“They Call Me Tina”

A Methamphetamine Primer
Objectives:

• At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:
  • communicate what methamphetamine is as a drug of abuse;
  • articulate the population of “at-risk” users;
  • place meth use as an epidemic into contextual perspective with AOD use.
“Meth”
the basics…what?

• an odorless, bitter tasting powder that can be white, brown or yellow;
• as a substance, it may be smoked, snorted, injected or swallowed;
• is also referred to as speed, crystal, ice, crank, glass, chalk or crystal meth;
• is similar to amphetamine in structure, but with more powerful, addicting stimulant effects.
“Meth”
the basics…where?

• typically made in clandestine “labs” and sold on the street;
• basic ingredients include ephedrine, acetone, paint thinner, ammonia, lye, hydrochloric acid;
• labs are make-shift and dangerous: the volatility of the chemicals can cause explosions;
• “imported” from Mexico & other countries.
“Meth”
the basics…how?

• the drug can be used in multiple ways, most notably smoked;
• depending on ROA, the intensity of the experience, as well as the addictive nature, will vary from user to user;
• used to enhance experience & as a way to engage in risky behaviors
“Meth”
the basics…who?

• rural residents in the mid-west and other isolated farming areas;
• young people who find the drug easy to conceal, w/o the “hassle” of finding someone to buy alcohol;
• gay men in cities and on the circuit scene;
• women & workers requiring long hours of wakefulness
“Meth”
the basics…why?

• cost effective & simple to manufacture;
• a “higher high” (& longer) than many other drugs;
• easy to conceal;
• a “drug du jour” in our cyclic appetite for mood altering chemicals
Risk Profiles

• rural residing individuals
• gay men
• women
• students
• workers
• poly-drug users
Treatment

• withdrawal stage 1- 15 days;
• “honeymoon” stage 16- 45 days;
• the “wall” 46- 120 days;
• adjustment stage 121-180;
• resolution stage 181- open;
• Treatment is focused on bio-psycho-social recovery.
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