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# TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

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Submitted Photos from Kirksville Police Department  
Above left, batteries and trash left from methamphetamine ingredients. Above right, a bottle of methamphetamine. Top right, filtered-off sludge. Bottom right, an HCl generator used to turn liquid methamphetamine to solid. These photos are of evidence the Kirksville Police Department collected from a methamphetamine crime scene.

## Sheriffs and KPD seek to curb methamphetamine

*Editor's note: This piece is part one of two in a series about methamphetamine in Adair County.*

BY AUSTIN HORNOSTEL  
Staff Reporter

Kirksville and Adair County law enforcement, headed by Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick, are taking steps to curb the problem of methamphetamine production and use throughout the community.

According to the agenda from the City's Jan. 6 City Council Study Session, the city is considering passing an ordinance banning over-the-counter sale of products containing pseudoephedrine, such as Sudafed and other allergy medications, without a prescription. Hardwick said this is because pseudoephedrine is a key ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Without it, the drug cannot be synthesized. Hardwick developed a study pinpointing the amount of pseudoephedrine sold throughout Kirksville from six businesses during two years.

"There were 16,449 packs of the products that contain pseudoephedrine sold in 2012," Hardwick said. "There were over 38,000 grams of the key ingredient used to make methamphetamine floating around in this community. The numbers for 2013 are 16,469 [packs sold], so we end up selling more in 2013 than we did in 2012."

Hardwick said methamphetamine typically is manufactured in home laboratories using the "shake and bake" method. He said this method involves putting all of the required ingredients together in a container, typically a plastic bottle, and shaking the bottle to catalyze a chemical reaction. He said after loosening the bottle cap to release pressure and avoid a massive explosion, the result is crystal meth.

Hardwick said many times, methamphetamine producers arrested for manufacture of a controlled substance also are charged with crimes such as child endangerment because of the living conditions they impose

on their children.

"When I started all this, I thought, 'What can I do to bring this community together to say enough is enough?'" Hardwick said. "I've been in homes that have 10-month-old babies and it's horrible. There's drugs, there's dirty dishes, there's laundry that's never done. Stuff's just thrown everywhere, all over the floor, and it's just a terrible living condition for a kid to be in."

Hardwick said methamphetamine use often harms innocent community members, creating second-hand victims of methamphetamine. He described one incident where a user, who had set up a meth lab in a garage, ran in front of a car to evade police capture. The driver could not avoid hitting the suspect who, as a result, caused \$1,200 in damage to the bystander's car.

"The point I'm trying to make is that meth has a residual cost effect in the overall scheme of things that go on in this city and county," Hardwick said. "You have the division of family service that's involved. You have individuals that are arrested that aren't working that go out and commit other crimes, and it all has a financial burden on this community."

The City of Kirksville belongs to the Adair County Drug Coalition and receives an annual federal grant of \$15,200, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration grant, to help officers work overtime to combat the methamphetamine problem throughout the city and county. However, Hardwick said 2014 is the last year the city will receive the SAMHA grant after 10 years. He said the size of Kirksville's police force makes it hard to combat the community's drug issue because bigger municipalities like Kansas City and St. Louis have a larger force to combat the issues in their community.

Hardwick said he conducted another study of 121 people arrested for meth-related charges to see how many of those people continue to commit other crimes

after being released from prison. He said 85 of the 121 offenders from the study continued to commit more crimes. He said this has a residual effect for the community and Truman State students.

"Students are coming up here to go to school at Truman State," Hardwick said. "Your place gets broken into. Your car gets broken into. On this list, there's assault, theft, second degree burglary, forgery, tampering with a motor vehicle. As you can see, this impedes and hampers the quality of life we have here."

Like Hardwick, Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said methamphetamine impacts everyone in the community one way or another.

"When people think about methamphetamine, they typically think of the user," Hughes said. "They don't think about the impact that user has on the rest of the community. A significant percentage [70.25 percent] of crime is related to some type of substance abuse, whether it be methamphetamine or something else. The drug we find most problematic at the present moment in this area is methamphetamine."

Hughes said his department spends a considerable amount of time and resources dealing with meth laboratories and meth-related incidents. He said this renders them unable to address other issues, such as giving talks to students at elementary schools or patrolling the streets and maintaining their presence.

Hughes said the Police Department, along with the Adair County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Hardwick, are working to bring the community together to combat a problem that affects everyone.

"It's more than just the numbers," Hughes said. "Most people expect us in law enforcement to say drugs are bad. In this case, methamphetamine is truly bad. It has just as much of an impact on people outside of law enforcement and drug culture as it does for those inside of law enforcement and the drug culture."

### THE COST OF METHAMPHETAMINE

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the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration grant, to help officers combat the methamphetamine problem throughout the city and county.

**This is the last year the city will receive the grant.**

(in a study conducted by Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick)

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Such as:  
assault, theft, second degree burglary, forgery and tampering with a motor vehicle.

**70.25%**

of crime is related to some type of substance abuse, according to Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes.

### METHAMPHETAMINE INCIDENTS

FROM 2010 TO 2013

#### ADAIR COUNTY METH INCIDENTS



← ADAIR COUNTY  
**VS.**  
→ MISSOURI

#### MISSOURI METH INCIDENTS



#### STATES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

2010	MO 1,960	TENN 1,197	KY 1,045
2011	MO 2,096	IND 1,241	TENN 1,134
2012	MO 1,985	IND 1,647	TENN 1,621
2013	IND 1,558	MO 1,309	TN 1,201