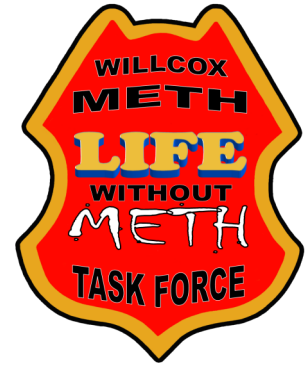


The Dispatch

The Willcox Meth Task Force Newsletter



Manufacturing of Meth Continues

The manufacturing of meth occurs typically in make-shift labs. These labs can be quite rudimentary and dangerous.

To make meth requires the main ingredient Sudafed (pseudo-ephedrine). Many other chemicals are also used in meth's production. This chemical reaction is toxic and frequently causes explosions.

Make-shift labs can be quite small. These labs can be found in a closet or trunk of a car. A hotel microwave or coffee maker can also be converted into a lab.

Another type of make-shift lab is the "Backpack" lab. The "manufacturer" combines all chemicals into a back-

pack, carries the pack around while the drug is cooking, and is then able to disperse the drug from their pack. If mixed wrong, the "lab" can self-detonate and explode, making this "Backpack" lab extremely dangerous.

An even newer method is being reported by the DEA as the "Quick or Volcano Method." This method of meth synthesis is unique in that it is waterless, uses metal shavings, and is quick to use. The shavings, when placed in contact with pseudo-ephedrine, red phosphorous, and iodine in a reaction vessel, are heated for a brief period of time. This is also known as "Flask to Gas" and can be complete in up to 10 minutes.



Meth labs can now be found in items as small as a backpack and the product made in less than 10 minutes

The Willcox City Council passed Ordinance NS264 to limit the sales of pseudo-ephedrine. This Ordinance inherently limits the manufacturing of meth and was the first of its kind in Cochise County.

Meth is Marketed to Children

Meth is being marketed to children by making it appear fun and tasty. Strawberry Meth is methamphetamine mixed with strawberry Quik. This has the appearance of candy but is as addictive and as deadly as unaltered meth (pictured at right). It can also be mixed with chocolate Quik or soda.



Another form of meth marketed to children is Blue, or "Smurf," meth. It has a sweet aroma, is more potent, and is more costly than traditional meth. It is uncertain as to why the drug is colored

blue. DEA labs suggest it is due to dye or pigmentation compounds which they could not identify. There is speculation this started from a TV series, "Breaking Bad," in which a chemistry teacher makes a high quality blue colored meth. It is known to be the newest fad for meth use and production.

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Special points of interest:

- *Meth is addictive from its first use*
- *Meth use is a leading cause of crime*
- *Meth can cause brain damage from its first use*
- *Meth use is a leading cause of CPS's removal of children from a home*
- *Sudafed is a required ingredient in the making of meth*

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Visit us at www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

Raising Community Awareness

The Willcox Meth Task Force (WMTF) was founded in July 2005. The co-founders are Dr. Dawn K. Walker, of Walker Family Medicine, and Chief Jake Weaver, of the Willcox Department of Public Safety. The WMTF is a Non-Profit Organization and a sub-committee of Willcox Against Substance Abuse (WASA).

The WMTF believes the best treatment of meth addiction is the prevention of its first use. Our goal is to proactively educate the community about meth in hopes to prevent its first use.

The WMTF provides presentations to numerous community and church or-

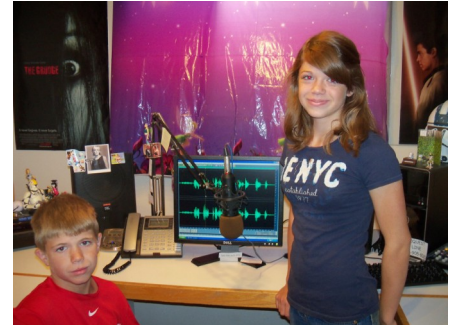
ganizations, as well as, our local schools. Presentations are available in multiple lengths. The information content varies as deemed appropriate for the needs and the age of the audience.

Most recently, the WMTF held a "User is a Loser" Radio Ad Contest. The winners were Marielle and Landon De-Baun of Willcox (*pictured on right*). Their ads can be heard on XWave 104.9FM or KHIL 1250AM.

The efforts of the WMTF are made possible through the generous donation of time of their members. Tax deductible monetary donations are also appreciated and are necessary to continue the

WMTF's community outreach.

To learn more about meth and the WMTF, or to make a donation, please visit: www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org



CPS Referrals Increase with Meth Use

Meth is highly addictive and powerful. As a result, parents who use or make meth, can be quite neglectful to their child. This neglect is a form of abuse as the parent is unable to provide for the basic needs of their child.

Due to the increased use of meth, CPS referrals have increased both locally and nation-wide. Many times, to protect a child's safety, the child needs to be removed from their home. It is, however, a myth that the goal of the

CPS caseworker is to remove a child from their home. On the contrary, the goal of the CPS caseworker is to strengthen families so that their homes can be safe, stable living environments for children. CPS makes every effort to keep children at home while working with the family, if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe, the child may need to be placed in foster care (often with relatives) while the family is working on its safety and self-sufficiency issues. The child is reunified with their family

when it is safe to do so.

Children who are exposed to meth may have a chemical odor to them that smells like cat urine or nail polish remover. They may also appear to be losing weight and appear disheveled as the child is the one caring for themselves. Their personality may also change as demonstrated by signs of aggression or signs of withdrawal from friends.

CPS: 888-SOS-CHILD

Meth Increases Foster Care Need

Unfortunately the use of meth by parents can lend itself to the abuse of children. CPS reports up to 90% of the homes they remove children from is related to the use of meth. This places a large demand on Foster Care both locally and nationally. The greatest need for Foster Care is for children between the ages of 13—17+. If you are, or if you know someone, interested in providing Foster

Care, please contact Arizona's Children. Give teens hope!

Visit online:

www.arizonaschildren.org

Or call: (520) 458-2131 X 116



Arizona's Children Association is looking for families who can provide a loving home for older children and teens. They will provide the training needed to help change a child's life.

Treatment Availability

Meth use leads to addiction and brain damage EVEN from its first use! This drug is the most difficult addiction medical professionals have had to learn to treat. Due to its highly addictive powers, it is the goal of the WMTF to proactively educate the community about meth in an attempt to prevent meth's first use.

Unfortunately, there are many people that do require treatment for the addiction of meth. It is a challenge to provide this service

and thus treatment options are limited.

SEABHS: (520) 384-2521
SEASAC: (520) 586-6171
Three Springs: (520) 378-6466
Kino Hospital: (520) 874-2000

Typically meth addiction must be provided in an inpatient setting for approximately 90 days. There are also newer modalities called Intensive Outpatient (IOP) services that allow for outpatient

treatment in a group setting 2—3 times per week.

Our local SEABHS does provide an IOP. Inpatient services are provided through SEABHS, in Benson, if deemed medically necessary.

Other inpatient services, and IOPs, are also available in Pima County. Their contacts are listed in the center box. Or, visit the following site for a treatment center near you:

www.methresources.gov

Is There a Meth Lab Near You?

In 2006, the Willcox Department of Public Safety seized one of the largest meth labs, to date, in Arizona.

Meth labs are extremely dangerous to our local environment as they are highly explosive. Toxic chemicals are also released into the atmosphere during the off gassing process of meth production.

There are certain odors distinctive to the making of meth. These odors can

smell ammonia-like, such as cat urine. Another common odor is acetone-like, such as nail polish remover.



Above is pictured many of the numer-

ous chemicals found in the Willcox Meth Lab Bust of 2006. For every pound of meth made, there is another five to six pounds of toxic waste generated. Some meth makers dispose of this waste in a neighbor's trash can. This makes unsuspecting passersby exposed to toxic fumes. Other meth makers will dispose of meth waste in their yards. This will cause dead spots in their yard and the chemicals can potentially filter into our water table.

Other Important Contacts

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**

If you suspect a child may be in a home with a meth lab, or with parents using meth, visit your local medical provider or call:

- **911**
- **In Willcox: 384-4673**
- **In Arizona: 888-SOS-CHILD**

For more information about meth, visit our website at:

www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org

If you have more questions, or would like to request a presentation, please contact:

Dr. Dawn K. Walker (520) 766-5000

Chief Jake Weaver (520) 384-4673

The WMTF meets quarterly at the local Willcox Police Department.