

Below is a map recently published by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), who represent the manufacturers of pseudoephedrine (PSE) products. Below that map, in **blue text**, is a brief response by Rob Bovett, primary author of the legislation that returned PSE to a prescription drug in Oregon.

The original CHPA map can be found at http://www.chpa-info.org/pressroom/2010PK_PSEetracking.aspx

Oregon Meth Lab Decline Is Not Unique



STATE	PEAK	2009	% DECLINE
California	2,579	181	93%
Washington	1,480	39	97%
Oregon	587	10	98%
Arizona	384	11	97%
Nevada	290	9	97%
Utah	241	3	99%
Idaho	132	8	94%

DEA El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Clandestine Laboratory Database

This map is misleading in two significant ways:

1. It relies upon 2009 data from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). Timely reporting to EPIC varies from state to state. Some states still have not completed their 2009 reporting to EPIC. Take Washington and Oregon, for example. Oregon has reported 10 total meth lab incidents to EPIC for 2009. That number is up-to-date and correct. However, Washington is still completing its reporting. It's actual number for 2009 was not 39, as misrepresented by CHPA in this map. The actual Washington number for 2009 was 186, representing an increase from the prior year:

See http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/response/drug_labs/MethLabSummary2009.pdf

The industry has been made aware of this, yet they continue to make these misrepresentations.

2. More important, this all completely misses the point. Massive pseudoephedrine (PSE) smurfing in the Midwest is feeding thousands of small user meth labs. Massive super smurfing in the West is feeding super labs in Central California. For example, Arizona and Nevada have very few meth labs. But super smurfing in those states helps fuel super labs in Central California, which produce tons of meth. Those states are therefore still a major part of the problem.

For more information, visit

<http://www.oregondec.org/>

April 30, 2010