



## Youths see little risk in trying meth

September 18, 2007

By: Pamela Brogan, Gannett News Service

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-09-18-meth-survey\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-09-18-meth-survey_N.htm)

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070919/NEWS01/709190365>

WASHINGTON — Despite methamphetamine's addictive and sometimes deadly effects, one in three youths sees little or no risk in trying the illegal drug, a new survey finds.

Nearly one in four youths believes meth "makes you feel euphoric or happy" or helps you lose weight, and the same number said it would be "very" or "somewhat easy" to obtain meth, according to a first-ever national use and attitudes survey about the drug released Tuesday.

And yet, in a finding that might be of comfort to parents, three out of four youths said they are strongly opposed to using meth.

The survey of 2,602 students age 12-17 was done by The Meth Project, a non-profit Palo Alto, Calif.-based project that aims to reduce first time meth users through advertising campaigns.

About one in six youths has either a friend or a family member who has used or been treated for meth addiction, the survey found.

"For kids, meth is death," said Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She said meth is often a factor in preventable, deadly accidents such as automobile collisions involving kids.

The project, which has run an intensive anti-meth campaign in Montana since 2005, found that meth use among youths in that state has dropped 50%.

"Advertising works," Gerberding told a news conference on Capitol Hill. Gerberding said the same kinds of advertising that sells toothpaste "helps motivate kids not to use this drug."

The project is running similar campaigns in Arizona, Illinois and Idaho.

Other findings in the survey:

- One in 10 youths says someone had offered or tried to get them to use meth.
- Three out of four youths are strongly opposed to using meth.
- Fifty-five percent of say they have never discussed meth with their parents.

GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media conducted the survey March 16 through June 6 of 2,602 students aged 12-17 at 43 randomly selected high schools across the U.S. The margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points.