



*Empowering Kansas communities in the fight against methamphetamine*

# Record

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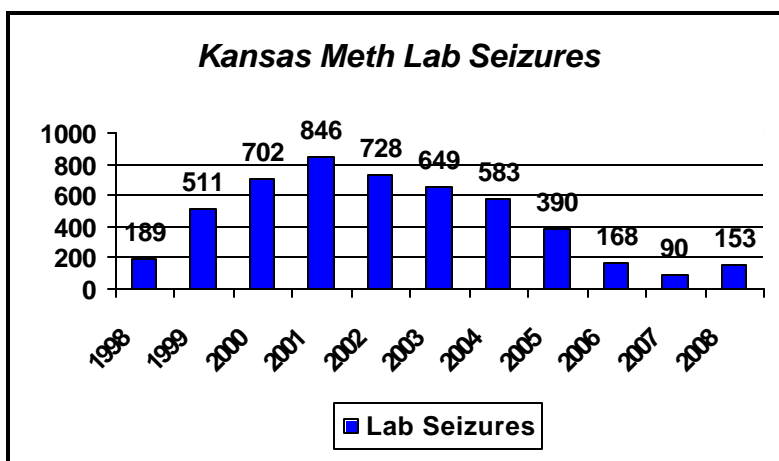
## Kansas Sees 70% Increase in Lab Seizures

Mirroring a national trend, methamphetamine lab seizures in Kansas increased in 2008.

Last year, 153 meth labs were seized in Kansas, a 70% increase over the 2007 total of 90 seizures. Missouri led the nation with 1,368 lab seizures, accounting for 40% of all meth lab incidents nationwide during 2008. Kansas ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Law enforcement authorities record incidents in which they bust a lab or find a dump site of chemicals and/or equipment used for making meth. These incidents are reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) where they are compiled in the National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System.

2008 marked the first year for an increase in meth labs since 2001. Meth lab seizures dropped dramatically in 2005 after the passage of the Sheriff Matt Samuels Chemical Control Act, which placed purchasing restrictions on cold and allergy medications containing



pseudoephedrine which are commonly used to manufacture methamphetamine.

With access to pseudoephedrine greatly restricted, meth manufacturers encountered difficulty obtaining the chemicals needed to make the drug.

However, KBI Special Agent in Charge David Hutchings said the drop in meth lab activity wasn't permanent. "The controls placed on pseudoephedrine made an immediate impact in meth lab

activity, but the decrease only lasted until meth manufacturers figured out a way around the restrictions," Hutchings said.

A practice known as "smurfing" may have contributed to the recent increase in labs. "Smurfing" refers to the practice of individuals or groups of people purchasing the legal limits of pseudoephedrine in several stores until they have acquired enough pseudoephedrine to manufacture

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### PARTNER AGENCIES

#### **Kansas Regional Prevention Centers**

**Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services**

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**Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

**Midwest HIDTA**

**Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services—Addiction & Prevention Services and Children & Family Policy Division**

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**Shawnee County Drug Court**

**United States Attorney's Office-Wichita**

**Community Systems Group**

**University of Kansas**

### **Kansas Regional Prevention Center System**

*Regional Prevention Centers provide drug and alcohol prevention education and technical assistance to communities across the state of Kansas.*

South Central	Newton	316-283-6743
Wichita/Sedgwick	Wichita	316-262-2421
Flint Hills	Emporia	620-343-2211
Flint Hills	El Dorado	316-321-6628
Southeast KS	Girard	620-724-6281
North Central KS	Salina	785-825-6224
Northwest	Hays	785-625-5521
Northwest	Colby	785-460-8177
Southwest Kansas	Garden City	620-276-9624
East Central	Lawrence	785-841-4138
Johnson/Miami/Leavenworth	Olathe	913-715-7880
Wyandotte County	Kansas City	913-288-7685
Northeast KS	Manhattan	785-587-4372
Shawnee County	Topeka	785-266-8666

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This newsletter is available to download in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format from the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project website.

Follow the "Resources" link at [www.ksmethpreventionproject.org](http://www.ksmethpreventionproject.org).

## KS Alliance for DEC Holds Training of Trainers

A Drug Endangered Children Training of Trainers was held at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library on January 27, 2009. The purpose of the training was to develop a cadre of trainers throughout the state to be available to provide Drug Endangered Children training to local communities and to assist communities with the implementation of DEC initiatives.

Thirty-three individuals representing all regions of the state participated in the training. Participants received instruction in four modules: Indicators of Drug Activity, Drug Endangered Children, Substance-Exposed Newborns and Implementing & Expanding DEC Efforts.

With a well-trained cadre of trainers in place, it will be easier for communities to access DEC trainings and resources. As a result, it is anticipated that existing DEC programs in the state will be strengthened and additional communities will receive information and

resources needed to implement DEC efforts.

If you are interested in having a Drug Endangered Children presentation in your community, please contact Loretta Wyrick Severin at [lwyrick@parstopeka.com](mailto:lwyrick@parstopeka.com) and she will put you in contact with a trainer who can accommodate your request. DEC trainers can provide trainings to many different audiences including community agencies that serve children, community organizations (e.g. Kiwanis or Lions groups), faith communities, school staff and town hall meetings.

Thank you to the members of the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Capacity Building Committee for all of their hard work developing and executing the Training of Trainers: Captain K.M. Atnip, Cristi Cain, Sandra Charbonneau, Larry George, Janine Gracy, Lois Limes, Steve Nevil, Brenda Salvati and Loretta Wyrick Severin!

## Substance Exposed Newborn Legislation Considered

The Kansas Legislature is considering House Bill 2333, legislation that would mandate substance abuse treatment for pregnant women who test positive for substances. The law would also apply to infants who test positive for substances at birth.

Similar legislation was introduced during the 2008 legislative session, but did not make it out of committee. The legislation proposed in 2008 would have made it a Level 9 felony for a pregnant woman to use substances.

House Bill 2333 was proposed by Representative Sharon Schwartz of Marysville. Rep. Schwartz worked with one of her constituents, Jennifer Keller, on the legislation. Ms. Keller is the adoptive mother of six methamphetamine-exposed children.

In testimony before the House

Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Ms. Keller described the emotions she experienced watching her children's biological mothers abuse substances during their pregnancies. "As each of the mothers continued to have babies, I became frustrated with community and state services that had don't have the tools or authority to assist these women," Ms. Keller said.

It is her hope that with the passage of House Bill 2333 more women will receive the substance abuse treatment they need so their children will be born drug-free.

The full text of the bill is available on the Kansas Legislature website: <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2010/2333.pdf>. If the bill fails to move out of committee by the last day of the legislative session, it will die.

### Save the Date!

2009  
Kansas Alliance for  
Drug Endangered  
Children  
Conference



Thursday,  
August 20th, 2009  
Ball Conference Center  
Olathe, Kansas

# Meth Estimated to Cost U.S. \$23.4 Billion in 2005



The economic cost of methamphetamine use in the United States reached \$23.4 billion in 2005, including the burden of addiction, premature death, drug treatment and many other aspects of the drug, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

The RAND study is the first effort to construct a comprehensive national assessment of the costs of the meth problem in the United States. "Our findings show that the economic burden of meth abuse is substantial," said Nancy Nicosia, the study's lead author and an economist at RAND, a nonprofit research organization.

Although meth causes some unique harms, the study finds that many of the primary issues that account for the burden of methamphetamine use are similar to those identified in economic assessments of other illicit drugs.

Given the uncertainty in estimating the costs of meth use, researchers created a range of estimates. The lowest estimate for the cost of meth use in 2005 was \$16.2 billion, while \$48.3 billion was the highest estimate. Researchers' best estimate of the overall economic burden of meth

use is \$23.4 billion.

The RAND analysis found that nearly 2/3 of the economic costs caused by meth use resulted from the burden of addiction and an estimated 900 premature deaths among users in 2005. The burden of addiction was measured by quantifying the impact of the lower quality of life experienced by those addicted to the drug.

Crime and criminal justice expenses account for the second-largest category of economic costs. These costs include the burden of arresting and incarcerating drug offenders, as well as the costs of additional non-drug crimes caused by meth use, such as thefts committed to support a drug habit.

Other costs that significantly contribute to the RAND estimate include lost productivity, the expense of removing children from their parents' homes because of meth use and spending for drug treatment.

One new category of cost captured in the analysis is the expense associated with the production of meth. Producing meth requires toxic chemicals that can result in fire, explosions and other events. The resulting costs include the injuries suffered by emergency personnel and

other victims, and efforts to clean up the hazardous waste generated during the production process. Researchers caution that their estimates are in some cases based on an emerging understanding of meth's role in these harms and should be further refined as understanding of these issues matures.

The RAND report also identifies costs that cannot yet be adequately quantified. "Estimates of the economic costs of illicit drug use can highlight the consequences of illegal drug use on our society and focus attention on the primary drivers of those costs," Nicosia said. "But more work is needed to identify areas where interventions to reduce these harms could prove most effective."

The full text of the report, "The Economic Costs of Methamphetamine Use in the United States-2005," is available at [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org).

Other authors of the report are Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, Beau Kilmer, Russell Lundberg and James Chiesa. The study was sponsored by the Meth Project Foundation. Additional support was provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Source: <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2009/02/04/meth.html>

## Meth Labs Increase for First Time Since 2001

*Continued from Page 1*

methamphetamine.

Because Kansas does not have a statewide electronic logging system allowing law enforcement to track individuals who purchase more than the legal limit of pseudoephedrine, "smurfing" is very difficult to combat.

The Kansas Legislature is considering Senate Bill 248, which would establish a statewide electronic logging system for the sale of pseudoephedrine. (See the full text of the bill here: <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2010/248.pdf>.)

Legislation such as this may be a critical component to impacting meth manufacturing in the state. "Until further pseudoephedrine controls are in place, we can expect meth lab numbers to continue to trend upward here in Kansas," Hutchings said.



# Is drug paraphernalia available in your community?

A drug paraphernalia law is in effect in Kansas, however increasing numbers of reports from across the state indicate that retailers continue to sell illegal items.

Communities that have paraphernalia for sale in retail stores establish unhealthy conditions that make it more likely that kids will use illegal drugs.

## Illegal items under the law

- Glass/metal pipes
- Bong and water pipes
- Pipes disguised as pens, incense, key chains or other items
- “Jewelry” or “Postal” scales
- See KSA 65-4150 for a complete listing of illegal items:  
<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2062.pdf>

## Penalties for the sale of drug paraphernalia

- Up to 24 months in prison
- Fines up to \$100,000
- Possible forfeiture of assets

## Do Your Part

It is illegal for stores to offer for sale items that are intended or designed for use to consume or ingest illegal drugs.

If you see drug paraphernalia for sale in stores in your community, report it to local law enforcement.

Contact the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project for more information and community resource materials.

(785) 266-8666