



## **MethCheck software helps track those creating meth labs**

By next June, many Kentucky methamphetamine manufacturers may have to close up shop. Technology developed by a Louisville company will make it a lot tougher to get the main ingredient needed to make the addictive drug.

Meth begins with pseudoephedrine, an ingredient found in many cold and allergy medicines. For two years a state law has limited pseudoephedrine sales, but there has been a flaw in that law.

Brian Lewis has been involved in dozens of meth lab busts in southeast Kentucky. Friday, the Laurel County Sheriff's Deputy was in Louisville praising employees of Appriss for making his job a lot easier. "And this tool that you guys here have put together will dramatically decrease the meth labs in the state of Kentucky."

Cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine is now regulated to try to keep it out of the hands of meth makers. It has been moved behind store counters and sellers must keep track of who is buying and how much. But most police departments do not have the manpower to travel to pharmacies and go through sales logs to identify possible meth labs.

Joe DeSensi of Appriss explains, "In some of the stores, logs for a month will be just absolutely huge. It'll allow them to focus on just the people who are buying too much."

That's where Appriss comes in. It has developed "MethCheck" software that stores cold medicine sales and allow police to quickly identify people who travel around buying more than they legally should. During a two year test in Laurel County, MethCheck records have produced results and led to many meth labs being busted. All major pharmacies are still getting hooked up so they can send their data to MethCheck.

MethCheck is to be available statewide by next June. Louisville Police Chief Robert White says the system will be a great help to local narcotics investigators.

There are 194 pharmacies in Louisville, so it is very difficult to regularly travel to every pharmacy and go through paper records to try to identify people who buy cold medicine because they are involved in the meth trade.