



Methamphetamine users who inject (shoot) the drug expose themselves to health risks including, HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B & C as well as other blood borne viruses. Needle users risk scarred or collapsed veins, heart infections, abscesses and liver and kidney damage.

Other signs and symptoms of Methamphetamine use:

Acne, discoloration of teeth, teeth grinding, sweating, dilated pupils, sensitivity to light and sound and seizures.

How does Methamphetamine affect the community?

Methamphetamine use is a community problem. Methamphetamine production can cause fires and explosions. It also produces deadly gasses. For every one pound of methamphetamine manufactured, there are six pounds of toxic waste produced. This toxic waste is often dumped in streams, in fields, near sewage systems, playgrounds and even in water supply sources. The cost to clean this environmental damage is very expensive.

What do I do if I suspect a lab?

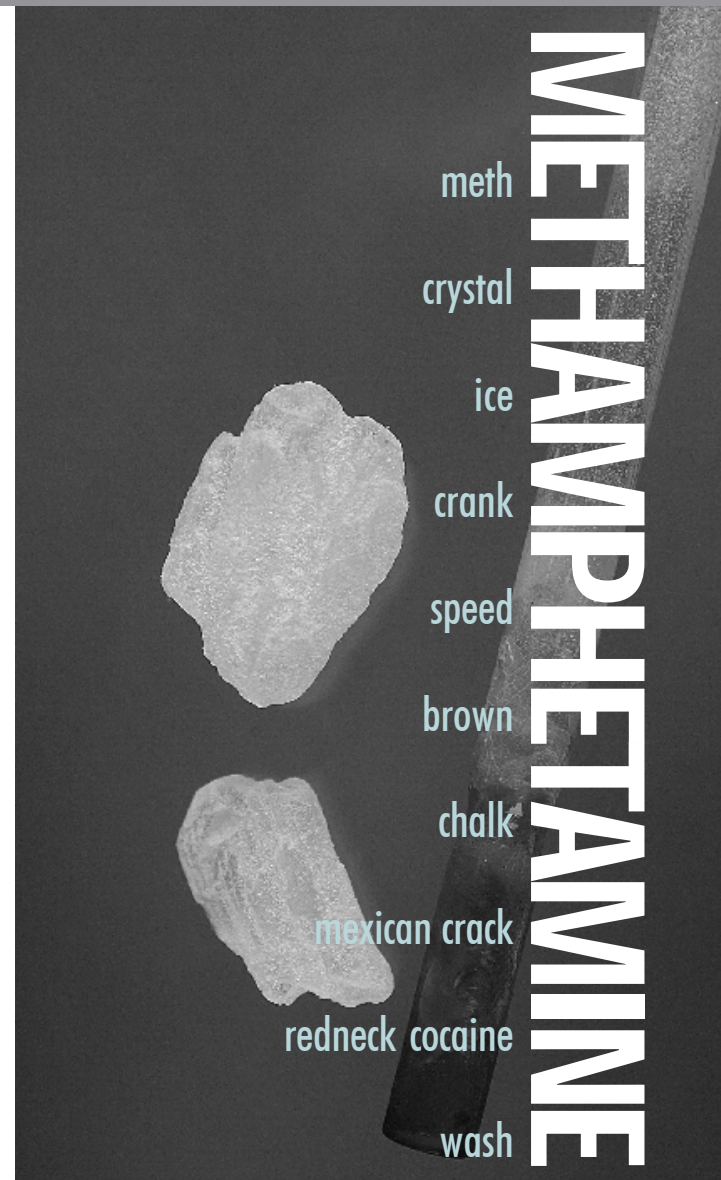
Do not investigate them yourself. Call your local police or the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General. Agents are trained to deal with these labs and handle the chemicals.

For additional information related to the contents of this brochure, please contact the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

Truth & Choices

The Office of Attorney General has created this new anti-drug program to introduce middle and high school students to Shane. A popular kid from a suburban Pennsylvania school, Shane shares this true story of hard choices and near death experiences due to drugs and alcohol. The presentation features interviews with Shane (from prison), his family, law enforcement and the medical community. It's a reality check for all students and will open a unique dialogue about the realities of substance abuse. There is also a program for parents. Both programs are available on DVD and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

To order a copy of the DVD and/or to request a "Truth & Choices" school or community presentation to be given by the Office of Attorney General, please contact our Education & Outreach Unit toll-free at **800-525-7642** or via email at **education@attorneygeneral.gov**.



Methamphetamine is a growing problem in Pennsylvania. Abuse of this potent, inexpensive and highly addictive stimulant is on the rise, jeopardizing the health of those who use it and fueling criminal behavior as addicts struggle to support their habits.

Methamphetamine also poses a direct safety and environmental threat to our communities. Manufacture of the drug produces deadly gasses that can cause fires and explosions, and the drug-making process leaves behind massive amounts of toxic waste. Until recently, secret labs were usually found in isolated, rural parts of our state. As use of the drug increases, the production of meth has moved into our suburbs and cities.

Please read over the information in this brochure, educate yourself about the problem and report suspected methamphetamine use or production to the Office of Attorney General or your local police department.

What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a synthetic (man-made) drug which stimulates the brain's central nervous system. It is made with household products including an OTC cold medicine. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that is abused because it initially produces a euphoric high and users can also achieve massive weight loss. Methamphetamine is inexpensive, making the drug more available to all income levels. It is a Schedule II drug. All Schedule II drugs have a high potential for both physical and psychological addiction.

How is it used?

Methamphetamine is usually smoked. However, it can be taken orally in a capsule or tablet form. It can also be inhaled (snorted) or foiled and injected with a needle.

What does it look like?

Methamphetamine varies in its appearance. It may be sold as a powder. But, it is also sold in a crystalline form or in rock like chunks. The color of the drug may vary from clear, white, pink, brown, orange and gray.

Methamphetamine Streetnames:

It is most commonly known as Meth, Crystal, Ice, Crank, or Speed. It is also referred to as Brown, Chalk, Mexican Crack, Redneck Cocaine, and Wash.

Where does it come from?

Methamphetamine can be easily produced in any location. Common sites include homes, recreational vehicles, boats, cars, motels, storage spaces and even outdoor fields. The production sites are called "clan labs." These labs are extremely toxic and can be deadly.

Who uses Methamphetamine?

In the past, the typical user was an adult male with a lower than average income. Today, individuals of every age and economic status are using the drug. Methamphetamine is very popular with high school students as it is easy assessable and is very inexpensive.

How much does it cost?

Cost varies from \$20.00 – \$200.00, however, one gram usually costs about \$75.

What are the risks of using Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine use is associated with many serious health problems. The drug increases body temperature, causes rapid heart beat, increased blood pressure and damages small blood vessels in the brain that may result in stroke.

Continued use causes weight loss, paranoia, insomnia, delusions, and confusion. Methamphetamine users often become aggressive and violent and may harm themselves and others.

