

THE **HISTORY** OF THE

AMPHETAMINE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

IN THE **UNITED STATES****Amphetamines were considered the first addiction epidemic.**

Over the course of forty years, the United States went from synthesizing amphetamines for medicinal use, to military use during World War II, to abuse and dependency at the stimulant's epidemic peak in 1969 that resulted in The Controlled Substance Act of 1970. Even though amphetamines are overshadowed by the opioid epidemic, the threat is still out there. Between 80 to 90 percent of opioid/heroin users often combine amphetamines with the former to suppress specific side effects of either.

1887**Amphetamines**

first synthesized at the University of Berlin by Romanian chemist Lazar Edeleanu.

1893

Japanese chemist **Nagayoshi Nagai** synthesizes **methamphetamine** from the precursor chemical ephedrine.

1929

Amphetamines are **re-synthesized** by biochemist Gordon Alles to treat asthma, hayfever, and colds.

1932

The first amphetamine-based inhaler, **Benezedrine**, hits store shelves to treat nasal congestion.

Late
1930s

Amphetamines are **promoted as treatments for many ailments**, such as rhinitis and asthma.

1940s**World War II**

Methamphetamines become used by soldiers during the War to enhance endurance, alertness, and relieve fatigue. Amphetamines required a prescription to slow the onset of an epidemic.

Late
1940s

Amphetamines are **advertised for weight loss benefits and as an anti-depressant**. Gordon Alles' patient expires in 1949 creating a surge in amphetamine use.

1959

The Food and Drug Administration bans Benzedrine inhalers due to increases in abuse. At the same time, amphetamines and its forms are further promoted as therapeutic agents for health problems.

1960s

Administering amphetamines by **injections gained popularity** and was common practice among current drug abusers.

1970**The Controlled Substance Act**

declares amphetamines has a high potential for abuse and dependence but only available by prescription. The amphetamine epidemic peaks.

1980s-2000s

Metamphetamine **abuse doubles between 1983-1988**, then doubles again between 1988-1992, and finally quintuples between 1992-2002.

2004

An average of **3 million Americans** consumed amphetamines and its forms recreationally. Twice the number of the previous decade.

TODAY

Nationally, **nearly 6,000 people die** from stimulant use - mostly meth. A **255 percent increase** from 2005. Public health experts say little action is being taken regarding amphetamines is overshadowed by the opioid epidemic.

Sources:

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If you or a loved one believe that long-term addiction treatment will be beneficial, contact GateHouse today at **(855) 448-3588**. You can **heal**, and we can **help** you achieve long-term sobriety through long-term treatment.