

## How prevalent is meth and meth related crime in Butte County?

Methamphetamine is a significant and increasingly expanding problem in Butte County. In 2004, at least 27 per cent of Butte County Jail bookings involve methamphetamine, and an even larger amount of crime committed in Butte County is directly related to methamphetamine use. In the year 2003, the Butte County Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) seized almost six thousand grams of meth worth over a half million dollars.

Because it is easy to produce, easy to sell and so addictive it is the fastest-growing "recreational" drug on the street. Its addiction and use are often connected with other crimes such as burglary, robbery, forgery and theft including credit card and identity theft. Addicts will literally do anything to pay for their habit.

In Butte County, burglaries, assaults, robberies, and even homicides and suicides have been linked to methamphetamine use, manufacturing, and sales. A significant number of traffic fatalities, suicides, and homicides have also been related to methamphetamine.

INDICATOR	2003	2004
Number of jail bookings for methamphetamine	1641	2288
Percentage of total meth related jail bookings	15% of total bookings	27% of total bookings
Number of methamphetamine related deaths in Butte County	22 cases	14 cases
Number of methamphetamine labs seized in Butte County	41	39
Number of Children Detained	223	331
Amount of Meth seized	5,965.29 grams	6,981 grams

Methamphetamine also plays a part in a significant number of deaths in Butte County. In 2003, the Butte County Coroner's Office reports that 22 people with meth in their system died either from accidental overdoses, suicides, traffic collisions, or were murdered. In 2004, 14 people died:

Methamphetamine-Related Deaths
Butte County
Jan - June 2006

Accidental OD	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol
	M	41	W	Yes	Fentanyl, norfentanyl
	M	38	W	Yes	Methadone, benzodiazepines
	M	52	B	Yes	Methadone
	M	43	H	Yes	Alcohol, carbamazepine, 10-hydroxycarbamazepine
	M	57	W	Yes	DRUG
	M	46	W	Yes	Amphetamine, paroxetine
	M	58	W	Yes	Amphetamine
	M	46	W	Yes	Alcohol, diazepam, nordiazepam, promethazine
	M	55	W	Yes	Alcohol, marijuana

Traffic Deaths	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol
	F	38	W	Yes	Dextromethorphan, morphine, codeine
	M	49	W	Yes	Alcohol, cocaine, marijuana

Natural	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information
	M	44	W	Yes	Amphetamine

Homicide	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol
	M	18	W	Yes	
	Breakdown of methamphetamine-related deaths: % of accidental deaths (traffic deaths not included) % of traffic deaths				

Accidental OD	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol
	M	39	W	Yes	Cocaine, morphine, benzoylecgonine
	M	46	W	Yes	Amphetamine, morphine
	F	26	B/W	Yes	Amphetamine
	F	62	W	Yes	Phenytoin
	M	27	W	Yes	Amphetamine, morphine, marijuana
	F	44	W	Yes	No
	F	60	W	Yes	Nordiazepam, carisoprodol, meprobamate, trazadone, mirtazapine
	M	54	W	Yes	Amphetamine, cocaine, morphine, cannabinoids
	F	55	W	Yes	Phenobarbital, diazepam, nordiazepam, morphine, tramadol
	M	59	W	Yes	Amphetamine
	M	51	W	Yes	Amphetamine, alcohol, hydrocodone, paracetamol
M	47	W	Yes	Amphetamine, morphine, mirtazepine, olanzapine, trihexyphrenidyl	

Traffic Deaths	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol
	M	48	W	Yes	Diphenhydramine
	F	36	W	Yes	Amphetamine
	M	23	H	Yes	Marijuana/alcohol
	M	25	W	Yes (trace)	Marijuana/ alcohol

Accidents	M/F	Age	Race	Meth	Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information

	M	28	W	Yes	Died of smoke inhalation due to residential fire in Yuba Co.
	F	34	W	Yes	Died in residential fire
	M	20	W	Yes	Marijuana

<b>Natural</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Meth</b>	<b>Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information</b>
	M	54	W	Yes	Amphetamine/ alcohol
	M	39	W	Yes	Amphetamine, hydrocodone, carisoprodol, meprobamate, nordiazepam, paracetamol, codeine
	M	41	W	Yes	Diphenhydramine, paracetamol
	M	53	H	Yes	Amphetamine

<b>Suicide</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Meth</b>	<b>Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information</b>
	M	43	W	Yes	Alcohol/amitriptyline/nortriptyline gunshot wound to the head
	M	25	W	Yes	Alcohol (.03%)/ hanging

<b>Homicide</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Meth</b>	<b>Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information</b>
	M	24	B	Yes	Amphetamine/gunshot wound by law enforcement
	M	32	W	Yes	Marijuana

<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Meth</b>	<b>Other Drugs/ Alcohol Additional Information</b>
	F	48	w	Yes	Marijuana

Breakdown of methamphetamine-related deaths:  
 24% of accidental deaths (traffic deaths not included)  
 11% of traffic deaths

**January - December 2004**

<b>Accidental OD 7</b>	M/F	Age	Race	Alcohol	Other Drugs
	M	38	W	No	Yes
	M	41	W	No	Yes
	F	43	W	No	No
	M	54	American Indian	Yes	Yes
	M	54	W	Yes	Yes
	F	56	W	No	No
	F	34	W	No	Yes

<b>Traffic Deaths 5</b>	M/F	Age	Race	Alcohol	Other Drugs
	M	23	W	No	Yes
	M	24	W	No	Yes
	M	27	Hispanic	No	No
	M	39	W	No	No
	M	43	W	No	No

<b>Accidents</b>	M/F	Age	Race	Alcohol	Other Drugs/Additional Information
	M	38	W	No	No / Drowning
	M	45	W	Yes	Yes / Hypothermia

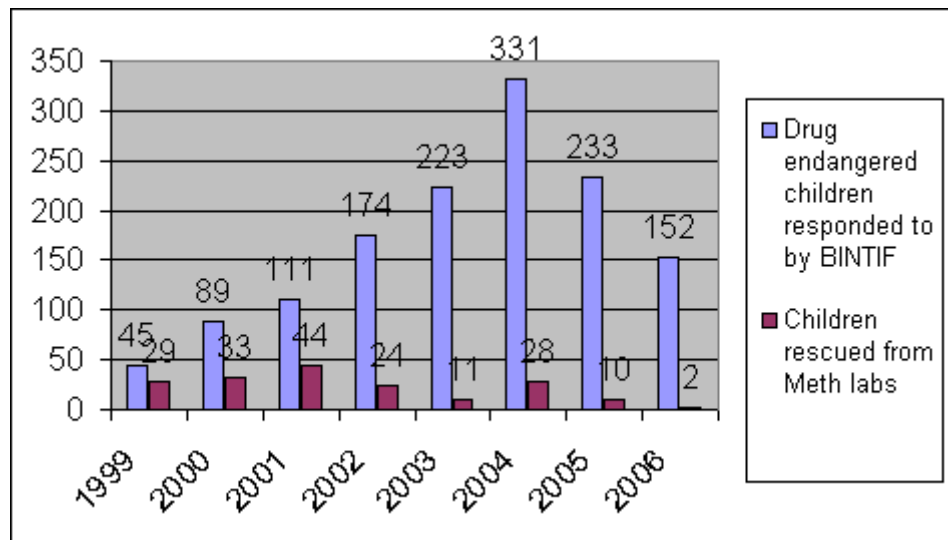


**Meth and Children in Butte County**

Methamphetamine does not only affect adults in Butte County but also has a significant impact on children. The Butte County Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) reports

that in 2005, there was a total of 233 reports of Drug Endangered Children responded to by BINTIF, this year (through October of 2006) there have been 152.

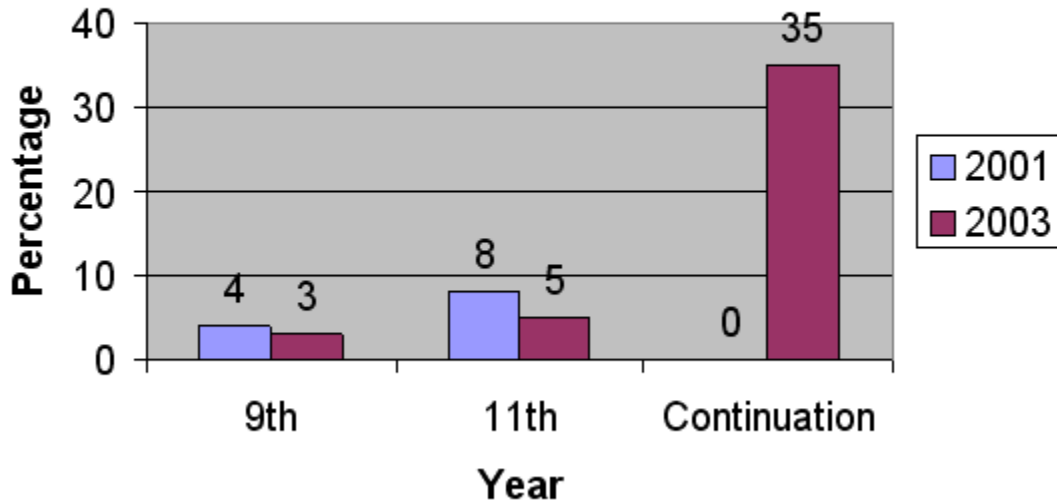
<b>BINTIF Statistics</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006 (thru Oct.)</b>
<b>Meth Arrests</b>	298	225	113
<b>Labs Seized</b>	39	17	9
<b>Meth Seized (grams)</b>	1,491	3,941.20	1,565.26
<b>Meth Seized in Solution</b>	5,490	28	0
<b>Children Responded to</b>	331	233	152
<b>Children from Labs</b>	28	10	2



Fortunately, data shows that most high school students have steered clear of using meth! A statistically insignificant amount of 9th and 11th graders have reported trying meth. Unfortunately, data does show that a significant number of Butte County continuation high school students have tried methamphetamine. The Healthy Kids Survey is a every other year statewide survey that schools throughout California are required to conduct for Federal Safe Schools Funding. The Butte County Office of Education helps support local school district to implement the survey and understand the results. Every two years, Butte County students in the 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades fill out the anonymous Healthy Kids Survey, which contains questions about drug use, violence, and other health related behaviors.

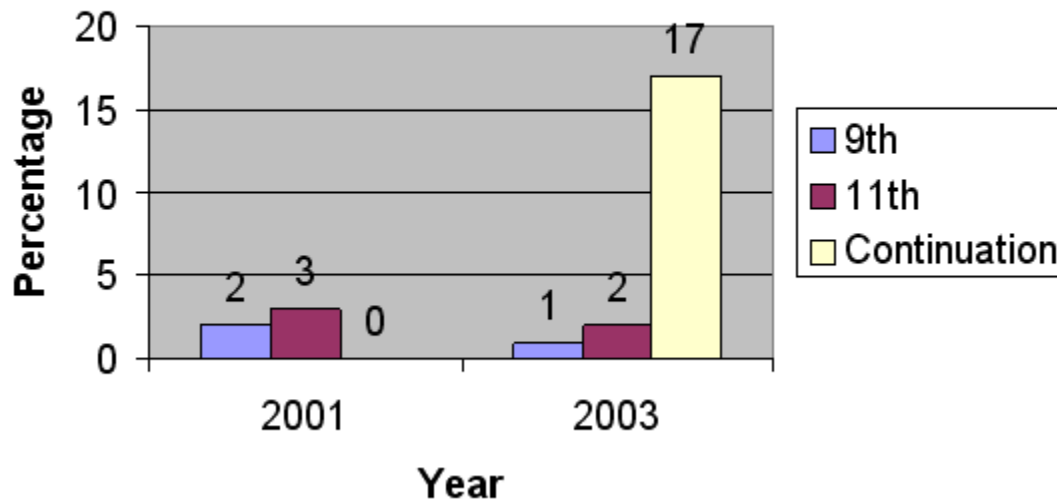
In 2003, five percent of 11th graders, three percent of 9th graders, and 35 percent of continuation school students reported using meth at least once in their lives.

### Life Time Usage of Meth



When asked if they had used methamphetamine in the last thirty days, two percent of 11th graders, one percent of 9th graders, **and 17 percent** of continuation school students answered "yes."

### Past 30 Day Usage of Meth

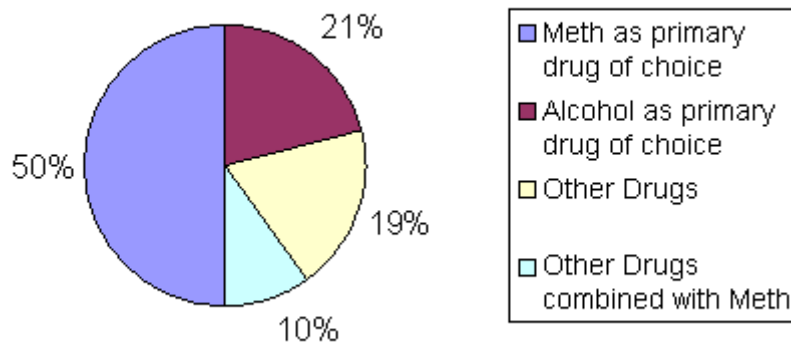




## **Meth and Behavioral Health in Butte County**

According to the California Alcohol and Drug Data Systems report for fiscal year July 1, 2003- June 30, 2004, of the 2,530 people seen for treatment for substance abuse problems, half (50.2%) were seen for methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice. That's 1,265 people who were treated for meth addiction in one year in Butte County! Alcohol was the second highest at 21%. Meth was also reported as a secondary or other drug used by an additional 10 percent.

### **PEOPLE SEEN IN BUTTE COUNTY FOR TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS**



Methamphetamine is in no doubt the drug of choice here in Butte County. From January of 2003, through early September of 2004, 2,134 clients were seen by the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug Services, for a primary diagnosis of Methamphetamine abuse and dependence. Of those 2,134 clients, 1,086 were unique and/or new to Drug and Alcohol Services. The remaining 1,048 were clients returning to services for further substance abuse treatment.

The latter two figures show that not only is Meth addiction spreading through our county like a wind driven wildfire but, more importantly, it gives us a glimpse of how difficult it can be to remain abstinent/clean and sober once addicted to methamphetamine. For a majority of our clients it becomes a life long battle.



## **Butte County Drug Court**

**Costs and Avoided Costs  
Superior Court of Butte County**

In 1998 the Judicial Council of California secured a grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance to conduct a statewide cost analysis with NPC Research (Portland, OR) of adult drug courts. The purposes of this statewide cost study were to:

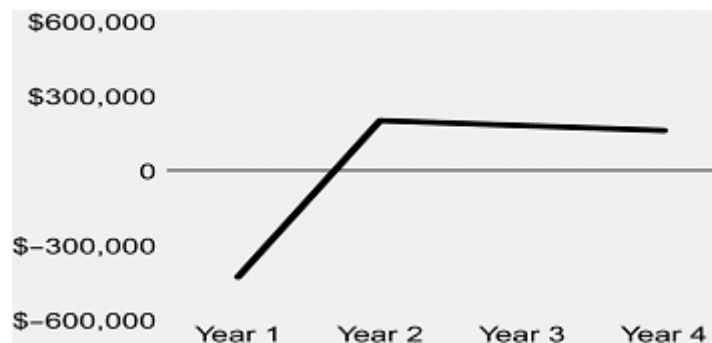
- Develop a methodology that can be used by drug courts statewide for an ongoing cost-benefit analysis, beyond the conclusion of the project; and
- Answer two critical drug court policy questions: Are adult drug courts cost effective? What adult drug court practices appear most promising and cost beneficial?

Phase I concluded in September 2002 and consisted of a cost-benefit analysis in three drug courts, including Butte County. The purpose of Phase I of the project was to develop a methodology for the statewide cost study. Some of the preliminary results for the county follow.

**After Initial Investment, the Drug Court Experienced Savings Over Time.**

The agencies participating in the Butte County Drug Court invested \$557,027 in the first year of drug court while realizing a savings of \$129,493 due to reduced recidivism (i.e. re-arrest rates for drug court participants were lower than those for non-drug court participants)<sup>1,2</sup>, for a net first-year cost of \$427,534. In each of the next three years, the Butte County court realized savings of nearly \$200,000 per year per 100 participants, excluding initial investment costs. At this rate, Butte would realize a savings of \$1 million per 100 drug court participants after nine years.

<sup>1,2</sup>Investment costs are calculated as the total case-processing and treatment costs of drug court clients minus the case-processing costs of similar offenders who did not go through drug court. Savings are calculated by subtracting the recidivism costs (re-arrests, warrants, jail and prison time served, etc.) of the non-drug court offenders from the recidivism costs of drug court offenders.



**Investments and Savings Varied Among Participating Agencies**

Looking only at criminal justice agencies over the four years of data collection, we see

that the system as a whole is experiencing savings through avoided costs; however, the agencies that invest the most in drug courts are not always the agencies that experience the same savings. Please note that negative numbers in the cost column indicate a savings, whereas negative numbers in the savings column indicate a cost.

<b>Criminal Justice Agency</b>		
	Costs per 100 Participants	Savings per 100 participants
Superior court	\$ 99,353	\$ 1,166
District attorney	36,550	- 579
Public defender	- 7,644	- 2,050
Probation	109,865	24,174
Law enforcement	141,060	100,281
California Department of Corrections	0	584,945
Victimization costs		695,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total criminal justice system</b>	<b>\$379,184</b>	<b>\$1,399,187</b>

<sup>3</sup>This figure assumes that an average of four crimes of these types were committed for every one that resulted in an arrest (based on the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics ♦ National Crime Victimization Survey). The National Institute of Justice ♦s Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look (January 1996) documents losses per criminal victimization. The reported costs include lost productivity and the costs of medical care, mental health care, police and fire services, victim services, property loss and damage, and lost quality of life. In our study, re-arrest charges (i.e., charges incurred after the initial drug court -eligible charge) were tracked and categorized as either violent or property crimes and the associated costs were calculated.

When the investment of the Butte County criminal justice system is taken as a whole and compared to cost savings, the return is well worth the investment. With victimization costs included, this drug court can be credited with saving taxpayers nearly \$1.4 million over a four-year period.

 **Resources**

<http://nationaldec.org>