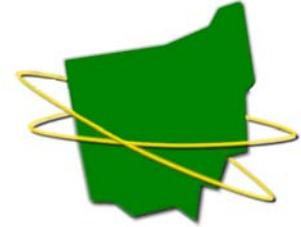




# OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: January 2004  
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University  
The University of Akron

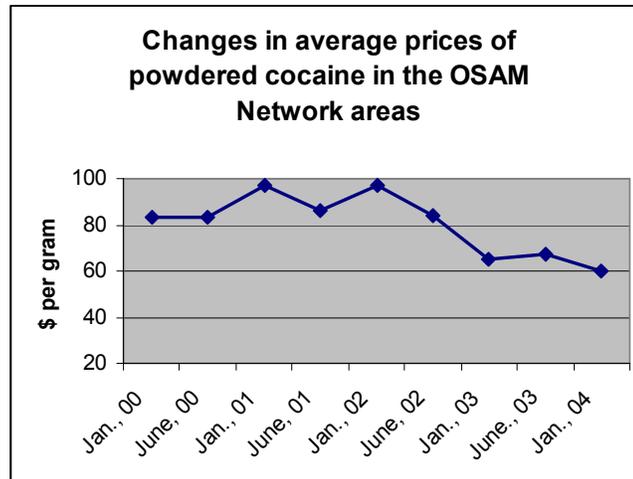
## Decreasing Prices of Powdered Cocaine Make it More Accessible to Diverse Users

Since January 2003, most areas of the state have been reporting significant increases in the availability of powdered cocaine as well as decreasing prices. As shown below, reported prices decreased from an average of \$80-\$100 per gram to about \$40-\$60 with prices beginning to fall in January 2003. Typically, powdered cocaine has been perceived as a drug more commonly abused among individuals of higher socioeconomic means. However, due to decreasing prices the drug is becoming accessible to a broader range of vulnerable populations. Young, college-age adults involved in the rave and dance club scenes, continue to be one of the growing groups of powdered cocaine users.

Powdered cocaine abuse continues to be commonly reported among suburban high-school age youth. A 21-year-old white woman from the Dayton area, who has used various club drugs, commented:

*Where I work, there are a lot of young girls that work there, anywhere between like 16 to 19, most of them are under 18 or just turning 18. And a lot of them are just now starting to get into coke because it's running around their high school real bad....*

Active users from most areas of the state reported increasing rates of speedball injection (mixing heroin and powdered cocaine) among heroin users. Active heroin users reported that these increases are due to growing accessibility of powdered cocaine. Most heroin dealers have cocaine for sale that is very low in price. These reports are corroborated by Miami Valley Crime lab data indicating that a higher proportion of syringes test positive for heroin and powdered cocaine.



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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