

PRESS RELEASE

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**United Way
Of Jackson County**

LOCAL MAP CREATED TO PINPOINT METHAMPHETAMINE LOCATIONS

Community Collaboration Creates Educational Map

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (November 26, 2007) – Where is methamphetamine in our Community? Last year United Way of Jackson County's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (JCSAPC), decided to tackle this question by collecting local data and placing it on an interactive map. In a collaborative effort JCSAPC, Jackson County GIS, and local law enforcement agencies, including the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) and the County Sheriff's Office, were able to create an interactive map for the public.

Kelsey Winston, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Jackson County, explained that "the map allows individuals to graphically see where meth lab seizures, dumpsites, and other meth-related incidences, such as component cases, have occurred in Jackson County." As information is made available, new meth locations will be updated in real-time allowing for the map to have the most current information. This map is housed at Jackson County's website: <http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/MethGIS/index.htm>.

How might this map help our community? As Susie Mohlman from Sproat GMAC Real Estate stated, "The map is very useful for local realtors. It allows us the opportunity to inform prospective home-owners of former meth homes and the dangers associated with the drug." For Sergeant Jenks from the Jackson City Police, "The map will provide a pictorial view of where meth is located in our community. It will also allow officers to identify areas of interest, and in turn reference police reports for further information." In addition, Winston stated that the map will "allow the coalition to identify areas of concern in our community, which will help us target our prevention messages."

Meth is a very addictive, dangerous and toxic drug. "For every pound of the drug produced, 5-6 pounds of toxic waste are left over.¹" Other concerns related to this drug include: unstable and explosive meth production, toxic air emissions, soil and water contamination, and armed and 'high' users.

JCSAPC is extremely appreciative of this joint effort to identify and provide Jackson with current information about methamphetamine in our community. The JCSAPC would like to thank local law enforcement agencies, the county, and Jackson Community GIS for their support and collaboration with this endeavor. Without their support and involvement, JCSAPC vision of this map would never been able to get off the ground.

More information about:

- *Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition* and its activities, please contact Kelsey Winston at (517) 796-5133 or via email at kwinston@uwjackson.org
- Website Address for the map: <http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/MethGIS/index.htm>
- Groups or agencies interested in more information or a presentation about the GIS Meth map please contact Kelsey Winston at (517) 796-5133 or via email at kwinston@uwjackson.org

¹ Department of Health& Human Service, Division of Public Health, Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance Program, (2002). *Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories information and safety sheet, N.C.*