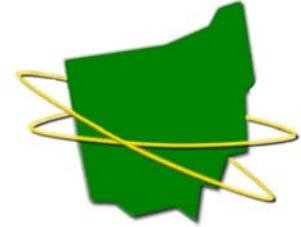




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: January 2004
DATELINE: Ohio



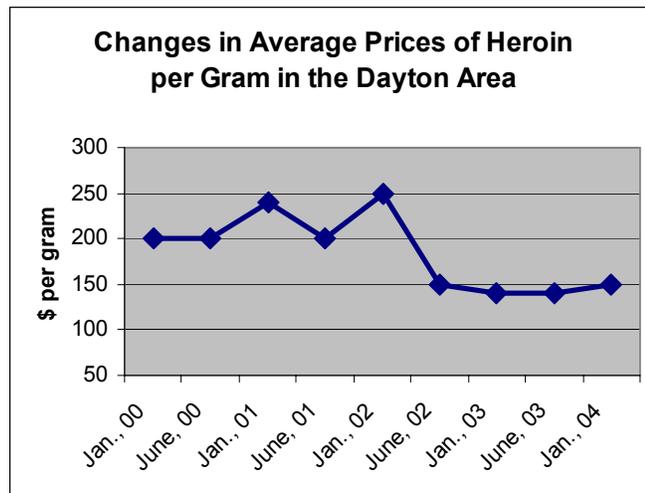
Wright State University
The University of Akron

Increases in Heroin Availability and Abuse Continue to be Reported Across the State

The OSAM Network started reporting statewide increases in heroin availability and abuse in 2000-2001. In the January 2004 reporting period, most areas of the state continued to report high availability of heroin. Typically, brownish or beige type heroin is available in most reporting areas. Only the Toledo area has been traditionally reporting high availability of black tar heroin. However, in recent months, active users have started seeing some increases in black-tar heroin in the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Youngstown areas. Reportedly, prices of heroin are decreasing in most areas of the state. In 2000, a gram was selling for \$200-\$250 or more in most areas of the state. In the current reporting period, the average price for a gram ranges between \$150 and \$180.

In 2000 and 2001, the first reports were obtained about increases in heroin abuse among white suburban youth and young adults. In the current reporting period, the OSAM Network obtained widespread reports from active and recovering users and treatment providers that white suburban youth and young adults continue to be one of the most prevalent groups of new heroin users. These young adults may start off snorting the drug, but eventually many switch to injecting the drug. The relationship between initial abuse of pharmaceutical opioids, especially OxyContin® (oxycodone controlled-release), and subsequent transition to heroin abuse continued to be reported by drug users and treatment providers in most reporting areas of the state.

In summary, heroin abuse continues at high level across the state and remains a serious problem especially among young white people. The OSAM Network will continue to monitor this significant trend.



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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