

A Plan for Action: Addressing Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona —2010 Priority Recommendations

Priority Recommendations

Action Steps

Recommended Strategies

Recommendation One

The single point of contact that orchestrates statewide planning and delivery of services specific to methamphetamine will report to the Governor and establish a clearing house to disseminate information and evidence-based solutions to prevent, intervene with, and treat methamphetamine use.

A. The Director of the Governor's Division for Substance Abuse Policy will report to the Governor and assume responsibility for coordinating all substance abuse services and policy for the State of Arizona.

B. Create a central clearinghouse to share best practices; disseminate information on evidence-based prevention, intervention and treatment options; provide grassroots strategic direction to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP); provide strategic outreach and support for rural communities and local substance abuse coalitions.

- The Director will coordinate prevention, treatment and enforcement activities to drive related policy and programs in the state.
- The Director will research and implement strategies based on best practices.
- The Epi Work Group will provide updates on substance abuse data and emerging trends to ASAP and the Methamphetamine Task Force to inform their decision making.

Recommendation Two

Identify and implement evidence-based prevention strategies to prevent high-risk populations from using methamphetamine.

A. Sustain and continue to build capacity of substance abuse coalitions, schools and prevention service providers throughout the state to implement cost effective evidence-based prevention strategies.

B. Identify successful community-based strategies and create a menu of program, policy and success stories that will allow communities to replicate as appropriate.

C. Utilize data and recommendations from the Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report and GIS technology to determine areas of high prevalence and/or high risk/low protective factors and target prevention and treatment resources to these identified state and community hot-spots.

- ADHS will monitor Treatment Block Grant provider involvement in community substance abuse prevention coalitions and RBHA completion of regional needs assessments.
- ADHS will train providers through webinars on evidence based prevention strategies.
- The Division will provide coalitions with media strategies and tools to communicate the dangers and harm of methamphetamine use through media campaign's.
- The Division will create an Arizona Specific resource guide on prevention.
- The Epi Work Group will identify counties and community health analysis areas (CHAAs) with high methamphetamine use.
- The Task Force and the ASAP will target technical assistance resources to communities that have are identified as methamphetamine "hot spots".

Recommendation Three

Enhance and monitor the coordination and collaboration of treatment services for adult and juvenile methamphetamine-related offenders and develop a framework to improve access to substance abuse treatment.

A. Bi-monthly meetings will be conducted between the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) and the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC) for the purpose of identifying services and progress made in treatment service delivery among participating agencies. Participants will provide a quarterly report on case management strategies that involve drug involved families.

B. Continue to expand services for drug courts (including family drug courts) and mental health courts throughout the state.

C. Create and fund treatment alternatives to incarceration.

D. Ensure that adults and juveniles have access to reentry treatment services for methamphetamine once released from county jails, tribal jails and state prisons.

- Create drug courts in areas of the state where they do not exist.
- Expand services provided by the Access to Recovery grant in county drug court.
- Develop a guidance document for substance abuse treatment providers that will identify effective treatment program elements for youth and adults referred from the justice systems.
- Develop strategies and/or best practices that would provide opportunities for alternatives to incarceration.
- Monitor the increase of direct support services to maintain children in their communities.
- Coordinate substance abuse treatment services for youth and adults upon re-entry.
- Expand use of the Health e-Arizona system with institutions to reduce delay in determining AHCCCS availability.
- Review treatment needs & gaps to rural & tribal communities and prioritize network development to address identified gaps.

Recommendation Four

Reduce trafficking of methamphetamine and its precursor chemicals through implementation and support of continuous data collection methods to track pseudoephedrine sales and methamphetamine related arrest information.

A. Enhance and increase participation of tribal leadership with the State of Arizona action-plan to coordinate a comprehensive strategy with state and federal partners.

B. Federal and state law enforcement partners identify specific policy and program needs designed to enhance their efforts to reduced trafficking of methamphetamine and implement appropriate controls on precursor chemicals.

C. Develop specific strategies that connect community coalitions and community efforts to comprehensive crime and drug prevention at the state and federal level.

D. Implement the Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) in all county jails and detention facilities to collect and analyze arrestee drug use data to provide local communities with an understanding of drug-involved arrests

- Coordinate with Tribal Leadership and community groups to reduce trafficking of methamphetamine and precursor chemicals on tribal lands.
- Modify State legislation to require an individual to possess a valid prescription to purchase pseudoephedrine.
- Distribute information on successful prevention strategies to implement with law enforcement.
- Obtain and assess booking censuses and booking processes for each county.
- Develop statewide AARIN data collection and implementation plan - including budget options - appropriate for each county.

Recommendation Five

Monitor the impact of the Combat Meth Act and other precursor chemical control efforts to assess the need for immediate response systems to clandestine meth lab sites to reduce the negative impact of methamphetamine.

A. Provide quarterly report to the Methamphetamine Task Force on lab seizures and distribution of labs within the State of Arizona.

B. Assess the need for incentives to increase the capability of both private and public properties to clean-up labs.

C. Identify and research national lab remediation legislation in other states for effectiveness and explore replication for Arizona.

- Monitor methamphetamine lab sites that have been remediated and seized.
- Determine the exact number of seized meth sites by federal, state and local agencies in the State of Arizona.
- Compare the number of seized lab sites with the site that have been cleaned by an approved Board of Technical Registration contractor.
- Increase the number of contract providers to perform lab cleanup.
- Monitor emerging lab remediation technology and national legislation to reduce the current cost for clean up.
- Update A.R.S. §12-1000 to include language revisions suggested by the remediation work group, to enhance current statute.