

# **“METHAMPHETMAINE REPORT”**



**Prepared for the  
Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on  
Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources  
Representative Mark E. Souder, Chairman**

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# INDIANA STATE POLICE

## METHAMPHETAMINE REPORT

Methamphetamine the highly potent, dangerously addictive, controlled substance is spreading as an epidemic in the State of Indiana to the extent that it threatens to disrupt and destabilize various governmental programs and services. Law enforcement, health care programs, the courts, corrections and child protection agencies are all suffering the effects of the spread of this drug and the associated “kitchens of death”, clandestine laboratory operations.

Methamphetamine and Meth labs were first identified in southern Indiana in 1988. Realizing that this poison had finally reached the state, a drug lab investigation team was formed by the Indiana State Police Department. Responding to only three drug labs in 1994, the number of labs processed has nearly doubled every year since. In 2003, 1,260 Meth labs were identified in the state.

An equally disturbing trend is the significant increase in the number of Meth case submissions to State Police Laboratory facilities. In 1994 State Police reported receiving 401 Methamphetamine case submissions. Eight years later the number of submissions has sky rocketed to nearly 2,800 submissions. In 2002 the number of Meth submissions exceeded, for the first time, the number of powdered cocaine submissions.

Demand for this drug is increasing at alarming rates as is evidenced by recent seizures and convictions of local Meth traffickers. In a recent investigation in Indiana, 25 individuals were arrested and were alleged to have distributed more than 100 pounds of Meth a month. This prompted U. S. Attorney Susan Brooks to state, *“I think this shows we have an **incredible demand** here in Indiana”*. In another investigation it was established that another organization had distributed

approximately 1,600 pounds of Meth over the course of just two years. Realizing that clandestine laboratory operators or “cooks” generally arise from the “user population” as user populations increase, a proportionate increase in drug lab activity is to be expected.

In the spring of 2002 the Indiana State Police and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute co-hosted the first statewide Summit on Methamphetamine. Bringing together law enforcement agencies, health care workers, judges, prosecutors, probations, and representatives from children and family services, discussions were held to assess the impact Meth was having on these vital services. The findings were clear. Meth threatens to disrupt and destabilize all of the governmental respondents’ ability to provide their conventionally mandated services by inundating these agencies with Methamphetamine related issues.

Law enforcement agencies throughout Indiana have responded by increasing and directing enforcement activities focused on Methamphetamine. In 2003 more than 950 individuals were arrested on charges related to illegal drug lab operations. Nearly 200 children have been removed from parents who create these “chemically toxic” home environments. For example, in 2002 one hundred ten 110 children were removed from 57 families in Knox County, Indiana and 48 children were removed from families in Vigo County due to Methamphetamine offenses. Foster care expenses in Vigo County, Indiana above amounted to \$250,000 to \$300,000 in 2002.

House Bill No. 1136 has been introduced in the Indiana General Assembly. The purpose of this bill, if enacted, will be to establish a Methamphetamine Abuse Task Force. The goal of the task force will be to develop and update a coordinated strategic plan to combat Methamphetamine and to protect the citizens of Indiana.

By bringing together the combined forces of federal, state and local law enforcement, our strategic aim shall be to reduce the availability of Methamphetamine at its two sources; illegal foreign importation and domestic clandestine laboratory operations. Our goal is to rid the state of this threat.