
Appendix IV

Temporal Characteristics of Methamphetamine with Forensic Implications

Event	Typical Duration
Rush	5–30 minutes
High	4–16 hours
Crashing	1–3 days after high ends
Normal feeling returns	2–14 days after crashing ends
Binge	3–15 days
Withdrawal	30–90 days
Injected	Immediate onset
Smoked	5–20 minutes to take effect
Smoked	Up to 8 hours high
Smoked	12–36 hours half-life
Urinary excretion	Ends in 3–5 days
Psychosis	One third of patients show psychotic symptoms for more than 10 days
Recovery from psychosis	82% within a month after withdrawal
Sensitivity	Catecholamine agonists persist more than 3 months after discontinuation (animals) and to several substances (humans)
Tolerance	100 times increase (e.g., 5 to 500 mg) in a year
Psychosis	10% of patients show psychotic symptoms after 2 years
Recovery	Requires more than 5 years in 14% of cases (intravenous use)
Psychotic relapse	Single injection of methamphetamine may reactivate paranoid psychotic state, even after 5 years
Psychotic relapse	Psychotic state with frequent relapses continues for 8–22 years for some abusers, without methamphetamine reuse