

Methamphetamine Misuse/Abuse and Consequences

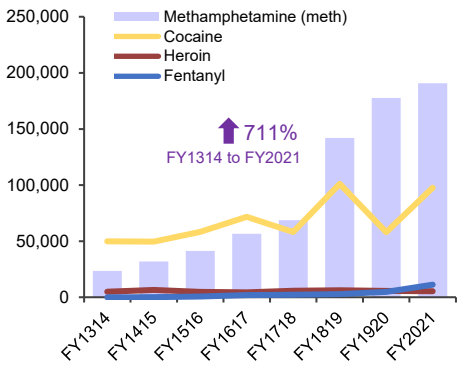
July 2022

Availability

Prevalence

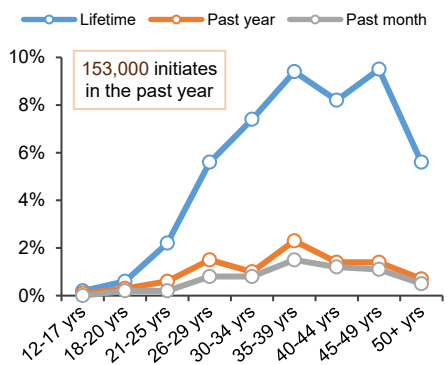
Health Conditions

Nationwide drug seizures (in pounds), U.S., FY1314-FY2021¹



Domestic meth seizures greatly increased in the US following FY1819, particularly in western states

Lifetime, past year, and past month meth use by age, U.S., 2020²



Meth use increased with age, peaking at age 35-49, and then decreased

Increased risk of adverse outcomes associated with meth use (vs. non-use)

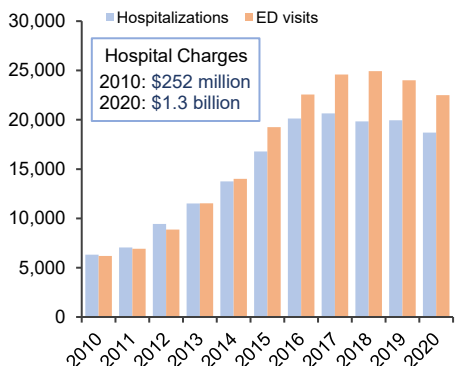
Depression ³	1.3 times
HIV infection ⁴	1.5 times
Heart attack ⁵	1.6 times
Suicide attempt ³	1.7 times
Heart failure ⁶	1.8 times
Stroke ⁷	1.9 times
Parkinson's disease ⁸	2.8 times
Preterm birth ⁹	3.1 times
Hepatitis C virus infection ¹⁰	3.4 times
Low birth weight ¹¹	3.5 times
Psychosis ³	5.3 times
Placental abruption ⁹	5.6 times
Dental problems ¹²	6.6 times
Schizophrenia ¹³	9.4 times

Meth use is associated with many adverse health outcomes

Healthcare Utilization

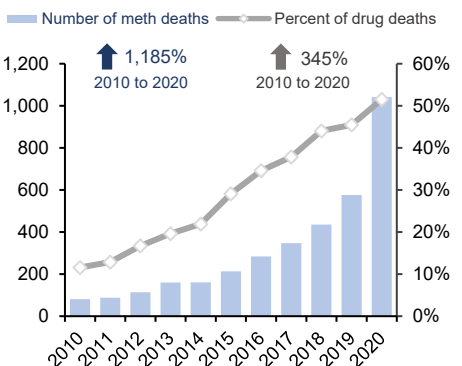
Deaths

Meth-related^a hospitalizations and ED visits, Los Angeles County (LAC), 2010-2020¹⁴



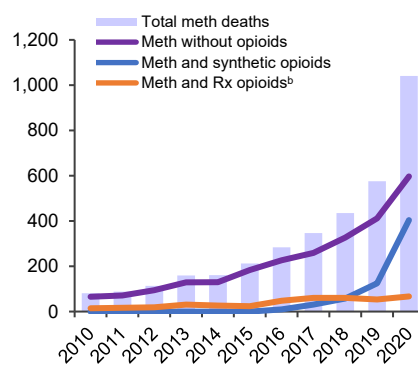
Meth-related hospitalizations and ED visits increased from 2010-2017 and has remained high in LAC

Meth overdose-related deaths, LAC, 2010-2020¹⁵



Meth-related deaths and its percent of all drug deaths in LAC increased from 2010-2020

Meth overdose-related deaths by opioid involvement, LAC, 2010-2020¹⁵

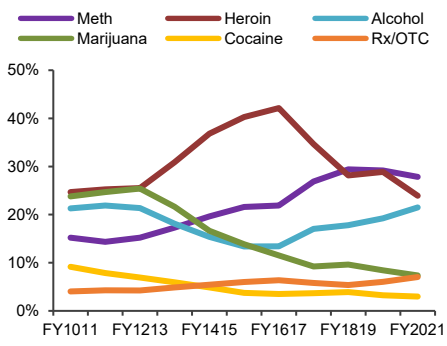


Meth-related deaths increasingly involved synthetic opioids (fentanyl) since 2018

^a Meth-related includes records listing methamphetamine abuse, dependence or poisoning (excluding in remission) as a diagnosis or an external cause of injury. ^b Rx opioids includes natural/semi-synthetic and methadone.

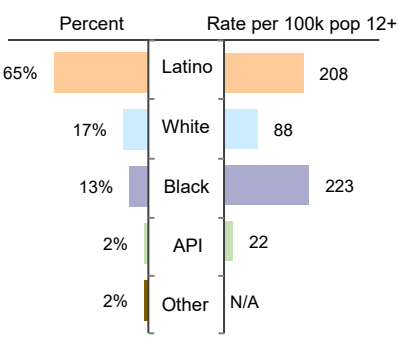
Treatment Admissions

Primary drug problem at treatment admission, LAC, FY1011-2021¹⁶



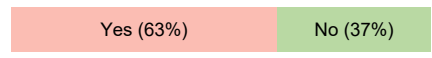
Treatment admissions for meth steadily increased and became the most common drug problem in FY1819

Race/ethnicity among patients with primary meth problem, LAC, FY2021¹⁶

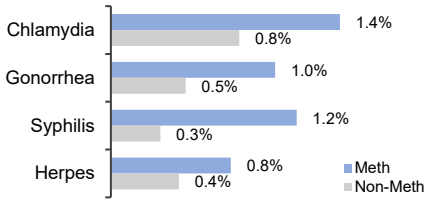


Latinx accounted for the largest number, while Blacks had the highest rate of primary meth admissions in LAC

Meth use before/during sex among patients with primary meth problem, LAC, FY2021¹⁶



Diagnosed STDs among patients with primary meth and non-meth problem, LAC, FY2021¹⁶



Primary meth clients had higher rates of STDs than clients with other primary drug problems in LAC

Availability

Most of the methamphetamine (meth) available in the United States is now produced in Mexico and smuggled through the Southwest Border¹⁷. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection¹, meth seizures increased by 711% from 23,543 pounds in FY1314 (fiscal year from October to September) to 190,861 pounds in FY2021. Meth seizures increased more rapidly than cocaine and heroin from FY1314 to FY1920.

The majority of drug seizures for meth in the U.S. occur in the western/midwestern regions. In 2020, Los Angeles was among the cities with the highest percentages of all drugs seized and submitted to forensic laboratories that were identified as meth at 49%, which was higher than the national average of 29%¹⁸.

Healthcare Utilization

According to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)¹⁴, hospital discharge records listing any meth-related diagnosis or external cause of injury (i.e., abuse, dependence or poisoning) in LAC increased by 196% from 6,315 in 2010 to 18,697 in 2020. The number of meth-related ED visits in LAC increased by 264% from 6,186 in 2010 to 22,497 in 2020.

Meth-related ED visits occurred mostly among males, Latinx, and those aged 18-34 years. Meth-related hospitalizations occurred mostly among males, Latinx, and those aged 35-54 years.

The mean charge for meth-related hospitalizations increased by 75% from \$39,983 in 2010 to \$69,864 in 2020 (adjusted for inflation to 2021 US dollars). Total hospital charges for meth-related hospitalizations in LAC increased by 417% from \$252 million in 2010 to \$1.3 billion in 2020. Meth-related hospitalizations in LAC resulted in \$8.45 billion in total charges from 2010 to 2020.

Prevalence

According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health², among individuals aged 12+, about 15,397,000 (5.6%) had ever used meth, 2,550,000 (0.9%) used meth in the past year, 1,722,000 (0.6%) used meth in the past month, and 153,000 initiated meth use in the U.S.

Meth use increased with age and was highest for those aged 35-39 and 45-49 years. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey¹⁹, ever use of meth among high school students in California (8.2%) and LAC (3.3%) was higher than the national average (2.1%).

Health Conditions

Meth use is associated with increased risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular conditions (e.g., heart attack⁵, heart failure⁶, stroke⁷), brain conditions (e.g., psychosis³, depression³, suicide attempt³, Parkinson's disease⁸, schizophrenia¹³), blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections (e.g., HIV⁴, hepatitis C virus¹⁰), adverse birth outcomes (e.g., preterm birth⁸, placental abruption⁹, low birth weight¹¹), dental problems¹², and other adverse health conditions.

Deaths

According to death certificate data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention¹⁵, the number of deaths in LAC listing drug overdose as the underlying cause of death with meth poisoning as a cause of death increased 1,185% from 81 in 2010 to 1,041 in 2020.

The percent of all underlying drug overdose deaths that listed meth poisoning as a cause of death increased from 12% in 2010 to 52% in 2020.

Meth overdose deaths in LAC greatly increased for all racial/ethnic groups over the last five years. Sharp increases occurred for all race/ethnicities from 2019 to 2020, particularly for Blacks (106% increase).

In LAC, overdose deaths that jointly listed meth and opioid poisoning as causes of death increased over the past decade, with a growing presence of synthetic opioids since 2016. As of 2020, more than one-third (39%) of meth overdose deaths co-occurred with synthetic opioids (which may include illicitly manufactured fentanyl).

However, regardless of opioid involvement, meth overdose deaths have steadily increased since 2010 and remain high. Specifically, meth overdose deaths (not including opioids) increased by 45% from 412 deaths in 2019 to 597 deaths in 2020.

Treatment Admissions

According to the Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System and Sage data¹⁶, the proportion of admissions to publicly funded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs in LAC for a primary meth problem has been increasing since FY1112 (fiscal year July to June).

In FY1819, meth surpassed heroin and became the most common reported drug problem at admission to publicly funded SUD treatment programs in LAC, and remained the top drug problem thereafter. In FY2021, meth accounted for 28% of treatment admissions.

In FY2021, Latinx (65%) patients accounted for the largest proportion of SUD treatment admissions with meth as the primary drug problem, followed by White (17%), Black (13%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (2%) clients.

The rate of primary meth admissions was highest among Black patients (223), followed by Latinx clients (208), White (88) and Asian/Pacific Islander (22) patients per 100,000 population aged 12 or older in FY2021.

In FY2021, 63% of patients who reported meth as their primary drug problem had used meth before or during sex in the past year.

Compared to patients who reported other primary drug problems, primary meth patients had higher rates of diagnosed chlamydia (1.4% vs. 0.8%), gonorrhea (1.0% vs. 0.5%), syphilis (1.2% vs. 0.3%), and herpes (0.8% vs 0.4%).

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