

METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN MONTANA

About Methamphetamine:

Methamphetamine is a powerful and addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. It is a Schedule II substance and there are limited medical uses as Desoxyn to treat obesity and ADHD. Use of methamphetamine may result in increased activity, talkativeness, euphoria, and decreased appetite, and can have a wide range of negative health consequences, including psychosis, cardiovascular and renal dysfunction, infectious disease transmission, addiction, and overdose.¹

Key Points:

- Methamphetamine and stimulant seizures (excluding cocaine) by law enforcement in Montana increased by 200% from 2013 to 2021. By 2023, seizures declined 20% to a total of 1,578 seizures.² For comparison, there were 82 opioid seizures in 2023.
- In 2023, methamphetamine was identified in 48% of drug overdose deaths in Montana (89 of 185 drug overdose deaths).³
- \$53.5 million were charged by hospitals across the state to treat nearly 3,800 patients for methamphetamine overdose and other stimulant-related disorders in 2023.⁴
- Methamphetamine was the second most common drug (not including alcohol) found in impaired driver blood samples - after cannabis. Methamphetamine was found in 24% of impaired driver blood samples that were tested for drugs.⁵

| | United States | Montana |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Percent increase in number of deaths caused by methamphetamine from 2018 to 2023 | 175% ⁶ | 193% ³ |
| Percent of people aged 12+ who report using methamphetamine in the past year | 1.0% ⁷ | 1.7% ⁸ |

References:

1. State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup. [Summary of Methamphetamine Use in Montana](#)
2. Montana Board of Crime Control Statistical Analysis Center. [Drug Seizures in Montana](#)
3. EMS and Trauma System Section. [Drug Overdose Deaths in Montana 2014-2023](#)
4. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System. 2023 data courtesy of participating Montana Hospital Association members
5. Montana Department of Justice. [Forensic Science Division Annual Report 2023](#)
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Multiple Cause of Death Files 2018-2023 on CDC WONDER Online Database](#),
7. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [2022 NSDUH Detailed Tables](#): 1.12B
8. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [State Data Tables and Reports from the 2021-2022 NSDUH](#)