

“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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