Wisconsin Methamphetamine Study

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Background

- Published: November 11, 2016
- First statewide study of meth
- Information collection from July 2015 to July 2016
- Ten statewide roundtables in July 2015, 34 of 72 counties represented
- Contributions from 96 agencies
- Partnership between WSIC, STAC, and FBI
General Findings

- Meth use in Wisconsin expanded between 250 and 300 percent
  - Arrests, cases, charges, and seizure statistics
- Heroin use and meth use arrests, cases, and charges are on par
- Meth use higher in rural parts of Wisconsin
  - North of US Highway 29
  - West of Interstate 39
- Overwhelming majority of meth is crystal ice
  - Produced in Mexican meth labs
- Meth is trafficked into Wisconsin from Minnesota
  - Secondary sources of California and Mexico
- Economic cost may be over $424 million annually
Meth in Wisconsin

(U//LES) Meth and Heroin Cases Analyzed by the Wisconsin Crime Lab, 2011 to 2015

Heroin Cases
Meth Cases
Percentage of Meth Cases to Total

2011: 29%
2012: 40%
2013: 32%
2014: 45%
2015: 48%

(U//LES) Source: WSIC; Email; April 22, 2016; “State Crime Lab Cases by County - 2008 to Apr 2016”.
Meth in Wisconsin

(U) Data Description: Average number of meth cases analyzed by the Wisconsin Crime Lab for 2011-2013 compared to the average number in 2014-2015.
Meth in Wisconsin

(U) Number of Individuals Charged with Meth Offenses from 2010 to 2014

(U) Source: WSIC; Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Data; 2010-2014.

(U) 961.41(3g)(g) (Meth - Possession)
(U) 961.41(1m)(e)1-4 & 961.41(e)1-4 (Meth - Possesion w/Intent)
(U) 961.41(1m)(d)1-4 & 961.41(d)1-4 (Heroin - Possesion w/Intent)
Meth in Wisconsin

(U//LES) Source: FBI; Email; June 23, 2016; "(U) WIDOC - Data Request - Amphetamine and Heroin".
Meth is from Mexico

- **Majority of meth in Wisconsin is produced in Mexico**
  - Law enforcement and open source reporting

- **Trafficking routes**
  - Minnesota -> Wisconsin
  - California -> Wisconsin
  - Mexico -> Wisconsin

- **High quality and high quantity**
  - Purity and potency increasing
    - From 2011 to 2015, 22 percent and 48 percent increase
  - Similar to glass shards
    - No color variation as found with heroin
Meth Labs

- “One pot” or “shake and bake”
  - Primary methods for producing meth

- Increasing number of meth labs
  - Small number when compared to surrounding states (2014 - 50)
    - 2014 - Indiana (1,471), Missouri (1,034), Michigan (750), Illinois (729), Iowa (143), Minnesota (8)
  - Labs primarily used when Mexican produced meth is unavailable

- Pharmacy logs not always effective
  - Meth cooks exploit small pharmacies still using paper logs

- Remediation costly and time consuming
  - 2014 - 2015 / $235,000 in clean up costs
  - Occur more frequently in low-income housing
Criminal Activity

- **Violence**
  - Meth users are more likely to exhibit violence towards law enforcement or other individuals

- **Property Crime**
  - Meth users rely on property crime to fund their addiction

- **Circumventing Property Recovery Systems**
  - Meth users sell stolen items outside of their area
  - LeadsOnline, Northeastern Wisconsin Property Recovery System (NEWPRS), Automated Pawn System (APS)

- **Increasing Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)**
  - 197 percent increase from 2012 to 2015
  - 58 of 72 counties had at least 1 incident in 2015
  - Individuals ages 25 to 34 account for 45 percent of all incidents
Other Concerns

- Reasons for meth use
  - Heroin users switching to “safer” alternative
  - Use to “level out” with other opioids

- Drug Endangered Children
  - Children ingest meth second hand from parents

- Meth Treatment
  - Increasing number of individuals seeking treatment
  - Treatment facilities in Wisconsin focus on opioid, marijuana, and alcohol
  - Treatment is long and expensive
Outlook

- Continued upward trend in meth use
  - Spreading across Wisconsin
  - Meth labs slowly increase due to presence of Mexican meth
- Highly likely violence, property crime, and other crimes will increase
- Number of meth users will continue to increase as opioid/heroin users develop fear of overdose
- Increase in number of children exposed to meth
- Lack of treatment facilities will prevent individuals from getting needed treatment

- Tackling Wisconsin’s drug abuse is a broad issue that requires the support of everyone in the community.