

## Media Release

February 15, 2005

RE: Final 2004 Meth Statistics for Kansas

The KBI is pleased to announce that, for the first time in a decade, the state of Kansas has fallen out of the top ten states in the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized. Final 2004 figures released today put the total at 583, placing Kansas at number 11. That figure would be down a little over 10% from last year's number of 649 clandestine laboratories reported seized.

Director Larry Welch of the KBI expressed hope and concern over the situation. "We've tried about everything to fight this plague, from education, prevention and prison to prayer. I'm pleased with the apparent success those efforts have shown. But in the last few months there have been alarming increases of the reports of Oklahomans coming to Kansas to obtain the precursor chemicals and make methamphetamine here. Our success might be short-lived. Hopefully the legislature will act quickly to pass SB 27, based on Oklahoma's successful law, and we can then copy their success in reducing their lab seizures by 80%!"

SB27, as passed by the Senate Judiciary yesterday, would place the commonly used tablet forms of the precursor drugs used to make methamphetamine on schedule 5 of the controlled substances act, thus requiring a photo ID to purchase at a pharmacy. Liquid and gel cap forms of the drugs, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, would still be available at other retail outlets but the board of pharmacy would be charged with working with the KBI and other law enforcement agencies in tracking the use of the liquid forms and make a report back to the legislature next February.

### Laboratory Incidents Summary

- Total Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents for 2004 – Kansas (583)
  - Chemical / Glassware / Equipment seizures – (119)
  - Dumpsite seizures – (273)
  - Operating Laboratories – (191)
- Kansas is 11<sup>th</sup> in the number of laboratory incidents reported nationwide.
- See <http://www.accesskansas.org/drugenforcement/methstatsmap.htm> for statistics by county and for previous years.

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