



OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: April 20, 2000
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

Ecstasy Use Being Fueled By Young White Population

Several indicators are pointing to a significant increase in ecstasy use as reported by OSAM Network Key Informants. This growing population of users is described as white adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15-25. In Ohio, the use of MDMA (ecstasy) among the black population is reportedly very rare.

Ecstasy is considered a "club drug," and its use is heavily influenced by the Rave scene. Raves are all-night parties characterized by loud techno music, light shows, and the use of *mind expanding* substances. Volumes of Internet web sites attest to the current popularity of Raves (e.g., <http://www.raves.com>, <http://www.ravedata.com>, and <http://www.clubcommunity.com/scenes/rave>).

Law enforcement agencies have seen an increase in availability of the drug. Dayton Police Department seized a United States Postal Parcel containing several unit doses of ecstasy, and Cincinnati Drug Task Force was able to purchase ecstasy for \$20-\$25 a unit.

Although ecstasy is reportedly very popular at this time, it appears that users are naive as to the implications of its acute and chronic use. Consequently, intervention and prevention measures aimed at educating young adults is recommended. Likewise, treatment agencies need to be made aware of a potential increase in admissions for ecstasy abuse and may need to develop new treatment approaches addressing ecstasy abuse/addiction among this younger population.

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Monitoring Network (OSAM). Key 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 2000 OSAM meeting.

Harvey A. Siegal, Ph.D., Director, Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research;
Robert G. Carlson, Ph.D.; Deric R. Kenne, M.S.
(937) 775-2066 (office) (937) 775-2171 (fax) <http://www.wright.edu/som/academic/subabuse/saip.html>
Wright State University, School of Medicine, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001
For more information, visit the ODADAS website: www.state.oh.us/ada/odada.htm.

Funding for this report provided by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment under Contract No. 270-97-7033 (State Demand and Needs Assessment: Alcohol and Other Drugs).