



# OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: January 24, 2002

DATELINE: Ohio

Wright State University  
The University of Akron

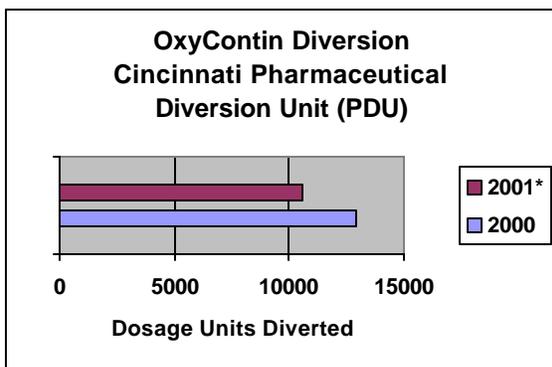


## OxyContin Abuse Continues to Increase and Spread Throughout Ohio

In June of 2000, the OSAM Network reported increasing abuse of oxycodone long-acting (OxyContin) in Youngstown, Dayton and Northeast and Southeast Ohio. By June of 2001, the OxyContin epidemic that was reported in nearby Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia had become increasingly evident in Ohio. Nine of the ten OSAM reporting areas (Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown and Northeast and Southeast Ohio) were reporting significant increases in OxyContin abuse.

Since our last report in June 2001, OxyContin abuse has continued to increase. Formerly seen as a drug of abuse primarily among the white population, Key Informants in Cleveland and Toledo report increasing abuse among African Americans. In Dayton, Youngstown and Northeast Ohio, the abuse of OxyContin is reportedly increasing among the younger population—many of whom have begun abusing heroin when they could no longer obtain or afford OxyContin.

The burglary of pharmacies for OxyContin continues throughout Ohio and poses dangers for pharmacy employees and customers. In fact, some pharmacies are now refusing to carry the drug in an attempt to reduce the potential for burglary. In the Dayton, Ohio, area alone, three major incidents of OxyContin diversion were reported in the local press.



Because of the continued increase and spread of opioid drugs, especially OxyContin, the OSAM Network is making the investigation of prescription drug abuse a Rapid Response initiative for the June 2002 to January 2003 reporting period. Results of this Rapid Response initiative will be available in the January 2003 OSAM report.

\* Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> most diverted pharmaceutical drug behind Hydrocodone (Vicodin) and Fentanyl.

*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 2002 OSAM Network meeting.*

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