

## Methamphetamine

**Street Name:** Speed, Crank, Tina, Crystal, Water, Meth (west coast term)

**Chemical Name:** Methamphetamine

**Routes Of Administration:** IV, smoking, intranasal, swallowing

**Effects:** Increased energy

**Risks:** Amphetamine's association with increased sexual activity can lead to unintentional unsafe sex and spread of HIV and hepatitis.

Amphetamines have a long history of abuse. Most recently found in the GO pills issued to U.S. Troops during the war in Iraq: they are also considered one of the "club drugs." people use it to stay up all night to "party."

In patients who have attention deficit disorder, amphetamines actually slow down their brain activity and cause a sense of a calm centered feeling. Amphetamine's association with increased sexual activity can lead to unintentional unsafe sex and spread of HIV and hepatitis. In addition, since frequent re-injection occurs, the chance for needle sharing episodes in the use of methamphetamines is greater than that of intravenous heroin.

Although it has been a "west coast" phenomenon, its use is rapidly spreading to the east coast of the U.S. Note that on the west coast Meth refers to methamphetamine and on the east coast Meth is usually used to mean methadone. Methamphetamine, of course is completely different than methadone.