

## Meth in the Golden State

In Alhambra, California, on August 5th 2004, officials seized approximately 3,100 pounds of marijuana and 21 pounds of "ice" methamphetamine with a street value of more than \$31.5 million dollars. Quite a haul, but unfortunately not that unusual.

Most people know something about marijuana, but what exactly is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a powerful stimulant drug closely related to amphetamine. It is commonly referred to as "speed," "crystal," "crank," "go," and most recently, "ice," a smokable form of the drug. Relatively inexpensive and highly addictive, methamphetamine is currently a major concern across the United States.

The illegal manufacture of methamphetamine is a relatively simple process and can be carried out by individuals without special knowledge or expertise in chemistry. It is often taken in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and marijuana and, like heroin and cocaine, can be inhaled, injected, ingested or smoked.

Methamphetamine first causes a pleasurable sensation, which is followed, as the 'high' subsides, by a rebound of negative feelings. The user is left feeling irritable, depressed and desiring, what? More of the drug. In the mean time, the body is developing a tolerance to this particular poison and so the same dose no longer delivers the same experience, demanding a stronger drug or just a larger dose.

Prolonged abuse of meth can produce symptoms similar to those of schizophrenia, i.e., panic, paranoia, auditory and visual hallucinations, repetitive behavior patterns, and delusions of parasites or insects on or under the skin.

California is ground zero for meth production. The state is home to 80 percent of the nation's meth labs, making the drug a major export to other states. In addition, 97 percent of the nation's "super labs," those that produce more than 20 pounds of meth in a single batch are located in California.



For Help With Methamphetamine Addiction:

Call  
Toll Free: 888-9NO-DRUGS or 888-966-3784

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