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Methamphetamine Takes Root

Meth (and ecstasy or X) use in the Permian Basin reached an all time high in 2003 – according to Lt Jesse Orozco of the NM State Police Department. There were 165 small labs taken down that year. There were only 47 labs removed in '99 in New Mexico. Nationally there were 8000 labs removed in 2003. There was a slight decrease in 2004 but not all of the numbers have been calculated yet.

Methamphetamine Use Is Destructive

Meth users have a terrific euphoria and clarity of thought when they first begin using. However, when they begin to come down is where the destructive behavior shows up. This is because the “rush” of dopamine released in the brain begins to taper off and then stops. What the user is left with is the speed without the good feelings. This can last for hours. The user will be anxious and tends to not make good decisions. This is why meth users take multiple “hits” averaging 12-15 a day. They will often stay up for 3 days at a time. Sleep deprivation will cause delusions and very poor decision making is displayed.

Lasting effects

The Meth users ability to produce dopamine decreases over time. The very thing that brings pleasure, in time, will be permanently crippled. There is also growing evidence that permanent damage to brain cells and heart valves is likely. Getting clean is a hard road. The chances of success are second only to heroin as the hardest drug to quit.

Slave To Meth?

Don't become one. If you are there is help. There are many drug treatment programs. There is even an online support group at www.quitmeth.com. Please go there and read all the tales of ruined lives before you make the decision to use meth.

Meth Labs Are Dangerous Places



“A pain in the butt”. An ugly burn caused by spilled meth lab ingredients

Although small home made labs are cropping up everywhere, they are not the major producer of meth in the US. The majority of meth comes from “Super Labs”, most of which are in Mexico. These little labs however do create some extreme hazards. 40% of them are found after an explosion. It is hard to imagine a guy could handle extremely volatile chemicals safely after being up 3 days. Many don't. After days of breathing the toxic fumes from the production methods his thinking is probably off.

Meth Costs

The costs to the user are enormous. The cost to the community are even much larger. For instance, a rent house that has had meth “cooked” in it will retain the chemical vapors in the ceilings and walls. Undeveloped children are most at risk. The lasting effects of this toxic mix of chemical vapors is unknown. However, it is known that the individual chemical hazards range from toxemia to cancer, leukemia, dementia and a whole range of other hazards. That house will have to be gutted and rebuilt to stop the hazard. Imagine the costs!

For the employer we are seeing a terrible increase in accidents related to meth. Estimates range as high as 80% of meth involved in total accident numbers. Assuredly our accident numbers have been on the rise since 1999. Do you see the trend?