

WYOMING METH PROJECT

Methamphetamine Impact: Wyoming Statistics

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

- Wyoming ranks #2 in the U.S. for Meth use by teens ages 12 to 17ⁱⁱⁱ
- Wyoming ranks #1 in the U.S. for Meth use by young adults ages 18 to 25^{iv}
- Wyoming ranks #1 in the U.S. for Meth use by those 12 and older, up from #13 in 2005^v

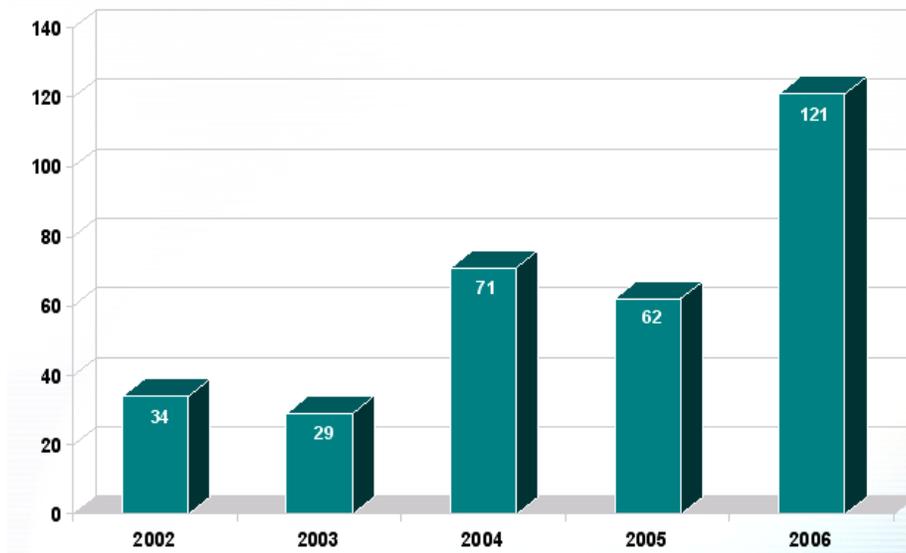
Meth Treatment

- Wyoming's percentage share of Meth treatment in the U.S is 4.4 times higher than the relative share of the U.S. population^{vi}
- 36% of those admitted for Meth treatment in Wyoming were under 25^{vii}

Meth-related Crime

- In 2007, 94% of Wyoming District Court drug offenders were convicted of Meth-related crimes, up from 68% in 2005.^{viii}

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Wyoming, 2002-2006



The Wyoming Meth Use & Attitudes Survey

The findings from the 2008 *Wyoming Meth Use & Attitudes Survey* clearly demonstrate the need for further education on the dangers of Meth use and underscore the importance and need for Meth prevention and public awareness efforts.

Meth Use

- One in 20 Wyoming teens (6%) and twice as many young adults (11%) admit to having tried Meth
- About one in six Wyoming teens says he or she has close friends who use Meth (16%) and/or have friends who have been in treatment for Meth use (12%)
- At least one in five young adults has close friends who use Meth (19%) and/or have been treated for Meth use (26%)
- About one in five teens (20%) and young adults (22%) have family members who have been in treatment for Meth

Perceived Risks of Meth Use

- Many Wyoming teens, young adults, and parents believe there are benefits to taking meth, including weight loss (30% of teens, 47% of young adults, and 45% of parents), feeling euphoric or very happy (20%, 23%, and 25%, respectively), increased energy (21%, 36%, and 34%), and dealing with boredom (18%, 15%, and 18%)
- About one in four teens (23%) see little or no risk in trying meth once or twice

Social Approval and Parental Discussion of Meth Use

- One third of teens (32%) and one in five young adults (21%) say their friends would not give them “a hard time” for using Meth
- Many teens and young adults report they have not tried to dissuade their friends from taking the drug (40% and 32%, respectively)
- About half of teens (48%) and young adults (47%) say they have never discussed the subject of Meth with their parents

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 SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

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

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Wyoming, FY07 Annual Report, 2007