



# ***HOT Sheet***

## **Methamphetamine**

Due to recent news regarding methamphetamine use and production in Blair County we wanted to inform the public about the dangers of this drug to users, producers, and innocent people in proximity.

- Methamphetamine, or meth, is a highly addictive synthetic chemical that acts as a stimulant.
- It is snorted, injected, smoked, or swallowed.
- It is not to be confused with methadone, a synthetic opiate used to rehabilitate heroin users.
- Most of the methamphetamine abused in the USA comes from foreign or domestic super-labs. It is made from easily accessed legal ingredients such as battery acid and anti-freeze.
- It can also be made in small, illegal laboratories, where its production endangers the people in the labs, their neighbors, and the environment. It is a high level bio-hazard.
- Symptoms of use include: increased respiration, rapid heart rate, irregular heartbeat, increased blood pressure, and hyperthermia (when the body overheats), and a severe "crash" when it wears off. The skin of a user often has multiple, acne-like sores.
- Other consequences of use include: unhealthy weight loss, severe dental problems, anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mood disturbances, and violent, aggressive behavior.
- Psychotic features include paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations.
- There can be damage to blood vessels in the brain which causes structural and functional changes in areas of the brain associated with emotion and memory.
  
- Use can cause a stroke, heart attack and death
  
- Street names include: Speed, meth, crystal meth, chalk, ice, crystal, crank, and tweak.

**If you have questions, please contact Patty Karn, Prevention Supervisor at The Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. 814-381-0921, [pkarn@blairdap.org](mailto:pkarn@blairdap.org)**