BHEW Bulletin

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Methamphetamine Use on the Rise

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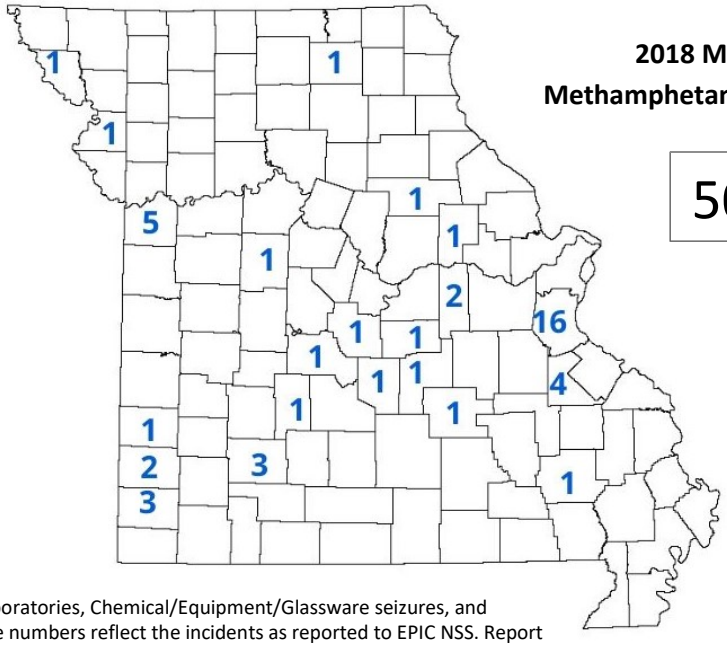
Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup

Methamphetamine use continues to be a serious public health concern in Missouri. From 2012 to 2018, the number of Missourians receiving treatment for meth use increased by 76%. In 2018, 7,857 people received treatment, compared to 4,460 in 2012.[1] National death rates for psychostimulants, such as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate, also increased by approximately 30% every year, from 0.8 in 2012 to 3.9 in 2018.[2]

Federal and state regulations began restricting the sale of over-the-counter cold medications, often used in during meth production, in 2006. As a result, production in Missouri has drastically decreased: the number of meth lab incidents decreased 96% between 2006 and 2018.[3] Today, however, experts believe that most meth is being transported to major U.S. cities from Mexico, yielding cheaper and more potent drugs.[4]

According to the DEA:

- In 2019, St. Louis was one of eight major transportation hubs in the U.S., which combined account for more than 75% of all meth seized that year.
- From 2017-2019, domestic seizures increased 127%, from 49,507 lbs. to 112,146 lbs.
- From 2017-2019, meth-related arrests increased by 20%.
- From 2018-2019, the St. Louis Division seizures alone increased by 56%[4].



2018 Missouri Methamphetamine Incidents

50

Map includes Laboratories, Chemical/Equipment/Glassware seizures, and Dumpsites. These numbers reflect the incidents as reported to EPIC NSS. Report ran by MSHP on 1-24-19

1. Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2018. Substance use and compulsive gambling treatment admissions, Missouri Statewide.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020. Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999–2018.
3. Missouri State Highway Patrol, 2018. Meth Lab Statistics.
4. Drug Enforcement Administration, 2020. DEA St. Louis Division's Operation Crystal Shield backed by U.S. Attorneys.