Meth Labs
Thursday, February 24, 2005 - Great Lakes Park Training Institute
Presenter- Detective Dan Mawhorr, Clandestine Lab Team, Indiana State Police

Objectives:
-Become familiarize with the history of methamphetamine
-Understand the manner by which meth effects the body
-Accomplish the hazards presented by methamphetamine production
-Know
   -some background
   -what to look for if you find
   -what will hurt you
   -how not to get hurt or killed
   -how the scene is worked

“Speed” facts
- Average meth “cook” annually teaches 10 others how to make meth.
- Every pound of meth produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste that can cost up to $150,000 per site.
- Meth accounts for up to 90% of all drug cases in many Midwest communities
- Meth induced paranoia has led to numerous murders and suicides.
- Meth users are the hardest to treat.
- 35% of children from labs test positive for meth.
- Meth kills by causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke
- Women are more likely to use meth than cocaine.
  * Get the kids out of the situation! Don’t give them to relatives, get them in the system.

Where did it come from?
- Chemical cousin to amphetamine
- Bikers are heavily involved
- Mexico and southwest U.S.

What is Meth?
- Controlled substance
- Very addictive
- Some medical use
- Easy to make
- Central Nervous System stimulant

Meth & the Human Body
Affects on the brain:
- Powerful central nervous system stimulant
- Interferes with neural transmission
- Affects the pleasure and reward center of the brain
**Meth & the Human Body**

Short term physical affects;
- Euphoria
- Increased alertness
- Increased physical activity
- Accelerated heartbeat
- Elevated blood pressure
- Paranoia
- Chest pain and hypertension which can result in cardiovascular collapse and death
- Possible irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain
- Decreased appetite

* Dopamine: plays an important role in the regulation of pleasure; it is manufactured in nerve cells within the ventral tegmental area and is released in the nucleus accumbens and the frontal cortex.

* Do not corner them or threaten them, they are heavily armed! Their brain has been fried and they aren’t right in the head.

**Physical Outcomes**
- Fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain damage, liver, blood clots

**How is Meth taken into the body?**
1. Snort- getting away from this, damages the nose
2. Injection- old heroin users do this, the best high is from IV
3. Smoke- empty lightbulb, lighter underneath and inhale the fumes
4. ‘Smoke a boat’- aluminum foil with lighter underneath and hollow pen to inhale fumes; or laced in a cigarette, joint, or cigar.

**Signs of Abuse**
- Dilated pupils
- Weight loss
- Central pallor- clammy, wet, loose skin, sweaty
- Body odor
- Bad teeth-rotten from lack of nutrition and loss of teeth
- Scars/open soars
- Crank bugs- hallucination, results in picking and digging into skin creating sores and open wounds.
- Calluses on index finger and thumb from holding hot aluminum foil

**What is a Clandestine Lab?**
- Lab setup in secret to produce or extract illegal substances or their immediate precursors

**What Can Be Made?**
- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
• Methcathinone
• Phencyclidine (PCP)
• Ketamine
• GHB/GBL (Rohypnol)
• LSD
• MDMA (Ecstasy)
• Anhydrous ammonia

**Regional Trends** (2001 & 2002 National Data)

Number of meth labs: (All reporting Midwestern States indicate tremendous growth in the number of drug labs seized.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2,017</td>
<td>1,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>1,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INDIANA**

![Graph showing trends in drug labs in Indiana from 1995 to 2003]

**Why do we need to know about this?**
• Meth use is on the rise
• Local manufacture is a growing problem
• Clandestine production leads to a host of environmental problems
• The production is intrinsically hazardous
* Anyone can buy a book online or at a bookstore on how to make drugs.
* Meth labs are a huge problem in southern IN
* Typical ‘cooker’ is: white, male, 25-45, undereducated, ‘hillbilly’, lives in rural area.
* Tax payers are paying for ‘cookers’ and dealers to be put in jail
* Causes environmental problems with leftover waste
* Possibility of harming children or animals that is outside in rural areas
* Possibility of contaminating stream or drinking water with toxic chemicals

**Chemicals**
- Highly flammable
- Fumes cause cancer

**The Nazi Method (most common)**
- ‘cold’ cook, requires no external heat source
- Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed)
- Anhydrous Ammonia
  - Farm fertilizer
  - Very cold, chemical burn, very dangerous
  - 99.7% water free, searches for water in your body
  - Fumes go straight to eyes, nose
  - If inhaled, lungs will free and cause death
- Oxygen reduction reaction
- Mix chemicals together
- Alcohol based solvents
- Crushed pills dissolve in solvents
- Filter with funnels
- Mountain Dew/Code Red two liter bottle tops used as funnels to strain out pill dough
- To try and speed up process; add heat to alcohol (starts fires, very dangerous)

**Crystallization**
- “salting” or “smoking” out the dope
- Strain through a coffee filter and you have meth

**Manufacturing**
- Lithium
  - E2 batteries
  - Cut top off, pull out lithium pad
  - Add water, begins to spark
  - Possible to buy a one pound block, name and address required (it can easily cause an explosion, if fire starts, let it burn down, very dangerous.)
- Pseudoephedrine
- Homemade anhydrous
- Stir-note color change
- Then extraction with solvents
Precursors
- Cold medicine
- Hydrogen peroxide and iodine
- Purple stained milk jugs

Red Phosphorous
- Red stripe pads from match books

Reaction mixture
- Cook 18-24 hours
- Makes more meth than nazi method
- Use of hot plate or coffee pot

Warning!
- The red phosphorous method produces “phosphine”, a clear odorless gas that is highly toxic, i.e. it has already caused the death or several people.
- Overheated red phosphorous may produce white phosphorous that becomes incendiary.

Dangers
- Phosphine gas, colorless, tasteless, odorless
- .04 parts per million
- Very deadly!!!

Why Not Do It Yourself?
- Non certified officers inside a known lab scene is an OSHA violation
- Chemicals involved in the processes have resulted in numerous health issues for officers when unprotected
- Improper dumping of chemicals are an EPA violation and may result in fines.

What do you get by calling ISP?
- The scene processed
- Evidence collected and presented for submission
- Waste hauled at no cost to your department
- Technical report prepared
- Court testimony as needed

Warrant Service and Lab Processing
- Entry/Suspect extraction
- Site safety assessment
- Lab processing
- Evidence collection
- Laboratory/dismantling
- Hazardous/waste removal

Conclusions
- We are likely to see more meth labs in the area
- Labs present many hazards, both from the chemicals and suspects
- The ability to prove manufacture is often present long after the production is over