

In 2006, the Patriot Bill included the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 that banned over-the-counter sales of cold medications that are commonly used in the production of methamphetamine, which included ephedrine and pseudoephedrine containing products (FDA,2017). Kristen mentioned living in a rural Tennessee community where drugs are a prevalent problem. I also currently reside in a more rural area of Tennessee but have lived in different areas all over the state, and it has been my observation that methamphetamine use, as well as opioid abuse, is prevalent statewide. On July 1, 2014, former Governor Bill Haslam signed into law that a prescription would be required to obtain more than 28.8 grams of pseudoephedrine a year, with equals to five months of the minimum dosage of Sudafed (Sisk, 2014). The stricter laws were passed in addition to the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 due to Tennessee being amongst the top states for meth lab seizures.

My feelings are similar to Kristen's in that there are definite pros and cons to the additional laws and limitations of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine sales in Tennessee. While these laws aid in reducing the production and transactions of methamphetamine products within our state, it also makes it more difficult for the patients who do not abuse this product to receive convenient treatment for allergy and sinus symptoms.

References:

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