U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

METHAMPHETAMINE: “METH 101”

DEA Chemical Industry Conference
September 17-18, 2008
Atlanta, GA
OUTLINE

- WHAT IS METHAMPHETAMINE?
- WHAT IS A CLANDESTINE LABORATORY?
- DANGERS OF CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES.
- U.S. HISTORY OF CLANDESTINE METHAMPHETAMINE LAB EXPERIENCE.
- METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION METHODS.
- CURRENT SITUATION.
THE THREAT

- Global in nature
- Est. user population of Amphetamine-type substances, incl. methamphetamine: 26+ million
- South East Asia, Oceania, Europe
- All points…Africa, Middle-East, Sub-Continent, etc
- UNITED STATES…consumer and producer
METH-EFFECTS

- Central nervous system stimulant, like cocaine, but stronger.
- Can be injected, smoked, snorted, or taken orally.
- Increases heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, respiration, and alertness.
- Dilates pupils and produces euphoria and a sense of increased energy and tremors.
METH-EFFECTS

- Irritability
- Aggressive behavior
- Anxiety
- Forgetful
- Auditory hallucinations
- Paranoid delusions
- Withdrawal produces depression
METH- EFFECTS

- **Brain and Central Nervous System Effects:**
  - Rush
  - High
  - Pleasure

- **Short Term Effects:**
  - Increased pulse rate & blood pressure
  - Insomnia
  - Decreased appetite
METH- EFFECTS

- Long Term Effects:
  - Agitation
  - Increased body temperature
  - Hallucinations, convulsions

- Pregnancy Effects: (Crank Babies)
  - Premature delivery
  - Skeletal, physical, and developmental abnormalities
  - Learning and growth delays, including coordination problems
METH AND THE BRAIN:

- METH releases neurotransmitters into the brain--DOPAMINE and SEROTIN.
- Vital to brain functions that control MOOD MEMORY, SLEEP, MOVEMENT, DECISION MAKING and APPETITE.
- Brain neurons that release DOPAMINE and SEROTIN become damaged.
PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Weight loss
- Sweating
- Body Odor
- Bad Teeth
- Open Sores
TWO MONTHS OF ABUSE
EIGHT YEARS OF ABUSE
STREET FORMS OF METH

- Methamphetamine Powder
- Rock Methamphetamine
- Ice Methamphetamine
- Yaba tablets
WHAT?
An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that either has been or could be used in the manufacture or synthesis of controlled substances.
METH CLAN LABS
METH SUPER LAB
10+ LBS PER CYCLE
SMALL TOXIC LABS (STL)
Ounce / gram quantities
Heating Mantle and 3-neck Reaction Flask
Electric Skillet and Canning Jar
METH CLAN LABS

WHERE?
- RESIDENTIAL – Single, multi-unit
- COMMERCIAL – Large / small
- RENTAL / LEASED – Motels, hotels
- MOBILE – Autos, trucks, boats
- URBAN / RURAL – Farms, woods, desert, groves, national parks
- BOTTOM-LINE…….ANYWHERE
METH CLAN LABS

WHO?
ANYONE FROM GRADE SCHOOL DROP-OUTS TO PhD’S, ORGANIZATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT, USERS & NON-USERS.
CHEMICALS

- Precursors
- Reagents
- Solvents
- Catalysts
PRECURSOR

- A chemical that is essential to the production of a controlled substance.
- Part of its chemical structure appears in the controlled substance structure.
METH PRECURSORS

- PSEUDOEPHEDRINE/EPHEDRINE – direct-immediate precursor to Methamphetamine

- PHENYLACETIC ACID – precursor to P-2-P (intermediate)
PRODUCT
EPHEDRINE
RAW POWDER, OTC and EPHEDRA
PREP EXTRACTION
Gel caps found in lab in Oregon

Other Forms of OTC
Pseudoephedrine

Blister packs and syrups
RED PHOSPHORUS
IODINE

Iodine crystals

Tincture of Iodine
SOLVENTS

HOUSEHOLD SOURCES

FREON

ALCOHOL
Property Effects
METHAMPHETAMINE IMPACT

Innocent victims

Environmental damage

Hotel room laboratory
Apartment fire
Dumpsite
Forest pond waste site
DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN
ABUSE AND NEGLECT
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

- CONTAMINATION OF AIR, WATER, SOIL, STRUCTURES AND SURROUNDING AREAS.
- TOXIC EFFECTS ON PEOPLE, ANIMALS, PLANTS
- LIFETIME DISABILITIES, CHRONIC ILLNESS...DEATH
- COSTS!!!
STATE LEGISLATION AND COMBAT METH EPIDEMIC ACT OF 2005

- CMEA national
  - Domestic sales / purchases
  - International component

- At least 42 States have OTC legislation
  - Most stringent Schedule III
  - Prescription
  - Pharmacy only
  - Behind the Counter
STATE PRECURSOR LEGISLATION

Oklahoma model
- Impose Schedule V-type controls on precursor chemicals
  - Behind the Counter

Oregon model
- Impose Schedule III-type controls requiring prescription
March 2006, legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law to address the methamphetamine issue at the federal level.

- RETAIL COMPONENT: Placed sales and purchase limits on OTC products containing phenylpropanolamine, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

- INTERNATIONAL COMPONENT: Requires the Department of State to identify the five largest exporting and importing countries of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine with the goal of certifying the countries’ efforts to insure that diversion is kept to a minimum.
IMPORT / EXPORT CONTROLS
(QUOTAS)
METH CLAN LABS IN MEXICO

San Diego
Tucson
El Paso
Laredo
McAllen
Nuevo Leon
Sinaloa
Chihuahua
Coahuila
Baja California
Sonora
Jalisco
Michoacan
Nayarit
San Diego
Tucson
El Paso
Laredo
McAllen
Nuevo Leon
Sinaloa
Chihuahua
Coahuila
Baja California
Sonora
Jalisco
Michoacan
Nayarit
MORE ISSUES

- TRAIN - LAW ENFORCEMENT
- TRAIN - FORENSIC PERSONNEL
- EDUCATE - LEGISLATORS
- EDUCATE – EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
- EDUCATE – THE PUBLIC !
TRAINING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Training is critical to keep law enforcement safe
- SCBA worn to protect from dangerous chemical fumes
- Chem suit worn to protect from potential exposure to dangerous chemicals
Common items necessary for manufacturing include:

- Acetone
- Alcohol
  - Gasoline Additives or Rubbing
- Toluene
  - Brake Cleaner
- Engine Starter
  - Ether
- Drain Cleaner
  - Sulfuric Acid
- Coffee Filters
- Iodine
  - Veterinarian Products
- Salt
  - Table/Rock
- Batteries
  - Lithium
- Propane Tank
  - Anhydrous Ammonia
- Lye
  - Sodium Hydroxide
- Matches
- Red Phosphorus
- Dishes
  - Pyrex / Visions
- Muriatic Acid
RESOURCES ISSUE

- Problem consumes law enforcement, health department, medical services, social services and environmental department resources.
- User population
  - Reduction in productivity
  - Criminal activity
National Clan Lab Registry

- Found on DEA’s website: www.DEA.gov
- Site contains addresses reported by a variety of law enforcement agencies where chemicals or other items related to methamphetamine production were found or dumped.
Thank you

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