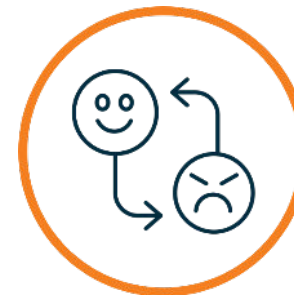


Methamphetamine

Recognizing Meth Use



Frequent scratching, usually due to a hallucination.



Extreme excitement, confusion, and mood swings.



Nausea, sweating, and hyperthermia.



Shaking or twitching in the body or face.



Rapid eye movement, enlarged pupils, and fast breathing.



Symptoms of psychosis, such as paranoia, delusions, and hallucinations.



High blood pressure, increased heart rate, and irregular heartbeat.



Hyperactivity, which may include excessive talking, excessive moving, and refusal to eat or sleep.

Meth Psychosis & How to Handle it

Meth psychosis occurs among 40% of people who use the drugs. The symptoms of meth psychosis include delusional thoughts, aggressive behavior, and seeing, hearing, or feeling things that are not there. Hallucinations or delusions often develop during or after the drug is used or during withdrawal, and psychotic symptoms may occur.

Meth psychosis is generally associated with chronic methamphetamine use. Changes in the brain occur, making a person more susceptible to psychosis. An individual could have no history of psychotic episodes and experience meth-induced psychosis. There are some essential things to consider:



Remain calm in a terrifying situation. Stay with the person and keep your voice and movements slow and steady so as not to scare them anymore.



Stabilization in a hospital or inpatient setting is critical. This would help avoid self-harm or a violent situation.



Treatment is essential and can occur in a hospital setting or residential drug rehab center. Generally, a hospital will be the first option in an emergency.

Understanding the Problem and How to Help Those Affected

The dangers involved with using methamphetamine have changed significantly. While the drug is inherently deadly, introducing fentanyl has brought meth use to the level of Russian roulette. Fentanyl and meth have ravaged communities across the nation.

People need to know the signs of meth use, recognize meth psychosis, and know how to help someone addicted to methamphetamine.

