

# ***NIBRS Coding Scenarios***

## **Suspected Drug Type - Methcathinone**

**Scenario:** An agency has arrested an offender for Drug/Narcotic Violations for possessing/using Methcathinone. What is the proper coding for Methcathinone?

**Scenario Coding:** The drug Methcathinone should be reported under the data value of "L=Amphetamines/Methamphetamines" in the data element of "Suspected Drug Type".

**Note:** The drug Methcathinone is a stimulant. It is a cheap substitute for methamphetamine and it is a dangerously addictive drug.

The drug's ingredients, used in various recipes, for home-made Methcathinone include: ephedrine or pseudoephedrine (found in some over-the-counter asthma and cold medications), acetone, muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, lye, sodium hydroxide, Drano, battery acid, and toluene. It can be easily manufactured in home kitchens.

Street names/slang terms for Methcathinone are: Bathtub Speed, Cadillac Express, Cat, Ephedrone, Gagers, Gaggers, Goog, Jeff, Mulka, Speed, The C, Wild Cat, and Wonder Star.

It is a white or off-white crystalline powder. It is sold almost exclusively in the stable and highly water-soluble salt form. Methcathinone is most commonly snorted, although it can be taken orally by mixing it with a beverage or diluted in water and it can be injected intravenously.

Short-term effects of Methcathinone include: stimulation of heart rate and respiration, feeling of euphoria, loss of appetite, increased alertness, dilated pupils, and temperature may be slightly elevated. Acute intoxication at higher doses may also result in insomnia, tremors and muscle twitching, fever, headaches, convulsions, irregular heart rate and respirations, anxiety, restlessness, paranoia, hallucinations and delusions.

**Reference:** *NIBRS Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines* (blue cover), Suspected Drug Type pp 88-89.

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*Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances.*