Within the last 3 years Crystal Meth (methamphetamine) use has increased dramatically in Manitoba. There is no clear evidence to explain these increases. Police sources have informed AFM that:

- **Purity** of the drug has increased
- **Cost** of the drug has dramatically decreased while the availability & marketing of Crystal Meth has increased

Crystal Meth is one of the amphetamine family of stimulants, and is one of the more commonly used amphetamines. The drug has the most intense effect on the brain of any street stimulant. Compared to smoking Crystal Meth, injecting the drug can be more intense.

All of these factors contribute to larger numbers of users and more extreme behaviours such as aggression & psychosis.

### Injection Drug Use (IDU) - AFM*

Between 2011 & 2017 past year IDU significantly increased or DOUBLED for AFM ADULT clients**

From 2014-2016 YOUTH life time IDU rates almost DOUBLED from 3.6% to 6.8%*

*includes all drugs ** based on type of program

### Amphetamine use in Manitoba - AFM

Areas - % of clients reporting Amphetamines as primary presenting issue 2014-15 to 2016-17

- **Northern**: 2%
- **East-Central**: 18%
- **Winnipeg**: 61%
- **Parkland**: 6%
- **Brandon**: 13%

### Manitoba deaths related to Amphetamines

- **Contributed to death**: 48%
- **Caused death**: 104%

### Effective Response to Meth

- Collaborating with primary health care in providing services to patients experiencing harms due to amphetamine use
- Modifying programming to meet the needs of clients & their family & friends
- Providing staff, stakeholders & the public - education, research & evidence
- Providing training to frontline staff
- Engaging with staff & stakeholders in identifying gaps & improving services for individuals experiencing harms due to amphetamine use

### Research:

Iceland has significantly decreased substance use among youth. The decline is associated with a targeted state led plan that includes replacing drug use with the "natural highs" of sports and other activities. The community development model brings together parents, schools, communities & other sectors to improve the well-being of children & youth.

### Created by AFM Data and Evaluation & Manitoba Addictions Knowledge Exchange