



# SF METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE

## WHAT'S METHAMPHETAMINE?

Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug and derivative of amphetamine. It is referred to by numerous street names such as speed, crank, ice, meth and crystal.

## SIDE EFFECTS

In low to moderate doses, methamphetamine can elevate mood, increase alertness, reduce appetite, and promote weight loss.

Higher doses and prolonged use can lead to death, brain bleeding, seizures, psychosis, hallucinations, depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, violent behavior, dental problems, reduced motor coordination, birth defects, and other negative impacts.

## METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN SF

- People who use methamphetamine in SF are most likely to be male, white, aged 26 and older, and consume the drug through smoking.
- Since 2008, the methamphetamine overdose mortality rate has risen from 1.8 to 11.5 per 100k San Franciscans. They are most likely to be male and at least 48 years old. Methamphetamine is the most commonly present substance in homeless deaths (47%).
- Nearly half (47%) of people who use psychiatric emergency services are under the influence of the drug. Nine out of 10 people with at least 8 psychiatric holds have methamphetamine in their system.
- Multiple-drug use is common among people who use methamphetamine, with the most common combinations being with heroin and/or cocaine.



## BACKGROUND

San Francisco is experiencing a significant rise in the number of individuals using methamphetamine, an increase that is occurring alongside heightened concern around fentanyl. Given the various challenges facing SF, there is a clear and urgent need for a focused effort by the city to identify the appropriate services, treatment, and prevention efforts to address this evolving trend.

Beginning in April 2019, Mayor Breed and Supervisor Mandelman will convene the Methamphetamine Task Force, coordinated by the Department of Public Health (DPH), to address the rise in methamphetamine use in SF. The Task Force will examine the local context of methamphetamine use, impacts on residents, and opportunities and challenges for increasing rehabilitation and treatment options, including expanding existing prevention and law enforcement programs. The Task Force is an opportunity to further support cross-departmental collaboration, increase public awareness of substance use and abuse, and examine cost-effective strategies to better manage the impacts of methamphetamine use on the city's systems and its residents.

## PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Task Force will hold four meetings from April to September. Meetings 1 through 3 will incorporate a brief presentation of topical information compiled by DPH staff to foster common understanding and Task Force discussion, followed by a designated time for public comment. Between meetings, DPH staff will compile possible recommendations and analyze additional themes generated during discussions into a single document. Task Force meetings will be complemented by a series of focus groups, and a summary of findings will be shared during Meeting 3 for members to respond to. Meeting 4 will present the draft recommendations that incorporate the span of themes, findings, and insights generated over the course of previous meetings and focus groups. A timeline of meetings and topics is illustrated on the following page.

## FINAL REPORT

In Fall 2019, the Task Force will release a comprehensive report with recommendations on harm reduction strategies to

- decrease risks for people under the influence of methamphetamine, especially for individuals experiencing homelessness and likely to use psychiatric emergency services
- identify best practices for treatment and service options for people who use methamphetamine
- reduce the negative medical and social impacts of methamphetamine use on San Franciscans

Task Force members will include medical and public health professionals, researchers, substance use disorder treatment providers, emergency responders, criminal justice and law enforcement officials, drug policy experts, and current and/or former substance users.

For questions, please contact [Meth.TaskForce@sfdph.org](mailto:Meth.TaskForce@sfdph.org).

## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- **Dr. Grant Colfax**, Co-chair, Department of Public Health
- **Rafael Mandelman**, Co-chair, District 8 Supervisor
- **Andres Power**, Mayor's Office
- **Dr. Judy Martin**, Substance Use Services, Department of Public Health
- **Dr. Lisa Pratt**, Jail Health Services, Department of Public Health
- **Dr. Phillip Coffin**, Substance Use Research, Department of Public Health
- **Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland**, UCSF
- **Dr. Valerie Gruber**, UCSF
- **Rani Singh**, District Attorney's Office
- **Bill Scott**, SF Police Department
- **Jeff Kositsky**, Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing appointee
- **Simon Pang**, Fire Department/EMS-6
- **Chesa Boudin**, Public Defender's Office
- **Dr. Isaac Jackson**, Urban Survivors Union
- **Brett Andrews**, PRC/Baker Places
- **Dr. Vitka Eisen**, HealthRIGHT 360
- **Mike Discepola**, Stonewall Project / SF AIDS Foundation
- **Shirley Maciel**, The Latino Commission
- **Paul Harkin**, GLIDE Harm Reduction
- **Laura Thomas**, SF AIDS Foundation
- **Wayne Rafus**, SF LGBT Center
- **Mike Shriver**, HIV Planning Council

## TASK FORCE TIMELINE

MEETING INFORMATION  
25 VAN NESS AVE ■ 3PM – 5PM

