

# Designing a Community Methamphetamine Assessment Project

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Salt Lake City  
February 1, 2007

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

~ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) ~

# Workshop Goals

- Understand the reason for a needs assessment
- Identify who and what to assess
- Gather data & extract findings
- Develop needs assessment products
- Create a community strategy



# Why Do a Community Needs Assessment?

# SPF-SIG Framework



# Community Assessments

- Determine the extent of the problem
- Determine the impact on the community
- Determine the needs to combat meth
- Identify community resources
- Recommend strategies for mobilization



# Let the Public Know!

Hold a press conference and get the word out . . .

Who?  
What?  
Why?  
When?  
Where?

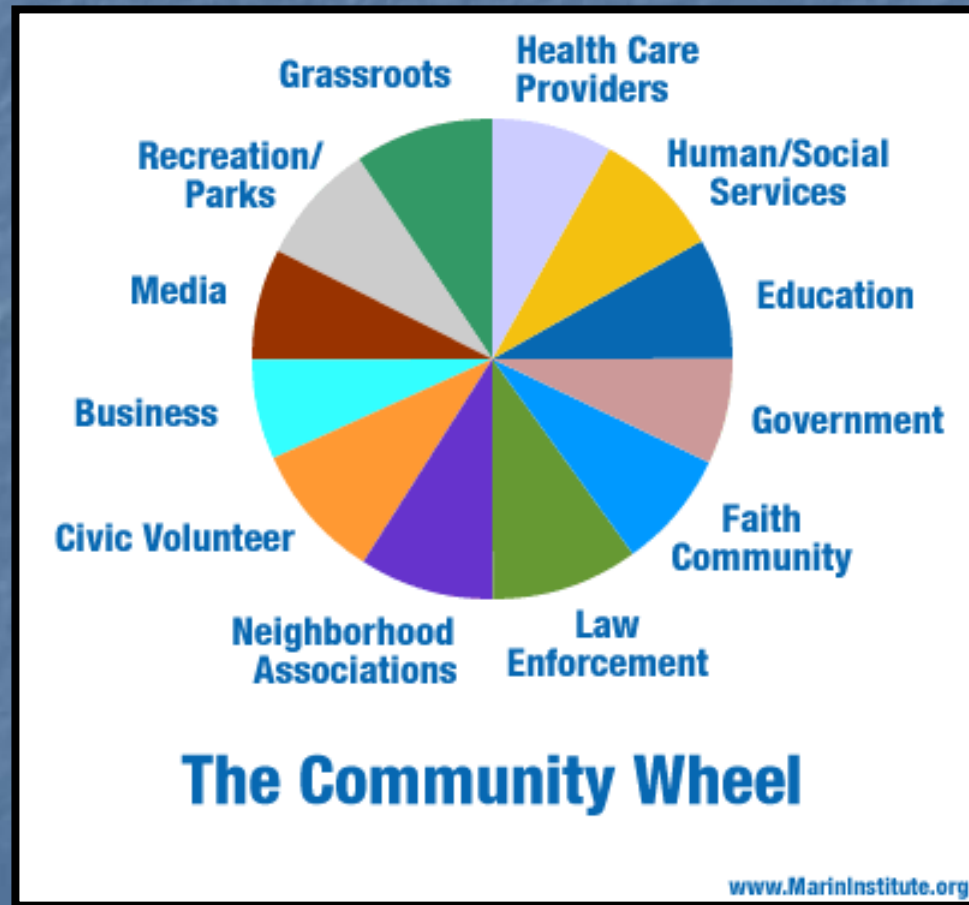




# Who and What Should We Assess?



# The Whole Community



# Assessment Methods

## Multi-method approach:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus group protocols
- Public opinion questionnaires
- Existing data



# Gather Data And Extract Findings



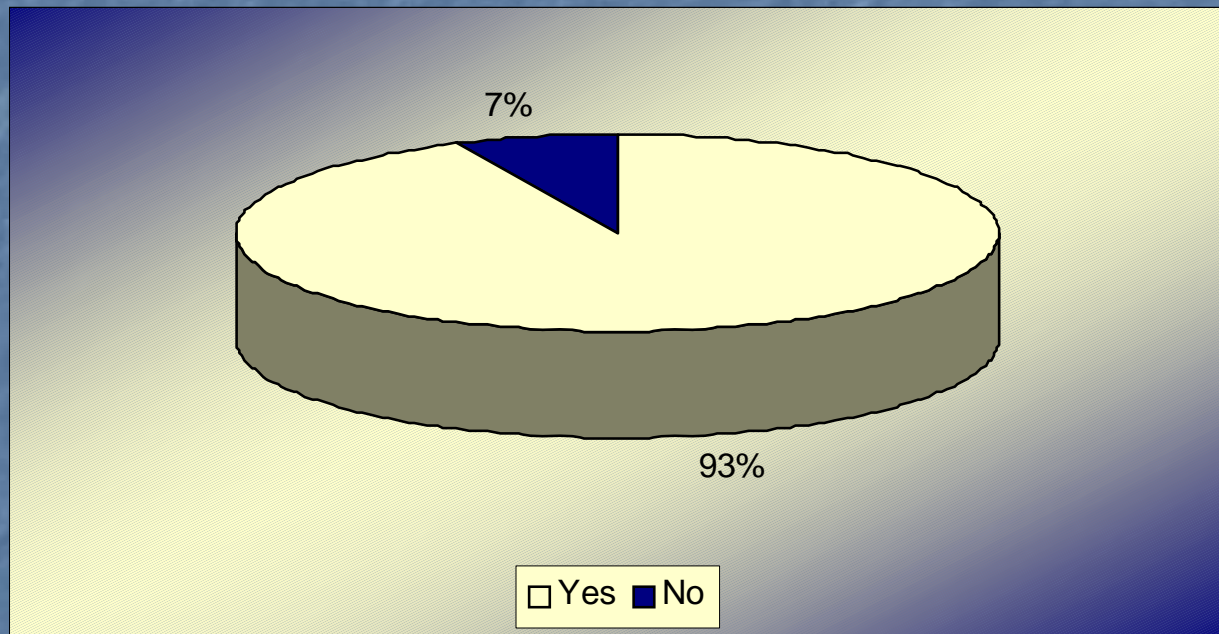
# Interview Community Professionals

- Schedule an hour with local agency directors
- Include other well-informed staff
- Find out how meth affects their agency
- Conduct multiple interviews with sectors

# Sample Interview Questions

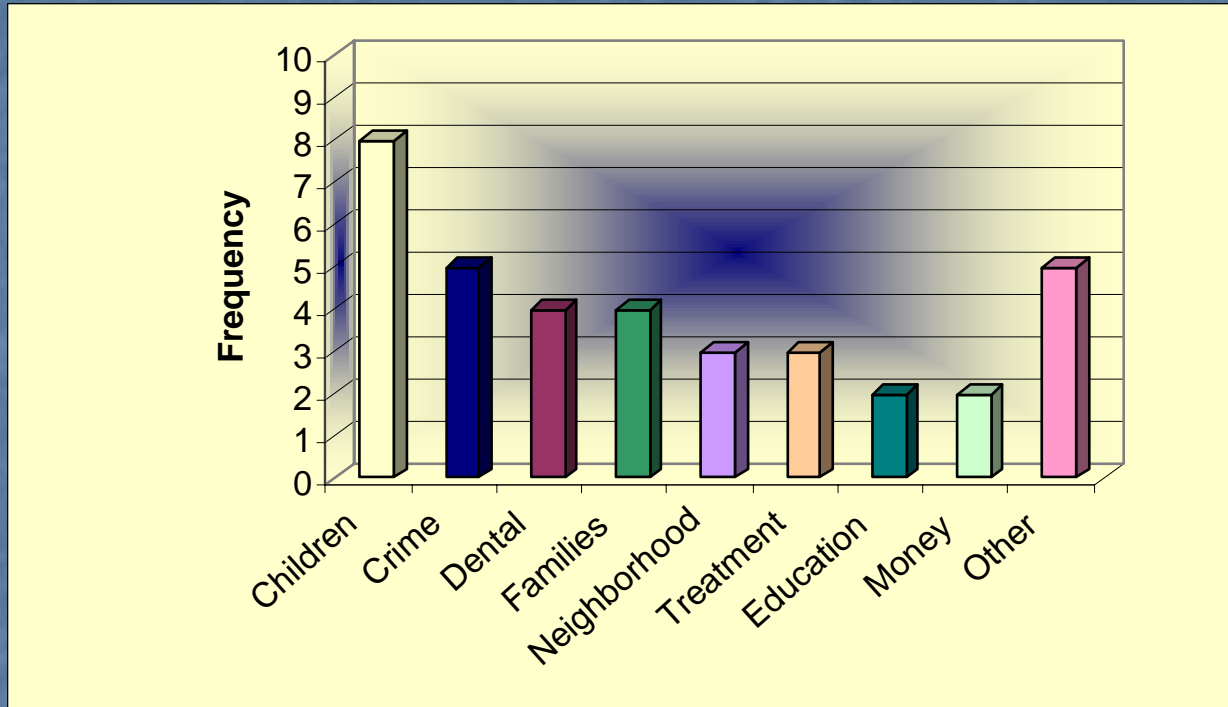
1. Is there a meth problem in your community? How do you know?
2. Do you have data that shows this problem? What time period is covered?
3. What should be done about the meth problem? How can it be stopped?
4. This assessment is for a community strategy, what should go in it?
5. What resources does this community have to address the meth problem?
6. Is there conflict in your community? How so? How can it be improved?

# Is There A Meth Problem?



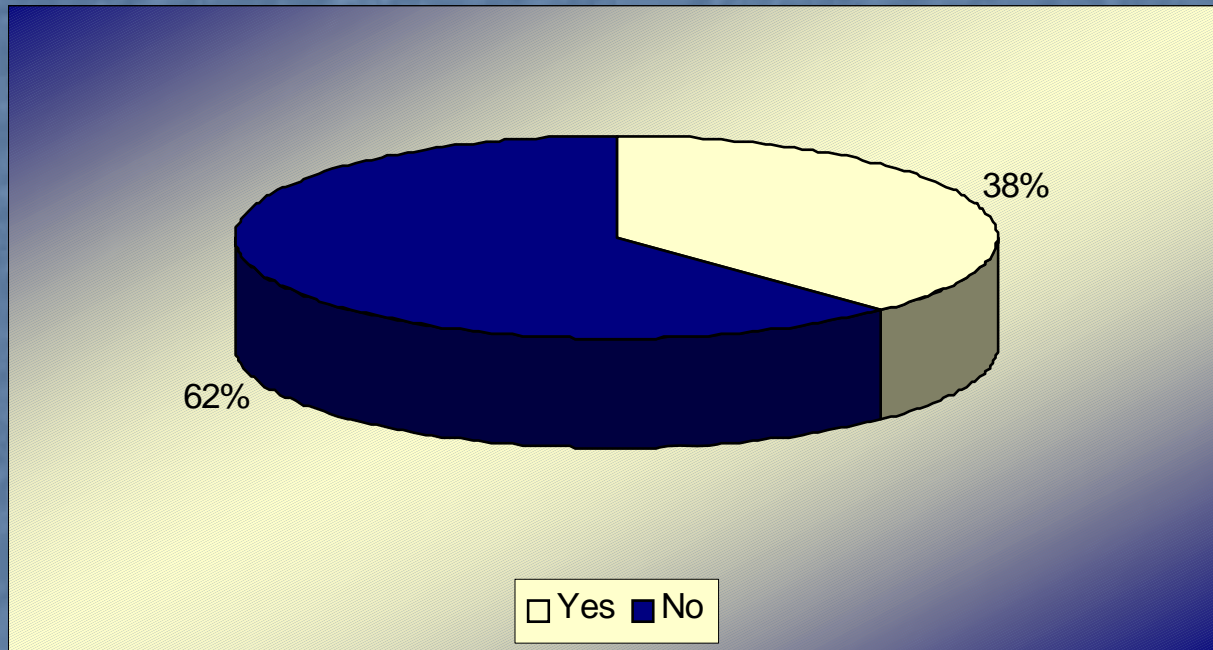


# How Is It Visible?



Other: contamination, health, coalition, media

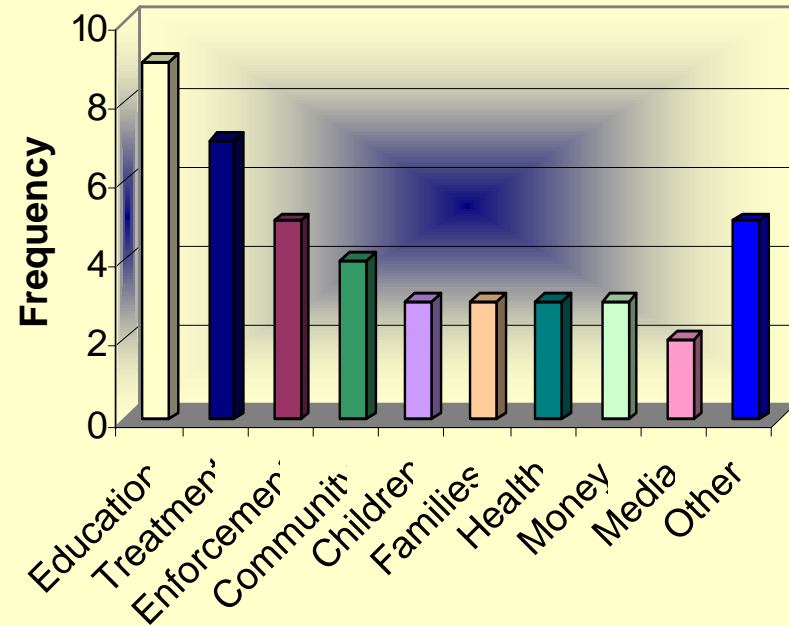
# Do You Have Data To Describe The Problem?



# What Should Be Done?

Other:

- Prevention
- Workplace
- Environmental clean up
- Coalition work
- Culture change

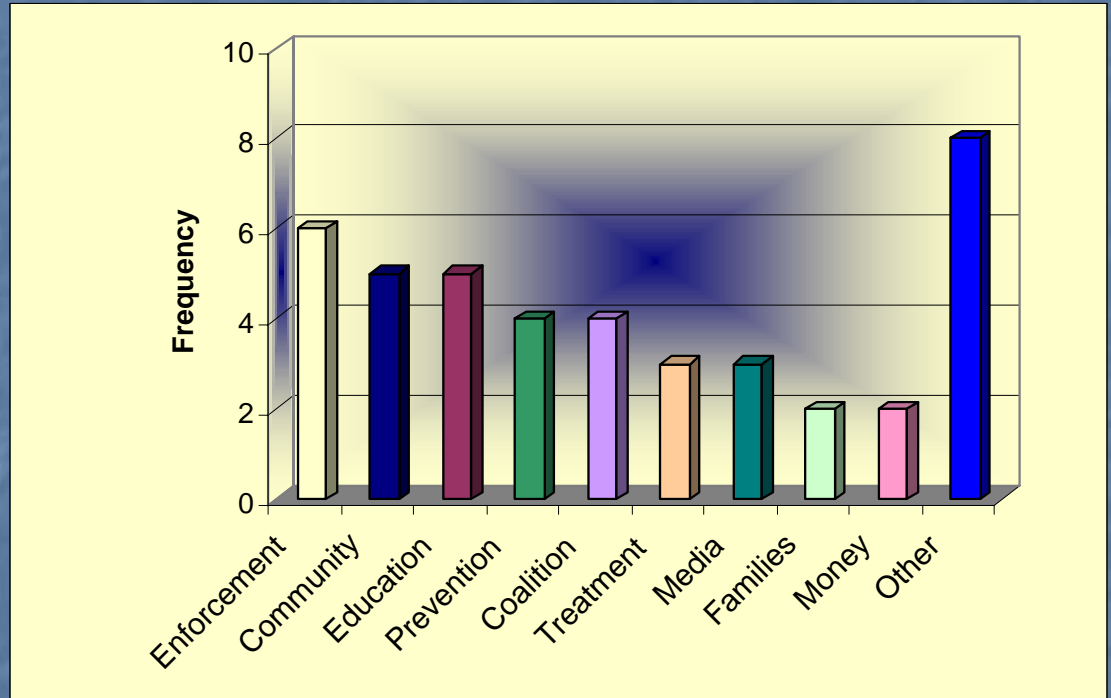




# What Should Be In The Strategy?

Other:

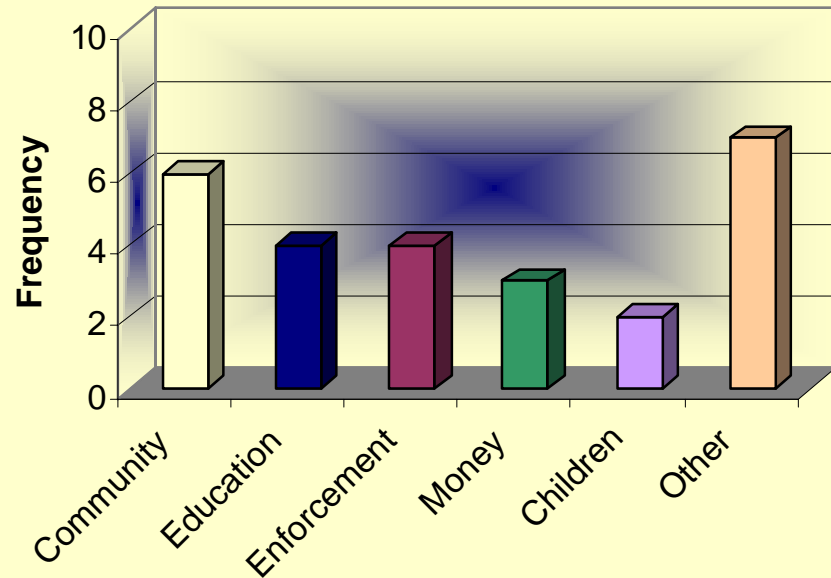
- Children
- Legislation
- Workforce
- Youth activities
- Problem recognition
- Culture change
- Health-related strategies



# What Resources Does This Community Have?

Other:

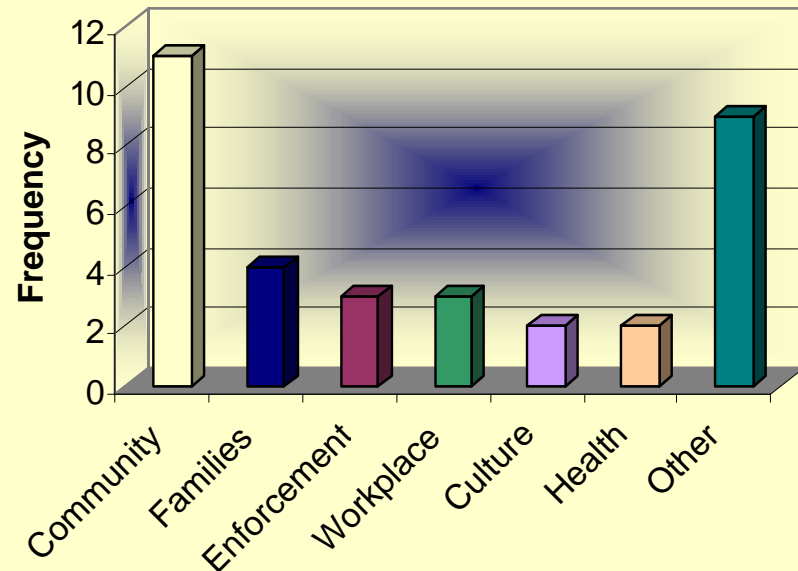
- Legislature
- Health providers
- Prevention efforts
- Families
- Treatment



# Are There Implementation Barriers?

Other:

- Media's role
- Politics
- Apathy
- Multiple coalitions
- Funding for solution





# Why Do Focus Groups?

- One viewpoint isn't enough
- To supplement other data
- A constituent group is identified
- Get an interactive exchange of ideas!



# Why Public Opinion?



- Mobilization is impossible without community input
- Professionals can't speak for John Q. Citizen
- Provides more familiarity with your project
- More opportunities for citizen participation

# What Do We Ask?

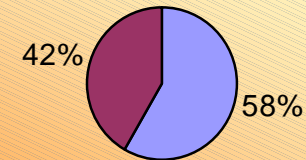
- What % of people use meth?
- What age group has the biggest meth problem?
- Why do people use meth?
- How does meth harm people who use it?
- How can the community effectively reduce the harm it causes?



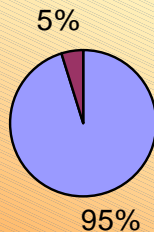


# Public Opinion: Know A Meth User?

Internet Survey



■ Yes ■ No



■ Yes ■ No

Paper Survey Forms

# Why Do People Use Meth?

## Internet

- Easy access
- Low cost
- Presence of meth labs
- Peer pressure
- Boredom

## Paper

- Easy access
- Boredom
- Desire for increased stamina
- Peer pressure
- Lack of recreation & opportunities

# Existing Data

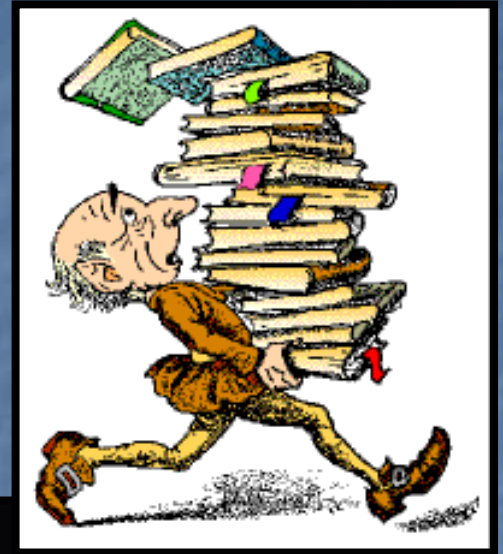
- Substance abuse treatment admissions
- Health indicators
- Traffic crashes and fatalities
- Vital statistics
- Crime
- Child welfare
- Corrections
- Youth survey data
- Federal government data archives





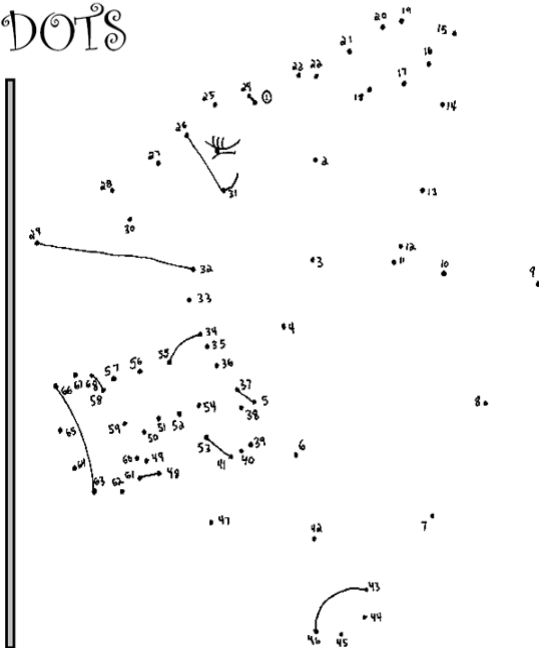
# What Do We Have and What Do We Do With It?

- Data files
- Reports
- Interview data
- Survey data
- Newspaper Articles



# Now What?

CONNECT  
THE  
DOTS



THE RADICAL FRINGE

D.HIPPAUF 5/17/06



# Telling the Story

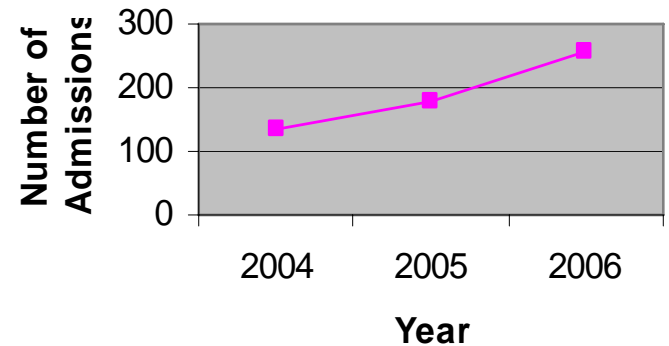
## Abuse & Neglect Cases



## Court Findings

- DA cites significant community & court impact
- 80% of all charges are meth-related
- Public Defender caseloads double in last 2 years
- 70% of caseload is meth-related
- Meth clients more difficult – paranoia, violent
- Treatment can not meet drug court demand

## Meth Treatment Admissions



## Neighborhood Findings





# Taking Your Findings Public

# The Products

- Press Releases
- Report
- Stand-alone executive summary
- Research brief
- PowerPoint presentation



# Media Tools

- News Release
- Talking Points
- News Conference
- Public Presentation of Assessment Results





# Report

- Comprehensive
- Colorful
- Easy to read
- Charts, graphs, and tables
- Bullets and text boxes
- Highlight community Sectors

## CHEYENNE-LARAMIE COUNTY METHAMPHETAMINE ASSESSMENT PROJECT

February 8, 2007

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# Executive Summary

- Make it a “stand-alone” document
- Design it for a busy audience
- Provide a good summary of the study
- Give concrete findings and recommendations

# Research-Policy Brief

This could be the single most important document you produce!

The research policy brief should stimulate action.

Give your brief to . . .

- Legislators
- Policymakers
- Decision makers
- Potential funders
- Locally elected officials
- The public

## THE IMPACT OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN LARAMIE COUNTY

### Meth Is Everybody's Problem

#### Recent Meth-related Statistics:

- 46% burglaries & 70% auto burglaries
- 70% of public defender cases
- 52% of last October's foster care placements
- 69% of CAGA cases
- 192% Increase in treatment admissions since 2002
- 173% Increase in shelter use since 2002
- 144% Increase in the jail population since 2003



### Meth Users Strain the System

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Methamphetamine Assessment shows that both public and private systems are severely impacted by meth use in this community.

### Substance Abuse Is Costly

Guest Check		
Server	Table	Number Guests
State Budget	Laramie Co.	11,0581
Health		\$3 M
Adult and Juvenile Corrections		\$7 M
Child Welfare		\$2 M
Income Assistance		\$2 M
Education		\$6 M
Mental Health Treatment and Support		\$3 M
Public Safety		\$5 M
State Workforce		\$2 M
Prevention, Treatment, and Research		\$5 M
Other		\$3 M
Total		\$21.8 M

"No other single issue impacts more areas of government than alcohol and other drug problems and none is more destructive to state budgets."

Lucille Fleming, former Director, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Blueprint for the States, 2006.

Laramie County's cost to the Wyoming state budget is over \$21 million per year.  
Source: Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse On State Budgets. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001.

### Treatment Works And It Is A Good Investment

- Treatment reduces drug use, criminal activity, and psychiatric distress by 50% (SAMHSA, 2006).
- Every \$1 invested in substance abuse treatment saves \$7 (Eltner et al., 2006).
- Incarceration is nearly 1.8 times as expensive as residential treatment (Daley et al., 2004).

### How Can We Prevent Meth Use And Reduce The Cost To Society?

- Keep mandating and funding treatment
- Intervene early, treat families, and help those who are not in the treatment system
- Change "kids will be kids" culture to delay onset of drinking and drug use
- Community coalitions can successfully mobilize to address this problem

Prepared by Datacorp 1-25-2007

Funded by the City of Cheyenne, Laramie County, and the WYSAD



# Presentation



## Cheyenne and Laramie County Methamphetamine Needs Assessment

Preliminary Findings

Prepared by **Datacorp**  
Innovative Research and Design  
Consultants  
and  
**S. J. Miller & Associates**

# Securing Funding

- Use key findings to fund strategic plan
- Combine funding streams
- Encourage city-county collaboration
- Use findings to substantiate need
- Meet with the legislature
- Get your elevator pitch down
- Look for support in unlikely places



# Moving Forward: Community Mobilization Plan



"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do and how to do it."

~ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) ~

# Mobilizing the Community

- Organize a strategy workgroup
- Meet right away
- Meet often
- Meet over a brief, defined period
- Stress the time commitment



# Community Workgroup Calendar

February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 6:30-7:30 pm Press Conf. 7:30-8:30 pm Public Pres	9	10 8:00-12:00  Workgroup Kick-Off Mtg
11	12	13 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	14	15 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	16	17 8:00-12:00 Workgroup Strategy Mtg.
18	19	20 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	21	22 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	23	24 8:00-12:00 Workgroup Strategy Mtg
25	26	27 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.	28	March 1 6:30-8:30 pm Workgroup Strategy Mtg.		





# Community Strategy Workgroup

- Represents Community Sectors
- Movers and Shakers
- Committed to Success



# Developing the Strategy

- Identify key issues
- Identify strategies to address issues
- Identify goals for each strategy
- Identify measurable objectives for each goal



“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

~ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) ~



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