



OSAM-O-GRAM

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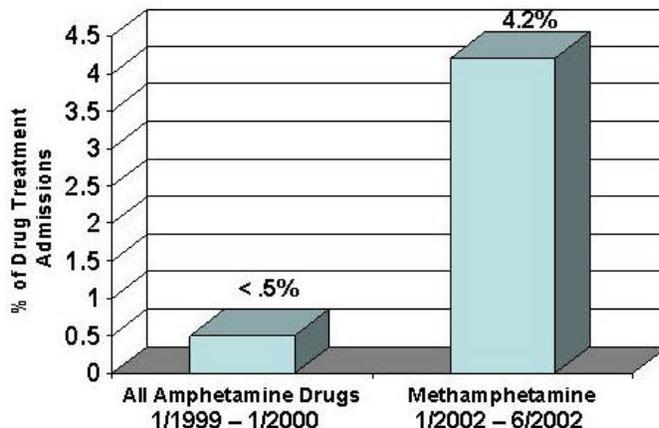
Wright State University
The University of Akron

Methamphetamine Abuse Increasing in Stark and Summit Counties

The OSAM Network has been monitoring the abuse of methamphetamine since the Network was formed in 1999. Methamphetamine is relatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture, raising concerns at both state and local levels that methamphetamine abuse could become a new and devastating drug problem for the state. These concerns motivated a Rapid Response Investigation for the reporting period of January 2001 to June 2001. The results of that investigation indicated that law enforcement agencies throughout the state were confiscating increasing amounts of the drug and reporting increasing numbers of lab busts. However, because active users did not perceive an increase in availability of methamphetamine on the street, and treatment providers did not report increasing numbers of clients seeking drug treatment for methamphetamine abuse, law enforcement efforts appeared to be successful in stemming the availability of the drug.

In the current reporting period, active users, treatment providers and law enforcement personnel in Summit and Stark counties perceived an increase in the abuse of methamphetamine, particularly by young adults aged 18-25. Reports from active users, law enforcement and treatment providers indicate that the drug is becoming a "party drug" associated with the "club scene" and is often used in combination with other substances.

Stark/Summit County Increase in Amphetamine/Methamphetamine Drug Treatment Admissions from 1999 to 2002



Drug treatment admissions for methamphetamine dependence are increasing in the Summit and Stark County regions. According to substance abuse treatment admissions data for Stark and Summit Counties, in 1999-2000 less than half of one percent of admissions were for methamphetamine abuse. In contrast, one Summit County residential drug treatment facility reported that methamphetamine abuse was the primary diagnosis for 4.2% of clients admitted to the facility in the first half of 2002.

These findings indicate that prevention efforts should be increased. Treatment agencies throughout the state should monitor this and carefully review therapeutic protocols accordingly. The OSAM Network will continue to closely monitor this drug trend around the state.

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 2002 OSAM Network meeting.

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