



OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: October 10, 2001

DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

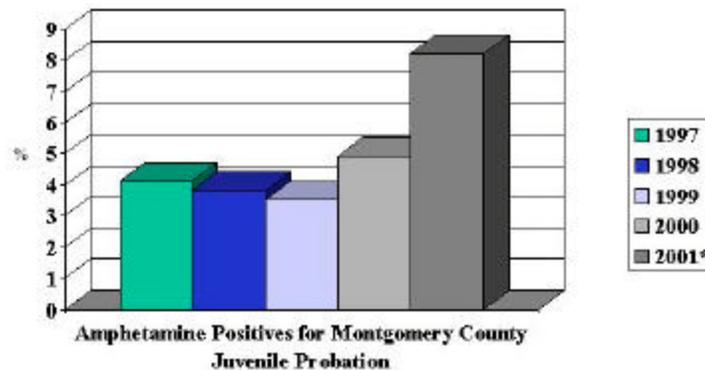
Ecstasy Use Increasingly Common Outside of Traditional Venues & Appears to be Increasing in Popularity Among Minorities

The OSAM Network began reporting increasing abuse of Ecstasy (MDMA) in January 2000. This abuse was predominately among white, suburban youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 25. At that time ecstasy was reportedly used almost exclusively in conjunction with Dance Clubs or Raves.

Since our initial reports in January 2000, all ten areas covered by the OSAM Network have reported increasing availability and abuse of ecstasy. In addition to the reported increases in abuse, treatment providers, law enforcement, juvenile probation officers and active users have all perceived increases in abuse of ecstasy outside of the traditional Dance Club or Rave setting (i.e., home, school, small parties or gatherings, beaches, etc.) Use is also no longer limited to just weekends.

During this reporting period, Key Informants in Cleveland, Akron-Canton, and Columbus suggest ecstasy use is moving into other ethnic groups. Previously, OSAM Network participants perceived ecstasy use to be almost exclusively among white youth and young adults.

Given the significant increases in popularity and abuse of ecstasy, intervention and prevention measures need to be put in place. Active users generally do not perceive any negative effects as a result of their ecstasy use. Intervention strategies will likely need to address the naïve perception that many young users have: "Use of ecstasy is safe."



Note: Increase cannot be exclusively contributed to ecstasy because other amphetamine drugs are included. However, a Montgomery County Juvenile Probation urinalysis lab technician reported ecstasy as the primary reason for the increase in amphetamine positives.

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 2001 OSAM Network meeting.

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