

METH: THE FACE OF RURAL AMERICA

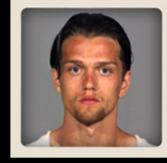
FACES OF METH



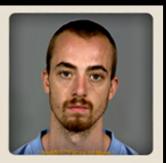
5 MONTHS



9 MONTHS



7 MONTHS



6 MONTHS

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STREET NAMES FOR **METHAMPHETAMINE**

Methamphetamine (meth) and crystal methamphetamine are referred to by many names:

METH

- Beannies
- Brown
- Chalk
- Crank
- Chicken feed
- Cinnamon
- Crink
- Crypto
- Fast
- Getgo
- Methlies Quik
- Mexican crack
- Pervitin (Czech Republic)
- Redneck cocaine

• Speed

- Tick tick
- Tweak
- Wash
- Yaba (Southeast Asia)
- Yellow powder

CRYSTAL METH

- Batu
- Blade
- Cristy
- Crystal
- Crystal glass
- Glass
- Hot ice
- Ice
- Quartz
- Shabu
- Shards
- Stove top
- Tina
- Ventana

HOW METH IS USED



SMOKED



INJECTED



SNORTED



INGESTED

METH ADDICTION

- IT'S TOO EASY TO GET ADDICTED TO METH.
- METH IS A STIMULANT THAT INCREASES ACTIVITY IN THE PLEASURE CENTERS OF THE BRAIN. THE FIRST TIME PEOPLE USE METH THEY OFTEN FEEL JOYFUL AND EXCITED. SOME ADDICTS REPORT THAT THEY BECAME HOOKED THE FIRST TIME THEY USED METH. AN OCCASIONAL METH USER CAN QUICKLY BECOME AN ADDICT.
- METH ADDICTS WHO ARE ON A BINGE MAY STAY AWAKE FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE FALLING INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP THAT CAN ALSO LAST FOR DAYS. THE LACK OF SLEEP CAUSES USERS TO BECOME EXTREMELY PARANOID AND UNPREDICTABLE. SOME METH ADDICTS BECOME AGGRESSIVE AND VIOLENT. THE NEED TO OBTAIN AND USE METH BECOMES THE FOCUS OF THE ADDICT'S LIFE.

- LONG-TERM METH USE SCRAMBLES THE USER'S BRAIN CHEMISTRY AND CAN CAUSE SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS LIKE HALLUCINATIONS. METH CAN ALSO CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS LIKE LOSS OF BONE MASS, AND DETERIORATION OF THE USER'S TEETH. USING METH CAN EVEN KILL YOU.
- METH IS A HARD DRUG TO KICK. TREATMENT FOR METH ADDICTION IS A LONG-TERM PROCESS.
- ADDICTS OFTEN COMMIT CRIMES TO GET METH. TO SATISFY THEIR CRAVINGS, SOME ADDICTS MAKE THE DRUG IN DANGEROUS HOMEMADE LABS. METH HAS MANY STREET NAMES INCLUDING "CRANK" AND "ICE." IT CAN BE SMOKED, SNORTED, EATEN OR INJECTED. METH'S EFFECTS TYPICALLY LAST 10 TO 12 HOURS - LONGER THAN COCAINE, WHICH WEARS OFF IN LESS THAN AN HOUR.

Adverse (negative) effects of Methamphetamine

Psychological

- Insomnia
- Aggressive behavior
- Paranoia
- Incessant conversations
- Decreased appetite
- Increased alertness
- Irritability
- Slurred speech
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Hallucinations
- Obsessive behaviors
- Depression
- Panic attacks

Systemic

- Hyperthermia
- Malnutrition
- Impaired immune system

Circulatory

- High blood pressure
- Vessel damage in brain
- Clotting and stroke

Heart

- Chest pain
- Rapid heart rate
- Heart attack

Liver

- Damage

Eyes

- Dilated pupils

Mouth

- Grinding of teeth

Skin

- Sweating
- Numbness

Respiratory

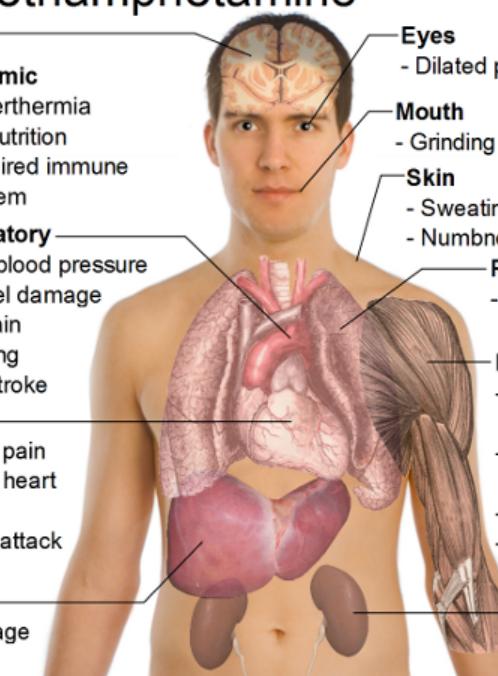
- Shortness of breath

Muscular

- Jerky movements
- Increased activity
- Convulsions
- Loss of coordination

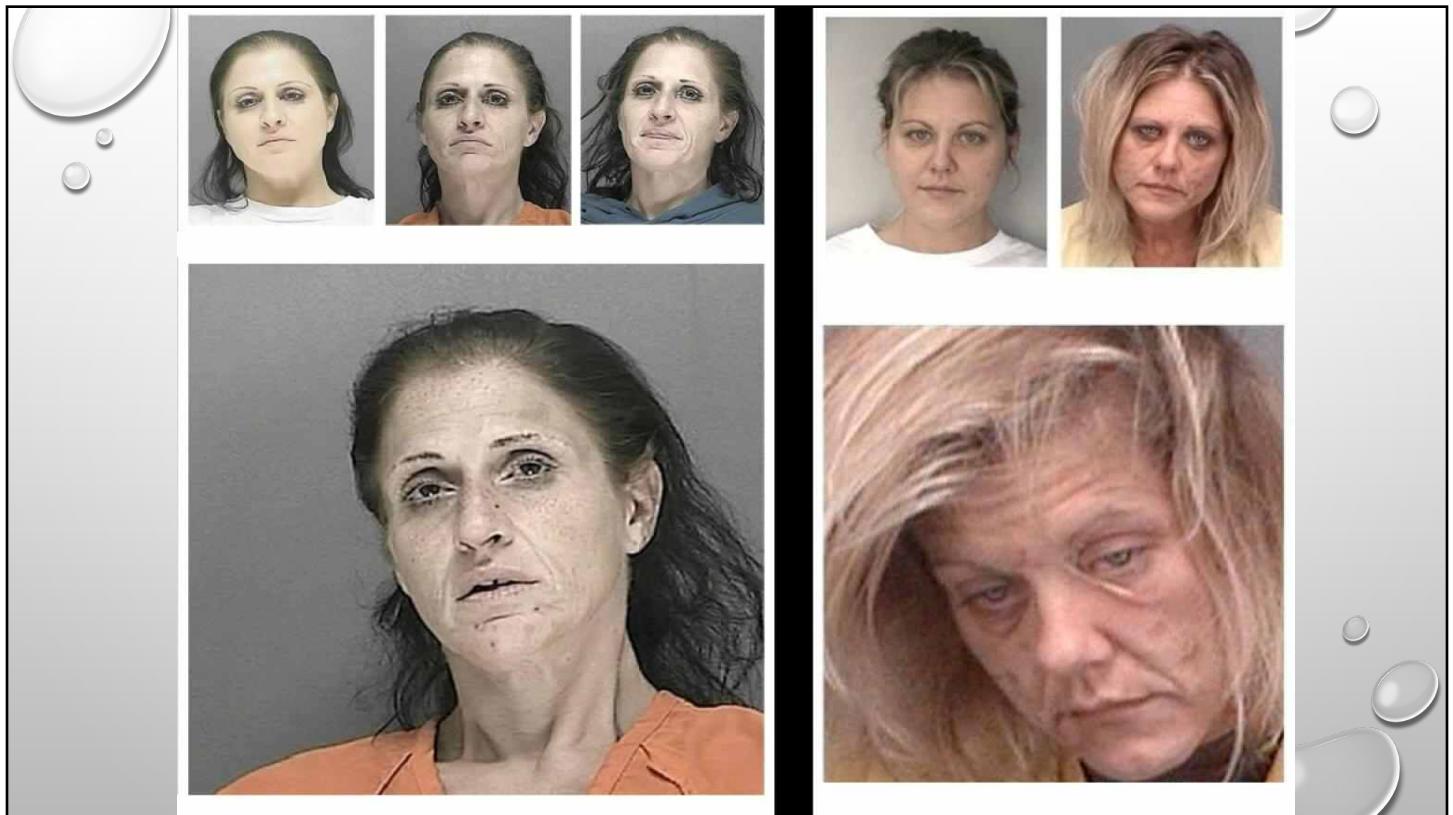
Kidneys

- Damage





THIS IS AFTER 1.5 YEARS OF USE





THIS IS AFTER 2.5 YEARS OF USE

METH MOUTH



METH MOUTH

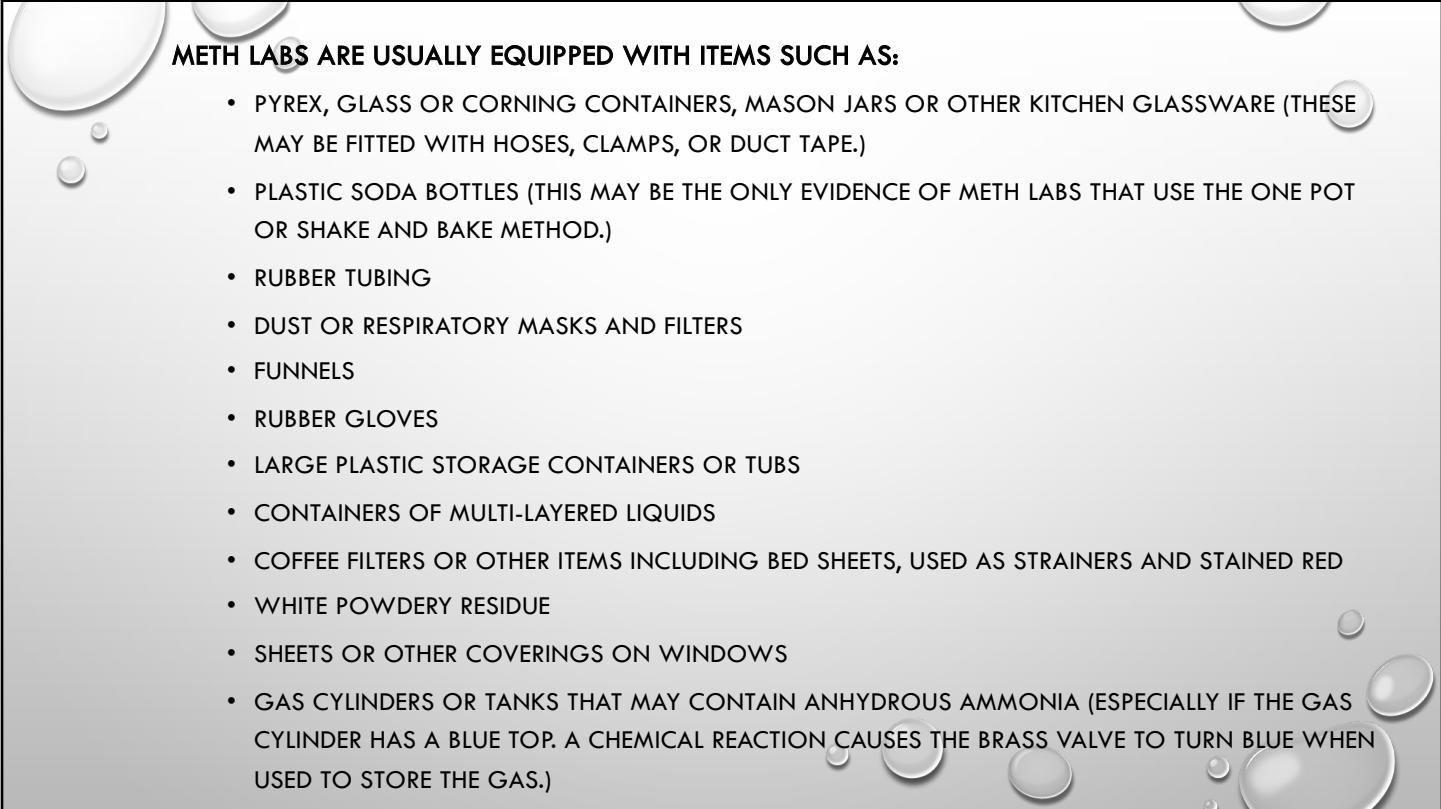
- **METH MOUTH** IS SEVERE TOOTH DECAY AND LOSS OF TEETH, AS WELL AS TOOTH FRACTURE, ACID EROSION, AND OTHER ORAL PROBLEMS POTENTIALLY SYMPTOMATIC OF EXTENDED USE OF THE DRUG METHAMPHETAMINE (COLLOQUIALLY TERMED "METH", "CRYSTAL METH" AND MANY OTHER NAMES).
- THE CONDITION IS THOUGHT TO BE CAUSED BY A COMBINATION OF SIDE EFFECTS OF THE DRUG (CLENCHING AND GRINDING OF TEETH, DRY MOUTH) AND LIFESTYLE FACTORS (INFREQUENT ORAL HYGIENE, FREQUENT CONSUMPTION OF SUGARY DRINKS), WHICH MAY BE PRESENT IN LONG TERM USERS.

METH LAB BUSTS 2003-2013

- 2003 177
- 2004 322
- 2005 328
- 2006 197
- 2007 157
- 2008 197
- 2009 206
- 2010 235
- 2011 344
- 2012 460
- 2013 561



COMMON ITEMS FOUND IN THE MANUFACTURE OF METH



METH LABS ARE USUALLY EQUIPPED WITH ITEMS SUCH AS:

- PYREX, GLASS OR CORNING CONTAINERS, MASON JARS OR OTHER KITCHEN GLASSWARE (THESE MAY BE FITTED WITH HOSES, CLAMPS, OR DUCT TAPE.)
- PLASTIC SODA BOTTLES (THIS MAY BE THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF METH LABS THAT USE THE ONE POT OR SHAKE AND BAKE METHOD.)
- RUBBER TUBING
- DUST OR RESPIRATORY MASKS AND FILTERS
- FUNNELS
- RUBBER GLOVES
- LARGE PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS OR TUBS
- CONTAINERS OF MULTI-LAYERED LIQUIDS
- COFFEE FILTERS OR OTHER ITEMS INCLUDING BED SHEETS, USED AS STRAINERS AND STAINED RED
- WHITE POWDERY RESIDUE
- SHEETS OR OTHER COVERINGS ON WINDOWS
- GAS CYLINDERS OR TANKS THAT MAY CONTAIN ANHYDROUS AMMONIA (ESPECIALLY IF THE GAS CYLINDER HAS A BLUE TOP. A CHEMICAL REACTION CAUSES THE BRASS VALVE TO TURN BLUE WHEN USED TO STORE THE GAS.)

SIGNS OF A METH LAB

- **COLD MEDICINE**

- A LARGE QUANTITY OF COLD MEDICATION PACKAGES OR CONTAINERS IS A STRONG INDICATION OF METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION. PSEUDOEPHEDRINE, FOUND IN COLD MEDICINES, IS THE KEY INGREDIENT FOR [HOMEMADE METH](#).

- **ORGANIZED PSEUDOEPHEDRINE PURCHASES**

- METH COOKS AND ADDICTS TRY TO BYPASS PSEUDOEPHEDRINE PURCHASE LIMITS BY PURCHASING SMALL AMOUNTS AT MULTIPLE PHARMACIES, SOMETIMES WORKING IN GROUPS. DRIVING FROM PHARMACY TO PHARMACY TO PURCHASE PSEUDOEPHEDRINE IS KNOWN AS "SMURFING." LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE NOW USING SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER DATABASES TO IDENTIFY "SMURFS" AND STOP THEIR METH PRODUCTION.

SIGNS OF METH LAB

- **SMELLS**

- A TELLTALE SIGN OF A METH LAB IS A POWERFUL CHEMICAL SMELL. THE ODOR OF AN ACTIVE METH LAB MAY SMELL LIKE:
- PAINT THINNER OR VANISH SMELL
- ETHER OR A "HOSPITAL SMELL"
- SOUR OR VINEGARY SMELL
- AMMONIA-LIKE SMELL (LIKE THE SMELL OF WINDOW CLEANER, FERTILIZERS OR EVEN CAT URINE)

METH LAB RISKS

• HEALTH RISKS

- COOKING METH PRODUCES DANGEROUS BYPRODUCTS THAT CAN CAUSE SEVERE BURNS, SKIN AND EYE IRRITATION, AND DAMAGE TO LUNGS AND KIDNEYS. EXPOSURE CAN RESULT IN HEADACHES, DIZZINESS, NAUSEA, AND EVEN DEATH. UNDER STATE LAW, BUILDINGS THAT HAVE BEEN USED TO MAKE METH HAVE TO BE DECONTAMINATED BEFORE THEY'RE SAFE AGAIN.

• ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

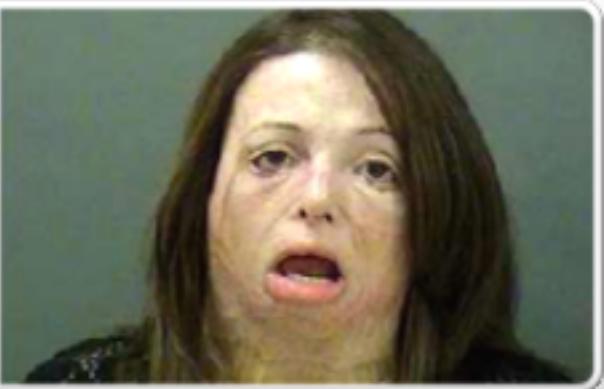
- METH PRODUCTION ALSO DAMAGES THE ENVIRONMENT. AS MANY AS FIVE POUNDS OF TOXIC CHEMICAL WASTE IS CREATED EACH TIME METH IS PRODUCED IN A LAB. CRIMINALS WHO MAKE METH DUMP THEIR TOXIC WASTE AND CONTAMINATED CONTAINERS, POLLUTING OUR LAND AND WATER.

• SAFETY RISKS

- METH ADDICTS CAN BECOME VIOLENT AND PARANOID. THEY OFTEN PLACE BOOBY-TRAPS IN THEIR LABS, AND USE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO WARN THEM AGAINST INVESTIGATORS. ADDITIONALLY, METH LABS ARE PRONE TO FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS.



METH LAB EXPLOSION



INJURED IN A METH EXPLOSION

RECENT TRENDS

- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS REPORT THE EMERGENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA OF METH LABS THAT USE THE ONE POT OR SHAKE AND BAKE METHOD. MAKING METH USING THIS PROCESS IS FAST, EASY TO SET UP, AND PRODUCES LITTLE EVIDENCE OR WASTE FOR THE COOK TO DISPOSE OF. CRIMINALS CAN USE THIS METHOD TO MAKE THE DRUG USING A PLASTIC SODA BOTTLE AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF PSEUDOEPHEDRINE.
- ANOTHER TREND IN METH PRODUCTION IS THE SPREAD OF SUPER LABS THAT CAN PRODUCE MORE THAN 10 POUNDS OF METH AT A TIME. IN SOME CASES, METH IS INITIALLY PROCESSED IN MEXICO, THEN TRANSPORTED AS A LIQUID TO SUPER LABS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL PROCESSING AND SALE. OFFICIALS DISCOVERED THE FIRST KNOWN SUPER LAB IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2009, AND SEVERAL HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE ATLANTA AREA.