

## Amphetamines Fact Sheet

### Common Amphetamines

- Dextroamphetamine(dexies)
- Methamphetamine (speed, crystal, meth, crank)
- Smokable methamphetamine (ice)

### Overview/Description

Amphetamines are a group of artificial stimulants.

- Amphetamines are available in tablets, capsules, powders, chunks and crystals. They can be sniffed or injected
- May be prescribed for hyperactivity and/or narcolepsy
- Used illicitly as increases alertness, energy and provides a sense of well being
- All amphetamines have similar effects

### Short-Term Effects

- Increase alertness and energy; euphoria; insomnia
- Increased breathing and heart rate; dry mouth, dilated pupils
- Suppressed appetite
- Restlessness; shakiness; sweating; anxiety
- Headache, blurred vision; dizziness; irregular heart beat; chest pain
- Feelings of power & authority; hostility; aggression
- Overdose can cause delusions, hallucinations, high fever, delirium, seizures, coma and death

### Long-Term Effects

- Risk of blood borne disease with injection use
- Chronic sleep problems; mood swing;
- Irregular heartbeat; high blood pressure weight loss; constipation/diarrhea
- High doses can result in nerve damage; chronic psychosis; paranoia & hallucinations; brain damage

### Dependence Potential

- Regular users of amphetamines can develop *tolerance* (more of drug is necessary to achieve same effect).
- *Psychological and Physical dependence* can occur.

### Withdrawal

Withdrawal symptoms may include:

- Extreme tiredness, hunger
- Disturbed sleep; anxiety; depression
- Suicidal thoughts