

## METH-IMPACTED STATES, TREATMENT AVAILABILITY, AND INCREASES TO FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

---

*America's families, especially in rural areas, continue to suffer from the meth scourge. While many states have successfully dismantled the home-made meth labs, rates of addiction remain unchanged. However most states impacted by meth and other drugs, either lack family-based treatments programs or possess very limited family-treatment capacity. As a result, mothers and their children are turned away from treatment, children are placed in foster care, and costs to the states of family addiction continue to skyrocket.*

### THE COST OF METH ADDICTION TO STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEMS

#### South Dakota

A minimum of 110 children placed in foster care due to parental addiction to meth. The average length of stay for children discharged from foster care in Fiscal Year 2005 was 12.8 months. The estimated cost of foster care for the 110 children for one year would be at least \$2,320,120 (110 times \$21,092).

[S.D. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIV. OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PRODUCES SAVINGS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 3 (2005), available at <http://dhs.sd.gov/ada/Publications/SDImpactTreatment3.pdf>]

#### Idaho

The number of children in state care has increased by more than 40% — from 2,260 children in care in 2002 to 3,197 children in 2005. In some counties, up to 80% of foster placements by Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare are directly related to drug abuse, with methamphetamine being the most prevalent.

[Idaho Meth Project, Idaho Meth Project Overview, available at [http://www.idahomethproject.org/documents/Idaho\\_Meth\\_Project\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.idahomethproject.org/documents/Idaho_Meth_Project_Fact_Sheet.pdf)]

#### Montana

52 percent of the parents of children in out-of-home foster care have lost custody of their children due to meth-related abuse. The cost to the state is estimated at over \$12 million annually.

[MONT. ATT'Y GEN., METHAMPHETAMINE IN MONTANA: A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TRENDS AND IMPACT 8 (2007), available at [http://www.montanameth.org/documents/MT\\_AG\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.montanameth.org/documents/MT_AG_Report_Final.pdf)]

### MOTHERS AND CHILDREN TURNED AWAY FROM TREATMENT AND THE COSTS TO METH-IMPACTED STATES

#### Hawaii

In 2004, the state estimated that the 1,500 parenting women who might otherwise lose their children due to a lack of publicly funded substance abuse treatment services would result in a cost savings of \$22 million for the state if treatment were offered.

[HAW. FINAL REPORT OF THE JOINT HOUSE-SENATE TASK FORCE ON ICE AND DRUG ABATEMENT 9 (2004), available at <http://159.121.112.123/PSReview/references/HawaiiIce20040130.pdf>]

#### Kansas

Women with children had to wait an average of eighteen days before entering a treatment program.

[Addiction and Prevent Services Newsletter (Kan. Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Topeka, Kan.), Spring 2005, at 1, available at <http://www.srskansas.org/hcp/aaps/AAPSNewsletters/NewsletterSpring2005.pdf>]

#### Wyoming

More than 1 in 20 pregnant women are suffering with an addiction to meth. Fewer than 1 in 10 Wyoming residents who needed drug treatment received it.

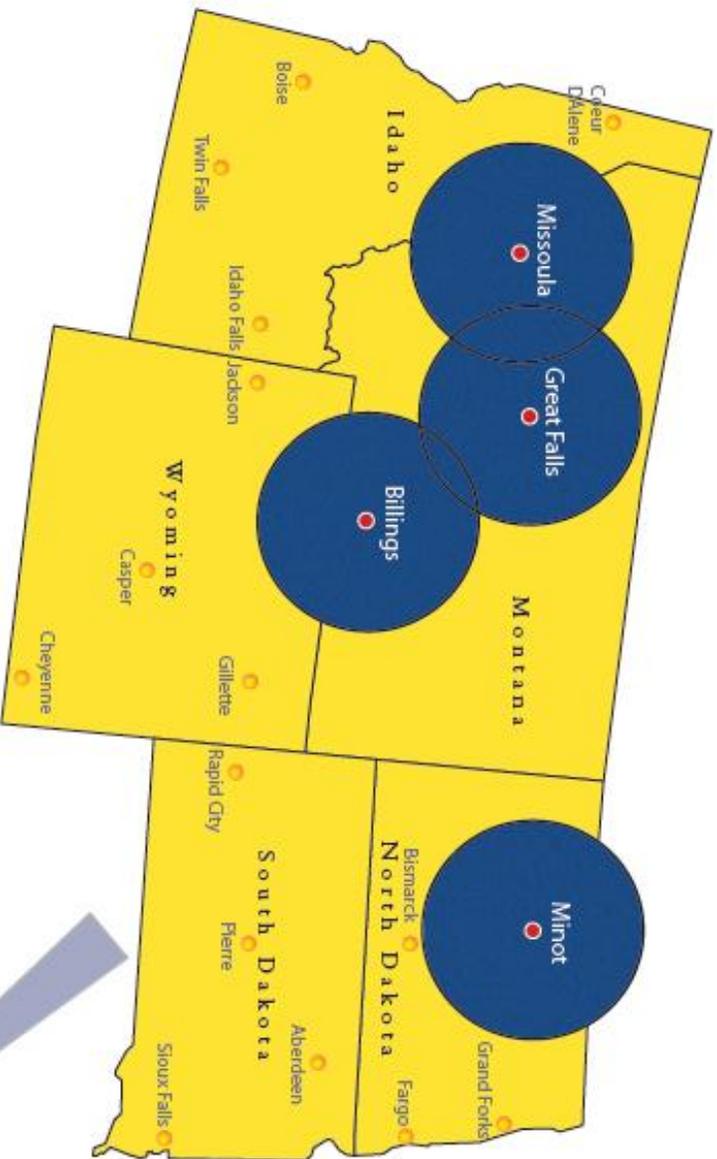
[Practitioner Perspectives: Wyoming's Methamphetamine Initiative: The Power of Informed Process (U.S. Dept of Justice, Wash., D.C.), May 2001, at 5, available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/186266.pdf>]



**THE REBECCA PROJECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Health, Safety and Dignity for Vulnerable Families*

[www.rebeccaproject.org](http://www.rebeccaproject.org) • 202.265.3911



radius=100 miles

• Comprehensive Family Treatment Program

