

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

June 2011-January 2012

John R. Kasich, Governor
Orman Hall, Director

Toledo Region

- Increased availability of heroin and Suboxone® likely
- Most heroin users report first heroin use occurring between 18-19 years of age, with first use of prescription opioids occurring earlier
- Dealers aggressively push heroin, frequently marketing it as fentanyl to lure more buyers
- Continued availability of bath salts and synthetic marijuana anticipated despite recent bans
- Crime lab reports dozens of non-controlled chemical analogues similar to bath salts

Cleveland Region

- Increased availability of heroin, marijuana, methadone, methamphetamine and sedative-hypnotics
- Heroin availability perceived to be at “epidemic” levels
- Increased availability of high-grade marijuana continues; marijuana is the most easily obtained illegal drug in the region
- Increased availability of methadone attributed to increased prescribing of the drug for pain management
- DMT (dimethyltryptamine), a psychedelic compound popular among users 16-25 years of age is thought to be an emerging drug trend

Dayton Region

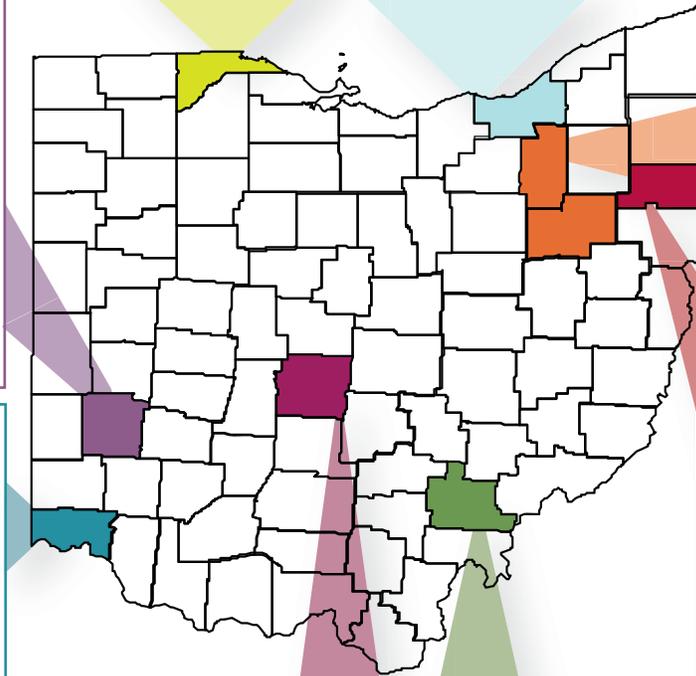
- Increased availability of heroin and marijuana
- Decreased availability of bath salts and prescription opioids (generally)
- Universal agreement that heroin is available; it is “falling out of the sky”
- Methadone abuse increasingly popular; Coroner’s staff reported methadone as the second-leading drug in overdose deaths
- While bath salts have decreased in availability since their ban, they remain easily obtainable

Akron-Canton Region

- Increased availability of heroin, powdered cocaine, sedative-hypnotics and Suboxone®
- Decreased availability of prescription opioids (generally)
- Opana® continues to gain in popularity as a replacement for OxyContin®
- Bath salts highly available; continued high availability despite recent ban
- Synthetic benzodiazepines (Zan-X®) available in head shops

Cincinnati Region

- Increased availability of heroin
- Decreased availability of methamphetamine likely
- Law enforcement attribute methamphetamine decline to increased scrutiny by pharmacies using MethCheck®
- Opana® and Roxicodone® gain in popularity as replacements for OxyContin®
- Heroin becoming prevalent for users in non-urban areas



Youngstown Region

- Increased availability of heroin and marijuana
- Increased availability of some prescription opioids, mainly Opana® and Roxicodone®
- Decreased availability of Ecstasy
- Law enforcement indentified heroin as the region’s primary drug problem
- While methamphetamine remains relatively rare in some parts of the region, reportedly, the drug is highly available in Ashtabula County

Columbus Region

- Decreased availability of methamphetamine and prescription opioids (generally)
- Decline in availability of prescription opioids attributed to closing of physicians’ offices known to liberally prescribe, and increased regulation on pharmacies
- Crime labs report heroin to be “typically pretty pure,” and one noted, “Columbus has an abundant supply of black tar heroin”
- Age of heroin initiation appears to be decreasing; reportedly, first-time users are as young as 15 years and typically White
- Bath salts remain of serious concern due to negative health consequences; users reported panic attacks and suicidal thoughts

Athens Region

- Increased availability of heroin and Suboxone®
- Decreased availability of bath salts
- Opana® continues to gain in popularity as a replacement for OxyContin®
- Increased scrutiny in emergency rooms means that users are looking elsewhere to obtain prescription opioids
- Crime lab reports dozens of non-controlled chemical analogues similar to bath salts