

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

June 2012 - January 2013

John R. Kasich, *Governor*
Tracy Plouck, *Director*

Toledo Region

- Increased availability of heroin, Suboxone®; and likely increased availability of sedative-hypnotics and synthetic marijuana
- Increase in drug treatment requests for heroin addiction; typical users are in their late teens or early 20s; and those who likely abused prescription drugs before heroin use
- The BCI Bowling Green and Toledo Police crime labs report increase in powdered heroin and Xanax® cases
- Treatment providers report women more likely to abuse sedatives-hypnotics

Cleveland Region

- Likely increased availability of heroin and methamphetamine
- Likely decreased availability of powdered cocaine
- Treatment providers note a rise in the number of heroin addicted clients and continue to highlight “pill progression” from prescription opioids to heroin; noting that heroin’s appeal to younger people including “high schoolers” is on the rise
- Current rise in availability of methamphetamine reportedly due to the ease of the “one-pot” method of production and increased production in nearby Akron
- Slight decrease in availability of powdered cocaine as dealers use the drug to manufacture crack cocaine to maximize profits
- Law enforcement attributes decrease in powdered cocaine use to recent large scale police busts

Dayton Region

- Likely decrease in availability of bath salts, powdered cocaine, sedative-hypnotics and Suboxone®
- Users are abusing Ambien® to stay awake and not to sleep; community professionals note benzodiazepine use combined with other substances has led to increased drug overdoses, particularly with heroin
- Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab notes a rising trend of methamphetamine use with heroin and an increase in intravenous use

Cincinnati Region

- Likely decreased availability of bath salts and Ecstasy
- Heroin availability remains high, reportedly due to the high cost of abusing prescription opioids
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) reports more black tar heroin in the region
- Illicit Suboxone® users typically use the drug until they can get heroin or into treatment
- High availability of methamphetamine in rural areas around Cincinnati
- The BCI London Crime Lab reports increase in methamphetamine cases processed

Akron-Canton Region

- Increased availability of heroin and Suboxone®
- Likely increased availability of methamphetamine and sedative-hypnotics
- Decreased availability of Ecstasy and powdered cocaine
- Increased heroin availability attributed to difficulty obtaining prescription opioids
- In rural areas, increased availability and use of heroin
- Local billboards advertise free Suboxone®; individuals commonly share prescribed Suboxone® with friends

Youngstown Region

- Likely increased availability of methamphetamine and synthetic marijuana
- Heroin identified as the region’s primary drug problem
- Participants report 6 to 8 out of 10 heroin users “speedball” with heroin and crack and/or powdered cocaine
- Mahoning County Coroner’s Office reports prescription opioids present in 44% of all drug-related deaths occurring over past six months
- Methamphetamine, heroin are easiest substances to obtain in Ashtabula County
- Boxes of Sudafed® are commonly exchanged for methamphetamine or heroin

Columbus Region

- Likely increased availability of heroin, methamphetamine and Suboxone®
- Community professionals express growing concern about younger heroin users and the growing number of users switching from prescription opioids to heroin
- Heroin easily obtainable.
- Law enforcement encounters more people who had predominately used crack cocaine, now using heroin because heroin is readily available at a low cost
- Treatment providers report that Suboxone® is used illicitly to get high and to self-medicate

Athens Region

- Increased availability of methamphetamine; and likely increased availability of heroin
- Likely decreased availability of powdered cocaine
- Poor quality of cocaine and ease by which methamphetamine is made today drive increased availability and use of methamphetamine
- Treatment providers report that the number of users entering treatment who identify heroin as their primary drug of choice has increased
- Law enforcement reports that many dealers get their supply of heroin in Columbus to sell locally in the region

