

MONTANA METH PROJECT

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Methamphetamine Impact: Montana Statistics

According to the Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center, Meth is the principal drug threat in Montana. High-purity, low-cost Meth is readily available and abused throughout the state. The financial and social consequences of Meth abuse are devastating.

Methamphetamine Problem in Montana

- Montana ranks 9 out of 50 states in methamphetamine/amphetamine admissions per 100,000 population.ⁱ
- Treatment admissions for methamphetamine/amphetamine use in Montana increased 520% between 1992 and 2002.
- Methamphetamine/amphetamine admissions in Montana were at 230% of the national average in 2002.
- The majority of Montanans (94%) agree that drug abuse, particularly of methamphetamines, is the leading problem in the state.ⁱⁱ

Teen Use in Montana

- 33% of Montana teens report that Meth is easy to get—second only to Marijuana. 57% of young adults report Meth is easy to get.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 1 out of 10 Montana teens report having close friends who use methamphetamine.
- 13% of teens and 33% of young adults have been offered methamphetamine in the last year.

Statewide Increase in Addiction^{iv}

- Patients admitted to state-approved chemical dependency treatment centers listing methamphetamine as their primary drug has increased 54% since 2000.
- Of the 1,246 patients who named methamphetamine as their primary drug in 2005:
 - 65% were 18-34 years of age
 - 43% named injection as the primary method of use
 - 711 were men, 535 were women

Impact on Crime

- Meth-related crime in Montana is 429% higher than Meth-related crime nationwide. In Montana, Meth-related crime accounts for 73.2% of all drug-related crime; nationally, it accounts for 17.1%.^v
- Violent crimes increased by 37% in Montana between 1999 and 2000 with aggravated assaults showing the largest increase. Law enforcement officers attribute the increase to violence committed under the influence of methamphetamine.^{vi}



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- 97.3% of state and local law enforcement agencies in Montana report that Meth is the illicit drug that contributes most to violent crime in their areas.^{vii}
- 50% of Montana's adult inmates are incarcerated due to Meth-related crime. Cost to the state: between \$18,000 and \$29,000 a year per inmate. The Department of Corrections spends approximately \$85 million a year for adult secure custody.^{viii}
- 20% of adults in treatment in Montana report Meth as their primary drug of choice. Cost to the state: over \$10 million annually.^{ix}

Impact on Montana's Women

- From 2002 to 2004, women treated for addiction to methamphetamine increased 50.4%.^x

Impact on State Funds

- Clandestine methamphetamine labs produce toxic waste and can cause fires or explosions. Cleanup costs in Montana average \$8,500 per lab for decontamination and sanitation. In 2002, 122 Meth labs were seized, costing the state more than \$1,000,000.^{xi}
- 50% of adult inmates in Montana are there due to Meth-related crime. Cost to the state: \$43,000,000 per year.^{xii}
- 20% of adults in treatment in Montana are there for Meth addiction. Cost to the state: \$10,000,000 per year.^{xiii}

Impact on Health Care^{xiv}

- There are more emergency room visits involving Meth than any other drug.
- 56% of hospitals have had to raise costs due to the growing number of methamphetamine related emergency room patients, of which 83% are uninsured.

Impact on Montana's Children

- 52% of children in out-of-home foster care are there due to Meth-related abuse. Cost to the state: over \$12 million annually.^{xv}
- Cascade County currently estimates that between 80% and 90% of their children in foster care are there due to Meth-related abuse or neglect.^{xvi}

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ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS) Report*, 2005

ⁱⁱ PPL Montana, *A Quality of Life Study*, 2005

ⁱⁱⁱ Montana Meth Project, *Montana Meth Use and Attitudes Survey*, 2007

^{iv} Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, 2006

^v US Sentencing Commission, 2003

^{vi} Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Control Task Force, Executive Summary, 2002

^{vii} U.S. Dept. of Justice, *National Drug Threat Survey*, 2004

^{viii} Montana Attorney General's Office, *Methamphetamine in Montana*, 2007

^{ix} Montana Attorney General's Office, *Methamphetamine in Montana*, 2007

^x Montana Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, 2005



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- ^{xi} Montana Department of Criminal Investigation, 2003
- ^{xii} Montana Attorney General's Office, *Methamphetamine in Montana*, 2007
- ^{xiii} Montana Attorney General's Office, *Methamphetamine in Montana*, 2007
- ^{xiv} National Association of Counties, *The Effect of Meth Abuse on Hospital Emergency Rooms*, 2005
- ^{xv} Montana Attorney General's Office, *Methamphetamine in Montana*, 2007
- ^{xvi} Cascade Co. Family Service advisory council minutes, February 10, 2006.



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