Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act

Diversion Investigator
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Discuss methamphetamine background and the scope of the problem as related to manufacture and abuse

Identify and discuss the pharmacology of methamphetamine

Discuss the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act

Discuss smurfing and diversion of Small Capacity Production Labs

Discuss methamphetamine manufacture and the dangers associated with methamphetamine production
True or False....

The Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act was passed to limit the amount of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and/or Phenylpropanolamine available to clandestine laboratory operators who manufacture controlled substances such as methamphetamine and amphetamine.

True
Questions to Discuss

Which of the following drugs are not covered under the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act as Scheduled Listed Chemical Products?

A) Ephedrine  
B) Pseudoephedrine  
C) Phenylephrine  
D) Phenylpropanolamine

C) Phenylephrine
The easiest method of methamphetamine manufacture is through the "one-pot" method using pseudoephedrine or ephedrine. True
Foreign vs. Domestic Methamphetamine
The U.S. methamphetamine threat is a two prong problem:

- Methamphetamine manufactured by Mexican Trafficking Organizations (large “Super Labs” in Mexico & the U.S.)
- Small Capacity Production Labs (SCPLs) (based in the U.S.)
Seizures of Methamphetamine along the SWB EPIC SOUTHWEST BORDER METH STATS (CA, AZ, NM, TX)

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Domestic Meth

Today’s Home-Grown Methamphetamine

- 3 to 4 times easier to make and 3 to 4 times more potent than the old drug
- Common chemicals purchased over the counter
- 1 to 4 hours to cook a batch (old method took 20+ hours)
- Accounts for 98% of all reported clandestine labs.

EPIC 2004
Why do we have the CMEA?
Domestic Chemical Trafficking
What is the purpose of the CMEA?

To limit the domestic manufacture of methamphetamine by placing restrictions on the sale of Pseudoephedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine at retail outlets.
What information must be in the logbook?

You must keep a logbook which contains a written or electronic list of sales of drug products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine.

- **You** must write or enter in the logbook the name of the drug product and the quantity sold.

- **Your customer** must write or enter in the logbook their name and address, and the date and time of the sale.

- **Your customer** must also sign the logbook (signature).
Identification and Verification

Your customer must show you a photo identification issued by a State or the federal government.

Alternate Forms of Identification are allowed by 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(A) and 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B) and include but are not limited to:

- United States passport (unexpired or expired).
- Alien Registration Receipt Card or Permanent Resident Card, Form I–551.
- An unexpired foreign passport that contains a temporary I–551 stamp.
- An unexpired Employment Authorization Document issued by the Immigration And Naturalization Service which contains a photograph, Form I–766; Form I–688, Form I–688A, or Form I–688B.
You cannot sell Scheduled Listed Chemical Products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine to customers unless they present appropriate identification.

You must verify that your customer’s name on the photo identification matches the name your customer wrote in the logbook.

You must verify that the date and time of the sale that your customer wrote in the logbook are correct.
If your customer buys a single package containing not more than 60 milligrams of pseudoephedrine* (one 60 mg tablet or two 30 mg tablets)

- Your customer does not have to sign the logbook.
- Your customer does not have to show identification.

* Note: does not apply to ephedrine or phenylpropanolamine
Who can see the logbook information?

- You must keep the logbook secure.
- You may share information in the logbook:
  - To comply with the law; and
  - For a product recall.
- Logbook information may only be shown to local, state and federal law enforcement.
- Information in the logbook may be copied, inspected only, or turned over entirely.
- Ask your supervisor for further information about sharing information.
How do I store these drug products?

- You must store drug products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine either behind the counter or in a locked cabinet.

- You must give the drug product directly to the customer who signed the logbook.
How much of these drug products can I sell to each customer per day?

You cannot sell more than 3.6 grams per day to each customer of Scheduled Listed Chemical Products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine.
How much of these drug products can my customer buy in a 30-day period?

Your customer cannot buy more than 9 grams in a 30-day period of Scheduled Listed Chemical Products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine.

Does not apply to products dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription
Why Pseudoephedrine or Ephedrine to Make Methamphetamine?
What’s the big deal with Pseudoephedrine? The answer is basically **One Oxygen Molecule**. The molecular similarity of pseudo to meth is so close that using today’s common methamphetamine manufacturing methods (“Shake & Bake” Red-Phosphorus or Anhydrous / Nazi method) simply reduce the molecular structure of pseudoephedrine/ ephedrine by one Oxygen molecule to create Methamphetamine.
Meth’s Effects
Psychological Effects

- Delusions
- Extreme paranoia
- Hallucinations
- Increased alertness
- Sense of well-being
- Prolonged depression
- Excessive excitation and talking
- Panic

- Anxiousness and nervousness
- Moodiness and irritability
When compared to Alcohol and Cocaine:

- A group of 100 people given a drink of alcohol every day for 3 weeks, **8 of the 100** will become addicted.

- A group of 100 people given meth or cocaine orally or as snuff every day for 3 weeks, **14 of the 100** will become addicted.

- A group of 100 people given meth by smoking or injection just 2 times, **90 of the 100** will become addicted.

- If a recovering meth addict, who has been clean for 11 months, has a hit of meth in placed in front of them, the desire to use it will cause the addict to use it, **100%** of the time.
An individual suffering from "crank bugs", a condition sometimes seen in cases of heavy methamphetamine abuse. A similar condition, called "coke bugs" or "snow bugs", is also seen in heavy cocaine users. This is a drug induced hallucination or sensation that bugs are crawling on or under the skin. The abuser picks at the skin in an attempt to remove the bugs. The individual pictured had similar marks on his legs, face, chest and back.
Lab Locations
POSSIBLE LAB LOCATIONS

Houses

Barns

Storage Units

"Vacant" Buildings
POSSIBLE LAB LOCATIONS

Campers
Cars
Trailers
Motels
I scored "THE QUARTERBACK"
Mobile Meth Lab found inside of truck during a traffic stop.
Mobile Lab Counter Measure

http://atom.smasher.org/construction/
Lab Dangers
Meth Labs are Endangering our Communities Florida & Alabama

“Meth lab explodes inside South Jacksonville apartment”

“Janitor finds meth lab in Walmart bathroom”

August 17, 2011 The Florida Times Union

WHNT April 11, 2012 Boaz, Alabama
Meth Labs are Endangering our Communities
Washington, D.C & Nation

“Meth Lab Explosion Rocks Luxury Apartment in Dupont Apartment”

February 2, 2012
Inthecapital.com

“AP Exclusive: National Meth Labs Busts up in 2011”

February 22, 2012
Associated Press
Meth Labs are Being Found At & Near Our Schools
Indiana & Michigan

“Two meth labs found at Elementary School”

“Meth Lab Next to Elementary School”

ABC57news April 4, 2012
Plymouth, Indiana

9 & 10 News April 2, 2012
Luther, Michigan
Meth Labs are Being Found At & Near Our Schools
Georgia

“Police bust meth lab next to elementary school”

“Meth lab found in truck at South Effingham Middle School”

“Lawrence Lanier, 34, had two small children in his truck within arm’s reach of a meth lab when he was arrested at South Effingham Middle School, Effingham County Sheriff’s Office spokesman David Ehsanipoor said.”

WTOC.com March 29, 2012
Kingsland, Georgia

Savannahnow.com April 10, 2012
Meth Labs are Harming Our Environment
Tennessee & Kentucky

“Man Dumped Meth Waste Into Trout Stream.”

“Dumping meth labs – Materials pose threat to environment, including water supply, fish and wildlife”

“My concern is this is a trout stream, there are kids that fish this area,” said Sheriff Hensley

April 25, 2012 WCYB.com

“The bad news is for the public Loving said, because the chemicals left behind are now in the river where people fish and swim.”

BG DailyNews.com August 19, 2011
Meth Labs are Dangerous
“Two men plead guilty in meth lab-lab fire that heavily damaged Kalamazoo apartment building”
Today’s Lab
One Pot/Shake and Bake
One Pot Meth Production

How many of these are in your store?
One Pot Meth Production

Combine

- PSE tablets – whole or ground up
- Solvent – ether, camp fuel
- Lithium (Batteries)
- Sodium Hydroxide
- Ammonium Nitrate (cold packs)
- Water

Burp, Wait, Repeat

- Filter off liquid
- Use HCl generator to crash out Meth
One-Pot labs newest trend extremely Dangerous

Clan lab stats increase in many states

Reactive to water/moisture

Meth labs catching fire at a higher rate

50% Failure (if it hasn’t – it will catch fire)
Bottle Debris
Case Study

Fragment of bottle lodged in ceiling
AVAILABILITY OF MANUFACTURING MATERIALS!!!!!!!!!
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- with card Hot or Cold Therapy

- or Ibuprofen or Ace ibuprofen
- or Hot & Cold Pack Walgreens: Ibuprofen, Cold Pack, Compresses, Patches, Hot & Cold Wrap or Therapeutic Pad, Excludes $3, $7 and $9 multipacks.
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- 2 pk. Standard
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- 10 pk. Disposables

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HandSaver Gloves
- 1 pair HandSaver
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with card
Playtex Gloves

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Ology™ Bath Tissue, 12 rolls.
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- 11.99 CopperTop: 4 pk, 9 volt or 8 pk, C or D

**Gift Cards**
- Selection may vary by store. Can have no value until activated at register. See gift card for terms and conditions. Some cards not available in CA.

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- Monthly unlimited with SHRINKAGE
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- 999
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- EasyStore™ USB Flash Drive
- Tracfone Cellphone
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- Kodak HD Power Flash Camera
- One-Time-Use, 800 speed, 27 exp.

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Time To Gather
A smurf is someone who buys small quantities of ingredients (e.g., PSE, ice packs, lithium, matches, iodine), from several different locations, in order to manufacture, or more likely, assist in the manufacture of methamphetamine.
Tracking

- Logbooks electronically connected to database
- Database determines if individual can make purchase
- Permanent electronic record of purchase
- Stop sale ability
- Helps LE identify smurfers
- Leads to identification of lab operators and labs
- More arrests and seizures...maybe
- Great tool for LE ..... If all retail outlets are involved and the database is not corrupted by false IDs
- In Place - KY, MO*, AR*, CA*, ++++++++++++
“Electronic systems that track sales of the cold medicine used to make methamphetamine have failed to curb the drug trade and instead created a vast, highly lucrative market for profiteers to buy over-the-counter pills and sell them to meth producers at a huge markup.”

“The pharmaceutical industry has spent several million dollars to fund the tracking systems. For drug makers, that is far cheaper than one alternative -- making the medication available only by prescription. If more states do the same, it could be devastating for makers of cold and sinus pills. The pseudoephedrine market is estimated at more than $550 million annually.”
Schedule III Prescription Only

- PSE and EPH can only be obtained pursuant to prescription from a physician or practitioner.
- Cannot freely purchase from retail outlets - ends unrestricted availability and smurfing.
- If a CS, PDMP may be utilized for tracking purposes (if authorized by state law or regulation).
- In place in Oregon – 96% lab seizure reduction.
- In place in Mississippi – 67% reduction.
- Decrease in labs leads to a decrease in resources expended – LE and local/city/state funds (OT, lab cleanups, environmental issues, children/defcs/citizens/cops health care, foster care etc).
- LE can restructure resources to handle other LE issues instead of providing cleanup service and chasing smurfers.
- Prevents labs – is not a reactive tool, but a preventative measure.
Final Thoughts
35% of children removed from lab scenes test positive for meth
OKLAHOMA CITY - A judge was told Friday that Del City fire investigators found evidence that methamphetamine was made inside the burned motorhome where three young children died Jan. 4.” July 23, 2011 newsOK.com
Meth Labs are Harming Our Children
Florida

“Meth Lab Baby; A child’s fight for life.”

November 13, 2009
FoxTV.com  Florida
“Police believe a Muncie couple put the lives of hundreds of children – including three of their own – in danger by maintaining a meth lab in their southeast Muncie home near a school and a day care center.”

Muncie Star Press December 10, 2011

“Police seek person who made meth at SW IND school”

Wish TV 8 December 13, 2011

“4 children escape meth lab fire”

FoxTV.com Florida
October 27, 2011
Meth Labs are Endangering our Children
Indiana & Georgia

“Report: Chattooga Co. woman hides meth lab under children's play house”

July 22, 2011 WSBT-TV

The Summerville News April 16, 2012
Meth Labs are Endangering our Children & Families
West Virginia & Michigan

“The number of meth labs is on the rise in West Virginia, and more than half are happening in homes with children.”

WSZ3 November 22, 2011

“Meth lab explosion forces five families out of their apartments”

Hillsdale.net April 6, 2012
Cambria, Michigan
Meth Labs are Endangering our Children & Families Ohio

“Death of Akron toddler called suspicious; police say meth lab found in home.”

“Ohio toddler died from ingesting meth”

Akron Beacon Journal Online
February 27, 2012 & March 27, 2012
GWINNETT COUNTY, Ga. -- Gwinnett County police charged a man with murder after firefighters said they found chemicals related to methamphetamine production in a house fire that killed three children.
“Burned toddler found in Chattanooga meth lab”

“A Chattanooga woman has been arrested after police say her 2-year-old was severely burned at the family's residence -- where they also found a collection of meth labs.”
Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said Thursday his deputies raided a suspected meth operation near the Hoke/Cumberland County line where a 6-month-old child was burned.  

February 4, 2011 WTVD Raleigh, N.C.

“In Morgantown, a meth lab was discovered at a day-care center.”

www.charlotteobserver.com April 3, 2011
Statewide, there were 547 substantiated reports involving 987 children exposed to meth labs from January 2006 to December 2010, according to the Missouri Department of Social Services. The state took custody of 507 of these children. DSS estimates the state has spent about $3.4 million providing custodial care to children removed from meth homes from August 2005 to December 2010.