

# METHAMPHETAMINE FACT SHEET

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## THE METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC IS A FAMILY ISSUE

- Approximately 10,600 children in the U.S. were either present at lab seizures or lived where the labs were seized between 2000 and 2003.
- 2,900 children were removed from their homes during 2002 and 2003 because of neglect or abuse by meth-addicted parents.
- During the past five years, 71% of counties in California reported an increase in out of home placements because of meth and 70% of Colorado counties reported an increase, according to a recent report on meth by the National Association of Counties.

## METH-ADDICTED MOTHERS ARE OFTEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE

- According to SAMHSA, mothers who are drug addicted are generally victims of serious physical and sexual abuse. Between 41 and 74 percent of women in drug treatment reported being victims of sexual abuse. In a cross-evaluation of family treatment programs funded by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse, 76 percent of mothers reported a history of abuse, trauma, and/or neglect.
- Meth-addicted mothers generally suffer from severe, untreated trauma related to repeated sexual and/or physical violence; mothers use meth to self-medicate the trauma and undiagnosed depression underlying their addiction.

## METH-ADDICTED PARENTS NEED COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT

- Comprehensive, family treatment addresses the complex reasons for a mother's addiction and addresses the mother's relationship to her children, as well as providing therapeutic services to the mother and her children.
- Access to family treatment programs for the meth using parent and her children is an opportunity for a family to heal together and regain health, stability, and healing.

## COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT WORKS

- SAMHSA's evaluation of family treatment programs, both the Residential Women and Children [RWC] and the Pregnant and Postpartum Women [PPW] programs, showed significantly reduced alcohol and drug use, as well as decreased criminal behavior. Parental sobriety averaged at 62 percent, at discharge and 6 months post-discharge from treatment. Rates of premature delivery, low birth weight, and infant mortality were improved for participating women. In addition, treatment costs were offset three to four times by savings from reduced costs of crime, foster care, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF], and adverse birth outcomes.
- In states hardest hit by the meth epidemic, such as California, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Missouri, family treatment programs are successfully healing meth using families, achieving an average of 70% success rate in parental sobriety and family stability.

## COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT MUST BE EXPANDED TO ADDRESS THE METH EPIDEMIC

- The national treatment infrastructure has not kept pace with the demand or complexity of needs experienced by women and their children, especially against the backdrop of the methamphetamine epidemic. Family-based substance abuse treatment, which addresses the needs of the parent and her children, represents less than 6 percent of the overall treatment available.



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