

Methamphetamine

Help Prevent Methamphetamine Use and Manufacturing in Maine

What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (commonly referred to as “meth”) is an addictive stimulant that affects the brain and central nervous system.

Methamphetamine comes in forms that can be smoked, injected, inhaled, or swallowed. At first the user will feel an intense rush and then a prolonged feeling of euphoria. Eventually this high will wear off to leave the user feeling lethargic, irritable, depressed, and even aggressive.

Methamphetamine is manufactured using common household chemicals, usually in makeshift laboratories. The active ingredient in the drug is either pseudoephedrine or ephedrine, both of which are found in cold remedies.

A substantial amount of this drug and its ingredients are brought to the United States from Mexico and increasingly from Canada. However most of the U.S. supply of the drug is produced inside the country in clandestine (or hidden) laboratories that have the ability to disperse and move around easily to avoid detection.

Pre-made tablets are called YABA tablets.

Street Names for Methamphetamine

Meth
Speed Ice
Crank Glass
Crystal Uppers
Tweak Go-Fast
Black Beauties



What is the Maine Methamphetamine Prevention Project?

Maine’s Methamphetamine Prevention Program is an education effort designed to:

- Increase awareness about the harm associated with methamphetamine production and use.
- Increase capacity of key institutions and community members to prevent the production and use of methamphetamine in Maine.

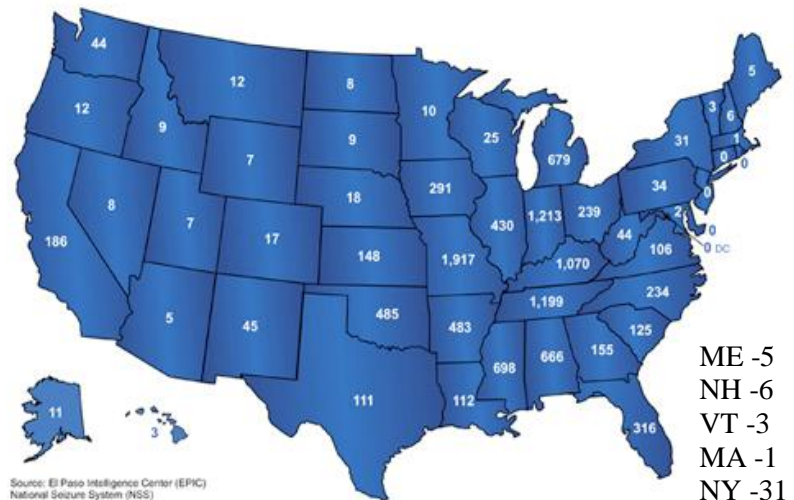
What is the Current Status of Methamphetamine in Maine?

- Maine arrest, lab seizure and treatment data indicate that Maine has, thus far been able to prevent the widespread devastation occurring in other states.
- Rural areas are prime locations for meth labs. With Maine’s vast rural landscape, this is an area of concern for our communities. However, the experience of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency has been to see methamphetamine manufacturing in extreme rural areas, such as the Allagash, as well as relatively urban Lewiston and Auburn.
- Maine’s close proximity to Canada has been found to contribute to easy trafficking of the substances used in the manufacture of meth, and increasingly meth in pill form. Methamphetamine tablets continue to be a significant problem in far northern Maine. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency district task force serving Aroostook County seized over 4,500 tablets from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

- Maine law restricts the sale of the key ingredient in methamphetamine, pseudoephedrine, to pharmacies only. The Federal Combat Meth Act also places restrictions on products containing pseudoephedrine. In September 2011, *An Act to Further Restrict the Availability of Methamphetamine* went into effect, increasing potential penalties for possession and trafficking of specific quantities of methamphetamine and amphetamine pills.

- Maine has taken a proactive approach in preventing the spread of methamphetamine. With state and federal law and with the implementation of Meth Watch at the retail and community levels, we are lessening the impact of this devastating drug.

Calendar Year 2010
Total: 11,239
Total of All Meth Clandestine Laboratory Incidents Including Labs, Dumpsites, Chem/Glass/Equipment



Source: El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Seizure System (NSS)

According to the 2011 Department Of Justice National Drug Threat Assessment, an increasing number of methamphetamine laboratories are small-scale operations capable of producing less than 2 ounces at a time.

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Methamphetamine Lab Basics

Common Locations of Methamphetamine Labs:

- Garages
- Storage Units
- Basements
- Rental Properties
- Fields / Wooded Areas
- Barns
- Hotels/Motels
- Car, Trucks, & Boats
- Suitcases
- Trailers
- Camps

Signs of a Methamphetamine Lab:

- Unusual, strong, ammonia-like odors
- Unusual number of chemical containers, jars, bottle, jugs
- Windows that are covered or blacked out
- People smoking outside
- Paranoid or odd behavior
- Lots of traffic, especially at night
- Secretive and protective of area
- Exhaust fans

Common Ingredients used in Methamphetamine:

- Cold tablets or diet drugs containing ephedrine
- Starter fluid
- Coffee filters
- Matchbook Striker Plates
- Lithium batteries
- Rock salt
- Paint Thinner
- Aluminum foil
- Glass Bottles
- Acetone
- Rubbing alcohol
- Propane tanks

Environmental Hazards of Methamphetamine Labs

- The mixing of the chemicals used in methamphetamine production produce toxic and potentially explosive fumes.
- Breathing these fumes may cause irreparable harm to nasal passages, lungs, and the brain.
- Lab cleanup is beyond the financial capabilities of Maine cities and towns. The average cost of cleanup is about \$5,000 but may cost as much as \$150,000.
- Dumping of waste occurs wherever possible; contaminated garbage and toxic chemicals dumped indiscriminately can pollute water supplies, leach into the ground, etc.
- Clandestine labs have many known & unknown liquids/substances in marked & unmarked containers deemed hazardous waste.
- Six pounds of toxic waste are produced for each pound of methamphetamine manufactured in clandestine labs.

Who Should Get Involved?

- Retail business employees, managers, and owners who sell products that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Including pharmacies, auto and building supply stores, propane exchange locations, convenience and grocery stores.
- Realtors, hotel/motel owners and employees, landlords, property inspectors and appraisers. Anyone who deals with property.
- Farmers, farm supply employees, and co-op employees need to be alert because of the risk of having chemicals stolen by methamphetamine producers and farmland contaminated by the dumping of chemicals used in methamphetamine production.

Signs & Symptoms of Use:

- Not sleeping for extended periods of time
- Extreme weight loss
- Dramatic mood swings
- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration
- Auditory or visual hallucinations
- Paranoia or excessive panic
- Nervous activity
- Irritable, aggressive, even violent behavior
- Open sores caused by picking at the skin
- Tooth decay
- Unpleasant body odor that might smell like glue or mayonnaise

FMI – contact Maine MethWatch at 207.621.8118 or visit the website at www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa/prevention/community/meth/methwatch/index.htm

IMPORTANT WARNING:

If you suspect methamphetamine related activity always put your own safety first. Leave the scene immediately and contact your local police or sheriff for assistance.