abused by athletes, addicts and mainly young people at “raves” to enhance their performance. Amphetamine abuse has been prevalent in some particular geographic areas such as Japan, Far East and the US. However there is an increasing consumption of amphetamine in Europe where it is reported to be the second most commonly abused drug after cannabis.[[1]](#endnote-1) In this study, the classical amphetamines, amphetamine and methamphetamine, as well as the methylenedioxy-substituted amphetamines methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), methylenedioxyethlamphetamine (MDEA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) were investigated in post-mortem hair samples. The common route of administration for these drugs is by oral means. However amphetamine and methamphetamine have also been taken intranasally and by intravenous injection to produce euphoric effects. Methamphetamine is manufactured as the hydrochloride salt and is smoked. It resembles colourless fragments of ice (Figure 8‑1) and hence is known by this streetname. The methylenedioxy-substituted amphetamines such as MDMA (Figure 8-2) produce effects such as euphoria, enhanced energy and lowers inhibitions.

1. Pellegrini M, Rosati F, Pacifici R, Zuccaro P, Romolo FS, Lopez A. *Rapid screening method for the determination of ecstasy and amphetamines in urine samples using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry*. Journal of Chromatography B Analytical Technologies in the Biomedical and Life Sciences (2002); 769(2): 243-251. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)