BC’s Crystal Meth Initiative:
Responding to the Risks

Union of BC Municipalities
Community Safety Conference
Richmond, BC
February 29, 2008
Outline

- Key elements of the initiative
- Accomplishments
- Crystal Meth picture now
- Lessons learned
- Future direction
Crystal Meth Initiative

- To increase awareness, increase access to effective treatment and strengthen partnerships with communities to target the use and production of crystal meth.
(Admissions for treatment/100,000)
Primary methamphetamine-related admissions to youth inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities, 2006
(Callaghan, Taylor, Tavares & Suurvali, 2006)
Primary methamphetamine admissions to the study site, March 2001 to December 2005 (Callaghan, Taylor, Tavares & Suurvali, 2006)
BC Response

- $2m community and First Nations grant program –
  - 70 communities and 69 FN
  - > 30 local task forces/coalitions
- $2m public awareness campaign
- $1m in school-based material
- $2m in Ministry of Health base funding
- Tools for police and prosecutors
New Tools and Resources

no2meth

A parents’ guide to crystal methamphetamine: (Arabic), (English), (Farsi), (French), (Hindi), (Japanese), (Korean), (Punjabi), (Russian), (Spanish), (Tagalog), (Vietnamese)

I hear about meth in the news, and it scares me. How can I be sure my teenager won’t get hooked?
Current environment

- **Use**
  - Low use among students and youth
  - Pockets of problematic use

- **Supply**
  - # of labs and dumps increasing
Synthetic Drug Production

Synthetic Labs in British Columbia

Year

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Crystal Meth comes in several different forms

“Crack” rock is a form of crystal meth. The original form of the drug had to be broken down to have a consistent mixture. It is inhaled through a pipe and causes a rapid and intense high. The effects are short-lived and users typically experience irritability, aggression, paranoia, anxiety, and sleep disturbances.

Second Stage: Users may start using methamphetamine in smoke form. This is less dangerous than the first stage, but still poses a risk to the user’s health.

Third Stage: Users may then progress to using methamphetamine in a crystal form. This is the most dangerous stage, as users have direct access to the drug and can experience severe physical and psychological effects.

Fourth Stage: Users may then progress to using methamphetamine in a liquid form. This is the most dangerous stage, as users have direct access to the drug and can experience severe physical and psychological effects.

Schools focused on prevention programs

In order to prevent the spread of crystal meth, schools have implemented prevention programs. These programs include education on the dangers of crystal meth, peer education, and counseling services. They also include community-based prevention strategies, such as the “Say No to Drugs” program, which is designed to help prevent crystal meth use in the community.

You’ve had a lifetime to talk to your kids about crystal meth. What are you waiting for?

Crystal meth is a serious problem and needs to be discussed with children from a young age. It is important to educate children about the dangers of crystal meth and to encourage healthy habits and decision-making skills.

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Crystal Meth: Understanding the Signs

What is Crystal Meth?

- Prolonged and highly addictive effects
- Codeine, a powerful and highly addictive stimulant
- Users experience significant increases in self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-control
- The drug also increases the feeling of euphoria, which can lead to an increase in aggressive behavior
- The drug can lead to a feeling of detachment from reality

What Makes Crystal Meth "addictive"?

- The drug increases the feeling of euphoria, which can lead to an increase in aggressive behavior
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Wellness Centre holds crystal meth Cross-Training with Peachland first responders

The Wellness Centre has developed a comprehensive awareness program and is preparing to launch an awareness month. The program, which is aimed at helping communities deal with the drug, will feature two workshops. The first workshop will be held on Nov. 1, and the second on Nov. 22.

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Lessons Learned

- Complex problem requires multiple systems response
- Evidence-based approach
- New treatment options (VAMP)
- Community-based prevention
- Common purpose of public safety and public health
Next Steps

- Support for community-based initiatives
  - Regional conferences
  - Web-based resources
- Crime reduction strategies focusing on prolific offenders and street disorder
- More controls on materials used in synthetic drug production
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