

TRIBAL WASTE Journal

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*METHAMPHETAMINE:
Threatening the Health
and Environment of
Tribal Communities*

CHEROKEES SAY "NOT IN
OUR NATION" TO METH LABS

TSWAN FIGHTS
MOBILE METH LABS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR METH PREVENTION AND
CLEANUP PROGRAMS



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A TRIBAL challenge

Methamphetamine: Threatening the Health and Environment of Tribal Communities

Methamphetamine use is a growing problem in the United States and Indian Country. Once seen as only a rural issue in Western states, labs used to produce meth are multiplying throughout the nation and are becoming a major public health and environmental concern for many communities.

What is methamphetamine (meth)?

Meth is a stimulant drug that releases high levels of dopamine, which can create an intense high lasting up to 36 hours. Because of this intense high, meth is extremely addictive. Meth can be ingested several ways, including orally as a pill, injection with a syringe, or through wet or dry injection. While meth, an illegal drug, is the most common name for this drug, it also is known by several other names, including crystal meth, glass, and speed.

How is meth made?

Unlike drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, which are derived from plants, meth can be manufactured using a variety of store-bought products such as cold medications containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, drain cleaners containing sulfuric or muriatic acid, antifreeze, denatured alcohol, and lantern fuel. Meth is often manufactured, or “cooked,” in very crude laboratories. Many of these labs are simple operations that do not require sophisticated equipment. The individuals who cook meth usually lack formal training in chemistry. They may not realize the harm that they may be causing to themselves or others, as well as to the environment. Cooking meth may be considered to be relatively simple, but is very dangerous and toxic.



Close-up photograph of ice methamphetamine.

Photo provided courtesy of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. www.usdoj.gov/dea/index.htm



Methamphetamine is a problem, infiltrating and devastating communities.



Photograph of meth in pill form.



Photograph of meth in powder form.



Photograph of ice meth and pipe.

*Photos provided courtesy of the
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.
www.usdoj.gov/dea/index.htm*

Where are meth labs found?

Meth labs can be found in many everyday settings such as private residences, trailers, campgrounds, hotel rooms, and vehicles.

- Waste from meth labs that is improperly disposed of can contaminate groundwater and wells; kill plants; and harm aquatic life and animals.

What risks do meth labs pose to human health and the environment?

The production of meth requires numerous ingredients that can pose a significant hazard to human health and the environment during the cooking process, when labs are abandoned, or when meth cookers improperly dispose of the lab wastes. For example:

- Exposure to the chemicals used to cook meth or the waste from cooking meth can lead to chemical burns, shortness of breath, damage to the central nervous system, headaches, vomiting, confusion, and, in some cases, death.
- Cooking meth poses a high danger of explosion because volatile, unstable compounds are mixed, usually without the proper safety equipment.

How is meth affecting Indian Country? Why is meth a particular challenge in Indian Country?

Meth is having a significant impact in Indian Country. According to the National Congress of American Indians, Native Americans experience some of the highest rates of use and abuse of meth in the country. In some rural communities, up to 30 percent of tribal members have been reported as abusing meth.

Tribal police have recognized the seriousness of this problem, and many report that meth is the greatest drug threat to their communities. They also report that up to 40 percent of violent crime in Indian Country involves meth.

For more information on meth in Indian Country, visit www.ncai.org/ncai/Meth/Meth_in_Indian_Country_and_Creative_Tribal_Solutions_July.pdf.

BEING aware

Meth Lab Identification

Because of the potential hazards posed to human health and the environment by meth labs, it is important that everyone is able to identify the signs that a home, vehicle, or other facility is or has been used as a meth lab. The following is a list of what to look for and how to identify a meth lab in your community:

Location

- Meth labs can be found in every type of location and property (including rural and urban areas and in tenant or owner-occupied properties, such as apartment complexes, single-family homes, hotels, vehicles, mobile storage units, and trailers).
- Residences housing meth labs often have windows covered with curtains or aluminum foil. Structures such as garages or sheds may also be used.
- The property might have frequent visitors, especially at unusual times of the day.
- Many meth labs also include extensive security measures or attempts to ensure privacy, such as “No Trespassing” or “Beware of Dog” signs, fences, or large trees or shrubs.

- The residents may be secretive or unfriendly.
- Mobile meth labs may involve stealing cars, moving them to obscure locations to cook meth for a few hours, and then abandoning them.

Common Ingredients and Supplies

- The chemicals used to cook meth vary, but typically include ephedrine or pseudoephedrine (the ingredient found in some cold and allergy medications). Watch for excessive numbers of empty cold or allergy medicine containers.
- Other commonly used chemicals in meth production include drain cleaners (containing sulfuric or muriatic acid), antifreeze, denatured alcohol, and lantern fuel.



Photograph of an active meth lab discovered in a home.



Methamphetamine has devastating impacts on human health and the environment.



Photograph of an active meth lab discovered in a hotel room.



Photograph of a meth lab discovered in a rural location.

- Watch for the supplies that meth cookers require and may bring into the lab, such as heat sources (hot plates, Bunsen burners, or propane cylinders); glass cookware; frying pans; coffee filters; and plastic tubing. When the cookware and frying pans are disposed of, they may contain a powdery residue, while the coffee filters may have red stains.
- Other supplies often used and found in meth labs include lithium batteries (usually stripped), soft silver or gray metallic ribbon (in chunk form) stored in oil or kerosene, and propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue.
- Production of meth will often result in strong, offensive odors, such as the smell of ether, ammonia, or acetone. Quite often the odor will smell similar to cat urine or fingernail polish.

Excessive Waste

- Look for large quantities of waste or garbage, including empty medicine containers, coffee filters, duct tape rolls, lantern fuel, paint thinner, acetone, starter fluid, lye, and drain cleaners.

If you discover a home or other facility featuring one or more of these characteristics, it does not necessarily mean that the location is being used to cook meth. However, if the activities you observe at a particular location lead you to suspect that someone is running a meth lab, do not attempt to enter the building or vehicle or touch any debris. Instead, contact local law enforcement immediately to let them know what you have found so they can determine the best steps to deal with the situation.

All of the items listed above are easily obtainable at most local grocery, pharmacy, and/or hardware stores. Employees of these establishments should watch for individuals buying these materials in any quantities over what would be typical for a household.

Unusual Sights and Odors

- If meth is being cooked in a home or other type of building, the walls may be stained brown or otherwise discolored.



CHEROKEE Nation

Cherokees Say “Not in Our Nation” to Meth Labs

Several years ago, the Cherokee Nation formulated the policy of “Not in Our Nation” to characterize their efforts against the illicit production and use of methamphetamine (meth) within their communities. These efforts combine a training program and community-oriented activities. The purpose of the community-oriented activities is to empower communities with the necessary resources to properly address the devastation that this menace creates. Meth, unlike other illegal drugs, is unique because it creates a toxic legacy of contaminated properties. To address this concern, the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) division developed a clandestine drug laboratory assessment initiative.

History

In late 2002, CNEP received a request from the Cherokee Nation Housing Authority (CNHA) to investigate a potential meth lab in a home owned and managed by the Authority. Before undertaking the investigation, CNEP officials received training on methods used to assess clandestine drug labs from the Oregon Department of Human Services. Following the training in 2003, staff from CNEP, led by Environmental Specialist Wayne Isaacs, assessed the home first cited by CNHA. Mr. Isaacs and his staff had previous experience identifying and assessing

hazardous materials, having worked in the Cherokee Nation Superfund and Brownfields programs.

The following year, the U.S. Department of Justice provided funding to CNEP to purchase equipment for investigating meth labs and to hold a regional meth conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, partnering with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. In addition, CNEP began a community education initiative to help tribal members understand meth, its harmful effects, and the dangers posed to human health and the environment by meth labs.



The current flag of the Cherokee Nation.



Explosion and fire damage caused by the volatile chemicals used in a meth lab.

The initiative came about largely because of support from the Cherokee Nation's governing officials. Tribal officials helped form a multi-agency task force to combat the meth problem. The task force met frequently to create a plan to address the issue. In 2005, officials also helped form the Cherokee Nation Anti-Meth Coalition, composed of representatives from behavioral health, tribal law enforcement, housing authority, environmental programs, administration, child welfare, social services, and public relations. The Coalition does much of its work in local communities by educating the public about meth and empowering residents to support and implement meth prevention and awareness programs.

In addition to its role in the Anti-Meth Coalition, CNEP has conducted numerous site assessments at former and abandoned meth labs. The assessments are supported with funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, authorized under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act.

CNEP Site Assessments

The main focus of CNEP's site assessments is to ensure that no residual meth production chemicals remain at the site, including the house and its surrounding environment. Before CNEP performs the site assessment, the tribal law enforcement department identifies and decides whether a meth lab has been present. This typically results in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency providing access to a hazardous waste contractor who removes the waste.

Once the waste is removed, CNEP performs its site assessment by taking the following steps: (1) Performing a preliminary site investigation; (2) Taking samples and sending them to a lab for analysis; (3) Receiving the sample results to see which contaminants are still present and where they are located; (4) Reporting all findings along with decontamination procedures to CNHA; and (5) Performing a clearance test after the site has been cleaned to ensure no contamination remains and the house can once again be safely inhabited.

CNEP's Training Program

In 2006, with the knowledge gained from completing numerous site assessments over the past several years, and with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CNEP developed and organized a training course, "Meth Lab Hazard Assessment," to assist other tribes with conducting site investigations. Until recently, due to funding

limitations, CNEP was only able to teach this course in EPA Region 6—Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. However, through a recently awarded EPA Brownfields grant, CNEP will be able to provide the training across the country. CNEP hopes to conduct the training in the spring of 2008 and is currently conducting research to ensure that information presented in the training is up to date. CNEP also intends to allocate more staff to assist with the increased training needs.

When conducted across the nation, the course will likely follow a "train-the-trainer" approach. It will include case studies and other "hands-on" activities to educate tribes on how to assess potential meth labs. CNEP is working with the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) to disseminate information about the training. ITEC is composed of 40 member tribes, with the Cherokee Nation serving in a leadership capacity. The ITEC website (www.itecmembers.org) will feature updates on the status of the training program and when training will be available throughout the United States.

Meth in Indian Country

The Cherokee Nation has been able to successfully decrease drug use, primarily by working with elders and children. Much of this work has been accomplished by visiting community members and schools to educate young people about the dangers of meth use and production.



According to Mr. Isaacs, CNEP's environmental specialist, production of meth in small "mom and pop" labs has declined significantly in recent years. Much of this decline is due to the new federal and state laws that regulate the purchase of some of the main ingredients necessary to produce meth. Oklahoma, home to the Cherokee Nation, was the first state to implement such laws and had them in place prior to any federal regulation.

While there is a significant decline in new meth labs due to the new regulation, meth production is moving to fewer, larger labs, and many smaller, rural labs are being abandoned. These abandoned sites have become a significant risk to human health and the environment.

For instance, according to statements by Mr. Isaacs, between 1999 and 2004 alone, there were 4,219 meth lab incidents reported in Oklahoma. However, many people suspect that this number is lower than the actual number due to under-reporting. Local law enforcement agencies believe there are as many as 10 unreported illegal sites for every one that is reported. In addition, authorities have stated that not only is identifying the number of labs difficult, but determining whether they are located on tribal lands, and hence under tribal jurisdiction, is also an issue.

Nevertheless, according to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, meth lab seizures have risen 577 percent nationally since 1995.¹ Oklahoma meth cases have increased more than 8,000 percent since 1994,² according to the Bureau.

Challenges

CNEP has overcome numerous obstacles in its efforts to cleanup abandoned meth labs and prevent the use of meth by members of the Cherokee Nation. The tribe, however, still faces many challenges related to the misconceptions surrounding meth and former meth lab sites. For example, many people believe that houses that once served as meth labs must be demolished instead of being cleaned and re-inhabited. This is true in only a few cases. In many cases, contractors can decontaminate a home so that it no longer poses a threat to human health and the environment. Educating people about this issue is challenging. Part of CNEP's mission is to ensure that people not only understand the dangers posed by abandoned meth labs, but that they also realize that once cleaned, a house no longer poses a threat to its inhabitants or the surrounding environment.

Mr. Isaacs says another misconception is that meth labs produce a large amount of hazardous waste. In fact, most meth labs only produce



A Cherokee employee performing a site assessment of a meth lab.

Photo provided courtesy of the Cherokee Nation. www.cherokee.org

moderate amounts of hazardous waste. The threat occurs when people dump this waste in their backyards or nearby streams, potentially spreading contamination into the surrounding environment and local drinking water sources.

The Cherokee Nation is working effectively against meth production and use and has made significant progress toward supporting efforts to eliminate meth from its lands by saying, "Not in Our Nation."

If your tribe would like more information on this issue or on CNEP's upcoming training, visit www.itecmembers.org or contact:

Wayne Isaacs
Cherokee Nation
Environmental Programs
(918) 453-5359 office
(918) 453-2904 fax
wisaacs@cherokee.org

¹ "Cherokee Nation Methamphetamine Lab Assessment," National Forum on Tribal Environmental Science, Sept. 24-29, 2007, Quinault Beach Resort and Casino, Ocean Shores, WA.

² Ibid.



TSWAN

TSWAN Fights Mobile Meth Labs

A trend is emerging in Indian Country. Mobile meth labs—primarily cars and trucks, often stolen—are being found on reservations. Meth producers are drawn to the area by the rural setting and the knowledge that they are entering a tribal jurisdiction.



Vast acres of land in the Pacific Northwest make it attractive to meth producers.

In the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, tribes and native villages are responding to the problem of mobile meth labs with the help of the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN), a nonprofit alliance. TSWAN, which focuses on effective and environmentally responsible solid waste management on tribal lands, has added mobile meth lab cleanups to its list of priorities. TSWAN focuses on training solid waste and public works personnel on hazard identification, as these types of workers are often the ones to discover the meth labs.

A New Kind of Trespassing

Mobile meth labs are created when people, typically non-tribal members, drive onto tribal land, park their cars in the woods or on the shoulders of roads, cook meth for a few

hours in the vehicles, and then abandon the cars or dump their cooking supplies in the woods or on the roadside. In many cases, the meth cookers have stolen the vehicles, which is why they are willing to abandon them.

According to Kami Snowden, TSWAN's executive director, a related problem has arisen in Alaska, primarily in native villages located in areas not connected to the main Alaskan road system. These remote areas are more readily accessible by plane. As a result, meth cookers fly into a native village and cook meth for a few hours. Once done, the cookers abandon the site and simply fly back out.

Ms. Snowden states that many tribes and law enforcement agencies focus on preventing meth use. The idea



of targeting abandoned meth lab sites and training officials on how to identify these sites is relatively new and just now receiving attention. In particular, public works and solid waste staff often lack training on how to identify mobile meth labs.

For example, during a recent visit to a reservation near Seattle, Washington, Ms. Snowden was traveling with a resident on a road where workers had recently cleaned up some debris. Ms. Snowden learned that the workers had picked up bottles filled with what appeared to be urine along with other debris on the side of the road, and that the workers were sniffing the contents to identify them. According to Ms. Snowden, this was probably not trash but leftover items from a mobile meth lab; at the time the workers did not know this and risked being injured by the dangerous chemicals.

The methods used to make meth have changed over time, as ingredients have become regulated and harder to obtain. For example, as the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine has become strictly regulated, many meth cooks have switched to using red lye, which is extremely hazardous to human health and the environment and can be found readily at any neighborhood hardware store. This has increased the risk to workers when identifying or assessing these sites.

Initial Response

When a mobile meth lab is discovered in Indian Country, tribal law enforcement is often notified. They in turn may call in federal officials to assist, because an incident taking place on tribal lands could potentially involve both tribal and federal authorities. According to Ms. Snowden, this is an effective response, but it can raise questions about who is ultimately responsible for the cleanup of the site.

Tribal officials have gone to varying lengths to develop plans to prevent mobile meth labs from appearing on tribal lands and thereby avoiding the need for site cleanup all together. Physically stopping traffickers from coming onto reservations can prove to be difficult because most reservations have many roads and points of entry. In addition, some reservations encompass vast areas of land but have few tribal law enforcement officers to monitor the area. Also, traffickers may know they cannot be followed onto tribal lands by local and/or state law enforcement officers, because they typically have no authority on reservations. Consequently, tribal lands have become increasingly attractive to meth producers.

TSWAN's Training Program

To help educate solid waste and public works staff with hazard identification and response, TSWAN is developing a 3-day training session with help from the University of Washington (through a hazardous waste grant from

EPA) and the Washington State Patrol's Drug Task Force Unit. The first training session is planned for June 2008.

The training session will focus not only on hazard identification but also on teaching attendees how to respond after finding a meth lab, whom to call, the costs of cleanup, and other related topics. In addition, the training will cover which warning signs to look for when trying to identify a meth lab.

Through the collaborative efforts of TSWAN and the Drug Task Force Unit, the training will also feature two hands-on training exercises using mock meth lab scenes. One will be an open dumping site for attendees to walk through. The other will be a vehicle assembled as a mobile meth lab. Attendees will be able to see and test the classroom instruction.

Each training session will be limited to approximately 35 people, with tribes who belong to TSWAN given preference. Ms. Snowden anticipates that the training will be very educational and popular, but that one session will not be enough. TSWAN hopes to conduct 3-4 training sessions in the upcoming 12-18 months.

For more information about TSWAN's training, contact:

Kami Snowden
TSWAN Executive Director
P.O. Box 505
Cheney, WA 99004
(509) 235-6007
www.tswan.org

ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING opportunities

Funding Opportunities for Meth Prevention and Cleanup Programs

The following list describes funding opportunities provided by various government agencies and other organizations to help tribes.



Funding is available to help with land revitalization.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Local Governments Reimbursement Program: This program provides federal funds to local governments for costs related to temporary emergency measures conducted in response to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances.

www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/lgr/

- **Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes:** This program provides capacity-building grants to federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations. Its goal is to encourage comprehensive integrated hazardous waste management practices that are protective of human health and the environment.

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/finance.htm

- EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training.
www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot.htm
- Brownfields Assessment Pilots/Grants
www.epa.gov/brownfields/assessment_grants.htm
- Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Pilots/Grantees
www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/plocat.htm
- Brownfields Cleanup Grants
www.epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup_grants.htm
- Brownfields Job Training Pilots/Grants
www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm



- Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants
www.epa.gov/brownfields/trta.htm
- Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant Fact Sheet: This site describes the Cherokee Nation Environmental Program's Brownfields Methamphetamine Training.
www.epa.gov/brownfields/html-doc/k6-07-cnep.htm
- State and Tribal Response Programs: This site provides background information, state and tribal grant funding guidance, memoranda of understanding, state brownfields websites, and state Voluntary Cleanup Programs websites.
www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal.htm
- Other Funding and Financing for Brownfields
www.epa.gov/brownfields/mmatters.htm

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance

These funding opportunities assist tribal jurisdictions in improving their criminal justice systems and reducing substance abuse. Applicants are limited to federally recognized tribes, including Alaska Native Villages and corporations, and authorized intertribal consortia.

- General information from the Bureau of Justice Assistance
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/
- Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Competitive Grant Announcement
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/08TCAPsol.pdf
- Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program FY 2008 Competitive Grant Announcement
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/08IASAPsol.pdf
- Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/08IASAPsol.pdf

DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

The COPS Office helps law enforcement agencies implement and enhance community enforcement.

- Methamphetamine Initiatives: This site provides links to fact sheets, grant owners' manuals, environmental assessments, and tools for combating meth.
www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=57
- COPS Applications for Funding: This site lists current funding opportunities and due dates.
www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=240



Funding is available for job training to properly recognize and deal with meth labs.

- COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program: This grant program has offered a wide variety of funding in areas such as hiring additional officers, law enforcement training, uniforms, basic-issue equipment, emerging technologies, and police vehicles.
www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=1428

U.S. Department of Education (DOE)

Grants for School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs for FY 2008: This site features current solicitations for DOE grants for local education agencies and public and private entities to develop and implement or expand school-based mandatory, random, or voluntary drug-testing programs for students.

www.randomstudentdrugtesting.org/current_solicitations.html





Funding is available for substance abuse and mental health services.

Meth Resources

Latest Funding: This site provides links to meth prevention, education, and treatment funding opportunities for business/retail/farmers/landlords, enforcement and public safety officials, parents and youth, policymakers, and legislators.

www.methresources.gov/InformationTypeResource.aspx?Infold=5

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

NIDA grants support its mission to lead the nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse, addiction, and associated infections such as HIV, HCV, TB, and others.

- Securing Funding for NIDA Grants and Contracts:

www.drugabuse.gov/funding/default.html

- Requests for Funding Applications:

www.drugabuse.gov/funding/rfa.html

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board: Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Funding and Resources: This site provides links to COPS funding and resources for key Indian health issues, including combating the effects of meth.

www.npaihb.org/health_issues/page/meth_funding_and_resources

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Drug Free Communities Support Program

The Drug Free Communities Potential Grantees: This site provides grantee information, requests for applications, and application support for the Drug Free Communities Support Program.

www.ondcp.gov/dfc/potentialgrantees.html

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Request for Applications: Cooperative Agreements for Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment (SBIRT): The purpose of this program is to expand and enhance state and tribal substance-abuse treatment service systems.

www.samhsa.gov/grants/2008/ti_08_001.aspx

Tribal Justice Programs

National Funding Opportunities: This site provides links to funding opportunities for tribal courts, drug abuse prevention, and many other issues.

www.tribaljusticeprograms.org/funding/opps.asp



LEARN more

General Meth Information

If you are interested in learning more about the tools and programs currently available to help combat meth and meth-related problems, please visit some of the following websites.

Anti-Meth Training

This website describes a new anti-meth “online” and “in-person” training course designed specifically to help combat the meth problem in Indian Country. The course, offered by Lamar Associates under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, features information on the meth issues in Indian Country; ways to identify meth use and production; discussion about jurisdictional issues in Indian Country; and ideas for developing community coalitions and undertaking strategic planning.

www.lamarassociates.net/antimethtraining.html

MethResources.gov

The federal government created this website to provide information on a range of meth-related topics, including

health and environmental impacts, treatment, training and technical assistance, and policies and regulations. The site also includes a discussion board and links to upcoming conferences and events.

www.methresources.gov

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Tribal Meth Toolkit

This site provides access to a toolkit of meth-related materials, including:

- Basic information about meth use in Indian Country;
- Examples of tribal codes and policies to outlaw meth;
- Television and radio public service announcements and newsletter article templates to increase awareness about the hazards posed by meth;



Many resources are available to help with youth education and drug prevention.



Learn about the environmental impacts caused by meth production.

Tribes across the nation are reporting that meth has become a problem.

- Educational materials and presentations, including posters and bookmarks; and
- Links to other resources for dealing with the meth problem.

www.ncai.org/Tribal_Meth_Toolkit.266.0.html

NCAI Meth in Indian Country Initiative

This site includes links to other resources provided by NCAI, such as the Tribal Meth Toolkit and information about current meth-related legislation and conferences.

www.ncai.org/Meth_in_Indian_Country_Initiat.192.0.html

National Tribal Justice Resource Center Methamphetamine Tools and Resources

This site features basic information about meth as well as links to numerous news articles and publications about meth and organizations working to prevent the use of meth throughout the United States, including Indian Country.

www.ntjrc.org/legal/details.asp?83

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service Methamphetamine Initiative

This site, originally created in 2006, features links to information on meth prevention activities, such as training and workgroups.

www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Behavioral/index.cfm?module=BH&option=Meth

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs/Indian Community Initiatives

This site details some of the efforts currently underway in Indian Country by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, such as developing a meth awareness training program and forming a joint working group on meth abuse.

www.doi.gov/news/07_News_Releases/070205a_INFO2.html



KIDS' corner

Caution Your Kids!

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, there has been a recent decline in the number of youths using drugs, despite the fact that total drug use remains at a relatively high level. As a result, illegal drug manufacturers are taking new steps to entice more young people, including children, to become addicted to drugs like meth.

To make the drugs more appealing to children, methamphetamine producers have recently started adding new cutting agents to dilute their product. Cutting agents are chemicals used to add bulk to meth as well as giving the drug a more tempting appearance. One such agent is Nestlé's Strawberry NESQUIK™, which makes the meth appear pink, instead of the usual brown or white color. "Strawberry Quick," as this colored meth is commonly called, also has been reported to have a strawberry odor and flavor.

Another type of meth that is popping up at parties and being used to entice young people is called "yaba." Yaba means "crazy medicine" in Thai. Yaba originated and is produced in Southeast and East Asia and combines caffeine with methamphetamine. Yaba is presented in

pill form and is usually orange, pink, or green, and has been reported to taste like candy.

Drug dealers have intentionally made these drugs look like candy to entice new users and create a new generation of meth addicts. Tribal leaders, parents, teachers, and others in the community should caution kids about accepting or ingesting these or any other types of drugs. Let children know that if they are unsure of what the substance is or where it came from, they should not use it or accept it.



Encourage children to become involved in their community.



Yaba



Strawberry Quick



Youths who participate in activities are less likely to use drugs like meth, than those who do not.



Many activities, like those offered at the Escondido Public Library, celebrate their communities' cultures and heritage.

Above photographs provided courtesy of Escondido Public Library, Escondido, CA.

Did You Know?

Statistically, youths who participate in activities are less likely to use drugs like meth than those who do not. There are several things that you can do within your community to keep kids active so that they do not turn to drugs. Consider things like:

- Having movie and game nights;
- Forming sports teams or leagues;
- Starting a drama class or a children's choir;
- Offering computer training; and
- Organizing volunteer programs.

You can also foster tribal culture among youth through activities such as:

- Native games;
- Tribal language or history courses;
- Native crafts;
- Cooking demonstrations; and
- Storytelling.

Encourage kids to bring their friends and family. Get the entire community involved!

For more information about native cultural programs for youth, please visit:

www.learningpt.org/afterschool/hqactivities/program.php?id=4

or
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/education/2002014369_skyvalley25n.html

For ideas on how to talk to kids about staying off drugs, visit these helpful websites:

www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/version3General.pdf

or
www.dare.com/parents/Parents_Tips/Story2d13.asp?N=Parents_Tips&M=25&S=91

**To be placed on our mailing list
or to submit ideas and success
stories, please e-mail:**

Kim Katonica-Mule
U.S. EPA Tribal Solid Waste Program
katonica.kim@epamail.epa.gov



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5306W)
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