Eportfoilio: What are the Effects of Drug use in the CNMI?

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Abstract

Crystal methamphetamine also commonly known as “ice” is a drug similar to cocaine. It can be smoked through a glass pipe, snorted through a straw, or eaten. It has been a problem in the CNMI since the 1990’s. The primary users and distributors would be ethnic groups such as the Chamorros, Carolinians, Filipinos, Chinese and Japanese. This illicit drug is solely smuggled into the CNMI for local distribution. Crystal methamphetamine is transported into the CNMI from Asian countries such as Japan, China and Taiwan, often transiting the Philippines and Guam through couriers on commercial aircraft, package delivery services, and commercial maritime vessels.

Proposed Research Questions

1. What are the effects of Drug use in the CNMI?

Secondary questions

Why do people use drugs?

Do drugs really destroy a person's life?

What do drug users benefit from doing drugs?

What are the consequences in doing drugs?

Brain Storm

What are the effects of drug use in the CNMI?

* Thief
* Safety issue
* Crime rate goes up
* Death
* Arguments within the family
* Domestic violence

Survey Questions:

* (1)Are you Male or Female,
* (2) What is your age?
* (3) What is your race?
* (4) Which of the following drugs have you heard of?
* (5) Which of the following are a significant part of your community?
* (6) Which drug creates the most problems in your community?
* (7) Have you ever used crystal meth?
* (8) If yes to question, Have you used the drug in the past 6 months, and lastly
* (9) How likely are you to use crystal meth in the future?
* (10) Does doing drugs make you escape reality for a while?

**Crystal Methamphetamine**

Crystal methamphetamine also commonly known as “ice” is the colorless form of d- methamphetamine. The drug could be smoked through a glass pipe, snorted through the straw, or eaten. The users of these drugs in the Northern Marianas Island are known to be from various is backgrounds in the CNMI such as the Chamorros, Filipino, Japanese, and Chinese. Methamphetamine is smuggled into the CNMI for local distribution. Meth is the most prominent drug in the CNMI due to the effect of potential violence of distribution.

In addition to the drugs lethal effects to the brain, Methamphetamine has entrenched its distribution through organized crime groups. Such criminal activities rely on prostitution, gambling, money laundering, and theft. These cause problems with the local law enforcement officials thus leading to many investigations relating to crystal methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine is smuggled in from countries such as China and the and flown through Guam to reach their final destination in Saipan. The criminal organizations such as the Yakuza, pose a significant threat to the drug distribution in the CNMI. Other forms of smuggling come from maritime vessels. Only a small percentage of methamphetamine is produced in California and Mexico then smuggled in from Hawaii

In addition to the drugs being smuggled through Hawaii, the drugs are brought through couriers aboard commercial aircrafts. The methamphetamine is then brought into Saipan and makes greater profit than when sold in Hawaii. Members of the Japanese criminal organization arrive on Saipan and retrieve the crystal methamphetamine from the couriers that they employed. The Japanese criminals then distribute the meth to taxi drivers and stay on Saipan for about a week while waiting for the drugs to be distributed, then leave. Only few of the members get to know their buyers and constantly travel back and forth to distribute the products themselves.

In conclusion, Crystal methamphetamine is a prominent drug threat to the Northern Marianas Islands due to its illicit effects on its users. Meth is almost solely smuggled in from China, the Philippines, and China with a small amount coming in from Hawaii and California. Meth causes violent criminal acts such as money laundering, prostitution and robbery. Meth is a highly dangerous drug that is vastly affecting the CNMI.

**Drugs in the CNMI**

Drugs such as Marijuana(Cannabis), Crystal Methamphetamine(commonly known as ice) has been a crucial factor to the CNMI economy. Such drugs have the ability to alter a person's mindset and cause them to commit dangerous criminal acts. The CNMI has been facing these such issues for quite some time. The availability of drugs in the CNMI has made the risk of drug related crimes a prominent contribution to the problems of law enforcement

Drugs have played a significant role in the CNMI’s economy since the late 1990s. The distribution of drugs like crystal methamphetamine, more commonly known in the CNM as shabu or ice. Violence related to crystal methamphetamine include domestic abuse and theft. Methamphetamine users are known to become violent especially when in the ‘withdrawal’ state.

Methamphetamine releases a chemical in the brain known as dopamine , which is also released from alcohol. Meth kicks dopamine to a higher gear leading people to get addicted. Meth is a highly addictive drug as well as an expensive product, many users can’t get enough leading to robbery.

Methamphetamine leads to domestic violence because of the withdrawal stage. During the withdrawal stage of methamphetamine, the user undergoes a traumatic and painful, and causes the user to take more of the drugs in hopes of counteracting the withdrawal process. However this leads to a downward spiral of repeated meth use. Which causes the user to have problems with their family regarding money and priorities.

In conclusion, Meth affects the crime rate of the CNMI as well as domestic violence issues. The introduction of methamphetamine in the CNMI has corrupted the economy and endangered the lives of many civilians. The effects of these drugs lead to different mindsets and wrong priorities.

Reference

**Works Cited**

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