



### Tennessee Methamphetamine Statistics

- In 2004, law enforcement authorities seized 1,574 methamphetamine labs in Tennessee, second only to Missouri across the United States.  
(Drug Enforcement Administration, 2004)
- There have been 897 methamphetamine lab seizures in Tennessee this year through August.  
(El Paso Intelligence Center's National Clandestine Lab Seizure System and South/East Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force, 2005)
- Since passing the Meth-Free Tennessee Act, methamphetamine lab seizures in Tennessee were down 39 percent in May and 59 percent in June.  
(Drug Enforcement Administration, 2005)
- As many as 90 percent of methamphetamine addicts who stop using will return to the drug versus much lower rates for other substances.  
(Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse, 2004)
- Treatment programs should last at least 12 months.  
(Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse, 2004)
- 5.6 percent of high school students reported methamphetamine use.  
(Admitted they have tried meth in their lifetime)  
(2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- After two years on meth, an adult has depleted 25 percent, or 40 years' worth, of dopamine, the chemical needed to feel happiness and enjoyment. The average adult loses only 7 percent every 10 years.  
(National Institute on Drug Abuse Notes – Vol. 17, April 1, 2002, By Patrick Zickler)

## **Governor's Attack on Methamphetamine Statistics**

On March 30, 2005, Gov. Phil Bredesen signed into law comprehensive legislation to fight methamphetamine manufacturing and abuse in Tennessee. Gov. Bredesen and the General Assembly have allocated nearly \$7 million to attack the methamphetamine problem in Tennessee. Among other items, the budget includes:

- \$2.4 million for increased criminal penalties for meth-related crimes, including closure of the personal-use loophole
- \$1.7 million to launch a drug court pilot project endorsed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- \$1.5 million to launch a statewide education and public awareness campaign
- \$600,000 to provide meth-lab response training to law enforcement and other first responders
- \$500,000 for Child Advocacy Centers to support expanded services to drug-exposed children

## National Methamphetamine Statistics

### A Major National Drug Problem

- More than 12.3 million Americans (approximately 5.2 percent of the population) have tried methamphetamine, and 1.5 million are regular users.<sup>1</sup>
- Meth-making operations have been uncovered in all 50 states.<sup>2</sup>

### Methamphetamine Lab Busts on the Rise

- In 2004, 17,033 methamphetamine labs were seized, compared with 7,438 in 1999.<sup>3</sup> This represents an increase of 129 percent.

### Methamphetamine Treatment

- Like crack cocaine, methamphetamine is highly addictive and hard to treat – generally, 28-day programs are not sufficient.<sup>4</sup>

### Impact on Crime<sup>5</sup>

- Law enforcement agencies nationwide rank methamphetamine as one of the top drugs they battle today. Results of a recent survey of 500 sheriffs' departments in 45 states found:
  - 90 percent of sheriffs interviewed reported increases in methamphetamine-related arrests in their counties over the past three years, packing jails across the country.
  - 70 percent said that robberies and burglaries have increased because of methamphetamine, as has domestic violence and identity theft.
  - 58 percent of all counties listed methamphetamine as their most serious drug problem, compared with only 19 percent for cocaine, 17 percent for marijuana and 3 percent for heroin.

### Impact on Children and Social Services

- 40 percent of child welfare officials surveyed report that methamphetamine has led to an increase in the number of children removed from homes.<sup>6</sup>
- More than 15,000 children have been found at methamphetamine labs over the past five years.<sup>7</sup>
- It has become harder to attract and keep foster parents because the children of methamphetamine users arrive with so many behavioral problems.<sup>8</sup>

### Impact on the Environment

- The toxic waste generated from methamphetamine production poses significant risks to public health and safety. For every pound of methamphetamine produced, five to eight pounds of toxic waste is generated. Labs can be assembled almost anywhere — in hotel rooms, apartments, cars, trailers, abandoned buildings and outdoors.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2003 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

<sup>2</sup> Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, *Newsweek*, August 8, 2005

<sup>3</sup> Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, *Boston Globe* Editorial, July 15, 2005

<sup>4</sup> Meth Free Montana, [methfreemt.org](http://methfreemt.org)

<sup>5</sup> National Association of Counties survey polling 500 sheriffs' departments in 45 states

<sup>6</sup> National Association of Counties survey polling 500 sheriffs' departments in 45 states

<sup>7</sup> Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, *New York Times*, July 11, 2005

<sup>8</sup> *New York Times*, July 11, 2005

<sup>9</sup> Federal Drug Enforcement Administration