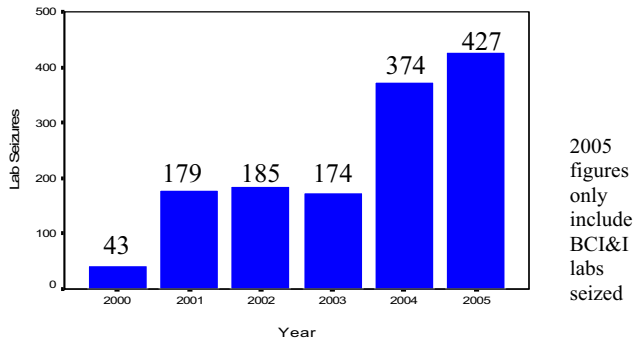


METH IN OHIO

METH LABS SEIZED SINCE 2000:



LOCATION OF METH:

48% Rural
52% Urban

ORIGIN OF METH:

The Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation began seeing a huge increase in the number of meth lab seizures beginning in the late 1990s. In 1999 they seized 18 meth labs, a number which has increased to over 400 in 2005.

IMPACT OF LAW LIMITING SALE OF COLD MEDICINE:

Senate Bill 53 would place some controls on the sale of pseudoephedrine - a primary ingredient used to manufacture methamphetamine. The bill is currently being considered by the House Civil & Commercial Law Committee.

METH WATCH PROGRAM:

Certain jurisdictions in Ohio have implemented Meth Watch programs, but there is currently no statewide initiative.

IMPACT OF METH ON TRAFFIC SAFETY:

Ohio has not measured the impacts of meth on traffic safety.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE:

The Ohio Police Officer Training (OPOTA) Academy offers a 1-day course on identifying meth, the ingredients, and what to look for to identify a meth facility. OPOTA, in partnership with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCI &I), also offers a more in-depth 5-day training on meth enforcement techniques, how to break down a clandestine lab, and the precautions to take in seizing a meth lab and the offenders. The BCI&I has created a Clandestine Drug Lab Unit to respond to reports of meth labs throughout the state and provide training to local officers. Specially equipped response vehicles have also been purchased through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

CHILDREN IN SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEM DUE TO METH:

While there is no statewide data available, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services reports that in 2003 and 2004 31 and 44 children, respectively, were removed from homes involved with meth. The Department also reports increased numbers of children entering PCSA custody and increased PCSA efforts needed to train staff and ensure case worker safety.

PROTECTING DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN:

During the biennium budget process, the Ohio General Assembly set aside \$4,000,000 in funding for families in Ohio that needed treatment services for meth. These funds may be used for detoxification, assessment, case management, crisis intervention, family counseling, group counseling, individual counseling, intensive outpatient treatment, community based residential treatment, and prevention. Ohio is currently in the first fiscal year of funding these services, therefore no outcome data is available at this time.

REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT:

Currently the assessments in both the adult and juvenile prison do not show large numbers of offenders with serious meth addictions. The youth system identifies between 10 and 15 a year. The adult system is not seeing the addiction treatment problems, but more the secondary health conditions, such as dental problems. Through funding provided by the state to local communities, the detoxification is occurring before offenders are committed to prison. In addition, Ohio has an extensive community drug treatment network and offenders with serious drug problems remain in the community for treatment when possible. The drug education programs in the adult and juvenile prison system include meth education.

CLEANING UP METH LABS:

All cleanup is conducted in conformance with OSHA and federal EPA standards. Local agencies, the Ohio Attorney General, & BCI&I have taken leadership roles and developed expertise, skills, and knowledge to conduct lab clean ups. BCI&I has trained approximately 200 local officers statewide on the proper handling of meth labs and requires special certification to enter and process a meth lab.

BEST PRACTICES:

- ◆ Statewide information sharing, facilitated by the Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and quarterly reports and recommendations to policy makers.



For more information about Ohio's efforts to fight the war against meth visit www.ag.state.oh.us/online_publications/bci/index.htm or www.otca.ohio.gov/Resources.htm, or call 740-845-2000