



# THE EAP CONNECTION

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For Confidential Assistance Call (800) 654-9778 or (503) 228-3223

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## Speed/Amphetamines

### WHAT THEY ARE

**Names:** amphetamine, speed, methamphetamine, bennies, black beauties, copilots, crystal, dexies, eye openers, lid poppers, meth, pep pills, uppers, wake-ups, Dexedrine, Desoxyn

**Type:** central nervous system stimulant

**Forms:** white crystalline powder, soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol (Methamphetamine is freely soluble in water and alcohol.); off-white to yellow coarse powder, crystals and chunks; capsules or tablets of various colors

**Combinations:** with barbituates, “goofballs”; with methamphetamine or cocaine and heroin, “speedballs”; with LSD and PCP

**Usage:** swallowed (capsules, tablets); injected into bloodstream (solution); sniffed (powder), “snorted”

**Legal Status:** illegal except for certain licensed medical treatment

### WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE

Initially—reduced appetite, increased alertness, sense of euphoria, excitement, creativity and/or power. Prolonged use—altered sex drive, restlessness, dizziness, confusion, depression, irritability; paranoia, distorted perceptions and/or hallucinations.



Your Employee Assistance Program can help, for more information or further assistance please call (800)654-9778

### WHAT THEY DO

**To Your Mind:** overstimulates central nervous system

**To Your Body:** increases heart rate, breathing rate; causes irregular heartbeat and breathing; dry mouth; foul taste; diarrhea; appetite suppression; retraction of gum tissue; impotence; increased urine output; fainting; sweating; fever; convulsions; coma; hemorrhage

**FACT:**  
*Speed kills*

**Special Characteristics:** Methamphetamine “run” of three to five days produces euphoria replaced by agitation on second day, along with frightening visual images and exhaustion. Amphetamine “run” psychosis may bring on uncontrollable violent behavior similar to paranoid schizophrenia.

### HOW THEY CAN HURT YOU

- chronic sleep problems, nervousness
- skin rash
- high blood pressure
- paranoia, chronic amphetamine psychosis, decreased emotional control, severe depression
- needle-related hepatitis, infection, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- dependence
- death from stroke, heart failure, extreme fever, violent accidents and murder

### WHEN TO GET HELP

- If you use speed at all, it’s time to get help! Confidential counseling is available through your employee assistance program.