



## Imitating Oregon offers wrong ‘fix’ for Kentucky’s meth problem

By Jim Waters

Perhaps the only thing that will spare Kentuckians from [losing yet another freedom](#) – this one to purchase the cold and allergy medicines of their choice – during the upcoming legislative session will be the fact that a budget must be passed and redistricting lines drawn.

It certainly won’t be because promoters of denying law-abiding Kentuckians the right to purchase products containing pseudoephedrine over the counter are purveyors of truth about the matter. They are not.

The truth is that a few scoundrels use the pseudoephedrine placed in cold medicines and designed for healing to make methamphetamine – a dangerous drug. But just as true is the fact that Frankfort’s proposals to “fix” this problem are hazardous to our freedom.

They also are based on flimsy evidence.

For instance, the crowd wanting to force Kentuckians to get prescriptions for products containing pseudoephedrine alleges this is how Oregon is winning the war on meth. Fewer meth labs have been found, they note.

But could it be that fewer labs are being exposed and shut down – not because less meth is being produced, sold and used, but because Oregon’s policies make it more difficult to find and destroy labs?

What the government nannies leading this effort in Frankfort will tell you: “Oregon has seen the number of meth lab incidents decline by 96 percent.”

What they don’t tell you: Most of the decline happened *before* the Beaver State’s prescription law even went into effect.

Here are a few more facts you won’t hear from the Nanny State Propaganda Ministers:

- In addition to Oregon, seven other Western states also have experienced more than 90-percent declines in the number of meth labs found – none of which have trampled on their citizens’ individual liberties. In fact, one of those states – Washington, Oregon’s neighbor – is using the same tracking system Kentucky uses to catch illegal purchases of pseudoephedrine products.
- In a piece entitled [“Purer the Drug, The More Likely You’ll Have an Overdose.”](#) KVAL-TV reporter Beth Ford reported that meth-related deaths in Oregon rose by 22 percent during the first five years of the prescription-only law.
- More than 80 percent of Oregon law enforcement agencies surveyed in 2010 reported meth as their area’s “greatest drug threat.” A majority also indicated that it’s the drug that contributes most toward crimes involving violence and theft.

- There was a 67 percent increase between 2005 and 2009 in the number of people in Oregon admitted for treatment of prescription-drug abuse in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.
- A 2010 report by the Office of National Drug Control Policy found that Portland stood near the top of a list of 10 cities from which it gathered information on the presence and number of transactions involving meth.

It doesn't sound to me like Oregon is "winning the war on meth."

Something else the propagandists won't tell you: The reason fewer meth labs are being found is because drug dealers south of our nation's border have developed a "Mexican-meth pipeline," which allows these thugs to supply prepackaged drugs to the western United States.

Why make it when you can buy it already packaged and ready to sell?

The Wall Street Journal reported that [a record 6.2 tons of meth](#) were seized at the border in 2010, while nearly almost as much as that has already been seized during 2011.

Where is all this meth going? I think we know.

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