

to 700 mg (five days). The psychoses were almost identical with those experienced by the initial group of subjects. In commenting on the implications of both studies, the researchers emphasized that even short-term administration of dextro-amphetamine to persons who were non-psychotic could precipitate a paranoid psychosis, and that their experiments definitely ruled out the up till then widely accepted hypothesis that only "previously borderline psychotics" would sustain an amphetamine psychosis.

Unlike heroin and cannabis, amphetamines appear to be uniquely criminogenic as a result of distinct psychopharmacological properties. The only other widely used drugs that have similar properties even approaching the strength of amphetamines are alcohol and, in some cases, barbiturates. But because amphetamine-related crime occurs primarily within speed cultures where it is largely ignored by the police, and because speed freaks rarely attempt any large-scale external crime, "official" crime rates for speed users are deceptively low. Moreover, the low level of "criminal skill" within speed cultures may reflect that amphetamines are more available and therefore less costly than heroin, or perhaps even reflect the amphetamines' ego-disruptive properties, which make it difficult for the speed freak to acquire more than a bare minimum of any skills, criminal or otherwise.

Obesity continues to be the condition for which the largest amounts of legitimately obtained amphetamines are most casually and frequently prescribed, but despite enthusiastic early reports as to these drugs' efficacy in dietary regimens, expert medical opinion is gradually recognizing that obesity, far from being a semi-humorous or cosmetic difficulty, is in fact a complex, long-term problem involving critical psychological and social determinants. No one really knows its causes. It is defined as a state in which fat accumulates because food intake (in terms of caloric content)