

The background of the slide features the Florida state flag, which is red and white with a central emblem. The emblem depicts a woman in a blue dress standing next to a palm tree, with a sun rising over a bay. The words "GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA" and "IN GOD WE TRUST" are visible around the emblem. The top of the flag has a gold tassel.

Methamphetamines:

The Problem in Florida and the Policy Response



Presentation to the House Committee on Health Care Regulation

October 19, 2005

What is Methamphetamine?

- **Highly addictive central nervous system stimulant**
- **Inexpensive – cheaper than crack cocaine**
- **Can be smoked (“Crystal Meth”), injected or snorted**
- **Most often used in a “Binge & Crash” pattern**
- **Tolerance for Meth occurs within minutes, users then try to maintain high**
- **The “Walk Away” drug**

Effects of Methamphetamine

Short Term Effects:

- **Euphoria**
- **Increased Energy & Confidence**
- **Increased Blood Pressure and Heart Rate**
- **Increased Sex Drive**

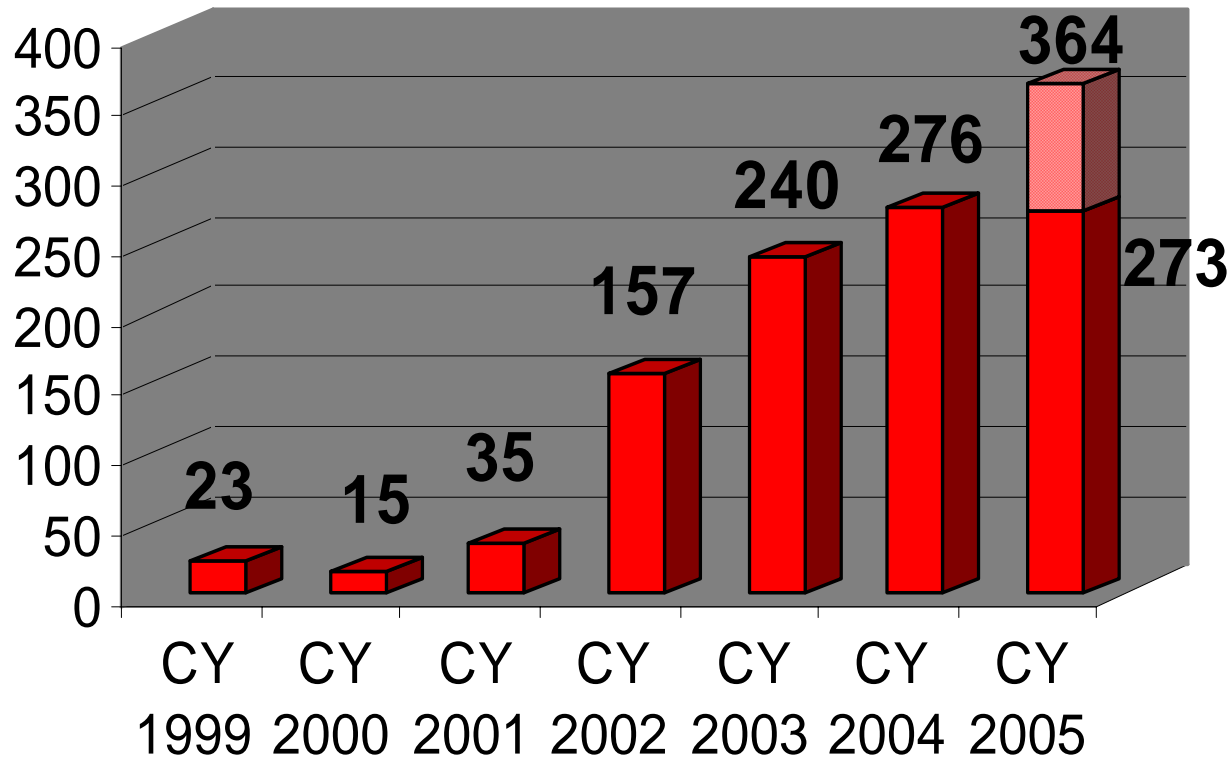
Long Term Effects:

- **Paranoia/Hallucinations**
- **Mood Disturbances**
- **Stroke**
- **Severe behavioral abnormalities**
- **“Meth Mouth”**

Imported or Homemade

- **Primarily manufactured in “super-labs” both in U.S. and abroad**
- **Growing percentage made in local “stills or Meth labs”**
- **Easy to make using over the counter drugs & other common ingredients (Cold & Allergy medications containing Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine, Hydrochloric Acid, Drain Cleaner, Battery Acid, Lantern Fuel, Antifreeze)**
- **Recipes for Meth on thousands of Internet sites**

Labs Seized in Florida



Projected
Labs Seized

(As of September 2005)

One Example of The Problem:

Meth in Holmes County -- 2003

- Population – 18,500**
- 90 labs seized in 2003; 160 labs total to date**
- Over 460 meth arrests to date**
- 120-bed jail at or above capacity in 2003 with 90% of inmates on drug-related charges**
- 80% of the labs seized had children present**
- More than half of the children in foster care due to meth**
- 2002 FYSAS -- 5% of HS students current meth users – more than 4 times current use anywhere else in the state**

One Example of Fighting Back: Progress In Holmes County

- **Prevention and law enforcement working hand in hand**
- **Local coalition awarded a \$100K grant**
- **Active enforcement and awareness activities**
- **Burglaries cut in half from 2003 to 2004**
- **2004 FYSAS -- less than 1% of HS students current meth users “Approaching Zero”**

What We Are Doing About The Problem

- **Public Information/Education**
- **Law enforcement and prevention efforts**
- **2003 Statewide Methamphetamine Strategy**
- **NW Florida Drug Endangered Children Protocol**
- **F.S. 893.315 (HB 1347)**
- **Florida Statewide Methamphetamine Working Group**
- **Training for First Responders & Child Protective Services**

Meth Working Group

- **Interagency – Interdisciplinary Body**

(ODC, FDLE, DOH, DEA, DEP, DCF, MCTFT, DBPR, FWC, DACS, FADDA, AG, CFO, UF)

- **Meets routinely to develop concise responses**

- **Site specific**

- **Issue specific (e.g. Drug Endangered Children, Law Enforcement Operations)**

- **Serves as clearinghouse for holistic responses**

- **Measures Effectiveness**

- **Identifies needs**

Meth Working Group

- **Statewide Protocol**
- **Curriculum based on levels of training**
 - **First responders**
 - **Child Protective Services**
 - **Caseworkers**
 - **Prosecutors**
- **Organized by Judicial Circuit**

Meth Working Group

The Methamphetamine Problem in Florida

Legislative Issues

- **1347 Glitch Bill**
- **Real Estate Contamination Identification Bill**

Agency Efforts

- **DCF/DOH – Drug Endangered Children training**
- **DBPR – Disclosure policies**
- **DOH – Remediation Standards**
- **FDLE – Streamline Law Enforcement Operations**
- **ALL - Training**

Meth Working Group

Clearinghouse

State of Florida website offering comprehensive Meth related information to communities and individuals

- Web based DEC training component**
- Community coalition “toolkit”**
- Meth related treatment links**

The background of the slide features a close-up of the Florida State Capitol dome and the state flag. The flag is red and white, and the dome is a reddish-brown color. The text "ALL OF THE STATE" is visible on a banner above the dome.

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