



# OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: October 5, 2001

DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University  
The University of Akron

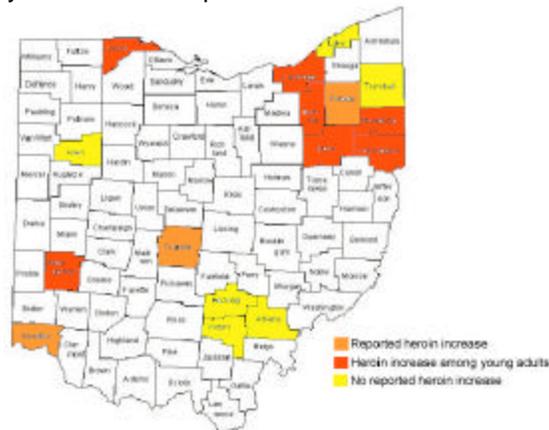
## Heroin Abuse Among White, Suburban Youth and Young Adults Continues to Rise and Spreads to Other Areas in Ohio

In January 2000, the OSAM Network reported increasing abuse of heroin in Dayton, Akron and Cleveland that was especially evident among white, suburban youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 25. Since that time, this emerging population of youth and young adults has been identified in other areas covered by the OSAM Network.

In June 2001 this emerging population of new, young heroin users continued in Dayton, Akron and Cleveland and was also reported in the OSAM Network areas of Youngstown and Toledo. Although not identifying increases in abuse specifically among juveniles and young adults, Columbus, Cincinnati, and counties in the rural northeast part of the State reported general increases in heroin availability and abuse.

Even though treatment providers are currently not reporting a substantial increase in treatment admissions for this young population, law enforcement and active users report slight to significant increases in heroin availability and abuse. The primary method of administration among this population is snorting.

Because of the limited availability of treatment services for juveniles and the particular difficulty in treating heroin addiction (given the brief treatment periods dictated by financial provisions), the OSAM Network is making the investigation of this emergent population a Rapid Response initiative for the June 2001 to January 2002 period. Results of this Rapid Response initiative will be available in the January 2002 OSAM report.



*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 June 2001 OSAM Network meeting.*

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