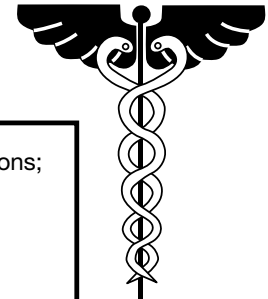




SPEED/AMPHETAMINES



Facts About Drugs

WHAT THEY ARE

Names: amphetamine, speed, methamphetamine, bennies, black beauties, copilots, crystal, dexies, eye openers, lid poppers, meth, pep pills, uppers, wake-ups, Dexedrine, Desoxyn, crank

Type: central nervous system stimulant

Forms: white crystalline powder, soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol (Methamphetamine is freely soluble in water and alcohol.); off-white to yellow coarse powder, crystals and chunks; capsules or tablets of various colors

Combinations: with barbiturates, “goofballs”; with methamphetamine or cocaine and heroin, “speedballs”; with LSD and PCP

Usage: swallowed (capsules, tablets); injected into bloodstream (solution); sniffed (powder), “snorted”

Legal Status: illegal except for licensed medical treatment of narcolepsy, childhood behavior disorders, parkinsonism, epilepsy, hypotensive states

WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE

rush of pleasure similar to orgasm or electric shock (after injection); reduced appetite; increased alertness, euphoria, excitement, creativity, power; altered sex drive; restlessness, dizziness, confusion, depression, irritability; paranoia, distorted perceptions, visions

WHAT THEY DO

To Your Mind: overstimulate central nervous system

To Your Body: increase heart rate, breathing rate; causes irregular heartbeat and breathing; dry mouth; foul taste; diarrhea; appetite suppression; retraction of gum tissue; impotence; increased urine out-

put; fainting; sweating; fever; convulsions; coma; hemorrhage

Special Characteristics: Methamphetamine “run” of three to five days produces euphoria replaced by agitation on second day, along with frightening visual images and exhaustion. Amphetamine “run” psychosis may bring on uncontrollable violent behavior similar to paranoid schizophrenia.

HOW THEY CAN HURT YOU

- chronic sleep problems, nervousness
- skin rash
- high blood pressure
- paranoia, chronic amphetamine psychosis, decreased emotional control, severe depression
- needle-related hepatitis, infection, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- dependence on drug
- death from stroke, heart failure, extreme fever, violent accidents and murder

WHEN TO GET HELP

- Do you use speed at all?
- Do you think about how and when you’re going to use speed again?
- Is your work or school performance affected by your drug use?
- Are you having problems with family and friends?
- Do you spend more money on speed than you can afford?
- Do you use other drugs in addition to amphetamines?

FACT:
Speed users reach a plateau where no pleasure is possible.