

HAWAII METH PROJECT

Methamphetamine Impact: Hawaii Statistics

The majority of U.S. counties report Meth is their most serious drug problem—more than cocaine and marijuana combined. The RAND Corporation’s Drug Policy Research Center estimates that the total annual cost of Meth abuse in 2005 to the U.S. is approximately \$23.4 billion.ⁱ

The increase in Meth use in states across the U.S., including Hawaii, is contributing to this enormous national burden. Meth use and treatment in Hawaii are considerably higher than the national average. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Hawaii has one of the largest user populations per capita in the nation with local law enforcement agencies identifying Meth as their greatest drug threat and most often associated with property and violent crime.ⁱⁱ The financial and social consequence of Meth abuse in Hawaii is devastating with overburdened jails and prisons, reduced employee productivity, and increased foster care, healthcare, and treatment costs.

- Hawaii ranks #5 in the nation for Meth use by people age 12 and olderⁱⁱⁱ
- 9% of Hawaii teens and 17% of young adults report having close friends who use Meth, and 16% of teens and 18% of young adults have family members who have been in treatment for Meth^{iv}
- 14% of teens and 35% of young adults say Meth is readily available, and 9% of teens and 23% of young adults report they have been offered the drug^v
- 75% of Hawaii’s drug enforcement operations are attributed to Meth—greater than all other types of drugs combined^{vi}
- 90% of federally sentenced drug cases involve Meth^{vii}
- Workforce Meth use increased 33% in 2009 over 2008^{viii} and increased 22% in Q1 of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009^{ix}
- 71% of drug cases were Meth-related according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives^x
- 48% of drug-treatment admissions are Meth-related, surpassing alcohol^{xi}
- Estimated cost of Meth abuse in Hawaii is \$500 million annually^{xii}

ⁱ RAND, The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use In the United States, 2009.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis, 2009.

ⁱⁱⁱ SAMHSA. Office of Applied Studies, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2002-2006. Released in 2007. Data cited for “past year” Meth use.

^{iv} Hawaii Meth Use & Attitudes Survey, June 2010.

^v Hawaii Meth Use & Attitudes Survey, June 2010.

^{vi} U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis, 2009.

^{vii} United States Sentencing Commission, Statistical Information Packet, Fiscal Year 2009, District of Hawaii. 2009.

^{viii} Diagnostic Laboratories LLC, January 2010.

^{ix} Diagnostic Laboratories LLC, April 2010.

^x U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis, 2009.

^{xi} U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis, 2009.

^{xii} Estimate based on RAND, The Economic cost of Methamphetamine Use in the United States, 2005. Published in February 2009.