



OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: January 25, 2002

DATELINE: Ohio

Wright State University
The University of Akron



Crack-Cocaine Abuse Increasing Among Youth

Crack-cocaine abuse continues at high levels in Ohio's urban areas. It is a leading cause of drug treatment admissions among adults, second only to alcohol. Key informants report that crack-cocaine remains readily available and its abuse may be increasing, especially in the urban centers of Cleveland, Youngstown, Akron-Canton, Columbus, Toledo, Dayton, and Cincinnati.

In the current reporting period, law enforcement officials in Montgomery and Lucas Counties report an increase in the number of young people, including adolescents, abusing the drug. Treatment providers in Columbus, Toledo, and Akron-Canton areas have observed an increasing number of young people referred to treatment for crack-cocaine abuse.

Given the continued popularity of crack-cocaine and the devastating effects its abuse has on people and communities, aggressive prevention programs are urgently needed, particularly those targeting young people. Given the stigma attached to crack-cocaine, its abuse is likely to be underreported.



\$10 and \$5 rocks of crack-cocaine.

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 January 2002 OSAM Network meeting.

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