

## Methamphetamine Information: Kentucky Dentists' Needs Assessment

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## Problem

Illegal methamphetamine use is on the rise in the United States.

According to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), there were an estimated 731,000 current users of methamphetamine age 12 or older (0.3 percent of the population).\*



\*<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k6nsduh/gifs>

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## Methamphetamine Information: WVA Dentists' Needs Assessment 2007 NRHA Meeting

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## Past History

- CNS stimulant with many uses
- Keeping alert
- Narcolepsy
- ADHD
- Obesity



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## The Appalachian Region



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## Characteristics

Allure of methamphetamine:

- Availability in many forms
- Easily made from household items and chemicals readily found
- Ease of purchase
- Produces a prolonged euphoria



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## Long-term Orofacial Effects

- soft-tissue inflammation
- Rhinitis
- angular chelitis
- Glossitis
- Bruxing
- temporomandibular disorder symptoms
- occlusal wear
- tooth fracture
- Xerostomia
- Hypocalcification
- rampant caries
- tooth loss



## Methods

- A written survey consisting of 21 questions was mailed to licensed dentists in KY\*
- Contained questions addressing the knowledge, training and practices
- Responses were completely voluntary and anonymous
- Study was approved by the UK IRB

\*West Virginia Survey identical



## “Meth Mouth”



Picture by: Ershal Harrison, DMD



## Results

### Of the 2,308 questionnaires

- 736 returned for a 31.9% response rate
- 79.9±2.3% of the dentists based their suspicions of abuse on clinical/oral manifestations.
- Majority were interested in updated information on it and other drugs.



## Purpose

Since meth use is on the rise, dentists need to know about its use and long-term orofacial effects.

Objectives of study: To assess knowledge and practices of KY dentists concerning

1. Use
2. Dental consequences
3. Treatment
4. Referral patterns



## Significance

- The American Dental Association has identified oral health problems associated with methamphetamine as a serious dental health issue.
- Methamphetamine abuse is a serious public health problem in Kentucky.

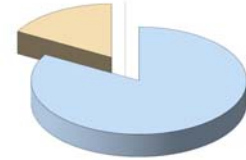


## Statistical Characteristics

- 88.9% are Kentucky graduates
- Median year of graduation 1984
- 77.7% of respondents are general dentists
  - 78.1% practiced over 30 hours a week

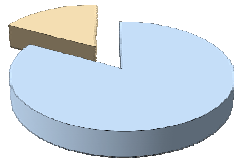
## Level of Evaluation

Most of the respondent dentists (92.2+/-1.6%) correctly believed that exposure to methamphetamine production is harmful to children.



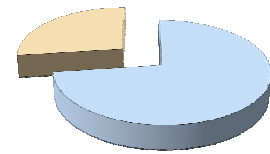
## Level of Evaluation

When questioned what percentage of their patients they suspected of substance abuse or using meth, 83.1% (with a 95% confidence interval of +/-1.2%), respectively estimated it as 10% or fewer of their patients.



## Level of Evaluation

72.9% (+/-2.6%) did not know which tooth surfaces are affected by methamphetamine use

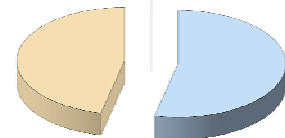


## Assessment: Knowledge and Practice

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	No Opinion	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Meth use causes an increase in acidic salivary flow.					
Based on what you see in your patients, children of meth users have worse dental health than children whose parents do not use meth.					
Meth users do not seek regular dental care.					
In methamphetamine users, oral complications are caused by inflammation that is preventable.					
I have been trained to recognize and treat methamphetamine related oral health problems.					
There is a distinct pattern of decay associated with meth use involving the buccal surface of posterior teeth.					
Exposure to methamphetamine production is harmful to children.					

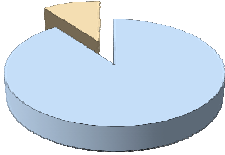
## Level of Evaluation

53.5 (+/-3.0%) incorrectly believed that its use causes an increased acidic salivary flow.



## Level of Evaluation Cost = ?

Over 90% of the respondents believed that less than 40% of users had the ability to pay for needed dental care.



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## “Meth 101”

A free online course entitled “Meth 101” was developed.

Approved by the KY Board of Dentistry and is accessible at [www.drugendangeredchild.org](http://www.drugendangeredchild.org)

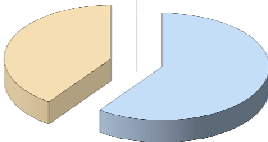
This project was partially funded by a grant through the KY’s Drug Endangered Child Training Network and the Appalachian Regional Commission

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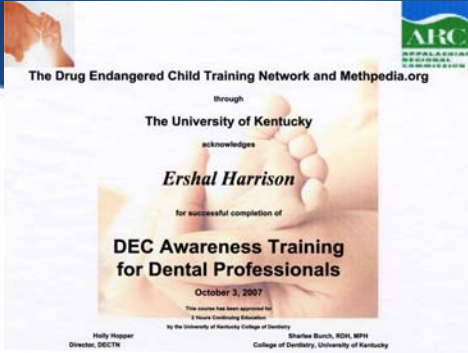
## Level of Evaluation

Although most of the respondents (59.9 +/-2.9) felt that they did not have sufficient training to recognize and treat amphetamine related problems or had no opinion on this, the majority were interested in updated information.



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## Conclusions

- Survey respondents desire and require more training to recognize and manage methamphetamine use and effects on health.


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## Post Survey

A follow up letter was mailed to all KY dentists who responded to survey notifying them of the module, a postcard was given for them to mail back.

- 90 responded that they accessed the module (42 had comments)
- 45 responded that they do not plan on accessing the module (11 had comments)
- 6 did not check a box (4 had comments saying they tried to access but were unable to)



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## What's Next ?

- Currently surveying PA's in KY and WVA
- Other health providers
- Submitted NIH proposal to further train dentists and staff to recognize and refer for drug treatment
- Free continuing education credit



## BBQ Anyone?

- Check your propane tank
- Users replacing propane with anhydrous ammonia
- Returning used tank to Wal-Mart, etc.

