

drug wars



CRANK COUNTY

- Discussion Guide -

Crime Prevention Resources
33 N. Central Ave. Suite 219 Medford, OR 97501

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

"Drug Wars - Crank County" is a 24-minute video production that examines the abuse of methamphetamine. Interview based, it speaks to what meth can do to families and individuals; how it affects the brain; the problems it causes for law enforcement; and how users risk stroke, liver damage, exposure to noxious fumes, and death.

Those interviewed include: law enforcement officials; emergency room personnel; a treatment counselor; former users; clergy; and a member of the judiciary. They paint the whole grim picture of meth abuse, telling of how violent, paranoid, and delusional users can become.

"Drug Wars - Crank County" is a comprehensive examination of a growing and troublesome national phenomenon.

THE PROGRESSION OF METH THROUGH THE U.S.



1992. The West Coast was the center of meth activity. Meth traffic also flowed along Interstate 10 to the southern states.



1997. Meth has become entrenched in the Midwest, as well as the West. Missouri is the fastest growing meth trafficking state, with 333 meth lab shutdowns in the first eight months of 1997, compared to 3 shutdowns in all of 1992.



2002? If current trends continue, meth traffickers will make significant (and devastating) inroads by early next century. We cannot let this happen!

METH FACTS

Methamphetamines are synthetic amphetamines or stimulants that are produced and sold illegally in pill form, capsules, powder, and chunks. Two such methamphetamines are crank and ice. Crank refers to any form of methamphetamine. Ice is a crystallized smokeable chunk form of methamphetamine that produces a more intense reaction than cocaine or speed. Ice has an appearance that is clear and crystal-like, and resembles frozen ice water. Methamphetamines stimulate the central nervous system, and the effects may last anywhere from 8 to 24 hours. Crank and ice are extremely addictive and produce a severe craving for the drug.

Short-term Effects: Increased alertness; sense of well-being; paranoia; intense high; hallucinations; aggressive behavior; increased heart rate; convulsions; extreme rise in body temperature (as high as 108 degrees which can cause brain damage and death); uncontrollable movements (twitching, jerking, etc.); violent behavior; insomnia; impaired speech; dry, itchy skin; loss of appetite; acne; sores; numbness.

Effects on the Mind: Disturbed sleep; excessive excitation; excessive talking; panic; anxiousness; nervousness; moodiness and irritability; false sense of confidence and power; delusions of grandeur leading to aggressive behavior; uninterested in friends, sex, or food; aggressive and violent behavior; severe depression.

Long-term Effects: Fatal kidney and lung disorders; possible brain damage; depression; hallucinations; disorganized lifestyle; permanent psychological problems; violent and aggressive behavior; weight loss; insomnia; behavior resembling paranoid schizophrenia; decreased social life; malnutrition; poor coping abilities; disturbance of personality development; lowered resistance to illnesses; liver damage; stroke; death.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q - What is meth?

A - Meth is methamphetamine, an artificial stimulant. These days it is typically made from ephedrine-based, over-the-counter cold medicines.

Q - What other names is meth known by?

A - Meth is also known as crank, ice, speed, crystal, crystal meth, glass, go, go-fast, jet fuel, crock, batu, tweek, cridium, sketch, wake-up, junk, and cristy.

Q - Why is meth dangerous?

A - Besides the long list of medical conditions that meth can cause, it is dangerous because of the fact that meth "cooks" produce the drug using various solvents that are extremely poisonous. Among others, cooks have been known to use battery acid, anhydrous ammonia, diesel fuel, formaldehyde, Drano, and even urine.

Q - What medical conditions can meth cause?

A - Meth use can cause liver damage, brain damage, permanent psychological disorders, sores (known as crank "bugs"), kidney and lung disorders, stroke, coma, and many other problems, up to and including death.

Q - What is "tweaking"?

A - "Tweaking," which doctors refer to as "methamphetamine psychosis," is similar to schizophrenia. The meth user becomes psychotic, paranoid, and delusional. They can also become quite aggressive and dangerous to themselves and others during this stage of meth abuse.

WEB RESOURCE GUIDE

Life Education Network

<http://www.lec.org>

Join Together Online

<http://www.jointogether.org>

617-437-1500

Drug Wars USA

<http://www.drugwars.com>

Crime Prevention Resources

<http://www.crimeprevent.com>

800-867-0016

Drug Abuse Resistance Education
(D.A.R.E.)

<http://www.dare-america.com>

Natl. Clearinghouse for Alcohol &
Drug Information

<http://www.health.org>

800-729-6686

Natl. Institute on Drug Abuse

<http://www.nida.nih.gov>

Web of Addictions

<http://www.well.com/user/woa/>

Minnesota Institute of Public Health

<http://www.miph.org/>

National Drug Prevention League

<http://www.ndpl.org>

410-385-9094

Drug Enforcement Agency

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>

Stop Drugs

<http://www.stopdrugs.org>

916-322-2796

Life or Meth

<http://www.lifeormeth.org>

Partnership for a Drug Free America

<http://www.drugfreeamerica.org/>

Drug Strategies

<http://www.drugstrategies.org>

Crime Prevention Resources

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