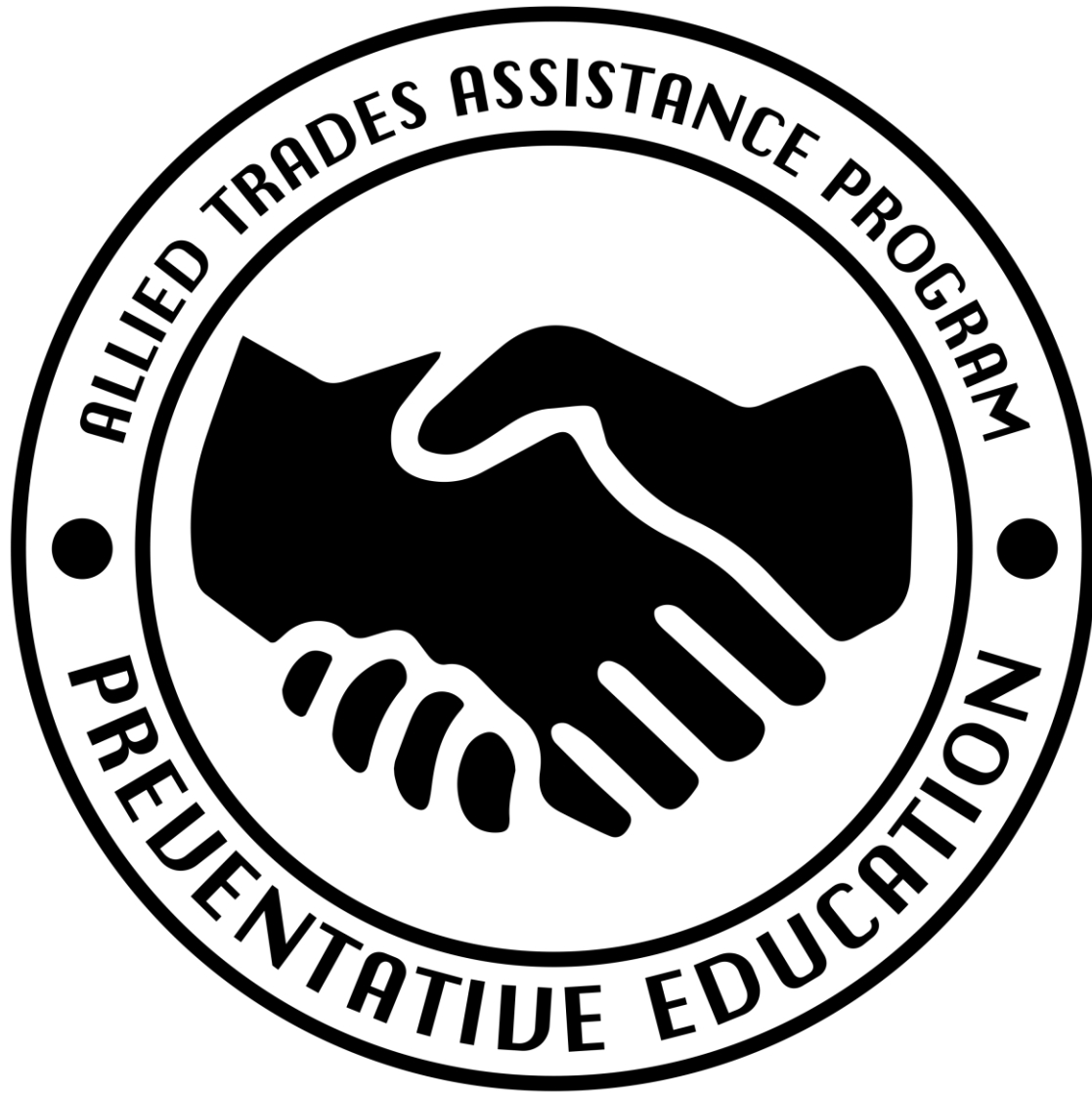




METHAMPHETAMINE

Module 7

**ALLIED TRADES
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**PREVENTATIVE
EDUCATION:
SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER**



Methamphetamine “Meth”

What is METH?

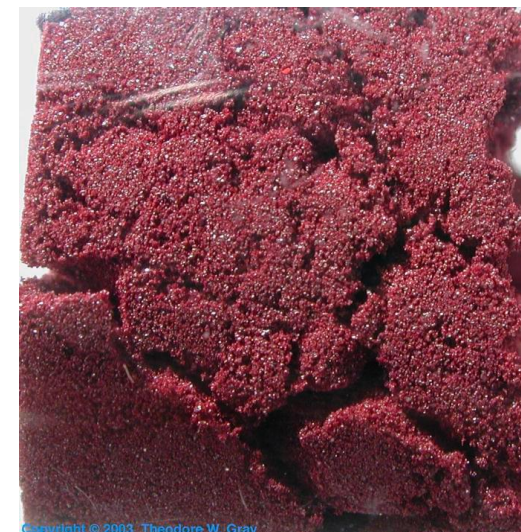
Methamphetamine is a potent central nervous system stimulant which affects neurochemical mechanisms responsible for regulating heart rate, body temperature, blood pressure, appetite, attention, mood and responses associated with alertness or alarm conditions.

History

**METH WAS FIRST SYNTHESIZED FROM EPHEDRINE IN JAPAN
IN 1893 BY CHEMIST NAGAYOSHI NAGAI.**



In 1919, crystallized methamphetamine was synthesized by Akira Ogata via reduction of ephedrine using red phosphorus and iodine.



The related compound Amphetamine was first synthesized in Germany in 1887 by Lazar.

One of the early uses of amphetamine occurred during World War II where the German Wehrmacht dispensed the stimulant known under the trade name Pervitin to troops.

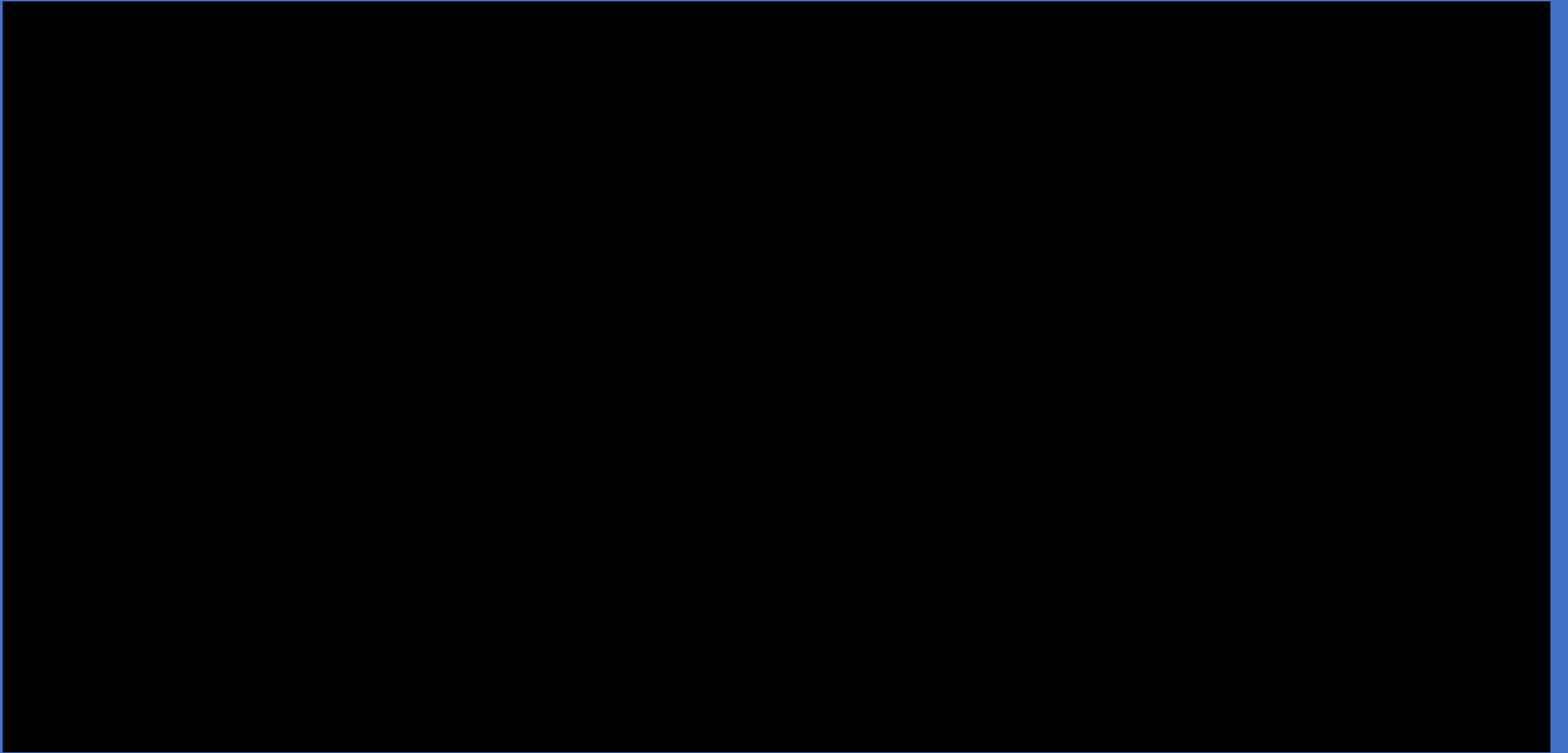
With the 1950's came a rise in the legal prescription of methamphetamine to the American public for narcolepsy, post-encephalitic Parkinsonism, alcoholism, certain depressive states and in the treatment of obesity.

The 1960's saw the start of the significant use of clandestine manufacture of Methamphetamine.

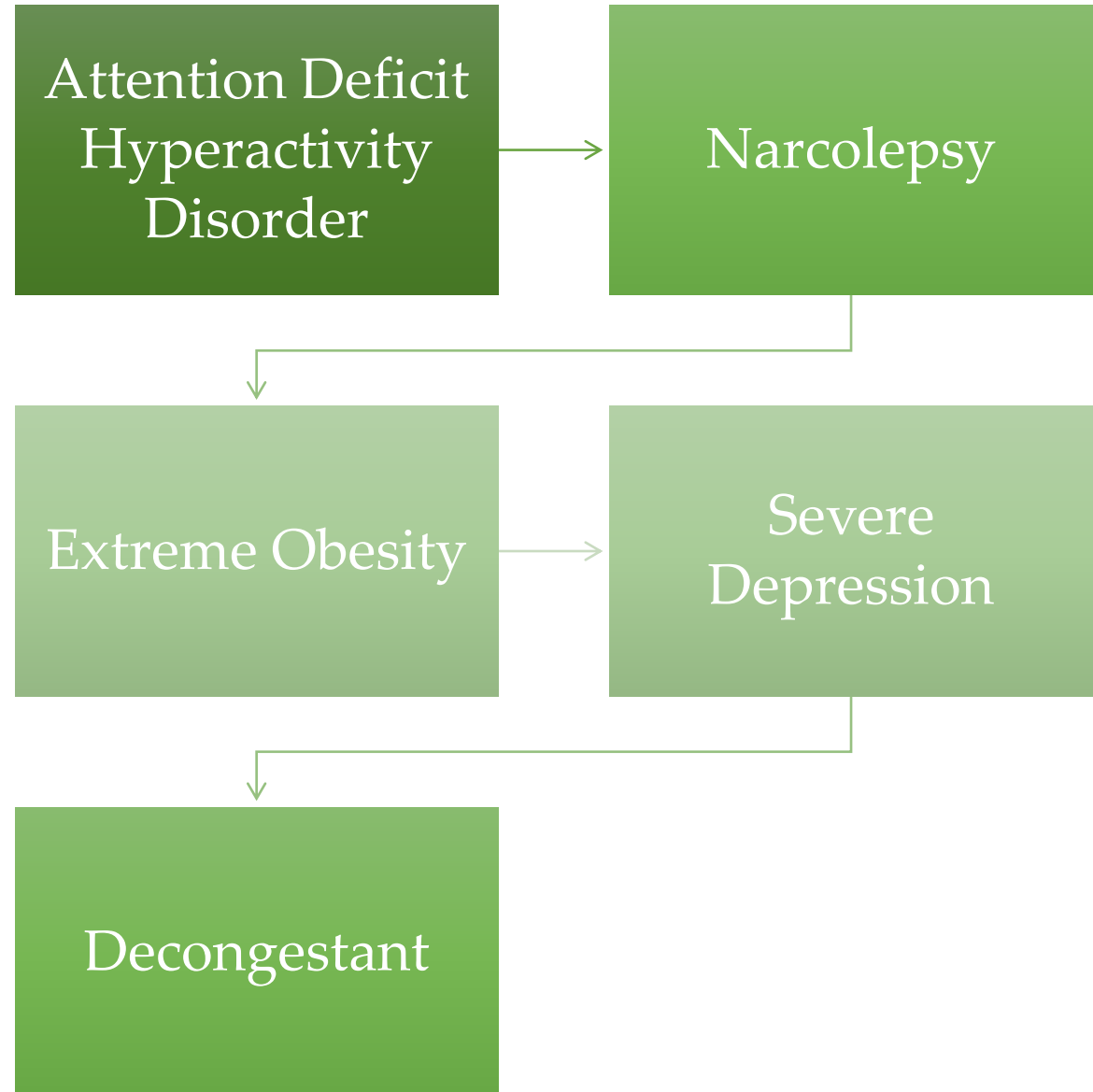


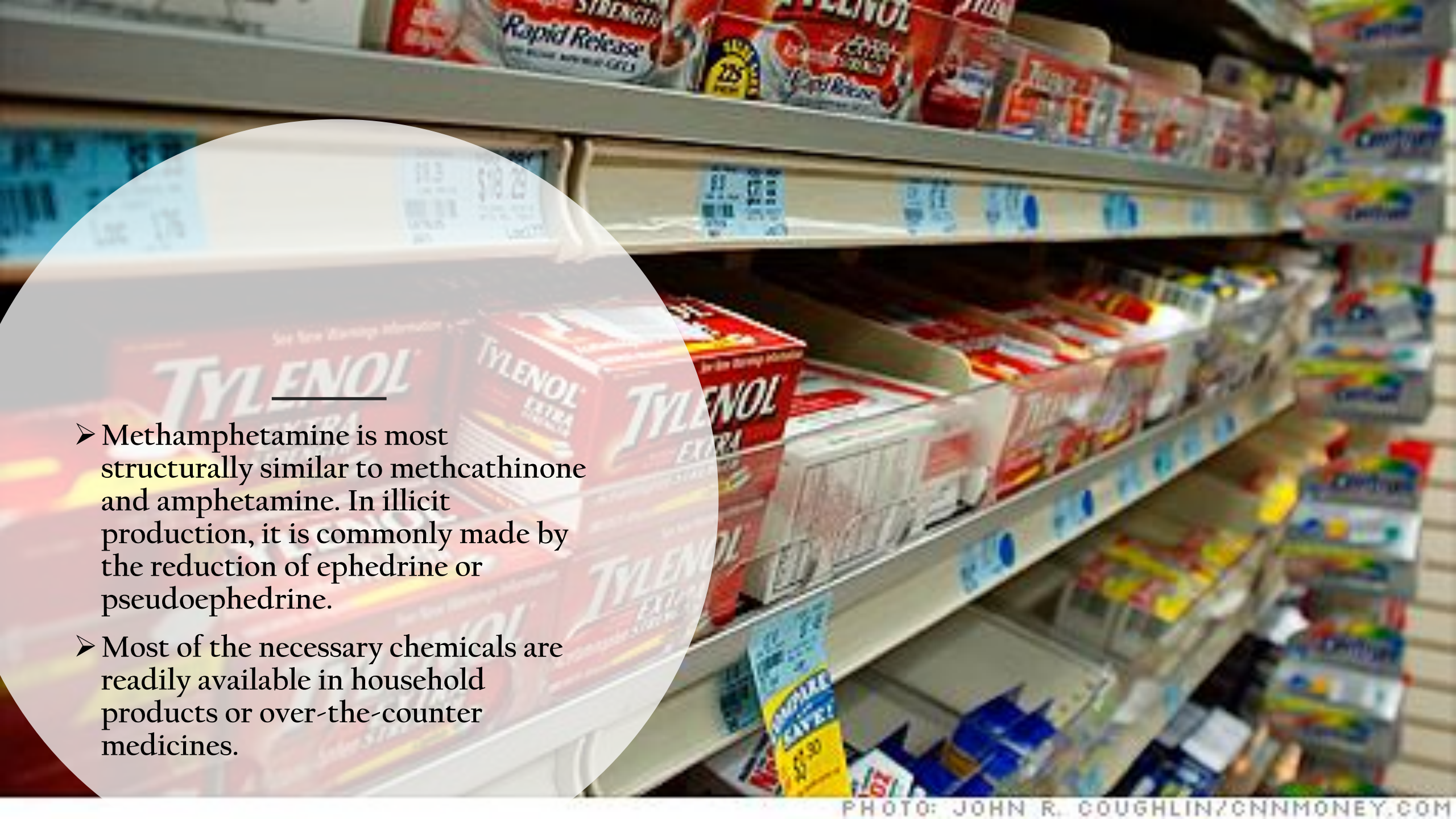
Users experience an increase in focus and mental alertness, elimination of fatigue and decrease in appetite.



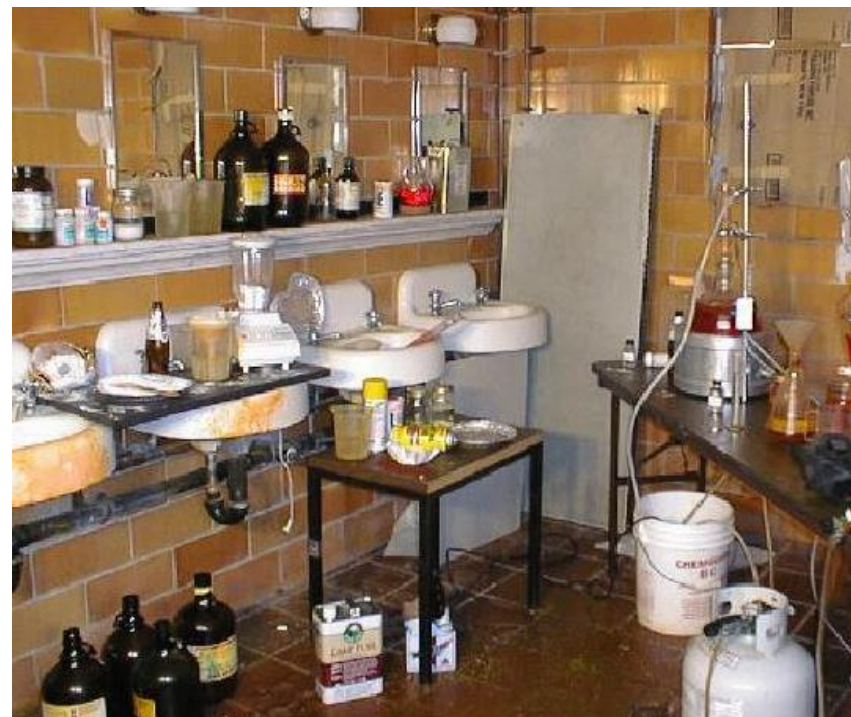


MEDICAL USES



- 
- Methamphetamine is most structurally similar to methcathinone and amphetamine. In illicit production, it is commonly made by the reduction of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine.
 - Most of the necessary chemicals are readily available in household products or over-the-counter medicines.

Synthesis is relatively simple, but most methods involve flammable and corrosive chemicals. As a result, clandestine production is often discovered due to fires caused by amateur chemists working with makeshift laboratory equipment.



Meth
trafficking is
not exclusively
dominated by
cartels such as
those for
Columbian
Cocaine or
Pakistani
Heroin

01

A wide variety of
groups are involved in
the distribution of
methamphetamine

02

Examples:

- Prison gangs
- Motorcycle gangs
- Street gangs
- Organized crime
- Users
- Asian distribution networks

In the US, illicit methamphetamine comes in a variety of forms, with an average price of \$150 per gram of pure substance.

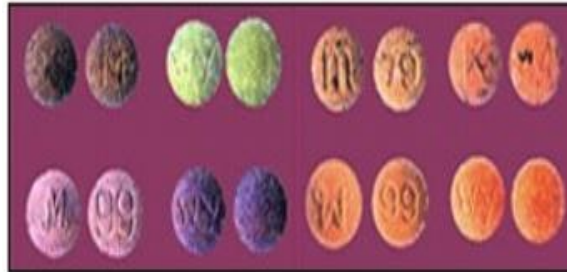
What Meth Looks Like



Methamphetamine Powder



Methamphetamine Crystal



Methamphetamine Pills



Most commonly it is found as a colorless crystalline solid, sold on the street under the name crystal meth and a variety of other names.





It is also sold as a less pure crystalline powder called crank, or in a crystalline rock form.

At its most impure, it is sold as a crumbly brown or off-white rock commonly referred to as “peanut butter crank”.

Colorful flavored pills containing methamphetamine and caffeine are known as YABA (“crazy medicine”)

A microscopic view of methamphetamine crystals, showing a complex, crystalline structure with sharp edges and facets. The crystals are light gray and set against a dark background. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine found on the street is rarely pure, but adulterated with chemicals that were used to synthesize it. It may be diluted or “cut” with non-psychoactive substances like inositol, classified as a member of the Vitamin B complex and has an almost identical appearance and qualities when heated.

Methods of Use

The usual route for medical use is oral administration.

In general, smoking is the fastest mechanism, followed by injecting, snorting, anal insertion and swallowing.

As with all addictive drugs, the potential for addiction is greater when it is delivered by methods that cause the concentration in the blood to rise quickly – mainly because the effects desired by the user are felt more quickly and with a higher intensity than through a moderate delivery mechanism.



“Smoking” methamphetamine actually refers to vaporizing it to produce fumes, rather than burning and inhaling the resulting smoke, as with tobacco.

Methamphetamine is commonly smoked in glass pipes, or in aluminum foil heated by a flame underneath. This method is known as “chasing the white dragon”.



SIDE EFFECTS

- Twitching
- Jitters, agitation
- Repetitive behavior (“tweaking”)
- Jaw clenching or teeth grinding
- Diarrhea, nausea
- Increased libido
- Dilated pupils
- Loss of appetite
- Insomnia
- Talkativeness
- Irritability
- Panic attacks

Side Effects Associated with Overdose:

- Formication: sensation of flesh crawling with bugs- “meth mites”
- Long-term cognitive impairment
- Paranoia, delusions, hallucinations
- Kidney damage (from Hyperkalemia)



Side Effects Associated with Chronic Use:

- Drug craving
- Weight loss
- Withdrawal-related depression and anhedonia
- Erectile dysfunction (“crystal cock”)
- Tooth decay (“meth mouth”)
- Amphetamine psychosis

A photograph of a man lying on a bed with a blue and green patterned blanket. He is wearing a white tank top and green cargo pants. He has several red, inflamed lesions on his arms and chest, which he is picking at with his fingers. The background is a blue wall with some paint splatters. The overall tone is somber and clinical.

**PICKING FOR BUGS UNDER YOUR SKIN ISN'T NORMAL.
BUT ON METH IT IS.**

MONTANA METH PROJECT

METH

NOT EVEN ONCE.

MethProject.org

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SCABS, HALLUCINATIONS, AND BODY SORES.
THEN THINGS REALLY GO DOWNHILL.

METH

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NotEvenOnce.com

MONTANA METH PROJECT

**LEAVING A FRIEND FOR DEAD ISN'T NORMAL.
BUT ON METH IT IS.**

METH

NOT EVEN ONCE

MethProject.org

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Overdose fatalities are usually due to stroke or heart failure but can also be caused by hyperthermia or kidney failure.

Withdrawal is characterized by increased sleeping and eating, and depression-like symptoms, often accompanied by anxiety and drug-cravings.



Meth Addiction

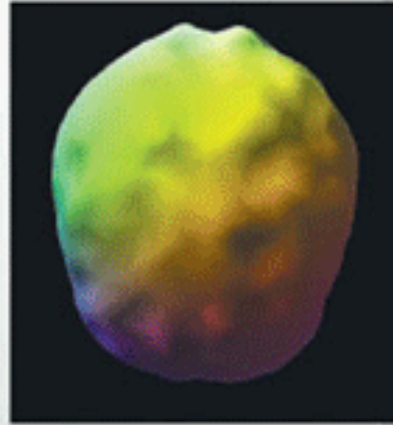
Methamphetamine is strongly addictive, particularly when injected or smoked. While not life-threatening, withdrawal is often intense and, as with all addictions, relapse is common. To combat relapse, many recovering addicts attend 12 Step meetings, such as Crystal Meth Anonymous.



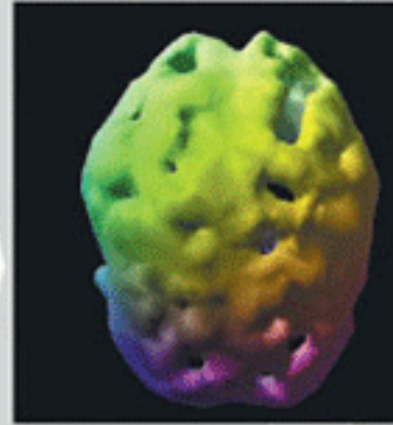
Former users have noted that they feel stupid or dull when they quit using methamphetamine. This is because the brain is adapting a need for the meth to think faster, or at what seems to be a higher level.

With long-term use, abstinence often leads to slow thinking and depression, which in turn requires that the addict use more meth to “fix” it. A chronic pattern of such behavior is known as “The Vampire Life”.

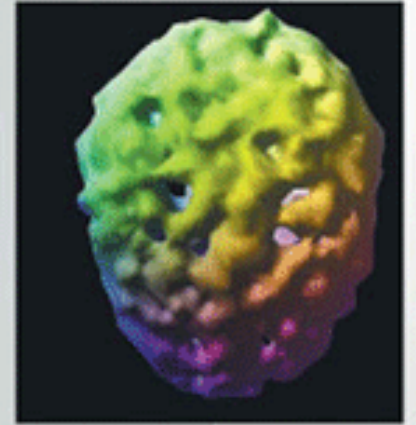
Brain damage from meth use



Normal: Three-dimensional model from a scan of a non-user's brain. Image shows normal brain activity in all areas.



Frequent use: Scan from the brain of a 36-year-old user who had been abusing meth for 10 years. The holes show lack of brain activity, indicating possible damaged cells.



Heavy use: Scan of the brain of a 28-year-old user who had been using meth heavily for eight years. There are more holes than the frequent user's brain.

Methamphetamine is classified as a Schedule II substance by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

While there is technically no difference between the laws regarding methamphetamine and other controlled stimulants, most medical professionals are averse to prescribing it due to its notoriety.

Methamphetamine is legally marketed in the United States under the trade name Desoxyn, manufactured by Ovation Pharma. Generic formulations of the drug are also available.

In the United States

Methamphetamine has become a major focus of the “war on drugs’ in the U.S. in recent years.

In some areas of the United States, manufacturing methamphetamine is punishable by a mandatory ten-year prison sentence.



In certain instances, judges have ruled for life in prison without the possibility of parole, especially in cases where victims were killed by overdoses or impure substances.

Crackdowns on the theft of anhydrous ammonia, a substance used in the manufacturing of the drug, have resulted in additional prison time.





If you or someone you know is suffering from substance use disorder or mental health issues, reach out to someone for assistance.

-Your EAP can help-

www.alliedtrades-online.com

Resources

Video Resources

he Horrors of Methamphetamine Addiction Check out the official Space bound Gaming Channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SpaceboundSB>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SpaceboundU>

Follow us on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/SpaceBound>

<https://twitter.com/SBSway>

<https://twitter.com/SBChills>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVvQgZmZDx0

Picture Resource

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVvQgZmZDx0