

# Smurfing and Meth Lab Eradication



Presented to the  
**California State Assembly**  
**Committee on Public Safety Committee**  
June 30, 2009

# Outline

- 1. PSE and Eradicating Meth Labs  
... and if extra time at the end:
- 2. Prevention: Something from Oregon
- 3. Treatment: Meth addiction 101

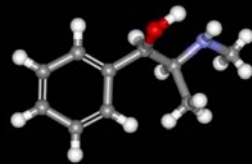


# 1. Meth Epidemic Solutions

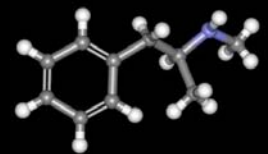
- PSE: The key ingredient necessary to make meth (*d*-methamphetamine)



# Pseudo/ephedrine and Meth



(+)-Pseudoephedrine (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO)



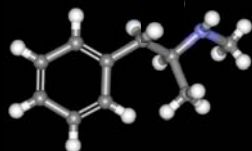
(+)-Methamphetamine (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N)

# A meth lab:

Start with pseudo/ephedrine

Remove the hydroxyl group

Add back hydrogen



(+)-Methamphetamine (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N)

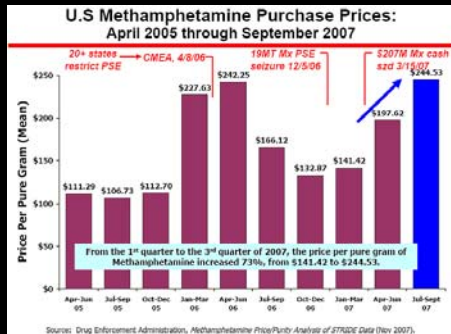
# Source of meth manufacture

- In the U.S. before effective PSE controls:
  - 35% of meth from small toxic labs
  - 65% from DTO super labs





# Meth price goes up . . .



# So I reminded folks of my prediction . . . resurgence of local meth labs . . .



# . . . and, unfortunately, it came true

**USA TODAY**  
**News » Nation**  
**Meth lab seizures spiked upward in 2008**  
Photo © 2008 USA TODAY, Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The center of methamphetamine production in Indiana has shifted to the state's northeastern corner as law enforcement agencies contend with a surge in clandestine labs manufacturing the illegal drug.

Indiana State Police and other agencies uncovered 1,092 labs last year in the state, a 31 percent increase from the 832 seized in 2007 and the second highest number since state police began tracking the statistics in 1995, The Indianapolis Star reported Sunday.

Noble County, northwest of Fort Wayne, led the state with 80 meth labs found in 2008, followed by Elkhart County, with 65.

"We believe we have a true surge. The numbers are going up for us," said T. Neil Moore, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, which helps to oversee statewide initiatives that were launched in 2005 to combat meth.

# A resurgence . . . from Arizona . . .

**The Arizona Republic**  
**Arizona seeing increase in meth labs**  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Arizona law enforcement authorities are concerned the state is about to see a big increase in meth production.

They attribute it to Mexico's crackdown on the availability of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient to making methamphetamine.

After Arizona began attacking meth production, largely through local ordinances restricting sales of drugs containing pseudoephedrine, the number of labs seized in the state plummeted from more than 200 in 2002 to fewer than a dozen in 2007 as manufacturers moved operations to Mexico.

Although the labs dried up the demand for the drug didn't.

Manufacturing meth and getting away with it can be very lucrative.

"At \$17,000 per pound - that's the retail price in Phoenix - they're doubling their money at least," said Lt. Steve Bailey, an investigator with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

As more meth labs pop up in Arizona, authorities are seeing a new trend in business. This time, the manufacture and distribution of the drug is in the hands of violent drug-trafficking organizations.

# . . . to Indiana . . .

**Indianapolis Star**  
**Meth production surges in Indiana**  
**U.S. production rises after crackdown in Mexico dents supply**  
By Francesca Jarosz  
 Sunday, March 8, 2009

Production jobs are flowing across the Mexican-U.S. border and into Indiana. Unfortunately, what's being produced is methamphetamine.

A clampdown by the Mexican government has reduced the supply of the highly addictive drug from a number of the so-called superlabs there. But it also has spawned a slew of new, smaller operations in Indiana and elsewhere in the U.S.

Indiana's meth-seizure statistics led the state in the number of methamphetamine labs found in 2008. Lab seizures were up 31 percent last year over 2007.

**METH LABS SEIZED BY STATE**

State	2007	2008
IN	832	1,092
TX	1,169	1,451
CA	1,451	1,451
MI	742	742

Source: Indiana State Police. (STEPHEN J. SHERIDAN/The Star)

Indiana State Police and other agencies uncovered 1,092 labs last year in the state, a 31 percent increase from 2007 and the second highest number since State Police began tracking the statistics in 1995. It also comes after sharp declines from the record 1,137 labs found in 2004.

# . . . to Ohio . . .

**Akron Beacon Journal**  
**Meth lab raids jump 42 percent in Summit**  
**Authorities believe more users cooking drugs as imports dry up**  
**Rise follows 3 years of declines**  
By RICK ARMON, Beacon Journal staff writer  
 Sunday, February 15, 2009

Summit County experienced a 42 percent spike last year in the number of methamphetamine labs raided.

Authorities attributed the increase — which followed three years of declines — to more local users making their own meth to replace a scarcity of the drug coming from Mexico.

Law-enforcement authorities dismantled 69 labs last year, compared with 48 in 2007, according to the new annual report from the Summit County Drug Unit.

The number of sites raided began to drop after authorities disrupted a major Mexican meth operation in 2005, and laws were enacted to make it more difficult to obtain meth ingredients at pharmacies and other stores, said Capt. Hylton Baker, head of the county Drug Unit.

... to Oklahoma ...

Tulsa World

Meth lab spike reported in northeastern Oklahoma

By NICOLE MARSHALL, World Staff Writer  
Saturday, March 7, 2009

A recent spike in the number of meth labs found is giving local police flashbacks to times when the dangerous labs were epidemic in the state.

State drug enforcement officers say the problem appears to be focused in northeastern Oklahoma, and they hope a pending bill that would tighten a loop hole in state law will turn the tide.

Through the end of February this year, Tulsa police dealt with 28 labs. In all of 2008, they responded to 41.

In Broken Arrow, police busted 10 methamphetamine labs this year through February. In comparison, six labs were found there in 2008.



MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World  
Members of the Tulsa County Drug Task Force clear a meth lab in Tulsa in July. Local police has seen a spike in the number of meth labs recently.

... to Tennessee ...

The Tennessean

Meth labs make a comeback in Tennessee

Sunday, May 3, 2009  
By NICOLE YOUNG, The TET

Tennessee drug agents are

Police call it the poor man's

"If we stay on course with

Tennessee ranked third in

In 2005, new laws went into effect that

But addicts have since learned new

Last year, authorities seized 815 meth

Knoxville News Sentinel

Officials weigh tougher meth laws after 40% spike in number of labs seized

By J.J. Spindorff  
Sunday, February 15, 2009

A 40 percent increase in the number of

Tennessee during the past year is

border stronger laws governing the sale

In 2005, new laws went into effect that

threaten to undermine some of the progress

state director of the Tennessee

Last year, authorities seized 815 meth



... to Texas ...

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Rural North Texas sees increase in meth labs

By ALEX BRANCH  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009

All but eliminated in recent years by tough laws restricting access to ingredients, methamphetamine

The number of labs is still nowhere near the levels of the early 2000s, when authorities saw 80 to 100

"We're seeing it from around here up through the Red River region," said Capt. Philip Allen of the

"There's no pattern, just here and there."

Some narcotics investigators attribute the uptick to the Mexican government's crackdown on "super

Mexican "ice" meth produced by drug cartels filled the void in the U.S. after it became more difficult to

... to Alabama ...

The Birmingham News

Alabama sees resurgence in meth labs 'One-pot' cooking gains popularity

Monday, May 12, 2008  
By MIKE CASON, News staff writer

Alabama is seeing a resurgence in methamphetamine labs, a reversal from the decrease that followed a

More meth cooks in the past year have started using a simpler, "one-pot" cooking method that takes

Jason Murray, commander of the Talladega County Drug Task Force, said his agents have found 70 of

That contrasts with about 45 meth labs the task force found in all of 2007, he said. "It's like somebody

... to Mississippi ...

The Clarion-Ledger

Mississippi meth labs on rise

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Despite a law making it harder to buy ingredients to make methamphetamine, lab busts are on

The two states lead the nation in meth incidents, although Missouri takes first place by a wide

Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Tim Hull said Wednesday that 462 lab busts and

... to Iowa ...

RADIO IOWA NEWS

Number of meth labs found could be up for first time in years

Thursday, January 8, 2009  
By DARWIN DANIELSON

The state's drug czar says a leveling off of the number of meth labs in the state should be incentive

Kendell says preliminary records show 174 meth labs were found in Iowa last year, just four less than in

Pseudoephedrine is an ingredient in many cold medications and the law now restricts the amount that

... to Louisiana ...

### The News-Star

## Meth labs making comeback; 3 arrested

Tuesday, March 31, 2009  
By STEPHEN LARGEN

Metro Narcotics agents arrested three West Monroe residents on methamphetamine charges Monday afternoon. According to an arrest affidavit, Kelly Ricks, 34, 408 Gulpha St. No. 1, agreed to pay Ashley Holzem, 26, 415 Gulpha St. No. 4, and Sally Trahan, 51, 401 Gulpha St. No. 6, \$20 each for ingredients used to make methamphetamines.

Agents reportedly found clandestine laboratory materials and several baggies of methamphetamines in a glass case in Ricks' vehicle.

Capt. Hank Smith said a confidential informant provided a tip that led to the arrests. Trahan reportedly told agents she bought lye for Ricks at a farm supply store, while Holzem reportedly said she bought Ephedrine for Ricks at Walgreens.

... to Michigan ...

### Kalamazoo Gazette

## One-pot recipe boosts meth use in Michigan

February 4, 2008  
By ROSEMARY PARKER, The Kalamazoo Gazette

DETROIT — A slew of tough new laws attacking the menace of methamphetamine seemed to be working: 451 meth-lab busts in Michigan in 2005 fell to 201 in 2007.

But now it seems that lull may have been the calm before a new storm.

Suddenly, meth-lab busts in some southwestern Michigan counties are spiking again, law-enforcement officials say. The reason: a quick new recipe for making the illicit stimulant.

... to Missouri ...

### Kansas City Star

## Meth lab busts continue rising in Missouri

Wednesday, June 3, 2009  
By JIM SALTER, Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS - Despite a law making it harder to buy ingredients to make methamphetamine, lab busts are on the rise in Missouri. Meanwhile, the state continues to lead the nation in meth incidents, and by a wide margin.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Tim Hull said Wednesday that 462 lab busts and discoveries of meth-processing dump sites were reported in Missouri for the first three months of 2009, according to an internal report. That was up from 426 incidents in the first quarter of 2008.

No other state was even close. Mississippi had the second-highest number of meth incidents, with 146 in the January-through-March period. Michigan was third with 136.

... to Nebraska ...



## Meth Labs Make Comeback in Nebraska

Monday, April 27, 2009

OMAHA, Neb. - Nebraska drug investigators are concerned that more methamphetamine labs may start showing up in the state.

The number of meth labs dropped significantly after 2005, when laws were changed restricting the sale of pseudo ephedrine, a common ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

"We were getting run ragged," Nebraska State Patrol investigator Shane Flynn told KETV Newswatch 7.

... to Kentucky ...

### Lexington Herald-Leader

## Meth labs back on the rise in Kentucky Toddler's death brought attention to increase

Monday, June 8, 2009  
By Bill Estep, Herald-Leader

The number of illegal methamphetamine labs destroyed in Kentucky has increased in the last 18 months as meth "cookers" have found ways around efforts to limit production of the dangerous, highly addictive drug.

A 2005 change in state law to restrict access to a key ingredient needed to produce meth drove down the number of makeshift labs police found, but only for a while.

The May 30 death of a 22-month-old Wayne County boy who drank drain cleaner his parents allegedly were using to make meth grabbed local and national headlines at a time when the number of labs is going up.



Kayden Brinkham, 22 months old, died Saturday night after ingesting a drain cleaner used in cooking meth. He was about a year old in this photo.

... and superlabs return to CA



The resurgence is fed by . .



Getting rid of smurfing . . .

- Options:
  - 1. Electronic database monitoring
    - Expensive
    - Burdensome
    - Reactive
    - Limited impact . . . still have smurfing!
  - 2. Prescription only
    - Oregon . . . since 2006 . . .

Smurfing by example . . .



Smurfing by example . . .



There were only a few "no" votes

- HB 2485 – 9 out of 90
- SB 907 – 1 out of 90

**The Oregonian**

**Lawmaker faces arrest in Salem on meth charge**

Thursday, October 13, 2005  
JANIE HARR



SALEM – Salem police said Wednesday they intend to arrest Rep. Kelley Wirth, D-Corvallis, on one count of possession of methamphetamine.

The drug was found in Wirth's car when she was struck by another car last month outside the state Capitol. The driver of that car, Lisa Temple, has been charged with attempted murder and assault. Temple is the girlfriend of a Capitol building janitor who claims to have had a sexual relationship with Wirth. She has denied the relationship.

Lt. Bill Kohlmeier, spokesman for the Salem Police Department, said investigators are trying to

## Oregon Results

- Smurfing eliminated!
- Meth labs nearly eliminated:
  - We have about 20 remnants each year
  - The 3 full labs we have each year are from smurfing in neighboring states



What's it really meant . . .

- For cold/allergy sufferers . . .

. . . and the pharmaceuticals reformulate . . .



It became a marketing strategy!



## The sky didn't fall

- Few complaints
- No public outcry
- I still live in Oregon
- The CHPA / NACDS parade of horrors never happened
- The law is now broadly celebrated
- NAMSDL work group . . .



The Oregon alternative “offers an effective approach . . . if broadly adopted, there would be no reason to develop state or national tracking systems, resulting in substantial, ongoing savings . . .”

- NAMSDL Meth Precursor Tracking Advisory Committee