



# Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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*Director*

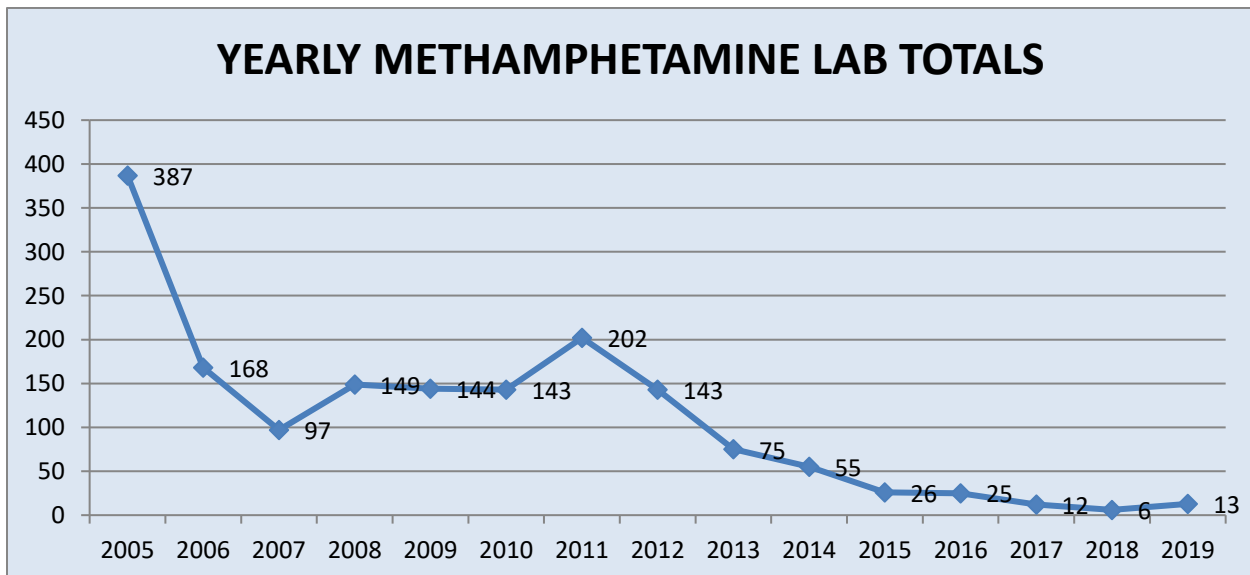
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Methamphetamine Recommendation Report  
Calendar Year 2019  
January 31, 2020  
(As required by K.S.A. 75-722)

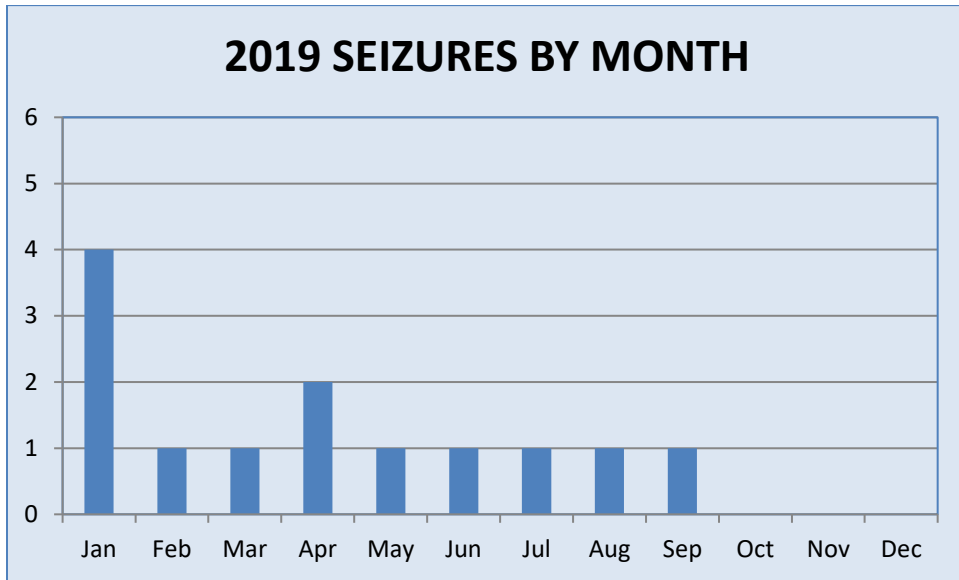
In 2005, the Kansas Legislature passed S.B. 27, the Sheriff Matt Samuels Act, to restrict access to the precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine used to manufacture methamphetamine. Section 4 of the Act, now K.S.A. 75-722, requires the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to gather information 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

Kansas law enforcement reported 13 methamphetamine lab incidents in calendar year 2019, seven more than in 2018.

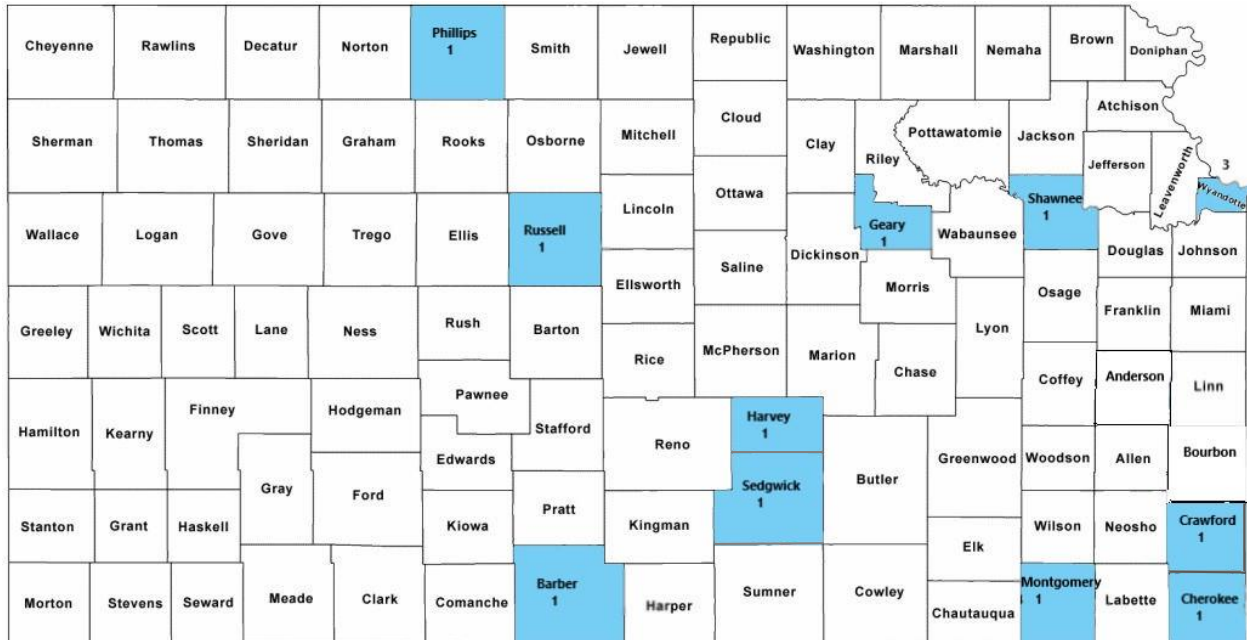


## 2019 SEIZURES BY MONTH



## 2019 Methamphetamine Seizures

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



13 Total Incidents

## **Methamphetamine Lab Incidents**

Of the 13 labs seized in Kansas in 2019, four were categorized as one-pot methamphetamine laboratories. The one-pot method of production converts pseudoephedrine to methamphetamine using ammonium nitrate, sodium hydroxide, water, petroleum distillates, and lithium metal. This method of manufacturing, typically completed in a small plastic bottle, is portable and can easily be concealed. Five red phosphorus/iodine labs were seized in Kansas in 2019. Three conversion labs, which convert liquid methamphetamine to its crystal form, were also seized. One lab seized in 2019 was of an unknown variety. Information reported by law enforcement agencies to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) indicates most of the methamphetamine laboratories seized throughout the United States in 2019 were one-pot laboratories.

For the first time since 2011 the number of labs in Kansas increased from the previous year's total. The number of labs throughout the U.S., however, continues to decline. Based on data reported to EPIC, the number of domestic methamphetamine clandestine lab incidents (including laboratories, dumpsites and chemical/equipment seizures) in the U.S. has decreased from 13,657 in 2012 to 1,891 in 2018 (most recent data available).

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) most of the methamphetamine available in the U.S. is produced in Mexico by drug trafficking organizations and smuggled across the border. This methamphetamine is produced in large quantities at high purity levels. Should domestic production of methamphetamine continue to decline, it is likely that it will still be readily available due to this low-cost, high-purity alternative originating in Mexico.

## **Methamphetamine Precursor Electronic Logs**

In April 2011, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy implemented the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) as the State's 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. Kansas has 74 active 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 of Controlled Substances (K-TRACS) system. Law enforcement can no longer check these areas for purchases without a court order.

NPLeX records show during the calendar year of 2019, approximately 552,659 purchases of cold medication containing pseudoephedrine were made compared to 501,672 in 2018. This resulted in 1,240,217 total grams of pseudoephedrine purchased in 2019 compared to 1,155,287 grams sold in 2018. Pharmacists denied the sale of approximately 51,323 grams of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine in 2019 compared to 44,392 grams in 2018. The number of purchases made, the total number of grams of pseudoephedrine sold as well as the number of grams blocked all increased in 2019 compared to 2018.

**Methamphetamine Prices in Kansas**

The price for purchasing methamphetamine on the street has drastically dropped over the past five years due to the increased production and importation of Mexican methamphetamine. Due to this increased availability of imported methamphetamine, the demand for domestically produced methamphetamine has declined.

	<b>KBI Northeast Region</b>	<b>KBI Southeast Region</b>	<b>KBI West Region</b>
<b>2019</b>	\$200 - \$350 per ounce \$3,000 per pound \$4,500 - \$6,000 per Kilo	\$200 - \$300 per ounce \$3,300 - \$3,500 per pound \$6,000 – per Kilo	\$350 - \$500 per ounce \$4,000 - \$6,000 per pound Kilo - Unknown
<b>2014 Price</b>	\$800 - \$850 per ounce \$13,000 per pound	\$1,200 per ounce \$15,000 per pound	\$1,200 per ounce \$15,000 per pound

**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 100% of the labs reported to EPIC. Through this program, 1,076 pounds of regulated hazardous waste was properly disposed of in 2019. The DEA pays for the disposal of this waste.

The KBI provided training to approximately 59 local, state and federal police officers related to methamphetamine laboratories in 2019.

The KBI does incur costs for agents’ time, fuel, vehicle maintenance, utilities at each container site, and equipment costs to manage, train, and operate this program. The KBI requests continued funding for this valuable program.