



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine, a highly addictive, easy-to-manufacture stimulant, has become one of the most destructive and widespread illegal drugs in the nation. This crime problem is especially challenging for law enforcement agencies, as methamphetamine can even be produced in vans and trailers that can be moved across jurisdictional lines.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is working closely with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to support law enforcement and community efforts to address methamphetamine enforcement and prevention. BJA initiatives include supporting the development of a comprehensive web resource center, www.MethResources.gov; promoting the use of drug courts to treat methamphetamine users; providing methamphetamine task force training for law enforcement; offering expanded intelligence and information sharing resources through the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS); and providing training and technical assistance to states in address the problem through legislation.

Two efforts proven to be effective for methamphetamine abuse and addiction are training for law enforcement officials, and drug courts for abusers. The Methamphetamine Investigation Management workshops for law enforcement officials are sponsored by BJA, in partnership with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR). Taught by experts in the field, the workshops address operational aspects of managing complex methamphetamine drug investigations as well as critical issues specific to these types of investigations.

Drug courts combine intensive drug rehabilitation services for addicts with court requirements to complete treatment. Using tested methods, drug courts are reducing recidivism, reuniting families, promoting abstinence, and rebuilding communities. To provide an overview of the critical components of methamphetamine-specific drug courts; examples of successful drug court programs; and policy recommendations for implementing a methamphetamine/drug court model, in 2005 BJA released a bulletin, "*Drug Courts: An Effective Strategy for Communities Facing Methamphetamine*," available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MethDrugCourts.pdf.

For more information on methamphetamine strategies, contact Michelle Shaw, BJA Policy Advisor, at michelle.a.shaw@usdoj.gov.