

## San Diego Methamphetamine Facts

According to a 1999 Drug Enforcement Administration report, Mexican drug trafficking organizations are responsible for approximately 80% of methamphetamine distribution in the U.S.

— Source: National Drug Intelligence Center, [California Southern District Drug Threat Assessment](#) (2002).

San Diego is one of the first destinations for large quantities of methamphetamine smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico Border. From 1998 to 1999, seizures increased 85% in San Diego County. This represents 54% of all the methamphetamine seized along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

— Source: National Drug Intelligence Center, [California Southern District Drug Threat Assessment](#) (2002).

The number of San Diego County lab cleanups has increased significantly, suggesting that more and more methamphetamines are being produced in the San Diego area. The number of lab cleanups has risen from 13 in 1997 to 47 in 2000.

— Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services. [Methamphetamine Strike Force Report Card: Preliminary 2001](#).

Methamphetamine-related emergency department mentions have significantly increased in San Diego County, from 584 in 1999 to 747 in 2000 — a 28% jump. This makes San Diego second-highest in the nation in 2000 for methamphetamine emergency department mentions.

— Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Applied Studies, [Emergency Department Trends for the Drug Abuse Warning Network](#) (2002).

Total drug deaths in San Diego County peaked in 1997 with 419 deaths. Since then the number of drug deaths in San Diego has decreased to 360 in 2000. However, the number of deaths in San Diego County related to methamphetamine is gradually increasing, with 110 deaths reported in 1998 and 140 deaths reported in 2000.

— Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Applied Studies, [Mortality Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network \(2000\)](#); National Drug Intelligence Center, [California Southern District Drug Threat Assessment](#) (2002).

The percentage of adult arrestees in San Diego County testing positive for methamphetamine dropped from 41% in 1997 to about 28% in 2000. Juvenile arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine in San Diego County dropped from 18% in 1997 to 11% in 2000.

— Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services. [Methamphetamine Strike Force Report Card: Preliminary 2001](#).

The number of people seeking treatment for methamphetamine use in San Diego County rose from 4,235 in 1999 to 4,475 in 2000, a 5% increase, indicating that methamphetamine use may be increasing again.

—Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Services Agency. [Methamphetamine Strike Force Report Card: Preliminary 2001](#).

## National Methamphetamine Facts

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive central nervous system stimulant that can be injected, snorted, smoked or ingested orally. Methamphetamine users feel a short yet intense "rush" when the drug is initially administered. The effects of methamphetamine include increased activity, decreased appetite and a sense of well-being that can last 6 to 8 hours.

— Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, [Methamphetamine: Abuse and Addiction](#) (1998). [What is Methamphetamine?](#)

Methamphetamine can easily be manufactured in clandestine laboratories using store-bought materials; it is the most prevalent synthetic drug manufactured in the United States. The ease of

manufacturing methamphetamine and its highly addictive potential has caused the use of the drug to increase throughout the nation. The methamphetamine problem was originally concentrated in the West but has spread throughout almost every major metropolitan area in the U.S. with the exception of the Northeast.

— Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, [\*Drug Trafficking in the United States, Methamphetamine section\*](#) (2001).

During 2000, 4% of the U.S. population (8.8 million people) reported trying methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime. The highest rate of methamphetamine use was among the 26 or older age group, with 4.3% of them reporting lifetime methamphetamine use during 2000. Of those between the ages of 18 to 25, 4.1% reported lifetime use, and for those between the ages of 12 and 17, 1.3% reported lifetime use.

— Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, [\*Summary Findings from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse\*](#) (2001).