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clandestine labs throughout the Western and Southwestern United States, but now it has spread, as we've all become aware, to the Central United States. Organized crime groups appear to be responsible for the increased methamphetamine production on both sides of the border during the 1990s, and it has become the drug of choice in the Midwest for two reasons. First of all, there is increasing importation of meth into the region by the organized trafficking groups because of our infrastructure for transportation and, second, because there are a lot of labs, mom and pop labs, being set up because of the availability of common drugs to be...common ingredients to be used to produce this. If you would look at the statistics on the inside of the orange packet that I've given you, this was the statistics put together by the Nebraska State Patrol to show you the increase of methamphetamine seizures between 1991 and 1998, and by the time this was completed 1998 full figures were not in there. Also, there are a variety of impacts because of this increased methamphetamine use. Arrests for methamphetamine have increased 156 percent over the 1996 arrests in Nebraska. Probationers testing positive for meth have increased 789 percent since 1994 in Nebraska. Seizure of meth by the State Patrol has increased 1,226 percent from 9856 grams in '96 to 130,000 grams in '97. It's easy to make meth. There are recipes on the Internet. You can pull it up. The ingredients are over-the-counter items. When we started on this, we had a seminar put on by Wal-Mart that's talking about now employee awareness education so that when people come in and start buying these different ingredients they are aware that there's a possibility they're going to be used for methamphetamine production. Labs are small. They are mom and pop labs. They can be set up anywhere. Last month, a meth lab was shut down in Grand Island. It was located across from an elementary school and one block from a senior citizen apartment building. In a pickup, officers found enough ether to wipe out two city blocks had it exploded. The number of meth labs discovered in Nebraska has increased from 1 in 1996 to 8 through October of 1998. Meth can be smoked, inhaled, injected, sniffed, or eaten. Crystal meth is sold as a powder that is injected, inhaled or taken orally. It has a longer-lasting effect than cocaine. It is purer. It is more readily available and it is less expensive, so it's become the drug of choice. Ice, which is a concentrated form of meth, is smoked and the high can last from between 2 and 20 hours, and to be considered