

# Meth in Our Community

## Issue 2

### Can it happen here?

In 2015, 4.8% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade male students in South Dakota indicated they used Meth at least once. 3.8% of all high school-age youth in South Dakota indicated they used Meth at least once.

### This rate was higher than the US average.

In 2015, 3% of US high school-age youth indicated they used Meth at least once (Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015). Surrounding states, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming also had equal or higher than the US average (3%, 4.2%, and 4.2% respectively).

### What can we expect?

Meth use brings increased lab activity, trafficking, and criminal activity into our community.

The number of meth lab incidents in South Dakota increased from 6 in 2011 to 23 in 2015 (HSYRBS 2015, SD HIDTA 2015). South Dakota saw an increase of meth lab incidents from 6 in 2016 to 9 in 2017 as of November 2017 (SD HIDTA).

### Problem solved?

Most of the meth labs in the US are small-scale, easy to conceal, and produce small batches in a container (like a plastic bottle). Common household items are used (tablets, lithium batteries, camp fuel, starting fluid, cold packs, drain cleaner, etc.). These labs are more difficult to identify (DEA NDTA 2017).

Meth labs contaminate areas with toxic vapors and harsh chemicals. Family members, visitors, and neighbors of a meth lab can be exposed to this toxic environment and may lead to hospitalization or death.



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### Meth Use Includes:

#### Drug Trafficking

Meth trafficking is an increasing problem. The Sioux Falls area accounted for almost 40% of South Dakota meth arrests in 2015 increasing to just over 42% in 2016. The Sioux Falls area accounted for almost 32% of meth seized in South Dakota in 2015 increasing to just over 59% in 2016 (SD HIDTA).

According to the DEA's 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment, Methamphetamine seizures along the Southwest border between the US and Mexico increased **157 percent** from 2012 to 2016.

Crimes involving meth are already occurring in our neighborhoods.

#### Criminal Activity

**As of November 2017, nearly half of meth arrests in South Dakota occurred in the Sioux Falls area.**

A 13-year-old boy was charged with aggravated assault after stabbing two people in Sioux Falls, SD connected with a planned drug deal involving meth in October of 2017 (Keloland).

In November 2017, three people were arrested in a Sioux Falls home within 1,000 feet of two schools where police found a substantial amount of meth (Argus Leader). **An 8-year-old was also present in the home.**

#### What can I do? **Talk. They Hear You.**

"Kids who continue to learn about the risks of drugs at home are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs than those who are not taught about the dangers (SAMHSA 2013)." If you have concerns:

- Remind your teen you care and are concerned.
- Be specific about what is causing the concern.
- Tell your teen how the behaviors make you feel.
- Listen to what your teen has to say.
- Suggest, don't demand, what changes you want to see.
- Share how you will help your teen change and reach the agreed goals.

High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbhs/results.htm>

South Dakota High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcprpubs/publications/enforce/hidta2001/midw-fs.html>

DEA National Drug Threat Assessment 2017

[https://www.dea.gov/docs/DIR-040-17\\_2017-NDTA.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/docs/DIR-040-17_2017-NDTA.pdf)

Two stabbed in Sioux Falls, 13-Year-Old Boy Charged (Keloland 10/30/17)

<http://www.keloland.com/news/article/news/two-stabbed-in-sioux-falls-13-year-old-boy-charged>

Police: Four arrested after drug bust in home near schools (Argus Leader 11/15/17)

<http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/crime/2017/11/15/police-four-arrested-after-drug-bust-home-near-schools/866739001/>