

AMPHETAMINES



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WHAT ARE AMPHETAMINES?

- *Amphetamines are powerful stimulants that increase activity in the Central Nervous System (CNS), or speed up the way the human body works. They are classified as a CNS Stimulant.*

- *Amphetamines are drugs that induce false feelings of power, strength, self-assertion and enhanced motivation.*

HISTORY of AMPHETAMINES

- 18 JAN 1887** *First amphetamine, phenylisopropylamine was synthesized by a German chemist.*
- 1919** *Methamphetamine is first synthesized.*
- 1932** *Amphetamines were marketed for the first time as benzedrine in an over-the-counter inhaler to treat congestion.*
- 1937** *Amphetamines were made available for prescription in tablet form to treat narcolepsy.*

HISTORY of AMPHETAMINES

- World War II** Amphetamines are widely distributed to soldiers on both sides to enhance performance. This led to addiction problems in post war Japan.*
- 1942** Dextro-amphetamine becomes commonly available throughout the United States.*
- 1950s** Amphetamines were widely used to treat depression and cause weight loss.*
- 1960s** Methamphetamine use begins to appear around the United States.*

HISTORY of AMPHETAMINES

1970 Amphetamines became illegal after the passage of “United States Drug Abuse Regulation and Control Act of 1970”

1980s – present The smoking of methamphetamine becomes popular throughout the United States despite the dangers involved.

Present Amphetamines are classified by the DEA as a Schedule II Controlled Substance.

Amphetamines, specifically methamphetamine has been associated with “Raves”, and belongs to the “Club Drugs” family.

STREET NAMES

The amphetamines found on the street are almost never pure, and have been known to be mixed with substances such as glucose. Amphetamines are known by several slang terms such as:

Dexies

Black Beauties

Jollies





HOW ARE AMPHETAMINES CONSUMED?

Amphetamines are generally a white or off-white powder that can be ingested in one of three ways:

- ***Orally – In a pill form***
- ***Snorted – This can cause severe damage to the interior and exterior of the nose.***
- ***Intravenously - The amphetamine can be injected into either the blood stream or the muscle tissue***

SHORT TERM SIDE EFFECTS



Dilated Pupils



Tremors



Increased Blood Pressure



Dizziness/Nausea



Increased Heart Rate



Irregular Heartbeat



Decreased Appetite



Loss of Coordination



Dry Mouth



Collapse



Headache



Loss of Consciousness

LONG TERM SIDE EFFECTS

In addition to those listed below amphetamine use can cause the users to have long term problems with high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, and severe sleeping disorders.

Malnutrition – Because Amphetamines reduce the users appetite, they are less likely to eat properly and because of this are less resistant to infections.

Chronic Psychosis – Symptoms include paranoia, delusions, and bizarre behavior. This can be seen as early as 1 week after the user has stopped using.



Chronic Anxiety/Tension - To combat this users often turn to alcohol and barbiturates for help. Chronic Anxiety may also lead to violent behavior.

Brain Damage – Long term use of Amphetamines can cause damage to the brain, specifically areas that deal with memory and everyday thinking.

ADDICTION

Physical Dependence - When the users body cannot function properly without ingestion of the drug.

Psychological Dependence - When the consumption of the drug takes priority over other activities within the users daily life.

WITHDRAWAL

When a dependent person stops taking amphetamines their body must readjust to functioning with the drug. Symptoms of withdrawal can include:

- Hunger**
- Extreme Fatigue**
- Anxiety/Irritability**
- Chronic Depression**
- Restless Sleep**
- Severe Nightmares**
- Severe Distress**
- Panic Attacks**

AMPHETAMINE TESTING

- ***Amphetamines are detectable in urine for 2-4 days after ingestion.***