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# Tribune

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## Survey: Meth use down among Arizona youths

By Angela Guido  
For the Tribune

Methamphetamine use by youths statewide has drastically decreased since 2006, according to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's 2008 Arizona Youth Survey.

The survey measured meth use of Arizona students in eighth, 10th and 12th grades. The commission's data show that use of the drug increases with students' ages, but the overall percentage of student users in 2008 has decreased since 2006. The 2008 results showed that 1.2 percent of eighth-graders statewide had tried the substance, compared with 2.6 percent in 2006. Both 10th- and 12th-grade students showed a decrease of 2.6 percent of those who had tried the substance at least once from 2006 to 2008.

Meth-prevention programs such as the Arizona Meth Project have been assembled to prevent use of the drug among Arizona youths. The program used advertisements and community programs to raise awareness of the consequences of methamphetamine use.

MethSMART, an education curriculum in all Boys & Girls Clubs in Arizona, has also been an effective effort to fight youth methamphetamine use, said Anne Hilby of the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

MethSMART is primarily a prevention program that teaches youths refusal skills and the dangers of using meth, said Janet Regner of the Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Gov. Janet Napolitano's Arizona Meth Task Force Progress Report reported an extreme decline in incidents involving labs creating methamphetamine. Sales of pseudoephedrine, an ingredient involved in creating the substance, have been restricted in an effort to reduce meth production.

About 46 cities and towns in Arizona restrict pseudoephedrine sales, Hilby said. This hinders those wishing to concoct meth with the over-the-counter ingredient, she said.



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