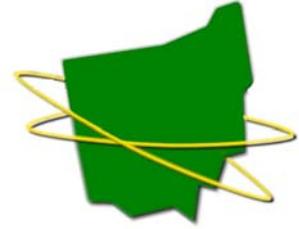




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: June 2004

DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

Increasing Diversification in the Patterns of Methamphetamine Abuse in Ohio

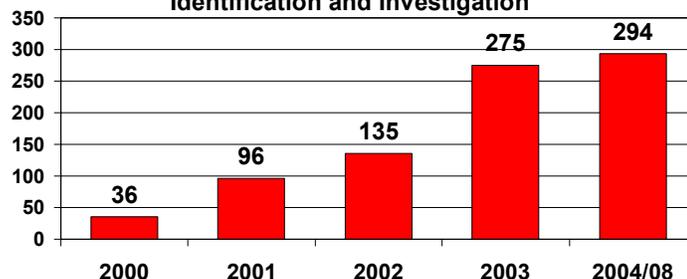
First reports about increases in methamphetamine production and abuse were obtained from the Akron area in 2000. Starting in 2002, most areas of the state were consistently reporting small increases in methamphetamine availability. According to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI&I), statewide methamphetamine lab busts increased from 36 in 2000 to 275 in 2003, and 294 through August of 2004 (Figure 1). According to crime lab professionals and active users from the Dayton and Columbus areas, methamphetamine trafficking from outside the state is increasing as well. Locally produced methamphetamine is described as a lower quality drug ("crank") that typically sells for \$35-\$50 per gram. Higher quality methamphetamine ("ice", "glass", "crystal meth") is typically trafficked from outside the state and sells for \$150 per gram on average.

According to interviews with active drug users from the Dayton and Columbus areas, important differentiation exists among methamphetamine users. As a 20-year-old white male user from Dayton put it, "There are two different user groups for the same drug; it's two different drugs really." Use of lower quality methamphetamine is believed to be more common among "poor whites." Users of a higher quality methamphetamine are primarily described as white young adults who may be initiated to the drug at rave-type parties. To date, it does not appear that abuse of either form of methamphetamine is increasing substantially among other ethnic groups.

Smoking and inhaling methamphetamine continue to be the most common methods of administration. However, active users of higher quality methamphetamine reported that oral administration ("capping") is increasingly common among those who prefer a more "controlled" high. In the current reporting period, active methamphetamine users from the Dayton and Columbus areas also described a mode of administration called "hot railing," which involves inhaling crystal methamphetamine through the nose as it vaporizes while passing through a heated glass pipe.

Current OSAM Network reports and BCI&I data indicate increasing availability of methamphetamine as well as increasing diversification in the patterns of abuse. To date, however, treatment providers across the state report having not experienced significant increases in admissions for methamphetamine abuse, but they may in the near future. The OSAM Network will continue monitoring this trend.

Figure 1. Methamphetamine Lab Busts in Ohio
According to the Bureau of Criminal
Identification and 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 2004 OSAM Network meeting.

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