

## Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

### Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

June 2010-January 2011

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Orman Hall, Director

#### Toledo Region

- Increased availability of heroin and marijuana
- Heroin users primarily 16-25 year-old Whites with prescription opioid abuse history
- Heroin abuse increasing among Hispanics
- Many users have shifted from OxyContin® to heroin
- White powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Marijuana availability increased due to resale of Michigan medical marijuana in Ohio

#### Cleveland Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids and marijuana
- Heroin currently as available as crack cocaine
- Heroin becoming more popular among young people
- Brown powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Marijuana more available today than ever before
- New ecstasy formulation containing MDPV (methylenedioxypyrovalerone) present

#### Dayton Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids, Suboxone® and ecstasy
- Crack cocaine decreasing in availability as more users seek heroin
- More young people using heroin, starting at age 15 or 16
- Use of prescription opioids has gained popularity with those ages 12 and older
- Many users begin with prescription opioids before moving to heroin
- Brown/white powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent

#### Akron-Canton Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids and sedative-hypnotics
- Significant increase in heroin use in White teens and college students
- Brown powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Dramatic increase in sedative-hypnotic use, called "hidden epidemic"
- One-pot method of cooking methamphetamine increasing
- Synthetic marijuana appears to be growing in popularity

#### Cincinnati Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids and Suboxone®
- "Pill mills" believed to fuel prescription opioid epidemic in region
- First-time users of prescription opioids younger than first-time users of other drugs
- New heroin users likely to be 15-18 years old, White, and often female
- Brown/white powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Suboxone®/Subutex® abuse emerging among those with no history of opioid abuse

#### Youngstown Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids, sedative-hypnotics and ecstasy
- Heroin now as available as marijuana
- Users switching from crack cocaine and prescription opioids to heroin
- Heroin use increasing among teens to early 20's
- Brown powdered heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Popularity of over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicines increasing among young people

#### Columbus Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids, Suboxone® and ecstasy
- Due to widespread use, heroin called the new "crack cocaine"
- 14-29 year olds coming into treatment for heroin addiction
- Users switching from prescription opioids to heroin, as heroin is cheaper
- Black tar heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Illicit use of Suboxone® is most common among heroin addicts using the drug to avoid withdrawal when heroin is not available

#### Athens Region

- Increased availability of heroin, prescription opioids and prescription stimulants
- Prescription stimulants popular among college students
- Heroin and prescription opioid use increasing among teens to early 20's
- Clinical assessments most often note heroin as primary drug of choice
- Black tar heroin and injection use most prevalent
- Popularity of over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicine increasing among young people

