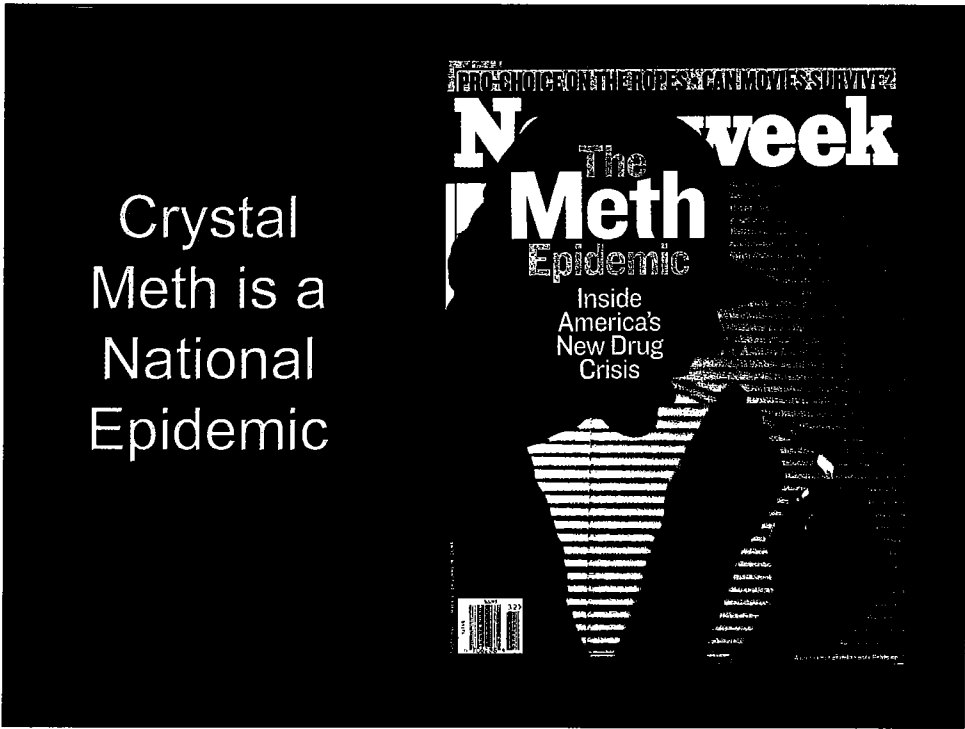


# Crystal Meth Epidemic in Long Beach

City Council Briefing  
August 16, 2005



## Crystal Meth is a National Epidemic

More than 12 million Americans have tried methamphetamine

1.5 million are regular users

Affects people from all walks of life

Multi-disciplinary problem requiring multi-disciplinary solution

## Meth Use and STD/HIV Correlation

Meth use is one of several factors fueling increases in STDs among gay and bisexual men in U.S.

Users engage in high-risk behaviors and complacency

Higher levels of STDs among MSM who are also infected with HIV compared to uninfected MSM.

## Local Scope of Problem

Role of Health Department

Partnership with law enforcement is critical

Barriers

- Categorical funding
- Lack of needle exchange programs/pharmacy syringe sale programs
- Lack of funding for mental health and rehabilitation programs
- Internet

## Local Scope of Problem

Rise in syphilis in 2000

- MSM
- Injected methamphetamines and alcohol abuse
- Commercial sex venues, Internet, telephone and chat lines

## Local Scope of Problem

Estimated PLWHA in Long Beach 5,546

Syphilis among MSM (2004)

- 58 out of 61 cases were among MSM, Male bisexual, or male unknown
- 67% were between the ages of 30-44 years
- 48% were HIV co-infected
- 62% were drug users
- 24% were meth users

## What Are We Doing About It?

Education and promotion of healthy behaviors

HIV Stops With Me ( )

Provider training and community awareness

City-wide collaboration and strategic planning

Syphilis Elimination Initiative

( )

## What Are We Doing About It?

Counseling, treatment and referral

Gay Men's Health Summit

Long Beach Drug Free Community  
Coalition

Research

## Recommendations

Convene a multi-disciplinary work group to develop a comprehensive community response to crystal meth use in Long Beach  
Advocacy with State and Federal law makers to provide needed funding for drug treatment and research—targeted for Meth Amphetamine users