

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine (meth) is a strong central nervous system stimulant drug that is white, odorless, and bitter tasting. Meth can be sold as pills, powder, or clear crystals and may be swallowed, sniffed, smoked, or dissolved in water and injected intravenously.

Methamphetamine is a Schedule II stimulant. This means it has a high potential for abuse and is available only through a prescription that cannot be refilled. Street methamphetamine is referred to by many names, such as "speed," "meth," and "chalk." Methamphetamine hydrochloride, clear chunky crystals resembling ice, that can be inhaled by smoking, is referred to as "ice," "crystal," "glass," and "tina."

A typical meth lab generates between two and three grams of methamphetamine at one time. The street value of one pound of meth ranges from \$5,000 to \$7,000, with a gram costing approximately \$120. The average purity of the drug on the street is 24.0%. Authorities report a rise in crystal meth ("ice"), a more potent form of meth, smuggled into Iowa from Mexico and other states. "Ice", a purer form of meth, is up to 91.0% pure.

In Calendar Year (CY) 2007, the State Crime Lab tested 2,405 grams of crystal meth and 1,742 grams of powder meth. This is a decrease of 20.3% in crystal meth tested and 15.9% in powder meth tested compared to CY 2006.

Meth Laboratories Seized

Since the peak in 2004, the number of meth labs reported in Iowa have dropped approximately 88.0%.

In CY 2006, there were 345 reported meth lab incidents as compared to 178 meth lab incidents in CY 2007. As of April 30, 2008, there have been 49 lab

incidents in Iowa for CY 2008. Lee County has reported the most incidents with nine.

2005 Legislation

Senate File 169 was enacted May 21, 2005. The Act regulated substances that are precursors to amphetamine and methamphetamine and provided penalties.

Iowa meth lab incidents declined 76.8% in CY 2006, the first full year after SF 169 was enacted as compared to CY 2004, (the last full year before SF 169 was enacted).

Anhydrous Ammonia

Anhydrous ammonia tank locks continue to be effective in preventing thefts of fertilizer by meth makers. Iowa State University scientists have also developed a chemical lock to further reduce anhydrous ammonia thefts.

Prisoners and Meth

In 2006 and 2007, the Iowa Department of Corrections and the Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division reported that approximately 80.0% of offenders in Iowa prisons have a past or current drug problem. Among those inmates, 52.0% of women and 50.0% of men had used meth. Approximately, 59.6% of prison inmates with substance abuse treatment needs are released with no substance abuse treatment while in prison. From FY 2005 to FY 2007, meth-involved prison commitments decreased by 35.1%.

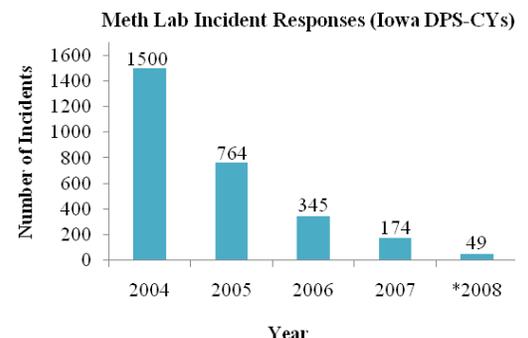
Children and Meth

As of November 30, 2007, 17 children had been present at meth lab seizures. In CY 2006, 58 children were present at meth lab seizures. In FY 2006, there were 107 confirmed child abuse cases

for manufacturing meth in the presence of a minor.

A study of open child abuse cases in southwest Iowa showed meth was involved in 46.7% of the cases in 2006 in comparison to 51.0% in 2007. Child abuse related to meth labs is declining, but over 7,500 drug-affected cases were reported in the last six years.

(over)



*=Year-to-date total as of June 19, 2008

More Information

Governor's Office of Drug Control
Policy: www.iowa.gov/odcp

DEA Meth Lab Registry:
www.dea.gov/seizures

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Byrne-JAG Funding

As the number of meth labs in Iowa declines, so does the federal grant funding for the multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces. Over the last four federal fiscal years, Iowa has experienced a 66.0% reduction in federal Byrne-JAG funding for Drug Task Forces and other drug control programs. For federal fiscal year 2008, Iowa is estimated to receive approximately \$737,000 for Drug Task Forces. This is a reduction of approximately 23.3% compared to the previous federal fiscal year.

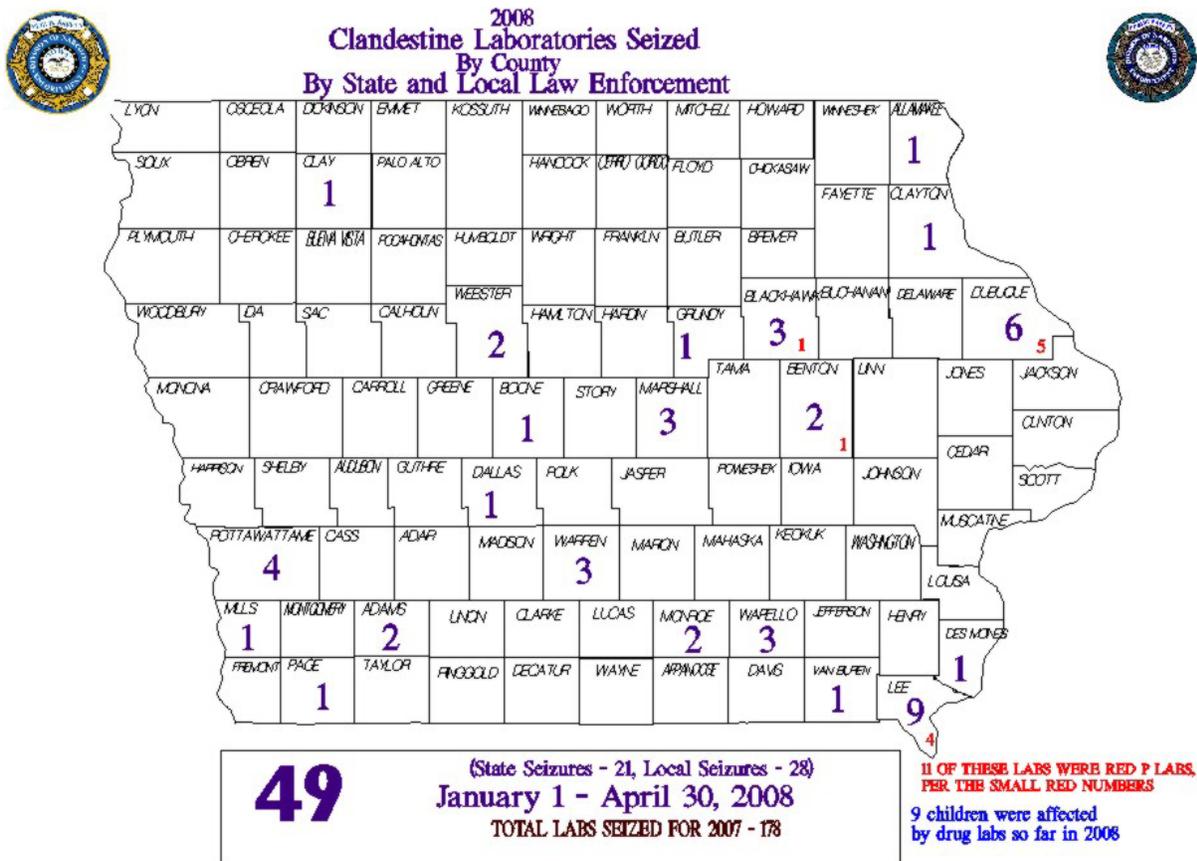
Federal Drug Enforcement Administration

Despite a large decline in meth labs across the country, Iowa ranks 10th in the nation for the number of labs. In March 2006, the President signed the Federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA). The federal statute was fully effective on September 30, 2006. The CMEA applies where State law is less restrictive.

Federal Registry

There is a nationwide on-line meth lab site registry sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) (see

More Information box on previous page). The web site features a map of the United States that allows users to click on the State to view possible meth contaminated sites in their communities. A list of meth lab sites from the previous four years is available for review. The DEA encourages prospective homebuyers or renters to ask questions of local officials before purchasing a home.



This map compiled by the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement. Based on numbers reported as of 5/1/08