



**WAUSHARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
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TO: AREA NEWSPAPERS

FROM: WAUSHARA COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2005

RE: **PRESS RELEASE**

TASK FORCE SAYS "NO!" TO METHAMPHETAMINES IN WAUSHARA COUNTY

METHAMPHETAMINE IS A POWERFUL CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM STIMULANT THAT AFFECTS DOPAMINE, ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL NEUROTRANSMITTERS IN THE BRAIN THAT AFFECTS MOOD. IT CAN CAUSE LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE DOPAMINE, THEREFORE USERS OFTEN FEEL EXTREMELY TIRED AND DEPRESSED LONG AFTER THEY STOP USING. FOR THIS REASON 'METH' HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RELAPSE RATES FOR ADDICTS AND IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY RESISTANT TO TREATMENT. THIS HIGHLY ADDICTIVE DRUG MAY BE SOLD AS PILLS, CAPSULES, OR POWDER AND CAN BE INGESTED, INJECTED, SNORTED, OR SMOKED.

METHAMPHETAMINE'S IMMEDIATE EFFECTS ARE MANY AND MAY INCLUDE EUPHORIC "HIGH" STATE, PARANOIA, DECREASED APPETITE, INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, ANXIETY, INCESSANT TALKING, INCREASED BODY TEMPERATURE, CHEST PAIN, ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE, DILATED PUPILS, AND AGGRESSIVE, VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. LONG-TERM EFFECTS INCLUDE ADDICTION PSYCHOSIS, PARANOIA, HALLUCINATIONS, REPETITIVE MOTOR ACTIVITY, WEIGHT LOSS, STROKE, CARDIAC IRREGULARITIES. SEVERE DEPRESSION AND SUICIDAL TENDENCIES ARE OFTEN RELATED WITH ATTEMPTED WITHDRAWAL.

ACUTE LEAD POISONING IS ANOTHER RISK FOR METH ABUSERS. A COMMON METHOD OF ILLEGAL METH PRODUCTION USES LEAD ACETATE AS AN INGREDIENT, AND PRODUCTION ERRORS MAY RESULT IN METH DOSES CONTAMINATED WITH LEAD. RESEARCH INDICATES THAT METH ABUSE DURING PREGNANCY MAY RESULT IN PRENATAL COMPLICATIONS AND CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE INFORMATION COMING OUT OF THE 'BIG CITY'? WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION AND USE RIGHT HERE IN WAUSHARA COUNTY? SOMEONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF METHAMPHETAMINE MAY BE JOYOUSLY HAPPY ONE SECOND, AND AGGRESSIVE AND VIOLENT THE NEXT, WITH LITTLE OR NO WARNING. THE METH ABUSER MAY BE YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, OR IN THE CAR BEHIND YOU IN TRAFFIC.

A COALITION OF WAUSHARA COUNTY OFFICIALS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO COMBAT THE USE AND PRODUCTION OF METHAMPHETAMINES HERE IN THE COUNTY. MEMBERS OF THE METH TASK FORCE INCLUDE COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LOCAL SCHOOLS. THE METH TASK FORCE HAS SEVERAL GOALS; PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF THE DRUG'S EFFECTS ON OUR COMMUNITY, THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF WAUSHARA COUNTY, AND PREVENTION MEASURES TO KEEP THE METH PROBLEM FROM GROWING LARGER HERE IN THE COUNTY. ERADICATING THE PRODUCTION, SALE AND ABUSE OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN WAUSHARA COUNTY, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE MUCH MORE HELP THAN JUST THE TASK FORCE; WE ALL NEED TO HELP.

BE AWARE OF YOUR COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS. WATCH FOR THE WARNING SIGNS OF METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION AND USE AROUND YOUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING METHAMPHETAMINE IN WAUSHARA COUNTY, OR TO CONFIDENTIALLY DISCUSS POSSIBLE METH ISSUES IN THE AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAUSHARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AT (920) 787-3321. **HELP US SAY NO! TO METHAMPHETAMINE IN WAUSHARA COUNTY!**