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Protecting People & Profits
Through Education

Smoke and mirrors of Police stats mask the real issues of violence:

Looking beneath the veneer of the Police stats on crime for 2007 shows just how endemic the violence caused by meth use has become in New Zealand according to MethCon Group director Mike Sabin.

"While the Police are rightly pleased to announce some of their successes it is too convenient in my view to suggest that increase in violence, in particular domestic violence is due to more awareness and better reporting" said Mr. Sabin.

"Meth addiction typically causes increases in violent anti-social behaviour and this is what we have seen in New Zealand over the past 10 years."

Domestic violence has increased by 32%, violent offences and serious assaults by 40% and 55% respectively. Robbery has increased by 30%, while intimidation and threats have increased by 71%, with offences involving grievous harm increasing by a staggering 92%" said Mr. Sabin.

During the same 10 year period there has been over a 10000% increase in meth manufacture, over a 1000% increase in possession for supply offences for meth and over a 200% increase in simple possession charges.

"There may have been 10% less homicide last year, but that probably reflects that less people have died as a result of a serious assault, rather than less violence overall" claimed Mr. Sabin.

The crucial point to consider is that worldwide, meth addiction causes these huge spikes in crimes involving violence and we are no different. "To hide behind the smoke and mirrors of some favourable stats only serves to perpetuate our failings as a country to deal with this problem" said Mr. Sabin.

Mike Sabin
Managing Director
Methcon Group Ltd (NZ's only specialist methamphetamine education providers)
