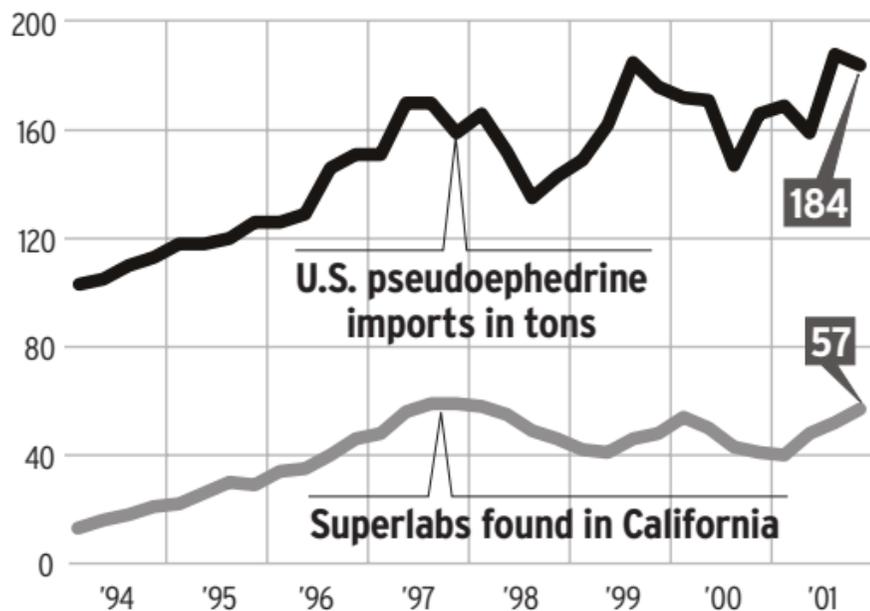


PSEUDOEPHEDRINE AND METH LABS

U.S. drug companies import pseudoephedrine for use in cold pills. Massive quantities of those pills end up in superlabs that produce 80 percent of the U.S. meth supply. In the 1990s, when legitimate cold sales were flat and meth production soared, the impact of the illicit market could be seen in quarterly customs statistics.

Note: Each point represents an average of the preceding four quarters of data.

Sources: Western States Information Network; U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division



DERRIK QUENZER, STEVE SUO/THE OREGONIAN