



DATE: June 2007

DATELINE: Ohio

Wright State University & the University of Akron

Decreases in Methamphetamine Availability Across the State

At the June 2007 OSAM meeting, Regional Epidemiologists reported continuing evidence of decreases in methamphetamine availability and abuse in most areas of the state. For example, a white, male heroin user from Toledo, who had prior experience of methamphetamine injection, commented, "Meth is not as easy to find as everything else here." Similarly, a 43 year-old white woman from Dayton who had a long history of methamphetamine abuse, but considered crack her current primary drug of abuse, commented:

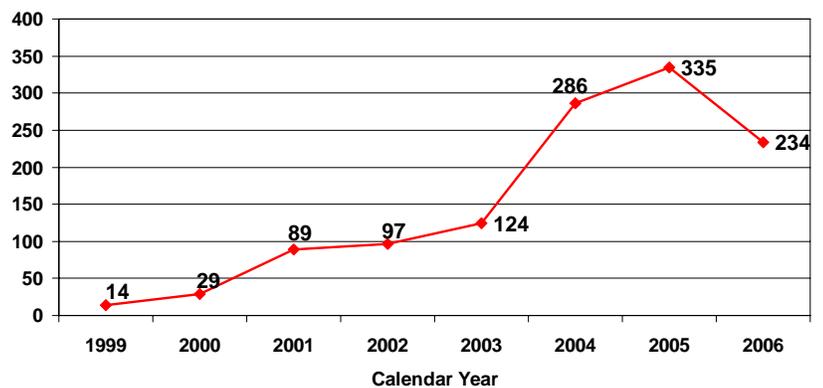
[Meth] is harder to come by.... That would really be my drug of choice. I'd put down a crack pipe in a heartbeat if I had me some good meth.... In the Dayton area it is not very available.

Indications of decreases in methamphetamine availability and abuse were first reported by the OSAM Network in June, 2006. Likewise, the National Clandestine Laboratory Database indicated in 2006 significant decreases in methamphetamine lab incidents in Ohio (Figure 1). Reports from the June 2007 OSAM Network meeting suggest that this trend is continuing.

Between 2002 and 2005, the OSAM Network reported increases in methamphetamine availability and abuse across Ohio. In the spring of 2006, Ohio enacted legislation to control sales of over-the-counter medications containing pseudoephedrine, a primary ingredient in methamphetamine manufacture. This legislation, in addition to other prevention efforts, appears to be having an impact.

At the June 2007 OSAM Network meeting, Regional Epidemiologists in Dayton, Cincinnati and Toledo reported that levels of methamphetamine availability and abuse were comparatively higher in surrounding rural areas and small towns. These reports will be investigated through an upcoming OSAM Targeted Response Initiative that will focus on substance abuse trends in rural communities across Ohio. Preliminary findings will be discussed at the January 2008 OSAM meeting, and final reports will be presented in June 2008.

Figure 1. Methamphetamine Lab Incidents in Ohio (Including Labs, Dumpsites, Chem/Glass/Equipment)



Source: www.dea.gov.concern/map_lab_seizures.html

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network. Regional Epidemiologists 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 2007 OSAM Network meeting.

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