



Reducing Synthetic Drug Abuse: Progress Made

The 2004 *Synthetic Drugs Action Plan* has laid out solid plans for reducing the threat methamphetamine and prescription drug abuse pose to America. Here's a summary of progress made on previously recommended actions:

Enforcement

- ☑ President Bush has built on successful state legislative actions by signing the Combat Meth Act included in the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, which includes stronger national controls on precursor chemicals. The Combat Meth Act requires that products containing pseudoephedrine be kept behind the counter or in a locked cabinet, and restricts the quantity that can be sold to any individual.
- ☑ DEA, with cooperation from the Food and Drug Administration, has increased the targeting of online synthetic drug sales. The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) has made the support of efforts to target online investigations and the targeting of narcotic analgesics like OxyContin a priority.
- ☑ The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and Department of Justice (DOJ) are supporting State-based prescription drug monitoring programs that utilize technology to share information and monitor doctor shopping and prescription fraud.
- ☑ Federal enforcement agencies and the U.S. Postal Service are targeting illegal mail-order sales of chemical precursors, synthetic drugs, and pharmaceuticals, both domestically and internationally.

Prevention

- ☑ ONDCP, in coordination with the Partnership for a Drug Free America is airing a \$1 million nation-wide television campaign aimed at preventing synthetic drug use before it starts. Other drug prevention programs are being developed help high-risk communities integrate effective public-health messaging into their synthetic drug prevention efforts.
- ☑ The Administration is working with pharmaceutical manufacturers and retailers to encourage them to monitor and reduce the diversion of prescription drugs and the raw ingredients necessary for the production of meth. Some manufacturers have already voluntarily begun researching and producing products made with alternatives to meth precursor chemicals.
- ☑ ONDCP will convene a meeting later this year with pharmaceutical manufacturers to discuss better labeling and patient education regarding the proper use and disposal of controlled substance prescription drugs.

Treatment

- ☑ Protocols and best-practices are being expanded for assisting drug-endangered children who have been exposed to toxic chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.
- ☑ The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) have increased the capacity and effectiveness of drug treatment programs for synthetic drug addicts. These efforts include expanding criminal justice treatment programs and disseminating positive research results that indicate how to most effectively treat synthetic drug addicts.

International Action

- ☑ The United States Government is strongly supporting Mexican efforts to limit the trafficking of illegal synthetic drugs and the diversion of pseudoephedrine.
- ☑ The United States Government continues to work with the Government of Canada regarding the importation, production, and distribution of pseudoephedrine – particularly regarding those firms whose products have in the past been diverted or smuggled into the United States.
- ☑ U.S. enforcement agencies, working with their foreign counterparts, target all sources of illicit synthetic drugs, including those in Asia and Europe. Connections with Mexican and other criminal organizations are also being investigated and targeted.
- ☑ The United States has garnered international support for making existing international chemical control agreements more universal, formal, and well-supported by international institutions, including the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board and the Organization of American States.
- ☑ The Administration will, by January 2007, implement new controls on the import of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products, as provided in the Combat Meth Act recently signed into law by President Bush.

Improving Data Collection

- ☑ The National Survey on Drug Use and Health has been recalibrated to ask more detailed questions about the scope of prescription drug abuse.
- ☑ The Administration is conducting an analysis to determine the legitimate needs for pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products to determine what the legal chemical needs are in the United States.
- ☑ A real-time analytical intelligence database has been created as part of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Fusion Center, to enhance sharing of intelligence in cases involving drug threats such as methamphetamine.

Measuring Success: A Timeline

This Year

- ➔ Implement provisions of Combat Meth Act
- ➔ Estimate licit, or legitimate, need for meth precursor chemicals
- ➔ Begin certification of key nations' cooperation with U.S. in meth precursor control
- ➔ Continue strong support for drug treatment in President's budget
- ➔ Work with all 50 States to support state drug control strategies

Within Three Years

- ➔ Reduce meth and prescription drug use in the U.S. by 15 percent each
- ➔ Reduce seizures of domestic meth labs in the U.S. by 25 percent
- ➔ Disseminate EPA best practices regarding cleanup of toxic meth labs
- ➔ Partner with all 50 states to encourage implementation of prescription drug monitoring programs
- ➔ Partner with all 50 States to expand Drug Endangered Children program nationwide