

### Percent of College Students/Young Adults Using Methamphetamine, 2004–2005

	College Students		Young Adults	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Past month	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	0.7%
Past year	2.9	1.7	2.8	2.4
Lifetime	5.2	4.1	9.0	8.3

According to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 23.5% of State prisoners and 17.9% of Federal prisoners surveyed in 2004 indicated that they used methamphetamine at some point in their lives.<sup>10</sup>

### Percent of Prisoners Reporting Methamphetamine Use, 1997 and 2004

	State Prisoners		Federal Prisoners	
	1997	2004	1997	2004
At time of offense	3.5%	6.1%	3.7%	7.2%
In month before offense	6.9	10.8	6.5	10.1
Regularly*	11.2	14.9	9.6	12.8
Ever in lifetime	19.4	23.5	15.1	17.9

\* Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

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## Health Effects

The effects of methamphetamine use can include addiction, psychotic behavior, and brain damage. Methamphetamine is highly addictive and users trying to abstain from use may suffer withdrawal symptoms that include depression, anxiety, fatigue, paranoia, aggression, and intense cravings for the drug. Chronic methamphetamine use can cause violent behavior, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia. Users can also exhibit psychotic behavior including auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, delusions, and paranoia, possibly resulting in homicidal or suicidal thoughts.<sup>11</sup> Use of methamphetamine can cause damage to the brain that is detectable months after the use of the drug. The damage to the brain caused by methamphetamine use is similar to damage caused by Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and epilepsy.<sup>12</sup>

Of an estimated 106 million emergency department (ED) visits in the U.S. during 2004, the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) estimates that 1,997,993 were drug-related. DAWN data indicate that methamphetamine was involved in 73,400 ED visits.<sup>13</sup>

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## Treatment

From 1994 to 2004, the number of admissions to treatment in which methamphetamine was the primary drug of abuse increased from 33,443 in 1994 to 129,079 in 2004. The methamphetamine admissions represented 2.0% of the total drug/alcohol admissions to treatment during