

# METH: A COMMUNITY DISEASE

Beyond its devastating effects on individual health, methamphetamine use threatens whole communities, causing new waves of crime, unemployment, child neglect or abuse, and other social ills.

Methamphetamine production and use negatively impact the quality of life in areas where it has taken hold.



Source: National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Justice

## 1 SOCIAL SERVICES

Criminal involvement resulting from meth use leads to the loss of social welfare benefits, substantially affecting families and children through economic hardships and foster care exposure.

## 2 HEALTH SERVICES

Meth use poses significant challenges to health care professionals, including large costs associated with morbidity and mortality.

## 3 LEGAL SYSTEM

The availability and use of meth affects the legal system at all points, resulting in an increased strain on justice system resources.

## 4 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Crime and arrests related to meth use create a burden for law enforcement. Meth has a close-knit distribution system that impedes officers' ability to use traditional investigative methods to identify offenders and take down operations.

## 5 HOUSING

Neighborhoods experience social harms from systemic violence, trafficking and dealing of meth. Toxic waste and chemicals contaminate surrounding properties where meth is produced.

## 6 SCHOOLS

Illegal drugs, such as meth, are associated with indicators of school violence including weapon-carrying, physical fighting, having property stolen or damaged, being threatened or injured and being absent from school because of feeling unsafe.

## 7 BUSINESSES

Meth use in the workplace contributes to a higher prevalence of accidents, abuse of others, absenteeism and health-related productivity losses.

## 8 RELATIONSHIPS

Domestic violence and coercion tend to occur in meth users' relationships. Meth is a major cause of child abuse, neglect and out-of-home child welfare placements.