



METH

in the workplace

WHAT IS METH?

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive, powerful stimulant that negatively affects the central nervous system. Made with common household products such as drain cleaner, engine starter fluid, hydrogen peroxide, fertilizer and battery acid, meth is also one of the most toxic drugs on the market.



Methamphetamine comes in a white, yellow or dark colored powder or rock-like form, and it can be smoked, snorted, eaten and injected into the blood stream with a needle.

Many addicts who first took the drug to give them energy and focus will tell you it was the worst mistake they ever made.

"HE SAID, 'IT'S KIND OF LIKE CAFFEINE, IT JUST KIND OF WAKES YOU UP.' BUT METH BECAME MY LIFE. NOBODY CAN HANDLE IT. IT WILL COST YOU EVERYTHING."

- Candace, recovered Tennessee meth addict

What You Need To Know

Tennessee has one of the worst meth problems in the country, and many of our state's meth users are employed. In fact, some meth addicts say they were first introduced to the drug in the workplace.

Think it's not your problem? Think again.

- A habitual meth user can become paranoid and violent. The first to pay the price, in some cases, are the addict's co-workers.
- Substance abuse drains more than \$100 billion from American businesses every year. By some estimates, a meth-using employee can cost his or her employer \$42,000 a year.
- 38 percent to 50 percent of all workers' compensation claims are related to substance abuse in the workplace.
- Substance abusers are 2.5 times more likely to be absent eight or more days a year.
- It costs a business an average of \$7,000 to replace a salaried worker, such as a meth addict who disappears from his or her job.
- Substance abusers incur 300 percent higher medical costs than non-abusers, resulting in higher premiums for other workers.

FEELING ALERT AT WORK IS NOT WORTH THE PRICE YOU WILL PAY.

All drugs take a toll on the body, but meth users face even greater health concerns, including:

- * SEIZURES
- * HEART ATTACK
- * STROKE
- * TOOTH DECAY
- * DRY, GRAY SKIN
- * BRAIN DAMAGE
- * KIDNEY FAILURE
- * INTERNAL BLEEDING

Statistics provided by the Tennessee Department of Labor's Drug Free Workplace Program and the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug & Other Addiction Services' (TAADAS) REDLINE at (800) 889-9789.

JOIN GOV. PHIL BREDESEN AND YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST METH.

www.MethFreeTN.org