

Why should you care about  
Methamphetamine?

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# Victims of Meth Include:

- Children
- Parents
- Family
- The environment
- Employers
- Landlords
- Victims of meth-related crimes
- Taxpayers

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# Children Exposed to Meth

- Children of meth users typically suffer neglect, sexual and physical abuse.



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# Children Exposed to Meth

- Physical effects
  - Illness
  - Toxic surroundings
  - Children test positive for toxic levels of chemicals in their bodies



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# Children Exposed to Meth

- Child exposure to meth is aggravated because:
  - Children breathe faster than adults
  - Children have a faster heart beat than adults
  - Children are smaller and closer to the ground (chemicals weigh more than air)
  - Their nervous systems are still developing
  - The food they eat is prepared on the same counter as the meth lab.

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# The cost of one meth-exposed child

- Pre-birth and infancy \$ 58,000
- Early childhood years \$ 34,300
- Elementary school years \$ 47,400
- Secondary and teen years \$ 475,700
- Adult Years \$1,536,100

*\*source Dr. Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute*

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# Parents

- Poverty/homelessness
- Criminal behavior
- Loss of children
- Poor peer relations
- Isolation
- Addiction
- Depression



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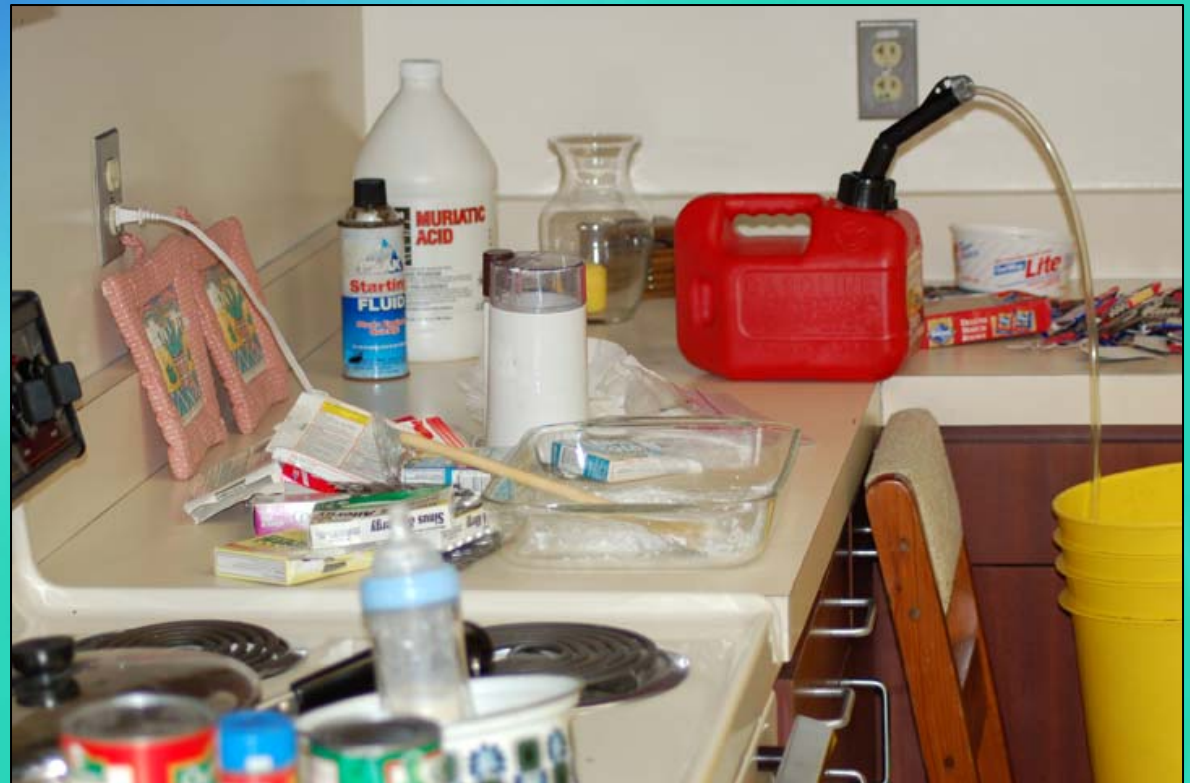
# Family

- Parental rights terminated
- Government authorities are unable to “keep the family together”
- Meth use by a teen or sibling has devastating physical, emotional and financial consequences for the entire family.

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# Environment

- Meth manufacturing uses highly toxic chemicals and processes.



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# Environment

- Cooking meth generates toxic and deadly gases such as phosphine and phosgene.
- Meth cooks create 5 to 6 pounds of toxic waste for every pound of meth they produce.

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# Employers

- Drug-using employees are
  - 2.2 times as likely to request early dismissal or time off
  - 2.5 times more likely to have absences of 8+ days
  - 3 times more likely to be late for work
  - 3.6 times more likely to injure self or others at work
  - More likely to incur up to 300% higher medical costs

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# Landlords/Community

- Decline in property values
- Property damage
- Civil penalties
- Loss of rent



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# Landlords/Community

- Fear and frustration
- The loss of other valued tenants



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# Victims of Meth-Related Crime

- 10 million Americans are victims of identity theft each year
- 90 percent of identity theft cases involve drugs
- The problems caused by identity theft cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year

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# The Public

- 5 to 6 pounds of toxic waste is generated for every pound of meth “cooked”
- Initial response to each meth lab costs taxpayers about \$19,000
- Property clean-up and decontamination can run \$10k to \$50k.

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# The Public

- From the costs associated with meth lab clean up, identity theft and other crimes, to the emotional impact meth abuse has on families and friends, no one is completely immune to the devastating effects of this dangerous drug.

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# Getting Help

- To get help for you or a friend, please contact:
  - The National Referral Helpline
    - 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
    - <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov>

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