

# Stimulants: Cocaine and Methamphetamine

CRIT program - May 2013

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Assistant Professor of Medicine



# Learning objectives

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand how and why people use stimulants
2. Know the characteristics of stimulant intoxication and withdrawal syndromes
3. Understand the consequences of these drugs
4. Know the current options for treatment of stimulant dependence

# History: Cocaine

- From erythroxylon coca leaves in Andes
- Leaves chewed for thousands of years as stimulant
- 1884 Freud published, *Uber Coca*, describing cocaine's effects on Freud and its potential to treat opiate addiction
- 1885 Halsted published study about anesthetic uses
- 1886 Halsted raided ship medicine cabinet for fix
- Used in medicines and beverages until early 1900s
- Street preparations 10-50% cocaine
  - Hydrochloride powder is snorted or injected
  - Alkaline rocks (aka crack) are smoked
  - *Crack, Rock, Base*



# History: Methamphetamine

- 1893 methamphetamine first synthesized in Japan as decongestant
- Used by German, English, American, and Japanese military in WWII for performance enhancement.
- First epidemic occurred in Japan when the military dumped large quantities into the civilian market
- Popular among truckers and west coast bikers in 1970s
- DESOXYN to treat ADHD and obesity
- *Speed, Crystal, Crank, Ice, Meth, Tina*





...prescribe  
**Desoxyn**<sup>®</sup>  
HYDROCHLORIDE  
(Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, Abbott)

**THE SYMPTOMATOMIC AMBITION HAVE BEEN** found of value when administered under the supervision of a physician, as an adjunct to the management of obesity. The chief action of these drugs is the stimulation of the centers of the brain which control the metabolism of the body. In addition to the stimulation of the metabolism, these drugs also stimulate the appetite, thereby causing a feeling of well-being and increasing energy and endurance in such a way as to relieve the feeling of depression and burden which is often the underlying factor in overeating.

**SMALLER DOSEAGE, LONGER EFFECT.** IT IS CON- siderably agreed that these preparations, although for stimu- lation, are more potent than amphetamines. In the stimulation desired is achieved with a smaller dose, the effect of effect is more rapid, and the duration longer. Doses according to these recommendations may produce side effects that obstruct the benefits of administration. With ordinary doses, little or no significant (greater effect) has been observed.

Doses should not be relied upon to induce weight reduction but should be used only under the direction of a physician in conjunction with the prescription of a general hygienic regime and a normal diet.

**DOSEAGE, SIDE EFFECTS.** THE DOSE OF DESOXYN should be adjusted in accordance with the requirements and response of the individual patient. When the stimulant effect of the drug is desired, an effective dosage is an average of 10 mg. Doses should be administered on a regular basis. Side effects that obstruct the benefits of administration should be avoided. In some cases, doses should be administered with meals to immediately after meals.

Usually, the initial dose should be 5 to 10 mg. In some cases, doses may be increased to 20 mg. and should be adjusted accordingly. They may be continued as long as the desired results are obtained and there are no untoward effects. Individual oral doses in doses of 10 mg. are likely to produce untoward central stimulation. Moderate is not recommended after 4 p.m. or at night, because of the possibility that the drug may interfere with sleep. If the patient is unable to sleep at night, the afternoon dose may be omitted or the excessive stimulation counteracted by the use of sedative adjuncts such as Valium or Xanax.

**OTHER INDICATIONS.** DESOXYN HYDROCHLORIDE is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of mild depression, anorexia, and loss of weight. It is also indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of mild depression, anorexia, and loss of weight. It is also indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of mild depression, anorexia, and loss of weight.

Available results have been reported following the use of 10-mg. doses of Desoxyn. The results are as follows: (1) increased appetite, (2) increased energy, (3) increased endurance, (4) increased weight, (5) increased energy, (6) increased endurance, (7) increased weight, (8) increased energy, (9) increased endurance, (10) increased weight.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS.** DESOXYN HYDROCHLORIDE should be used with caution in patients with moderate to severe cases of mild depression, anorexia, and loss of weight. It is also indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of mild depression, anorexia, and loss of weight.

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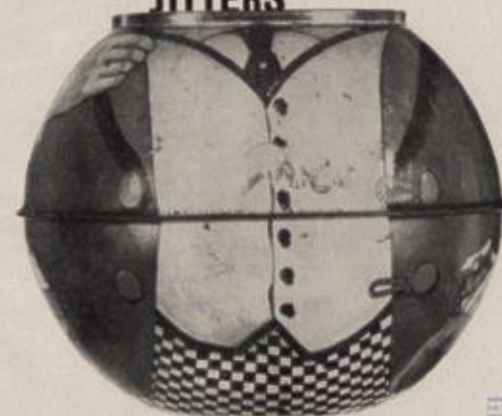
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**TOLERANCE NOT DEVELOPED.** WHILE THE DRUG has not been found to be habit forming, it is the fact that some patients develop a tolerance to the drug. In such cases, the dose should be increased to 20 mg. or more. The response and making effects decrease with prolonged use of the drug in accordance with the recommendations. As a result, a larger dose is required to maintain the desired effect. It is the fact that some patients develop a tolerance to the drug. In such cases, the dose should be increased to 20 mg. or more. The response and making effects decrease with prolonged use of the drug in accordance with the recommendations. As a result, a larger dose is required to maintain the desired effect.

he needs to  
blow his top...

**WEIGHT  
REDUCTION  
WITHOUT  
JITTERS**



## AMBAR<sup>™</sup> TABLETS AND EXTENTABS<sup>®</sup>

**Weight Reduction:** These patients may resist weight reduction because they fear losing the emotional security involved in overeating. Ambar Tablets or Tablets help them hold the diet line by giving them a more alert, brighter outlook. Ambar adds incentive to weight reduction, gives the patient a better chance of holding off the disabling effects of continued overeating.

**Without Jitters:** Methamphetamine, a more potent CNS stimulant than amphetamine, but producing less cardiovascular effect, is combined in AMBAR with phenobarbital. The combination subdues CNS effects just enough to protect the patient from overstimulation. Result: mood amelioration with no undesirable excitation—weight reduction without jitters.

**Ambar Extentabs:** 10 to 12 hours of appetite suppression in non-contrasted reviews, no-contrasted action. Ambar Tablets: 10 to 12 hours of appetite suppression in non-contrasted reviews, no-contrasted action. Ambar Tablets: 10 to 12 hours of appetite suppression in non-contrasted reviews, no-contrasted action.

**A. H. ROBINSON CO., INC.**  
Richmond 20, Virginia  
Official Pharmaceutical  
of World Since 1878



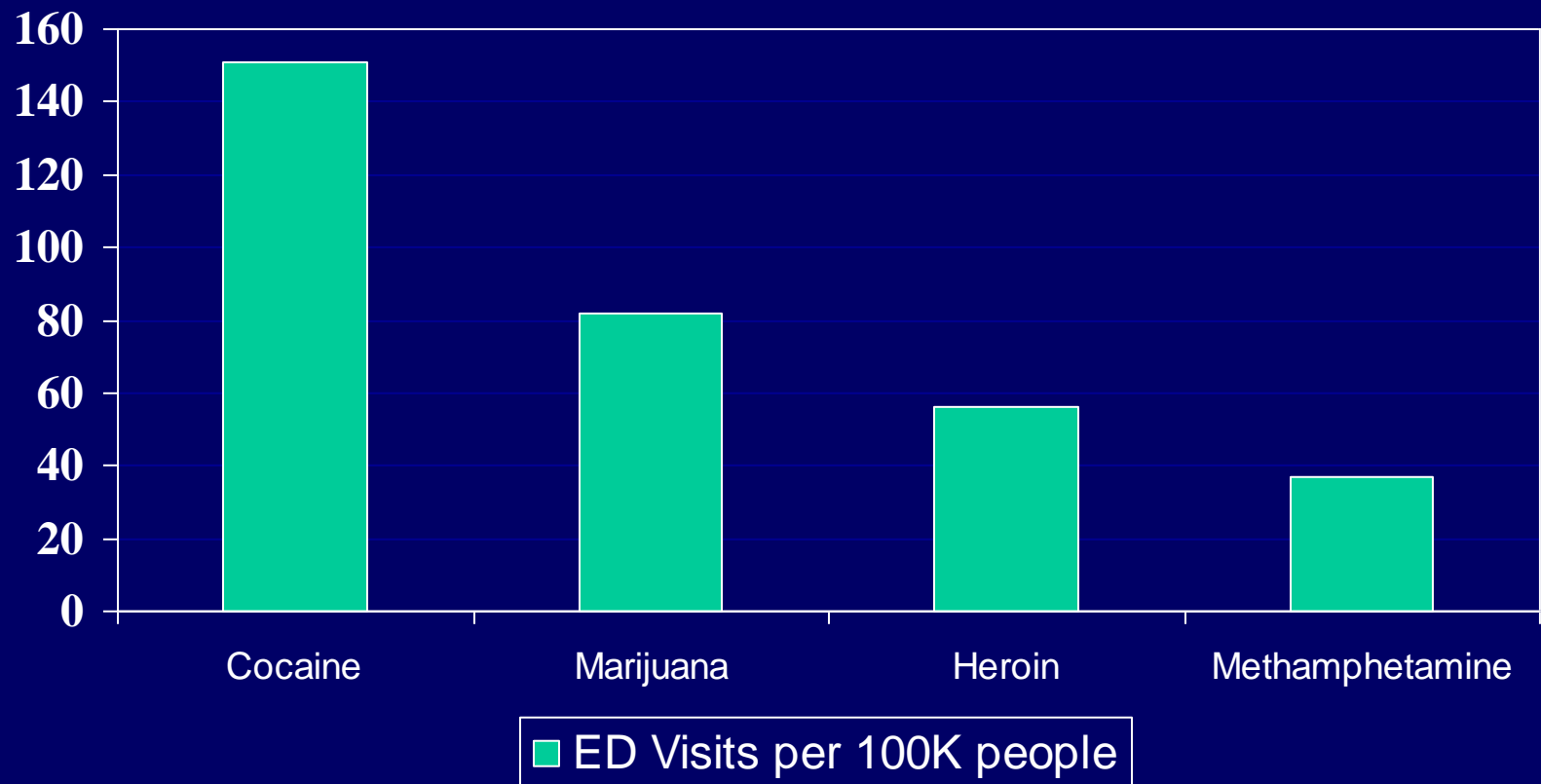
1957

CRIT/FIT 2013

1959

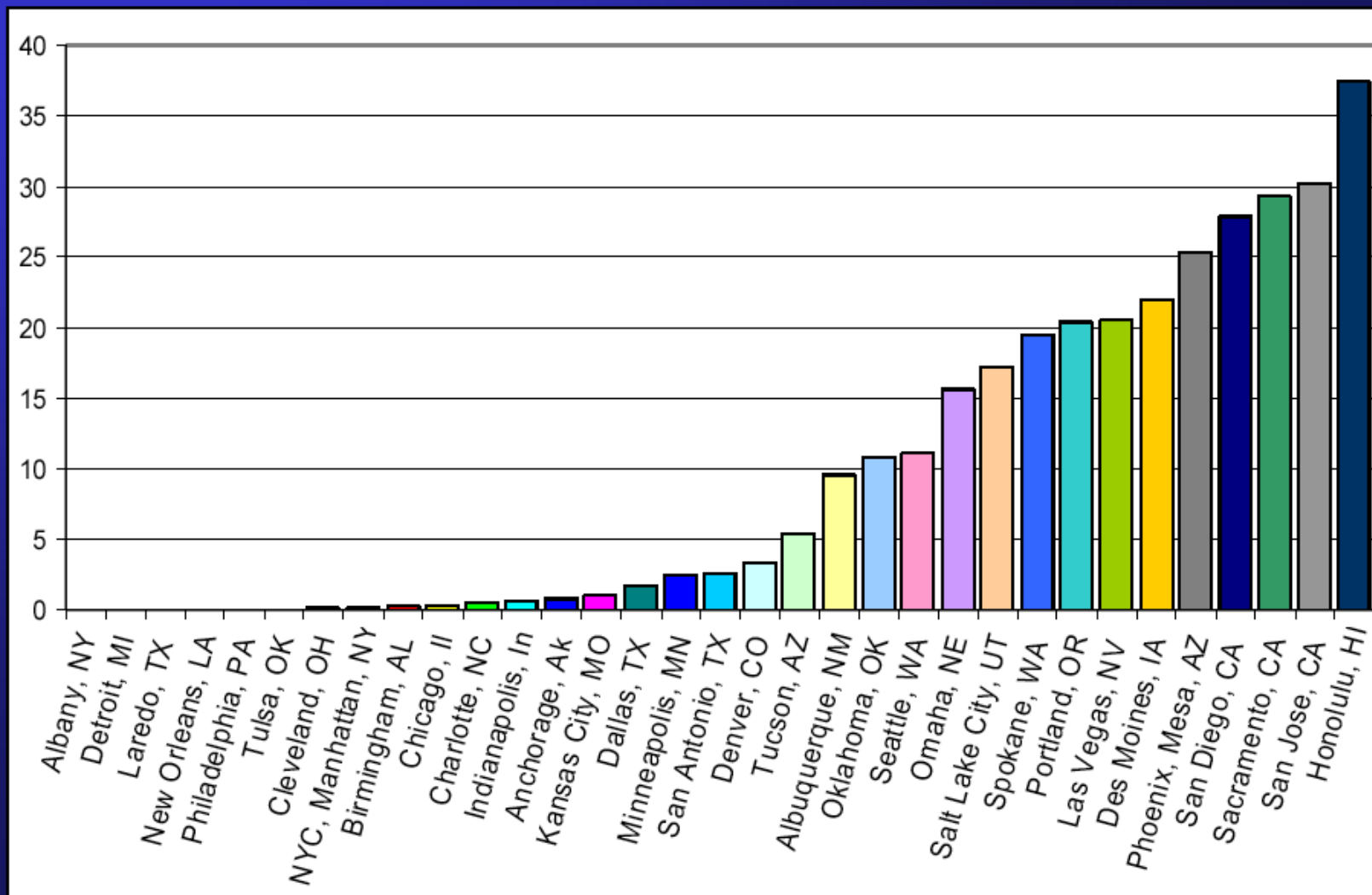
# Epidemiology

# 2005 drug-related ED visits





## Percent Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Meth (for 33 ADAM sites, 2001)





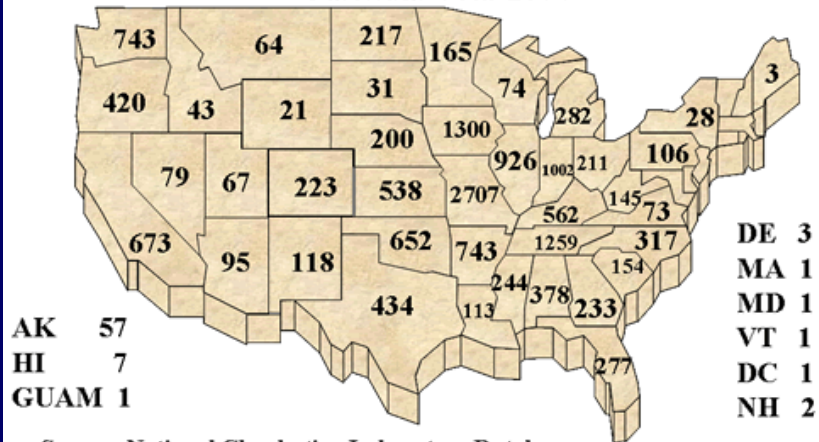
# From where do these drugs come?

- Methamphetamine
  - Super labs – Primarily Mexico and California
  - Local clandestine labs - 1 pound of MA creates 6 pounds of toxic waste
    - Holton WC. Unlawful lab leftovers. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2001;109:A576
- Cocaine -
  - 75% grown in Colombia with 75% via Mexico/ Central America



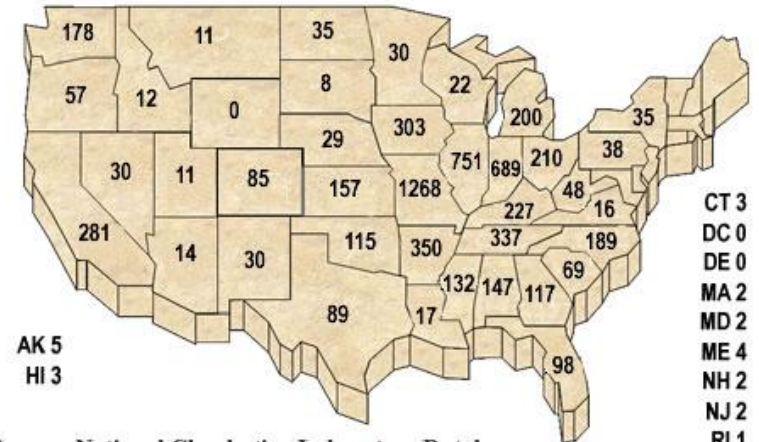
# Clandestine lab incidents

**Total of All Meth Clandestine Laboratory Incidents  
Including Labs, Dumpsites, Chem/Glass/Equipment  
Calendar Year 2004**



Source: National Clandestine Laboratory Database  
Total: 15,994 / 49 States Reporting  
Dates: 01/01/04 to 12/31/04

**Total of All Meth Clandestine Laboratory Incidents  
Including Labs, Dumpsites, Chem/Glass/Equipment  
Calendar Year 2006**



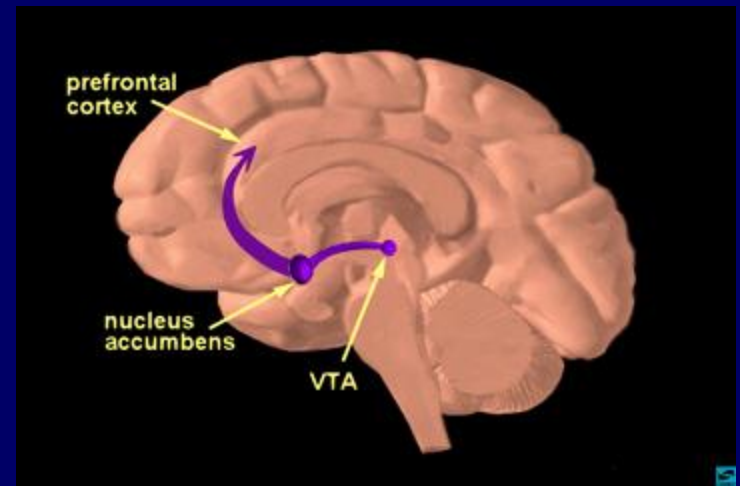
Source: National Clandestine Laboratory Database  
Total: 6,435  
Dates: 01/01/2006 - 12/31/2006

Map last updated February 2007

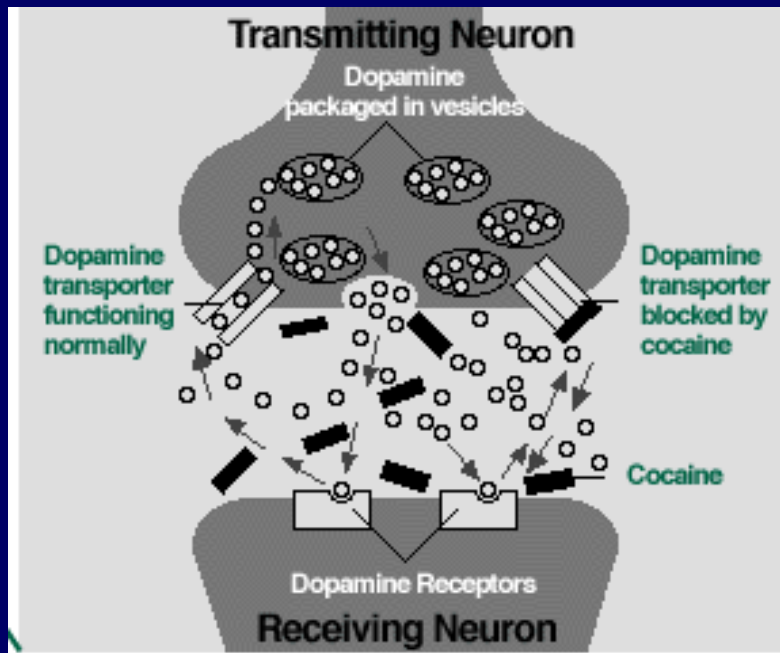
# Stimulant Effects

# Why do people use stimulants?

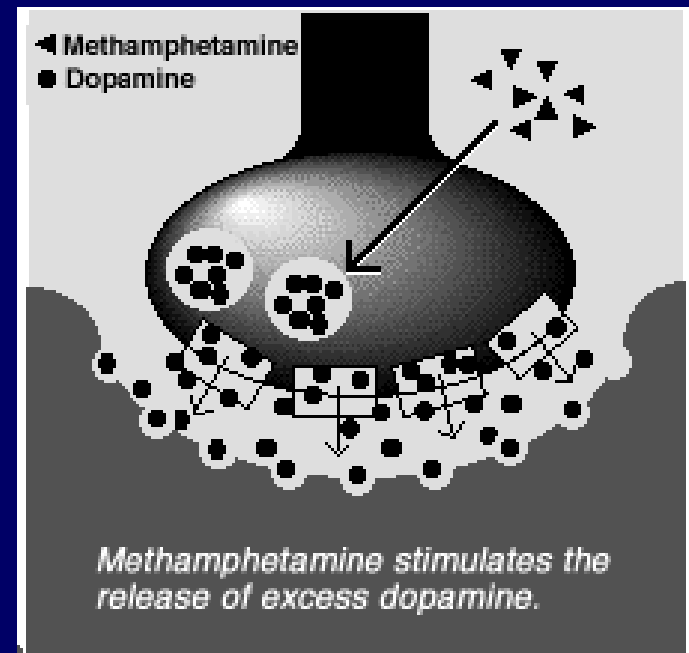
- Euphoria - Rush
  - Onset and intensity depends on delivery method
- Increased energy, alertness, libido
- Diminished social inhibition
- Decreased appetite



# Cocaine

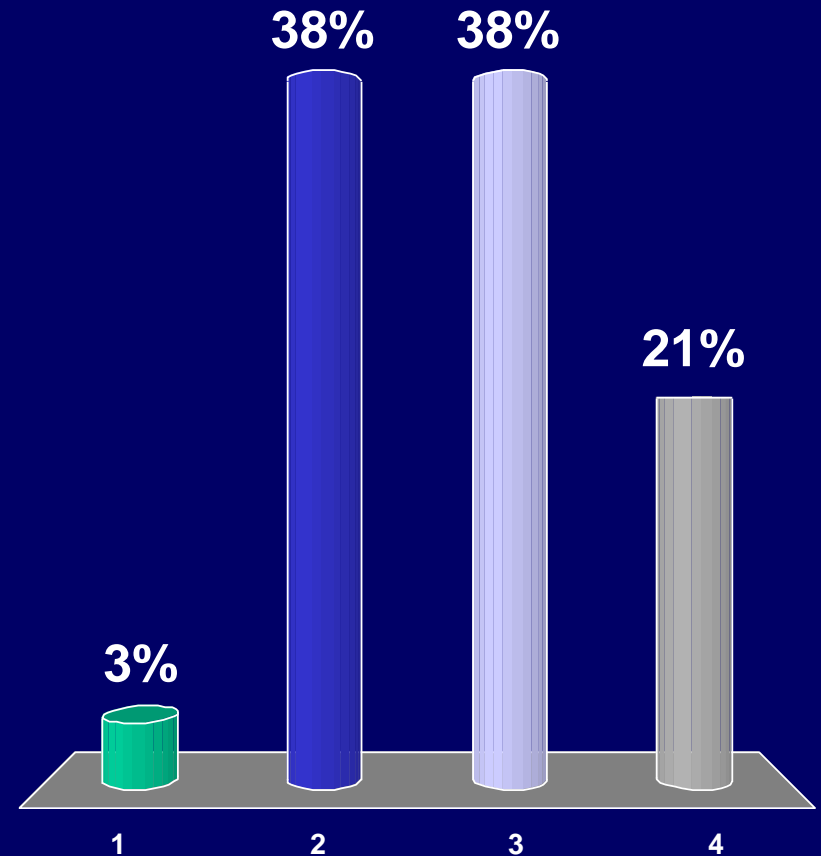


# Methamphetamine



# Which statement is true about stimulants?

1. Methamphetamine is only used intravenously or smoked
2. Methamphetamine has a longer half-life than cocaine
3. Intravenous injection results in the fastest onset of action
4. Cocaine's peak concentration occurs in about 1 hour



# PK: Cocaine

	IV	Smoked	Snorted
Time to effect	10-60sec	3-5sec	1-5min
Peak concent.	3-5min	1-3min	15-20min
Half-life	20-60min	5-15min	60-90min

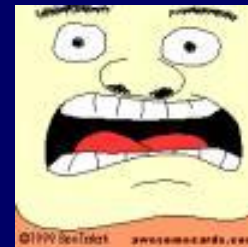
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Lange, R. A. and L. D. Hillis (2001). "Cardiovascular complications of cocaine use." N Engl J Med **345**(5): 351-8.

# PK: Methamphetamine

	IV	Smoked	Snorted	Ingested
Time to effect	15-30 sec	Immediate	3-5 min	15-20 min
Peak concent.	2-4 h	2-4 h	2-4 h	2-4 h
Half-life	10-12 h	10-12 h	10-12 h	10-12 h



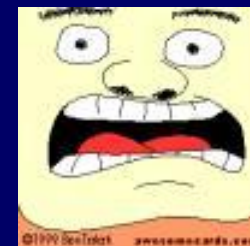


# Binges

- 2-3 day binges are typical, called runs
- Regular re-dosing to maintain rush or high in setting of acute tolerance
- Ends when drug or money runs out, or paranoia/ disorganized thinking sets in



# Acute Toxicity



- Elevated BP and HR
- Arrhythmia
- Vasoconstriction
- Hyperthermia
- Acute psychosis → prolonged psychosis
  - Paranoid delusions
  - Visual, sensory, and auditory hallucinations (ie formications)
- Agitation
- Rhabdomyolysis
- Seizure

# Intoxication Treatment

- Minimize sensory stimulation
- Neuroleptics (ie haldol) for agitation
- Benzos to control seizures
- Treat hyperthermia (external cooling)
- For increased BP+HR, use vasodilators and CCB or non-selective beta-blockers

# Is there stimulant withdrawal?

- Intense craving
  - Depression
  - Fatigue
  - Unpleasant dreams
  - Hypersomnia, then insomnia
  - Increased appetite
  - Limited ability to experience pleasure
- >> All results of relative dopamine depletion

# Health Consequences

## Dental

- Darkened teeth
- Caries
- Periodontal disease

## Pulmonary

- Acute pulmonary edema
- Pulmonary HTN
- Inhalation injury

## Cardiovascular

- Hypertension
- DCM
- Arrhythmia/ Tachycardia
- Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Aneurysm/ dissection
- Erectile dysfunction

## Infectious

- HIV risk
- HCV/ HBV
- STDs



## Neuro-psychiatric

- Stroke
- Seizure
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Mania
- Impulsivity
- Paranoia
- Auditory/ visual hallucinations + formications
- Violence

## Renal/Metabolic

- Rhabdomyolysis
- Dehydration
- Acute Renal Failure
- Acidosis
- Hyperthermia

## Skin

- Cellulitis/ abscess
- Excoriations
- Chemical burns

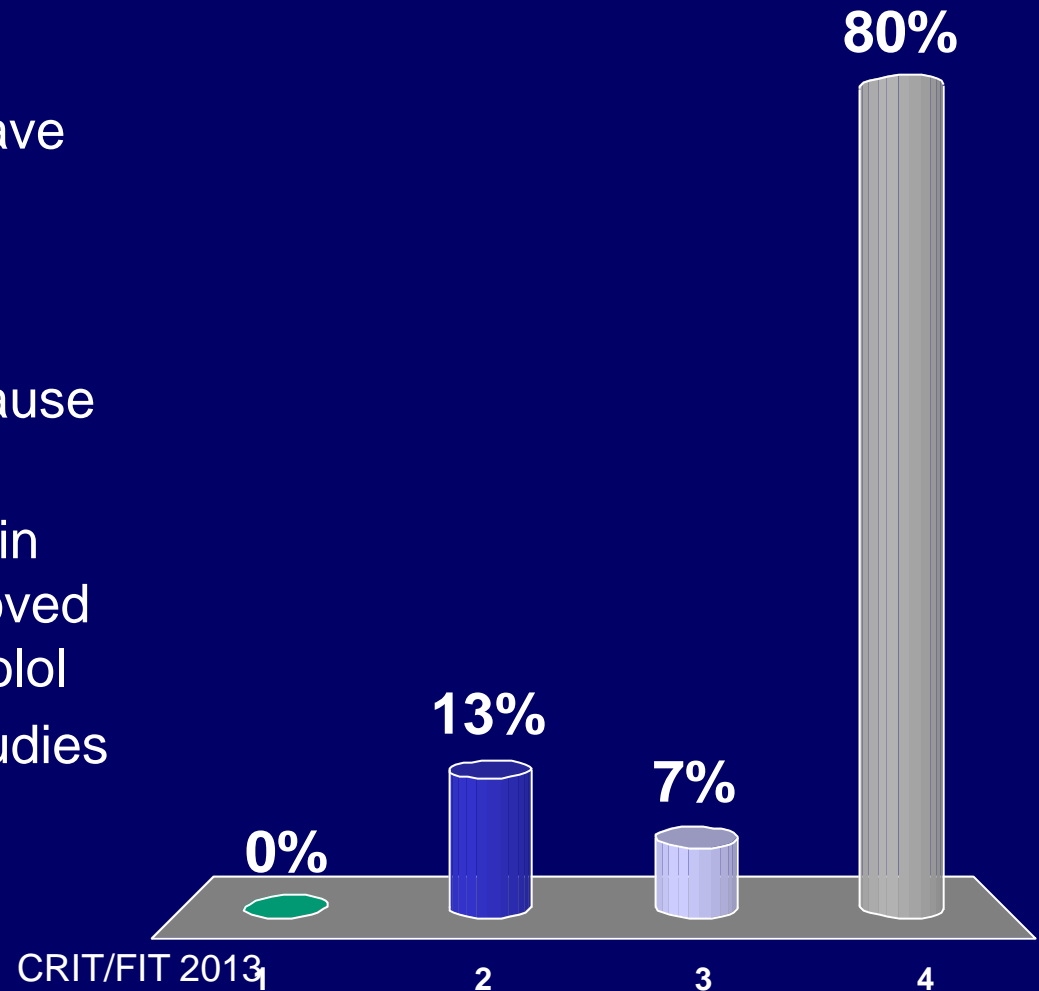


# AHA 2008 Scientific Statement on cocaine chest pain and MI

- Class I: Benefit  $\gg$  Risk
  - Benzodiazepines (Level B)
  - ASA (Level C)
  - NTG (Level B)
- Class IIb: Benefit  $\geq$  Risk
  - CCB (Level C)
  - Phentolamine (Level C)
- Class III: Risk  $\geq$  Benefit
  - Beta-blockers (Level C)

# Studies of the treatment for cocaine-related unstable angina with beta-blockers...

1. include randomized controlled trials that demonstrate that they save lives
2. include randomized controlled trials that demonstrate that they cause harm
3. include catheter studies in humans that show improved vasospasm with propranolol
4. include observational studies that show no increased adverse events among people receiving beta-blockers in the ED



# Beta-Blockers in Cocaine Chest Pain

331 patients with chest pain and cocaine-positive urine test results admitted to San Francisco General Hospital between 2001-05

- 151 patients received a beta-blocker in ED
  - 85% received metoprolol
- During the hospitalization
  - SBP decreased more in ED beta-block group
  - No differences in ECG results, troponin levels, intubation rates, vasopressor use, malignant ventricular arrhythmia rates, or death were found.
- 45 deaths over a median follow-up of 972 days
  - Discharge on a beta-blocker regimen was associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular-specific death but not all-cause mortality

Rangel C, Shu RG, Lazar LD, et al. Beta-blockers for chest pain associated with recent cocaine use. *Arch Intern Med.* 2010;170(10):874–9.

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# Cocaethylene

- Psychoactive substrate from EtOH+cocaine
- ETOH commonly used as “landing gear”
- ETOH before cocaine inhibits cocaine metabolism, producing cocaethylene
- 60-90% of cocaine abusers abuse ETOH
- Greater cardiac toxicity
- Greater rates of seizures, hepatic damage

# Treatment

# Pharmacologic Treatment

- Antipsychotics
  - Amato. Cochr Database Syst Rev. 2007 Jul 18;(3):
- Anticonvulsants - GABA modulators
  - Carbamazepine, Phenytoin, Valproic Acid, Tigabine, Gabapentin, Lamotrigine – Alvarez. JSAT 2010: 38; 66-73.
  - Baclofen – Heinzerling. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2006 Dec 1;85(3):177-84.
  - Vigabatrin (GVG) – Brodie. Am J Psychiatry. 2009;166:1269-77.
- Stimulant replacement
  - Modafinil – Shearer. Addiction. 2009 Feb;104(2):224-33.
  - Dexamphetamine – Longo. Addiction 2009, 105, 146–154
- Vaccine
  - Martell. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2009 Oct;66(10):1116-23.
- Disulfiram – Pani. Cochr Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jan 20;(1):

# Non-Pharma Treatment

- Brief Intervention?
  - Bernstein et al. DAD 2005; 77: 49.
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Self-help/ 12 step groups
- Residential Treatment
- Contingency management

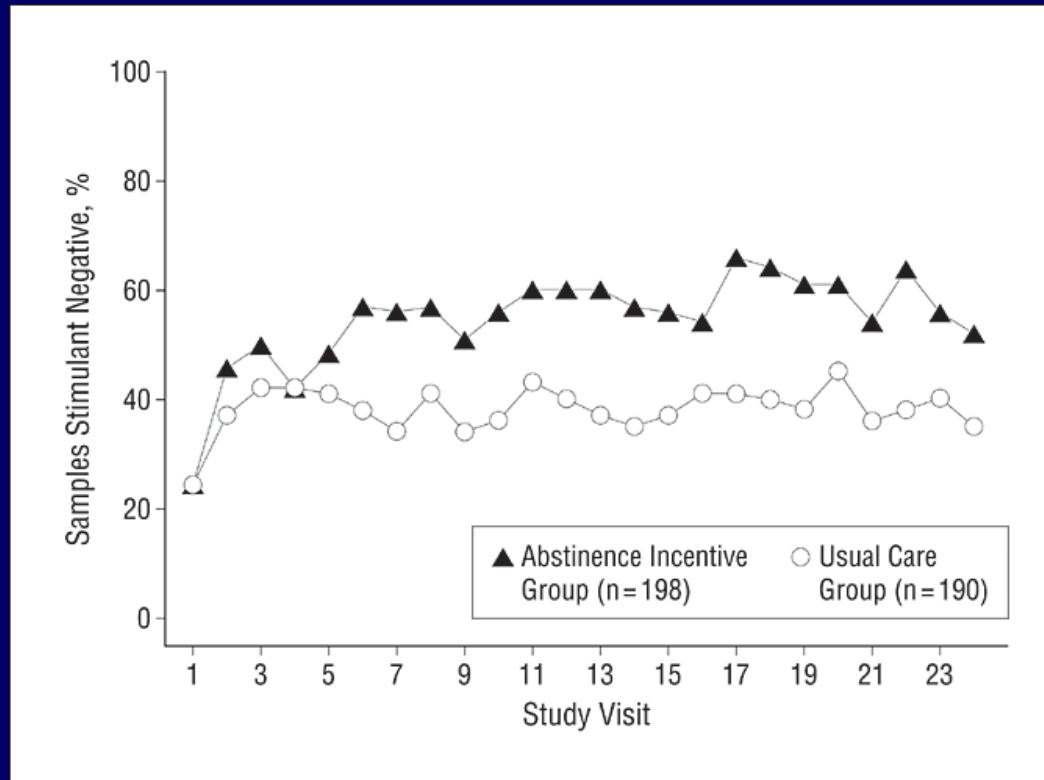


# Contingency Management

RCT in 6 community methadone programs of CM among stimulant users

- Usual Care vs.
- Intermittent, escalating re-enforcement
  - 1000 chips
    - 500 “Good job”
    - 250 “Small” - \$1 value – i.e. toiletries
    - 209 “Large” - \$20 value – i.e. kitchenware
    - 1 “Jumbo” – \$80-100 value – tv, stereo
  - # of draws = # of weeks with clean urine

# Contingency Management



The mean percentage of submitted samples testing negative for target drugs (stimulants and alcohol) is shown for abstinence incentive and usual care participants at each of 24 study visits.

Average cost = \$1.46 per person/day

CRIT/FIT 2015

# What should we do with our stimulant-using patients?

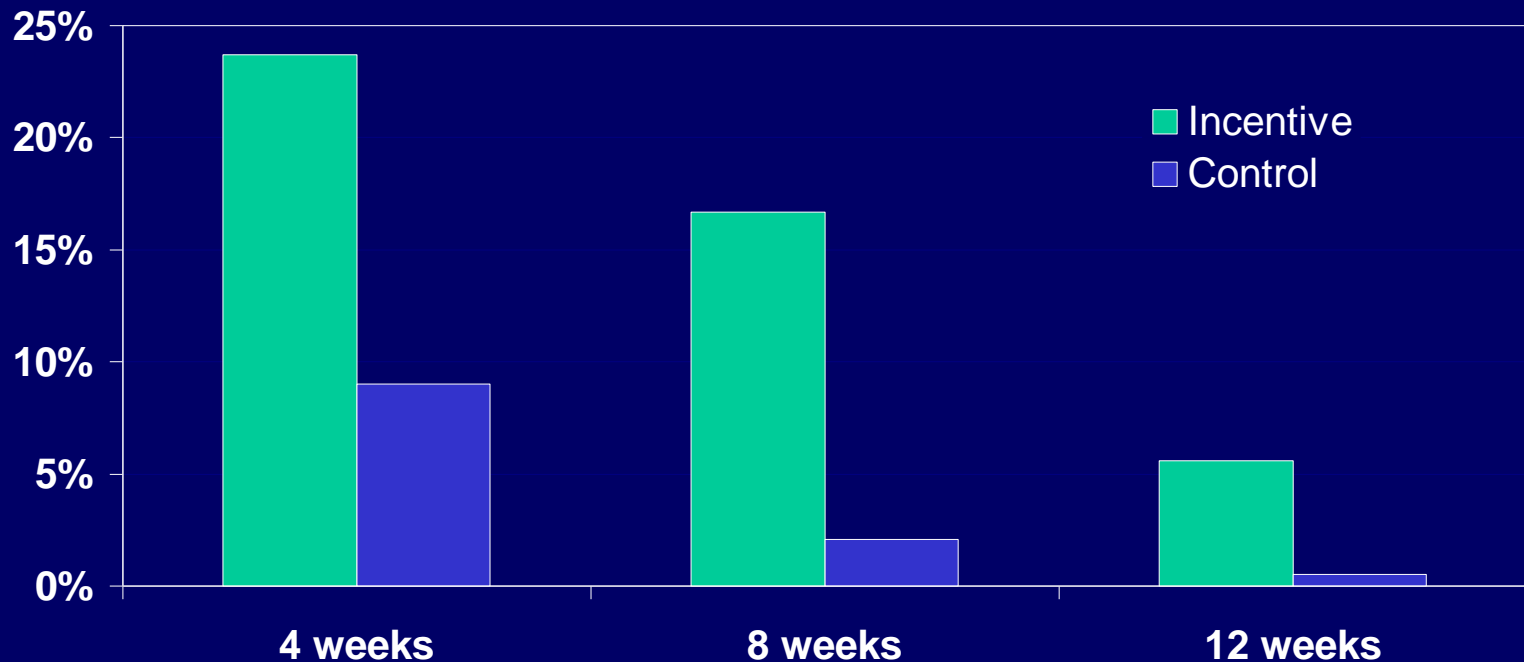
- For both inpatients and outpatients
  - Ask about medical complications, overdose
  - Harm reduction – safer use techniques
  - Motivational interviewing to develop a decisional balance that favors safer use, quitting and engaging in available treatment
- Consider contingency management strategies

# Thanks!

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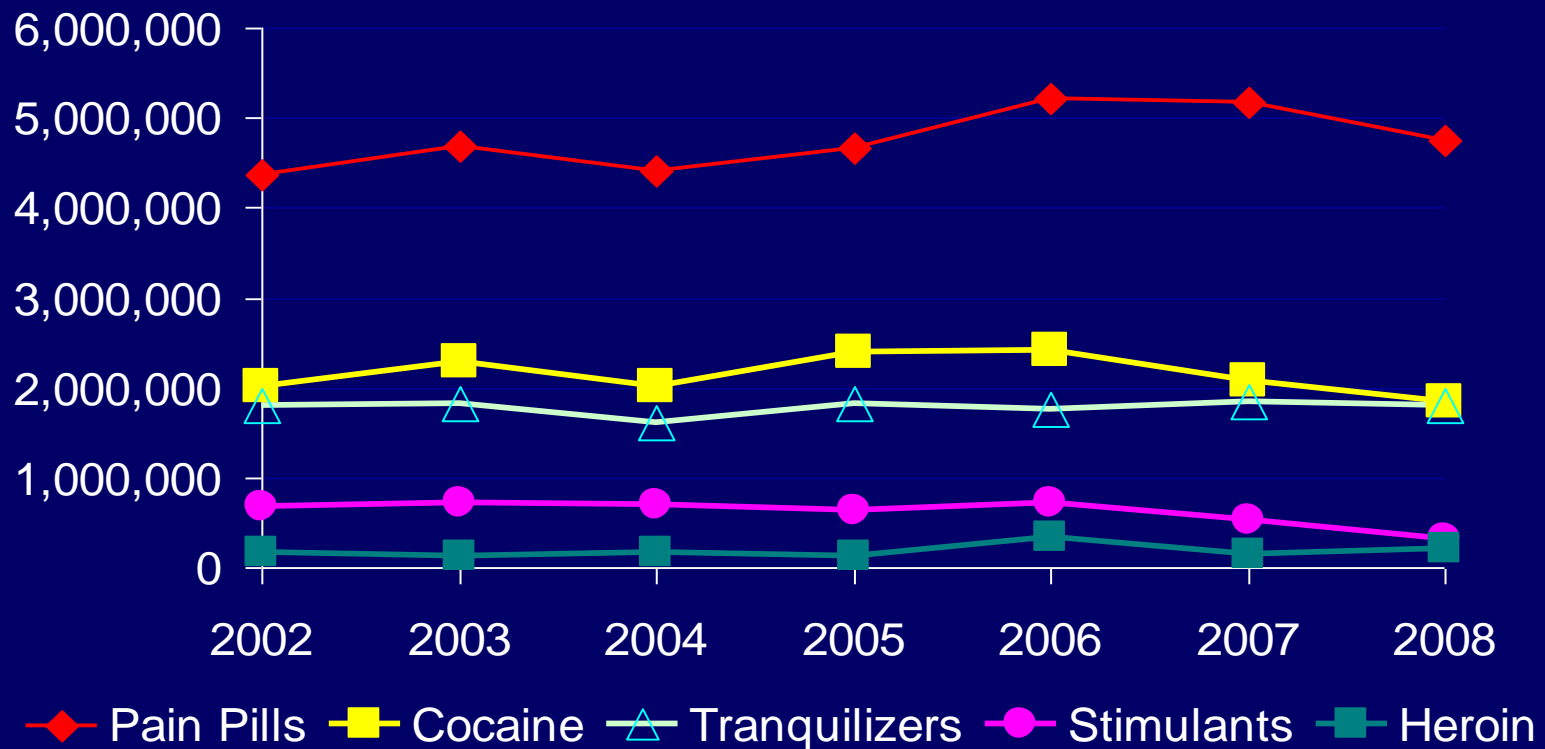
# Contingency Management

Methadone Maintenance Patients With Specified Weeks of Continuous Stimulant/Alcohol-Negative Samples (n=388)



Average cost = \$1.46 per person/day

# Past Month Use: 2002-2008



# 2007 ACC/AHA guidelines UA/ NSTEMI in cocaine and methamphetamine

- Class I: Benefit >>> Risk
  - For STE or STD: NTG and CCB
  - For persistent STE: Cath with PCI or lytics
- Class IIa: Benefit > Risk
  - Chest pain w/o ST changes: NTG and CCBs
  - STD or new TW changes: Cath
- Class IIb: Benefit  $\geq$  Risk
  - Increased HR or BP: Mixed alpha/beta blocker after vasodilator
- Class III: Risk  $\geq$  Benefit
  - No ST changes: Cath

Note: Level of evidence is C “expert opinion” for all recommendations

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JACC 2007; 50(7) e1-157.



# Pharmacologic Treatment

- Pharmacologic treatments studied
  - Dopamine agonists
  - Antidepressants
  - Opioid partial agonists and antagonist
  - Carbamazepine, phenytoin, lithium
- None proven effective

# 5 things about stimulants

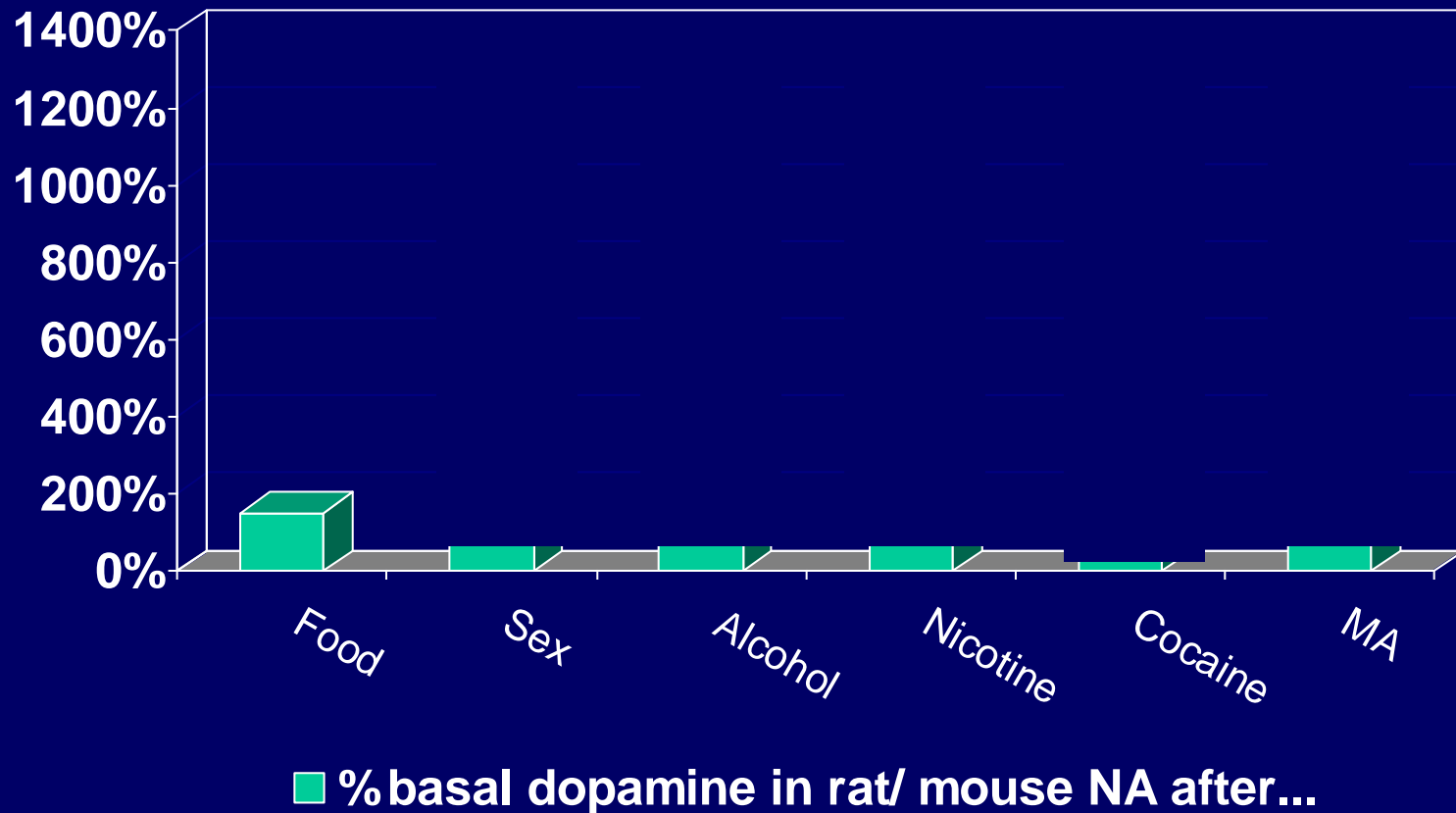
1. Easily available
2. Directly activate the mesolimbic pleasure center
3. Binge use often ends with dysphoria or lack of funds
4. Social and medical consequences
5. Treatment can work if you can find it

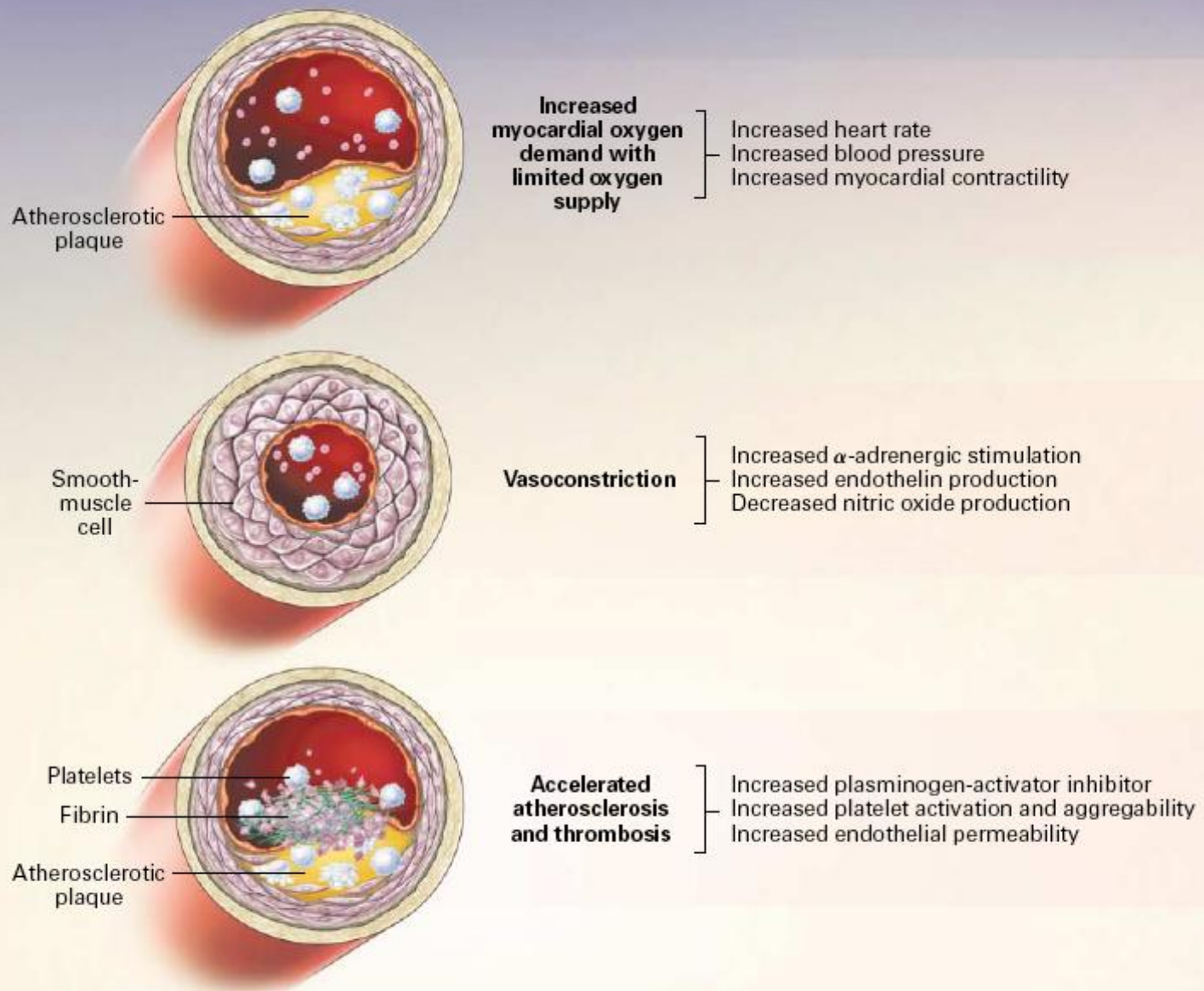
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# Dopamine release: nucleus accumbens

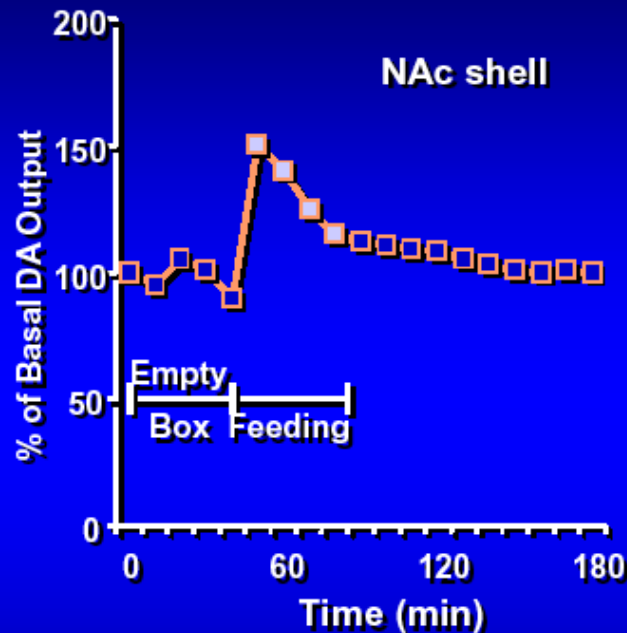




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# Natural Rewards Elevate Dopamine Levels

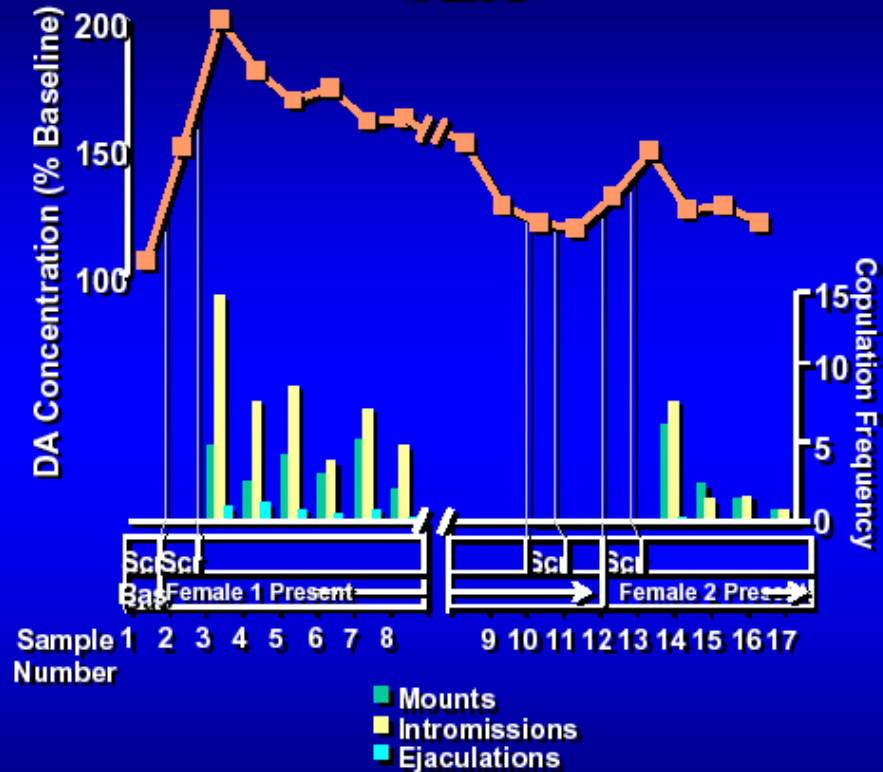
## FOOD



Source: Di Chiara et al.

## Levels

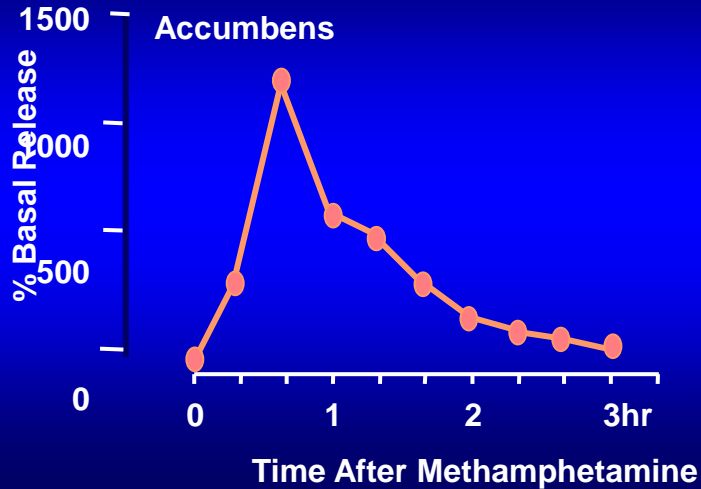
## SEX



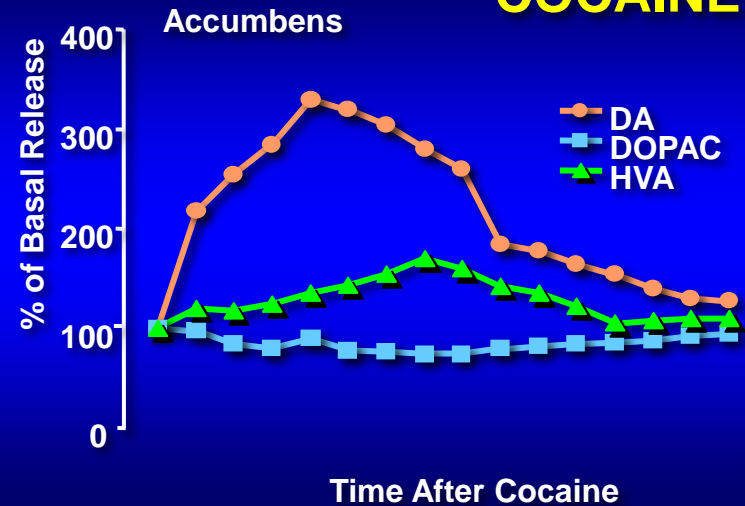
Source: Fiorino and Phillips

# Effects of Drugs on Dopamine Release

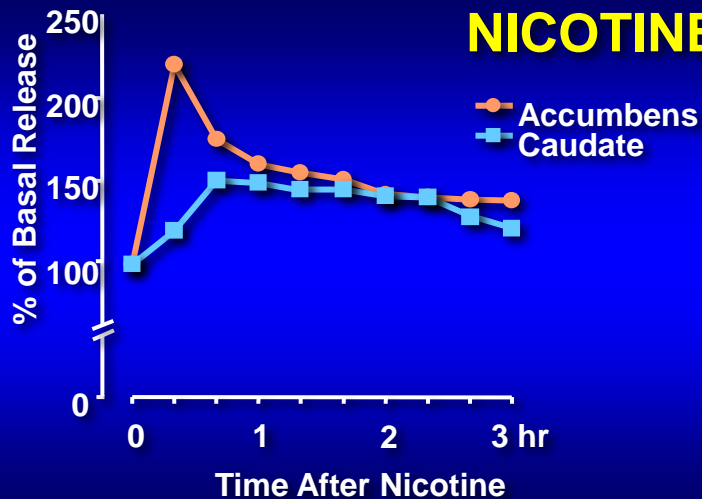
## METHAMPHETAMINE



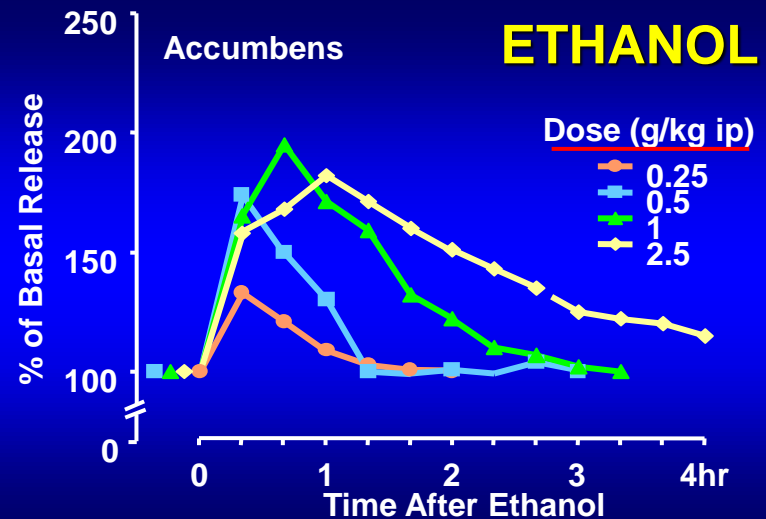
## COCAINE



## NICOTINE



## ETHANOL



**According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), crystal methamphetamine (meth) is the number one drug in rural America. And now, the crystal meth epidemic is spreading like wildfire in cities and suburbs across America. Crystal meth has become the new drug of choice for everyone from soccer moms to working moms. Even grade school students are being caught in its deadly grip.**

**Meth is cheap and easy to make. The recipe includes over-the-counter cold medicine, household cleaners and toxic chemicals like battery acid. This drug crisis has forced many store owners to put cold remedies under lock and key. Thousands of homemade meth labs are popping up in kitchens, garages, even inside cars. In one Iowa town officials were forced to ban children from bringing baked goods to school because so many parents are cooking meth with the same utensils.**

**It's cheap, instantly addictive, often deadly—and it's probably already in your neighborhood.**



*Will She Choose Life or Death?*  
**An Oprah Winfrey Show Intervention**  
May 13, 2005

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Chantel looks like an all-American 17-year-old girl. Her mother is a teacher's assistant and her father sells insurance. She works at an espresso shop. But she's addicted to crystal meth. Chantel and her family live outside Granite Falls, Washington.

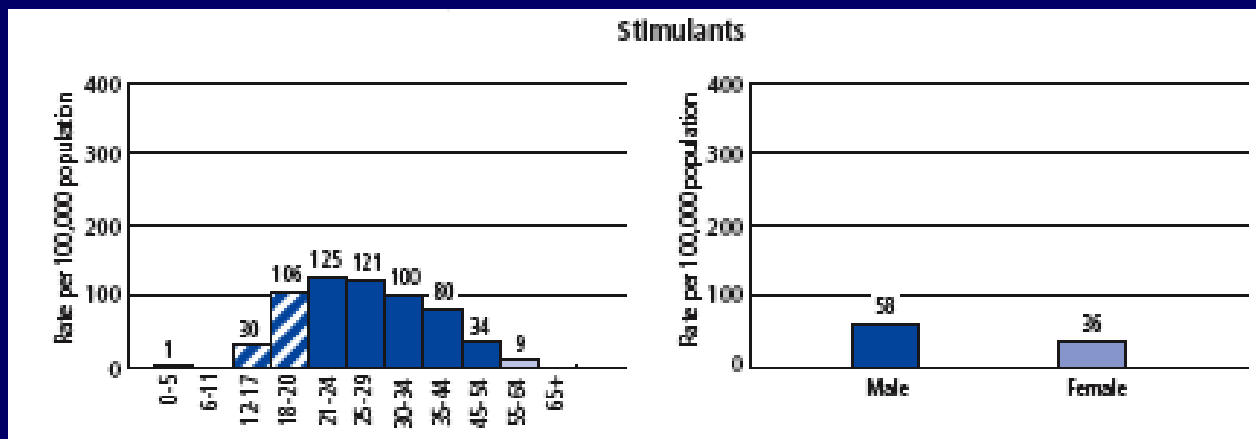
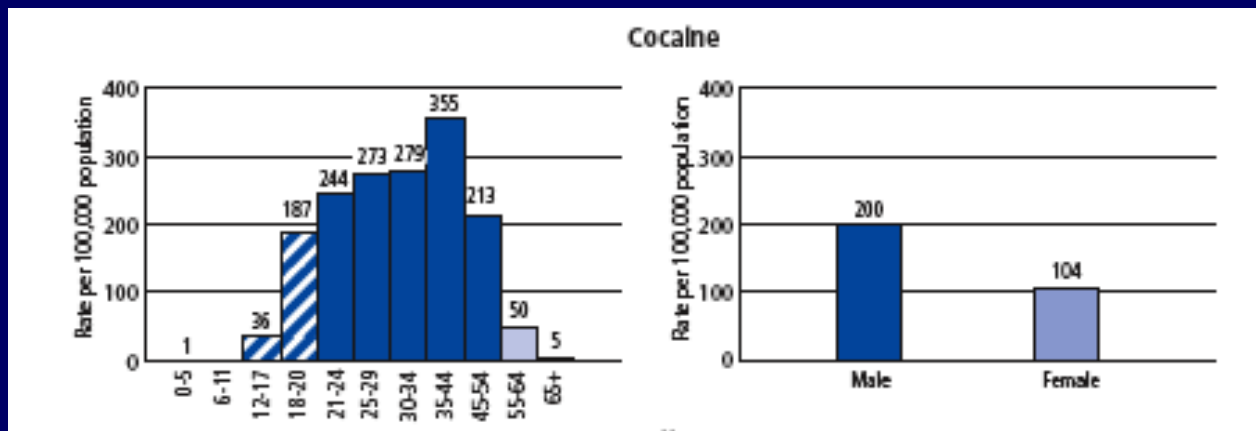


She says she's been addicted to meth for a year and a half, after being introduced by friends, and she says she was instantly hooked from the very first hit. Since that time, she says the longest she's gone without using meth was 40 days. In that time, Chantel says, "I was having a ball. I was going to church to see if that was the way for me. I was having fun, hanging out with sober people. And then it was just in front of me one night and I did it and I was hooked again." On one occasion, Chantel says she stayed up for 13 straight days, getting high every 20 minutes. "Meth makes you have this burst of energy," she explains. "And if you keep smoking it, you'll keep that energy burst." Was she worried about overdosing during that two-week binge? "You don't worry about anything," Chantel says. "You don't have any thought in your mind besides, 'Let's hit it again.'"

# Pregnancy

- More common in stimulant users:
  - Mental illness, seizure, injury, hypertension
  - Premature membrane rupture and labor, placenta previa, placental abruption, intrauterine death
- 1998-2004
  - Cocaine-related hosp decreased: 0.74>>0.41 per 100
  - MA-related hosp increased: 0.11>>0.22 per 100
- Cocaine vs. MA related pregnancy
  - More common for cocaine: mental illness, poor fetal growth, and premature delivery
  - More common for MA: hypertension, placenta previa

# 2005 drug-related ED visits



# Cardiomyopathy and Methamphetamine

- In a case-control study, researchers examined the association between methamphetamine use and cardiomyopathy (CM).
- Subjects included patients aged 45 years or younger discharged from a tertiary care medical center in Honolulu.
- Through medical record review, researchers identified...
  - 107 cases (had a discharge diagnosis of CM or congestive heart failure) and
  - 114 controls (ejection fraction  $\geq 55\%$  and no wall motion abnormalities).

# Cardiomyopathy and Methamphetamine

- 42% of cases and 20% of controls had ever used methamphetamine.
- Methamphetamine use was significantly more common in cases than in controls.
- OR in analyses adjusted for age, body mass index, and renal failure, 3.7

**“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
- 4 Bottles Iodine Tincture 2%
- 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 pyrodex baking dish
- 1 Box execto razor blades single sided
- 1 digital scale that reads grams
- 2 gallons distilled water
- 1 Roll Aluminum foil tape

**“That's what you would have to go buy if you wanted to make meth.”**

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# Treating Methamphetamine Dependence Reduces Risk for HIV

Rawson RA, et al. *J Subst Abuse Treat.* 2008;35(3):279–284.  
Summary by David A. Fiellin, MD

# Objectives/Methods

- 787 methamphetamine- dependent individuals who received 1 of 2 counseling strategies:
  - 16 weeks of a standardized psychosocial protocol (Matrix Model), or
  - 8–16 weeks of treatment-as-usual representing 8 diverse treatment approaches
- Both approaches focused on drug use, not HIV risk



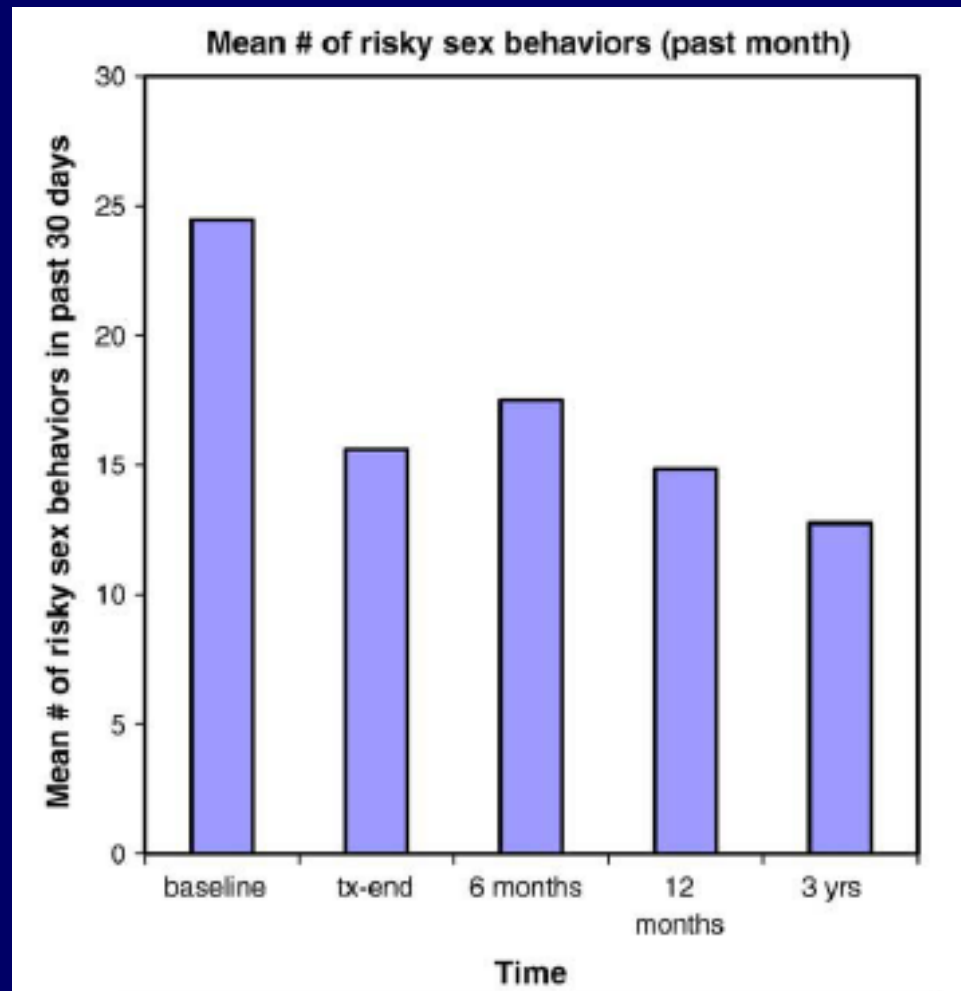
# Results

- The proportion of the sample who reported injecting methamphetamine within the previous 30 days declined significantly (14.6% to 5.4%) from baseline to discharge
- High-risk sexual activity also decreased:

	Baseline	Discharge
Mean times participants reported having sex without a condom	14.7	13.2
Mean times participants reported having sex without a condom with a methamphetamine user	2.3	1.4
Mean times participants reported having sex without a condom with an injection drug user	6.5	1.4
Mean times participants reported having sex while high	9.1	4.9

- There were significant associations between treatment retention and HIV risk outcomes

# Results – long term follow-up



N=569

# Comments

- This study demonstrates the benefit of counseling for patients with methamphetamine dependence.
- Treatment was associated with decreased methamphetamine use and decreased risk for HIV infection.
- The association between treatment retention and reduced HIV risk supports the implementation of programs that reduce barriers for treatment entry and retention.

# Cocaine and HIV

- Crack cocaine use is associated
    - increased number of sex partners
    - sex work
    - HIV infection, independent of IVD use
  - IV cocaine leads to HIV through frequent injection
- Chaisson. JAMA. 1989 Jan 27;261(4):561-5.

# MA and HIV

- Increased libido, social disinhibition, increased energy >> riskier sex behaviors
- PDE5 inhibitors (sildenafil) can be used to mitigate MA-induced erectile dysfunction

# Methamphetamine and Trauma

To assess the prevalence and impact of methamphetamine use (MU) in trauma patients, researchers surveyed the records of...

- 4932 patients who presented to
  - San Diego trauma center between 2003–2005
  - urine toxicology screening during their visit

# Results

- The rate of MU (defined as a positive urine screen), but not other illicit drug use, increased from 2003 to 2005 (from 9% to 15%).
- In adjusted analyses, patients with MU were more likely to have...
  - been injured in a violent way (OR, 2.0),
  - attempted suicide (OR, 1.7),
  - been a victim of domestic violence (OR, 2.5),
  - required more medical care (e.g.,  $\geq 1$  operations [OR, 1.5], mechanical ventilation [OR, 1.6]), and
  - died from their injuries (OR, 2.3).

# Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

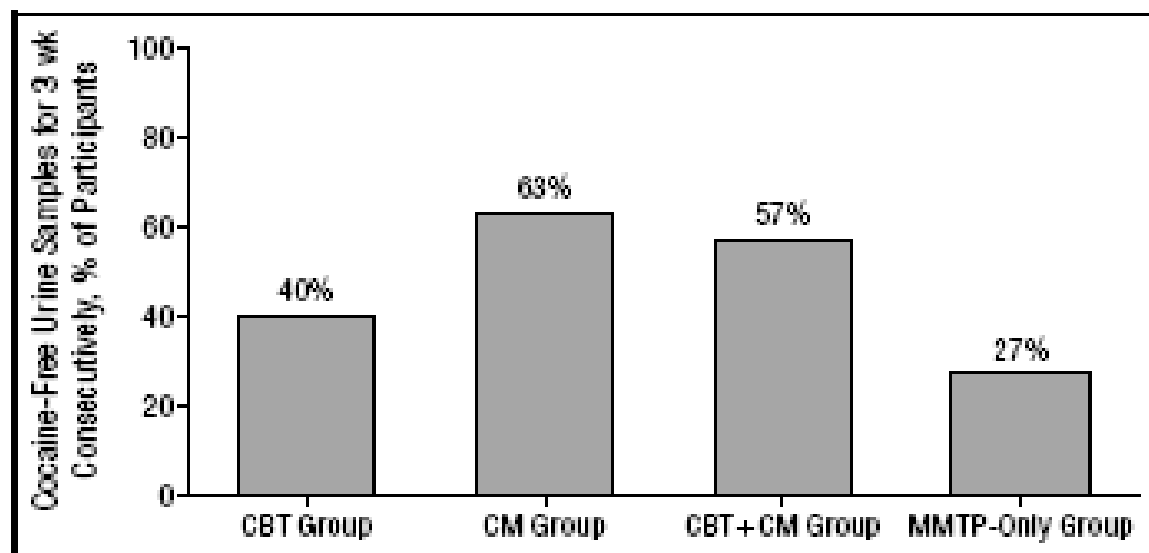
16 week RCT of cocaine-dependent  
methadone patients of:

CBT vs. CM vs. CBT+CM vs. TAU

30 patients per group

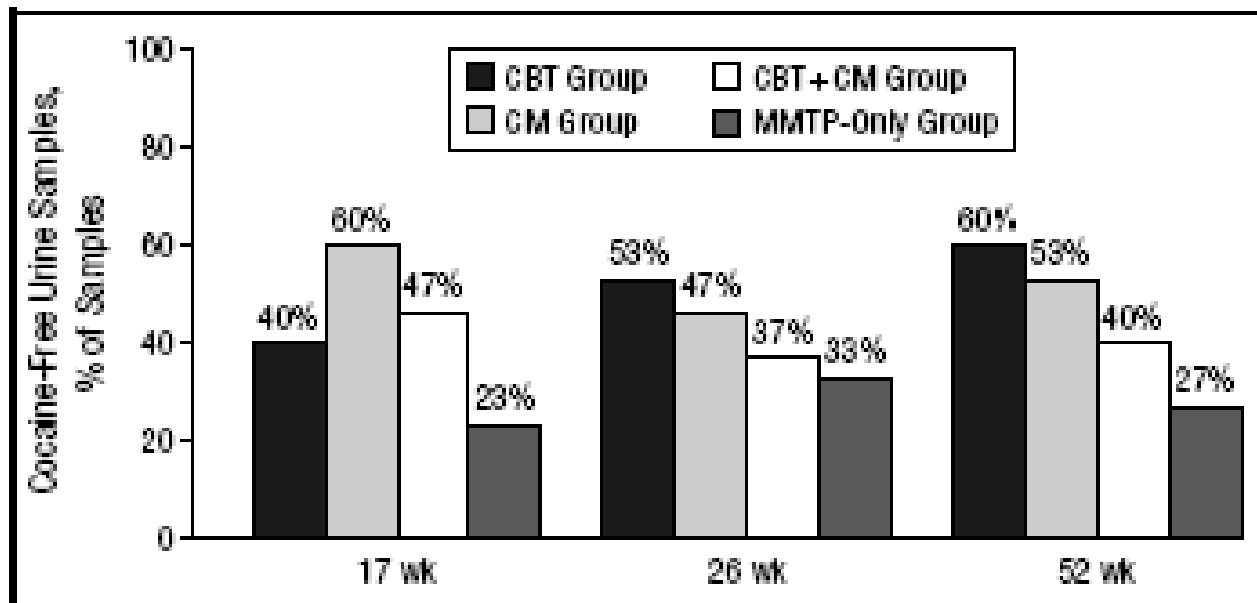


# Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



**Figure 5.** Percentage of patients achieving 3 consecutive weeks of cocaine-free urine samples by group ( $\chi^2_3=9.9$ ;  $P=.02$ ). CBT indicates cognitive-behavioral therapy; CM, contingency management; and MMTP, methadone maintenance treatment program.

# Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



**Figure 6.** Percentage of 30 possible cocaine-free urine samples at the 17-week, 26-week, and 52-week follow-up points. CBT indicates cognitive-behavioral therapy; CM, contingency management; and MMTP, methadone maintenance treatment program.

# Why do people use drugs?

1. To feel good
2. To feel better

# Cocaine and heroin

- 30-80% of heroin users use cocaine
- Cocaine use results in more injections
- Cocaine worsens opiate treatment success
- For 50% of co-users, MMT reduces cocaine