

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***First National Synthetic Drug Control Strategy
Seeks to Reduce Methamphetamine and Prescription Drug Abuse;
Proposes Ten Point Plan for Helping State and Local Governments***

In June, 2006 the Office of National Drug Control Policy issued its first-ever national *Synthetic Drug Control Strategy*, noting that “the unique nature of illicit markets for synthetic drugs warrants a targeted response” (p. 1). The primary goals of the strategy are to reduce methamphetamine use and prescription drug abuse by 15% by 2008 and to reduce the number of domestic methamphetamine laboratories by 25% by 2008. Recognizing that “state and local partners are crucial in carrying out the Administration’s strategy for the synthetic drug problem” (p. 19), the strategy also offers a ten point plan for helping state and local governments fight synthetic drugs (see below). The *Synthetic Drug Control Strategy* is available online at http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/synthetic_drg_control_strat/

**National Synthetic Drug Control Strategy Ten-Point Plan
for Helping Communities Fight Synthetic Drugs**

1. Encourage states to include in their comprehensive drug control strategies a plan to address regional methamphetamine and controlled substance prescription drug abuse threats.
2. Identify and share the most effective state-level approaches for reducing methamphetamine production and use, as well as controlled substance prescription drug diversion.
3. Expand Drug Endangered Children programs and training to all 50 states by the end of 2008.
4. Increase availability of treatment and prevention programs by expanding the number of drug courts and random student drug testing programs.
5. Improve data collection related to methamphetamine use and production.
6. Expand prescription drug monitoring programs to all 50 states by the end of 2008.
7. Cosponsor and fund four regional methamphetamine conferences in 2006 to coordinate federal, state, and local action against synthetic drugs.
8. Continue ambitious training programs for law enforcement.
9. Provide funds for laboratory seizure and clean up through the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) program.
10. Provide procedures and standards for laboratory cleanup and improve our national knowledge base as to toxicity.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Executive Office of the President, *Synthetic Drug Control Strategy: A Focus on Methamphetamine and Prescription Drug Abuse*, 2006.

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The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.