

INTRODUCTION

If you are like most people when you think about drug education, you probably picture someone saying, “Don’t Do Drugs, because they can kill you. Well, that is an extremely important message, but it just doesn’t give you all the information you need to avoid the hazards associated with drug use. This community training package covers not only the affects of Methamphetamine (METH) use on the brain, but more importantly it also focuses on the many other hazards that METH poses to your family and your community.

The FOUNDATION:

Here are a few simple facts about METH:

- It can be cooked on a stove
- ALL ingredients can be purchased locally
- Recipe is simple to use
- Caustic, flammable, toxic chemicals are used

That is a snapshot of what we will discuss in later readings, but it lays a good foundation for your education on METH.

To give you a better idea of what METH cooking entails, let’s compare it to something we can all relate to. Let’s say you have a real hunger for some of your Grandma’s special Tollhouse cookies. Down the street, or even next door there is a person with a real hunger for METH.

While you pull out your secret recipe to make a list of the ingredients you will need, they are using their recipe to make a list as well. In fact, their recipe is on a 3X5 card just like yours.

You race outside and hop in your car and head for the market. They hop in their car and head for the market as well, plus a hardware store, and then a pharmacy. You spend a half hour filling your cart with the best ingredients you can find, and they spend a half hour filling their carts with paint thinner, coffee filters, Cold medicine, ether, drain cleaner, and other ingredients they need.

You drive home and pull into your driveway, rushing inside to make cookies. They pull into their driveway, or rather sort of park around the junk and half finished projects lying around the yard, and head in to make some METH.

You light your stove to preheat it; they light their stove and set a can of paint thinner next to the burner while they pull out the rest of their ingredients. After about 30 minutes, you have your first batch of cookies baking and they are cooking their first batch of METH. Fifteen minutes later you pull out your golden brown goodies from the oven and inhale deeply to savor the high from the aroma.

Five minutes earlier next door, they had already strained enough METH for a good high. That’s right! While your cookies were still baking, they were already savoring their high from the METH injected in their veins.

In ten hours it is more than likely you'll be out of cookies and they will be just starting to come down off their "highs." While you might crave another cookie, they will crave more METH and start the cycle again. Did I forget to mention that while you remembered to turn off your stove, next door the can of paint thinner is still on their stove sitting next to a lit burner? Are you feeling safe yet?

While the situation may seem exaggerated, you will find in the reading ahead that it is actually a very real problem facing our communities. It is a problem that is growing each day and requires community education and involvement to eliminate.

We hope you find this information helpful.