

# ILLINOIS METH PROJECT

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## **Methamphetamine Impact: Illinois Statistics**

The majority of U.S. counties report Meth is their most serious drug problem—more than cocaine and marijuana combined.<sup>i</sup> The RAND Corporation’s Drug Policy Research Center estimates that the total annual cost of Meth abuse in 2005 to the U.S. was approximately \$23.4 billion.<sup>ii</sup> The increase in Meth use in states across the U.S., including Illinois, is contributing to this enormous national burden. Meth use in Illinois has led to increased crime, lost productivity, larger jail and prison populations, and is directly correlated to domestic violence and child abuse, adversely impacting families and children.

### **Meth Use**

- 99% of county offices in Illinois report encountering Meth<sup>iii</sup>
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, methamphetamine is the primary drug threat to Central and Southern Illinois and is increasing in prevalence in the Chicago area<sup>iv</sup>

### **Meth-related Crime**

- Illinois ranks #4 in the country for Meth-related arrests<sup>v</sup> and Meth lab seizures<sup>vi</sup>
- Illinois reported a 91% increase in Meth-related arrests from 2002 to 2005<sup>vii</sup>
- In recent years, the amount of Meth seized in rural counties is double that of urban counties in Illinois<sup>viii</sup>
- Methamphetamine accounts for up to 90% of all drug cases in many Illinois communities<sup>ix</sup>

### **Meth Treatment**

- Meth-related treatment admissions in Illinois increased by 243% between 2001 to 2005—more than any other drug during that period<sup>x</sup>
- Rural admissions from Meth-related treatment are five times higher than the state average<sup>xi</sup>
- 53% of people in treatment for methamphetamine in Illinois began using at age 18 or younger.<sup>xii</sup>

### **Impact on Families**

- According to the Illinois State Police, approximately 50-75% of child abuse cases in Illinois involve substance abuse

### **Illinois Meth Use & Attitudes Survey**

After marijuana, amphetamines are the most widely abused illicit drug worldwide, outnumbering both cocaine and heroin. Findings from the 2008 *Illinois Meth Use & Attitudes Survey: Springfield, Decatur, Champaign Regions* demonstrate that Central Illinois teens’ attitudes towards the dangers of methamphetamine use have shifted substantially since the Illinois Meth Project initiated its Meth prevention campaign in early 2008. The findings from the survey underscore the importance and need for continued Meth prevention and public awareness efforts.

### **Meth Project Advertising Effectiveness**

Teens in Central Illinois report seeing anti-Meth advertising far more frequently in 2008 than they did in 2007.

- 56% report seeing such ads at least once a week; only 25% made the same claim in 2007
- 82% are far more likely to report recently seeing anti-Meth TV commercials, up 26 points

The majority of Central Illinois teens report that the Illinois Meth Project's ads clearly communicate the risks of Meth and agree the ads show that Meth:

- Will make you act in a way you would not want to (90% agree strongly or somewhat with the statement)
- Will make them look different than they normally do (89%)
- Is dangerous to try just once (87%)
- Affects many people's lives besides the user's (83%)
- Is more dangerous than they had originally thought (83%)
- Could cause problems in their town or school (78%)

Central Illinois teens report that the ads:

- Make them less likely to try or use Meth (77%)
- Make them more aware of the risks of using Meth (76%)
- Give them new information about Meth (62%)
- Help them understand that you can't try Meth even once (76%)

### **Perceived Risks of Meth Use**

Central Illinois teens are now more inclined to believe there is risk in taking Meth, heroin, and cocaine just once or twice.

- 53% now believe there is "great risk" in taking Meth once or twice, up 7 points since 2007
- Teens are also more inclined to see more risk in taking heroin (51%, up 4 points) or cocaine (51% up 5 points) once or twice

Central Illinois teens are now more aware of the specific dangers of Meth use.

- Significant increases in perceptions of risk in trying Meth just once were reported in every one of the 14 risk areas measured, including tooth decay, dying, having sex with someone they don't want to, worse personal hygiene, stealing, turning into someone they don't want to be, suffering brain damage, becoming violent, losing control of themselves, being a negative influence on a younger sibling, getting hooked, becoming paranoid, making their problems worse and/or getting insomnia.

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<sup>i</sup> National Association on Counties. The Methamphetamine Epidemic: The Changing Demographic of Methamphetamine. August 2007.

<sup>ii</sup> RAND, The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use In the United States, 2005

<sup>iii</sup> Illinois Sheriffs' Association, Survey of Illinois Sheriffs, December 2008

<sup>iv</sup> Department of Justice. "DEA Fact Sheet: Illinois." 2008

<sup>v</sup> Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration Data, Illinois. "Compiled Rankings of State Methamphetamine Arrests/Seizures from 2004 DEA Data." 2004.

<sup>vi</sup> Department of Justice. National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System & Drug Enforcement Administration Data. 2007.

<sup>vii</sup> National Association of Counties. "The Meth Epidemic in America – Two Surveys of U.S. Counties: The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities & The Impact of Meth on Children." July 5, 2005.

<sup>viii</sup> Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. "Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties, A Profile of the Sangamon County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems." December 2004.

<sup>ix</sup> Illinois State Police. "Is METH Next Door?" Fact Sheet.

<sup>x</sup> Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA). Center for Health and Justice, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities. "Methamphetamine in Illinois." July 2007.

<sup>xi</sup> National Association of Counties. "The Meth Epidemic in America – Two Surveys of U.S. Counties: The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities & The Impact of Meth on Children." July 2005.

<sup>xiii</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), "Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS)," 2006.