

Methamphetamines: A National and State Crisis

Research Brief

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INTRODUCTION

The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (US DEA) states that, “domestic methamphetamine production, trafficking, and abuse are concentrated in the western, southwestern, and midwestern United States.” The US DEA also reports that the methamphetamine crisis is increasing throughout the southern states.

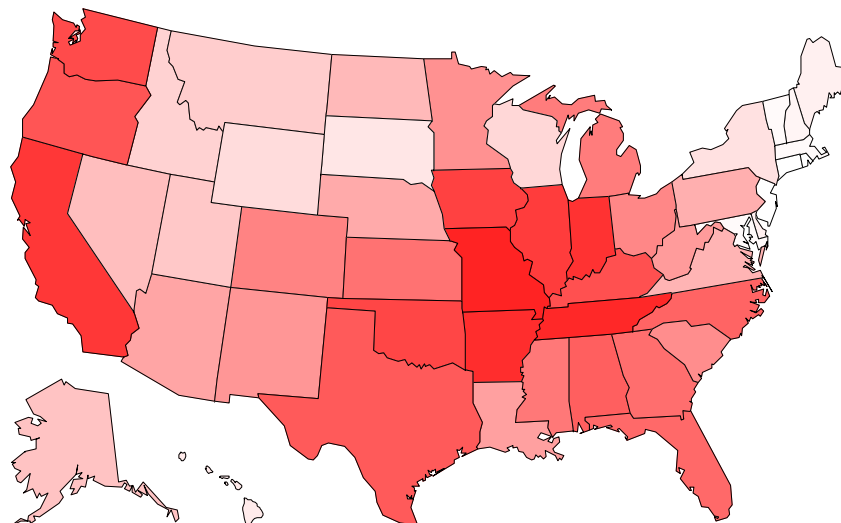
Methamphetamine is similar to amphetamines, but the effects on the central nervous system are much greater (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2004). By discharging the neurotransmitter dopamine to the brain, methamphetamine enhances mood and body movement (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2004). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) states that high levels of dopamine can result in symptoms similar to those found in patients with Parkinson’s disease. Hypothermia and convulsions may be experienced and often times can result in death (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2004). Methamphetamine use may damage blood vessels in the brain due to increased heart rate and blood pressure and can lead to stroke (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2004).

Street names for methamphetamine are “speed”, “meth”, “chalk”, “ice”, “tina”, “crystal”, and “glass” (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2004). The National Drug Intelligence Center lists the common ingredients used in methamphetamine production. A small handful of items on the list are acetone, ephedrine/pseudoephedrine products, ether, drain cleaner, iodine, paint thinner, and lithium battery acid.

In order to educate officials on the methamphetamine crisis plaguing many states, statewide methamphetamine facts are presented. Total methamphetamine lab seizures are reported numerically and graphically. Also included are the number of adults and adolescents arrested for stimulant drug-related violations. Such violations include possession of the drug and selling or manufacturing of the product. For readers interested in detailed state-level results, a brief discussion on available supplementary findings concludes this report.

METHAMPHETAMINE LAB SEIZURES

2004 Methamphetamine Lab Seizures



The lighter the shade indicates fewer lab seizures

Source: Methamphetamine Lab Seizures: DEA El Paso Information Center Clan Seizure System

The US DEA reports that there were 8,942 lab seizures across the United States in 2004 (United States Drug Enforcement Administration). The map above shows the distribution of those seizures across individual states. Those with stronger shades of red reported larger amounts of lab seizures in 2004 as compared to those shaded in pink or white that had fewer lab seizures. It can be seen from the map that the distribution of lab seizures is concentrated in the Midwestern and Pacific Ocean coastal states. Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Indiana were the top four states in the nation for the number of methamphetamine lab seizures in 2004.

Total lab seizures from 2000 to 2004 are reported numerically in Table 1. In addition, there are individual ranks for each state. This allows efficient comparisons of the number of lab seizures between states. It should be noted that the rank is negatively correlated with the number of lab seizures.

Table 1. Methamphetamine Lab Seizures across the United States¹

State	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures
Alabama	21	83	18	163	17	257	17	289	13	296
Alaska	28	26	37	15	37	33	36	35	33	48
Arizona	7	389	12	320	18	254	26	119	27	71
Arkansas	13	242	11	404	13	460	9	714	3	564
California	1	2204	2	1885	2	1758	3	1239	5	474
Colorado	15	142	15	240	14	453	14	345	20	144
Connecticut	46	0	48	0	44	1	44	1	48	0
Delaware	42	1	48	0	47	0	41	2	42	3
Florida	31	15	30	33	22	133	23	170	15	215
Georgia	22	54	28	59	24	131	21	226	16	175
Hawaii	37	5	41	3	40	10	41	2	41	7
Idaho	16	127	22	131	26	122	28	90	36	27
Illinois	18	125	13	271	10	553	8	746	6	440
Indiana	8	362	9	521	6	722	4	905	4	525
Iowa	11	283	8	580	4	867	2	1240	7	418
Kansas	4	644	4	879	5	765	10	614	17	174
Kentucky	20	104	20	160	15	371	11	476	10	377
Louisiana	31	15	36	16	23	132	29	89	26	74
Maine	40	2	42	2	47	0	48	0	42	3
Maryland	46	0	42	2	44	1	41	2	45	1
Massachusetts	46	0	46	1	47	0	44	1	45	1
Michigan	30	21	23	121	20	228	18	275	19	157
Minnesota	19	123	21	154	19	242	16	301	23	96
Mississippi	17	126	16	225	12	469	15	336	18	170
Missouri	3	889	1	2180	1	2784	1	2857	1	1049
Montana	27	28	27	66	30	88	33	56	35	35
Nebraska	24	40	17	222	16	361	19	245	28	65
Nevada	10	284	14	259	28	105	25	125	32	50
New Hampshire	42	1	42	2	44	1	44	1	44	2
New Jersey	46	0	46	1	42	3	48	0	48	0
New Mexico	23	50	24	103	25	125	22	190	24	88
New York	40	2	39	8	39	26	40	18	39	13
North Carolina	33	14	31	32	34	46	24	138	14	243
North Dakota	25	34	26	85	21	209	20	235	31	60

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	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures	Rank ²	Actual Seizures
Ohio	26	29	25	89	29	97	37	29	21	123
Oklahoma	6	399	5	809	7	709	5	894	8	404
Oregon	9	351	7	588	11	526	13	375	11	322
Pennsylvania	35	8	34	17	38	29	32	60	29	63
Rhode Island	42	1	42	2	42	3	44	1	48	0
South Carolina	38	4	38	9	35	36	34	42	22	116
South Dakota	36	7	33	18	36	34	35	38	40	11
Tennessee	12	248	10	498	8	603	7	822	2	889
Texas	5	429	6	619	9	559	12	449	12	321
Utah	14	209	19	162	27	121	30	77	34	47
Vermont	46	0	48	0	47	0	48	0	45	1
Virginia	42	1	40	5	40	10	38	27	30	61
Washington	2	944	3	1478	3	1433	5	894	9	391
West Virginia	39	3	34	17	33	54	31	64	25	84
Wisconsin	28	26	29	45	31	79	27	101	37	25
Wyoming	34	12	32	30	32	61	39	26	38	19

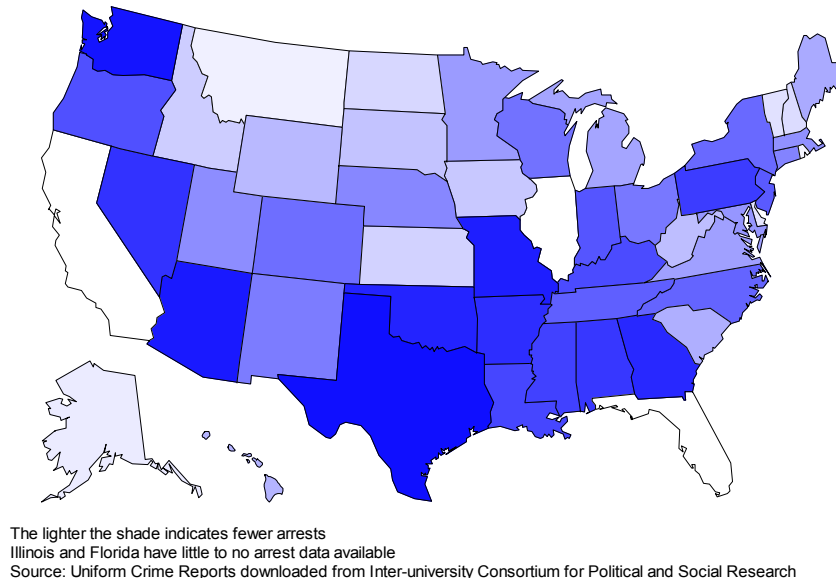
¹ - Source: Methamphetamine Lab Seizures: DEA El Paso Information Center Clan Seizure System

² - A lower rank indicates more methamphetamine lab seizures.

SYNTHETIC DRUG ARRESTS

ADULT ARRESTS

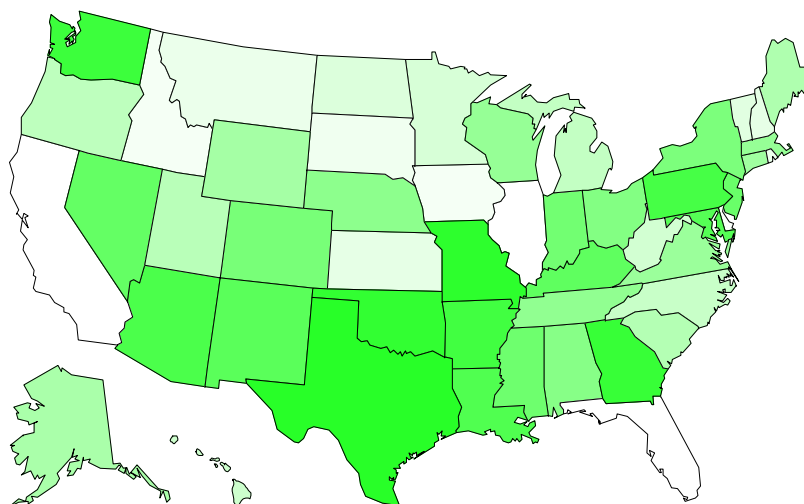
2002 Adult Synthetic Drug Possession Arrests



According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, 35,602 adults were arrested for synthetic drug possession in 2002. The map above showcases those values graphically for each state. Similar to the lab seizures map, darker shades of blue distinguishes those states as having larger arrest values than those marked in a lighter shade.

It is noted that California, Florida, and Illinois contributed little to no arrest data in this report. The southern and western portions of the United States had large numbers of adults arrested for this crime. The top four states reporting the highest numbers of adults arrested are Texas, Washington, Arizona, and Missouri.

2002 Adult Synthetic Drug Sale/Manufacturing Arrests

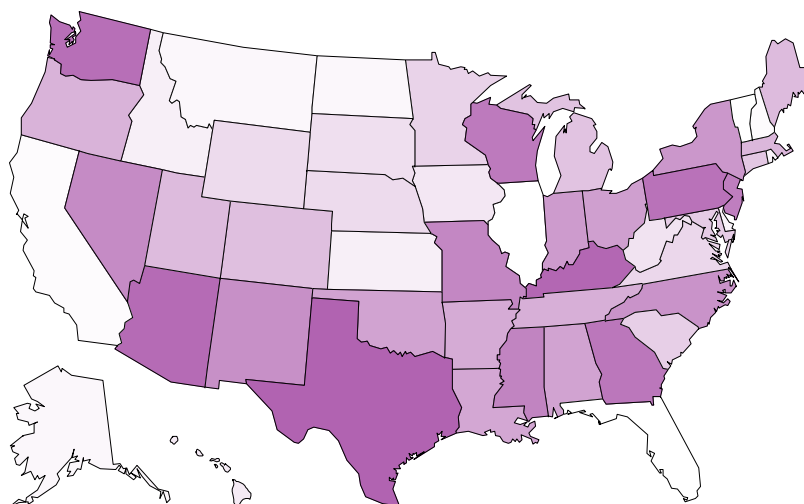


The lighter the shade indicates fewer arrests
 Illinois and Florida have little to no arrest data available
 Source: Uniform Crime Reports downloaded from Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

There were 17,528 adults arrested in the United States in 2002 for the sale or manufacturing of synthetic drugs (United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation). The states with dark green shading are those with the largest number of arrests for this offense. Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Georgia are ranked in the top four for this crime.

ADOLESCENT ARRESTS

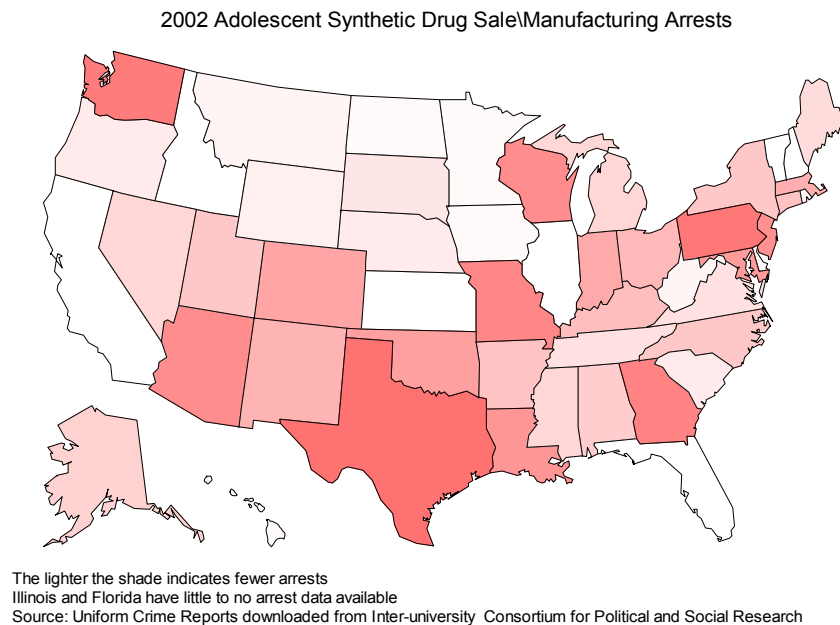
2002 Adolescent Synthetic Drug Possession Arrests



The lighter the shade indicates fewer arrests
 Illinois and Florida have little to no arrest data available
 Source: Uniform Crime Reports downloaded from Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

In 2002, 4,647 adolescents were arrested for a synthetic drug-related crime. In the map above, 3,565 of those adolescents were arrested for having the drug in their possession. Dark shades of purple highlight the states with the highest number of

arrests of adolescents for this offense. Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, and Washington are the states that emerge as the top four for adolescent arrests due to this crime.



Of the 4,647 total adolescents arrested in 2002, 1,082 were arrested for selling or manufacturing a synthetic drug. In the map above, darker shades of pink indicate higher incidences of adolescent arrests. The top four ranking states for this crime are Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Georgia.

Table 2 presents the numerical values for the adolescent and adult synthetic drug-related arrests for all states. The reader is encouraged to compare values across states using this table. Similar to Table 1, the ranking is negatively correlated with the number of persons arrested.

Table 2. Adolescent and Adult Synthetic Drug Arrests in 2002

State	2002 Adolescent Arrests ¹				2002 Adult Arrests ¹			
	Sale/Manufacture Arrests		Possession Arrests		Sale/Manufacture Arrests		Possession Arrests	
	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests
Alabama	23	14	17	62	20	168	9	1167
Alaska	24	13	43	2	28	58	45	17
Arizona	6	49	3	270	8	563	3	2994
Arkansas	18	17	20	57	6	940	7	1627
California ⁴	44	0	46	1	48	0	49	0
Colorado	12	26	26	38	17	243	20	476
Connecticut	18	17	28	31	26	125	24	373
Delaware	39	1	41	3	47	4	44	18
Florida ³	44	0	48	0	48	0	49	0
Georgia	4	55	6	145	4	1159	6	2059
Hawaii	39	1	38	5	35	32	34	163
Idaho	44	0	39	4	45	6	39	45
Illinois ⁴	44	0	48	0	48	0	49	0
Indiana	13	25	15	73	16	330	15	780
Iowa	39	1	37	6	45	6	38	57
Kansas	44	0	39	4	40	12	40	27
Kentucky	17	18	2	416	12	413	13	915
Louisiana	9	40	19	60	9	546	12	976
Maine	28	11	24	39	29	57	32	190
Maryland	10	39	29	27	10	481	28	223
Massachusetts	14	24	23	43	23	152	27	244
Michigan	25	12	27	34	33	51	31	207
Minnesota	39	1	31	21	37	17	29	219
Mississippi	25	12	9	123	15	362	11	1035
Missouri	5	50	10	94	2	1899	4	2942
Montana	36	2	43	2	42	11	46	15
Nebraska	32	4	33	13	21	167	25	304
Nevada	25	12	11	88	13	398	8	1338
New Hampshire	44	0	46	1	40	12	42	25
New Jersey	8	47	8	125	14	363	16	690
New Mexico	15	21	12	79	11	445	23	454
New York	20	15	14	74	18	173	19	570
North Carolina	20	15	13	78	34	43	18	585

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	Sale/Manufacture Arrests		Possession Arrests		Sale/Manufacture Arrests		Possession Arrests	
	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests	Rank ²	Actual Arrests
North Dakota	39	1	43	2	38	15	41	26
Ohio	16	19	16	64	19	169	22	460
Oklahoma	11	33	17	62	3	1765	5	2826
Oregon	32	4	22	49	32	54	14	834
Pennsylvania	2	107	5	185	7	907	10	1058
Rhode Island	36	2	41	3	42	11	47	8
South Carolina	32	4	30	25	30	56	33	177
South Dakota	31	6	35	11	44	7	37	67
Tennessee	29	8	21	56	22	163	17	591
Texas	1	199	1	632	1	3586	1	4415
Utah	20	15	24	39	31	55	26	271
Vermont	44	0	48	0	39	14	43	19
Virginia	29	8	32	20	25	149	30	213
Washington	3	80	4	235	5	1068	2	3151
West Virginia	36	2	36	7	36	25	36	132
Wisconsin	6	49	7	144	23	152	21	473
Wyoming	35	3	33	13	27	96	35	145

¹ - From the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation – *Uniform crime reporting program data: County-level detailed arrest and offense data, 2002* [Data file]. Available from Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/index.html>

² - A lower rank indicates more arrests.

³ - There were no arrest data for Florida available.

⁴ - There were limited arrest data for Illinois and California available.

STATE LEVEL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

This report provides statewide results for methamphetamine lab seizures and arrests. Individual states may require methamphetamine results at the county-level. Such information can be disseminated in a tabular and/or graphical format. The distribution of other drug or alcohol problems can be efficiently reported in the same manner.

The number of adults or adolescents needing substance abuse treatment is often unavailable at the county level. Such information can be easily estimated using national data and statewide demographics. This type of estimation is known as synthetic estimation and can be calculated for any state or county. The synthetic estimates are validated by comparing them to other indicators of alcohol and drug use.

For additional information on how DATACORP can help your community better understand its methamphetamine problem, please contact Dr. Allison Minugh (1-866-289-6817).

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