



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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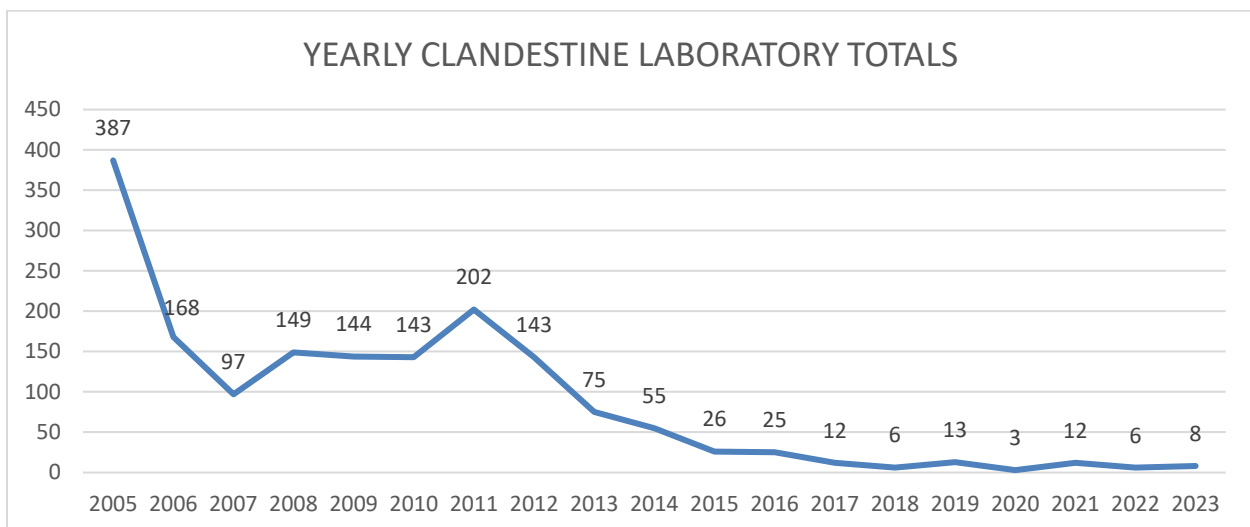
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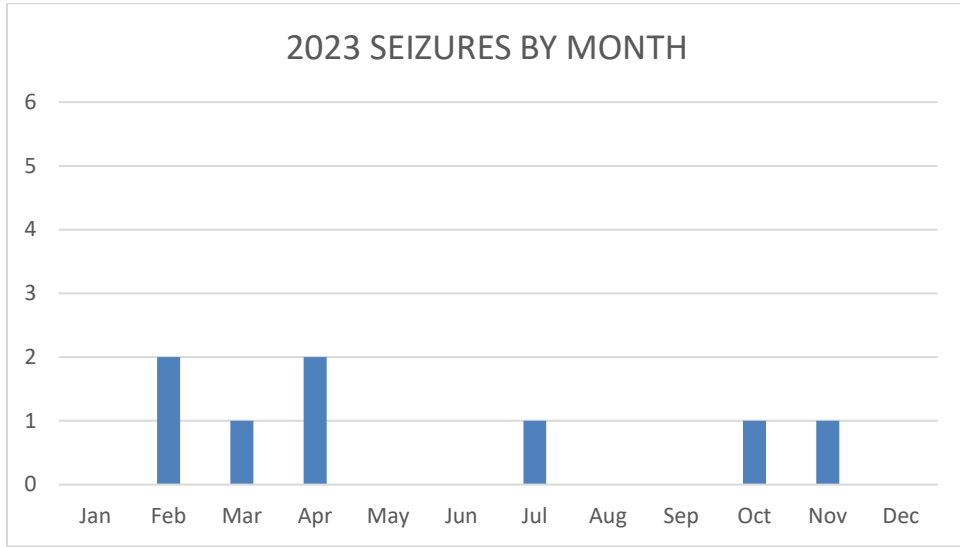
Methamphetamine Recommendation Report
Calendar Year 2023
January 4, 2024
(As required by K.S.A. 75-722)

In 2005, the Kansas Legislature passed S.B. 27, the Sheriff Matt Samuels Act, to restrict access to the precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine used to manufacture methamphetamine. Section 4 of the Act, now K.S.A. 75-722, requires the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to gather information and consult with local law enforcement agencies regarding trends seen in the manufacture of methamphetamine; and, after consulting with the state board of pharmacy, develop recommendations concerning the control of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

Clandestine Laboratories in Kansas

Kansas law enforcement reported eight clandestine laboratory incidents in calendar year 2023, two more than in 2022.

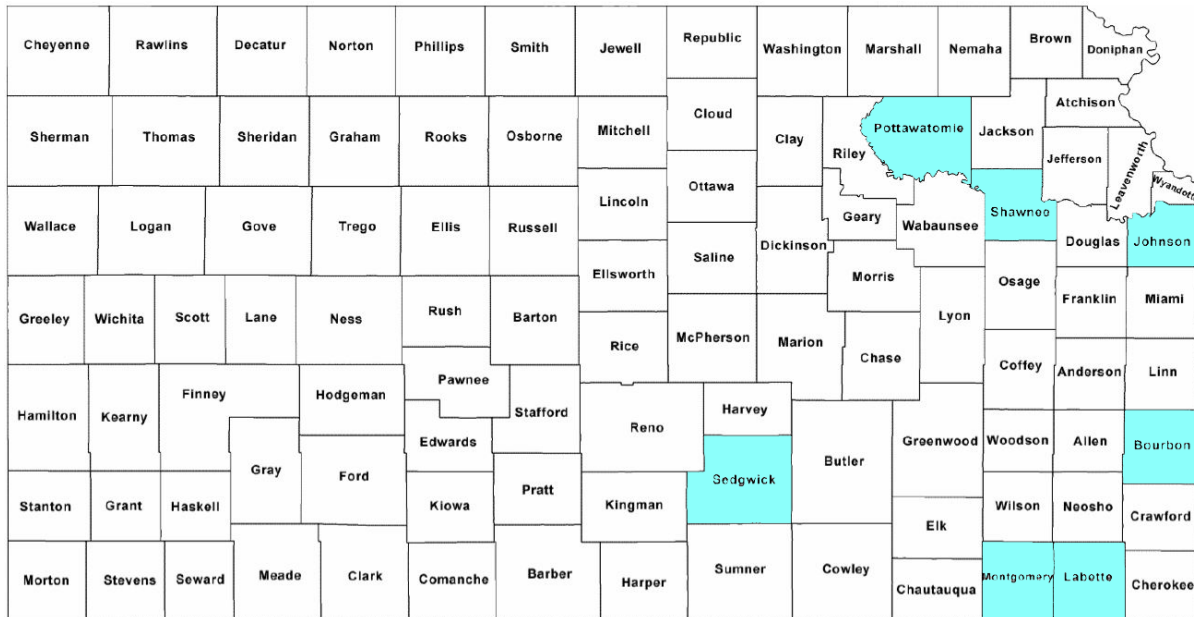




SEIZURE LOCATION

	DATE	County	Address	Lab Type
MWDP325	2/6/2023	Labette	35th and Main, Parsons, KS	Pill Extraction
MWDP326	2/7/2023	Pottawatomie	413 E. Plum, Louisville, KS	1 Pot
MWDP327	3/8/2023	Johnson	1614 E Cedar Place, Olathe, KS	DMT
MWDP328	4/4/2023	Sedgwick	10604 Nantucket, Wichita, KS	Synthetic Cannabinoids
MWDP329	4/18/2023	Shawnee	109 NE Grattan St., Topeka, KS	Red P
MWDP330	7/31/2023	Bourbon	293 E 20th Street, Fort Scott, KS	Nazi
MWDP331	10/23/2023	Montgomery	504 Ave. D, Havana, KS	1 Pot
MWDP332	11/28/2023	Labette	2202 Broadway Ave, Parsons, KS	1 Pot

2023 Clandestine Laboratory Seizures Incidents Include Chemical Only, Equipment Only, Dumpsites and Lab Seizures



8 Total Incidents

Clandestine Laboratory Laboratory Incidents

Of the eight labs seized in Kansas in 2023, three were categorized as a one-pot methamphetamine laboratory. The one-pot method of production converts pseudoephedrine to methamphetamine using ammonium nitrate, sodium hydroxide, water, petroleum distillates, and lithium metal. This method of manufacturing, typically completed in a small plastic bottle, is portable and can easily be concealed.

One red phosphorus lab, which uses red phosphorus and hydriodic acid to produce methamphetamine, was seized in 2023.

One pill extraction lab was seized in 2023. A pill extraction is a process normally used in the red phosphorous or the anhydrous ammonia methamphetamine cooks. This process is completed to remove all the binder products within the pseudoephedrine tablets. This is usually completed with solvents or even water. The pills are ground up and soaked in a solution. After the powder has been soaked, the solution is poured through a filter. The binder product left in the filter is thrown away. The solution is allowed to evaporate off, which will leave behind pseudoephedrine for the cooking process.

One “Nazi” lab, which uses pseudoephedrine, anhydrous ammonia, and sodium or lithium metal, was seized in 2023.

One Synthetic Cannabinoid lab was seized in 2023. In a synthetic process of preparing a synthetic cannabinoid a purchased advanced intermediate is combined with an organic solvent (like dimethylformamide), an alkylating agent (like bromobutane), and a base (like potassium carbonate). This completes the final alkylation reaction converting the purchased intermediate to the final synthetic cannabinoid. The synthetic cannabinoid must then be isolated from the reaction mixture through extractions or precipitation both utilizing additional solvents.

One DMT/mushroom lab was seized in 2023. Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is located within numerous plants that grow wild, to include grasses (e.g: Phalaris arundinacea) and barks (e.g: mimosa hostilis, and various acacia species). The plant’s substance is normally pulverized and sent through a series of steps to remove the DMT from the plant and turn it into a usable form.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) most of the methamphetamine available in the U.S. is produced in Mexico by drug trafficking organizations and smuggled across the border. This methamphetamine is produced in large quantities at high purity levels. Should domestic production of methamphetamine continue to decline, it is likely that it will still be readily available due to this low-cost, high-purity alternative originating in Mexico.

Methamphetamine Precursor Electronic Logs

In April 2011, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy implemented the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) as the State’s electronic precursor monitoring program. The KBI continues to be the State Administrator for Kansas law enforcement, serving as the liaison for training and law enforcement access. Kansas has 121 law enforcement officers across the state registered to access the electronic logbook.

The NPLEx system maintains a single database of all pseudoephedrine purchases, providing pharmacists with access to customer purchasing history before proceeding with a sale. A stop sale mechanism notifies the pharmacist if a customer attempts a purchase in excess of the legal limit. Information captured in the electronic system is made available to law enforcement agencies and can be used to generate investigative leads and support criminal prosecutions.

Allen County, Neosho County, Labette County, Bourbon County, Crawford County, Cherokee County and the City of Parsons have passed local laws requiring prescriptions for pseudoephedrine/ephedrine. Due to these laws, the pharmacies in these areas no longer report purchases to the NPLEx system. These areas report to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy Kansas Tracking and Reporting of Controlled Substances (K-TRACS) system. Law enforcement can no longer check these areas for purchases without a court order.

NPLEx records show during the calendar year of 2023, approximately 450,033 purchases of cold medication containing pseudoephedrine were made compared to 488,588 in 2022. This resulted in 1,050,506 total grams of pseudoephedrine purchased in 2023 compared to 1,111,027 grams

sold in 2022. Pharmacists denied the sale of approximately 55,625 grams of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine in 2023 compared to 54,398 grams in 2022. The number of purchases made, declined in 2023, the number of grams purchased declined in 2023, however, the number of grams blocked in 2023 increased compared to 2022.

Methamphetamine Prices in Kansas

The price for purchasing methamphetamine on the street drastically dropped from 2014 to 2019 due to the increased production and importation of Mexican methamphetamine. Due to this increased availability of imported methamphetamine, the demand for domestically produced methamphetamine has declined. In 2020, travel restrictions enacted by governments during the pandemic reduced the availability of methamphetamine and increased the price paid by consumers. In 2021, prices dropped as governments removed travel restrictions. Prices in 2023 have continued to lower across the Midwest Region.

	Ounce	Pound	Kilogram
2023	\$326.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,600.00
2021/2022	\$500.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,500.00
2020	\$675.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
2014 Price	\$1,075.00	\$14,000.00	N/A

Prices represent the average price paid for methamphetamine across the Region.

Methamphetamine Waste Disposal Program (MWDP)

The KBI has fully implemented the DEA-funded Authorized Central Storage (ACS) program. The KBI did not complete a clean out of the ACS container in 2023.

The KBI provided annual recertification training to approximately 57 local, state and federal police officers related to methamphetamine laboratories in 2023.

The KBI provided a 40-hour clandestine laboratory investigators course for 5 Kansas Highway Patrol and KBI personnel. KBI members have also been requested outside the State of Kansas to provide a 40-hour clandestine laboratory investigators course, teaching 36 law enforcement officers.

Members of the KBI are a part of the executive board for the Clandestine Laboratory Investigators Association (CLIA). CLIA is a non-profit organization providing training to law enforcement, fire, EMS, prosecutors, and National Guard agencies normally at the annual conference which is held across the United States. This year’s conference, held in Houston, TX, provided training to 85 law enforcement personnel across the United States, Australia, Canada, and the Philippines.

The KBI is 100% compliant with the DEA reporting requirements.

The KBI does incur costs for agents' time, fuel, vehicle maintenance, utilities at each container site, and equipment costs to manage, train, and operate this program. The KBI requests continued funding for this valuable program.

Changes to the KBI Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT).

In 2020, the KBI changed several aspects to the Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT). Due to recent years of downward methamphetamine laboratories within the State of Kansas, the KBI did not see the need to have every KBI Agent trained to be able to work and process a methamphetamine laboratory. The KBI created a smaller team of 10 KBI Agents to include the Special Operations Division, Crime Scene Response Team, and KBI laboratory personnel. The Agents are spread across the State of Kansas to try to lower the response time if needed.

Under the new CLRT team, the KBI is not only able to respond to methamphetamine laboratories, but also chemical suicides, death or other investigations in highly contaminated areas, and assess for chemical/biological/explosive environments. CLRT is trained to respond to more advanced laboratories to include fentanyl labs, or laboratories that are more exotic. The training is a higher level of protection to aid in the response to these types of labs.

Due to recent changes within the KBI, a goal for the CLRT Team is to replace members of the team who retired, were re-assigned, or have resigned off the team for other reasons. With the addition of new members, training will need to be conducted. The funding used for this program helps cover the costs for these individuals.