



Dateline: Ohio

January 2008-June 2008

Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative Part I: Participant characteristics and an overview of drug abuse trends

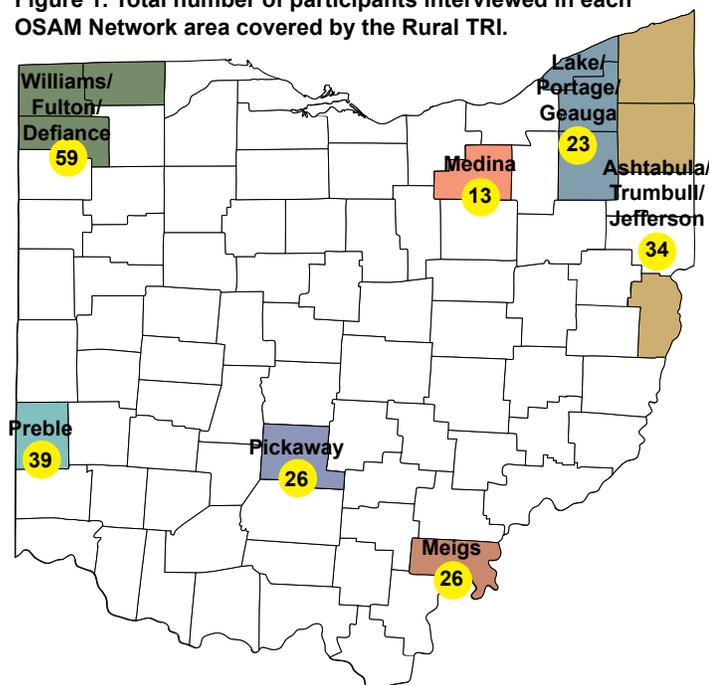
Participant characteristics

Between September 2007 and June 2008, the OSAM Network conducted a Targeted Response Initiative (TRI) on substance abuse trends in rural Ohio. Thirty-three focus groups and 15 individual interviews were conducted by OSAM Regional Epidemiologists in 13 rural counties across Ohio (Figure 1). In total, 220 individuals were interviewed; 68 participants were professionals including substance abuse treatment counselors, law enforcement officers and school officials. The remaining 152 study participants were active or recovering users. As seen from Table 1, the majority of users interviewed were white. More than half reported alcohol was their primary drug of abuse and about 34% reported marijuana use.

Table 1. Characteristics of drug users interviewed for the Rural TRI.

Gender	Number (%)	Primary drugs of abuse	Number (%)
Male	81 (53.3%)	Alcohol	80 (52.6%)
Female	71 (46.7%)	Marijuana	51 (33.6%)
Ethnicity	Number (%)	Powdered cocaine	35 (23.0%)
White	138 (90.8%)	Pharm. opioids	34 (22.4%)
Other	14 (9.2%)	Crack cocaine	22 (14.5%)
Age	Number (%)	Heroin	21 (13.8%)
18-29	67 (44.1%)	Methamphetamine	10 (6.6%)
30s	36 (23.7%)	Ecstasy/MDMA	5 (3.3%)
40s	38 (25.0%)	Psilocybin mushrooms	4 (2.6%)
50+	11 (7.2%)	LSD	3 (2.0%)

Figure 1. Total number of participants interviewed in each OSAM Network area covered by the Rural TRI.



Illicit drug use trends

Respondents in rural counties indicated marijuana and pharmaceutical opioids to be the most available drugs and rated their local availability as high. Most areas noted an increasing trend of pharmaceutical drug abuse, especially among adolescents and young adults. Local availability of crack was generally rated moderate to high. Unlike urban areas of the state, several rural counties, including Medina, Meigs, Defiance, and Fulton, reported that powdered cocaine was more readily available than crack cocaine. Local availability of heroin was generally rated low to moderate, but most areas noted an increasing trend of heroin abuse. Typically, users travel one to three hours to urban areas to obtain crack, powdered cocaine, and heroin, where availability of these drugs is higher and the prices are lower. Availability of locally manufactured methamphetamine was rated high in Defiance, Williams, and Preble counties, but the remaining rural regions indicated low availability of the drug.

Part II-V of this series will provide more detailed information about trends of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and pharmaceutical opioid abuse in selected rural counties.

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 reports 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 2008 OSAM Network meeting.

Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research

Robert G. Carlson, Ph.D. • Raminta Daniulaityte, Ph.D. • Tamara Hansen Reese, M.P.H. • Russel Falck, M.A. • Lawrence Hammar, Ph.D.
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine • 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001
Phone: (937) 775-2066 • Fax: (937) 775-2214 • www.med.wright.edu/citar/

For more information, visit the ODADAS website: <http://www.odadas.state.oh.us>