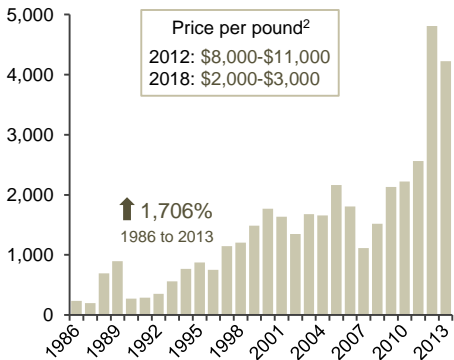


## Methamphetamine Misuse/Abuse and Consequences

March 2019

### Availability

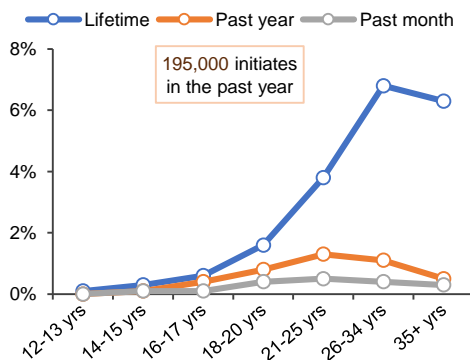
Domestic methamphetamine (meth) seizures (in kilograms), US, 1986-2013<sup>1</sup>



Domestic meth seizures greatly increased from 1986-2013

### Prevalence

Lifetime, past year, and past month meth use, by age, U.S., 2017<sup>3</sup>



Meth use increased with age, peaking at age 26-34, and then decreased

### Health Conditions

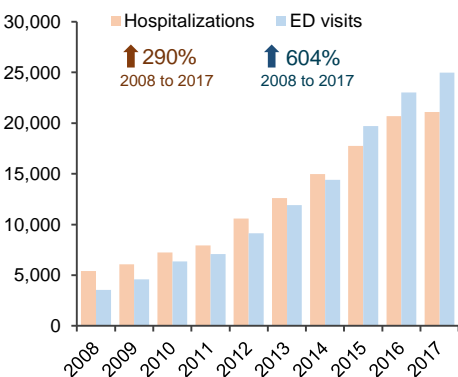
Increased risk of adverse outcomes associated with meth use (vs. non-use)

HIV infection <sup>4</sup>	1.5 times
Heart attack <sup>5</sup>	1.6 times
Heart failure <sup>6</sup>	1.8 times
Suicide attempt <sup>7</sup>	1.8 times
Stroke <sup>8</sup>	1.9 times
Depression <sup>9</sup>	2.6 times
Parkinson's disease <sup>10</sup>	2.8 times
Psychosis <sup>11</sup>	3.1 times
Hepatitis C virus infection <sup>12</sup>	3.4 times
Preterm birth <sup>13</sup>	3.5 times
Low birth weight <sup>14</sup>	3.5 times
Dental problems <sup>15</sup>	6.6 times
Schizophrenia <sup>16</sup>	9.4 times

Meth use is associated with many adverse health outcomes

### Healthcare Utilization

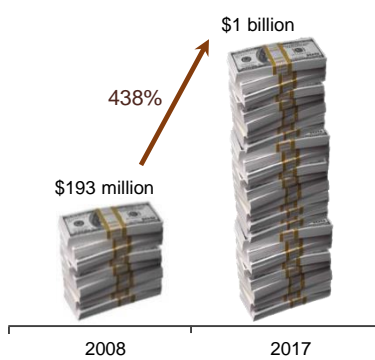
Meth-related hospitalizations and ED visits, Los Angeles County (LAC), 2008-2017<sup>17</sup>



Meth-related hospitalizations and ED visits in LAC increased from 2008-2017

### Economic Costs

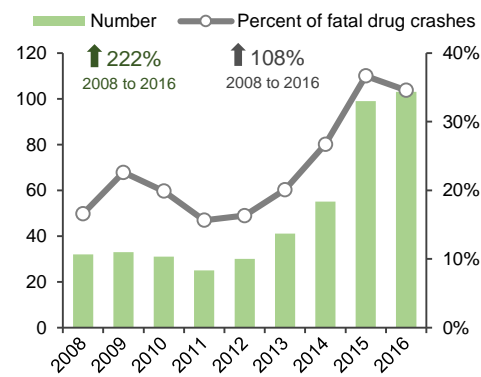
Meth-related annual hospital spending, LAC, 2008-2017<sup>17</sup>



Meth-related hospital spending in LAC consistently increased from 2008-2017

### Impaired Driving

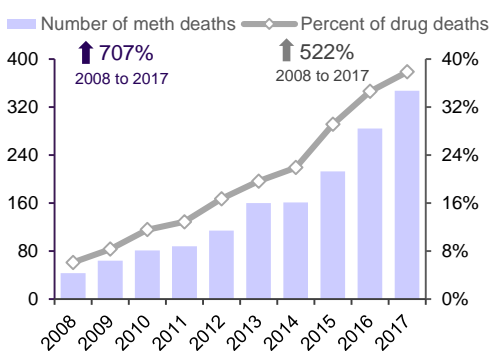
Meth-related fatal crashes, LAC, 2008-2016<sup>18</sup>



Meth-related fatal crashes in LAC and its percent of all fatal drug crashes increased from 2008-2016

### Deaths

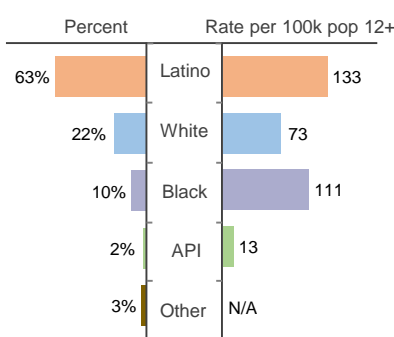
Meth overdose-related deaths, LAC, 2008-2017<sup>19</sup>



Meth-related deaths and its percent of all drug deaths in LAC increased from 2008-2017

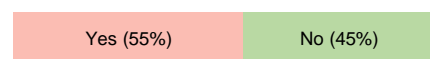
### Treatment Admissions

Race/ethnicity among clients with primary meth problem, LAC, FY1718<sup>20</sup>

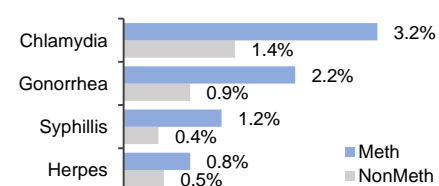


Latinos accounted for the majority of clients with a primary meth problem in LAC

Meth use before/during sex among clients with primary meth problem, LAC, FY1718<sup>20</sup>



Diagnosed STDs among clients with primary meth and non-meth problem, LAC, FY1718<sup>20</sup>



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

### Availability

Most of the meth available in the US is produced in Mexico and smuggled across the Southwest Border. According to the 2015 National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS)<sup>21</sup>, 87% of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies reported that high purity and potency meth can be easily obtained at any time in the Southwest region, which is higher than that reported in all other regions of the US. Furthermore, according to the Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR)<sup>2</sup>, in LAC, wholesale prices per pound for meth (ice) has decreased from \$8,000-\$11,000 in 2012 to \$2,000-\$3,000 in 2018.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, domestic meth seizures increased 1,706% from 234 kilograms in 1986 to 4,227 kilograms in 2013<sup>1</sup>.

### Prevalence

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health<sup>3</sup>, about 14,722,000 (5.4%) US individuals aged 12 or older had ever used meth, 774,000 (0.3%) used meth in the past month, and 195,000 initiated meth use in 2017.

Meth use increased with age, peaking at ages 26-34. According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey<sup>23</sup>, ever use of meth among high school students in LAC (2.7%) was higher than that in California (2.5%) and in the US (2.5%).

### Health Conditions

Meth use is associated with increased risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular conditions (e.g. heart attack<sup>5</sup>, heart failure<sup>6</sup>, stroke<sup>8</sup>), brain conditions (e.g. Parkinson's disease<sup>10</sup>, schizophrenia<sup>16</sup>, psychosis<sup>11</sup>, depression<sup>9</sup>, suicide attempt<sup>7</sup>), blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections (e.g. HIV<sup>4</sup>, hepatitis C virus<sup>12</sup>), adverse birth outcomes (e.g. preterm birth<sup>13</sup>, low birth weight<sup>14</sup>), dental problems<sup>15</sup>, and other adverse health conditions.

### Healthcare Utilization

According to the Office of Statewide Healthcare Planning and Development<sup>17</sup>, hospital discharge records listing any methamphetamine-related diagnosis or external cause of injury (meth-related) in LAC increased by 290% from 5,403 in 2008 to 21,094 in 2017. The number of meth-related ED visits in LAC increased by 604% from 3,551 in 2008 to 24,988 in 2017.

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

### Economic Costs

The mean charge for meth-related hospitalizations increased 38% from \$35,744 in 2008 to \$49,298 in 2017 (adjusted for inflation to 2018 US dollars)<sup>17</sup>.

Total hospital charges for meth-related hospitalizations in LAC increased 438% from \$193 million in 2008 to \$1 billion in 2017. Meth-related hospitalizations in LAC resulted in \$5.3 billion in total charges from 2008-2017<sup>17</sup>.

Meth-related includes records listing methamphetamine abuse, dependence or poisoning as a diagnosis or an external cause of injury.

### Impaired Driving

According to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System<sup>18</sup>, the number of fatal traffic crashes in LAC involving a person testing positive for meth increased 222% from 32 in 2008 to 103 in 2016.

The percent of all drug-involved fatal traffic crashes in LAC that were meth-involved increased 108% from 17% in 2011 to 35% in 2016.

### Deaths

According to death certificate data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>19</sup>, the number of deaths in LAC listing meth poisoning as a cause of death and drug overdose as the underlying cause of death (meth-related) increased 707% from 43 in 2008 to 347 in 2017.

The percent of all underlying drug overdose deaths that listed meth poisoning as a cause of death increased from 6% in 2008 to 38% in 2017.

### Treatment Admissions

According to the Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System and Sage<sup>20</sup>, Latino (63%) clients accounted for the largest proportion of admissions to publicly funded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs in LAC with meth as the primary drug problem (primary meth admissions), followed by White (22%), Black (10%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (2%) clients in FY1718.

The rate (per 100,000 population aged 12 or older) of primary meth admissions was highest among Latino clients (133), followed by Black (111), White (73), and Asian/Pacific Islander (13) clients in FY1718.

In 2017, 66% of clients who reported meth as the primary drug problem had used meth before or during sex in the past year<sup>21</sup>.

Compared to clients who reported other primary drug problems, primary meth clients had higher rates of diagnosed chlamydia (3.2% vs. 1.4%), gonorrhea (2.2% vs. 0.9%), syphilis (1.2% vs. 0.4%), herpes (0.8% vs 0.5%).

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