

AMPHETAMINES

Other names:

speed, meth, crank, crystal, ice, uppers, ups, glass, black beauties, pep pills, copilots, bumblebees, hearts, benzedrine, dexedrine, footballs, biphphetamine

How it is used:

can be taken orally, injected, snorted, or smoked

What it looks like:

capsules, pills, tablets, white powder, rock resembling wax or shards of glass

Amphetamines are stimulants or “uppers” which are usually made synthetically in unsafe illegal labs.

The term “amphetamine” is used to refer to a large class of stimulants: amphetamine (black beauties, white bennies), dextroamphetamine (dexies, beans), and methamphetamine (crank, meth, crystal, speed). The different types of amphetamine have such similar chemical make-up and effects that even experienced users may not be able to tell which drug they have taken.

“Ice”, a slang term for smokeable methamphetamine with a translucent rock-like appearance, is a highly addictive and toxic form of amphetamine.

What it Does: Amphetamines can be taken orally, injected, smoked, or snorted. Injecting or smoking leads to an immediate intense sensation – a “rush” – that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Oral or intranasal use produces a milder euphoria. Amphetamines taste extremely bitter, and injection and snorting are painful.

The effects – stimulation of the central nervous system, a sense of well-being and high energy, a release of social inhibitions, and feelings of cleverness, competence, and power – are similar to the effects of cocaine but last longer; from 4-6 hours depending on dose and potency.

Chronic amphetamine use produces a psychosis that resembles schizophrenia and is characterized by paranoia, picking at the skin, and auditory and visual hallucinations. Extremely violent and erratic behavior is frequently seen among chronic abusers of amphetamines.

Effects on the mind and body:

- irritability
- anxiety
- increased blood pressure
- paranoia
- stimulation
- aggression
- convulsions
- dilated pupils and blurred vision
- dizziness
- sleeplessness
- loss of appetite and malnutrition
- increased body temperature
- nerve cell damage

Support Groups in Lancaster County

Alcoholics Anonymous (717) 394-3238
Narcotics Anonymous (717) 393-4546
Al-Anon (for family & friends) (877) 298-5027



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