



OSAM-O-GRAM



DATE: October 2005
DATELINE: Ohio

Wright State University
The University of Akron

Targeted Response Initiative on Methamphetamine Abuse in Ohio Part I: Abuser Characteristics

Between January and June 2005, the OSAM Network conducted a Targeted Response Investigation (TRI) on methamphetamine abuse to provide the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) with data needed to inform policy and intervention initiatives. The main purpose of the study was to provide a preliminary epidemiologic description of pathways to, and patterns of, methamphetamine abuse, perceived availability, negative consequences, and treatment experiences. This is the first part of a four-part series of OSAM-O-Grams describing the general characteristics of methamphetamine abusers interviewed across the state.

Regional Epidemiologists conducted audio-taped interviews with a total of 83 individuals in Akron (16), Cincinnati (19), Cleveland (8), Columbus (7), Dayton (17), Toledo (4), Youngstown (8), and the rural southeast (5) who had self-reported a recent history of methamphetamine abuse

The majority of the participants were men (64%), and 83.1% were white. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 57 years (mean 32.0); over half of the participants were between the ages of 19 and 29. Just over 70% of the participants were in recovery (some of them were interviewed in the substance abuse treatment centers or correctional facilities). Almost 50% considered methamphetamine their primary drug of abuse. More than a third reported using methamphetamine for two or less years. All participants, except six individuals interviewed in Cleveland, reported methamphetamine abuse within the past 12 months. About 30% of the participants reported using methamphetamine within the past month. Intranasal inhalation and/or smoking were the most common routes of methamphetamine administration at the time of last use. About 15% reported injecting methamphetamine.

Parts II, III, and IV of this OSAM-O-Gram series will describe perceived trends in availability, pathways to methamphetamine abuse, and user types.

Participant characteristics	N	%
Gender		
Male	53	64.0%
Female	30	36.0%
Ethnicity		
White	69	83.1%
African American	12	14.5%
Other	2	2.4%
Age (years)		
19 - 29	48	57.8%
30 - 39	12	14.5%
40 - 49	18	21.7%
≥ 50	5	6.0%
Use status		
recovering user	59	71.0%
active user	24	29.0%
Drug of choice		
methamphetamine	41	49.4%
heroin and/or other opioids	18	21.7%
crack or powdered cocaine	9	10.8%
marijuana	14	16.9%
alcohol	1	1.2%
Duration of methamphetamine use		
2 years or less	31	37.3%
between 2 and 5 years	26	31.3%
more than 5 years	26	31.3%
Last use of methamphetamine		
within last month	25	30.1%
between 1 and 12 months ago	52	62.7%
more than 12 months ago	6	7.2%
Modes of administration (last use)		
intranasal inhalation	25	30.1%
smoking	24	28.9%
intranasal inhalation and smoking	16	19.2%
injection	13	15.6%
swallowing	4	4.8%
"hot-railing" (intranasal inhalation of vapors)	1	1.2%

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 a field report received June 2005.

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