



Tip of the

CSAP's Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies

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Methamphetamine Prevention

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Methamphetamine use and abuse is a growing concern within the substance abuse field. In response to this growing concern the Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force was assembled by the Attorney General to review existing efforts and make future recommendations. This task force consisted of experts from the fields of law enforcement, prevention, education and treatment.

The Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force - Final Report: Federal Advisory Committee, outlines suggested guiding principles and needs and recommendations in methamphetamine prevention and education based on the results of the task force findings.

Guiding Principles:

- Effective drug prevention requires the involvement of many segments of the community—e.g., educators, youths, parents, law enforcement officials, business leaders, members of the faith community, social services providers, and representatives of other community agencies and organizations.
- Methamphetamine prevention and education efforts should follow established prevention principles and should be part of broader prevention and education efforts that target all forms of drug use.
- It is important to clearly identify target populations, motivations, risk factors, and demographics to design prevention and education strategies that are tailored to address the specific needs of local communities.

- Prevention and education programs should be guided by research and evaluation findings and evaluated to determine effectiveness.
- Parents and other adults should participate in any prevention or education programs designed for youths.
- Community methamphetamine efforts should target both youths and new adult users.

Needs & Recommendations:

- Address methamphetamine through broad-based drug prevention and education.
- Develop science-based prevention program planning and intervention guidelines in communities where methamphetamine is already a problem.
- Involve the entire community in prevention efforts.
- Ensure that media campaigns proceed with caution, focusing on raising awareness of methamphetamine using messages designed to minimize unintended effects, such as arousing curiosity about methamphetamine.
- Develop or augment programs aimed at educating those communities in which methamphetamine is an emerging or chronic problem.

More methamphetamine research is needed to further prevent its use and abuse. Effective prevention programs which are long term, comprehensive and designed to prevent the use of all drugs can be used to address methamphetamine.

Resource:

U.S. Dept of Justice, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, U.S. Dept of Education, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy/ Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force - Final Report: Federal Advisory Committee./ Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000.

A pdf version of this report is available at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/180155.pdf>

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