Final Report

Prepared for

The Rural Crime & Justice Center (RCJC)
A University Center of Excellence
at Minot State University

The Rural Methamphetamine Education Project (RMEP)

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Table of Contents

List of Tables ........................................................................................................................................ iii

List of Figures .......................................................................................................................................... v

Executive Summary ................................................................................................................................. 1

Introduction ................................................................................................................................................ 2

Section 1: Methamphetamine in North Dakota ......................................................................................... 3
  1.1 Transportation and Distribution ........................................................................................................ 3
  1.2 Seizures and Arrests ............................................................................................................................ 6
  1.3 Associated Activity ............................................................................................................................. 8
  1.4 Youth at Risk ...................................................................................................................................... 8
  1.5 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ................................................................................ 10
  1.6 Treatment Episode Data Set ............................................................................................................. 11
  1.7 Initiatives/Programs .......................................................................................................................... 12
    1.7.1 Retail Meth Watch Program ........................................................................................................ 12
    1.7.2 Prevention Resource and Media Center ....................................................................................... 12
    1.7.3 Drug Courts ................................................................................................................................ 13
    1.7.4 Targeted Communities ................................................................................................................ 13
  1.8 Clandestine Lab Cleanup ................................................................................................................... 14
  1.9 Native American Issues .................................................................................................................... 14

Section 2: Rural Methamphetamine Education Project .......................................................................... 16
  2.1 Presentations ..................................................................................................................................... 16
  2.2 Presentation Evaluation ..................................................................................................................... 19
  2.3 RMEP Evaluation .............................................................................................................................. 20
    2.3.1 Evaluation of Services ................................................................................................................ 20
    2.3.2 Demographics ............................................................................................................................. 20
    2.3.3 Evaluation of Scheduled Event .................................................................................................. 21
    2.3.4 Overall Value of the Program .................................................................................................... 23
  2.4 Additional Strategies .......................................................................................................................... 24
  2.5 Involvement on Native American Reservations .............................................................................. 25

Section 3: Minot State University Chemistry Collaboration .................................................................... 26
  3.1 Wipe Analysis Test Kit ..................................................................................................................... 26
  3.2 Methamphetamine Detection After Cleaning ................................................................................... 26
  3.3 Other Projects ................................................................................................................................... 26

Section 4: Project Conclusion ................................................................................................................ 28
  4.1 Use of Digital Medium ....................................................................................................................... 28
  4.2 Methamphetamine Research Library ............................................................................................... 28
  4.3 Challenges ......................................................................................................................................... 28
Appendices

Appendix A
Development of a Wipe Analysis Test Kit of Methamphetamine Residue by Gas-Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy

Appendix B
Detection of Methamphetamine After Cleaning of Household Surfaces
List of Tables

Table 1.1 North Dakota Highway Patrol Methamphetamine-Related Arrests ..................5
Table 1.2 Methamphetamine Street Cost.................................................................5
Table 2.1 Attendance Totals ..................................................................................18
Table 2.2 Meetings Attended by RMEP .................................................................25
List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab Seizures ..............................................6
Figure 1.2 Methamphetamine/Amphetamine Samples Processed by ND Crime Lab ....6
Figure 1.3 ND Drug Offense Arrests by Drug Type ..................................................7
Figure 1.4 Federal Drug Sentencing: Methamphetamine as Primary Offense ........7
Figure 1.5 ND YRBS Data: Used Methamphetamine One or More Times during Lifetime ..........9
Figure 1.6 Grades 9-12 by Regional Education Association (REA) Area Used Methamphetamine One or More Times during Lifetime .....................10
Figure 1.7 ND Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions: Methamphetamine/Amphetamine as Primary Substance of Abuse ...............11
Figure 2.1 Facilitator’s Organization/Agency ..........................................................21
Figure 2.2 Region Served .......................................................................................21
Figure 2.3 Standalone or Combined Event ............................................................21
Figure 2.4 Service Provided ..................................................................................21
Figure 2.5 Age Group of Intended Audience ..........................................................22
Figure 2.6 Purpose of Event ..................................................................................22
Figure 2.7 Purpose of Event was Fulfilled .............................................................23
Figure 2.8 Increased Audience Awareness .............................................................23
Figure 2.9 RMEP Contributing Factor in Decreasing Methamphetamine in ND ........23
Figure 2.10 RMEP Enhanced Professional Capacity .............................................23
Executive Summary

- Through analysis of methamphetamine-related data, RMEP identified that the prevalence of methamphetamine in North Dakota has decreased in areas such as clandestine lab seizures and adolescent use, but trafficking continued to rise.

- The RMEP strived to provide the most recent statistical data, as well as information that detailed the human cost of methamphetamine abuse in North Dakota.

- During the reporting dates December 16, 2009 – May 15, 2014, RMEP provided 456 presentations attended by 17,861 people, and 77 informational booth displays attended by 17,321 people.

- Of those who were surveyed after attending a presentation or training, 98.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the presentation was effective.

- Of those who were surveyed after attending a presentation or training, 97.9% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the presentation to others.

- When surveyed, 95.9% of event facilitators indicated that the presentation/booth display increased the awareness of the intended audience.

- When surveyed, 95.9% of event facilitators agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend RMEP services to others.

- During the reporting dates December 16, 2009 – May 15, 2014, RMEP attended 266 meetings with community coalitions and safety organizations.

- The RMEP has made presentations available online. Children’s presentations are accompanied by a teacher’s guide. Adult presentations are accompanied by discussion points.
Introduction

A variety of resources have been allocated to address the significant threat of methamphetamine facing North Dakota. The Department of Justice (DOJ), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC), North Dakota Department of Health (DOH), North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS), North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR), and the Rural Crime & Justice Center (RCJC), among others, have each contributed resources to help address the detrimental impact on North Dakota.

The Rural Methamphetamine Education Project’s (RMEP) initial goal was to develop and deliver a public awareness campaign throughout North Dakota. Upon evaluation of the project’s efforts, RMEP expanded its role of public awareness to include different strategies for information dissemination. This report details the final efforts of RMEP.
Section 1: Methamphetamine in North Dakota

1.1 Transportation and Distribution

North Dakota is a part of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), which is an area connected by an extensive transportation infrastructure, making it easier for traffickers to ship wholesale quantities of methamphetamine and other drugs into the region (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2010).

Methamphetamine is readily available throughout Midwest HIDTA region, in large part because of well-established Mexican traffickers who provide a steady supply of the drug to the region. They are able to do so because of rising methamphetamine production in Mexico. Increased Mexican methamphetamine production is indicated by increased laboratory seizures in Mexico (217 in 2009 compared with 47 in 2008), as well as increased seizures of the drug along the Southwest Border. The wide availability of Mexican methamphetamine in the HIDTA region is evidenced by law enforcement reporting seizure data. Law enforcement officials identified increasing Mexican methamphetamine availability in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2009 and by mid-2010 most law enforcement agencies reported that Mexican methamphetamine was readily available in their areas. Survey data also indicate wide availability of the drug – 130 of 182 law enforcement agency respondents to the National Drug Intelligence Threat Survey (NDTS) 2011 in the Midwest HIDTA region categorize ice methamphetamine availability as moderate or high in their jurisdictions. Additionally, law enforcement officials in the region seized 137 kilograms of ice methamphetamine in 2010 compared to 64 kilograms in 2009 – a 115 percent increase and an indicator of the drug’s wide availability (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011).

According to the 2010 Drug Market Analysis, the Midwest HIDTA region has experienced exploitation from various Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). As a result of the legislative control of pseudoephedrine in 2005, these DTOs have significantly increased distribution of ice methamphetamine in the region. The Midwest HIDTA region is also vulnerable to drug trafficking through the Northern border. North Dakota alone shares more than 300 miles of border and 18 land ports of entry with Canada, much of which is isolated (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2010).
The trafficking and use of methamphetamine is once again a primary concern for law enforcement and public health officials in North Dakota. Unlike eight to ten years ago when the primary issue with methamphetamine was clandestine lab activity, now the issue is trafficking. There are massive quantities of drugs being brought into North Dakota. Detective Mike Bolme, a narcotics investigator with the Bismarck Police Department says, "I don't know if the number of cases have gone up but [the] quantities [we’re] seeing is significantly higher. [We are] Now doing cases involving ounces and pounds of methamphetamine. Some historical cases involve dozens if not hundreds of pounds." Bolme recently held a chunk of methamphetamine weighing five pounds, the largest he recalls ever seeing in our area. Bolme says the booming economy in North Dakota is attracting drug dealers, "When [we] have growth like that you bring in a number of people who do this for a living" (KX News, 2013).

Another example of the increase in trafficking of methamphetamine and other drugs is Operation Pipe Cleaner. This was a combined effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement resulting in a total of 22 defendants arrested and charged with drug trafficking offenses in federal and state court. The defendants ranged in age from 19 to 48 and were from North Dakota, Arizona, Nevada, California, and Colorado. Of the 22 defendants, 13 had charges specifically related to methamphetamine. Other illicit substances included cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, marijuana and oxycodone (The United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota, 2014).

BCI reported seizing 6.9 kilograms of methamphetamine during the 2010 calendar year (North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, 2011). North Dakota Highway Patrol officers saw a significant increase in trafficking during the eight month period of August 2009 to March 2010, seizing seven pounds of methamphetamine and over $50,000 in drug money (North
Dakota Highway Patrol, 2010). Reports of several ounces to pounds of methamphetamine resulting from simple traffic stops are becoming more and more frequent.

**Table 1.1 North Dakota Highway Patrol Methamphetamine-Related Arrests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount seized (grams)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3452</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession Arrests</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking Arrests</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(North Dakota Highway Patrol, 2012)

In an effort to keep law enforcement officers aware of the current illegal street drug prices in North Dakota, NDSLIC provided the following information. As of April 14, 2014, this information may be used in calculating the illegal market value of methamphetamine throughout the state (North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center, 2014).

**Table 1.2 Methamphetamine Street Cost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Powder</td>
<td>1 gram</td>
<td>$100-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 ounce</td>
<td>$1,400-2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal</td>
<td>1 gram</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ ounce</td>
<td>$1,400-2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 ounce</td>
<td>$2,500-3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pound</td>
<td>$25,000-30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center, 2014)
1.2 Seizures and Arrests

**Figure 1.1 Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab Seizures***

* Includes operational labs, non-operational labs, chemical equipment/glassware seizures, and dumpsites.
(North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center, 2014)

**Figure 1.2 Methamphetamine/Amphetamine Samples Processed by ND Crime Lab**

(North Dakota Office of Attorney General, 2012)
Figure 1.3 ND Drug Offense Arrests by Drug Type

(North Dakota Office of Attorney General, 2012)

Figure 1.4 Federal Drug Sentencing: Methamphetamine as Primary Offense*

* In the fiscal year 2013, drug charges as a whole represented 31.2% of all federal sentencing on a national level, and 30.6% on a state level in North Dakota. This chart indicates the portion of the drug charges were methamphetamine.
(United States Sentencing Commission, 2013)
1.3 Associated Activity

High levels of criminal activity in the Midwest region are often linked to the distribution and frequent use of illicit drugs in the area. Methamphetamine abuse is often associated with violent criminal activity such as domestic violence and child abuse (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2010). U. S. Associate Attorney General Tony West states, “What you’re seeing in western North Dakota is big city urban crime that you’d see in Los Angeles and you’re seeing it here and the question is, how do you respond effectively to that change because it’s been rapid?” In response to the rapid change, North Dakota received $3 million in federal funding to assist in efforts to end violence against women (Lymn, 2014).

In addition to the violence, there is an increase in the commission of property crimes such as burglary, forgery, fraud, and identity theft, which provide a means to support an offender’s drug habit (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2010). According to the 2011 Drug Market Analysis, 54.3% of law enforcement respondents identified methamphetamine as the drug that “most contributes to violent crime in their jurisdictions,” and 54.9% identified methamphetamine as the drug that “most contributes to property crime” (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011).

1.4 Youth at Risk

To gauge the use of methamphetamine by students in grades 7-12, RMEP refers to the results of the North Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This self-report study is voluntary for all public schools and is administered in the spring of odd years. The compiled data is randomly selected from all participating schools. It focuses on youth and young adult behaviors that may lead to death or disability, including alcohol and other drug use. The information is reported by both state and Regional Education Association (REA) regions. The
current REA regions are different than the previously used Department of Human Services regional breakdowns, so determining trends by region are no longer possible.

The survey indicates how risky behaviors change over time and is important because, “these behaviors are often established during youth and extend into adulthood.” The YRBS indicated a steady decrease in methamphetamine use by North Dakota students in grades 9-12 from 1999-2009, while it indicated fluctuation in use by students in grades 7 and 8. The 2011 YRBS did not ask students about methamphetamine usage, however with the prevalence of methamphetamine increasing, the survey did ask high school students about methamphetamine use again in 2013 (North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, 2013).

**Figure 1.5 ND YRBS Data: Used Methamphetamine One or More Times during Lifetime**

*No data available for 1999 and 2013 in Grades 7-8*  
(North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, 2013)
1.5 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

According to the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR), 3,341 individuals were admitted to a state prison facility during the time period of October 1, 2007 to December 6, 2010. Of those admitted during this time period, 522 (15.6%) were due to a methamphetamine-related crime, which is defined as possession, paraphernalia, distribution, or manufacturing, and 640 (19.2%) were admitted due to a methamphetamine-related crime or probation violation (North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2010).

Since 2009 the total number of inmates under DOCR responsibility averages 1,467 per month. On average 349 of those inmates are incarcerated on drug charges each month. Meaning nearly one quarter (23.8%) of North Dakota’s prison population is incarcerated on drug charges (North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2012). The 2013 DOCR data was not yet available for inclusion in this report.
1.6 Treatment Episode Data Set

Each year in the United States, there are approximately two-million substance abuse admissions to treatment facilities that report to individual state administrative data systems. The Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) is a part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Drug and Alcohol Services Information System. TEDS is a collection of both demographic and substance abuse data, which can be broken down by state and calendar year (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012).

TEDS is an admissions-based system; however, each admission reported does not necessarily represent an individual. For example, a single individual admitted to a reporting facility twice in one calendar year will count as two admissions. TEDS only includes the data from admissions to facilities that are licensed or certified by a state substance abuse agency, which are generally those that receive state alcohol or drug funding (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012).

Figure 1.7 ND Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions: Methamphetamine/Amphetamine as Primary Substance of Abuse

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012)
The North Dakota TEDS shows a steady prevalence of females entering treatment for methamphetamine as their primary substance of abuse. From 2000 to 2010, the average rate of females reporting methamphetamine as their primary substance of abuse was 49.1 percent. In 2012 alone, over 53 percent of women reported methamphetamine as their primary substance of abuse (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012). The 2013 TEDS data was not yet available for inclusion in this report.

1.7 Initiatives/Programs

Aside from RMEP, North Dakota has developed and implemented several other drug related initiatives. This list is not exhaustive, but some of the major initiatives include:

1.7.1 Retail Meth Watch Program

The North Dakota Retailers Meth Watch Program is a partnership involving the BCI and a number of concerned North Dakota retailers. The program’s goals are to:

- Raise the level of awareness across the state of the methamphetamine lab problem;
- Educate and train retail employees to recognize the tell-tale signs of individuals that are obtaining the necessary precursors for the illegal production of methamphetamine;
- Limit the accessibility of precursors (North Dakota Office of the Attorney General, 2010).

1.7.2 Prevention Resource and Media Center

The North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center is located in Bismarck and maintains a library of written and video materials covering a wide range of topics including substance abuse. Resources are available to any North Dakota resident free-of-charge (North Dakota Department of Human Services, 2011).
1.7.3 Drug Courts

“Drug Court is a court supervised, treatment oriented program that targets non-violent participants whose major problems stem from substance abuse. The Drug Court Program is a voluntary program, which includes regular court appearances before the Drug Court Judge. Treatment includes drug testing, individual and group counseling, and regular attendance at 12-Step meetings. . . . Candidates must have multiple prior Misdemeanor or Felony drug offenses, or in DUI cases must have three or more DUIs” (North Dakota Association of Drug Court Professionals, 2012).

According to the North Dakota Association of Drug Court Professionals, North Dakota has thirteen courts operating: five adult, six juvenile, one tribal, and one college. The drug courts are located in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, North Dakota State University, Belcourt, Williston, and Devils Lake. North Dakota has held two conferences to educate Drug Court Professionals in October 2009 and October 2011.

1.7.4 Targeted Communities

In the past, the Department of Human Services (DHS) had a Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator in each of the eight regions in North Dakota. In the fall of 2010, DHS restructured its prevention efforts. All North Dakota communities were invited to apply to be a “Targeted Community.” Selected communities were to receive substance abuse prevention assistance through DHS’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division. The RMEP was an integral part of the application process for the Minot community. Initially, Bottineau, Carrington, Minot, Watford City, and the Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood school district were selected as targeted communities and these communities will have access to one of two Community Prevention Specialists. There are also Prevention Specialists in the following areas:
Substance Abuse, Education, and Media. Funding for various prevention efforts will be available through this program, and DHS continues to accept applications from other interested communities (North Dakota Department of Human Services, 2012).

1.8 Clandestine Lab Cleanup

Contamination related to methamphetamine production is extremely harmful to health and the environment. As a result, both the State of North Dakota and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have established Best Practices for cleanup of a methamphetamine lab site. The guidelines for cleanup are designed to protect public health and the environment, and enable safe re-occupation of a former lab site. Neither the EPA nor the State of North Dakota requires compliance with these guidelines, and neither agency will certify that the cleanup has been performed accordingly. However, it is advised by both agencies that all property owners of a confirmed or suspected methamphetamine lab site closely adhere to the published guidelines because they are based on the lessons learned and practical experience of experts in the field.

The Best Practices guidelines provide property owners with a series of remediation tactics, as well as the best practices for cleaning specific items and materials that might be found on the property. Both the state and EPA Best Practices indicate that these cleanup and remediation guidelines are in no way to be deemed all inclusive and therefore, individuals using them are also advised to consult local authorities (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2012) (North Dakota Department of Health, 2012).

1.9 Native American Issues

The lack of readily available data regarding methamphetamine on North Dakota Native American reservations continued to be a challenge. Difficulty finding tribal specific data is occurring at both the state and national level. When reporting data regarding abuse of illicit
substances on reservations, the 2008 Indian Country Drug Threat Assessment makes a notation which explains that existing data does provide a general perspective, however due to issues such as substandard reporting and non-reporting, assessing reservation specific data is difficult (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2008). The National Institute of Justice also cites the lack of available data as a challenge researchers will face when conducting studies of American Indians and Alaska Native communities (National Institute of Justice, 2011).

The Native American reservations are also targeted drug trafficking areas, and law enforcement faces unique challenges when dealing with the issue on tribal land. “Jurisdictional issues exist throughout Indian Country and working together with other federal, state and local agencies in a common goal is essential for Indian Country law enforcement,” said Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Agent in Charge Mario RedLegs (The United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota, 2013).

One such example is Operation Winter’s End which was a combined effort between numerous federal and tribal agencies. A total of 22 individuals, the majority from New Town, ND, were indicted on federal charges involving the possession and distribution of heroin and methamphetamine. U.S. Attorney Purdon said, “The charges filed as a result of Operation Winter’s End are a first step to address the increased organized drug distribution activities on the Fort Berthold Reservation and in northwestern North Dakota. This Indictment will help make both reservation and non-reservation communities in the Bakken oil patch stronger and safer. The U.S. Attorney’s Office is committed to an anti-organized crime strategy in the Bakken oil patch that is built on close cooperation between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies” (The United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota, 2013).
Section 2: Rural Methamphetamine Education Project

The primary goal of RMEP was to provide a statewide education and awareness campaign on methamphetamine and other drugs. This was achieved by conducting presentations to educate professionals, community members, and students of all ages on the most current issues regarding methamphetamine and other drugs.

2.1 Presentations

Through the very last days, the primary focus of RMEP continued to be providing educational presentations to any group making the request. Presentations were delivered using Microsoft PowerPoint and were adapted to meet the needs of the audience. Over the years, RMEP received many requests to expand the information in the presentations to include topics other than methamphetamine. In October 2011, RMEP received approval from Toni Morgan-Wheeler, Grant Advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing, to incorporate information on other drugs as long as the presentation still addressed methamphetamine. The RMEP developed sections on Synthetic Drugs and Prescription Drugs.

The RMEP also created new presentations to accommodate numerous requests for age-appropriate information. An interactive presentation, based on the popular game show Jeopardy! geared towards middle school students was developed. The contestants select questions from the following categories: Who, What, Why, and How?; Wild Card; Refusal Skills; Illegal Drug FX; Role Play; and Identify It! Another presentation was developed to discuss the History of Drugs. This presentation identified the origins of several drugs and illustrates how drug use has progressed throughout United States history.
An extensive slide bank library existed for both high school students and adults, which allowed for brief or detailed presentations. Those requesting a presentation had the opportunity to choose from the following topics:

- **Synthetic Drugs**: synthetic cannabinoids like K2 and Spice, synthetic cathinones like bath salts, 2-C family, and ecstasy
- **Prescription Drugs**: Opiates/Narcotics/Pain Relievers, Depressants, Stimulants, and Diversion
- **History**: History of methamphetamine and how the drug problem has evolved
- **Identification**: Identification of the various forms of methamphetamine, street names, cost, who is using, and why
- **Signs & Effects of Use**: Routes of administration, how methamphetamine works in the brain, immediate effects, short-term effects, long-term effects, and additional damage to the body
- **Cycle of Use**: Types of users and the stages of abuse a user may go through
- **Production & Trafficking**: Ingredients used in local production, environmental impact of waste disposal, and transition from production to trafficking
- **Concealment Techniques**: Innovative methods used to conceal drugs and/or paraphernalia
- **Tips for First-On-Scene**: Personal and public safety measures and recommended secondary actions
- **Penalties**: Associated criminal activity and consequences and penalties for methamphetamine-related activity
- **Children at Risk**: Prenatal exposure, lab exposure, and drug-focused lifestyle of parent/caregiver
- **Intervention**: Strategies used with drug exposed children
- **Treatment**: Myths vs. facts
- **Prevention**: Options at the individual and community levels
Adult and children’s presentations were updated as new research and data became available. The RMEP strived to provide the most recent statistical informational, as well as information that detailed the human cost of methamphetamine abuse in North Dakota.

Through December 2013, the RMEP offered Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) board hours for law enforcement. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were available for social workers (LSW/LCSW/LICSW), licensed addiction counselors (LAC), licensed professional and clinical counselors (LPC/LPCC), and first responders (EMS). The RMEP also offered CEUs to nurses through December 2011. *This continuing nursing education activity was approved by CNE-Net, the education division of the North Dakota Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.*

In November 2008 and October 2010, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of the largest electric generation and transmission cooperatives in the United States, integrated RMEP presentations into its mandatory annual staff trainings. Training sessions were provided for seven facilities in three states and reached more than 1,300 employees both years. From December 2009 through May 2014, RMEP provided 47 presentations to companies throughout North Dakota as part of Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certification or recertification training.

### Table 2.1 Attendance Totals

Reporting dates: December 16, 2009 – May 15, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Presentations</th>
<th>Adult Attendance*</th>
<th>Youth Attendance</th>
<th>Booth Displays</th>
<th>Booth Attendance</th>
<th>Total Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>3,321</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4,566</td>
<td>10,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>4,007</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4,065</td>
<td>9,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1,207</td>
<td>2,656</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4,523</td>
<td>8,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4,127</td>
<td>6,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>6,211</td>
<td>11,650</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>17,321</td>
<td>35,182</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes both general awareness presentations and training seminars
2.2 Presentation Evaluation

To determine the quality of the PowerPoint presentations RMEP was delivering, a survey was developed and administered to adult audiences between December 2010 and September 2013. Those attending a presentation had the opportunity to fill out the survey and anonymously place it in an envelope before they left the event, complete it later and mail it in to RMEP, or fill out the survey on the RMEP website. A total of 622 surveys were collected. The location and date of the presentation, and name of the presenter(s) were tracked for each survey. Using a five-point Likert scale (5-strongly agree, 4-agree, 3-neutral, 2-disagree, and 1-strongly disagree) respondents were asked to indicate their opinion for each of the following statements:

- The presentation was effective.
- The presentation was appropriate for the audience.
- The presentation increased my awareness.
- I would recommend this presentation to others.

Respondents were then asked to indicate whether the presentation was 1-too short, 2-adequate length, or 3-too long. Space was provided for additional comments and suggestions.

The results indicated an overwhelmingly positive response to RMEP presentations. The average response indicating that the presentation was effective was 4.70; signifying 98.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the presentation was effective. The average response indicating that the presentation was appropriate for the audience was 4.69; signifying 97.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the presentation was appropriate for the audience. The average response indicating that the presentation increased awareness was 4.6; signifying 93.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the presentation increased their awareness of methamphetamine and other drugs, and 5.1% were neutral. The average response indicating whether the respondent would recommend the presentation to others was 4.71, signifying 97.9% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the presentation to others.
and 1.4% were neutral. The average response on the length of the presentation was 1.94, indicating 87.1% of respondents felt the presentation was adequate length, 5.4% felt it was too short, and 7.5% did not respond.

2.3 RMEP Evaluation

2.3.1 Evaluation of Services

To determine the effectiveness of RMEP, an evaluation of the RMEP services was conducted during the summer of 2010. The evaluation focused on surveying individuals who contacted RMEP to set up a presentation, booth display, or both. These individuals will be referred to as facilitators in this report. Facilitators were asked to evaluate RMEP services using a survey which was developed and distributed via email providing a link to the survey online. A total of 186 surveys were distributed. Sixty-seven surveys were collected between June 2010 and September 2010 resulting in a 36% return rate.

The main purpose of the evaluation was to determine if RMEP met the needs of the facilitator, and if the service provided raised awareness of the intended audience. Facilitators answered questions related to demographics, evaluation of the scheduled event, and the overall value of the program.

2.3.2 Demographics

Facilitators reported working for a variety of organizations such as education, health, law enforcement, and private industry and business. Fifty-two percent reported that they worked in education, while 19.2% worked in community based or non-profit organizations. The majority of facilitators served Region II (Minot area) (39.7%) and Region VII (Dickinson area) (23.3%) with 55% indicating they worked in a rural setting.
2.3.3 Evaluation of the Scheduled Event

Facilitators were asked to identify the type of services provided (i.e. presentation or booth display), and if the services were a standalone event or part of a larger event. Presentations were reported as the most common service utilized with just over half of all services provided as a standalone event.

In addition, facilitators classified the purpose of the event in one of the following categories: K-12 awareness, adult awareness, community awareness, or to fulfill a training requirement for professionals. The RMEP services were utilized most often as K-12 awareness;
while the other categories were fairly evenly distributed. The age of the intended audience ranged from elementary school students to adults.

**Figure 2.5. Age Group of Intended Audience**

**Figure 2.6. Purpose of Event**

To determine the effectiveness of the presentations, facilitators were asked to indicate: 1) if RMEP was effective in fulfilling the purpose of the event, 2) if the presentation increased awareness of the intended audience, 3) if they would consider RMEP services for future events, and 4) if they would recommend RMEP services to others. The majority (91.9%) of facilitators agreed or strongly agreed that RMEP was effective in fulfilling the purpose of the event with 95.9% indicating that the presentation/booth display increased the awareness of the intended audience. Ninety-seven percent would consider a presentation/booth display for a future event and 95.9% would recommend RMEP services to others.
2.3.4 Overall value of the program

All of the facilitators agreed or strongly agreed that awareness and education programs like RMEP are effective strategies for addressing issues related to substance use/abuse. Eighty-six percent agreed or strongly agreed that RMEP is a contributing factor to the decrease of use, abuse and overall presence of methamphetamine in North Dakota, and 89% agreed or strongly agreed that RMEP enhanced their professional capacity to address issues related to methamphetamine.
2.4 Additional Strategies

The RMEP utilized various means of information dissemination including booth displays, brochures, and publications. The RMEP provided booth displays at health fairs, conferences, schools, and community events across the state. This display allowed RMEP to distribute materials, answer questions, and network within the community which provided for a greater reach of the services offered. All printable resources are available in an electronic format online at www.minotstateu.edu/rcjc.

The RMEP team was active in several community coalitions and safety organizations across the state. The RMEP regularly attended the Safe Communities of North Central Dakota (SCNCD) in Minot, ND and the Community Health Task Force in both Hazen, ND and Beulah, ND. Through an outreach sub-committee with the SCNCD, RMEP was instrumental in starting the Area Safe Communities Coalition in Mohall, ND in December 2009. Mohall, Lansford, Sherwood, and Tolley comprise the area this coalition serves. With the success of the Mohall group, a meeting was held in February 2013 to gauge the interest in forming a coalition in Kenmare, ND. The RMEP was in attendance of that initial meeting and was involved with the coalition through March 2014. In addition, RMEP was involved in the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Task Force at Minot State University. This is a multi-disciplinary group that addresses substance abuse issues within the university system. The RMEP has also been instrumental in planning and coordinating various conferences, speakers, and health and safety fairs throughout the state. Some examples are National Night Out in Minot, ND; the Teen Maze in Dickinson, ND; and CONNECT (new student orientation) at Minot State University. The RMEP also provided information at several SAMHSA-sponsored Town Hall meetings.
Table 2.2 Meetings Attended by RMEP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.5 Involvement on Native American Reservations

From December 2009 through May 2014, RMEP had contact with at least 1,936 Native Americans on Fort Berthold and Spirit Lake reservations in North Dakota. In addition to providing presentations to individual groups and schools, RMEP attended the North Dakota Indian Child Welfare Act conference in the years 2008-2011. This allowed a wide variety of professionals working from all tribal lands the opportunity to learn about RMEP and the services available through the project. In January 2012, RMEP was invited to participate in the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara (MHA) Nation Law Enforcement Summit at Four Bears Casino near New Town, ND. The RMEP provided a break-out session and had an informational booth set up for the 2-day summit. In March 2013, RMEP was a significant contributor to the Three Affiliated Tribes Meth Conference also held at Four Bears Casino. The RMEP provided a 2 hour block of instruction in the general session, and had an informational booth set up for the duration of the 3 day conference.
Section 3: Minot State University Chemistry Collaboration

The RMEP, in conjunction with MSU, purchased a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) for use in the detection of methamphetamine and other materials used in methamphetamine production. The equipment is not currently being utilized for on-site detection and training, however other research opportunities continue to be explored. The following subsections describe the studies conducted by the MSU Chemistry Department.

3.1 Wipe Analysis Test Kit

Robin Gonzalez, MSU Chemistry student, under the supervision of Dr. Robert Crackle, conducted the study “Development of a Wipe Analysis Test kit of methamphetamine Residue by Gas-Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy.” This study describes the techniques developed for coating surfaces with solutions containing methamphetamine, followed by the extraction of methamphetamine residue. This technique was used in the following study examining the cleaning of methamphetamine from surfaces (See Appendix A).

3.2 Methamphetamine Detection After Cleaning

In the spring of 2013, Kelsey Beyer, MSU Chemistry student, under the supervision of Dr. Robert Crackel, conducted the study “Detection of Methamphetamine After Cleaning of Household Surfaces.” This study was designed to investigate the effectiveness of different cleaning agents on a variety of household surfaces exposed to a solution of methamphetamine. (See Appendix B).

3.3 Other Projects

Various other MSU Chemistry students, under the supervision of Dr. Robert Crackel, worked on other methamphetamine-related projects, however they did not produce conclusive results because of instrument problems or procedural difficulties. Some of these studies include
the following: “Effect of Other Reagents used in Meth Synthesis (ammonia and hydrochloric acid) on detection of Methamphetamine,” and “Use of Other Solvents (other organic solvents such as ethyl acetate and methylene chloride) for removal of Methamphetamine from Surfaces.”

Other projects have been started, or are in the planning stages. These projects will be completed after Grant #2010CKWX0456 funding has been depleted. Those projects include: extraction of methamphetamine from permeable surfaces such as wood, sheetrock, and carpet, and the analysis of lithium by a different method. This study will compare results to previous work done by Jack Carraher (see FY09 Final Report on Grant #2009CKWX0578).
Section 4: Project Conclusion

Through May 2014, the RMEP remained committed to the grant directive, providing information and awareness services, expanding our outreach to areas in need, and evaluating the threat of methamphetamine and other drugs in North Dakota.

4.1 Use of Digital Medium

In past years, RMEP explored the possibility of developing a methamphetamine “toolkit” for public use. After further research on existing “toolkits,” RMEP changed its focus. Since there are many well-designed “toolkits” available, RMEP chose to make existing PowerPoint presentations available online. Presentations designed for adult audiences are broken into sections and accompanied by a resource guide with discussion points for each slide. Three children’s presentations are also available, and are accompanied by a teacher’s guide. Publications created by RMEP over the past decade have been updated and are also available in PDF format online.

4.2 Methamphetamine Research Library

The RMEP has been in existence since 2001 and has compiled a great deal of data and literature. The organization of this literature into a research library will allow RMEP to continue serving as a resource after funding for the project has been exhausted. This library makes literature readily available to human service professionals, law enforcement, and the general public. This information is currently available on the “Links” tab of the RMEP Web site. It is organized by local, state, and federal agencies that provide reliable information to the public.

4.3 Challenges

One of the more recent challenges RMEP faced was in data collection. Midwest HIDTA, NDIC, DEA, and YRBS were all significant, reliable sources of data for RMEP. When NDIC
closed in June 2012, publications like the National Drug Threat Assessment and the Drug Market Analysis were no longer released. Although DEA currently releases a great deal of information, they used to release a State Fact sheet for each state every year. It was nothing more than a few pages that provided a beneficial snapshot of the drug activity in each state for the previous year. The DEA stopped these in 2008, making it difficult to track trends state-by-state. Recently there has even been difficulty accessing data on a state level. Other data sources, like the YRBS and North Dakota Attorney General’s office changed their method of reporting data, so identifying trends and patterns in usage became impossible.

The RMEP relied on these federal and state agencies for many of the statics and data collected to assess and disseminate the trends of methamphetamine use, arrests, production, distribution, individual impact, and other information that allowed RMEP to be relevant and current regarding presentations and publications. The closure of NDIC greatly impeded the availability of uniform data collection. The discontinuation of this federally funded clearing house impeded the ability to track trends.

Funding has been the insurmountable obstacle on both federal and state levels. The request for RMEP services continue, but the political importance of how drugs impact individuals and society has lessened.

The final published Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Drug Market Analysis in 2011, predicted a steady supply of Mexican methamphetamine, widespread heroin trafficking, controlled prescription drug abuse, and sustained high demand for high-potency marijuana (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011). All of which are issues North Dakota is currently experiencing. Tracking these predictions and developing best practices may become difficult as many find their sources to be more anecdotal.
The public awareness and education provided by RMEP will leave a void in North Dakota’s continuing efforts to combat the new rise in methamphetamine trafficking and use.
Conclusion

This report represents a synopsis of the impact of methamphetamine and other drugs in North Dakota, and the response by RMEP. Statistics illustrate that the prevalence of methamphetamine clandestine lab seizures has decreased, but trafficking of methamphetamine among other drugs continues to rise. Even though RMEP never did any formal advertising, word of mouth recommendations were sufficient in keeping the schedule full. The RMEP continued to receive requests for trainings and presentations for dates well beyond the point funding would allow. With North Dakota’s economy flourishing and drug trafficking steadily increasing, the need for education in this area continues to grow.
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Appendix A

Development of a Wipe Analysis Test Kit of Methamphetamine Residue by Gas-Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy
Appendix B

Detection of Methamphetamine After Cleaning of Household Surfaces