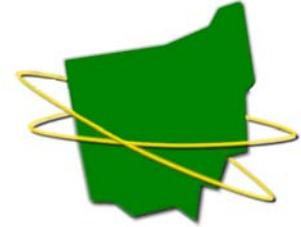




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: January 2004
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

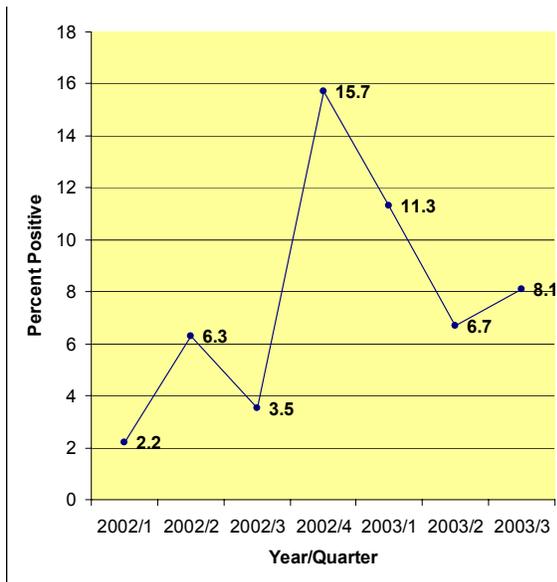
PCP Abuse Reported in Several Areas of the State

In January 2004, the OSAM Network obtained continuing reports about the abuse of PCP (phencyclidine) in the Cleveland, Dayton, and Cincinnati areas. In the previous reporting period some evidence about PCP abuse was also obtained in the Columbus and Youngstown areas.

According to treatment provider and active user reports, PCP is typically abused in the form of marijuana or tobacco cigarettes dipped in PCP-containing solutions. On the streets, these cigarettes are typically referred to as "wets," "dips" or "sherm." Some users believe that "wets" are dipped in "embalming" fluid, and may be unaware that this solution contains PCP.

Focus group participant reports about potential increases in PCP abuse are supported by ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program) data from the Cleveland area. According to ADAM data,

Percentage of Adult Male Arrestees in the Cleveland Area Testing Positive for PCP (ADAM data).



Cleveland has consistently reported relatively high rates of PCP abuse compared to many other sites across the nation. Recent data suggest some potential increases in PCP abuse (see below). For example, in the fourth quarter of 2002, around 15% of all adult male arrestees tested positive for PCP. The rate stabilized by the end of 2003, and in the third quarter of 2003, about 8% of all adult arrestees tested positive for PCP.

Focus groups with drug users suggest that "wets" are more typically abused among African Americans. These observations are corroborated by ADAM data from the Cleveland area. For example, in 2002, the rate of PCP abuse among African American male arrestees was 7.9%, while among white arrestees it was 2.9%. However, abuse may be spreading into other populations of users, including white youth and young adults.

Abuse of PCP-laced marijuana or tobacco cigarettes needs further monitoring. It may represent a spreading trend which is especially troubling considering that

many users may be unaware about the presence of PCP in the marijuana or tobacco cigarettes they call "wets." The trend is being monitored nationwide by the NIDA's Community Epidemiology Work Group.

More information on PCP abuse can be found at the Ohio Early Warning Network website:

<http://www.ebasedprevention.org/own/alert008.htm>.

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network. Informants located throughout the state use qualitative and quantitative data to provide semiannual monitoring of substance abuse trends. The OSAM Network is funded by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services by contract to Wright State University and by subcontract to the University of Akron. This OSAM-O-GRAM is based on the January 2004 OSAM Network meeting.

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