

Ruined Lives: The Danger of Methamphetamine

Synopsis

Two lives collide as John, a regular methamphetamine and marijuana user, attempts to offer his stressed friend a way to “escape” life’s problems. Troubled by family problems at home and pressures at school, a young girl acquiesces to John’s offer of trying methamphetamine for the first time. However, in one, tragic, life-altering experience, it ends up being her last time. Interviews with individuals whose lives have been affected by methamphetamine abuse lend a peer group reality to the program. Students learn the physiological, emotional, mental and financial consequences of methamphetamine use. A forceful, must-see media supplement to Health and Guidance units on Substance Abuse issues, driving home the relationship between students’ personal choices and their physical well-being.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. What is methamphetamine?
2. Do you know other names by which methamphetamine is known?
3. What do you think are some of the effects of using methamphetamine?
4. What is a gateway drug?

5. What is addiction? How do you know when a person is addicted?
6. Do you believe that if a friend gave you a drug it would be safe to take it? Why or why not?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. What is methamphetamine? (A stimulant)
2. Methamphetamine is also known as _____. (Answers will vary, but may include meth, crystal meth, crank, crystal, speed, ice and glass.)
3. According to the program, an ingredient used to produce methamphetamine is _____. (Answers will vary, but may include decongestants, battery acid, drain cleaner, etc.)
4. According to the program, what are some physiological effects of methamphetamine? (Answers will vary, but may include addiction, increased alertness, amphetamine-induced psychosis, schizophrenia, mental impairment, difficulty breathing, vision impairment, etc.)
5. According to the program, addiction to a drug can be so strong that a person will _____ to obtain it. (lie, steal and kill)
6. A gateway drug is a/an _____. What two gateway drugs were named in the program? (drug that leads people to using drugs with intense physiological effects; marijuana, alcohol)
7. In the program, John bought one gram of methamphetamine for \$120 and 6 ounces of marijuana for \$600. John was able to pay for each drug transaction. How did John obtain the money? (Answers may vary. Accept answers that demonstrate understanding.)
8. Can a drug user predict when he or she will become addicted? Explain your answer. (Answers may vary. Accept answers that demonstrate understanding.)
9. The majority of methamphetamine is produced in “basement labs”. Name the dangers of obtaining methamphetamine from one of these “basement labs”. (They are not professionally made so they can contain a mixture of unknown chemicals and drugs. Also, since they are not made under laboratory conditions, they may contain many substances in addition to the chemicals, such as insect parts.)

10. Can you tell if a drug has been made in a “basement lab” by looking at it? (No.)
11. Can you trust that a drug given to you is safe? Why or why not? (You can’t trust that a drug given to you is safe even if someone you know gave it to you; he or she wouldn’t know if the drug was made in a “basement lab” or not. Also, drugs affect people differently, given such factors as weight, other substances ingested, etc.)

Annotation

Troubled by family problems at home and pressures at school, a young girl acquiesces to a friend’s offer of trying methamphetamine for the first – and last – time.

Length

29 Minutes

Subject Areas

Guidance, Health Education, Substance Abuse

Audience Level

Grades 9-12

Catalog Number

#2703-EN-VID

Related titles in the AIMS collection

#2295-EN-VID: L-Evated: The Blunt Truth

#2517-EN-VID: The Teen Files: The Truth About Drugs

#2557-EN-VID: Running on Empty: Teens and Meth



9710 DeSoto Avenue
Chatsworth, California
91311-4409 USA

Tel: 800-367-2467
Tel: 818-773-4300
Fax: 818-341-6700

Discussion Guide

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Objectives

- The physical, emotional and social consequences of using methamphetamine can be devastating for the individual, for friends, and for family
- Individuals considering methamphetamine use have the opportunity to make a life-enhancing choice: don’t do the drug
- The “meth” user’s rush or high happens as an over-supply of the neurotransmitter dopamine damages portions of the individual’s brain

