

Methamphetamine Labs Identified in Oregon, 1998-2005
Hazardous Substance Emergency Events Surveillance System
Oregon Public Health Division, Department of Human Services

In Oregon, the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance System (HSEES) has included clandestine methamphetamine labs as HSEES qualifying events for a number of years. Beginning in 1998 we received reports from fire fighters, hazmat teams and law enforcement through the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) when meth labs were discovered. If the meth lab had been manufacturing methamphetamine within 72 hours of its discovery, we considered it an acute event and as such it was included as a hazardous material release in the HSEES database. We do not include labs that have not been actively “cooking” within 72 hours, also called “cold” labs, nor do we include meth lab waste or dump sites as HSEES qualifying events. Thus, the numbers of clandestine methamphetamine labs captured by the HSEES system are an underestimate of the situation in the State.

The meth lab counts listed in the following table are for Oregon counties where they were discovered, by year of discovery. We searched the data base by substance released, industry description, and by release site description. Until 2000, meth labs were identifiable in our database by substance released as indicated by ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, red phosphorus, and sometimes hydroiodic acid and anhydrous ammonia. After 2000, we had a substance designation for methamphetamine and meth lab chemicals in general since we were not always able to identify the actual substances released.

Questions about these data can be directed to Dr. Theodora Tsongas, 971-673-0438, or, theodora.a.tsongas@state.or.us

**Methamphetamine Reports to HSEES by County and Year
1998 - 2005**

Event County	Year of Event								Total percent
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
BAKER	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	5 1.74
CLACKAMAS	1	0	4	1	1	4	1	0	12 4.2
CLATSOP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2 0.7
COLUMBIA	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	5 1.7
DESCHUTES	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3 1.0
DOUGLAS	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	5 1.7
GRANT	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1 0.4
JACKSON	0	0	2	5	0	2	1	1	11 3.8
JEFFERSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 0.4
JOSEPHINE	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	1	9 3.1
KLAMATH	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	6 2.1
LANE	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	10 3.5
LINCOLN	0	0	0	5	3	1	2	0	11 3.8
LINN	0	0	4	5	9	7	4	3	32 11.1
MALHEUR	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3 1.0
MARION	0	0	3	2	2	2	1	1	11 3.8
MULTNOMAH	2	5	8	15	9	23	23	3	88 30.6

**Methamphetamine Reports to HSEES by County and Year Cont...
1998 - 2005**

Event County	Year of Event								Total percent
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
POLK	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3 1.0
SHERMAN	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1 0.4
UMATILLA	0	0	0	6	6	10	11	10	4 14.9
UNION	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2 0.7
WALLOWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 0.4
WASCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 0.4
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	4	1	4	6	1	16 5.6
YAMHILL	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	6 2.1
Total percent	4 1.4	5 1.7	25 8.7	57 19.8	44 15.3	61 21.1	70 24.1	22 7.6	288 100.0