Middleton leaders want to curb Meth use before it becomes a crisis

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MIDDLETON – If you think your community is immune from Meth think again. On Monday night a group of parents and community members in Middleton got a wakeup call when it comes to the drug in their community.

Canyon County Sheriff's deputies say Meth is the number-one drug of choice in their community. The principal of Middleton Middle School says this year they had their first incident with a student brining what they believe to the Meth to school.

It's knowing this that caused law enforcement and city prosecutors to organize a town hall meeting about Meth.

The message seems simple, "Not Even Once." That's how the Idaho Meth Project is trying to connect Idahoans. But when it comes to understanding drug use in Middleton, city leaders say you can't rely solely on an ad campaign.

"The more educated we become the more we can eradicate what is often referred to as an epidemic," said Middleton City Prosecutor Bryan Taylor.

Educating parents and community members was the focus of Monday night's town hall meeting. Clarissa Cotton, a mother of two, admits she doesn't know if Meth use is a problem where she lives, but she knows no one is immune.

"I just wanted to make sure to keep myself, my kids, and my community free from that hazard," she said.

Cotton along with a couple dozen other parents and community members listened as the Gem County prosecutor told them between 60 to 75 percent of all felony related crimes in Canyon County are Meth

related.

"Theft related burglaries, domestic violence, you're seeing a lot of drug possession, and under the influence of drugs and DUI's, no longer is it just alcohol," said Taylor.

"I think it's crazy. I have two young nieces and nephews and I hear kids are bringing flavored color Meth to school, I think it's terrible," said Middleton mom Nancy Evans.

As part of Monday's meeting, each parent got to take a free drug testing kit home. Organizers say it helps keep parents proactive when it comes to talking to their kids about using drugs. It's advice Cotton plans to use so her kids don't turn out like the ones in the Meth ads.