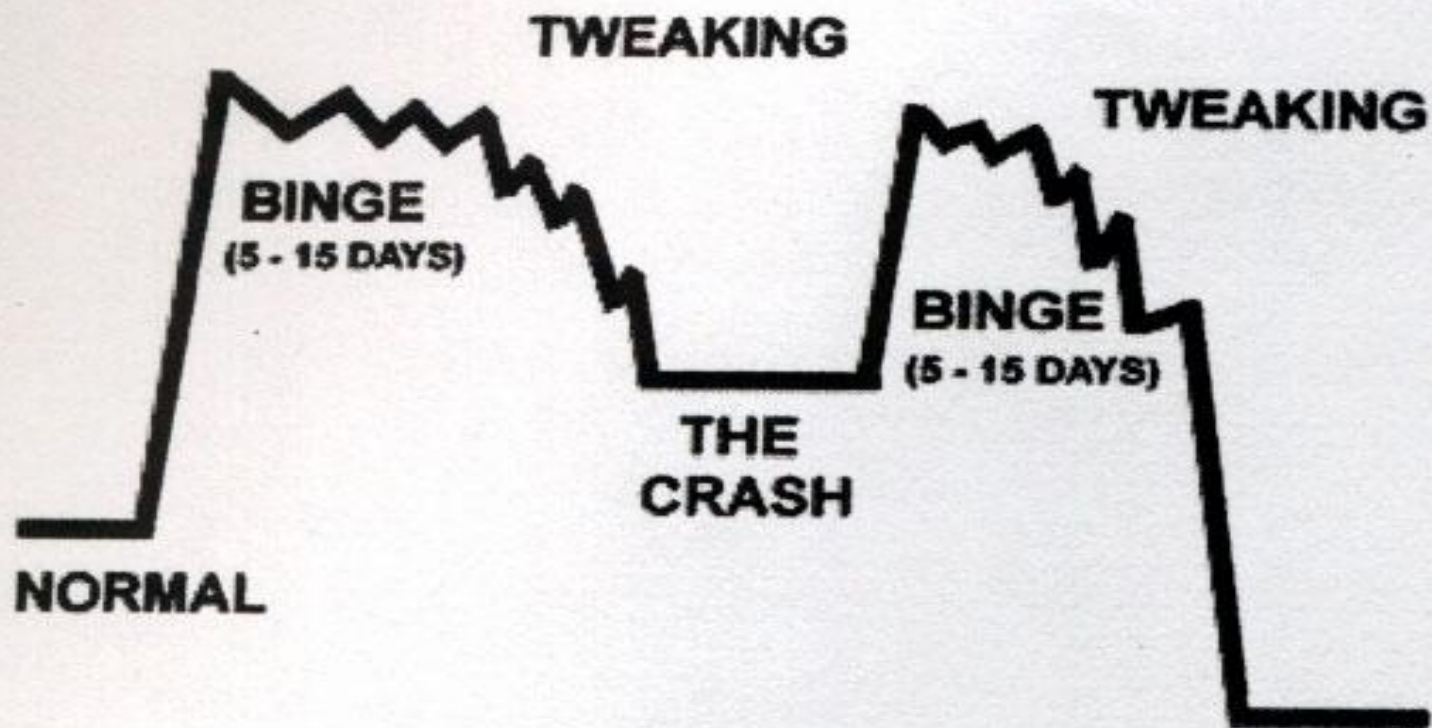
Binge Use



Withdrawal

- Abuser becomes depressed, loses ability to experience pleasure.
 - Becomes lethargic, has no energy.
 - Craving for more meth hits.
 - May become suicidal.
 - If more meth is taken at any point during the withdrawal, the unpleasant feelings will end.
- Consequently, the success rate for rehabilitation is very low. 93 % will return to abuse meth.

High Intensity Use



Dangerous Tweakers

- Are extremely unpredictable, irritable, and short tempered.
- Probably have not slept in 3-15 days.
- Crave more meth, but no dosage will recreate the high. Tweakers become very frustrated.
- No one knows for certain what will trigger a tweaker to be violent. He exists in his own world, seeing and hearing things others don't. Hallucinations seem real.

Tweaker Physical Signs

- Can appear normal. Eyes are clear, speech concise, and movements brisk.
- A closer look: Eyes are moving 10 times faster than normal and may roll. Speaks in a quick often steady voice with slight quiver, and movements are exaggerated, quick and jerky due to being over stimulated. Thinking is scattered and subject to paranoid delusions.
- Needs no provocation to react violently.

Safety Tips for Dealing With a Tweaker

- Keep a social distance.
- Do not shine bright lights at them.
- Slow your speech and lower the pitch.
- Slow your movements.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Keep the tweaker talking.
- Discontinue any activity or discussion that seems to irritate the tweaker.

Other Concerns

- **Weapons:** Many abusers maintain weapons.
- **Hostage:** May take hostage if he feels cornered.
- **Domestic Violence:** Abusers can be dangerous and unpredictable.
- **Vehicle Accidents:** Abusers have hallucinations and delusions. Paranoia may cause erratic driving.
- **Crimes of Opportunity:** Abusers commit robberies, thefts, assaults, and burglaries.

Other Concerns Continued

- **Alcohol:** If a tweaker chooses to ease his discomfort with alcohol, identifying him as a tweaker and reasoning with him becomes difficult. Rapid eye movement and quick speech might actually slow to normal speed.
- Tweakers using alcohol are ordinarily not concerned with the consequences of their actions. A situation can quickly lead to violence.

Treatment

- There are no pharmacological treatments for meth dependency. Antidepressant medications can be used to combat the depressive symptoms of withdrawal.
- The most effective treatment for meth addiction is cognitive behavioral interventions, which modify patient's thinking, expectations, and behavior while increasing coping skills to deal with life stressors. Deal with physical, mental and emotional addiction.
- Recovery support groups are somewhat effective.

Types of Labs

There are generally two types of clandestine meth drug labs.

1. **Super Labs**
2. **“Mom and Pop” Labs**

Super Labs

- A large, highly organized lab that can manufacture 10 or more pounds (\$4,500- \$20,000 street value) of meth per production cycle. To date, these labs are concentrated in Southern California and Mexico. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration they account for 80 percent of all meth produced.

“Mom and Pop” Labs

- These labs are more common and manufacture only one to four ounces of meth per production cycle (\$500- \$2,700 street value). Their operators typically produce enough drugs for their own and close associates’ use, and just enough extra to sell to others to finance the purchase of production chemicals.

Primary Methods of Meth Production

Ephedrine Reduction

Red Phosphorous Method: (Most popular)

- Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, also red phosphorous usually taken from strips on matchboxes, are main ingredients.
- Produces phosphine gas, which can be lethal.

Meth Production Continued

- **Nazi Method: (Birch)**

Uses anhydrous ammonia (liquid fertilizer).

More frequent in farming and rural areas.

Other ingredients are pseudoephedrine, and lithium.

- Can produce a cloud of ammonia gas, which is also extremely dangerous.

Meth Production Continued

- **P2P Method: (phenyl-2-Propanone)**

Outlaw motorcycle bikers prefer this method of manufacturing meth.

By the 1990's, Ephedrine reduction became more popular, and the P2P method was less used.

Now accounts for less than 2 percent of meth labs seized.

Signs of a Meth Lab

- Frequent visitors at all times of day and night.
- Activity at the house is usually at odd hours.
- Occupants appear unemployed, yet have plenty of money.
- Extensive security.
- Windows blacked out, or curtains drawn.
- Chemical odors coming from the house.
(ammonia, cat urine)
- Garbage contains numerous bottles and containers, stained filter/sheets from red phosphorus, or has a chemical odor.



JAN 11 2002







Household Equipment

- Tempered glass baking dishes, glass or plastic jugs, jars, paper towels or filters, funnels, rubber tubing/gloves, buckets, blenders, gas can, tape, clamps, hot plate, strainer, turkey baster, plastic storage containers, ice chests, measuring cups, aluminum foil, lab beakers, towels, matches, propane cylinder.



Red Phosphorus residue.

Coffee Filters with pink or white tablet residue.

Anhydrous Ammonia causes brass valves to turn blue.

Propane tanks and Thermos bottles are used to steal anhydrous ammonia from larger agricultural tanks commonly found on farm property.

Hydrogen Chloride (HCL) gas generators.





aiwa

MODEL NO.

RX-N858

12 0000

FOR SYSTEM OF

NSX-D858

THIS CARTON CONTAINS:

- 12 FLASKS
- 12 BEAKERS
- 12 GRADUATED CYLINDERS
- 12 ERLLENMEYER FLASKS
- 12 ROUNDBOTTOM FLASKS
- 12 SYRINGES
- 12 TUBES
- 12 TIPS

VENO
BROOK

22 OZ.
PLASTIC FLASK

VENO







Chemicals

- Ephedrine, pseudoephedrine (cold tablets), alcohol,(rubbing/gas additive) toluene(brake fluid), ether(engine starter), sulfuric acid(drain cleaner), lithium(batteries), anhydrous ammonia(farm fertilizer), red phosphorous(matches), iodine(vet. products),sodium hydroxide(lye), rock salt, trichloroethane(gun scrubber), kitty litter.



Any brand of cold tablets containing Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine

Red Phosphorus

Lithium

Alcohol

Veterinarian

tooth crystals

(codine)

Ether

Trichloroethane

Toluene

MSM, a cutting agent

Methanol

TOLUENE

Acetone

Solvents

Sulfuric Acid

Kitty Litter

Sodium Hydroxide

Salt

Ohio Resource Network
www.ebasedprevention.org

The products on this panel and similar products from other manufacturers are used to produce methamphetamine.





Dangers Caused by Clandestine Labs

Physical Injury

- Mixing chemicals in clan drug labs creates substantial risks of explosions, fires, chemical burns, and toxic fume inhalation. These risks not only apply to the people running the lab, but also neighbors, emergency first responders (law enforcement and fire), and hazardous materials clean up crews.









By The Numbers

According to the DEA:

- 8,000 meth labs were seized nationwide.
- 3,300 children were found in them.
- 48 were burned or injured.
- 1 was killed.
- Countless were removed from their parents' custody.

Chemical Contamination

Children may:

Inhale or swallow toxic substances or second-hand smoke of adults using meth, causing headache, nausea, dizziness, eye and respiratory irritation, and shortness of breath.

- Receive an injection or accidental skin prick from discarded needles or other paraphernalia.
- Absorb meth and other toxic chemicals through the skin following contact with contaminated surfaces, clothing, and food.

Fire and Explosions

- Approximately 15 percent of meth labs are discovered as a result of fire or explosion. Some causes include:

Careless handling and over heating volatile chemicals and waste, and unsafe manufacturing methods.

Improperly labeled and incompatible chemicals are often stored together or left on stove tops near an ignition source accessible to children.

Abuse and Neglect

- Children living at meth labs are at increased risk of severe neglect and physical and sexual abuse (by family members and others).
- Parents and caregivers who are meth dependent become careless, irritable, and violent, often losing their capacity to nurture the children.
- Older siblings often assume the role of caregiver.
- Children may experience added trauma of witnessing, or being forced to participate in violence, having to care for an incapacitated or injured parent, or watch police arrest a parent.

Hazardous Lifestyle

- Meth homes often lack heating, cooling, proper ventilation, legally provided electricity, running water, or refrigeration.
- Living and playing areas are contaminated with chemicals, rotten food, condoms, and infested with rodents and insects. Toilets and tubs are backed up or inoperable.
- There is exposure and accessibility to weapons, guns, and booby traps.

Social Problems

- Children often exhibit low self esteem, a sense of shame, and poor social skills. They may experience emotional and mental health problems, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school absenteeism and failure, isolation, and poor peer relations. Many will imitate parents as adults.
- Many exhibit an attachment disorder caused when parents fail to respond to a child's basic needs. For example, the child doesn't cry when separated, or they develop an inability to trust, form relationships, and adapt.

Other Risks

- Dangerous animals trained to protect illegal meth lab.
- Exposure to pornographic materials and overt sexual activity.
- May be directly involved in manufacturing meth without protective or safety gear.
- Unaware victims like neighbors, schools etc.

Risks Continued

- **Pregnancy Concerns**
- **Environmental Hazards**
- **Criminal Environment**



FIRE DANGERS







What You Can Do

- First and foremost, **DO NOT** touch any material or investigate. Contact local law enforcement.
- Be vigilant and watch for clues of meth production.
- Get to know your neighbor.
- Screen prospective tenants.
- Educate store owners to watch their inventory for frequent or large quantities of products purchased which are used in meth production.
- Educate hotel and housekeeping staff to be alert to suspicious behavior, odors, stains, and discarded items.

Reality Check

“It’s like selling your soul to the devil. When I was high, I felt alive for the first time in my life. While I was using, I thought nothing could touch me. I was beautiful and perfect in my meth world. In the real world, my body was rotting from the inside out.”

--Former meth user



18 months of Methamphetamine Use

Ohio Resource Network
www.ebasedprevention.org
Recognizing Impairing Drugs Training 402-871-3207



10 Years of Meth Use



Resources

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (SAMHSA)
- Office of National Drug Control Policy. (ONDCP)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse. (NIDA)
- National Institute of Mental Health. (NIMH)
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service. (NCJRS)
- National Drug Intelligence Center. (NDIC)

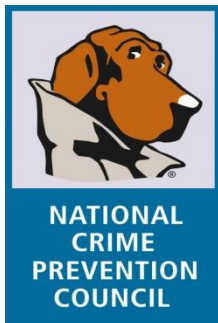
Resources Continued

- www.ebasedprevention.org
- www.methresources.gov
- www.methwatch.com
- www.kci.org/meth_info
- www.justthinktwice.com

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