Methamphetamine

Quick Facts

• Methamphetamine (known on the street as “speed,” “meth,” “crank,” “crystal-meth,” and “glass”) is a central nervous system stimulant of the amphetamine family.
• Like cocaine, it is a powerful “upper” that produces alertness and elation, along with a variety of adverse reactions.
• The effects of methamphetamine, however, are much longer lasting than the effects of cocaine, yet the cost is much the same.
• Methamphetamine is sometimes called the “poor man’s cocaine.”

Dangers and consequences of meth use:

• Depression
• Loss of appetite and weight loss
• Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
• Elevated body temperature
• Skin ulceration and infection, the result of picking at imaginary bugs
• Paranoia
• Sleeplessness
• Irritability
• Anxiety
• Increased blood pressure

• Seizures
• Permanent damage to brain cells
• Pregnant women: premature labor, detachment of placenta, and low birth weight babies with possible neurological damage, poor feeding, and lethargy
• Paranoia
• For intravenous (IV) users: AIDS, hepatitis, infections and sores at the injection site, and infection of the heart lining and valves.