



# Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

## Maine Information and Analysis Center



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**(U) Purpose:** *This Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) report is a collection of information obtained from various sources and partners, including but not limited to public health, law enforcement, and EMS. The MIAC welcomes the sharing of information that your agency believes may be beneficial to this report and to other agencies.*

### **(U) Public Health Awareness – Methamphetamine**

The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) reports that large quantities, in the multi-ton range, of methamphetamine produced by the cartels in labs throughout Mexico is purer and more potent than in the past. The ample supply, low cost, and high potency has enabled the cartels to expand beyond traditional methamphetamine markets in the western United States (U.S) into eastern U.S. markets, effectively flooding the U.S. with another deadly product. Thirty-one percent of drug-related deaths in the U.S. are caused by psychostimulants – mostly methamphetamine. In the first six months of 2023, over 17,000 Americans died from overdoses and poisonings related to psychostimulants.<sup>1</sup>

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a press release on 28 January 2025 stating CBP Office of Field Operations officers at the Laredo Port of Entry seized nearly 890 pounds of methamphetamine on 24 January 2025 that totaled over \$8,100,000 in street value.<sup>2</sup>

The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency has reported notable seizures in Maine including a seizure of over 10 pounds of methamphetamine in Bangor, Maine in October of 2024, a 3.8 pound methamphetamine seizure in Sherman, Maine in June of 2024, and 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine from South Portland, Maine in September of 2023.<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Attorney's Office District of Maine also issued a press release 13 October 2022 reporting a 92 pound seizure of Methamphetamine from Caswell, Maine.<sup>4</sup>

Methamphetamine is a Schedule II stimulant under the Controlled Substances Act. It is a highly addictive drug with potent central nervous system (CNS) stimulant properties. Individuals who smoke or inject it report a brief, intense sensation, or rush. Oral ingestion or snorting produces a long-lasting high instead of a rush, which reportedly can continue for as long as half a day. Both the rush and the high are believed to result from the release of very high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine into areas of the brain that regulate feelings of pleasure. Long-term methamphetamine use results in many damaging effects, including addiction. Chronic methamphetamine users can exhibit violent behavior, anxiety, confusion, insomnia, and psychotic features including paranoia, aggression, visual and auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, and delusions — such as the sensation of insects creeping on or under the skin. High doses may result in death from stroke, heart attack, or multiple organ problems caused by overheating.<sup>5</sup>

Common street names of methamphetamine include Batu, Bikers Coffee, Black Beauties, Chalk, Chicken Feed, Crank, Crystal, Glass, Go-Fast, Hiropon, Ice, Meth, Methlies Quick, Poor Man's Cocaine, Shabu, Shards, Speed, Stove Top, Tina, Trash, Tweak, Uppers, Ventana, Vidrio, Yaba, Yellow Barn.<sup>5</sup>

### **(U) Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)**

The Maine HETL is responsible for a number of functions related to the safety of Maine residents including work completed by their forensic chemistry section which provides accurate, reliable, timely, and state of the art scientific analysis and subsequent expert testimony in the areas of controlled substances and toxicology. The service is provided primarily to Criminal Justice Agencies of the State of Maine in regard to evidence submitted by them, although the Forensic Director may authorize the occasional acceptance of other work related to governmental agency investigations.

The following is a summary of illicit substances that were detected through forensic examination completed in the month of December by the Maine HETL of seized drugs submitted by Maine law enforcement agencies. The list is organized alphabetically and does not reflect the number of samples containing each substance or the quantity of each substance. It is important to note that tested samples of material sometimes contain more than one illicit substance in a variety of combinations.

4-ANPP, Cocaine Base, Cocaine Hydrochloride, Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, Heroin, Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, Tramadol, Xylazine

Fentanyl sample combinations detected include:

Fentanyl + 4-ANPP, Fentanyl + 4-ANPP + Fluorofentanyl, Fentanyl + Heroin, Fentanyl + Methamphetamine, Fentanyl + 4-ANPP + Tramadol, Fentanyl + 4-ANPP + Xylazine, Fentanyl + Xylazine, Fentanyl + 4-ANPP + Fluorofentanyl + Heroin + Xylazine + Tramadol

**(U) Maine Drug Data Hub**

(U) The most recent monthly overdose report from the Maine Drug Data Hub reports that fatal overdoses in Maine continue to decline. The total number of confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses January–November 2024 is 445, 20.5% lower than the total confirmed fatal overdoses for the same period in 2023, 560. For additional information, please visit [Monthly Overdose Report – Maine Drug Data Hub](#).

**(U) Drugs of Abuse, A Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Resource Guide**

(U) The DEA has released the 2024 edition of [Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide](#), which is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the United States. Released on a periodic basis, Drugs of Abuse provides important science-based information about the harms and consequences of drug use, describing a drug’s effects on the body and mind, overdose potential, origin, legal status, and other key factors. In addition, the guide outlines U.S. drug regulation, including drug scheduling and chemical controls. The 2024 edition provides the most current information on new and emerging trends in drug misuse and abuse, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana concentrates, vaping, stimulant drugs, and fake pills. For additional information and to view the 2024 *Drugs of Abuse* resource guide, visit [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications).

**(U) U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Mapping Injury, Overdose, and Violence Dashboard**

(U) This dashboard displays data on deaths from drug overdose, suicide, and homicide. It shows information down to census tracts using final and provisional death data received from states. This data comes from the [National Vital Statistics System](#) (NVSS), compiled by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. CDC prioritizes timely, actionable, and local data and this dashboard represents the latest effort to show what’s happening at the community level. For additional information, please visit [Mapping Injury, Overdose, and Violence Dashboard | Injury and Violence Data | CDC](#)

Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/y5uboh4d>

Tracked by MIAC SINS: 04, 17

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>*DEA Drug Enforcement Administration*. (2024, May). [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://www.dea.gov/documents/2024/2024-05/2024-05-24/national-drug-threat-assessment-2024>

<sup>2</sup>*CBP officers seize over \$8.1 million in hard narcotics at World Trade Bridge*. (n.d.). U.S. Customs And Border Protection. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-over-81-million-hard-narcotics-world-trade-bridge>

<sup>3</sup>*Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Press Releases*.

<sup>4</sup>*Caswell woman faces 10 years to life and up to a \$10M fine following*. (2022, October 13). <https://www.justice.gov/usao-me/pr/caswell-woman-faces-10-years-life-and-10m-fine-following-seizure-92-lbs-methamphetamine>

<sup>5</sup>*Methamphetamine*. (n.d.). [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/methamphetamine>