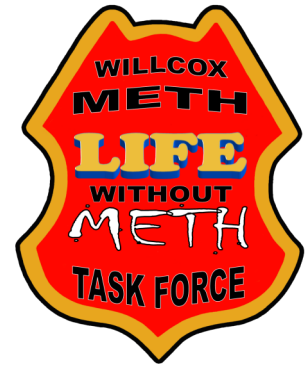


The Dispatch

The Willcox Meth Task Force Newsletter



“Shake and Bake” Meth

Despite public perception that meth use is no longer a threat, another form of methamphetamine production is on the rise. A crude new method of meth production called “shake and bake” is contributing to an increase in burn victims throughout the country.

Meth labs are highly toxic and extremely explosive. Meth lab explosions have always placed a burden on our nation’s burn centers. This newest method of meth production, with use of a portable lab, is once again increasing the amount of burn victims.

The “Shake and Bake” production of meth is produced by combining raw, unstable ingredients in a 2-liter soda bottle. If the person mixing this

chemical brew makes even the slightest error, the formulation can explode. The chemicals can cause severe flesh burns resulting in permanent disfigurement, blindness, or even death.

It is also known as the “one-pot” approach. This method is popular because it uses less pseudoephedrine (the main ingredient in meth which is found in over the counter cold products) and can yield meth in minutes rather than hours. Also, this is a cheaper method for meth production also allowing easier concealment.

Cooks will often hide this “lab” in a backpack, bathroom stall, or their car.

One study shows that up to a third of our nation’s

burn unit patients were hurt while making meth. Most of these patients were uninsured. The average treatment cost of a meth patient’s hospital stay is \$130K. This is 60% more than other burn patients!

The “shake and bake” method is a flammable concoction which is held up close and can cause burns from the waist to the face. In the past, larger meth labs have been bursting into flames causing fires which could escape. The influx of patients of burn centers, and the high cost of treating meth lab burn victims, have caused at least seven burn units across the nation to shut down. Meth remains a multifaceted problem for our society.

Mexico Remains a Source of Meth

In early 2012, Mexican troops seized 15 tons of pure methamphetamine in Jalisco. The supply of this bust could have provided 13 million doses of meth worth over \$14 billion of this devastating drug on our nation’s streets. This was the largest seizure of meth on record for the Mexican Army.

There has also been a noted increase in seizures of meth-making chemicals imported from countries such as China into Mexico. This suggests Mexico maybe attempting to become a world production platform for meth. Mexican cartels are believed to be in control of this drug trade.

In December, Mexican authorities seized 675 tons of meth precursor chemicals. The US supply of meth has been growing, due to its production in Mexico, according to US drug intelligence sources. Eighty percent of meth coming into the US is seized at the Mexican border.

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2012

Meth Labs:

- Place the entire community at risk
- Can be indentified by a chemical smell of “cat urine” or “nail polish remover”
- Must be cleaned by professionals with an average cost of \$5,000 per lab
- Can cause meth-like illness by the mere exposure to its gases
- Are a DEC concern

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Visit us at www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

New Twists and Turns in Drug Abuse

Having a difficult time keeping up with changing trends associated with designer drug use? You are not alone as this market in an ever constant state of flux.

There continues to be new stimulant drugs, making them similar to meth, entering the drug market. Bath salts (Ivory Wave) and incense (K2 or Spice) continue to be on the forefront of new street drugs. Another emerging product is called "Eight BallZ."

On the streets, Eight BallZ is a more popular alternative to Ivory Wave. The product name is a play on the street slang used by dealers to describe an

eighth of an ounce of cocaine which dealers call an "8 ball." With this play on words, most can surmise this product is stimulant of the central nervous system causing a state of euphoria similar to cocaine.



Bath salts are also a stimulant causing hallucinations. Ivory Wave is the best

known of the original bath salts. The salts share common markings on the package: "Not intended for human consumption" and "Not to be sold to people under 18 years of age." As a result of federal, and state, law banning the original recipes featuring MDPV and mephedrone, the formulas are in a constant state of flux mixing and matching banned and non-banned powders to create a unique batch.

The market of illegal drug use continues to change frequently. The most recent changes continues to stay within the class of drugs called stimulants. These drugs are highly addictive thus leaving the user wanting more drug.

Signs of Stimulant Use

Stimulant use is extremely addictive. Stimulants mimic and stimulate our own sympathetic segment of our central nervous system. The sympathetic nervous system causes our natural ability for a "fight or flight" response. If one were to prepare to fight or to flee from a situation, several responses occur to allow for our body to respond. Our eyes will dilate, the heart beats faster, and we breath faster to be able to respond to a situation. One may also notice some nausea, vomiting or diarrhea or "butterflies" in the stomach.

We may also become more aggressive or feel as if we have superhuman strength when in a "fight or flight" situation.

When stimulant drugs are used, the body reacts in a similar manner as if the sympathetic nervous system was activated. However, with the use of drugs, the reaction is far more powerful. Stimulants will cause extremely high heart rate in to 120s, very fast breathing, vomiting or diarrhea. Users will also sweat profusely and have di-

lated eyes. They can also become very aggressive and violent as they feel they can overpower others. Users will also have profound hallucinations.

The addiction to stimulants is so powerful and is extremely difficult to treat. If having acute symptoms one may need to go to the Emergency Room for treatment. If seeking addiction counseling, please refer to the Community Resources page of this newsletter or visit Treatment Resources page at www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

WASA Golf Tournament

The Willcox Meth Task Force is a sub-committee of Willcox Against Substance Abuse (WASA). WASA has been an integral part of the Willcox community for up to 25 years. They provide our youth with healthy alternatives to drug use. They are also 501c3 organization and funds raised return back to our community's youth.

WASA will be holding a fundraising

Golf Tournament on **Saturday, June 23rd at 8 AM**. This will take place at **Twin Lakes Golf Course**.

This will be a 4 person scramble, 18 holes with lunch, and raffles and mulligans available. An entry fee of \$45 will provide entry, golf cart, prizes, contests, and lunch. Please join WASA in the fun and helping to raise funds for the WASA Summer Program to help keep our youth busy during the sum-

mer months!

Attached is a flyer to register or contact the WASA staff at 520-384-4777.

The Willcox Meth Task Force will also be having a 50/50 raffle at the Golf Tournament. Tickets will be \$2 a ticket or 5 tickets for \$8. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tournament or by emailing at request to: mail@willcomethtaskforce.org

Community Resources

Substance Abuse Counseling Resources:

SEABHS 520-384-2521

ACTS 866-966-0220

Community Bridges 24/7 Access to Care Line 877-931-9142

Senior Enrichment Center 520-384-8564

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings meet at Elsie S. Hogan Library in Willcox on Tuesday and Thursdays starting at 7:30 PM

Al-Anon meetings meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Willcox on Tuesdays at 6 PM

Army Community Services provides services to Service Members, civilian employees, and their families 520-533-2330

Mental Health First Aid Training Course Contact Cenpatico Family Support Program 866-495-6738 X 26154

Substance Abuse Coalitions:

Cochise County

Sierra Vista Community Coalition meets the 2nd Monday of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 PM at Elk's Lodge #2065

Douglas Community Coalition meets the 3rd Thursday of the month 12 noon to 2 PM at Chamber of Commerce

Willcox Against Substance Abuse meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month 12 noon to 1:30 PM at the Brass Rail

Willcox Advisory Council Meeting meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 PM at the Willcox School District Office Conference Room

Willcox Meth Task Force meets quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of January, April, July, October at 12 noon to 1:30 PM at Walker Family Medicine Conference Room

Graham County

Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition Meets 1st Tuesday of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 PM at the SEABHS Community Conference Room

Greenlee County

Greenlee Substance Abuse Coalition Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1 PM—2 PM at Cup and Cone in Morenci

Resource Websites:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com

www.drugfree.org/AZ

www.stopmedicineabuse.org

www.drugrecoveryhelp.com/test-drug-news-post

www.infoseaz.org

www.dea.gov

www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

Contact Us:

If you have more questions, or would like to request a presentation, please email: mail@willcoxmethtaskforce.org

For more information about meth, you may also visit our website at:

www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

The WMTF meets quarterly at the conference room at Walker Family Medicine at 801 W. Rex Allen Drive

If you suspect drug activity, or a meth lab, contact your local law enforcement agency, or call:

- 911
- In Willcox: 384-4673
- Willcox Silent Witness: 384-8673
- In Arizona: 877-STP-METH

