



# OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: October 2005  
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University  
The University of Akron

## Targeted Response Initiative on Methamphetamine Abuse in Ohio Part II: Perceived Trends in Methamphetamine Availability

OSAM Network interviews conducted with 83 methamphetamine (meth) abusers from across the state (January – June, 2005) suggest that the availability of meth has been increasing, in part due to increases in local production. For example, a 44-year-old white woman from the Dayton area commented,

*A few years ago [we] used to say, well when it's [methamphetamine] in, it's in, you might wanna get it now. But nowadays I think it's a lot more readily available--more, more labs, more people learning to make it, availability's easy.*

Participant reports are supported by data from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCI&I) indicating that meth lab busts across the state rose nearly 10 fold from 2000 through 2004.

Interviews with meth abusers suggest some regional variation in availability. For example, meth availability in the Cleveland area was described as relatively low, and mainly restricted to small networks of men-who-have sex-with men. In contrast, Akron (Summit County) was described as a "city that never sleeps," with the highest number of meth laboratory busts in the state. Here, the influence of increased enforcement on the number of lab busts is unknown.

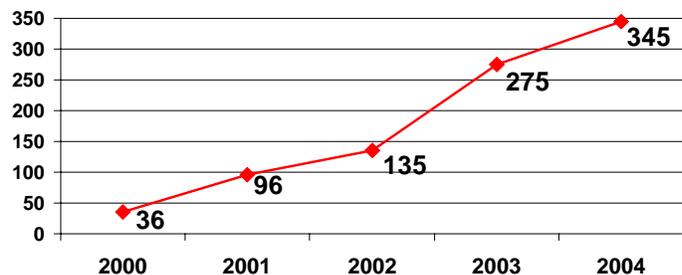
Participants in most areas of the state described to two distinct types of methamphetamine.

- 1) "Crystal" or "jib," which looks like white or yellow powder, was described as the most common form of meth available in Ohio. Some older users referred to this type of meth as "crank." The majority of participants believed that "crystal" is produced locally, and, on average, sells for about \$100 per gram.
- 2) "Glass," which looks like shards of glass, is another form of meth that is available across the state, but to a lesser extent than "crystal." Some users believed that "glass" type meth may be brought into Ohio from sources outside the state; others reported that "glass" was produced locally as well. Typical "glass" prices were reported around \$120 per gram.

Although our findings indicate that methamphetamine abuse is increasing, such increases are not associated with widespread street sales, like crack cocaine.

Despite increases in the availability and abuse of methamphetamine reported by active and recovering users, treatment providers across the state continue to report low levels of people seeking treatment for methamphetamine abuse. These findings indicate the importance of continued monitoring.

Methamphetamine Lab Busts in Ohio  
According to BCI&I



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 a field report received June 2005.

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