

# HAWAII METH PROJECT

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## 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.<sup>i</sup>

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, and according to the U.S. Department of Justice, methamphetamine is the primary drug threat to Hawaii<sup>ii</sup>. The financial and social consequence of Meth abuse in Hawaii is devastating. It is a contributing cause for much of the crime in the state, costs millions of dollars in productivity, burdens jails and prisons, and adversely impacts families and children.

- Hawaii ranks #5 in the nation for Meth use by people age 12 and older<sup>iii</sup>
- 7.3% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students have used Meth according to the *2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, up 87% from 2005<sup>iv</sup>
- 25% of total treatment admissions are Meth-related—only California has a greater percentage of Meth-related treatment<sup>v</sup>
- 11% of Hawaii teens and 18% of young adults report having close friends who use Meth, and 18% of teens and young adults have family members who have been in treatment for Meth<sup>vi</sup>
- 19% of teens and 36% of young adults say Meth is readily available, and 12% of teens and 27 % of young adults report they have been offered the drug<sup>vii</sup>
- 75% of Hawaii’s drug enforcement operations are attributed to Meth—greater than all other types of drugs combined<sup>viii</sup>
- 43% of Federal convictions in Hawaii involved methamphetamine<sup>ix</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> RAND, *The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use In the United States*, 2009.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. “DEA Fact Sheet: Hawaii.” 2008.

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

<sup>iv</sup> Center for Disease Control, *Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System*, 2007.

<sup>v</sup> SAMHSA, *Treatment Episode Data Set*, 2008.

<sup>vi</sup> Hawaii Meth Use & Attitudes Survey, June 2009.

<sup>vii</sup> Hawaii Meth Use & Attitudes Survey, June 2009.

<sup>viii</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, *Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis*, 2008.

<sup>ix</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Hawaii: Profile of Drug Indicators*, August 2008.