

# This "meth mouth". dr. shaikh's article, "meth mouth,"

[Psychology](#), [Behaviorism](#)



This literature review will focus on the effects of using methamphetamine, often abbreviated as meth, on dental health.

Four scholarly articles have been analyzed and summarized to determine that methamphetamine is a destructive drug where a substantial number of users develop many undesirable symptoms that are often referred to as "meth mouth". Dr. Shaikh's article, "Meth Mouth," serves as an informative text to dental professionals explaining the effects of methamphetamine use and how severe the negative impact is on a dental patient's oral health. "Dental patients who abuse methamphetamine can present with poor oral hygiene, xerostomia, rampant caries ('Meth mouth'), and excessive tooth wear." This article discusses how the illicit abuse of methamphetamine causes "dental caries, oral manifestations, periodontal disease, bruxism, xerostomia, oral ulcers, dental pain, and more" with intentions of educating dental practitioners on these problems and how to better recognize and manage dental patients who are methamphetamine abusers (Shaikh, S. S., Modi, P., & Munde, A.

D., 2014). A study took place in Western Cape, South Africa where 308 self-reported users of methamphetamine were evaluated in order to determine the effects on dental and oral health. According to the study, users of methamphetamine brush their teeth significantly less than nonusers, are missing more teeth, and have excessive tooth decay caused partially by the mouth-drying effects of the drug and a user's craving to moisten the mouth by drinking soda. The study reveals that the longer a patient abuses the drug, specifically for longer than four years, the higher the risk of developing "meth mouth" becomes. (Smit, D.

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A., & Naidoo, S., 2015). According to the article, " A Comparison of Methamphetamine Users to a Matched NHANES Cohort: Propensity Score Analyses for Oral Health Care and Dental Service Need," users of methamphetamine are " 3.

5 times more likely to experience painful toothaches, 6. 6 times to experience difficulty eating, and 8. 6 times to be self-conscious due to dental appearance." The study depicted in the article tested 459 methamphetamine users from Los Angeles who were at least 18 years of age, had used methamphetamine within the past month, and who were able to complete various examinations, including providing a urine sample. The study concluded that methamphetamine usage has a significant effect on oral health, specifically resulting in poor oral hygiene, lack of routine dental care, missing teeth, and poor overall conditions of teeth and gums (Murphy, D. A.

, Harrell, L., Fintzy, R., Belin, T. R., Gutierrez, A.

, Vitero, S. J., & Shetty, V.

, 2016). In the article, " Self-Reported Oral Health Needs and Dental-Care Seeking Behavior Among Women Who Use Methamphetamine," researchers conducted a study collecting self-reported data from women who use methamphetamines. The study states that 86% of the participants reported that they have needed oral health care in the past 6 months, and of that 86%, only 19. 6% actually received oral health care. The study notes, " We did not find an association between the ingestion route, frequency, or

number of years of methamphetamine use and self-reported oral health need," however, the study was able to determine that 57% of the participants were homeless, resulting in an increased rate of poor oral hygiene and care (Robbins, J. L., Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A.

, Wenger, L., & Kral, A. H., 2012). Reviewing the four academic articles cited in this literature review conclude that methamphetamine usage affects dental health in an extremely poor manner.

Common symptoms, often referred to as "meth mouth," consisting of rampant caries, xerostomia, infrequent oral hygiene, and an increased consumption of soda drinks, are experienced by many methamphetamine users. These articles suggest that illicit abuse of methamphetamine will result in serious oral health problems.