



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

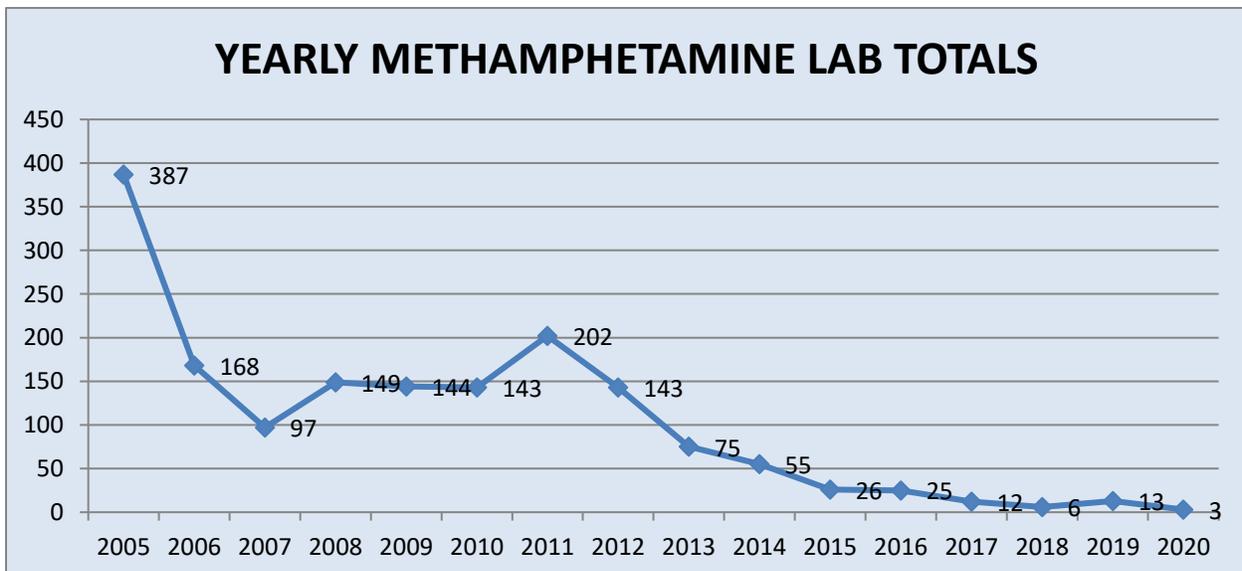
Derek Schmidt
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Methamphetamine Recommendation Report
Calendar Year 2020
January 26, 2021
(As required by K.S.A. 75-722)

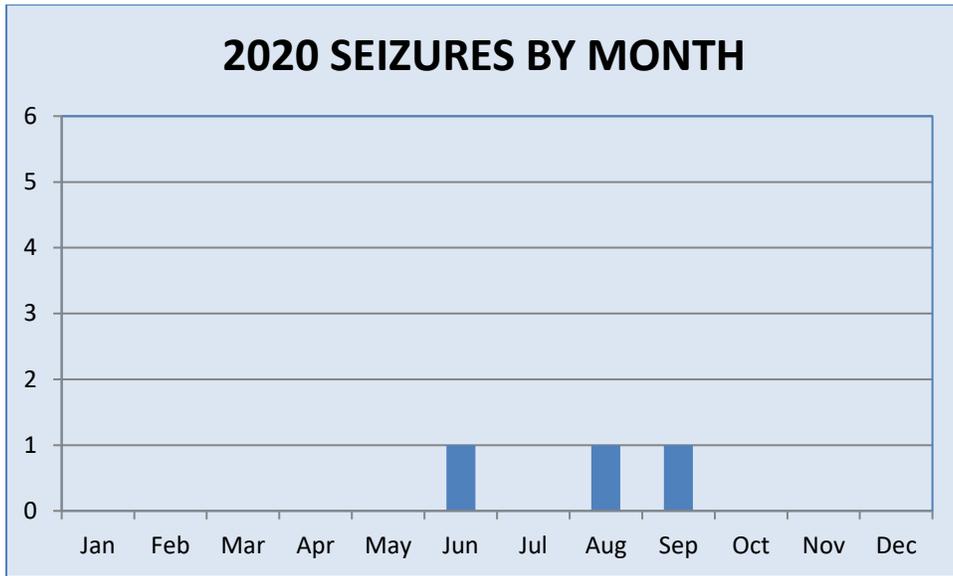
In 2005, the Kansas Legislature passed S.B. 27, the Sheriff Matt Samuels Act, to restrict access to the precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine used to manufacture methamphetamine. Section 4 of the Act, now K.S.A. 75-722, requires the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to gather information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

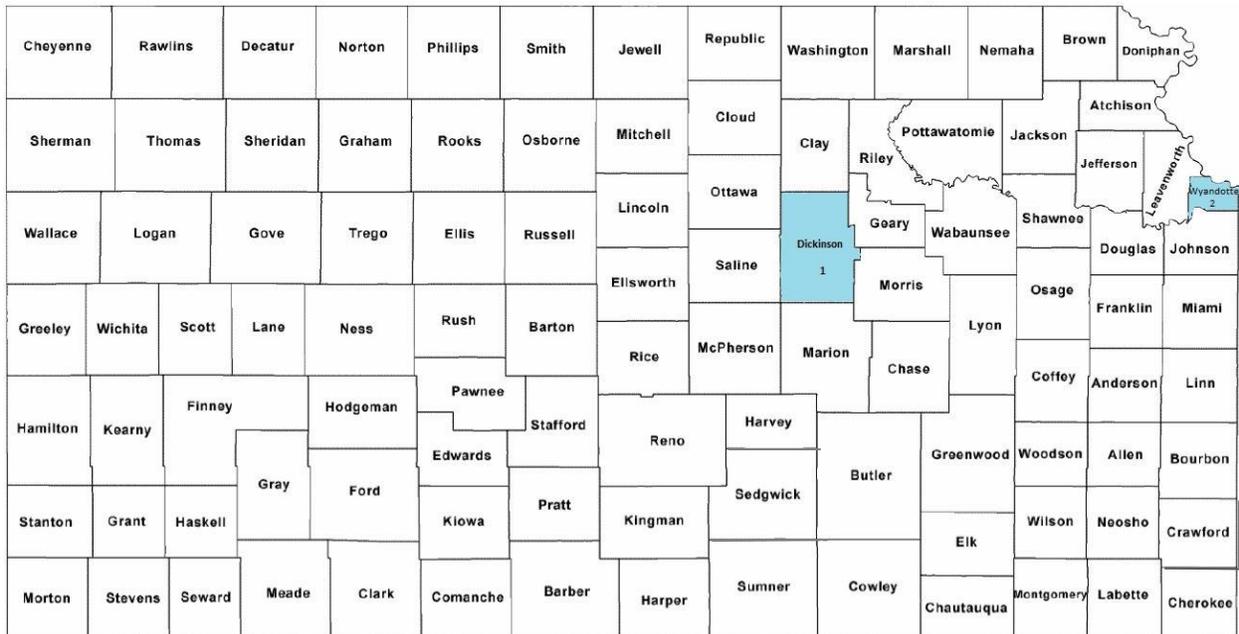
Kansas law enforcement reported three methamphetamine lab incidents in calendar year 2020, ten fewer than in 2019.



2020 SEIZURES BY MONTH



2020 Methamphetamine Seizures Incidents Include Chemical Only, Equipment Only, Dumpsites and Lab Seizures



3 Total Incidents

Methamphetamine Lab Incidents

Of the three labs seized in Kansas in 2020, one was categorized as a one-pot methamphetamine laboratory. 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. One conversion lab, which converts powder or liquid methamphetamine into crystal form, was seized in 2020 and one pill extraction lab, which uses commercially available pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine, was seized. 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 2020 were one-pot laboratories.

Since 2011 the number of labs in Kansas has decreased every year except for 2019. The number of labs throughout the U.S. 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 402 in 2020.

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 86 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. Due to 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 2020, approximately 479,167 purchases of cold medication containing pseudoephedrine were made compared to 552,659 in 2019. This resulted in 1,138,659 total grams of pseudoephedrine purchased in 2020 compared to 1,240,217 grams sold in 2019. Pharmacists denied the sale of approximately 56,637 grams of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine in 2020 compared to 51,323 grams in 2019. The number of purchases made and the total number of grams of pseudoephedrine sold decreased while the number of grams blocked increased in 2020 compared to 2019.

Methamphetamine Prices in Kansas

The price for purchasing methamphetamine on the street drastically dropped from 2014 to 2019 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. In 2020 travel restrictions enacted by governments during the pandemic reduced the availability of methamphetamine and increased the price paid by consumers.

	KBI Northeast Region	KBI Southeast Region	KBI West Region
2020	\$525 per ounce \$5,000 per pound \$10,000 per Kilo	\$500 - \$1,000 per ounce \$5,000 per pound \$10,000 per Kilo	\$500 - \$1,000 per ounce \$5,000 per pound \$10,000 per Kilo
2019	\$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
2014 Price	\$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. In past years, The KBI facilitated proper disposal of hazardous waste associated with methamphetamine laboratories for 100% of the labs reported to EPIC. In 2020, the DEA was in the process of awarding new contracts to the disposal companies. Due to this, the KBI did not dispose of any waste through 2020. The KBI will plan on a disposal for 2021.

The KBI provided training to approximately 31 local, state and federal police officers related to methamphetamine laboratories in 2020.

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.

Changes to the KBI Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT).

In 2020, the KBI changed several aspects to the Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT). Due to recent years of downward methamphetamine laboratories within the State of Kansas, the KBI did not see the need to have every KBI Agent trained to be able to work and process a methamphetamine laboratory. The KBI created a smaller team of seven KBI Agents to include the Special Operations Division, Crime Scene Response Team, and KBI laboratory personnel. The Agents are spread across the State of Kansas to try to lower the response time if needed.

Under the new CLRT team, the KBI is not only able to respond to methamphetamine laboratories, but also chemical suicides, death or other investigations in highly contaminated areas, and assess for chemical/biological/explosive environments. During 2020, CLRT responded within the State of Kansas to each of the four response types.

CLRT is trained to respond to more advanced laboratories to include; fentanyl labs, or laboratories that are more exotic. In 2020, CLRT responded and assisted with a poppy grow / heroin manufacturing lab in Kansas. The training is a higher level of protection to aid in the response of these types of labs.