

IDAHO METH PROJECT

Methamphetamine Impact: Idaho Statistics

The majority of U.S. counties report Meth is their most serious drug problem—more than cocaine and marijuana combined.ⁱ RAND Corporation's Drug Policy Research Center estimates that the annual total 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 Idaho, is contributing to this enormous national burden. Meth use in Idaho 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-related Crime

- A 2005 survey ranked Idaho among the states reporting the highest increase in arrests due to methamphetamine, up 90% from the prior yearⁱⁱⁱ
- Idaho spends between \$60 to \$102 million annually to incarcerate and treat offenders who admit to having a Meth problem—this represents between 32% - 55% of the Idaho Department of Correction's total budget^{iv}
 - 52% of Idaho inmates directly attribute Meth use to their incarceration^v
 - 89% of female offenders in county jail in Idaho indicate they have a problem with Meth—73% of these women indicate that Meth is their drug of choice^{vi}
- During 2007, more than 70% of Federal drug offenses in Idaho involved methamphetamine^{vii}

Meth Use and Treatment

- Idaho ranks #4 in the country for past year Meth use by 12 – 17 year olds and 18 – 25 year olds^{viii}
- Idaho ranks #7 for lifetime Meth use by high school students^{ix}
- Since July 2007, Idaho spent nearly \$500,000 per month on methamphetamine-related treatment
 - This represents over 40% of the state's total treatment dollars for all other drugs and alcohol^x
- Idaho's percentage share of Meth treatment in the U.S is 2.6 times higher than their relative share of the U.S. population^{xi}

Impact on Families

- 80% of child placements by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are directly related to drug abuse, with methamphetamine being the most prevalent^{xii}

The Idaho Meth Project Impact

Findings from the 2008 *Idaho Meth Use & Attitudes Survey* clearly demonstrate that compared to the 2007 Benchmark survey, Idaho teens are more aware of the dangers of taking Meth. The findings from the survey underscore the importance and need for continued Meth prevention and public awareness efforts.

Advertising Effectiveness

- The majority of teens report the Idaho Meth Project's ads clearly communicate the risks of Meth and the ads show them that Meth:
 - Is dangerous to try just once (87%)
 - Will make you act in a way you would not want to (91%)
 - Is more dangerous than they had originally thought (85%)
 - Affects many people's lives besides the user's (86%)
- Teens say that the ads make them less likely to try or use Meth (80%), help them understand that you can't try Meth even once (78%), and make them more aware of the risks of using Meth (76%)

Perceived Risks of Meth Use

- Most Idaho teens (82%) believe there is a risk in taking Meth just once or twice, and solid majorities believe there is a "great" risk in doing so (63%)
- Overall, teens view Meth as the most dangerous substance (89%), riskier than heroin, cocaine, and marijuana
- Idaho teens are now much more aware of the specific dangers of Meth use. Significant increases (as much as 13 points) in perceptions of risk in trying Meth, just once, were reported in every risk area measured
- Now at least eight in 10 believe there is a "great" or "moderate" risk of the following after trying the drug just once or twice: being a negative influence on a younger sibling, turning into someone they don't want to be, getting hooked, making their problems worse, losing control of themselves, having sex with someone they don't want to, suffering brain damage, becoming violent, becoming paranoid, stealing, and getting insomnia

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

^{iv} Idaho Department of Corrections, 2008

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Office of National Drug Control Policy, State of Idaho, Profile of Drug Indicators, June 2008

^{viii} SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007

^{ix} Center for Disease Control, Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 2008

^x Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2008

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

^{xii} Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2005