



KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
www.kentuckystatepolice.org

J. Michael Brown
Secretary

Rodney Brewer
Commissioner

June 29, 2009

Kent A. Shaw
Assistant Chief
California Office of the Attorney General Department of Justice
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Dear Assistant Chief Shaw:

In the late 1990's the Commonwealth of Kentucky began to experience an increase of illegal clandestine methamphetamine labs throughout the state. The numbers steadily increased until peaking in 2004/2005. In June 2005, a Kentucky statute required that pseudoephedrine (PSE), a prime ingredient in illegally produced methamphetamine, be sold only from licensed pharmacies and that each sale must require a photo identification card from the purchaser and be recorded in a log subject to inspection by law enforcement. The "pharmacy log" statute had the immediate effect of substantially reducing clandestine meth labs in the state. Kentucky clan lab numbers went from 589 in 2005 to 328 in 2006, a decrease of 44%.

Throughout 2006 and the first half of calendar year 2007 the numbers of clan labs reported on a monthly basis continued to show a decrease from the previous year's monthly totals; i.e. January 2007 totals were less than January 2006, and January 2006 totals were less than January 2005, etc. This trend continued until the second half of 2007, when the monthly totals began to increase. However, the 2007 year-end total was 302 clan labs.

The monthly increase in clan lab numbers continued into calendar year 2008. On June 1, 2008, in an effort to further reduce clandestine lab production, a new Kentucky statute required the pharmacy logs to be reported on a centralized database prescribed by state government. This computerized system, known as MethCheck, is also accessible to law enforcement. In its first year of operation, June 2008 through May 2009, the MethCheck system blocked 18,000 sales of

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PSE. However, the MethCheck system apparently had little impact on the numbers of clandestine labs in our state. Kentucky's number for calendar year 2008 was 428, up from 302 in 2007, an increase of 41%.

So far this year, January 2009 through May 2009, Kentucky responded to 210 clandestine labs. If this trend continues throughout the remainder of the year, our state's responses will at least equal the numbers of the 2008 totals.

This twelve month observation period of the computerized monitoring system indicates that while it blocked some sales of PSE, it seems to have little effect on reducing the numbers of clan labs in Kentucky, the purpose for which it was funded. Additional time will confirm whether it will perform its intended function.

In order to assist in comprehension of these statistics, I have attached some chart and graph information related to Kentucky's clan lab responses. Please do not hesitate to contact Major Joe Williams, the KSP Commander of our Special Enforcement Troop, at 502.695.6321 if you need additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney Brewer", written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Rodney W. Brewer, Commissioner

RWB:JMW

Attachments