

# OSAM-O-Gram

## Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network "Methamphetamine"

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John R. Kasich, Governor  
Orman Hall, Director

## Increases in Methamphetamine Use Detected in Northeast Ohio

After years of reports of decreases in methamphetamine availability and use statewide, the OSAM Network has detected increases in the drug's availability and use, particularly in Northeast Ohio. OSAM first noted a general decrease in methamphetamine availability and use in June 2006 as reported in the June 2007 OSAM-O-Gram entitled: *Decreases in Methamphetamine Availability Across the State*. This decrease coincided with the spring 2006 enactment of Senate Bill 53 legislation to control sales of over-the-counter medications containing pseudoephedrine, a primary ingredient in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. This legislation, in addition to other prevention efforts, produced the desired effect of reducing methamphetamine availability and use.

Methamphetamine availability and use continued to decrease over subsequent years until recently as illustrated by ODADAS client admissions data represented in Table 1 on the following page. The rate of clients indicating methamphetamine as a drug of choice (primary, secondary or tertiary) at treatment entry increased for SFY 2010. Recent OSAM data for SFY 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) corroborates client admissions data, further identifying increases in methamphetamine availability and use, particularly in Northeast Ohio. Participants in the Akron-Canton, Cleveland and Youngstown regions report increased availability and use of methamphetamine; two independent crime labs in the northeast have also reported increases in the number of methamphetamine cases processed over the past two OSAM reporting periods. Additionally, participants in the Athens region and in rural areas of the Cincinnati region have also reported increases in methamphetamine availability and use; however, crime labs in these regions have not reported a change in the number of processed methamphetamine cases.

Law enforcement reported, "A lot of the old-generation [methamphetamine] labs have disappeared. Now, it's the one-pot cook. Most people are making it [methamphetamine] for themselves. There have been no meth [methamphetamine] lab busts in a while. We have not seen Mexican meth in a long time; most is home grown."

Participants reported, "[Methamphetamine] it's easy to make; with the new method of 'shake dope' [one-pot method], everyone has learned how to shake [make methamphetamine]. It's very simple [to make] and very plentiful."

Treatment providers reported, "There's more demand [for methamphetamine]. It's cheap to make ... seeing a rise ... increase coming into city from rural areas."

Increases in methamphetamine availability and use can be attributed to the "one-pot" or "shake 'n' bake" method, which has become widely known, for producing methamphetamine. By using common household chemicals along with ammonium nitrate found in cold packs and pseudoephedrine (typically found in some allergy medications), users, or rather "cooks," can produce

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# Increases in Methamphetamine Use Detected in Northeast Ohio, continued

the drug in approximately 30 minutes at nearly any location by mixing ingredients in easily found containers, such as 2-liter plastic soda bottles (HIDTA, 2010, <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs40/40388/40388p.pdf>).

Typical users of methamphetamine are 18- to 50-year-old White males. Treatment providers in Akron, Canton and Toledo report the drug to be popular among gay men.

The OSAM Network will continue to monitor methamphetamine statewide.

Year	Admissions
2005	1,500
2006	1,400
2007	1,300
2008	940
2009	870
2010	1,040

Table 1. Rate of methamphetamine use per 100,000 treatment admissions for state fiscal years 2005-2010.

