



Law enforcement agencies nationwide are fighting to control the diversion of over-the-counter (OTC) cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine (PSE), as criminals seek to use these products in clandestine methamphetamine labs. Through effective state and federal laws placing sales limits on these medicines, and great efforts from our law enforcement investigators, domestic methamphetamine labs already have been reduced by more than 60 percent from their peak of 17,190 labs in 2003. However, there were still more than 6,900 lab incidents reported nationwide in 2008, and criminals, often referred to as “smurfers”, are still working hard to collect illegal quantities of medicines containing PSE to divert to meth production.

The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) is now able to offer to states with critical meth lab problems a powerful new law enforcement tool that will help prevent the diversion of PSE. Thanks to a unique partnership between NADDI and the leading manufacturers of cold and allergy medicines containing PSE, NADDI is now acting as the administrator of a program known as the National Precursor Log Exchange, or NPLEx. NPLEx is a multi-state expansion of a real-time, state-wide electronic OTC PSE sales tracking system used in Kentucky since 2008.

The NPLEx partnership is offering this tracking system at no cost to states that have critical meth lab problems and that have enacted legislation requiring mandatory, real-time, state-wide PSE sales tracking. NPLEx will block OTC PSE sales in these states that would exceed legal limits, and maintain a sales database accessible to law enforcement at no charge to aid in investigation and prosecution.

Using only information already required by law to be collected by retailers, NPLEx provides a new tool to effectively enforce state and federal PSE sales limits without further restricting access to these medicines by law abiding citizens. NPLEx will be completely compatible with the requirements of all state and federal laws, including the federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA).

NADDI is extremely excited about offering this new system to law enforcement and bridging the gap to create a private/public partnership. We believe that this initiative will further our progress against illegal diversion of legitimate, over-the-counter medicines.

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