

Meth Labs

Thursday, February 24, 2005 - Great Lakes Park Training Institute

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Objectives:

- Become familiarize with the history of methamphetamine
- Understand the manner by which meth affects the body
- Appreciate the hazards presented by methamphetamine production
- Know
 - some background
 - what to look for if you find
 - what will hurt you
 - how not to get hurt or killed
 - how the scene is worked

“Speed” facts

- Average meth “cook” annually teaches 10 others how to make meth.
 - Every pound of meth produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste that can cost up to \$150,000 per site.
 - Meth accounts for up to 90% of all drug cases in many Midwest communities
 - Meth induced paranoia has led to numerous murders and suicides.
 - Meth users are the hardest to treat.
 - 35% of children from labs test positive for meth.
 - Meth kills by causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke
 - Women are more likely to use meth than cocaine.
- * Get the kids out of the situation! Don’t give them to relatives, get them in the system.

Where did it come from?

- Chemical cousin to amphetamine
- Bikers are heavily involved
- Mexico and southwest U.S.

What is Meth?

- Controlled substance
- Very addictive
- Some medical use
- Easy to make
- Central Nervous System stimulant

Meth & the Human Body

Affects on the brain:

- Powerful central nervous system stimulant
- Interferes with neural transmission
- Affects the pleasure and reward center of the brain

Meth & the Human Body

Short term physical affects;

- Euphoria
- Increased alertness
- Increased physical activity
- Accelerated heartbeat
- Elevated blood pressure
- Paranoia
- Chest pain and hypertension which can result in cardiovascular collapse and death
- Possible irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain
- Decreased appetite

* Dopamine: plays an important role in the regulation of pleasure; it is manufactured in nerve cells within the ventral tegmental area and is released in the nucleus accumbens and the frontal cortex.

* Do not corner them or threaten them, they are heavily armed! Their brain has been fried and they aren't right in the head.

Physical Outcomes

- Fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain damage, liver, blood clots

How is Meth taken into the body?

1. Snort- getting away from this, damages the nose
2. Injection- old heroin users do this, the best high is from IV
3. Smoke- empty lightbulb, lighter underneath and inhale the fumes
4. 'Smoke a boat'- aluminum foil with lighter underneath and hollow pen to inhale fumes; or laced in a cigarette, joint, or cigar.

Signs of Abuse

- Dilated pupils
- Weight loss
- Central pallor- clammy, wet, loose skin, sweaty
- Body odor
- Bad teeth-rotten from lack of nutrition and loss of teeth
- Scars/open soars
- Crank bugs- hallucination, results in picking and digging into skin creating sores and open wounds.
- Calluses on index finger and thumb from holding hot aluminum foil

What is a Clandestine Lab?

- Lab setup in secret to produce or extract illegal substances or their immediate precursors

What Can Be Made?

- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine

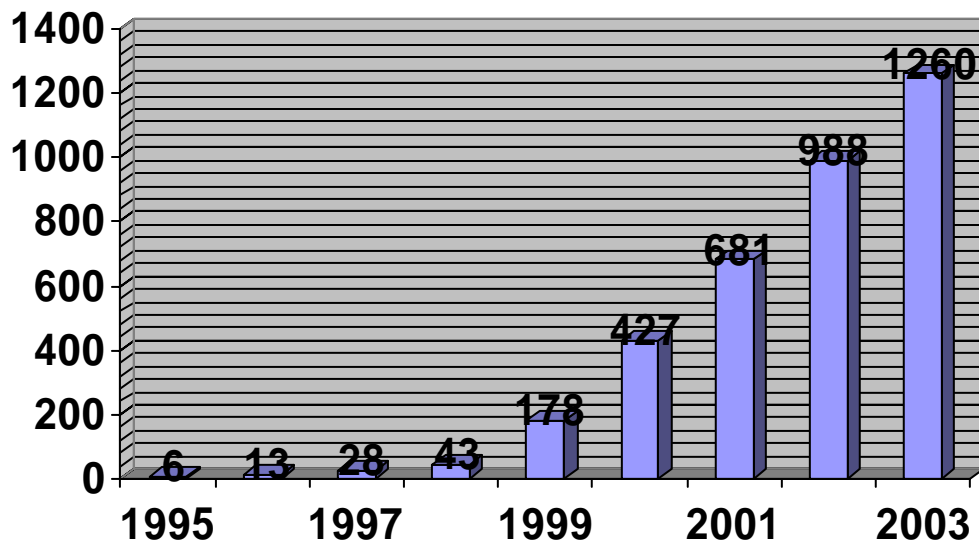
- Methcathinone
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Ketamine
- GHB/GBL (Rohypnol)
- LSD
- MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Anhydrous ammonia

Regional Trends (2001 & 2002 National Data)

Number of meth labs: (All reporting Midwestern States indicate tremendous growth in the number of drug labs seized.)

	2001	2002
California	2,017	1,708
Arkansas	403	396
Kansas	878	749
Illinois	322	497
Iowa	581	761
Missouri	2,183	1,934
Indiana	524	684
Ohio	88	93

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Why do we need to know about this?

- Meth use is on the rise
- Local manufacture is a growing problem
- Clandestine production leads to a host of environmental problems
- The production is intrinsically hazardous

- * Anyone can buy a book online or at a bookstore on how to make drugs.
- * Meth labs are a huge problem in southern IN
- * Typical 'cooker' is: white, male, 25-45, undereducated, 'hillbilly', lives in rural area.
- * Tax payers are paying for 'cookers' and dealers to be put in jail
- * Causes environmental problems with leftover waste
- * Possibility of harming children or animals that is outside in rural areas
- * Possibility of contaminating stream or drinking water with toxic chemicals

Chemicals

- Highly flammable
- Fumes cause cancer

The Nazi Method (most common)

- 'cold' cook, requires no external heat source
- Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed)
- Anhydrous Ammonia
 - Farm fertilizer
 - Very cold, chemical burn, very dangerous
 - 99.7% water free, searches for water in your body
 - Fumes go straight to eyes, nose
 - If inhaled, lungs will freeze and cause death
- Oxygen reduction reaction
- Mix chemicals together
- Alcohol based solvents
- Crushed pills dissolve in solvents
- Filter with funnels
- Mountain Dew/Code Red two liter bottle tops used as funnels to strain out pill dough
- To try and speed up process; add heat to alcohol (starts fires, very dangerous)

Crystallization

- "salting" or "smoking" out the dope
- Strain through a coffee filter and you have meth

Manufacturing

- Lithium
 - E2 batteries
 - Cut top off, pull out lithium pad
 - Add water, begins to spark
 - Possible to buy a one pound block, name and address required (it can easily cause an explosion, if fire starts, let it burn down, very dangerous.)
- Pseudoephedrine
- Homemade anhydrous
- Stir-note color change
- Then extraction with solvents

Precursors

- Cold medicine
- Hydrogen peroxide and iodine
- Purple stained milk jugs

Red Phosphorous

- Red stripe pads from match books

Reaction mixture

- Cook 18-24 hours
- Makes more meth than nazi method
- Use of hot plate or coffee pot

Warning!

- The red phosphorous method produces “phosphine”, a clear odorless gas that is highly toxic, i.e. it has already caused the death of several people.
- Overheated red phosphorous may produce white phosphorous that becomes incendiary.

Dangers

- Phosphine gas, colorless, tasteless, odorless
- .04 parts per million
- Very deadly!!!

Why Not Do It Yourself?

- Non certified officers inside a known lab scene is an OSHA violation
- Chemicals involved in the processes have resulted in numerous health issues for officers when unprotected
- Improper dumping of chemicals are an EPA violation and may result in fines.

What do you get by calling ISP?

- The scene processed
- Evidence collected and presented for submission
- Waste hauled at no cost to your department
- Technical report prepared
- Court testimony as needed

Warrant Service and Lab Processing

- Entry/Suspect extraction
- Site safety assessment
- Lab processing
- Evidence collection
- Laboratory/dismantling
- Hazardous/waste removal

Conclusions

- We are likely to see more meth labs in the area
- Labs present many hazards, both from the chemicals and suspects
- The ability to prove manufacture is often present long after the production is over