

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

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John R. Kasich, Governor
Orman Hall, Director

Toledo Region

- Heroin business thriving; dealers often provide samples before purchase
- IV users report getting needles from diabetics, pharmacies and through street purchase
- Illicit Suboxone® use remains most common among heroin users to avoid withdrawal when heroin is unavailable
- Increasing sedative-hypnotic use among school-aged youth who do not necessarily hide use
- Crime lab reports new forms of synthetic marijuana not seen previously, along with increased number of bath salts cases

Cleveland Region

- High availability remains for heroin, prescription opioids and Suboxone®
- Pill progression to heroin extremely prevalent among those 16-30 years of age
- Users continue to obtain prescription opioids primarily from doctors
- Opana® and methadone cited as up-and-coming opioids of abuse
- Higher quality marijuana more available

Dayton Region

- Increased availability of bath salts and heroin
- Dealers aggressively push heroin, often giving away free samples
- Heroin dealers now carry powdered cocaine for convenience to users who “speedball”
- Bath salts rapidly gaining in popularity
- Synthetic marijuana remains popular due to the belief that it cannot be detected by urine drug screens

Cincinnati Region

- Increased availability of heroin, methamphetamine and Suboxone®
- Coroner’s office reports higher number of heroin-related deaths
- Opana® increasing in both desirability and availability
- Methamphetamine combined with heroin to “speedball”
- Bath salts highly available

Columbus Region

- Increased availability of prescription opioids, sedative-hypnotics and synthetic marijuana
- Young users do not view sedative-hypnotic use as dangerous
- Prescription opioid users continue to progress to heroin as heroin is cheaper and easier to obtain
- Anticipated increase in methamphetamine availability due to increased “meth” presence in border states
- Crime lab reports number of bath salts cases it processes has increased

Akron-Canton Region

- Increased availability of heroin and methamphetamine
- Opana® becoming popular as replacement for OxyContin®
- Teenage males, as early as junior high school age, more commonly using heroin
- Greater access to methamphetamine now that “shake-n-bake” method widely known
- Greater number of users seeking and using high-grade marijuana

Youngstown Region

- Increased availability of heroin, methamphetamine, prescription stimulants and Suboxone®
- Heroin users report increased overdoses, widespread IV use and hepatitis C infections
- Users report increased Suboxone® prescribing, particularly of strips
- Increased availability of methamphetamine due to more people manufacturing the drug
- Increased abuse of synthetic marijuana; some providers have started to screen for the drug

Athens Region

- Heroin has become as accessible as marijuana
- Increase in requests for detox services from IV heroin users
- Crime lab continues to report heroin as “very pure”
- Obtaining prescription opioids “as easy as going to the store to get a gallon of milk”
- Opana® popularity and availability increasing

