

Drug Endangered Children:

A Unique Child Protection Issue

Child Protection Team

November 2006

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the unique child protection issues that arise from drug use
 - methamphetamine
- Discuss the child protection system's role in cases of drug endangered children
 - current capabilities, limitations, improvements
- highlight opportunities for healthcare workers to protect drug endangered children
- Generate debate

Drug use \neq Child Protection

“Meth poses a unique and significant danger for children and the community, the consequences of which span an entire community’s professional resources, from law enforcement to social services and child protection.”

- Sandra Althuler

Methamphetamine: a clear and present danger?



1996



1997



1998



1999



2000



2001



2002



2003



2004

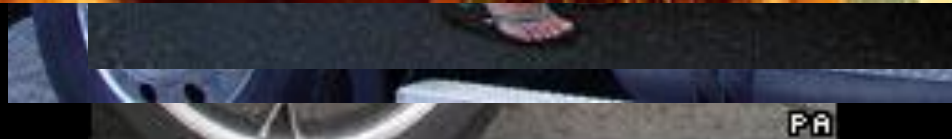


2005



What is Meth?

- Meth
 - Speed
 - Ice
 - Crystal
 - Crank
 - Tweak
 - Go
 - Tina
- 1 gram: 60-80\$
 - 1 gram = 12 lines
→ 5-10\$ per hit



PA

THE NEW GAY EPIDEMIC

LIFE OR METH INTRO

WHAT IS CRYSTAL?

CRYSTAL AND HIV/AIDS

Fists and Toys

"Party and Play"

The HIV Correlation

"A Wake-Up Call"

San Francisco

STD Explosion

"HIV is no Picnic"

Sexual Sabotage

mechanism to erase the recurring, damning soundtrack of socially-conditioned shame and religiously-indoctrinated guilt.

The suspension of fear enables meth users to initiate sex with ease while also serving as an "equaliser" by allowing users to meet across social spectrums and divides such as age, class, race and socio-economic groups, devoid of the anxiety that usually impedes sexual performance or social interaction between strangers. Inevitably, crystal meth swiftly became the drug most abused by MSM across the US, entrapping the depressive and many with borderline, hitherto manageable self-worth issues into a downward spiral of sexual addiction. Such is the low self-esteem of many driven to crystal by a cruelly judgmental, unaccepting culture that a glass pipe, gas lighter and other meth paraphenalia are often the first things to greet users on entering each others' homes, along with an unwritten rule of the drug's culture that verbal communication and eye contact are avoided, at least until the drug's intoxicating effects kick in.

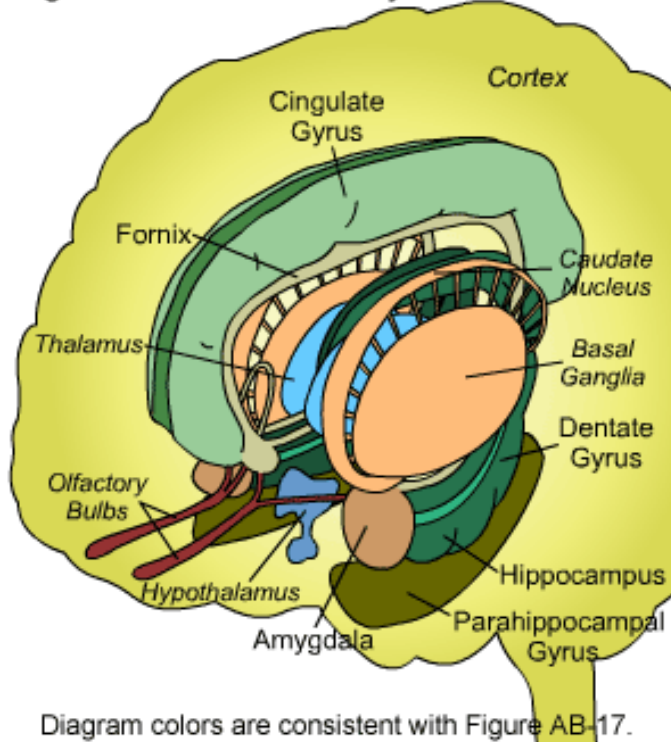
According to the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention, 15-17% of all MSM used meth in the three months to August 2005, with up to 20% using in the last year.

VIAGRA transformed Tina from a "TRAILER TRASH" drug into the ULTIMATE APHRODISIAC. Suddenly, years of ingrained safe sex messages seemingly NEVER EXISTED.

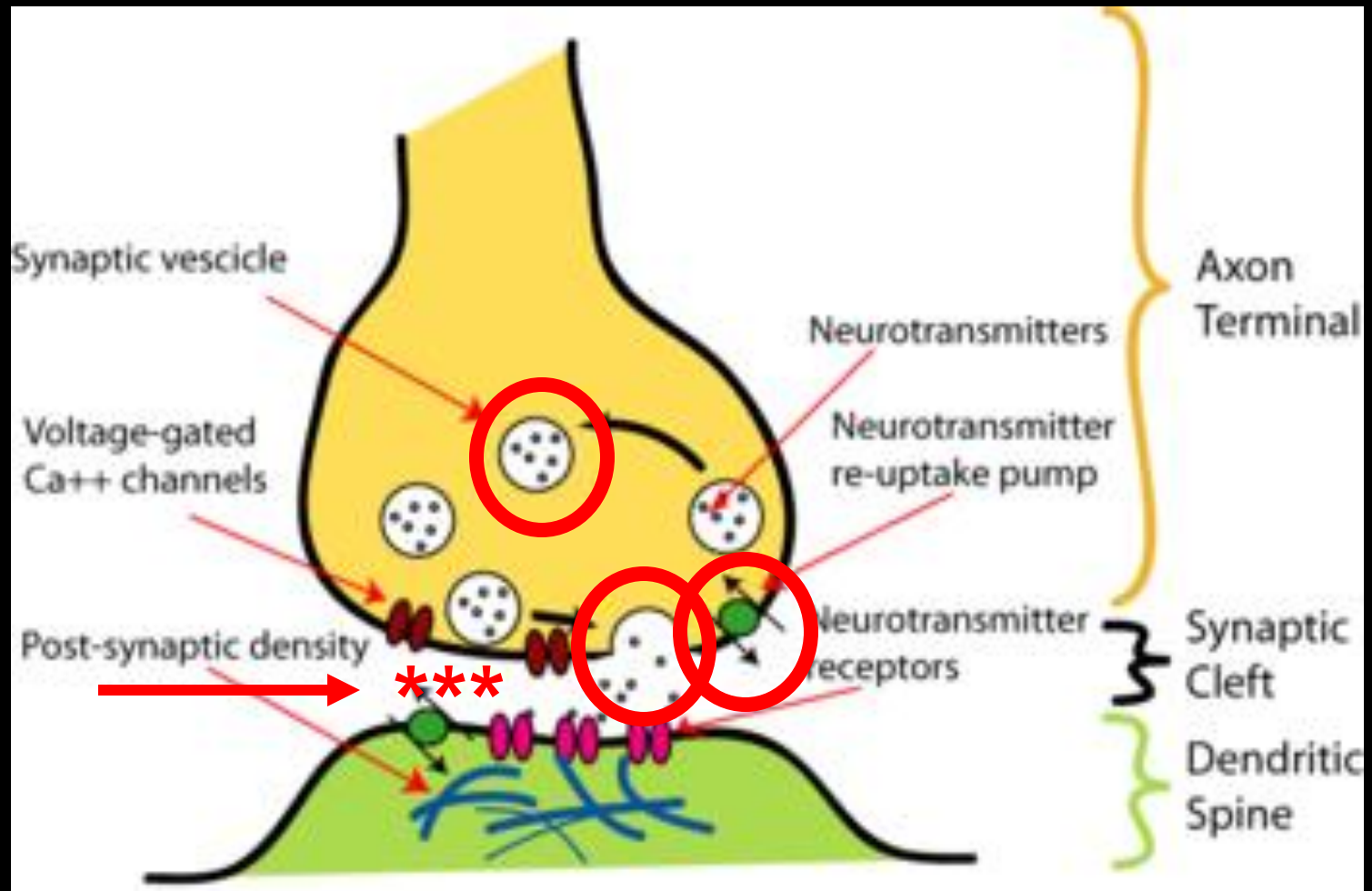


Fists and toys

Figure AB-16: Limbic System



- Dopamine
 - Reward
 - Pleasurable feelings
 - Movement
 - Activity reinforcement
 - Motivation
 - Emotions

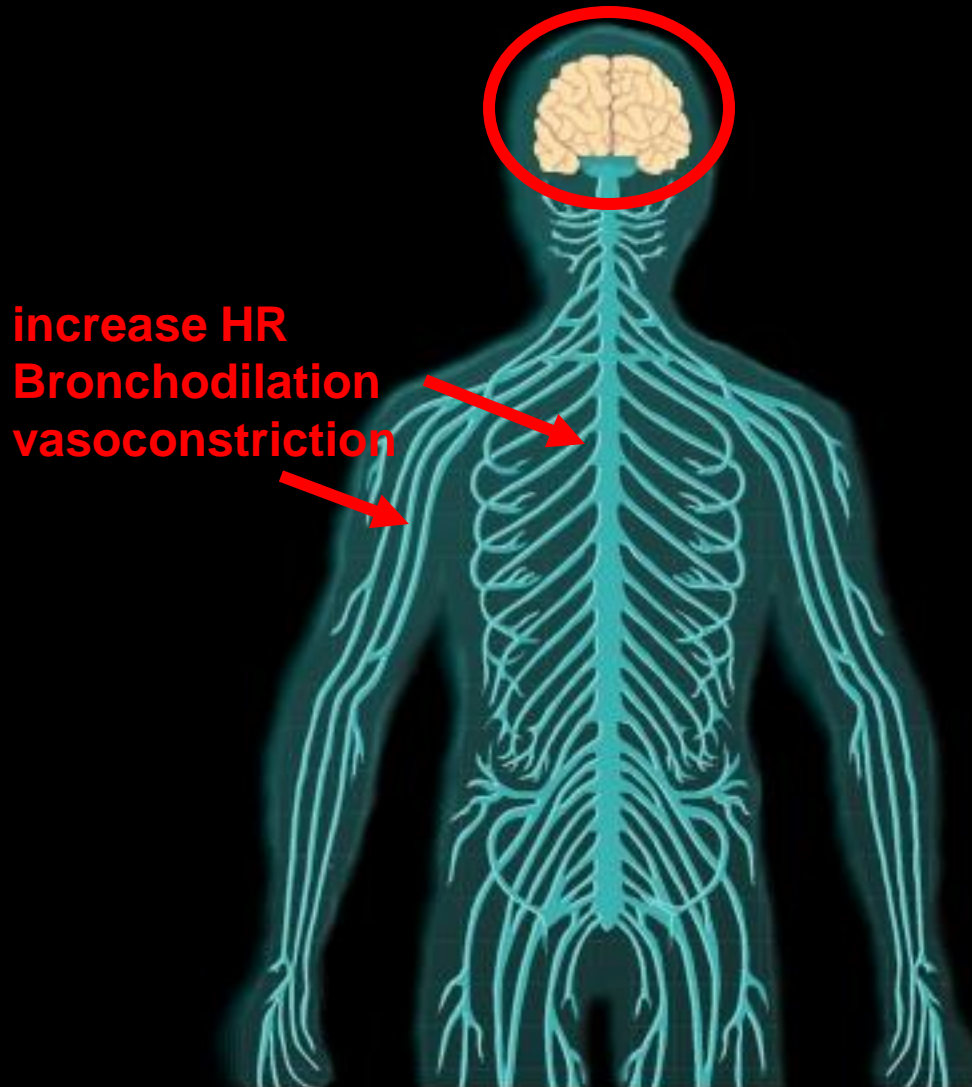


Route of administration

- Oral
 - IV (slamming)
 - Nasal insufflation (snorting)
 - Inhalation (smoking)
 - Faster high than IV use
 - Acute psychosis
 - Violence
 - Severe paranoia
 - hallucinations
- } **“whiteout”**

Effects of Meth: Fight or Flight

$T_{1/2}$ = 4-12 hours; effects last 4-24 hours



increase HR
Bronchodilation
vasoconstriction

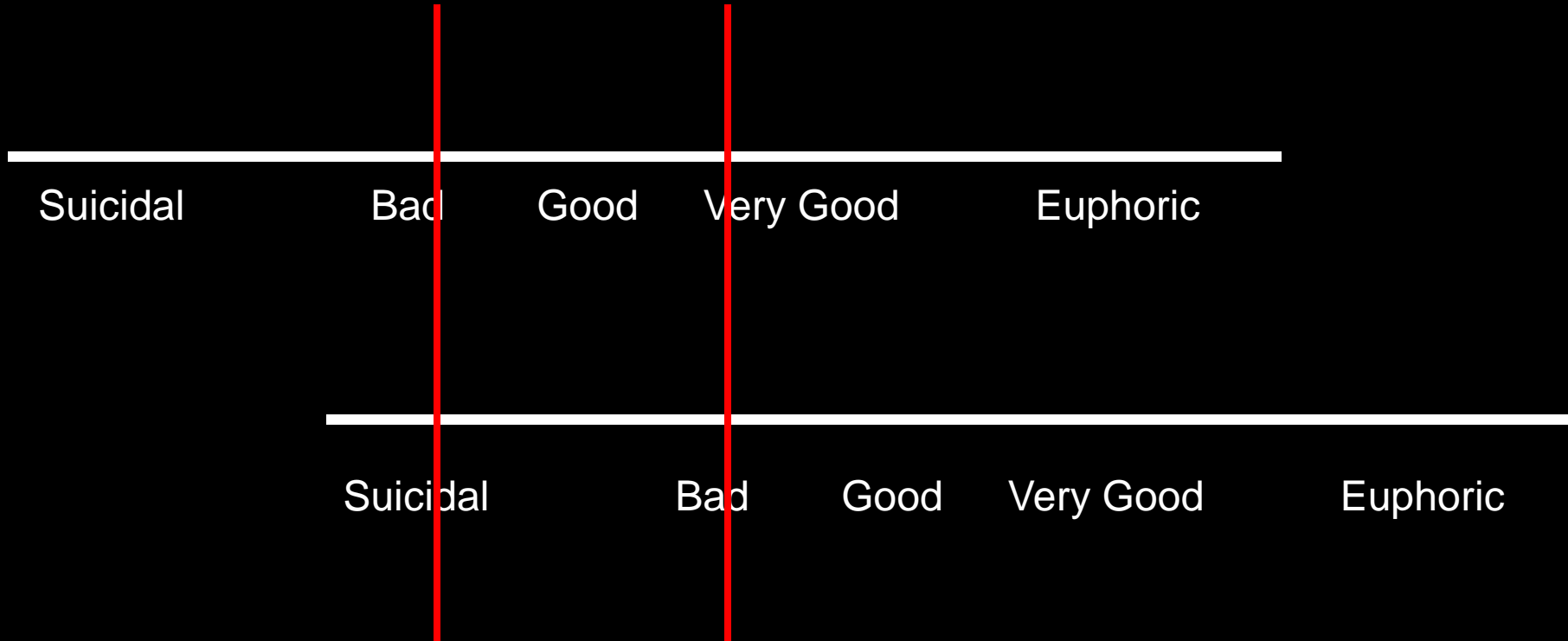
Mood alteration:

- Euphoria
- Increased alertness
- Impulsivity
- Irritability
- Hallucinations
- Paranoia
- Insomnia
- Increased concentration
- Hypersexuality

Movement disorders

- Repetitive movements
- stereotypic behaviour
- Peculiar mannerisms

The Addict's Brain



Toxicity

Acute

- Vital sign alterations
 - Hypertension
 - hyperthermia
 - tachycardia
- Seizures/psychosis
- Tweaking:
 - Extreme paranoia, hallucinations and violence
- PO: Avidly bound to charcoal

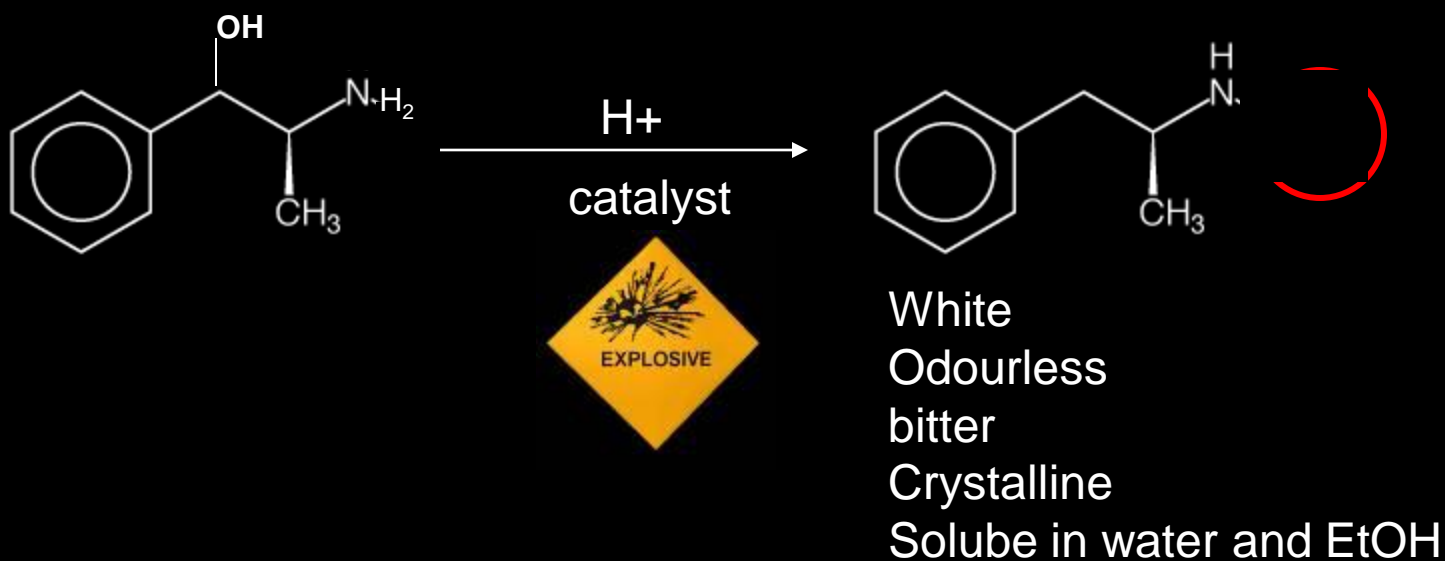
Chronic

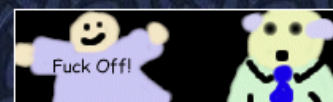
- Skin formication
 - Chronic skin ulcers
- Psychosis
 - Visual / tactile / olfactory
- Compulsive behaviour
- Weight loss
- Dental problems
- Poor hygiene

Maternal-Fetal Effects

- Placental Hemorrhages
- IUGR
- Prematurity
- Decreased Head Circumference
- Increased incidence birth defects / stillbirth
- Altered infant behaviour
 - Very sleepy for 1-2 weeks
 - Abnormal Feeding
 - Then; jittery, hypertonic, irritable

Ephedrine Reduction 101: on the web





About

Community

Bad Ideas

Drugs

- Booze - The Legal Drug
- Legal Issues of Drug Use
- Marijuana
- Miscellaneous Drug Information
- Nitrous
- OTC Drugs and Household Items
- Psychedelics
- Rare and Exotic Drugs
- Speedy Drugs

Ego

Erotica

Fringe

Society

Technology

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How To Manufacture Meth -- True Iodine Recipe by MethodMan

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No lies here folks this recipe will manufacture methamphetamine this will get you into trouble if you do this BE CAREFUL!

First of all let's talk about supplies:

- 1 Case Regular Pint size Mason Jars (Used for canning)
- 2 Boxes Contact 12 hour time released tablets.
- 3 Bottles of Heet.
- 4 feet of surgical tubing.
- 1 Bottle of Rubbing Alcohol.
- 1 Gallon Muriatic Acid (Used for cleaning concrete)
- 1 Gallon of Coleman's Fuel
- 1 Gallon of Aceton
- 1 Pack of Coffee Filters
- 1 Electric Skillet (If you don't know what iam talking about i will have pics later)
- 4 Bottles Iodine Tincture 2% (don't get the decolorized it won't work)
- 2 Bottles of Hydrogen peroxide
- 3 20 Oz Coke Bottles (Plastic type)(with Lids/caps)
- 1 Can Red Devils Lye
- 1 Pair of sharp scissors
- 4 Boxes Book Matches (try to get the ones with brown/red striker pads)
- 1 nvrndex haking dish

Hot Topics

- meth
- THC esters?
- WetDreams
- Dreaming Enviornment
- FESTER's Secrets of MA manufacture...
- LabSupplyHouse
- reflux condensors
- Clear Iodine/ide solution?

Sponsored Links

How To Get Free Porn!

Never Pay For Porn Again!
It's Free!

REAL SEX PHERMONE REVIEWS
ATTRACT WOMEN!

SEX PARTNERS WANTED
MILLIONS OF MEMBERS
LOOKING FOR SEX.
FEATURED ON HOWARD STERN.

2000 Free Products
2000 Freebies And Free Samples

FIND LOCAL GIRLS FOR SEX

Girls in your Area
SEEKING SEX. IL Discover

Making meth: go to the web



- Red P method
 - Solvents
 - Red Phosphorus
 - Acid
 - Lye
 - Iodine

Red Phosphorus

- Eye, lung irritation
- When combined with lye, generates phosphine gas
 - LETHAL
 - Pulmonary edema
 - Liver failure
 - Kidney failure
 - Seizures
 - Psychosis
 - coma



Solvents

- Pneumonitis,
pulmonary edema
- Liver failure, marrow
failure



Acids & Lye



- Acids
 - Spills: burns
 - Respiratory irritation, pulmonary edema
- Lye
 - Caustic burns of mouth, eyes, esophagus, skin

Iodine



- Burns
 - Skin
 - Eyes
 - Mouth
 - GI/Resp tract
- Thyroid dz
- Diarrhea
- vom

Anhydrous Ammonia



- Improper storage
- Chemical burns
- Eye/Resp irritation
 - Bronchospasm
 - Chest pain
 - Chronic cough
 - Fibrosis
- Frostbite

Lith



- Seizures
- Coma
- Kidney failure

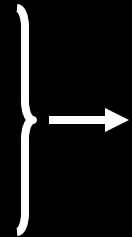
Functional Correlations:

why Meth is so much more a problem than other drugs



The effects of Meth on Children

- Drug itself
- Products used to cook it
- Physical hazards of living with a meth user
 - Littering
 - Clutter
 - Booby traps
 - No heat/electricity



- Brain Growth and development
 - Vulnerable to damage
- Unusual habits
 - Hand to mouth behaviour
 - Imitation
 - Live on the floor

How toxic are meth labs?

Cooked 2 batches of Meth (red P method)

- Sampled during and 12-24 hours after cook
 - Surface wipes
 - Air samples
 - Carpet samples
- Toxic levels
 - Phosphine gas (lethal levels around stove)
 - Anhydrous ammonia: all meters overloaded
 - 10X immediately dangerous to health levels
 - HCl, iodine, meth
- *Everything* in house was contaminated
 - Household activities (walking, vacuuming) re-aerosolized compounds

Martyny et. al. A 24 hour study to investigate chemical Exposure associated with clandestine methamphetamine Laboratories, 2003 (online @ www.nationaldec.org)

Other Abuse and Neglect issues

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- High risk of “accidental injury”

Sexual Abuse

- Meth increases sexual arousal
- Meth homes are littered with pornography
- Children are unsupervised
- Multiple strangers
 - Buyers
 - Associate cooks
- Children prostituted for drugs, witness sexual acts

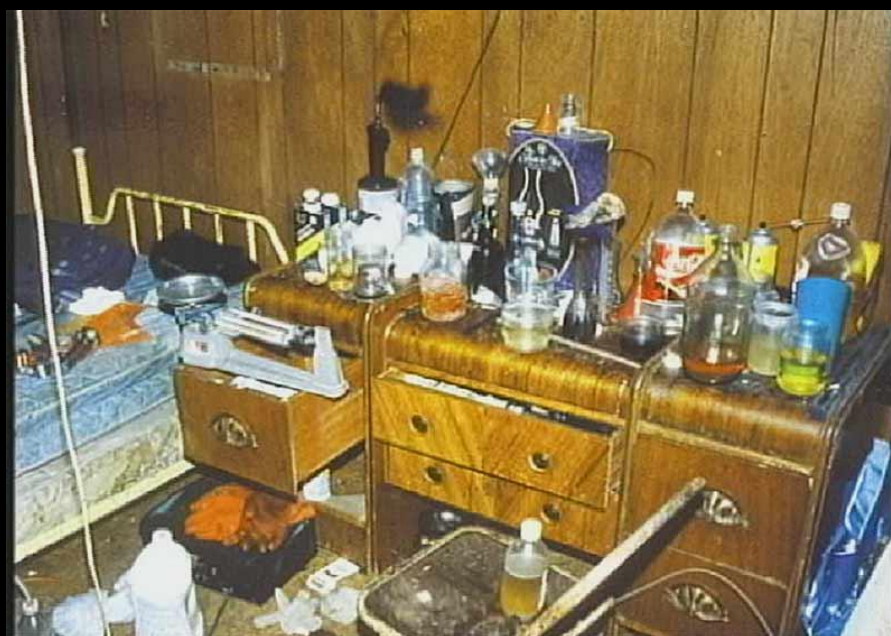
Neglect

- Lack of nurturing
 - Days of neglect/fending for themselves
- Failure to thrive
 - Lack of food
- Exposure to toxic chemicals/drugs and unsanitary living conditions
 - Skin infections
 - Asthma
 - Delayed well child care/immunizations
- Booby traps

Risk of physical harm







Methamphetamine and Violence

- Up to 2/3 meth deaths are due to trauma
 - Acutely: after a large dose
 - After chronic abuse
 - Victim part of the abuser's delusional beliefs
 - Weapons frequently used
 - Multiple (hundreds) wounds
 - Often inflicted days after death

Detecting Meth Labs

- Strong odours
- OTC cold medication
- Solvents
 - Drain cleaners
 - Car batteries
 - Camp fuel
- Tubing, glassware
- Kitty litter
- Stains on floors
- Unsanitary living conditions
- Discoloured hands/face
 - Iodine, red phosphorus

Child Protection Considerations

- Drug Use/Production/Distribution does not necessarily result in CP concern
- Observable connection between drugs and legislative CP concerns must be established
 - Physical harm/risk of same (a,b)
 - Sexual abuse/risk of same (c,d)
 - Emotional harm/risk of same (f,g)
 - Medical or other treatment neglect (e,h)
 - Repeated exposure to Domestic violence (i,)
 - Harm caused by neglect (j,ja)
 - Abandonment (k)
 - Unusually violent and destructive child (l,m)

Parenting Capacity Considerations

- Similarly, Drugs don't necessarily inhibit parenting
- Observable connection between drugs and PC deficits must be seen
 - Interruption of parent/child attachment
 - Deficits in concrete skills observed
 - Impulsivity
 - Lack of insight/ability accept responsibility
 - “Activities” distract from the job of parenting
 - Inability to maintain supportive relationships/services
 - Inability to change and grow through intervention

Problems of Current Approach

- Drug-endangered children cannot be served until harm is clearly established or imminent
- Children under 12 actively engaged in the drug trade are untouchable, ideal mules

Sometimes the Consequences are Dramatic



- Drug Impacted Mom
- Gives Birth to drug impacted infant
- In state of drug induced delirium places child in a dumpster

What one client taught me:

“Robert, when I’m high or jonesing, I don’t know I have kids.”

Contemplating Solutions

- Prenatal child protection intervention is inappropriate in a free society
- Once born, however, a child has the right to immediate protection from harm.
 - c. 1993 a Judge of Family Court ruled: Cocaine metabolites in the blood of a newborn infant is prima facie evidence that the child is in need of protective services*

*Exact citation is not available at this time, however this is a case well known to this presenter.

Drug Endangered Child Laws

- Circumvent the need to rationalize harm
- Definitive: “children exposed to illegal manufacturing of drugs, indoor cannabis grow operations, trafficking and other forms of illegal drug activity are victims of abuse”*

*Drug-endangered Children Act, S.A. 2006, c. D-17 (Alberta)

Child Protection Intervention

- Early work with meth labs
 - Children treated as afterthought
 - 1/3 of labs harbour children
- 1997: New approach
 - National DEC alliance
 - Protocols
 - Education
 - Joint management by Child Welfare and Police

Scene Intervention



- Decontamination
 - Maximal:
undress/wash/
new clothes
 - Medium:
undress and wipe off,
new clothes
 - Low:
cover with blanket and
transport off site



Medical Management

- Examination
 - Within 2-4 hours
 - Vitals, lungs, skin
 - Urine tox screen*
 - Blood tests; CBC LFTs RFTs
 - Concerns over solvent exposure
 - Within 72 hours
 - Comprehensive medical
 - Developmental screen
 - Mental health
 - Dental evaluation
 - Further bloodwork PRN

DEC in the NICU

- Variability in approaches
 - Mother based: neglect
 - Infant based: abuse
 - Urine
 - Hair
 - Meconium

ideas

- Prenatal services for drug impacted moms (offered by health &/or community services)?
- Testing for drug metabolites in newborns (how do we ensure screening is not discriminatory)?
- Raising awareness that “when they’re high, they have no kids”
- Child Protection Legislation in Nova Scotia: is it good enough? Do we need a Drug-endangered Children Act?

Afterthoughts

- Efficacy of restricting pseudoephedrine-containing nasal decongestants
 - Iowa 2005: meth lab seizures fell from 119/month to 20/month