



Interagency Coordinating
Council for Prevention

Methamphetamine Use Factsheet

Meth in Montana...

- Between July 10, 2015 and December 10, 2015, 1,594 child care drug-related foster placements through Child and Family Services. Of these, 871 cases (more than 56%) were due to methamphetamine use.
- 1.5% of U.S. 12th graders have used meth in their lifetimes, compared to 1.6% of Montana 12th graders.⁴
- The state of Montana ranks in the top 10 for per capita treatment admissions for meth.
- Half of Montana's adult prison inmates are imprisoned for meth-related crimes. The estimated annual cost to the state is \$60 million.³
- Since the Montana Meth Project launched in 2005, teen meth use has decreased 63% in Montana.³

Methamphetamine in America

- Meth can be swallowed, snorted, injected, or smoked. Smoking and injection deliver the drug quickly to the brain and causes immediate and intense euphoria, easily causing addiction. This is typically done in repeated doses, a "binge and crash" pattern, allowing users to sometimes stay awake for days on end.⁵
- The 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports approximately 1.2 million people reported using meth in the past year.⁶
- Dopamine, a neurotransmitter involved in reward responses, is rapidly released by meth use. Repeated use can cause chemical, structural, and molecular changes in the brain, reducing motor skills and impairing verbal learning. Reversal of these side effects is not always possible, but some brain changes may reverse after more than one year of sobriety.⁵
- Long-term users begin to experience anxiety, confusion, insomnia, and mood disturbances. They may show signs of psychosis including paranoia, visual or auditory hallucinations, and delusions, such as the sensation of bugs crawling under their skin. These symptoms cause many users to be covered in open sores.⁵
- Meth users are at high risk of contracting HIV and Hepatitis B and C due to unsafe behaviors such as unprotected sex and sharing or reusing dirty needles.⁵
- Meth is generally manufactured in "superlabs" where roughly 10,000 pounds can be manufactured within a week. There are also household meth labs across the United States. The manufacturing process involves inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients including pseudoephedrine, a cold medicine ingredient that is now regulated.⁵
- Production involves many hazardous flammable chemicals, often ending in explosions. The chemical process is unstable, and household labs are not run by scientists; untimely exposure to air or water can cause the product to erupt. In the United States 15% of meth labs are discovered after an explosion occurs. Meth labs produce a range of chemical smells such as ammonia, ether, acetone, and cat urine.⁷

CONTACT

Vicki Turner
Prevention Resource
Center, Director
(406)444-3484
vturner@mt.gov

RESOURCES

[Chemical Dependency Bureau](#), [Parent Power](#), [Resolve MT](#)

- In all 56 counties of Montana, a prevention specialist is hard at work to reduce methamphetamine use and the associated harmful behaviors.
- The Chemical Dependency Bureau provides an up-to-date list of state approved addiction treatment centers across the state of Montana.



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Citations

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3. [Montana Meth Project](#)
<https://montanameth.org/>
4. [MT YRBS Report 2011](#)
http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjt1ePm7pvNAhVN9mMKHUb3DbIQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fopi.mt.gov%2Fpdf%2FYRBS%2F11%2FReports%2F11YRBS_HSResults.pdf&usg=AFQjCNE71gEac9O0qDuPWYZ1uba3E-J8PQ
5. [NIDA Methamphetamine Facts](#)
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/methamphetamine>
6. [NSDUH Report 2012](#)
<store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA13-4805/SMA13-4805.pdf>
7. [Meth Lab Housing Predictor](#)
<http://www.housingpredictor.com/meth-lab/>

Resources

1. [Chemical Dependency Bureau](#)
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/SubstanceAbuse.aspx>
2. [Parent Power](#)
<http://parentpower.mt.gov/>
3. [Montana Meth Project](#)
<https://montanameth.org/>