

Dramatic drop in number of meth labs

by UPI

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government reported a steep decline in the number of methamphetamine labs found in the United States last year.

The drop is being attributed to state and federal laws that restrict the sale of cold medicines and chemicals used to make the highly addictive stimulant, USA Today reported Monday.

Statistics released by the Drug Enforcement Administration show last year police and drug agents found 7,347 methamphetamine labs and abandoned lab sites, a decrease of 58 percent from the previous year.

"This is one time where the laws worked and they worked quickly," Philippa LeVine, DEA senior special agent, told USA Today.

The bulk of the supply of methamphetamine found in the United States is being made in large, professional style labs and smuggled into the country from Mexico and Canada, USA Today reported.

Methamphetamine can be made from cold and cough medicines containing pseudoephedrine and household chemicals.

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