

## Fighting the Spread of Methamphetamine

By Stan Orchowsky, Mary Poulin,  
and Veronica Puryear

### What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (meth) is an addictive stimulant that is closely related to amphetamine, but has longer lasting and more toxic effects on the central nervous system. One unique and dangerous aspect of methamphetamine is that it is easily made in clandestine labs with relatively inexpensive materials that can be found in most drug stores. This "cooking" of methamphetamine often occurs in private homes, motel rooms, or storage facilities, and the chemicals involved can cause fires, explosions, and burns.

These days methamphetamine is usually smoked, although it may be ingested orally, by snorting, or by needle injection. Abusers may become addicted quickly, needing higher and more frequent doses. In addition to producing feelings of euphoria, methamphetamine increases energy and wakefulness and suppresses appetite, all of which contribute to the drug's initial attractiveness to users. In chronic meth abusers, symptoms can include violent behavior, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia, and can also include psychotic features such as paranoia, mood disturbances, and hallucinations. Medical complications of chronic meth abuse can include a variety of cardiovascular problems and psychotic-like symptoms, and increased risk of HIV and hepatitis B and C transmission are likely consequences for abusers who inject the drug.

### Incidence and Prevalence of Methamphetamine Use

A variety of sources indicate that methamphetamine use has increased

dramatically since 1990. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) monitors drug-related admissions to hospital emergency departments around the country through its Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) system. According to DAWN estimates, 108,905 visits to hospital emergency departments in 2005 involved methamphetamine, a 48% increase over the previous year. SAMHSA also maintains the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), which tracks admissions to publicly funded facilities for substance abuse treatment. From 1995 to 2005, the

number of admissions for meth increased from 47,695 to 152,368. In 2005, about 1 in every 11 admissions for substance abuse treatment was for meth and other stimulants, compared with only 1 in 25 in 1995.

A somewhat more positive picture emerges from recent data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), a nationally representative sample of residents ages 12 and over. These data show decreases from 2002 to 2005 in lifetime (5.3% to 4.3%) and past year (0.7% to 0.5%)

(See **FIGHTING METH**, p. 6)

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# New SAC Directors Appointed in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Washington

**Jean Gearing**, Ph.D., MPH, is the Program Director for Planning, Research, and Evaluation at the Georgia Criminal Justice Council and Director of the **Georgia SAC**. Dr. Gearing comes to CJCC from the Division of Public Health, where she was Director of the Office of Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning for the Chronic Disease Prevention Branch. Dr. Gearing is an anthropologist and health educator with a background in injury prevention, violence against women and children, program evaluation, and strategic and community planning. In addition to her position with the state, Dr. Gearing worked as the Injury Prevention Program Coordinator in DeKalb County. Her program received grants for two projects from the Office on Violence Against Women: one, to train clinical staff at the county health departments on screening and referral for victims of domestic violence, and two, to train county EMS staff on the appropriate response to immigrant and refugee women and children who are victims of family violence.

**Illinois'** new SAC Director **Mark Myent** worked at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), where the SAC is housed, for over 20 years as a research project manager. In

that role, he oversaw a statewide strategic plan for integrated justice in Illinois; conducted research on major state justice information systems and networks; completed survey research on justice information management and interagency sharing practices, managed the criminal justice statistical clearinghouse, and directed a statewide arrest data collection initiative. He has also managed a wide variety of research and evaluation projects in areas such as victim services, criminal history system improvement, jail crowding, and disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system. Mr. Myrent subsequently served as Research Director for the Cook County Juvenile Court, where he designed data management and reporting strategies for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, evaluated changes in workload distribution for juvenile probation officers, and established an evaluation of the use of MAYSIS-2 for substance abuse and mental health screening of youths referred to court. He recently returned to the Illinois SAC to serve as Research Director. Mr. Myrent is also a part-time instructor in Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. He received an M.A. degree in criminal justice from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and is cur-

rently a doctoral candidate in criminal justice at UIC.

**Maryland's** SAC moved from the University of Maryland to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). The new Director is **Leigh Middleditch**, Chief of Planning, Research and Legislative Support for GOCCP.


**Rosemary Faretra**, Director of Administration for the New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General, is the Director of the **New Hampshire SAC**.

**Thea Mounts** was appointed director of the **Washington SAC**, where she has been working for the last several years as a Senior Forecasting Analyst. Her work includes development of online query applications to improve access to criminal justice data, research on differential prison and jail usage rates, and development of a law enforcement training slot forecast. She has a master's degree in sociology/demography from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Colgate University. Former SAC Director Harold Nelson will be pursuing work on health care issues.

## Other Changes

At the end of the month, **Pennsylvania SAC Director Doug Hoffman** will retire after 25 years with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and many years of service to JRSA. **Deb Almoney** will serve as the SAC Contact until a new director is appointed.

## Correction

A report in the last issue of the *JRSA Forum* about **Puerto Rico's** new SAC Director was erroneous. The SAC does not currently have a director, and **Roberto Martinez**, Executive Director of the SAC's parent agency, Sistemas de Información de Justicia Criminal, will act as director until he fills the position. 

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# BJS Provides Update on Projects and Priorities

*This article was written by BJS Director Jeffrey Sedgwick and Gerard Ramker, Chief, BJS Criminal Justice Data Improvement Programs.*

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Director Jeffrey L. Sedgwick and staff met with the JRSA Executive Committee in May at the JRSA offices in Washington, DC. The Executive Committee and JRSA staff updated BJS staff on recent JRSA and Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) activities and priorities. Dr. Sedgwick summarized current BJS activities for the committee, and also highlighted BJS's "Top 20" list of identified data needs and information gaps.

These are initiatives proposed by BJS staff in connection with the preparation of budget information. The list included the following:

- 1) Statistics on private security services and the nation's safety.
- 2) Elderly victims of crime: prosecution of elder abuse, neglect, and mistreatment.
- 3) Data collection and reporting of crimes of trafficking in persons.
- 4) Prisoner reentry and ex-offender employment: developing a statistical system to monitor outcomes.
- 5) Accelerate standardization of the nation's rap sheets.
- 6) "Frequent fliers" in local jails.
- 7) National recidivism research infrastructure.
- 8) National data on the use of deadly force by police.
- 9) Citizen complaints about police behavior.
- 10) Sentencing of felony identity theft offenders.
- 11) Survey of law enforcement cold case units.
- 12) Courthouse security threats data collection initiative.
- 13) Guns, gangs, and drugs reported in NIBRS.
- 14) Exploitation of children and Internet predation.
- 15) Juvenile felony defendants in criminal courts.
- 16) National computer security survey of U.S. businesses.
- 17) Law enforcement participation in information-sharing databases.
- 18) Police use of excessive force.
- 19) Electronic crime and identity theft.
- 20) Post 9/11 law enforcement.

"The initiatives proposed to fill information gaps and needs reflect what BJS staff view as emerging policy imperatives," Dr. Sedgwick related. "These are the projects my staff feels would position BJS to respond to current or upcoming priority issues." Director Sedgwick indicated that there is significant interest in recidivism research and in improving the technological infrastructure at BJS to carry out such studies. "We believe that by taking advantage of available information-sharing technology, BJS can achieve significant efficiency in obtaining and analyzing criminal history information."

BJS also provided an update on its Criminal Justice Data Improvement Program Unit, which administers the National Criminal History Improve-

ment Program (NCHIP), the Tribal Criminal History Record Improvement Program (TCHRIP), and the State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program. The unit is overseen by Dr. Gerard Ramker and is staffed by Devon Adams, Stephanie Burroughs, and Vicky Tsapas.

Since 1995, BJS has awarded over \$500 million to the states and territories for a host of improvements to the nation's criminal history records under the NCHIP Program. NCHIP has helped the states automate their criminal records, implement automated fingerprint identification systems including extensive use of new technology to capture fingerprints, integrate criminal justice information systems, and implement interfaces to state and federal systems. According to Dr. Ramker, while tremendous progress has been made toward criminal record improvements over the years, several significant short-

(See **MEETING**, p. 4)

## JRSA Awards Weed and Seed Evaluation Contract

In the fall of 2006, JRSA was asked by the Office of Justice Programs' Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) to manage a national evaluation of the Weed and Seed initiative. Weed and Seed is a comprehensive multiagency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Since 1997, JRSA has been working with CCDO (formerly the Executive Office for Weed and Seed) to collect data from Weed and Seed sites and provide technical assistance to CCDO and the sites.

JRSA issued a Request for Proposals in December of last year. Based on the recommendations of a peer-review panel convened by JRSA, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) received the 30-month evaluation

reward. The RTI evaluation will employ a two-tiered design: (1) For all sites, RTI will formulate a broad, comprehensive overview of processes and outcomes across the national Weed and Seed Initiative based on data from the Weed and Seed Data Center, other central resources (e.g., U.S. Census), and a Web-based survey of Weed and Seed stakeholders; (2) In selected Sentinel Sites, RTI will develop an in-depth understanding of site processes and outcomes through analysis of additional information derived from (a) a survey of target and comparison community residents, (b) site visits, (c) document review, and (d) commercially available data on local business activity. For more information on the Weed and Seed evaluation, contact Stan Orchowksy at [sorchowsky@jrja.org](mailto:sorchowsky@jrja.org). ☛

**(MEETING, from p. 3)**

comings remain, including the following:

- Most arrest records available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Interstate Identification Index do not include case outcome information, and missing case dispositions also plague many state record systems.
- Several states and territories are not yet submitting records to the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) Protection Order File, and the FBI reports continued problems with the proper flagging of protection orders regarding the prohibition for firearm purchases.
- Few states and territories submit records to the files contained in the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System known as the NICS Index.

Dr. Ramker reported that funding available for NCHIP remains a continuing concern. The grants BJS made in 2006 totaled less than one fourth of the amount awarded in 2003. In 2006, BJS received 52 applications for NCHIP funds totaling \$27.3 million. However, the Congressional appropriation allowed BJS to make 38 individual awards totaling \$10.9 million. For FY 2007, the enacted appropriation for NCHIP was \$9.8 million. BJS received 40 applications from states and territories seeking nearly \$20 million. At this time, BJS anticipates processing 29 awards totaling about \$9 million. For FY 2008, NCHIP is one of 18 grant programs to be consolidated under a competitive Byrne Public Safety and Protection Program for which \$350


million is requested

BJS recently received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for a new version of the survey of state criminal history information systems. The survey, which is conducted by SEARCH Group, Inc. on behalf of BJS, will be Web-based and will capture a broader base of information regarding the status of state criminal record systems.

The NCHIP staff also assumed responsibility for the TCHRIP grant program, which provides funds to federally recognized tribes for criminal history record improvements, and, most recently, also includes a technology assistance program delivered on behalf of BJS by SEARCH.

Dr. Ramker also discussed BJS funding for JRSA and the SACs. BJS will award funds to JRSA to support another

multistate research project utilizing state criminal history records. The project is intended to produce a profile of state drug offenders as well as a data quality assessment for the repositories of criminal history records in the participating states. JRSA will issue a request for proposals for the SACs to consider in the coming weeks. Dr. Ramker also reported that in response to the FY 2007 announcement of the State Justice Statistics (SJS) program for SACs, BJS received 45 applications requesting a total of \$2.4 million.

Finally, BJS is in the process of redesigning its Web site and is planning on creating a portion dedicated to the SJS program and the BJS-supported work of the SACs. It is anticipated that the site will include information about SJS grants, publications produced, and SAC performance measures. 


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## Connecticut SAC Issues Corrections Reports

The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPAC) of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management was legislatively created on July 1, 2006, with the intent of promoting a more effective and cohesive criminal justice system in the state. A statutory mandate directed that forecasting and tracking of factors related to prison and jail overcrowding be performed, and CJPAC formed a working group to help in this effort. Stephen Cox, the Connecticut SAC Director and Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Central Connecticut State University, leads the working group, which also consists of representatives from the Department of Correction, Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Judicial Branch, Department of Public Safety, and the Office of Policy and Management. This agency collaboration helps CJPAC fulfill its prison-related research obligations and supplies data and resources for CTSAC publications.

On March 19, 2007, Dr. Cox and Brian Austin, CJPAC Undersecretary, presented the *State of Connecticut Prison Population Projections Annual Report* to

the Connecticut General Assembly's Appropriations and Judiciary Committee at a Joint Informational Forum on Prison Overcrowding.

In April 2007, the SAC published an *Assessment and Validation of Connecticut's Salient Factor Score*. This report is the final product of a contract between The Connecticut Department of Correction and Central Connecticut State University to revalidate the Board of Pardons and Paroles' Salient Factor Score. Dr. Cox and Dr. Shamir Ratansi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Central Connecticut State University, served as the principal investigators. The SAC assessed the utility of the Salient Risk Factor Scores for parole-eligible inmates released from prison during the 2000 calendar year. This study utilized data obtained electronically from the Department of Correction and the Judicial Branch. Data were collected for 2,539 inmates who were released from Connecticut DOC facilities between December 31, 2000, and January 1, 2001. This report is available at [www.crim.ccsu.edu/sac/sachome.html](http://www.crim.ccsu.edu/sac/sachome.html). 

### Tennessee SAC Releases *Crime in Tennessee*

The Tennessee Statistical Analysis Center recently released *Crime in Tennessee 2006*. Reports on hate crime and on law enforcement officers killed or assaulted will be available shortly.

# Connecting Policy, Practice and Education Through Advancement of Social Work Research

*This article was contributed by Joan Levy Zlotnik, Ph.D., A.C.S.W., Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research.*

The Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by five organizations – the National Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, and the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education – in response to a declaration by the Task Force on Social Work Research that there was a “crisis in the development of research resources.” The Society for Social Work Research offered its support in 2000, and additional funding comes from schools of social work, individuals, and grants and contracts.

IASWR promotes the development of social work research in order to build a knowledge base for the profession. Its mission is to advance the scientific basis for solving social problems by developing opportunities for social work research, and to strengthen the connections between research and policy by representing the profession in the national scientific community. Its efforts focus on multiple fields of social work practice, including criminal justice.

## IASWR Activities

### *Congressional Briefing*

Like JRSA, IASWR is a member of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an organization of more than 100 professional associations, scientific societies, universities, and research centers and institutes that serves as a bridge between the academic research community and the Washington policymaking community. In May 2006, IASWR, COSSA, and the American Sociological Foundation

cosponsored a Congressional briefing on *Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System*. Research findings from studies on girls and woman as victims and offenders were presented by a panel of social scientists, including findings from social-work researcher Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak (Michigan State University, School of Social Work). The briefing transcript is available at: <http://www.cossa.org/about/female.shtml>. IASWR is also an active member of the Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Science Research and the Coalition to Protect Research.

### *Training and Technical Assistance*

IASWR offers researchers the opportunity to learn how to prepare successful research proposals by providing training and technical assistance to individual universities, at conferences (e.g., the 2008 Society for Social Work Research

conference in Washington, DC ([www.sswr.org](http://www.sswr.org)), and through summer workshops. This summer IASWR is also sponsoring two-day trainings: Measurement and Confirmatory Factor Analysis in late June, and Qualitative Research in early August. (See [www.iaswresearch.org](http://www.iaswresearch.org) for more information.)

### *Weekly E-Alert*

IASWR's weekly e-alert service, the *IASWR Listserv Announcements*, with more than 2,560 direct subscribers, provides information on research grant funding opportunities, fellowships, calls for papers, conference announcements, online research-related resources, and information on new reports and resources of interest to the diverse social work research community. Past listservs are archived on the IASWR Web site ([www.iaswresearch.org](http://www.iaswresearch.org)) and can be searched.

(See **SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH**, p. 8)

## JRSA Launches Disproportionate Minority Contact Project

JRSA has received an award from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to study the issue of disproportionate minority contact (DMC). In 1988, amendments to the 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act mandated that states receiving funding from the Title II, Part B Formula Grants Program address the issue of minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. Congress revisited the issue of minority overrepresentation during the 2002 reauthorization of the Act, expanding the definition of overrepresentation of minority youths in the juvenile justice system from institutional confinement to overrepresentation at any point of "contact"

with the system. Over the last 20 years states and localities have struggled, with various degrees of success, to deal with the issue of minority overrepresentation. The goal of JRSA's project is to examine state and local strategies to reduce DMC, with particular emphasis on data collected to assess the problem, and empirical information used to assess the success of initiatives that have been implemented. JRSA will examine DMC efforts in two localities in each of two states, and will also assess the relationship between state and local policies and practices. For more information on JRSA's efforts, contact project manager Ashley Nellis at [anellis@jrja.org](mailto:anellis@jrja.org). ☛

**(FIGHTING METH, from p. 1)**

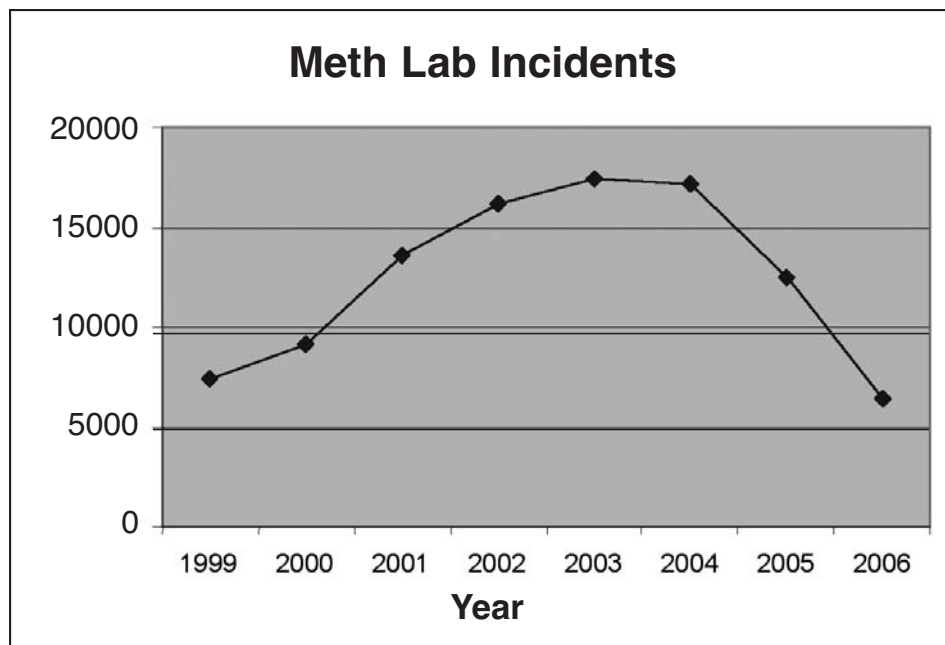
meth use. The number of past month users has remained steady since 2002, although the number of methamphetamine users who were dependent on or abused some illicit drug did rise significantly during this period, from 164,000 in 2002 to 257,000 in 2005. However, the number of recent new users of meth, which remained steady at around 300,000 between 2002 and 2004, declined significantly to 192,000 in 2005.

### Responses to the Problem: Federal and State Legislation

In 1996, Congress passed the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act to provide a comprehensive system of controls relating to the distribution, importation, and exportation of chemicals commonly used to make methamphetamine. In April 2004, Oklahoma became the first state to implement restrictions on transactions involving products containing certain chemicals (primarily, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine) that can be used to “cook” methamphetamine. By early 2006, more than 40 states had implemented some type of restriction on retail transactions involving these products. In 2005, as part of the reauthorization of the U.S. Patriot Act, Congress passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA), which set a nationwide baseline standard for how to legally sell these products, which include some popular over-the-counter cold medications. The various provisions of the law were completely implemented in October 2006.

Both the CMEA and the various state laws address where products containing these chemicals can be sold, how and where the products must be stored, what amount may be purchased or sold in a single transaction or in a month, and whether purchasers must show identification and sign a logbook. If a state’s law is less strict than the CMEA on a certain issue, then compliance with the CMEA is required.

Analysis of statistics on meth lab seizures and related incidents maintained by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) suggests that



state legislative efforts to combat meth have had a dramatic impact on these incidents (see graph). Meth lab seizures and other incidents, which had more than doubled from 1999 to 2004, dropped significantly in 2005, and decreased dramatically in 2006. While this apparent sharp decrease in domestic meth production appears to be good news, the National Drug Intelligence Center’s National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment for 2007 suggests that drug trafficking organizations in Mexico have rapidly expanded their control over methamphetamine production and distribution in markets previously supplied by local producers, particularly in midwest and eastern states. Even more troubling, the methamphetamine imported from Mexico is the version that usually is smoked (known as “ice”), which is thought to be more addictive because it produces a nearly instantaneous, intense, and long-lasting effect. Moreover, DEA data show that the purity of the average kilogram of meth seized increased from 43% in 2002 to 80% in 2005.

### Other Responses

In addition to legislative initiatives, a variety of programs and strategies have been implemented to address issues surrounding the use, manufacture, and distribution of methamphetamine.

Treatment programs, prevention strategies, including media and public service campaigns, and law enforcement efforts represent some of the more common programs and strategies used.

### Treatment Programs

To date, no drug treatment programs have been developed specifically for meth users. However, various treatment methods originally developed for general or specific drugs (such as cocaine) are being used to treat meth abusers. Cognitive behavioral treatment models, which involve the identification and replacement of distorted thinking patterns with more rational and adaptive thoughts and actions, have been shown to be effective as psychosocial treatments for meth users. Drug courts, which utilize rewards and punishments to assist participants in recovery, also appear to be an effective intervention and management tool for meth offenders. The Matrix Model, a treatment approach that incorporates cognitive behavioral therapy, positive reinforcement, family involvement, 12-step programs, motivational interviews, and urine testing, has been shown to more effectively decrease meth and other drug use as well as improve psychosocial functioning and mental health when compared to more traditional counseling approaches.

### Prevention Strategies

Meth prevention programs have primarily targeted youth and adolescents. Media and public service campaigns, such as the Montana Meth Project, have demonstrated some positive results regarding perceptions of and attitudes toward meth use. However, few studies have examined and been able to demonstrate behavior changes resulting from these campaigns. One broad-based approach to combating methamphetamine that a number of communities have implemented is Meth Watch ([www.methwatch.com](http://www.methwatch.com)). Retailers voluntarily limit access to precursor chemicals and report suspicious purchases. Meth manufacturers and residents are notified of oversight by retailers, and awareness of the meth problem is raised. Preliminary results from the Kansas MethWatch program show that in the year following statewide implementation

of the program, those sites with strong implementation had a positive impact on the perceived availability of meth and a decrease in the use of meth by high school seniors.

### Law Enforcement Efforts

Law enforcement efforts address the manufacture, possession, and distribution of meth. Specifically, efforts include drug lab seizures, multijurisdictional task forces, and street-level drug enforcement. An example of this approach is the development of local Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Programs (CLEPs). CLEPs are similar to traditional drug lab enforcement efforts except for an added focus on health, safety, and environmental issues caused by the volatile nature of meth. While law enforcement efforts often result in increased numbers of arrests and meth lab seizures, the long-term

efficacy of relying on law enforcement efforts only remains questionable.

### State Data and Research

A number of states have been involved in examining the methamphetamine problem. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority published several reports on meth over the last few years, including an analysis of data providing a statewide overview of the problem; trends in meth activities in specific judicial districts in the state; a look at the efforts of multijurisdictional drug units to combat meth labs; a detailed study of the impact of methamphetamine on two counties along the Illinois-Indiana border; and a report on the activities of the Illinois State Police Statewide Methamphetamine Response Team.

(See **FIGHTING METH**, p. 8)

## Methamphetamine Resources

The best place to begin to learn more about methamphetamine is the *MethResources.gov* Web site cosponsored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Other Web sites of interest are provided below. The Office of National Drug Control Policy's report, *Pushing Back Against Meth: A Progress Report on the Fight Against Methamphetamine in the United States*, published in November 2006, provides a state-by-state review of the status and impact of laws to restrict the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine ([www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/pushingback\\_against\\_meth.pdf](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/pushingback_against_meth.pdf)). Online links to all of the state reports cited here can be found in JRSA's SAC Publication Digest (go to [www.jrsa.org/pubs/sac-digest/index.html](http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/sac-digest/index.html) and enter "methamphetamine" as the search term).

### Web Sites of Interest

*Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Applied Studies (DAWN, TEDS, NSDUH data)*  
[www.oas.samhsa.gov](http://www.oas.samhsa.gov)

*Drug Enforcement Administration: Meth Lab Incidents*  
[www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/map\\_lab\\_seizures.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/map_lab_seizures.html)

*Montana Meth Project*  
[www.montanameth.org/](http://www.montanameth.org/)

*National Drug Intelligence Center: National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment 2007*  
[www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs21/21821/index.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs21/21821/index.htm)

*National Institute on Drug Abuse: Methamphetamine*  
[www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/methamphetamine.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/methamphetamine.html)

For additional resources, visit <http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/forum/june07-additional.htm>.

## Wisconsin SAC Reports Available Online

The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center recently posted four new reports on its Web site at <http://oja.state.wi.us/section.asp?linkid=709&locid=97>.

1. Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin 2005
2. Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin 2002
3. Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin 2003
4. Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin 2004

In addition, former SAC Director Dean Ziemke was recently awarded the Diamond Award for continuous business process improvement from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration for his role in the development and implementation of a new system to better manage grant applications and awards electronically.


**(FIGHTING METH, from p. 7)**

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission published a Methamphetamine Fact Sheet in response to the growing meth problem facing the state. The New Hampshire Government Leaders Methamphetamine Task Force published its statewide strategy for combating meth in that state. In Ohio, the Office of Criminal Justice Services published a statistical report looking at offenders arrested for methamphetamine and heroin.

In Nebraska, the Community Corrections Council commissioned a report to examine the incidence of methamphetamine addiction in the state, best practices for the treatment of meth addicts, and a cost-benefit study of treating meth addiction. Finally, the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council commissioned a study of the meth problem in its state. The study looked at existing data and conducted a statewide survey of law enforcement


officers, first responders, prosecutors, drug court personnel, and drug treatment providers regarding their concerns about the methamphetamine problem.

**The Continuing Problem of Methamphetamine**

While legislative responses have clearly had an impact on reducing the availability of methamphetamine in some areas, it is not clear to what degree foreign crime syndicates will step up production of the drug. Several treatment approaches are promising, but more research needs to be done in this area. There is some evidence that states, particularly those in the south and east, that have largely escaped the impacts of meth to date will begin to see increases in abuse of the drug as it continues its spread from the west. Thus there is every indication that methamphetamine will continue to be a problem for states for some time to come. 

**(SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH, from p. 5)****Web Site**

The IASWR Web site at [www.iaswresearch.org](http://www.iaswresearch.org) provides information about IASWR activities and reports, and links to technical resources about applying for research funding. The site also includes PowerPoint presentations by federal research funders, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). IASWR also develops content for the research page on the National Association of Social Work Web site ([www.socialworkers.org/research/default.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/research/default.asp)), covering topics such as aging, AIDS, poverty, depression, veterans, and injury and violence prevention.

*For more information about IASWR and its work in promoting social work research, or to sign up for the weekly e-alert announcement service, visit [iaswresearch.org](http://iaswresearch.org) or call 202-336-8385.* 

**JRSA FORUM**

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