

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
1275 W. WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2926
WWW.AZAG.GOV

ANNE TITUS HILBY
PRESS SECRETARY
PHONE: (602) 542-8019
CELL PHONE: (602) 725-2200
ANNE.HILBY@AZAG.GOV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terry Goddard Announces Substantial Reduction in Statewide Meth Use

(Phoenix, Ariz. – October 2, 2008) Attorney General Terry Goddard today announced a major achievement in Arizona’s fight against methamphetamines. According to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission’s 2008 Arizona Youth Survey, youth methamphetamine use across Arizona declined significantly – by more than 50 percent in many categories - between 2006 and 2008.

The youth survey is a bi-annual assessment of substance abuse and other high-risk youth behavior in Arizona. The 2008 survey measured statewide and county-by-county methamphetamine use among students in grades 8, 10 and 12 and compared those results to data obtained in the 2006 youth survey. Highlights of this year’s study include the following:

Percentage (%) of students who have used methamphetamines during their lifetime

| Grade 8 | | Grade 10 | | Grade 12 | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 | Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 | Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 |
| 2.6 | 1.2 | 5.0 | 2.4 | 6.6 | 4.0 |

Percentage (%) of students who have used methamphetamines during the past 30 days

| Grade 8 | | Grade 10 | | Grade 12 | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 | Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 | Statewide 2006 | Statewide 2008 |
| 1.0 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.8 |

“For years, meth has been the number one problem for law enforcement in Arizona,” Goddard said. “This report demonstrates overwhelmingly that meth-prevention programs such as the ARIZONA METH PROJECT are succeeding and keeping our children safe from this deadly drug.”

In early 2007, Goddard, in partnership with Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley and local anti-meth coalitions, launched the ARIZONA METH PROJECT to reduce

methamphetamine use by Arizona youth. The project is built around a gritty television, radio and print advertising campaign designed to teach young people ages 12-17 about the negative impact meth has on a person's physical health, family and peer group as well as the potential to become addicted after only one use.

Goddard also cited the impact of federal and local restrictions on the sale of pseudoephedrine as well as the effective work of law enforcement, local anti-meth coalitions and educational programs like the Boys & Girls Clubs' MethSMART program.

The 2008 survey comes on the heels of another milestone in the statewide effort to combat methamphetamine use and production in Arizona. In August, the Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force reported that the number of clandestine methamphetamine lab incidents in Arizona decreased from 254 in 2002 to eight in 2007. The sharp decrease in labs, the report noted, is the result of local restrictions prohibiting over-the-counter sales of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in methamphetamine production.

The entire 2008 survey, including county-by-county results, is available on the Attorney General's Web site, www.azag.gov. Additional information is available on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Web site, www.acjc.state.az.us. The Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force Progress Report is available at <http://gocyf.az.gov/SAP/documents/MTF/2008MTFProgressReport.pdf>.

For additional information, contact Anne Hilby at (602) 542-8019.

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