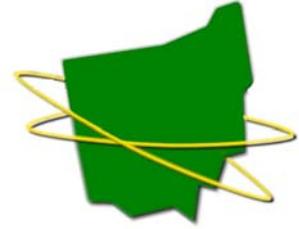




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: June 2003

DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

Increases in Methamphetamine Availability and Abuse Reported in Several Areas of the State

Since 1999 methamphetamine availability has fluctuated over time and across different regions of the state. However, since June 2002, increases in methamphetamine abuse have been reported in the Akron-Canton area, followed by increases in treatment admissions for methamphetamine dependence.

Findings from the June 2003 statewide OSAM meeting confirmed a continuing trend of increases in methamphetamine abuse in the Akron-Canton area. Increases in methamphetamine availability and abuse were also reported in Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown areas. Treatment providers also expressed general awareness about a growing problem of methamphetamine abuse, although increases in treatment admissions have not yet been reported in these same areas.

Findings from focus groups were corroborated by statistical data from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, which suggest increases in methamphetamine lab busts across much of the state. For example, as illustrated in the graphic below, there was an increase in methamphetamine lab busts in 7 of the 8 areas currently covered by the OSAM Network.

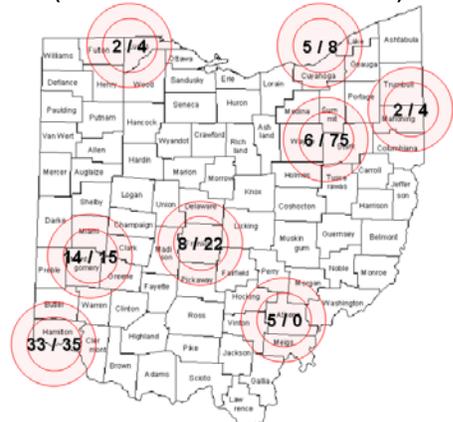
According to focus group participants from the Akron, Columbus, and Dayton areas, methamphetamine is typically produced locally in small home-based labs, but trafficking cases were also reported. Methamphetamine reportedly sells for \$130 - \$200 per gram. Prices in the Akron area were reportedly lower, at \$80-100 per gram. Most commonly, methamphetamine is inhaled intranasally or smoked in glass pipes. Injection appears less common.

Focus group participants from the Akron, Columbus, Dayton, and Youngstown areas suggested that one of the fastest growing groups of methamphetamine abusers consists of white high-school and college-age youth, who usually come from working- or middle-class families. Many individuals reportedly get introduced to methamphetamine at rave-type parties, but their abuse often extends beyond the party scene. As a 20-year-old white woman from the Dayton area commented:

I started using at parties, at raves... like I didn't know what it [methamphetamine] was basically until then. I went from parties to using it on an everyday basis... I would use it before going to work....

In summary, OSAM Network data suggest a growing problem of methamphetamine abuse in several regions across the state. Prevention initiatives are urgently needed that warn naïve young people about the dangers of methamphetamine abuse. For detailed information on methamphetamine as a psychoactive drug of abuse, visit the Ohio Early Warning Network (OEWN) web site (<http://www.ebasedprevention.org/owen/default.htm>).

Reported Methamphetamine Lab Busts (Fiscal Year 2002/Fiscal Year 2003)



*Data from the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation

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 June 2003 OSAM Network meeting.

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