

# CROWELL CONNECTION

DISTRICT 27

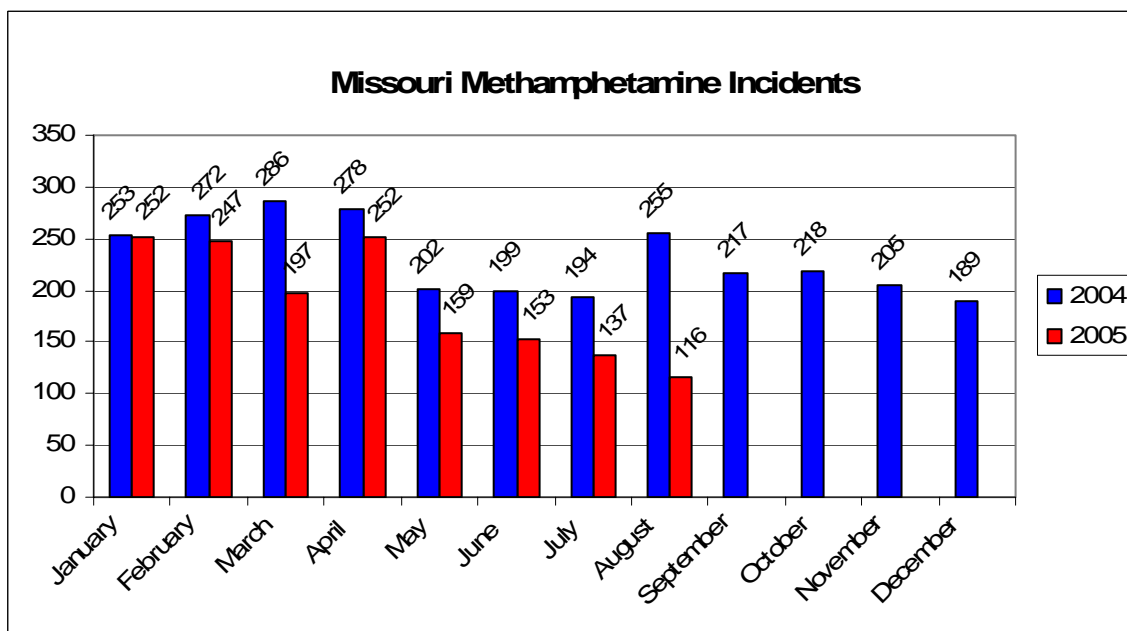
STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

## Fighting the War on Meth

*Missouri's Anti-Meth Legislation Prove Effective*

This past session, I co-sponsored legislation in the Missouri Senate aimed at curbing the production of methamphetamine, which has reached epidemic proportions in Missouri. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Blunt in June and became effective on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Judging from the significant decrease in meth-related incidents since the effective date, it is clear that the legislation is working.

Earlier this week, the governor reported findings from the Missouri Highway Patrol that prove the effectiveness of the meth legislation. The numbers reveal that this August, there was a 55% reduction in meth-related incidents as compared to August of 2004 (see graph below).



Meth-related incidents include meth lab busts or locating meth dumpsites. The number of incidents fell 22% from January through July of this year. The 55% reduction in August, the first full month that the anti-meth laws were in effect, is more drastic than any other month.

This marks important progress in our mission to cut off meth cookers' access to the key ingredients in making the highly addictive drug. We have restricted the sale of over-the-counter dry-tablet medicines containing pseudoephedrine, which can now only be purchased from pharmacists or certified technicians, and no more than nine grams of the medicine can be bought within a 30-day period. To purchase the pills, customers must show ID, and their name is then logged in a database, which the police can access. The Highway Patrol reports that this portion of the new law has proven very effective in alerting law enforcement agencies of potential meth cookers.

While the news is encouraging in Missouri, to truly win the war on meth, legislation is needed at the federal level that will make anti-meth laws uniform nation-wide. Fortunately, U.S. Senator Jim Talent understands the danger that meth poses for Missourians and other states alike. Sen. Talent's Combat Meth Act passed the U.S. Senate this past week. The act would move cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine behind the counter and limit how much one person can buy to 7.5 grams a month. It is the most comprehensive anti-meth measure ever considered by Congress, and because it would be a federal law if passed, all 50 states could join forces to make our streets and neighborhoods safer. Sen. Talent also co-sponsored an amendment to restore \$275 million in funding for Justice Assistance Grants, which are distributed to local law enforcement agencies to be used to fight meth. Both pieces of legislation move to a conference committee and a decision will be made by the end of the month.

To effectively combat meth production in Missouri we will need to continue working together; local, state and federal. But in the end it is our law enforcement men and women that make the difference, that makes all the difference and I truly appreciate the county, state and federal law enforcement officers who wear Kevlar to work every day to make where we live safer, and I thank them for their efforts and service.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com> and <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

Thank you for your time.

*Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.*