

Methamphetamine Abuse in the United States

Fact Sheet

Methamphetamine Use

- Methamphetamine is second only to alcohol and marijuana as the drug used most frequently in many Western and Midwestern states (DEA).
- Approximately 11.7 million Americans ages 12 and older reported trying methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes, representing 4.9% of the population ages 12 and older (NSDUH 2004).
- 4.4% of 12th graders reported using methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime
- 2.5% of 12th graders reported using methamphetamine at least once in the last year (MTF 2006).
- 5.5% of adults ages 18-25 reported using methamphetamine at least once in their life (NSDUH 2005).
- The number of past month methamphetamine users who met criteria for abuse or dependence on one or more illicit drugs in the past year increased from 164,000 (27.5% of past month methamphetamine users) in 2002 to 346,000 (59.3% of past month methamphetamine users) in 2004 (NSDUH).

Methamphetamine Treatment

- There were 73,400 Methamphetamine related Emergency Department visits in 2004 (DAWN).
- There were 171,928 treatment admissions that listed methamphetamine as the primary substance of abuse in 2005 which was 9.2% of the overall treatment cases in 2005 (TEDS).
- Treatment Admissions for Methamphetamine has increased every year since 2000. In 2000 there were 67,568 treatment admissions for methamphetamine; in 2004 there were 73,400 (TEDS).
- According to a 2006 survey by NACO, there are more methamphetamine related emergency visits than any other drug.
- 73% of hospital officials report that emergency room presentations involving methamphetamine have increased the last 5 years (NACO 2006).
- 83% of these hospital officials report that people presenting at their hospitals with methamphetamine related emergency are often uninsured. As a result 56% of these officials report that costs at their facilities have increased because of the growing use of methamphetamine (NACO 2006).

Methamphetamine and Crime

- 15% of State and 13% of Federal prisoners reported using methamphetamine regularly before their conviction in 2004 (Bureau of Justice Statistics 2004).
- 24% of State and 18% of Federal prisoners reported using methamphetamine at some point in their life in 2004 (BJS 2004).
- 6% of State and 7% of Federal prisoners reported using methamphetamine at the time of their offense (BJS 2004).
- According to the 2006 National Drug Threat Assessment of the Department of Justice, 39% of local and state agencies reported that methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat in their region. Methamphetamine received the highest vote among law enforcement agencies compared to all other drugs with cocaine coming in second.
- More counties (48%) report that methamphetamine is the primary drug problem in their communities – more than cocaine (22%), marijuana (22%), and heroine (3%) combined (NACO 2006).

Methamphetamine and Children

- 40% of child welfare officials in a 2005 NACO survey, reported increased out of home placements because of methamphetamine in the last year.

Methamphetamine Production and Distribution

- There were 6,435 methamphetamine lab incidents in 2006.
- Transportation of methamphetamine from Mexico appears to be increasing, as evidenced by increasing seizures along the U.S.-Mexico border. The amount of methamphetamine seized at or between U.S.-Mexico border ports of entry increased more than 75 percent overall from 2002 (1,129.8 kg), to 2003 (1,733.1 kg), and 2004 (1,984.6 kg).