



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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FIGHTING METH DEATH ***County Releases Methamphetamine Report Card***

- WHAT:** Are meth treatment admissions going up or down? Have meth arrests increased or decreased? How many San Diego County residents have died because of meth? County officials and medical experts will answer these and many other questions when they release the latest Methamphetamine Report Card.
- WHO:** **Chairwoman Dianne Jacob**, Second District, County of San Diego
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Marshall Lewis, M.D., Clinical Director, HHSA's Behavioral Health Services
Mariah Sheneman, former meth user
- WHEN:** **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 AT 10:30 A.M.**
WHERE: **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER—EAST PLAZA**
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY
- WHY:** According to the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, about one in ten Californians (11 percent) has a close friend who uses methamphetamine and 13 percent of Californians have been asked to try the drug.
- Meth abuse in the U.S. cost taxpayers about \$23 billion in 2005 according to a recent study conducted by the RAND Corp. The figure includes the estimated costs of meth treatment, lost productivity, crime and criminal justice costs, and child endangerment among other things.
- Meth is a highly addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system and has a high potential for abuse. Tolerance develops rapidly, often leading to addiction in a short time. Meth causes hallucinations, paranoia, stroke, liver or heart failure, and death.
- Twenty-two percent (30) of the 135 homicides recorded in 2007 were meth related, as were 6 of 11 officer-involved shootings.
- People who suspect drug activity is taking place in their community or are suffering from a meth addiction, are encouraged to call the Meth Hotline at 1-877-no2meth (662-6384). Meth crime can also be reported online at www.no2meth.org. The calls and reports are completely confidential.

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