

METHAMPHETAMINE

Arizona data trends, interdiction, and statewide prevention



PREVENTION RESOURCE LINKS

[GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY](#)

[ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCE](#)

[ARIZONA HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA](#)

[ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES](#)

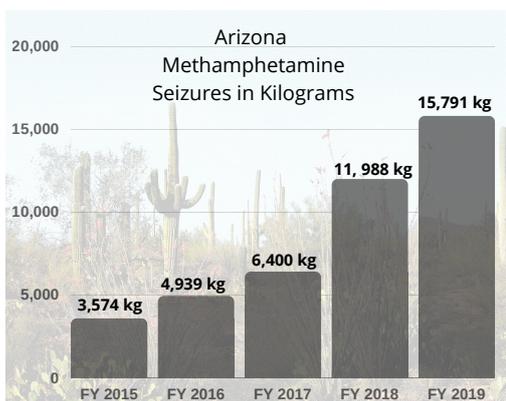
[SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMIN.](#)

Know the Facts: Arizona Data Trends

Resources: National Institute on Drug Abuse and the AZ HIDTA

Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant drug that affects the central nervous system. The drug's ability to rapidly release high levels of dopamine in reward areas of the brain creates physical and psychological dependence and can lead to a substance use disorder. In Arizona, accessibility, costs and lack of prevention education play a huge role in drug-use behaviors and methamphetamine addiction.

Due to increased methamphetamine production in Mexico and declining costs, Arizona is seeing a devastating increase of sellers and users of the illegal substance within its communities. The Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area has indicated that **Methamphetamine is Arizona's #1 drug threat**. The data below represents Arizona specific trends:



DATA PROVIDED BY: AZ HIDTA

- **Street Value:** Phoenix retail price decreased 58%, from an average of \$350 per ounce in 2015 to \$140 per ounce in 2019.
- **Interdiction:** Federal, state, and local law enforcement saw a 342% increase in methamphetamine seizures from FY 2015 to FY 2019.
- **Fatal Overdoses:** In Maricopa and Pima County, most overdose deaths in 2019 were attributed to methamphetamine (670 fatal overdoses).

Arizona data trends continued:

- **Drug Arrests:** The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission indicated in **FY 2019, 90% of task forces arrests were drug-related.** The task force also **seized 4,561 lbs of methamphetamine, which was 123% increase from previous fiscal year.**
- **Treatment:** Crossroads, Inc. indicated that **40% of all clients tested positive for methamphetamine upon admission into treatment.**
- **Families Affected:** In 2019, the AZ Families First Program had **6,324 parents participate- 36% (2,276 participants) reported meth use within 30 days of start of program,** second only to marijuana.
- **Youth at Risk:** The 2018 Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) indicates 30-day methamphetamine use has decreased from 0.5% in 2014 to 0.3% in 2018. However, there are indications that **electronic cigarettes are being used as a delivery system for methamphetamine.** According to the 2018 AYS data, **use of e-cigarettes has increased across all grade levels** since it was first assessed in 2016.

Interdiction AND Prevention

Resource: AZ HIDTA

Seizure analysis indicates the main highway corridors from Sonora, Mexico to Arizona are used as primary gateways to move methamphetamine into Arizona communities. Interdiction efforts in Arizona are imperative to preventing drug trafficking along this corridor. Although data shows an increase in arrests and seizures, unfortunately there is still a vast amount of the illegal substance getting into the hands of Arizona residents.



Prevention efforts are critical to eliminating methamphetamine from Arizona communities as it minimizes the demand and decreases the use of targeted illegal substances. Prevention and early intervention efforts not only minimize the demand and use of illegal substances but also promote informed decision-making and healthy behaviors. As it relates to business, stopping the demand will eliminate the need for supply.

Recommendations for Arizona:

Members of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership provided agency specific data trends and have worked diligently to identify areas of need in prevention. **The goal is to maximize the substance use prevention efforts** of federal, state, and local law enforcement in partnership with other state agencies.

Areas of need include:

- Increase in reporting among state agencies and data sharing agreements.
- ICD-10 code specific to methamphetamine for proper reporting at medical facilities and health care agencies.
- Statewide campaign on methamphetamine awareness, education, and resources.
- Flexibility in substance use/misuse prevention funding.
- Support for displaced youth whose parents have a methamphetamine substance use disorder, i.e. youth who are in foster care, children of incarcerated parents, etc.



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Arizona
Substance Abuse
Partnership