

Methamphetamine, Precursors and DEA's Perspective



DEA Chemistry Industry Conference
September 17-18, 2008
Atlanta, GA

Outline

- Domestic Methamphetamine Production Situation
- Americas: Synthetic Drugs and Precursors
- Pseudoephedrine/Ephedrine Movement into the Western Hemisphere
- Global Precursor Initiatives
- Pharmaceuticals Threat

Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine OTC



Pseudoephedrine tablets

Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine OTC



Ephedrine tablets

Floyd County Meth Lab Seized; 18 Arrested

(source: WSBTV.com)

FLOYD COUNTY, Ga. -- Officials said they have arrested 18 people associated with the manufacturing of meth in Floyd County ... arrests stem from a year-long investigation and the seizure of a meth lab in January ... Rome and Floyd County officials said they believe the people arrested were "smurfing" pseudo ephedrine tablets ...

Domestic Situation

- States and CMEA Legislation
- OTC products
- Significant Decrease in Production
- Smurfing

Oklahoma
State
Senate

*Legislative
Brief*

June 2004

TROOPER NIK GREEN, ROCKY EALES AND MATTHEW EVANS ACT
HB 2176
PSEUDOEPHEDRINE AND METH LABS

Issue Background

The "meth lab" has become one of the most dangerous and difficult law enforcement challenges in Oklahoma. An overview of information and studies dealing with meth labs shows that methamphetamine is a potent form of the stimulant amphetamine and is a cheap and easily produced substance more addictive than crack cocaine. It is sometimes called "crank" or "crystal meth". The recipe is easy to follow with ingredients such as drain cleaner, cold medicines, batteries and even coffee filters that can be easily purchased over the counter or stolen from the shelves of stores. The ingredients are easily hidden and can fit in a suitcase or in the trunk of a car. While prescription uses of amphetamines are typically 2.5 to 15 milligrams per day, abusers on a speed binge often consume up to 1,000 milligrams every three hours. An intense wave of physical and psychological exhilaration, or "rush", takes place. In spite of the extreme damage of long-term use, the rush keeps the users doing anything and everything they can to get the drug. It is highly addictive, and users lose interest in any other aspect of their lives except getting their next hit. Withdrawal is extremely severe and may last months.

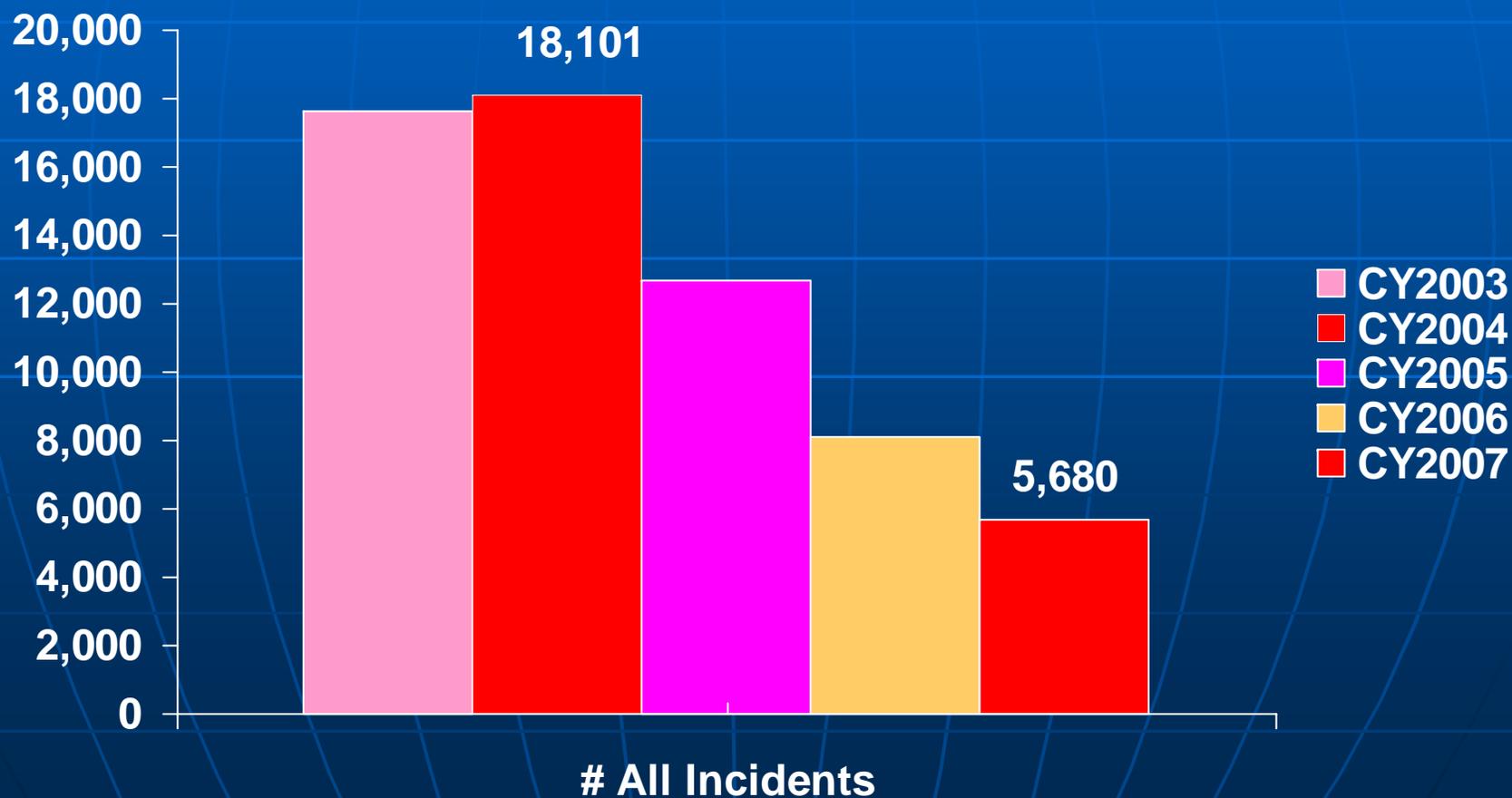
There are other public safety problems related to the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamines. Meth labs are dangerous to children and other people in the immediate vicinity of the lab. The ingredients for meth are toxic and extremely flammable when mixed, and the slightest spark can cause the lab to explode. The toxic byproducts of a meth lab pose another danger to the environment, and the cleanup is an expensive undertaking. In addition, the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses in Oklahoma has skyrocketed, adding another huge cost to the meth lab scene.

Meth lab raids and news reports concerning drug use are now a part of everyday life in Oklahoma. In the late 1980's, Oklahoma ranked 4th nationally for the number of labs seized each year. The number fell drastically due to state and federal laws regulating the chemicals needed for the recipe. But, in the 90's, a new recipe using the drug ephedrine began a new era for meth labs. In the ensuing years, Oklahoma once again found itself at the top of national statistics relating to methamphetamine manufacturing. At the heart of the nearly 1200% increase in meth lab seizures in Oklahoma in the past 10 years has been the ingredient, pseudoephedrine, a common ingredient in such medicines as Claritin-D and Sudafed. It is now the ingredient of choice for methamphetamine production. Although Oklahoma enacted precursor laws to control many of the chemicals used for manufacturing meth, over-the-counter products were still driving the meth lab scene in Oklahoma.

Troopers Nik Green, Rocky Eales and Matthew Evans have made the methamphetamine epidemic in Oklahoma all the more personal. All three were violently killed in drug-related law enforcement actions recently, and their deaths became the catalyst for more determined efforts to get control of the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies at all levels brought the need to control

Domestic Meth Production

DEA and State/Local All Incidents Seizure Stats



Operation Pill Crusher

- Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA) of 2005 related charges filed.
- May 31, 2007 – 10 arrested in relation to purchasing in excess of the 9-gram, 30-day period retail limits.
- All defendants charged with Title 21 USC 844(a) in violation of the CMEA.
 - 2 defendants charged with Title 21 USC 846 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.
- Pharmacy logbooks provided evidence.

DEA Significant Activity Report

(source: Albany District Office, August 27, 2008)

... arrested nine (9) individuals pursuant to federal arrests warrants ... based on information obtained from on-site verifications of ephedrine based product sales conducted at upstate New York area **gas stations and retail stores** pursuant to a regulatory investigation ... verifications of the required ephedrine sales logbooks indicated that individuals were purchasing the product **Ephedrine Twin Tabs 25mg HCL** in quantities totaling over the allotted monthly limit of 9 grams ... **Title 21 USC section 844 (a)**. In one example, defendant XXXXXXXX purchased 56,784 tablets of this product between December 2006 and January 2008.

Ephedrine – Guaifenesin Combination Preps

Proposed Rules

Federal Register 40232

Vol. 70, No. 133, Wednesday, July 13, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

HUMAN SERVICES, Food and Drug Administration

- 21 CFR Parts 310 and 341, [Docket No. 1976N–0052G] (formerly 76N–052G), RIN 0910–AF33
- Cold, Cough, Allergy, Bronchodilator, and Antiasthmatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Proposed Amendment of the Tentative Final Monograph for Combination Drug Products

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

The Issue...

- Smurfing
 - Adaptation
 - Team Smurfing
 - Multiple locations
 - Interstate

Changing Numbers...

- Leveled-off or up-swing in labs
- Law Enforcement observing up-ticks in some States
- Sporadic
 - Adaptation to legislation on retail denial

CBP-DEA Ports Project



Importations and Transshipments

Legal Basis...

- Transshipment without proper notice
- 21 CFR 1313.31
- CCD published memorandum

Mexico



Mexico

U.S. – Mexico Bilateral cooperation



Why Chemicals?



=



- Licit vs. Black Market

Canada



MDMA and MDMA-Meth



1988 Vienna Convention Article 12



United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in
Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,
1988

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- 49 th CND Resolution
 - U.S. sponsored - 2006
 - EPH, PSE, P2P, MDP2P, AND PREPS
 - NATIONAL LICIT NEEDS

49TH CND: National Licit Needs

Country / Territory	Ephedrine kg	Ephedrine preparations kg	Pseudoephedrine kg	Pseudoephedrine preparations kg	3,4-MDP-2-P ^a kg	P-2-P ^b kg
Kazakhstan	332			1		
Kyrgyzstan	1 000			120		
Latvia	30			50		
Lebanon	26	1		155	650	
Lithuania		2			500	
<i>Macao, SAR of China</i>	1			1		
Madagascar	702			150		
Malawi	1 000					
Malaysia	5 700		37 000			
Malta		10			220	1
Mauritius	1					
Morocco	124			2 500		
Mozambique	3					
Myanmar	2					
Netherlands	2 000			2 000		
New Zealand	50			250		
Nicaragua				200		
Nigeria	3 849			5 823		
Norway	400			1		
Pakistan	15 000		10 000			
Panama	50			7 000		
<i>Paraguay</i>						
<i>Peru</i>						
<i>Poland</i>						
<i>Romania</i>						
<i>Russia</i>						
<i>Senegal</i>						
<i>Slovakia</i>						
<i>Slovenia</i>						
<i>South Africa</i>						
<i>Spain</i>						
<i>Sweden</i>						
<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>						
<i>Tajikistan</i>						
<i>Thailand</i>						
<i>Tristan da Cunha</i>		1			1	
<i>Turkey</i>	2 092			31 821		2 000
<i>Uganda</i>	120			120		
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>				200		
<i>United Kingdom</i>	378			13 741		39
<i>United Republic of Tanzania</i>	950			500		
<i>Venezuela</i>	1 000			20 000		
<i>Yemen</i>	150			5 000		
<i>United States of America</i>	3 500			379 100		31 838
<i>Zambia</i>	5			10		

United States of America	3 500		379 100			31 838
--------------------------	-------	--	---------	--	--	--------

<i>South Africa</i>	20 000			20 000		
<i>Spain</i>	1 227			7 010		1
<i>Sweden</i>	20			3	2	4
<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>	1 000			50 000		
<i>Tajikistan</i>	38					
<i>Thailand</i>	21			36 900		
<i>Tristan da Cunha</i>		1			1	
<i>Turkey</i>	2 092			31 821		2 000
<i>Uganda</i>	120			120		
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>				200		
<i>United Kingdom</i>	378			13 741		39
<i>United Republic of Tanzania</i>	950			500		
<i>Venezuela</i>	1 000			20 000		
<i>Yemen</i>	150			5 000		
<i>United States of America</i>	3 500			379 100		31 838
<i>Zambia</i>	5			10		

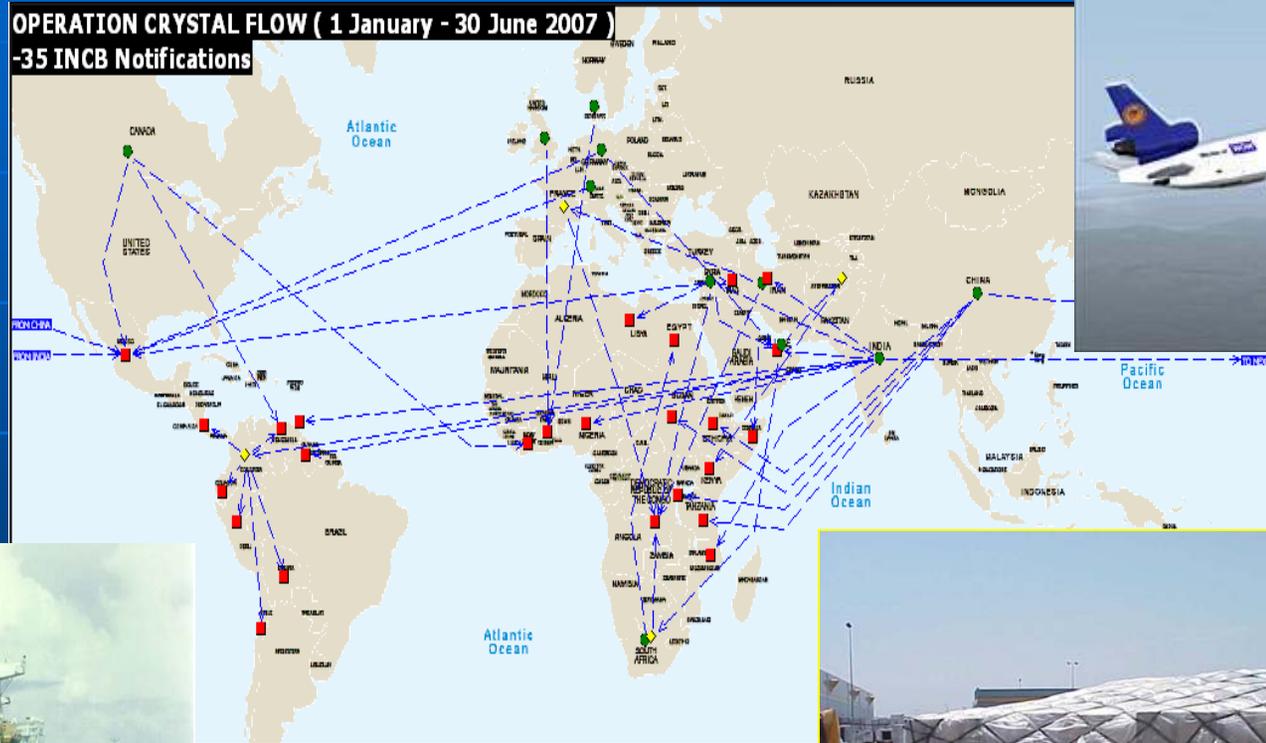
Notes: The names of non-metropolitan territories and special administrative regions are in italics.
A blank field signifies that no requirement was indicated or data are not submitted for the substance in question.
Quantities reported below 1 kilogramme have been rounded up and are reflected as 1 kg.

^a 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone.

^b 1-Phenyl-2-propanone.

INCB Operation Crystal Flow

OPERATION CRYSTAL FLOW (1 January - 30 June 2007)
-35 INCB Notifications



Middle East



Central and South America



Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- 50 th CND Resolution
 - E.U. sponsored – 2007
 - Alternate chems
- 51 st CND Resolutions
 - Mexico and India sponsored – 2008
 - Alternate chems



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF DIVERSION CONTROL

[HOME](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [CONTACT US](#) [WHAT'S NEW](#) [HOT ITEMS](#) [SITEMAP](#) [SEARCH](#)

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

APPLICATIONS & ON-LINE FORMS
ARCOS
CHEMICALS
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE SCHEDULES
IMPORT AND EXPORT
IFLIS
QUOTAS
REGISTRATION SUPPORT
REPORTS REQUIRED BY 21 CFR

RESOURCES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
DRUGS/CHEMICALS OF CONCERN
e-COMMERCE INITIATIVES
FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES
MEETINGS & EVENTS
OFFICES & DIRECTORIES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
PUBLICATIONS
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
REGULATIONS & CODIFIED CSA

LINKS

FEDERAL AGENCIES & RELATED
INDUSTRY RELATED
PUBLIC INTEREST



WELCOME TO THE DIVERSION CONTROL PROGRAM

Registration Number
Toll Free: 1-800-882-9539

REGISTRATION SUPPORT



Save time by applying for and/or renewing your DEA Registration on-line. Data will be entered through a **secure connection** to the **ODWIF** on-line web application system. Minimum requirements: Credit Card and a web browser that supports **128-bit encryption**.

NEW REGISTRATION FEE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2006

- [To Apply for Renewal Applications for Registration On-Line](#)
- [To Apply for New Applications for Registration On-Line](#)
- [To Apply for Registration by Mail](#)
- [For Registration Changes](#)
(Address, Drug Codes, Name, Schedules)
- [Duplicate Certificates](#)
- [Order Forms](#)

For Registration Matters
1-800-882-9539

WHAT'S NEW

RENEWAL
Apply
On-Line
REGISTRATION
APPLICATIONS

Renewal
Applications

NEW
APPLICATIONS
FOR
REGISTRATION

New Registration
Applications

DEA
FORM 106
ONLINE
REPORT
THEFT OR
LOSS OF
CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCES

Sales of Ephedrine &
Pseudoephedrine
Products

COMBAT
METH ACT
2005

Combat
Methamphetamine
Epidemic Act 2005

www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov or www.DEA.gov



THANK YOU...

Scott Masumoto
Special Agent/Staff Coordinator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Diversion Control
Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section