

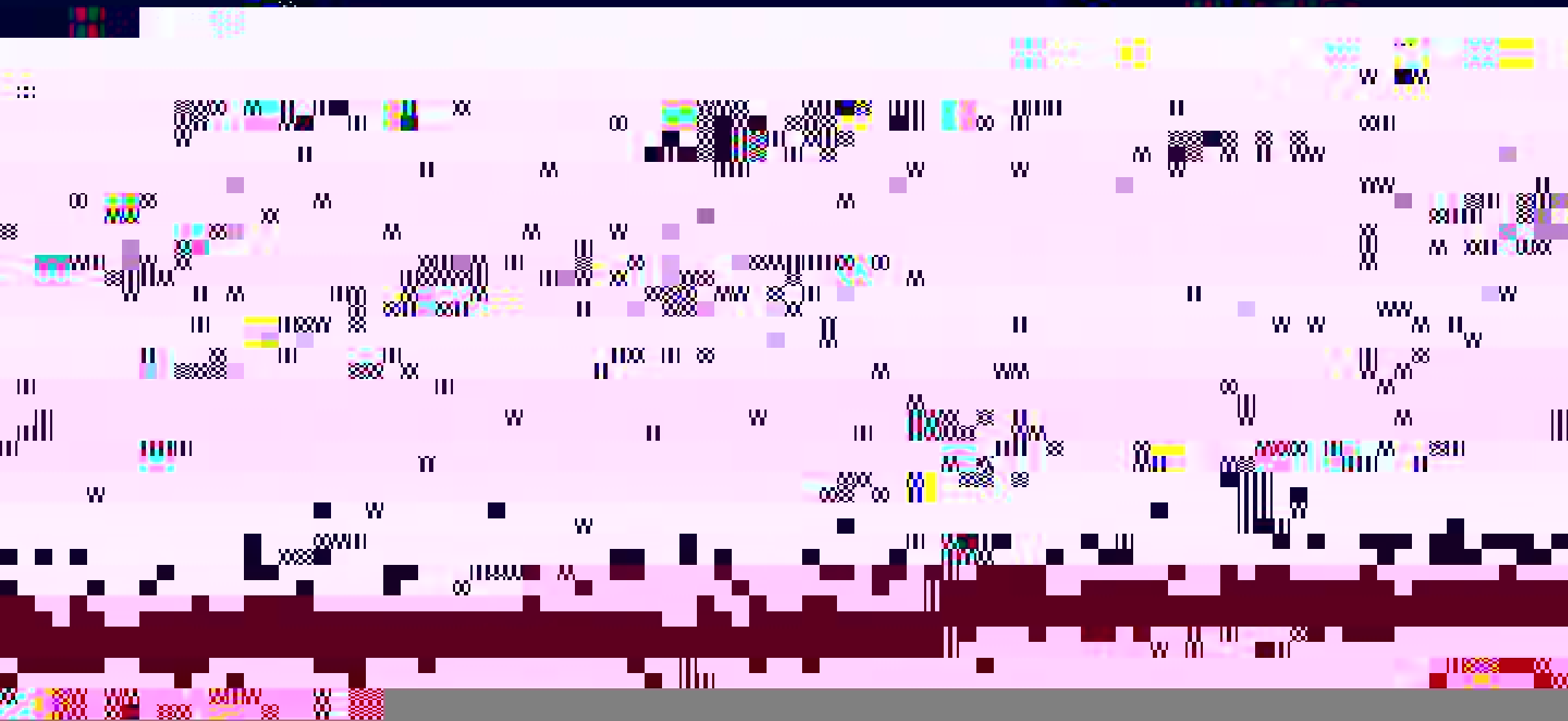
Parent substance abuse, child welfare and children's mental health:

Parent methamphetamine abuse in rural Illinois

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Parent substance abuse



Parent abuse of illicit drugs

children may be exposed to:

Drugs prenatally (Seritan & et al, 1995; et al, 1996)

5% environmental risks (Johnson et al, 1997; Sawins et al, 1992; Umpfer et al, 1996)

Compromised parenting (Sawins et al, 1992) Distortion: (Sahon, 1996)

3. Treatment (Sawins, 1994)

Stigma (Lee, 1997; Sains, 2002)

Children whose parents abuse illicit substances are more likely to

abuse substances

52% experience mental health problems

Drop out of school

52% experience early pregnancy

become involved in criminal or other anti-social behavior

(See Seritan & et al, 2003; Zillar & Sterniac, 2000)

What is methamphetamine?

Powerful, highly addictive central nervous system stimulant

Less expensive and more easily available than cocaine with a much longer lasting effect?

user experiences:

initial rush, euphoria

decreased fatigue and appetite

increased energy, alertness, libido

It was often followed by sleep for several days

It is a side effect

8 health problems to the user

> Dopamine depletion syndrome?

• "other damage to brain"

• Severe dental problems, > meth mouth?

• Secondary health damage to lungs, heart, and

* kidneys may be what physically kills

. See [Lin et al, 2001](#); [Zaewell, 2001](#); [Lawson et al, 2002](#); [S'38, 2002](#)

[Thompson et al, 2001](#); [ermuth, 2000](#)

Psychiatric effects

Psychiatric symptoms: psychosis, depression, rapid mood changes, irritability and out-of-control rages and violent behavior (

Psychotic symptoms may persist for months or years after use has ceased (

Interpersonal violence (PTSD)

Wahlstein et al, 2000; Cohen et al, 2001; Metzger et al, 2003; Cohen et al, 2001
\$38, 2002 /

; h# are we concerned about parent
abuse of methamphetamine per se<

haracteristics of methamphetamine:

h&h# addictive

parents rapidly disabled both ph#sically# : mental#

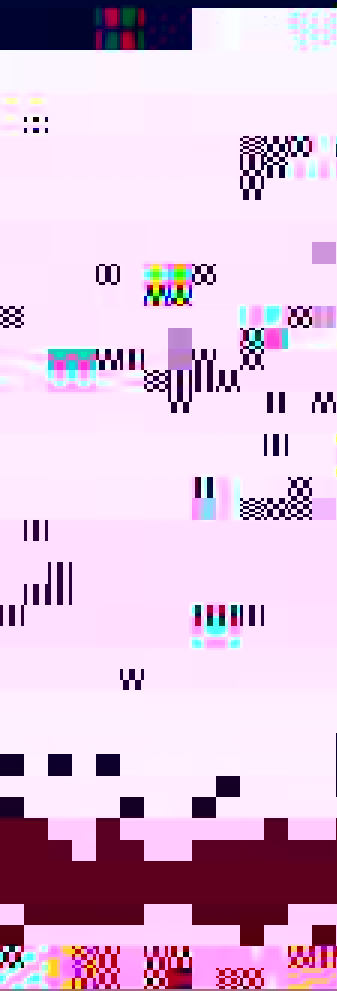
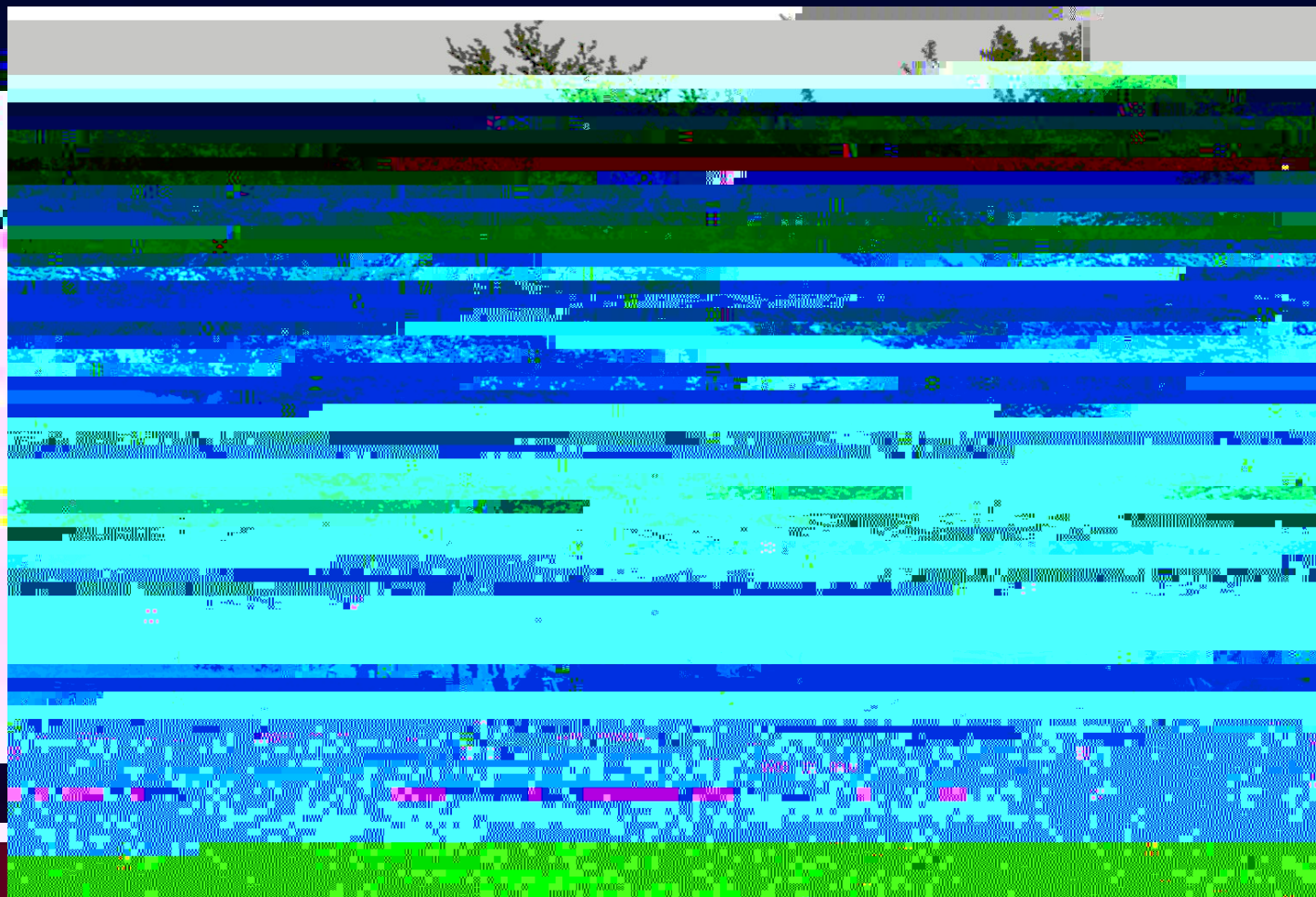
Produced in and around home(

=on& term separation from parents who are
ser%in& lon& prison terms, ill or dead(

, ural problem: sses and cultural issues

+ r&ent and &rowin& problem in the + \$

What are the c



, total: covers 3,842 square miles, pop 160,278

ethnically homogeneous (44% white)

income class: median household income range from
\$36,313 @ \$80,078

Percentage population graduated from college ranges
from 10% @ 21%

has a serious and growing drug problem

Community pessimism and fear in community

response: increase penalties, decrease access to
precursors

Direct professionals in the field (.17/

Whether knowledgeable community professionals: educators, law enforcement, substance abuse treatment providers .10/

are also foster parents, extended family members, meth abusing parents/ .10/
children .22/

adults and children

of children's development, behavior, experience of trauma and attitudes towards substance abuse(

of D^m ! \$ investigations and supervision court cases(

of newspaper articles and other documentation of meth abuse in rural I=(

Perspectives of adults and children

52posure to criminality#

52posure to violence

52posure to adult substance abuse

Violence intertwined with substance abuse

' dult perspecti%es

5n%ironmental dan&er, chaos

I e&lect

ouse

child perspectives

Separation = loss



Standardized assessments/

, and of scores on the PPVT, but most
average

6AE of children evidenced a pattern of traumatic
symptoms (PTSD)

AGE other emotional and behavioral problems

Child report/

5 emotional pain in relation to family

! few social resources for coping with emotional pain

Passive strategies for coping

Tal* iurcP

e
tionnaire Research n

9 knowled&e about methamphetamine(
Stances towards parents' antisocial behavior
Stances towards child welfare and legal
inter%ention: e(&, Denial, defiance, reflection of
parents, sad\conflicted(
3ental health functionin&

children a&e when parent becomes disabled

family resources

community resources

=leadership roles for social workers

Help parents get into treatment(

recruit and educate foster care parents(

Develop, implement and assess mental health services targeted at children of meth abusers(

=ife stor# inter%ention fors

Assessing life stories of children in foster care

School-aged children entering foster care because of parent methamphetamine abuse

References

Stoler, T. (in press). Mental health issues of children of methamphetamine abusers.

Questions or comments <

