



Working Together Toward
Safe Communities
Free From Substance Abuse

THE INFORMANT



Meth Watch Member e-Letter
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Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council's
(GSSAC) Prevention Center
Spokane County Meth Action Team (MAT)



New Meth Formula Avoids Anti-Drug Laws

TULSA, Okla. - This is the new formula for methamphetamine: a two-liter soda bottle, a few handfuls of cold pills and some noxious chemicals. Shake the bottle and the volatile reaction produces one of the world's most addictive drugs.

Only a few years ago, making meth required an elaborate lab — with filthy containers simmering over open flames, cans of flammable liquids and hundreds of pills. The process gave off foul odors, sometimes sparked explosions and was so hard to conceal that dealers often "cooked" their drugs in rural areas.

But now drug users are making their own meth in small batches using a faster, cheaper and much simpler method with ingredients that can be carried in a knapsack and mixed on the run. The "shake-and-bake" approach has become popular because it requires a relatively small number of pills of the decongestant pseudoephedrine — an amount easily obtained under even the toughest anti-meth laws that have been adopted across the nation to restrict large purchases of some cold medication.

"Somebody somewhere said, 'Wait — this requires a lot less pseudoephedrine, and I can fly under the radar,'" said Mark Woodward, spokesman for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control.

An Associated Press review of lab seizures and interviews with state and federal law enforcement agents found that the new method is rapidly spreading across the nation's midsection and is contributing to a spike in the number of meth cases after years of declining arrests.

The new formula does away with the clutter of typical meth labs, and it can turn the back seat of a car or a bathroom stall into a makeshift drug factory. Some addicts have even made the drug while driving.

The pills are crushed, combined with some common household chemicals and then shaken in the soda bottle. No flame is required.

Using the new formula, batches of meth are much smaller but just as dangerous as the old system, which sometimes

produces powerful explosions, touches off intense fires and releases drug ingredients that must be handled as toxic waste.

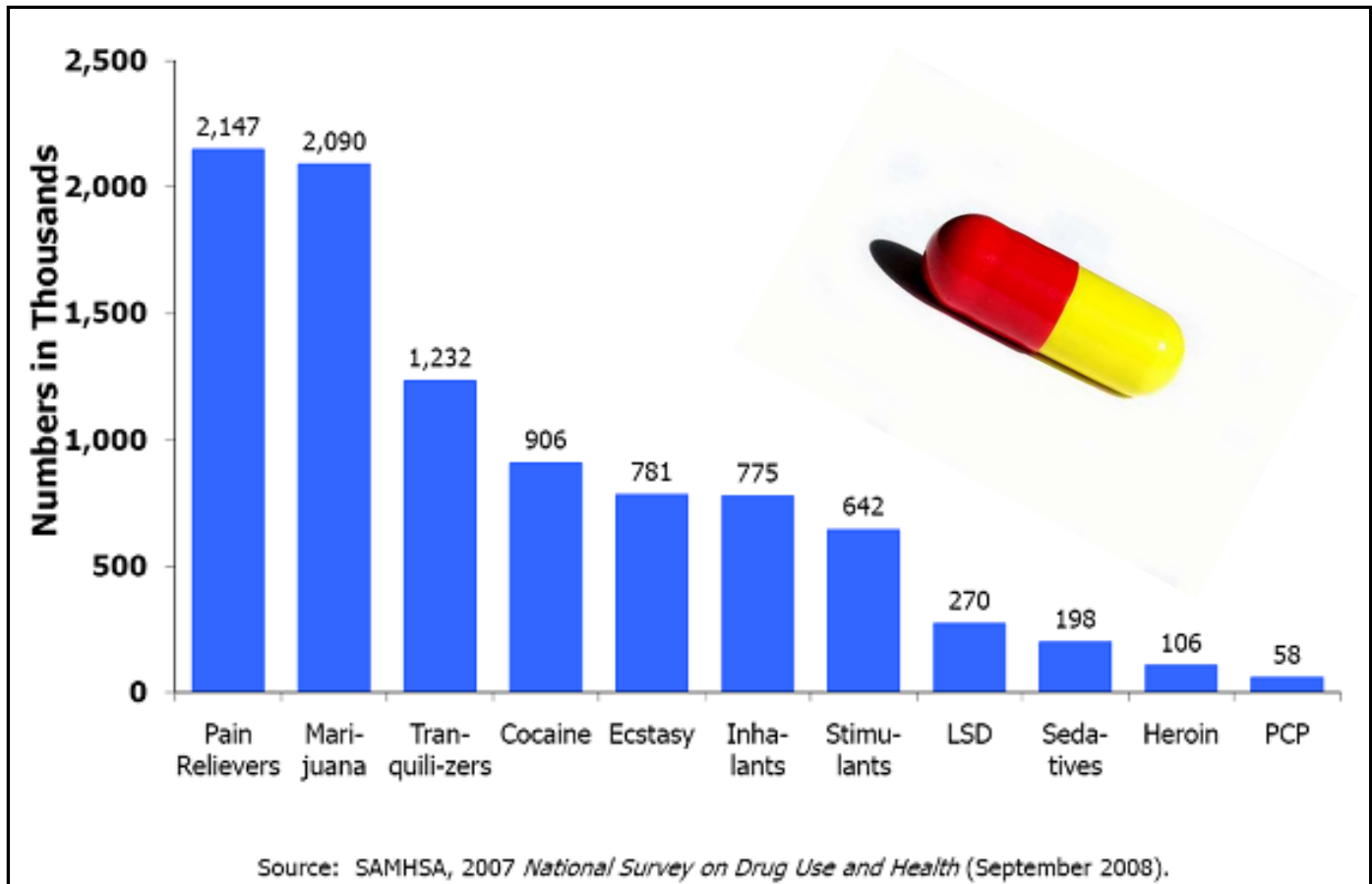
"If there is any oxygen at all in the bottle, it has a propensity to make a giant fireball," said Sgt. Jason Clark of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control. "You're not dealing with rocket scientists here anyway. If they get unlucky at all, it can have a very devastating reaction."

One little mistake, such as unscrewing the bottle cap too fast, can result in a huge blast, and police in Alabama, Oklahoma and other states have linked dozens of flash fires this year — some of them fatal — to meth manufacturing.

"Every meth recipe is dangerous, but in this one, if you don't shake it just right, you can build up too much pressure, and the container can pop," Woodward said.

"Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Rates of Drug Abuse, 2007



Prescription Drug Abuse & Crime

- Fastest growing drug threat in the U.S.
- 2nd fastest drug growth contributing to violent crime (next to crack cocaine)
- Largest upward trend for property crime

21% of people who died from prescription drug overdoses in West Virginia, had seen five or more different health care providers for controlled substances in the prior year.

(Center for Disease Control—West Virginia; Parade Magazine)





Washington State Rx Watch Community Presentation

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WA Rx Watch Presentation!

**CONTACT: Lacey Jones @
Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC)
Ljones@gssacpreventioncenter.com or (509) 922-8383**

Become Educated on the Dangers of Prescription Drug Abuse:

- Current Trends
- Commonly Abused Prescription Medications
 - Street Use/Internet Pharmacies
 - Pharmacy Burglaries
 - Prenatal Drug Use
 - Prevention

A program of the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC), in partnership with
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