THE **HISTORY** OF THE

G GateHouse

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.





Amphetamines

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

1932

1893

1929

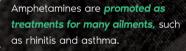
The first amphetamine-based inhaler, Benezedrine, hits store shelves to treat nasal congestion.

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

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

Late 1930s

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

1959

1960s

Amphetamines are advertised for weight loss benefits and as an antidepressant. Gordon Alles' patient expires in 1949 creating a surge in amphetamine use. The Food and Drug Administration

bans Benzedrine inhalers due to increases in abuse. At the same time, amphetamines and it's forms are further promoted as therapeutic agents for health problems.

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

1970

1980s-2000s



The Controlled Substance Act

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

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



2004

TODAY

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

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

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.



the opioid epidemic.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2377281/

https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/magazine/fast-times-the-life-death-and-rebirth-of-amphetamine https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/speedy-history-americas-addiction-amphetamine-180966989/ https://methoide.fcm.arizona.edu/infocenter/index.cfm?stid=164

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/meth/

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/13/us/meth-crystal-drug.html

