

CRYSTAL METH



Waterloo Regional Police
Service
Drug Branch

What is Meth?

- A powerful stimulant
- Developed in the late 1880's its first wide spread use was during World War II to keep soldiers awake.
- In the 1950's it was used as a diet aid and to fight depression.
- In the 1970's it was controlled by the US government after widespread abuse

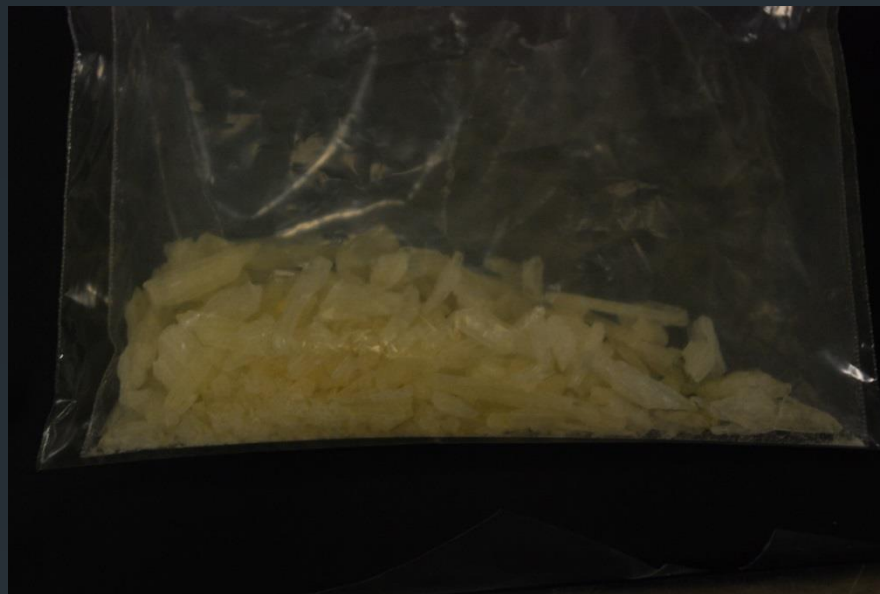
Meth on the Street

- Street Names – Crystal, Ice, Jib and Glass
- Comes in powder and crystal form
- Taken – Ingested, Injected, Smoked and Snorted
- Price -
 - \$80 - \$100 a gram
 - \$850 - \$1200 an ounce
 - \$30,000 - \$40,000 a kilo

Meth on the Street

- Rapid onset especially when smoked or injected
- Effects – last 4 to 24 hours depending on amount used and tolerance of user.
- High – commonly lasts 6-8 hours for typical user, and tolerance is developed over time

Crystal Meth



Effects



- Increased – alertness & pulse rate
- Feelings of intense pleasure and confidence
- Hallucinations / paranoia / insomnia

Effects

- User may stay awake for days on end
- Sores / dry, itchy skin/”bugs” scratching.
- Violent / irrational / aggressive behavior

Why is Meth Popular?

- Similar cost as cocaine but more intense high and more readily available
- No importation issues, can be manufactured locally
- Local manufacturing means cheaper costs

Meth Production

- Can be manufactured in any location
- Can be a super lab or a pop bottle
- Uses various chemicals
- Highly volatile process with violent chemical reactions
- Various recipes, easily found on the internet

What's in Meth



Some Other Chemicals Used

- Red Phosphorus
- White Phosphorous
- Ephedrine
- Pseudo-Ephedrine
- Anhydrous Ammonia
- Sodium Chloride
- Iodine
- Hypo phosphorous acid

Meth Paraphernalia



How Often We Encounter Meth



Between January and February 2016 the Waterloo Regional Police had 42 occurrences where methamphetamine was seized.

As a result of those occurrences 277 criminal charges were laid.

These occurrences related to various criminal investigations like;

- Shoplifting

- Drug Trafficking

- Court Breaches

- Domestic Violence

** For the purpose of charges these occurrences can involve multiple accused parties*

How We Encounter Meth



- Not all calls for service are clear cut with evidence or admission of drug use
- A meth induced episode can often be mistaken for a mental health issue
- When there is no legal issues for police to deal with and safety is an issue the MHA apprehension is one of the only options that remain for police.
- A Mental Health apprehension then brings many other front line workers into the fold like; EMS, Crisis Workers and Hospital Staff.

Safety Precautions

- Slow down
- Who are you dealing with (first time or repeat client)
- Constantly reassess the situation
- Reasoning may be difficult with someone who is experiencing a meth psychosis or who have been using

Safety Precautions



- Work in pairs (whenever possible)
- Check-in before and after when responding to these situations.
- Scan your surroundings (weapons, exits, paraphernalia).

Safety Precautions



- Stay close to exits. Always have an escape plan.
- Be mindful of who else is there other users, family, friends.
- Look for behavioral signs (fidgeting, paranoia, increased agitation)

Questions

