

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COCAINE AND METHAMPHETAMINE

## 1. How are cocaine and methamphetamine the same?

- Both are addictive.
- Both are smoked, injected, or snorted.
- Because they are both stimulants, they produce similar effects.

## 2. Can using cocaine or meth hurt you if you use it just once?

Yes. Teens have died after using the first time. Using just once can result in stroke, the heart stopping, and panic attacks.

## 3. What happens to people who keep using cocaine or meth?

They can become addicted. Also, the following problems can occur:

- They can die or have a seizure or stroke, or the heart can stop.
- They can have hallucinations or become confused or paranoid.
- They can behave violently.
- They can stop sleeping enough, have malnutrition, and become confused and delusional (false beliefs).
- They get sores on their skin (from picking) and nasal lining damage (from snorting).
- They get sick more often because of reduced defense against illness (immune system damage).

## 4. Do cocaine and meth affect the brain?

Yes, but in different ways.

- Cocaine activates the brain's pleasure center but eventually reduces pleasure by interfering with important brain chemicals.
- Methamphetamine may damage nerve cells that produce important brain chemicals.

## 5. What do cocaine and meth have in common with other street drugs?

All of them are produced and distributed illegally. There is no regulation of what is in them. Street drugs are not what they are advertised to be – they can be mixed with other drugs or toxic substances like rat poison.