

Methamphetamine Impact: Colorado Statistics

The majority of U.S. counties report Meth is their most serious drug problem—more than cocaine and marijuana combined.ⁱ The RAND Corporation's Drug Policy Research Center estimates that the total annual cost of Meth abuse in 2005 to the U.S. is approximately \$23.4 billion.ⁱⁱ The increase in Meth use in states across the U.S., including Colorado, is contributing to this enormous national burden. Meth use in Colorado has led to increased crime, lost productivity, larger jail and prison populations, and is directly correlated to domestic violence and child abuse, adversely impacting families and children.

Meth Use

- Meth use in Colorado is considerably higher than the national average and, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, methamphetamine is a primary drug threat to Coloradoⁱⁱⁱ
- Colorado ranks #8 in the country for total Meth use in the past year by people aged 12 and older^{iv}
- Nearly 75% of all Colorado Meth users in 2007 reported first using Meth before age 25, including 41% who started at 17 or younger^v
- The annual cost to the state in direct, indirect, and intangibles is estimated at \$1.4 billion.^{vi}

Meth-related Crime

- Colorado ranks #6 in the U.S. for per capita identity theft^{vii}
- Law enforcement sources indicate that methamphetamine addictions are responsible for almost two-thirds of identity theft crimes in Colorado^{viii}
- Colorado reported one of the highest percentage increases in Meth-related crime in the country, with an increase of 95% between 2000-2005^{ix}
- Nearly one-third of all drug related offenses in Colorado in 2007 were Meth-related, 56% higher than the national average^x
- More than 70% of Colorado counties report increased out-of-home placements for children due to Meth use^{xi}

Meth Treatment

- In 2007, 5,500 individuals entered treatment for methamphetamine abuse, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services^{xii}
- Colorado's percentage share of Meth treatment in the U.S is 2.3 times higher than the relative share of the U.S. population^{xiii}

ⁱ National Association of Counties. The Methamphetamine Epidemic: The Changing Demographic of Methamphetamine. August 2007.

ⁱⁱ RAND, The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use In the United States, 2005

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Justice. "DEA Fact Sheet: Colorado" 2008

^{iv} SAMHSA. Office of Applied Studies, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2003-2006. 2007.

^v Colorado Division of Behavioral Health, 2007 Age of first use by Meth users, 2008.

^{vi} Estimate based on RAND, The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use in the United States, 2005 Cost Model

^{vii} Federal Trade Commission, Identity Theft Victim Complain Data, Identity Theft Clearinghouse, 2007

^{viii} Attorney General Suthers Announces State's Largest Effort To Combat Methamphetamine Abuse July 25, 2006

^{ix} National Association of Counties, Two Surveys of U.S. Counties: The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities, The Impact of Meth on Children, 2005

^x ONDCP, Profile of Drug Indicators, State of Colorado, 2008

^{xi} National Association of Counties, Two Surveys of U.S. Counties: The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities, The Impact of Meth on Children, 2005

^{xii} SAMHSA, Treatment Episode Data Set, 2007

^{xiii} SAMHSA, Treatment Episode Data Set, 2007 and U.S. Census