



OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: June 2004
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

Increases in Heroin-Related Overdose Incidents Reported Among White, College-Age Youth in the Toledo Area

In the spring of 2004, focus group interviews conducted with **Toledo** area emergency room personnel revealed increasing rates of heroin-related overdose cases among young adults (18-24-year-olds). These reports echo a previously reported increase in heroin-related overdose incidents in **Marietta/Washington** County.

The OSAM Network has been reporting increasing heroin abuse among white, suburban youth and young adults since early 2000. Treatment Episode Data Set* (Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) also suggests significant changes among heroin users in Ohio (Figures 1-2) in treatment. In 1999, about 5.2% of all heroin treatment admissions were individuals between the ages of 21 and 25; in 2003, this percentage increased to 16.8% (Figure 1). Changes occurred in terms of ethnic composition of the user population as well—in 1999 about 48.8% of all heroin treatment admissions consisted of whites; in 2003, whites comprised 69.8% of all heroin treatment admissions in Ohio

Figure 1. Changes in Heroin Treatment Admissions by Age (Ohio Treatment Episode Data Set)

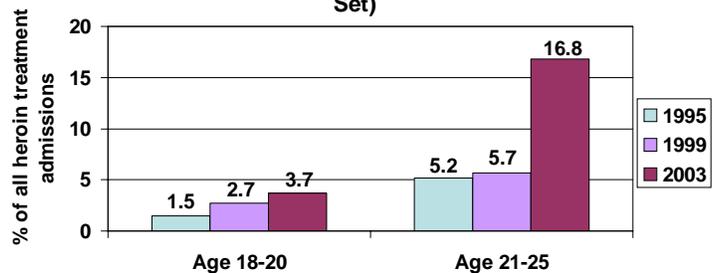
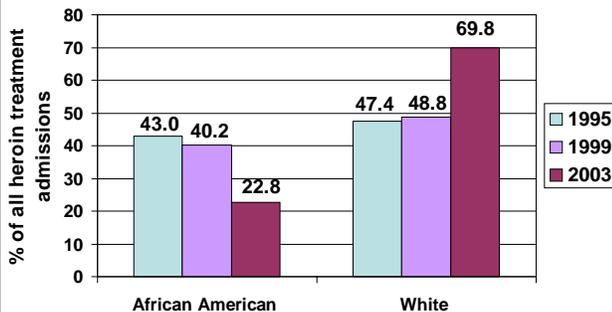


Figure 2. Changes in Heroin Treatment Admissions by Ethnicity (Ohio Treatment Episode Data Set)



(Figure 2). Reported increases in heroin-related overdose cases among white, college-age youth in **Toledo** and **Marietta** is a reflection of significant changes in the demographic composition of the user population. It appears that heroin abuse is no longer predominantly an inner-city phenomenon. New heroin users are coming from social environments that have relatively little exposure, experience, and “generational” knowledge about heroin use, which places these new users at even greater risk for heroin-related overdose.

*Note: Within each state, treatment providers that receive any state agency funding are expected to provide TEDS data for all clients admitted to treatment. The TEDS data collection effort began in 1989. TEDS is one of the three components of SAMHSA’s Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS).

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 2004 OSAM Network meeting.

Harvey A. Siegal, Ph.D., Director, Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research;
Robert G. Carlson, Ph.D.; Deric R. Kenne, M.S., Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD
(937) 775-2066 (office) (937) 775-2171 (fax) <http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/>
Wright State University, School of Medicine, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001
For more information, visit the ODADAS website: <http://www.odadas.state.oh.us>