



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

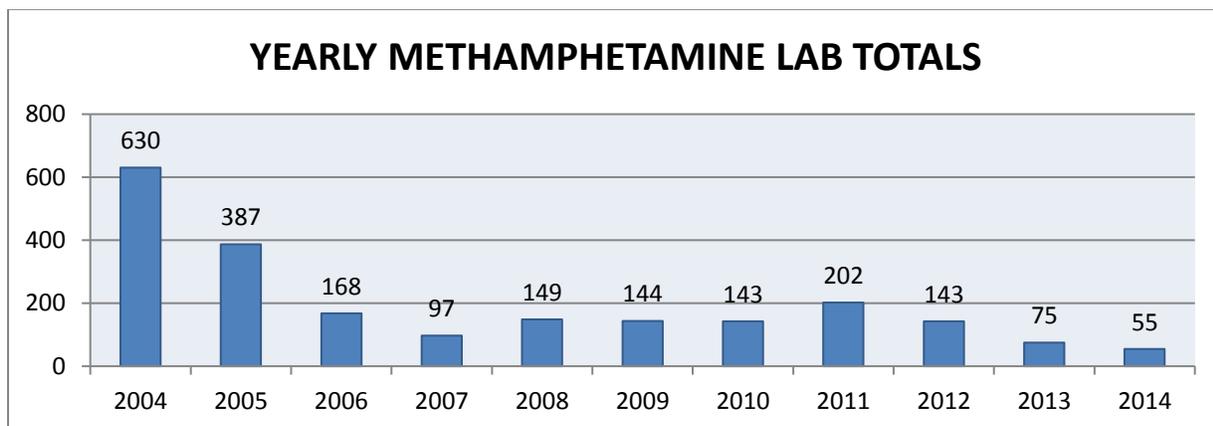
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Attorney General

Methamphetamine Recommendation Report Calendar Year 2014 February 2, 2015 (As required by K.S.A. 75-722)

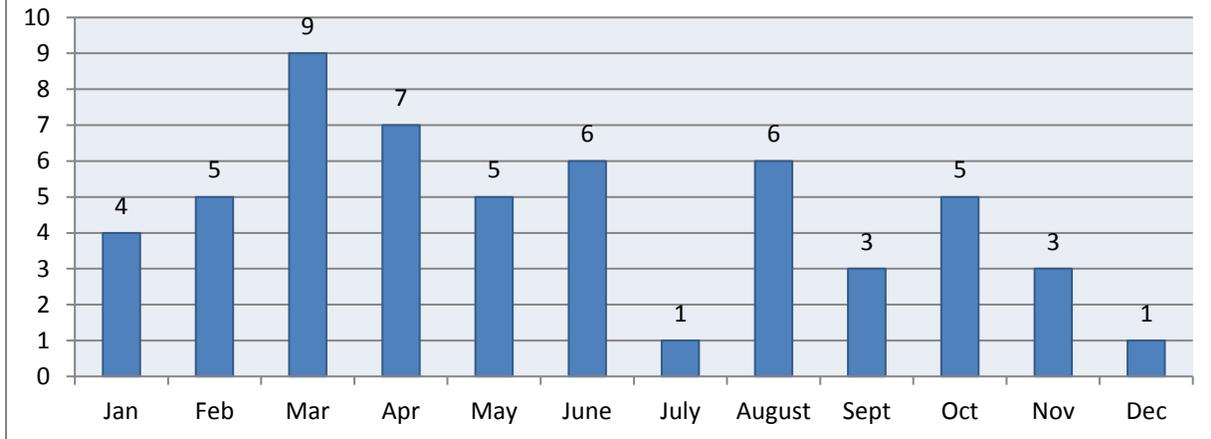
In 2005, the Kansas legislature passed S.B. 27, the Sheriff Matt Samuels Act, to restrict access to the precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, used to manufacture methamphetamine. Section 4 of the Act, now K.S.A. 75-722, requires the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to gather information and consult with local law enforcement agencies regarding trends seen in the manufacture of methamphetamine; and, after consulting with the state board of pharmacy, develop recommendations concerning the control of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

Methamphetamine in Kansas

As noted in the graph below, Kansas law enforcement reported 55 meth lab incidents in 2014. **This total represents a decrease over the reported meth lab seizures from 2013.**

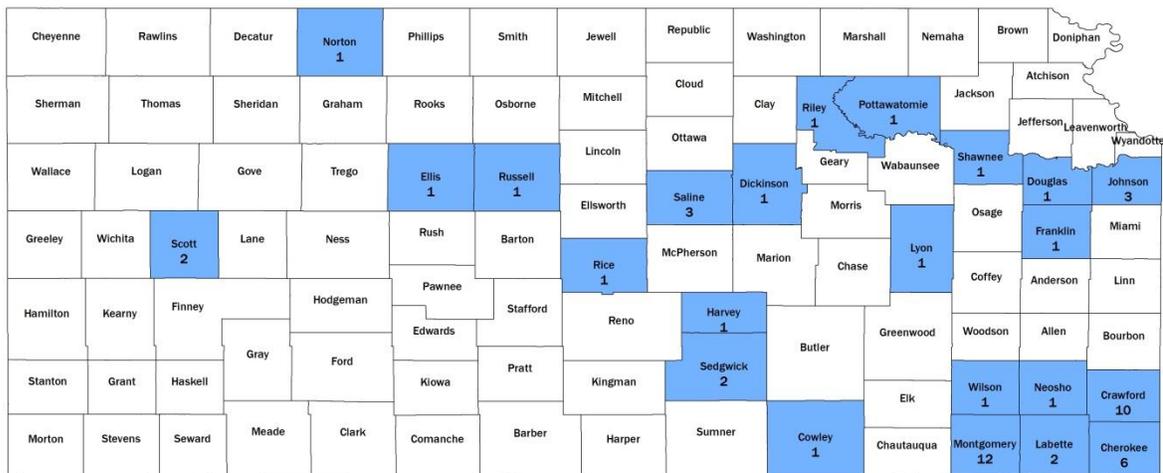


2014 SEIZURES BY MONTH



2014 Methamphetamine Seizures from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Incidents Include: Chemical Only, Equipment Only, Dumpsites and Lab Seizures



55 Total Incidents

Criminal Intelligence Analyst Pamela Bell
February 2, 2015

Meth Lab Incidents

The primary method of production seen in Kansas in 2014 was the One Pot method. This trend is consistent with the trends of the rest of the states in the US. The Red Phosphorus/Iodine and Anhydrous Ammonia/Lithium method were also seized in Kansas, but the predominant method was the One Pot method.

Kansas continues to see decreases in small-scale methamphetamine laboratories along with the rest of the US. One of the main reasons of this trend is due to the vast majority of all methamphetamine used in Kansas is imported from Mexico and Central America.

Unfortunately, even if local methamphetamine manufacturing were to be eradicated, methamphetamine supplied by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations remains readily available.

Meth Precursor Electronic Logs

In April 2011, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy implemented the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) as the States' electronic precursor monitoring program. The KBI continues to be the State Administrator for Kansas law enforcement, serving as the liaison for training and law enforcement access. There are currently 30 states participating in the NPLEx system. Kansas has 151 law enforcement officers across the state registered to access the electronic logbook.

The NPLEx system maintains a single database of all pseudoephedrine purchases, providing pharmacists with access to customer purchasing history before proceeding with a sale. A stop sale mechanism notifies the pharmacist if a customer attempts a purchase in excess of the legal limit. Information captured in the electronic system is made available to law enforcement agencies and can be used to generate investigative leads and support criminal prosecutions.

Allen County, Neosho County, Labette County, Bourbon County, Crawford County, Cherokee County and the City of Parsons have passed local laws requiring prescriptions for pseudoephedrine/ephedrine. As a result of these laws, the pharmacies in these areas no longer report purchases to the NPLEx system. These areas report to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy Kansas Tracking and Reporting Controlled Substances (KTRACS) system. Law enforcement can no longer check these areas for purchases without a court order.

NPLEx records show during the calendar year of 2014, approximately 676,828 purchases of cold medication containing pseudoephedrine were made compared to 733,191 in 2013. This resulted in 1,551,556 total grams of pseudoephedrine purchased in 2014 compared to 1,653,615 grams sold in 2013. Pharmacists denied the sale of approximately 38,214 grams of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine in 2014 compared to 36,311 grams in 2013. The number of purchases made and total number of grams of pseudoephedrine sold in 2014 decreased compared to 2013. The number of grams blocked in 2014 increased from 2013.

Criminals continue to use the process of "smurfing" to purchase pseudoephedrine for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. Smurfing is the practice of an individual or groups purchasing the legally allowable amount of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine at one store, then continuing with successive purchases at other stores. Some "smurfers" are able to circumvent electronic tracking systems by purchasing legal limits under numerous identities.

Methamphetamine Waste Disposal Program (MWDP)

The KBI has fully implemented the DEA funded Authorized Central Storage (ACS) program. The KBI facilitated proper disposal of hazardous waste associated with methamphetamine laboratories for 48 of the 55 labs reported to EPIC. This represents an 87% participation rate. This is the highest participation rate since 2010.

Through this program, approximately 796 pounds of regulated hazardous waste and approximately 501 pounds of non-regulated waste were properly disposed of. The DEA pays for the disposal of this waste.

Recommendations

The KBI is researching information regarding the blocking of sales of pseudoephedrine to individuals convicted of specific drug crimes. There are currently 5 states with similar legislation passed. Kansas requires an individual who is convicted of manufacture, sales of controlled substances, or possession of precursors with the intent to distribute to register as an offender for a period of 15 years. The KBI would like to see these individuals either receive a lifetime ban or be blocked for a period of 15 years while they are required to register as an offender. The KBI plans to present this research for consideration.

The KBI continues to incur a cost for the maintenance of the disposal program; including, agents time, training requirements, fuel, vehicle maintenance, utilities at each container site, and equipment costs. The KBI requests continued funding for the maintenance of the program.