

By The Professionals At Evolve Indy

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Discovering that a loved one has a drug problem and is actively suffering from addiction is heartbreaking. Perhaps you've been watching your loved one slip away bit by bit without realizing drugs are the cause. Maybe they've been away for some time and you realize suddenly that something is very wrong. However you discover that they are actively using drugs, your next step may be to determine what drugs they are using. Before you sit down for what can be an emotionally charged conversation, you may want to do some research in advance.

The signs that someone is on methamphetamines are different from the signs that someone is on opioids. Each drug class produces different effects and different signs of use. Understanding the signs will arm you with more facts and enable you to have a more objective approach for your conversation. At [Evolve Indy](#), we understand how devastating it can be to realize you're losing someone you love to addiction. We also know how to help people find their way out of addiction and into recovery.

## What Are Methamphetamines?

**Methamphetamine**, or meth, belongs to the stimulant class of drugs and is highly addictive. It is usually found as an odorless, white crystal powder. As a stimulant, it affects the central nervous system and basically speeds it up. You may hear it referred to as meth, blue, ice, or crystal. Methamphetamines belong to the same class of drugs as amphetamines, but are far more potent and cause significantly more harmful effects. Like many other drugs, methamphetamine affects dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure. Upon taking meth, the user is rewarded with a high that is reinforced with dopamine and the effects can last for hours. The signs that someone is on methamphetamine will often depend on how it is being ingested. Methamphetamines can be snorted, injected, smoked, or taken by mouth. Users will often binge and then crash.

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- Increased body temperature
- Increased breathing and heart rate
- Decreased appetite
- Decreased fatigue
- Increased attention

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- Euphoria