

## The Controlled Substances Act

Chapter 13 of Title 21 of the US Code provides the foundation for the nation's laws related to illegal substances and drugs. It is commonly known as the Controlled Substances Act, or "CSA" and divides drugs into five "schedules" (I, II, III, IV, and V) based on the degree of severity of addiction and abuse, medical usage, and dependence associated with it.

- » **Schedule I:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and lacks the accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.
- » **Schedule II:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, but has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions. However, abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.
- » **Schedule III:** The drug or other substance has a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in schedules I and II; it has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. However, abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.
- » **Schedule IV:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III.
- » **Schedule V:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV.

Most of the drugs that are common in the illegal drug trade are found in Schedule I (including MDMA, LSD, heroin, GHB, cannabis) or Schedule II (cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, phencyclidine [PCP], and opium/opiates such as morphine and oxycodone).

## Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

## Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see [www.mpdc.dc.gov/tipline](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/tipline).



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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# Understanding the Risks and Dangers of Methamphetamine

*Recognizing the health hazards and community impacts of methamphetamine*



# 'Crystal meth' may sound cool. Don't be fooled.

Dangerous substances like methamphetamine are often accompanied by clever marketing or attractive names. But don't be tempted. Club drugs such as meth are extremely dangerous to produce and have significant negative health effects.

## What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a powerfully-addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system. Listed under Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act, the drug is made easily in clandestine laboratories with relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients. These factors combine to make methamphetamine a drug with high potential for widespread abuse.

The purity of Meth in this region is approximately 70 to 80 percent. Meth is a thriving "rave" drug in Washington, DC and is gaining popularity in the gay community.

## Origin and Description

Methamphetamine is usually produced in clandestine labs, typically in the mid-western region of the US. It may also come from Mexico, smuggled across the border due to the recent restrictions on the purchasing and availability of



one of its primary ingredients, pseudo-ephedrine. Ninety percent of all clandestine labs seized by police in the US are methamphetamine labs.

Methamphetamine is known by many names.

Common street names include Chalk, Crank, Croak, Crypto, Crystal, Fire, Glass, Ice, Jib, Meth, P, Speed, The Bitch, Tina, and White Cross.

Methamphetamine is an odorless white or off-white bitter-tasting powder that easily dissolves in water. It may also be found in pill form, capsules, and crystals.

## How Methamphetamine is Used

Methamphetamine can be smoked, snorted, injected or taken orally. However, the most popular method of ingestion is through injection. Unlike cocaine, Methamphetamine metabolizes slowly in the human body, which means a single dose of Methamphetamine can take up to two days to fully leave the body.



## What Are the Side Effects?

Methamphetamine increases wakefulness and physical activity and decreases appetite. Short term effects include elevated heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate; decreased appetite, alertness, paranoia, depression, aggressiveness, irritability; and hallucinations. Chronic, long-term use can lead to psychotic behavior, hallucinations, stroke, and delusions; lack of sleep, sometimes lasting up to several days.

The stimulant effects from Meth can last for hours, as opposed to just minutes with crack cocaine. Often, the Methamphetamine user remains awake for days. As the high begins to wear off, the user enters a stage called "tweaking," in which he or she is prone to violence, delusions, and paranoia.

## What Are the Dangers of Meth Use?

Methamphetamine — or crystal meth — is a highly addictive drug that can be manufactured by using products commercially available anywhere in the United States. The chemicals used in producing methamphetamine are extremely volatile, and the amateur chemists running makeshift laboratories— often in hotels or areas where children are present — can cause deadly explosions and fires.

The by-products of Methamphetamine production are also extremely toxic. Methamphetamine traffickers display

no concern about environmental hazards when it comes to manufacturing and disposing of methamphetamine and its by-products.

## Meth Prices in the Washington Area

A typical "street dose" of Methamphetamine is 10-40 milligrams (1000 mg = 1 gram). The drug is commonly sold in these increments:

- » (1/4) gram: \$30-\$40
- » (1/2) gram: \$60-\$100
- » (1) gram: \$100-\$150
- » (1) oz: \$1500-\$3000

## Recognizing the Signs of Meth Use

Repeated Methamphetamine use will often be accompanied by some predictable paraphernalia used in its manufacture. If you see these items around your home or in your neighborhood, the chances are good that meth is being used or produced.

- » Disposable latex gloves
- » Glass pipes
- » Homemade pipes (using a hollowed-out pen and other found materials)
- » Pseudo-ephedrine products, such as Sudafed PE, Contac Cold
- » Muriatic acid
- » Minwax furniture refinisher, Acetone, or other acids
- » Propane
- » Ammonia

