

SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY



Misuse of Amphetamines

Amphetamines are psychostimulant drugs that are highly addictive (2). This means they speed up messages between the brain and body, mainly affecting the central nervous system (1). Some examples of amphetamines include: Adderall, Ritalin, cocaine, and ecstasy (2). When misused, they can lead to addiction and possible overdose.

Dangers of Amphetamine Misuse

Amphetamine misuse is becoming more of an issue, especially when combined with other drugs, such as opioids (1). Prescribed amphetamines, as well as illegally produced, can be unpredictable and dangerous when combined with other drugs or substances (1). One may experience irregular heartbeat, seizures, increased blood pressure, and possibly death. Other dangers of misuse include risk of coma, heart failure, or stroke.

Recognize an Overdose

- Racing heartbeat
- Fits
- Passing out or breathing difficulties
- Chills or fever
- No urine output
- Arching of the back/convulsions
- If unsure, treat the situation like an overdose to save a life
- Call 911 or seek medical care
- Do not leave person alone

Long-term Effects of Misuse

- Increased violent behavior
- Damaged nasal passage or nose bleeds
- Vitamin deficiencies
- Reduced appetite and extreme weight loss
- Restless sleep
- Dry mouth
- Dental problems
- Regular colds and flu
- Anxiety and paranoia
- Depression
- Tolerance and dependence on amphetamines
- Financial, work, and social problems
- **If injected:** risk of tetanus, infection, vein damage, and blood clots
- **If sharing needles:** risk of Hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS

If You Need Help

If you or someone you know needs help or resources, call Crisis Services at (810) 257-3740 or toll free at (877) 346-3648 where someone is always available 24 hours a day. For non-emergency services, call (810) 257-3742. TTY users call (810) 232-6310. Visit www.genhs.org for more information.

1. 2021. Amphetamines
2. 2021. What's An Amphetamine? Addiction: Signs, Symptoms, and Treatment