



Ohio Substance  
Abuse Monitoring  
Network

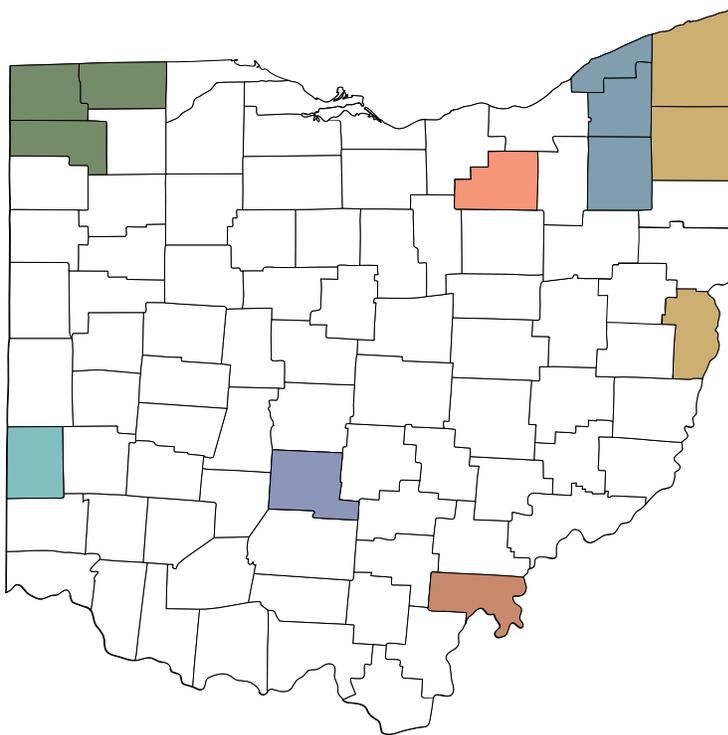


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
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# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron



Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services

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## Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative Executive Summary

### Introduction

Since 1999, the OSAM Network has been conducting epidemiological surveillance of drug abuse trends in most urban regions of the state and the rural southeast. In 2007, to obtain a better understanding of substance abuse trends in rural Ohio, ODADAS requested the OSAM Network to conduct a Targeted Response Initiative (Rural TRI) to examine substance abuse trends in selected rural counties across the state. This report is based on data collected by Regional Epidemiologists in Meigs, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Jefferson, Portage, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Pickaway, Preble, Fulton, Williams and Defiance counties (Figure 1).

Overall, our overviews below indicate that substance abuse trends vary substantially across the state, sometimes even among counties adjacent to one another. Such findings indicate significant local prevention and treatment challenges.

### Participants

Between September 2007 and June 2008, 33 focus groups and 15 individual interviews were conducted in 13 rural counties across Ohio. As seen in Figure 1, the number of participants interviewed in each region ranged from 59 in Rural Northwest (Fulton, Williams, Defiance counties) and 39 in Preble County, to 13 in Medina County. In total, 220 individuals were interviewed across the state. Sixty-eight participants were professionals including substance abuse treatment counselors, law enforcement officers and school officials. The remaining 152 participants were active or recovering users (Table 1).

The majority of users interviewed were white and about 47% were female. About 44% were between the ages of 18 and 29. More than half of the users reported that alcohol was one of their main drugs of abuse. Marijuana use was reported by almost 34% of the respondents, and about 22% reported illicit use of pharmaceutical opioids.

Figure 1. Total number of participants interviewed in each OSAM Network area covered by the Rural TRI.

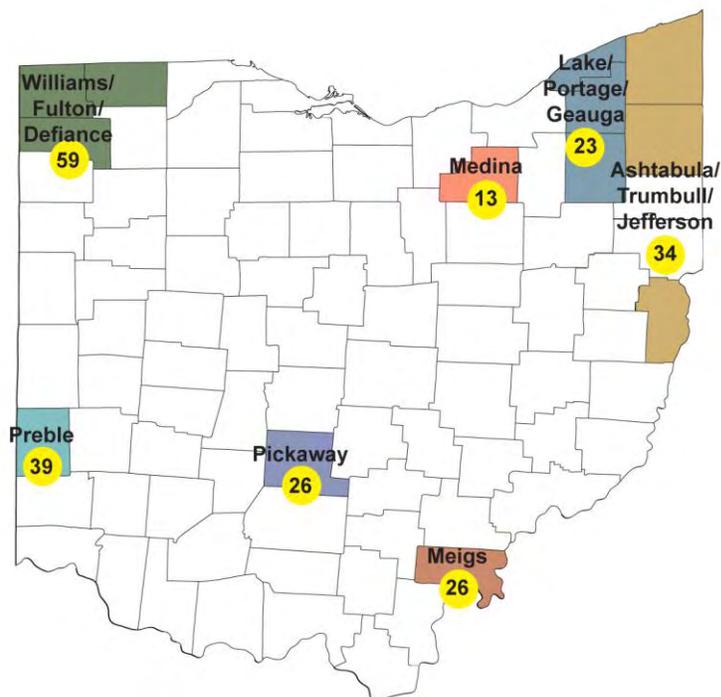


Table 1. Characteristics of drug users interviewed for the Rural TRI (N= 152).

Gender	Number (%)	Primary drugs	Number (%)
Male	81 (53.3%)	Alcohol	80 (52.6%)
Female	71 (46.7%)	Marijuana	51 (33.6%)
Ethnicity	Number (%)	Powdered cocaine	35 (23.0%)
White	138 (90.8%)	Pharm. opioids	34 (22.4%)
Other	14 (9.2%)	Crack cocaine	22 (14.5%)
Age	Number (%)	Heroin	21 (13.8%)
18-29	67 (44.1%)	Methamphetamine	10 (6.6%)
30s	36 (23.7%)	Ecstasy/MDMA	5 (3.3%)
40s	38 (25.0%)	Psilocybin	4 (2.6%)
50s	11 (7.2%)	LSD	3 (2.0%)

## ASHTABULA, TRUMBULL, AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

- According to users in this region, **crack cocaine** availability was high and stable. Crack was priced at \$75-\$80 per 1/16 ounce. Treatment providers in Trumbull County noted an increase in white crack-cocaine users.
- **Powdered cocaine** availability varied slightly. The majority of respondents indicating moderate availability, except for Ashtabula County where availability was low. Powdered cocaine sold for \$100-\$125 per 1/8 ounce, and was most commonly abused by people in their 20s.
- Availability of **heroin** was high in this region. Although brown powder was the most common form of the drug, participants in Jefferson County reported an increase in tar heroin. A “bag” of heroin sold for \$20, and injection was the most common route of administration. Respondents in Jefferson County reported increases in young, white females (18-30 years old) using heroin.
- The most commonly abused **pharmaceutical opioids** were OxyContin® (oxycodone, extended-release), Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) and Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen). Users rated availability of these drugs between 7 and 10 on a scale of 0-10. Most pharmaceutical opioids sell for \$0.50-\$1 per milligram of opioid content. Users were described as middle-class whites between the ages of 16 and 40. Ashtabula County reported a trend of pharmaceutical opioid abusers transitioning to heroin use.
- **Marijuana** availability was high and stable. It sold for \$100-\$275 per ounce, depending on quality.
- Few respondents had direct knowledge of **methamphetamine** availability and abuse, although law enforcement professionals reported several “lab busts.” Availability and

abuse of methamphetamine has apparently declined substantially in Ashtabula County.

- **Benzodiazepine** abuse was stable at moderate to low levels.

## PORTAGE, LAKE, AND GEAUGA COUNTIES

- **Crack cocaine** availability in this region was high and stable over the past six months. Prices for 1/8 ounce of crack varied greatly from \$75-\$275. Use was reported to be more common among whites. Users as young as 16-years-old were noted. Some participants reported cases of crack injection.
- **Powdered cocaine** was less available than crack, with most users rating availability at 3-5 on a 0-10 scale with the exception of Geauga County. Users in that county reported high availability (10). Powdered cocaine was priced at \$100-\$150 per 1/8-ounce.
- Ratings of **heroin** availability varied among groups, but respondents agreed that heroin availability had increased over the past six months. Brown powder was the most common form of the drug and sold for about \$100 per gram. Geauga County users reported low availability (2 on a scale 0-10) of black tar heroin.
- **Pharmaceutical opioids**, such as OxyContin®, Vicodin® and Percocet®, were highly available. Fentanyl, Dilaudid® (hydromorphone) and methadone were also available, but at much lower levels. OxyContin® was priced at \$0.50 - \$1 per milligram. Users believed that abuse of pharmaceutical opioids was popular among older individuals who abuse prescriptions obtained by “doctor shopping,” and among younger users who steal pharmaceutical opioids from relatives. Pharmaceutical opioids are injected or crushed and inhaled intranasally, and often used in combination with alcohol.

- Availability of **marijuana** was rated “10+” on a scale 0-10. High-quality marijuana sells for \$300-\$350 per ounce.
- **Methamphetamine** availability was rated low (0-3 on a 0-10 scale) and most users indicated that availability decreased significantly over the past year. Methamphetamine is typically smoked, and it sells for \$300 per 1/8 ounce or \$140 per gram.
- **Xanax® (alprazolam)** was considered to be the most readily available pharmaceutical tranquilizer in the three-county area, followed by Valium® (diazepam). Users in Geauga County rated Klonopin® (clonazepam) availability between 9 and 10 on a scale 0-10.
- Overall, users reported low availability of **hallucinogens** and **prescription stimulants** in this region.

## MEDINA COUNTY

- **Crack cocaine** availability was rated low (3 on a scale 0-10) by users and higher (7) by treatment providers. Users reported buying small \$5 “rocks.”
- **Powdered cocaine** availability was also moderately low (3-5); it sold for \$50 per gram. Quality was said to be poor. Several users reported “lacing” marijuana joints with cocaine.
- Treatment providers and law enforcement perceived **heroin** availability in Medina County to be 6-8 on a 0-10 scale. A “bag” of powdered heroin sells for \$10-\$15. Young individuals (18-25 years old) were described as a predominant user group. Treatment providers reported increases in heroin-related treatment admissions. Injection was the most common route of administration.
- Availability of **pharmaceutical opioids**, primarily OxyContin®, Vicodin® and Percocet®, ranged from 6 to 10 on a scale of 0-10. Codeine and morphine were also available, but at low levels. Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) abuse was rare. OxyContin® sells

for \$0.50-\$1 per milligram. Pharmaceutical opioid abusers were described as being primarily younger whites.

- Users rated **marijuana** availability between 6 and 10 on a 0-10 scale, and one user reported using the drug in combination with *Salvia divinorum*.
- Users and treatment providers had little knowledge of **methamphetamine** use trends in Medina County.
- Users reported that **benzodiazepines**, including Xanax®, Valium®, Klonopin®, and Ativan® (lorazepam), were readily available in Medina County and commonly were used in conjunction with alcohol.
- **Ecstasy, psilocybin mushrooms** and **LSD** ranged in availability from 2 to 8 on a 0-10 scale.

## DEFIANCE COUNTY

- **Crack cocaine** availability was high. Reportedly, crack sold for \$100 per gram and \$160-\$275 per 1/8 ounce. Some users reported difficulty obtaining crack paraphernalia (i.e. glass pipes, “rose stems”), and saw this as a barrier to use.
- **Powdered cocaine** sold for \$100-\$125 per gram in Defiance County, and users felt it was more available than crack.
- According to users, **heroin** availability in Defiance County was moderate. Heroin was typically purchased outside of the county.
- Users rated **pharmaceutical opioids**, including OxyContin®, methadone tablets, Vicodin®, and Percocet®, as highly available. OxyContin® was priced at \$50 per 80-milligram tablet. Users reported Suboxone® diversion and abuse. Both white and African-American users, aged 20-25 years, rated availability of promethazine/codeine syrup or “lean” as a 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. Pharmaceutical opioid abuse was reported to be increasing among white adolescents and young adults.

- According to users, **methamphetamine** availability in Defiance County has been high and increasing. The drug is of good quality and sells for \$80-\$125 per gram and \$300-\$350 per “8-ball” (1/8 ounce). Typical methamphetamine users were described as white males, aged 20-40.
- Users indicated high availability of **marijuana**; the highest quality is sold for \$50 per 1/8 ounce, and \$300 per ounce.
- Users indicated that **benzodiazepines**, including Xanax®, Valium® and Klonopin®, were highly available.
- Users in Defiance mentioned availability of marijuana joints or tobacco cigarettes dipped in what they perceived to be **PCP**. Availability of PCP was rated as moderately high.
- **Ecstasy** availability was high.
- **Alcohol** abuse was noted by users as a major problem in the area.

## WILLIAMS COUNTY

- Users in Williams County reported that **crack cocaine** availability was high and had increased over the past six months. Crack sold for \$20 per 1/2 gram and \$120 per 1/8 ounce.
- Users reported moderate availability of **powdered cocaine**, and rated it between 5 and 7 on a 0-10 scale. Prices were said to have increased over the past six months. A year ago, 1/8 ounce typically sold for \$160-\$180; currently it sells for \$270.
- Participants had little knowledge of **heroin** availability, use, or prices.
- Users rated **pharmaceutical opioids** as the most significant drug issue in the county. Respondents reported high availability of Vicodin®, Percocet®, OxyContin®, methadone, and to a lesser extent, Percodan®, Darvocet® (propoxyphene and acetaminophen), and Ultram® (tramadol). Most were priced at \$0.50 per milligram. An increase in

pharmaceutical opioid abuse was reported among white adolescents and young adults.

- **Methamphetamine** availability and abuse was rated high by users in Williams County. The most common form is a locally produced powder that sells for \$80-\$100 per gram and \$270 per 1/8 ounce. “Glass” methamphetamine was said to be harder to find; it sells for \$120 per gram. Methamphetamine users were described as white males, aged 20-40.
- **Marijuana** was also high in availability, and it was priced at \$40 per 1/8 ounce or up to \$500 per ounce for higher-quality marijuana.
- Many users reported that in Williams County **benzodiazepines** such as Xanax® had little to no street value.
- Participants reported **low** availability of Ecstasy.
- **Alcohol** abuse was noted by users as a major problem in the area.

## FULTON COUNTY

- **Crack cocaine** availability was moderate. Reportedly, crack sold for \$50 per gram and \$160 per 1/8 ounce.
- Users and treatment providers indicated there was high availability of **powdered cocaine**. The drug sells for \$40-\$50 per gram and \$100-\$160 per 1/8 ounce.
- Recovering users rated **heroin** availability as a 5 on a 0 to 10 scale, but law enforcement officers rated availability low, 1 or 2 on the same scale. Intravenous heroin abuse among older teens was reported by several participants.
- All participants indicated high availability of **pharmaceutical opioids**, including OxyContin®, Vicodin®, and Percocet®. Dilaudid® and Duragesic® were also available at low levels. Users reported that OxyContin® was priced at \$0.50 per milligram. Percocet® sold for \$1.50-\$3 per tablet. Users also reported Suboxone® diversion and abuse. An increasing

trend of pharmaceutical opioid abuse was noted among white adolescents and young adults.

- Fulton County users, treatment providers, and law enforcement officers had little knowledge of **methamphetamine** abuse in the county, and they rated its availability as low.
- **Marijuana** availability in Fulton County was a “10+” according to users, treatment providers, and law enforcement officers. Most marijuana was said to be locally grown; high-quality marijuana was priced at \$150-\$200 per 1/4 ounce.
- Users and treatment providers indicated high availability and abuse of **benzodiazepines**, primarily Xanax®, and to a lesser extent, Klonopin® and Valium®.
- **Ecstasy** availability was moderate.
- **Alcohol** abuse was noted by users as a major problem in Fulton County.

### PICKAWAY COUNTY

- The availability of **crack cocaine** was high and stable in Pickaway County with users rating it “10+” on a scale 0-10. Crack cocaine was priced at \$80-\$100 per gram in Pickaway County. It was reported that both users and dealers of crack cocaine were getting younger.
- Users rated **powdered cocaine** less available, a 7 on the 0-10 scale. Treatment providers reported a decrease in patients presenting for treatment for powdered cocaine addiction. Powdered cocaine sold for \$80 per gram and \$200 per 1/8 ounce. Users reported that injection use of powdered cocaine in conjunction with heroin (“speedballing”) was increasing.
- **Heroin** availability was moderate but increasing with users rating it 6-7 on a 0 to 10 scale. Both brown powder and tar heroin were available in Pickaway County. Users reported increasing availability of tar heroin in the past six months. Heroin quality was high, and it sold for \$120-

\$130 per gram or \$50 per “balloon.” Users and treatment providers noted that transition from pharmaceutical opioid abuse to heroin abuse was common. Typical heroin users were described as middle-aged whites and high school-aged youth (aged 15-17).

- Availability of **pharmaceutical opioids**, primarily Vicodin®, Percocet® and OxyContin®, was high. Treatment professionals reported that more people are presenting in treatment with opioid dependence.
- **Benzodiazepines**, including Xanax®, Valium®, and Ativan®, were rated between 7 and 10 on the availability scale.
- **Marijuana** availability in Pickaway County was high and stable. High-quality marijuana sold for \$50 per gram and \$400 per ounce.
- Users, treatment providers and law enforcement all indicated low levels of **methamphetamine** availability.
- Abuse of **other pharmaceuticals**, such as Ritalin® (methylphenidate), Adderall® (amphetamines), Soma® (carisoprodol), and Seroquel® (quetiapine) was also reported by users in Pickaway County.

### PREBLE COUNTY

- Availability of **crack cocaine** was rated as low to moderate (3 to 6 on a scale of 0 to 10), but users reported easy access to crack in the nearby urban areas, primarily Dayton. Crack sold for about \$150 per 1/8 ounce.
- Availability of **powdered cocaine** was also low and decreasing. Powdered cocaine sold for \$50 to \$75 per gram. Treatment providers reported very few powdered cocaine-related treatment admissions.
- Availability of **heroin** in Preble County was also low; users typically buy heroin in Dayton, where availability is high. Overall, participants reported an increasing trend of heroin abuse, primarily among young, white males (aged 20-30) of lower

to middle-class socioeconomic backgrounds. Heroin prices reportedly ranged between \$100 and \$130 per gram.

- **Pharmaceutical opioid** availability was high and stable, particularly, Vicodin®, Lortab® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen), Percocet® and OxyContin®. Fentanyl patches (Duragesic®) and suckers (Actiq®), liquid methadone, morphine and Dilaudid® were also available at lower levels. Street prices of most pharmaceutical opioids ranged from \$0.50 to \$1 per milligram of opioid content. Respondents indicated high rates of pharmaceutical opioid abuse among younger individuals, who may frequently obtain the drugs by stealing them from family members.
- Users rated **methamphetamine** availability at 7-10 on the 0 to 10 scale. Most powder-type methamphetamine is manufactured locally using the so-called anhydrous ammonia method. Powder methamphetamine sells for \$100 per gram. Methamphetamine in Preble County appeals to a broad range of users but particularly to those between the ages of 20 and 40.
- Users indicated **marijuana** availability and quality were high. It sold for \$30 to \$50 per 1/8 ounce. A few users reported that they had smoked *Salvia divinorum*.
- Participants reported high street availability of **benzodiazepines**, including Xanax®, Valium® and Klonopin®.
- Service providers and law enforcement officers reported cases of school-aged youth abusing over-the-counter cough and cold medications containing **dextromethorphan**.
- **Alcohol** and **inhalant** use was also reported as a significant problem among Preble County youth.

## MEIGS COUNTY

- Users reported moderate to high availability of **crack cocaine**, which sells for \$75-\$100 per gram. Most users smoke crack cocaine, but injection has increased due to poor quality of the drug.
- **Powdered cocaine** availability was rated at 9 on the 0 to 10 scale, and priced at \$100 per gram, or \$175-\$220 per 1/8 ounce. Users noted that most powdered cocaine is “rocked-up” (converted to crack) and smoked.
- Users and law enforcement reported low availability of **heroin**. Tar was the most common form, and it was priced at \$15-\$20 per “balloon.”
- Availability of **pharmaceutical opioids** such as OxyContin®, Vicodin®, Percocet®, and Percodan® (oxycodone and aspirin) was rated at 8 or higher on a scale of 0 to 10. Participants reported high prices for OxyContin®, reaching \$110 per 80-milligram tablet. Users noted increasing street availability of Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone).
- None of the users interviewed had experience with **methamphetamine**, but they thought its availability was moderately high.
- High quality, locally grown **marijuana** is highly available and referred to around the state as “Meigs County Gold.” High-grade marijuana was highly available, and sold for \$50 per 1/8 ounce or \$350-\$400 per ounce.
- **Prescription stimulant** abuse was reported among younger users (16-22 years old). **Ecstasy**, **GHB** and **LSD** were also available at moderate levels.

Full OSAM reports are available at:  
<http://www.odadas.state.oh.us>.



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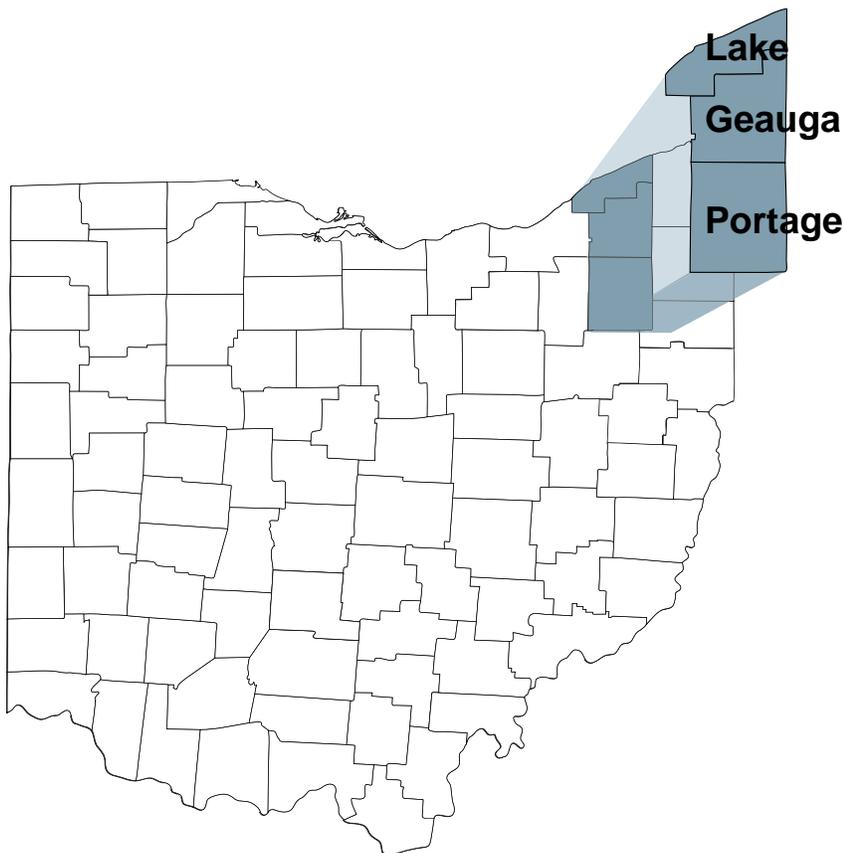


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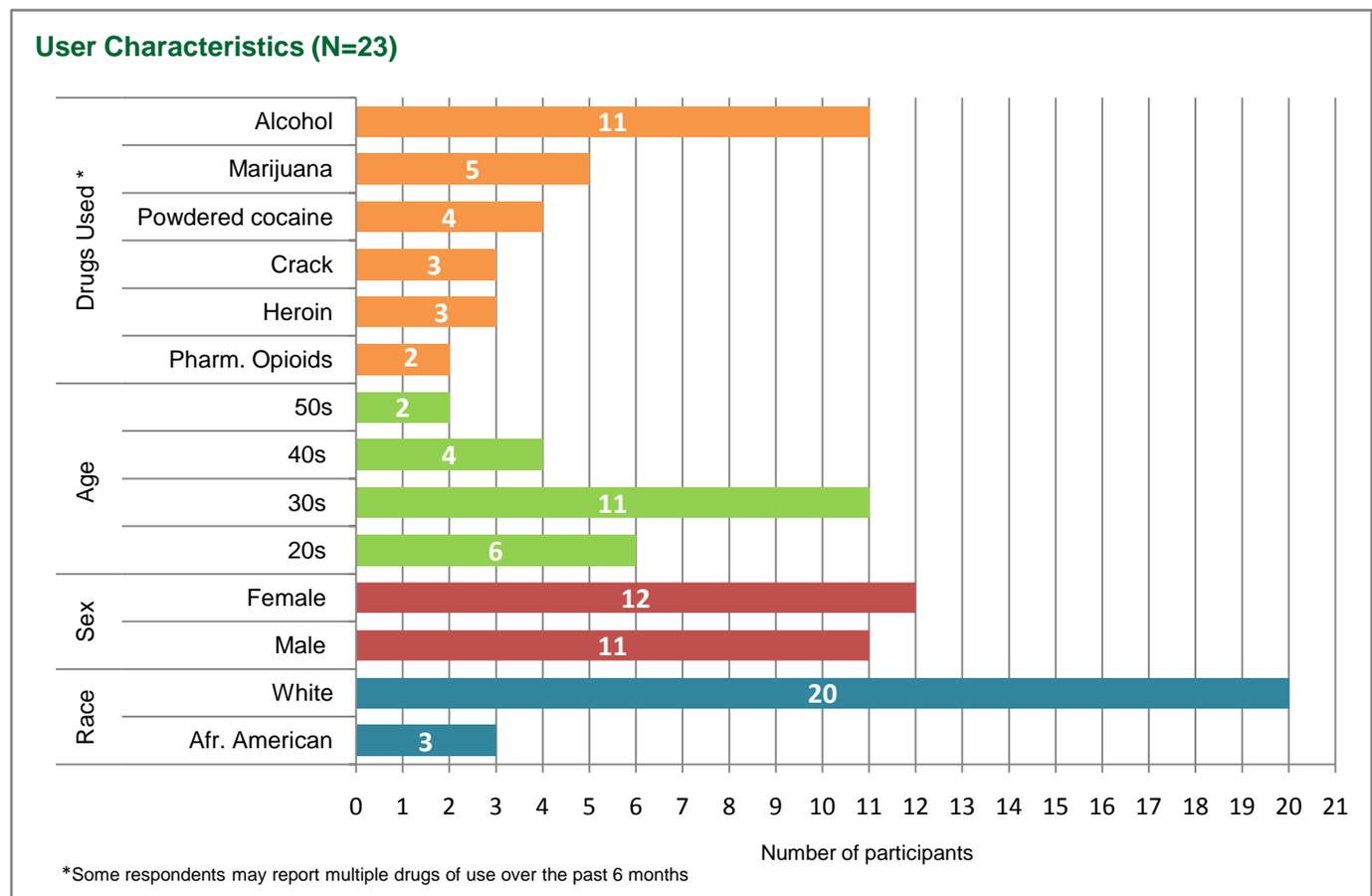
**AREA PROFILE**

Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Lake County	Gauga County	Portage County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	232,892	95,676	155,012	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	94.9%	97.1%	93.7%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	2.8%	1.5%	3.7%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	2.7%	0.8%	0.8%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	86.4%	86.3%	85.9%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$127,900	\$61,254	\$45,795	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	6.6%	5.5%	9.7%	11.7%

**DATA SOURCES**

Interviews Conducted in Lake, Geauga and Portage Counties		
Date	Number	Participants
01/23/08	8	Active and recovering users
04/26/08	9	Active and recovering users
05/01/08	6	Active and recovering users
<b>Total numbers:</b>		
Focus groups	3	
All participants	23	
All users	23	

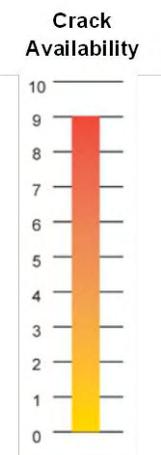
**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon three focus groups conducted with active and recovering drug users.



## INTRODUCTION

This report of the OSAM's Rural Targeted Response Initiative includes data collected in Lake, Geauga and Portage Counties. Availability is reported by region with mentions of individual county trends where applicable.

## CRACK COCAINE



The availability of crack cocaine was perceived by most respondents as being between 9 and 10 on a 0 (least available) to 10 (most available) scale. Availability was thought to have remained consistently high over the previous 6-month period.

According to users, crack-cocaine quality varies, but tends to be “average.” Many users thought quality had been on the decline in recent months. Prices for crack cocaine were reported at a low of \$75-\$125 to a high of \$150-\$250 for an “8-ball” (1/8-ounce), and \$1,000 per ounce. Smaller “rocks” selling for \$20 each were typical. Common street names for crack cocaine included, “rock,” “chop,” “work,” “boulders,” (referring to someone having large rocks) and “stones.”

Descriptions of crack cocaine users were diverse. In terms of age, crack users reportedly ranged from teenagers to older adults. One user commented, “I’ve heard of 13, 14 year-olds. I smoked crack first time myself when I was 16.” Participants indicated that crack users were typically whites of all income levels.

Users reported the primary route of crack administration is smoking. Users also reported a few instances of crack-cocaine injection. Crack cocaine is commonly used in combination with alcohol. Further, users reported that pharmaceutical tranquilizers are commonly used in conjunction with crack cocaine to lessen the severity of symptoms associated with “coming down” from the crack high.

## POWDERED COCAINE

Availability ratings for powdered cocaine varied greatly among respondents. Users rated availability

as low as 3 and as high as 10 on a scale 0 to 10. Portage County users perceived moderate availability of the drug with a rating of 5. Overall, users perceived a decrease in the availability of powdered cocaine over the past six months. One user made the following remark regarding the availability of powdered cocaine, “It’s less [available] than crack, because that you can buy on the street from somebody you don’t know, but coke you have to actually know somebody.” Users in Geauga County reported that powdered cocaine availability was very high, and rated it at 10 on a scale from 0 to 10.

Powdered cocaine was priced at \$100-\$150 for an “8-ball” (1/8-ounce). Respondents did not report on the current quality of the drug. Common street names included, “cola,” “trouble,” “blow.” Users typically use alcohol and various pharmaceutical drugs in conjunction with powdered cocaine. Injection use of cocaine was reported as common among individuals who also inject heroin (“speedballing”).

Users were described as primarily white individuals who have greater financial means with which to purchase the drug. Respondents also indicated that powdered cocaine users tend to be young (aged 20-25) and inhale the drug intranasally. The majority of respondents believed that many powdered cocaine users would eventually transition to smoking crack cocaine.

“At first people think that they can use powder and be classier and think that they’ll never smoke crack. Then their nose hurts or something and they come up with an excuse to smoke crack.” - A user

## HEROIN

Ratings of heroin availability also varied among groups. Only three of the twenty-three users interviewed for this study had experience with the drug. Ratings varied among heroin and non-heroin users and ranged from 1 to 9 on a scale 0 to 10. Despite the variation in ratings, respondents were in general agreement that heroin had become more available in this region over the past 6 months.

According to participants, the price of a 1/10-gram (“bag”) was \$20. A gram (or 10 “bags”) reportedly sold for about \$100. Brown powder heroin was the

most common form of the drug. Street names for heroin included, “dog food,” “the bomb,” “H,” and “smack.” Geauga County users reported low availability of black tar heroin, and rated it a 2 on the 0 to 10 scale. No availability of black tar heroin was reported by users in Lake or Geauga counties.

While one user group reported a 50/50 split as to whether users injected or inhaled the drug intranasally, other respondents overwhelmingly indicated that most heroin users primarily administer the drug via injection. One user reported heroin use in conjunction with methamphetamine, commenting, “I like to use speed [methamphetamine] with heroin. I’d snort it and then a couple of times I shot the heroin.”

## OTHER OPIOIDS

In general, pharmaceutical opioids such as OxyContin® (oxycodone, extended-release), Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) and Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen) were highly available, rated between 8 and 10 on a scale 0 to 10. Other pharmaceutical opioids such as fentanyl, Dilaudid® (hydromorphone) and methadone were also perceived as being available, but at much lower levels (i.e., ratings from 0-5). One user reported that availability of pharmaceutical opioids fluctuated depending on the time of the month. According to one user, availability tends to be higher at the beginning of each month, because that is when many prescriptions are filled.

The price of OxyContin® was reported at \$0.50 - \$1 per milligram of opioid content. According to one user, OxyContin® prices were variable: “On a normal day, it was a buck a milligram: \$40 for a 40 [mg tablet], \$80 for an 80 [mg tablet]. Certain times of the month, people would pay more than that, but other times people wouldn’t pay more than \$50 for an 80 [mg tablet].”

Vicodin® ES (7.5-milligrams of hydrocodone) sells for \$3 per tablet and Vicodin® HP (10-milligram tablet) sells for \$4 a tablet. Dilaudid® sells for \$10 per 2-milligram tablet, and \$20 per 8-milligram tablet—an increase in price, according to users.

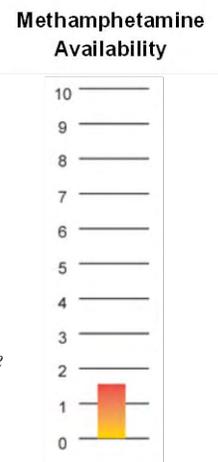
Perceptions of user groups varied greatly. In general, users believed that abuse of pharmaceutical opioids was widespread among a diverse group of

individuals. Other respondents described the following groups of users: 1) older individuals who are abusing the drugs through prescriptions they manipulate from the healthcare system; 2) younger users who are abusing the drugs by stealing them from relatives with legitimate prescriptions. One user commented, “My younger sister is 13, and she knows kids bring Oxy’s to school they stole from Grandma. When I was in school, I saw the same thing.”

Route of administration varies depending on the type of pharmaceutical opioid being abused. For instance, OxyContin® tends to be crushed and inhaled intranasally or injected. Percocet® and Vicodin® are commonly swallowed (although some users will inhale crushed tablets intranasally or inject them). Duragesic® (fentanyl transdermal system) patches are abused by extracting the gel from within the patch and injecting the gel after dissolving it in water. Some users reported sucking on Duragesic® patches. Pharmaceutical opioids are commonly used with alcohol, and users reported using the drugs to moderate the effects of stimulant drugs such as cocaine.

## METHAMPHETAMINE

According to user reports, methamphetamine availability was relatively low. Most user ratings ranged from 0 to 3 on a scale of 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). Users indicated that availability had decreased significantly over the past year. As one user explained, “A year ago it used to be 10. You could get it anywhere and everywhere, then the FBI came into [the area] and wiped it out.” Another user commented on availability by saying, “Only way you would get it if it came from out of state. If you had a connection in California or something like that. You ain’t going to find people out here cooking it and making it.”



A powder form of the drug was reportedly the most commonly seen in the area. Users indicated that “glass” and “ice” were available, but at lower levels, and those forms of the drug are not produced locally. Forms of methamphetamine such as “glass”

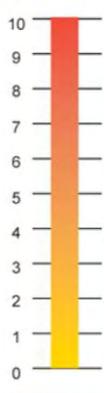
and “ice” were reportedly of much higher quality than powder forms of the drug being produced locally.

Users reported that prices for methamphetamine had increased drastically over the past several months. An “8-ball” (1/8-ounce) sells for \$300, and a gram sells for \$140. Users indicated that smoking was the most common route of administration. Methamphetamine users reportedly use broken light bulbs or foil to smoke methamphetamine. Users also reported a practice of “hot railing,” or inhaling methamphetamine intranasally through a heated glass tube.

Users were described as being white and middle-class, and both male and female. Respondents believe that methamphetamine use was more common among middle-aged individuals than among older or younger users.

## MARIJUANA

Marijuana Availability



Respondents were in agreement that marijuana was readily available. Marijuana availability was unanimously rated at 10 on a scale of 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). In fact, many respondents voiced ratings of “10+” or “12.” Availability was considered to be consistent over the previous 6 month period.

Prices for marijuana varied depending on “grade” or quality. High quality marijuana, commonly

termed, “hydro” or “white rhino,” sells for \$300-\$350 for an ounce. Users were described as being very diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, and age. However, users were perceived as being relatively young in comparison to users of other illicit drugs.

The primary route of marijuana administration is smoking. Users described lacing marijuana with cocaine or other drugs. Although this practice has been reported numerous times in other areas of the state, users were in disagreement regarding the commonality of this practice. One user argued, *“From a guy who only smokes pot, you don’t want to mess up your good weed [by lacing it with other drugs].”*

Users indicated that marijuana is typically used with a wide variety of other drugs. According to respondents, marijuana was reportedly being used to alleviate symptoms of opiate withdrawal or to “come down” from the high of a stimulant drug.

## BENZODIAZEPINES

Xanax® (alprazolam) was considered to be the most readily available pharmaceutical tranquilizer in the three county area, followed by Valium® (diazepam). The price reported for Valium® was \$2 per 10-milligram tablet. Xanax® prices ranged from \$.50 to \$2 per tablet depending on the milligram. Users in Geauga County reported Klonopin® (clonazepam) abuse to be very prevalent in the area. Respondents rated Klonopin® availability between 9 and 10.

Respondents indicated that users will ingest benzodiazepines along with alcohol to intensify the depressant effects. Users report that abusing these drugs in combination with alcohol reduces the amount of drinks needed to achieve intoxication.

## PHARMACEUTICAL STIMULANTS

Users reported that Ritalin® (methylphenidate) and Adderall® (amphetamine mixed salts) were available at low levels but no prices were given.

## HALLUCINOGENS

Psilocybin mushrooms were reported by several users in different groups. Availability, in general, was low. Ecstasy/MDMA abuse was reported by various users as well. Ratings of availability were in the 2-3 range. The price for Ecstasy was \$15-\$20 per tablet, and a “triple stack” (three tablets) sold for \$20-\$30.



Ohio Substance  
Abuse Monitoring  
Network

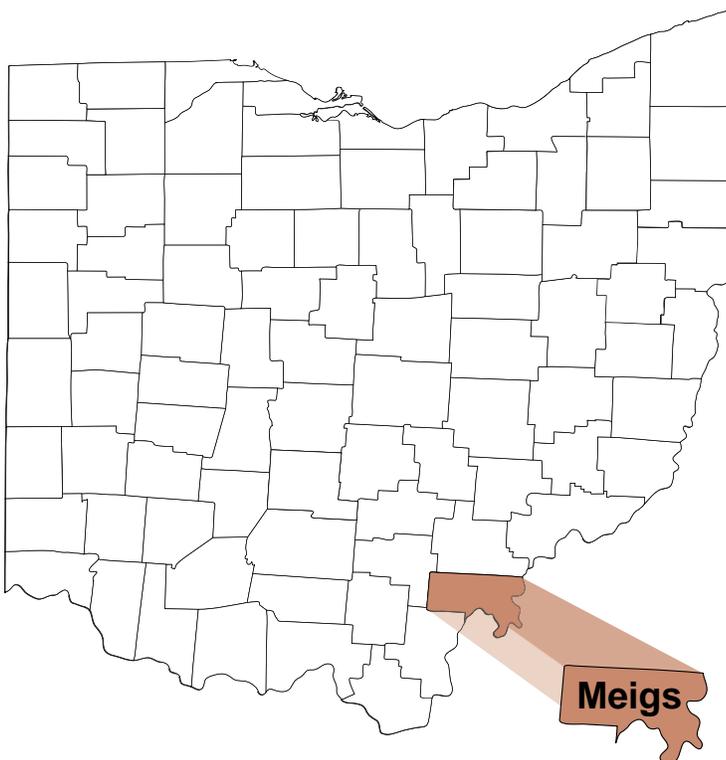


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron

**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

**AREA PROFILE**

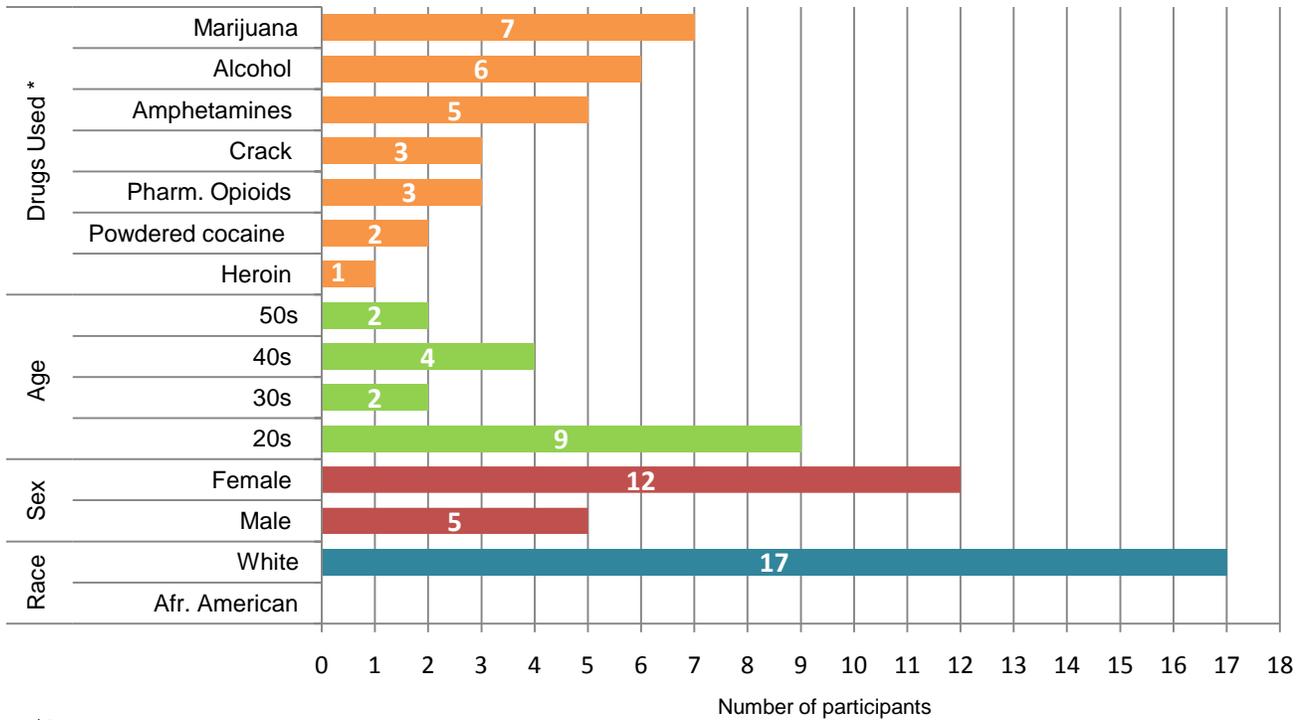
Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Meigs County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	23,092	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	97.7%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	0.8%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	0.6%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	73.2%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$28,859	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	18.1%	11.7%

**DATA SOURCES**

Interviews Conducted in Meigs County		
Date	Number	Participants
01/15/08	6	Active and recovering users
04/24/08	1	Law enforcement officers
04/29/08	1	Active and recovering users
05/12/08	6	Treatment providers
05/29/08	4	3 recovering users, 1 staff
05/29/08	8	7 recovering users, 1 staff
<b>Total number:</b>		
Focus groups	4	
Interviews	2	
All participants	26	
All users	17	

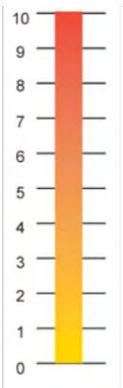
**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon four focus groups and two individual interviews with active and recovering drug users, treatment providers and law enforcement officers.

**User Characteristics (N=17)**



## CRACK COCAINE

Crack Availability

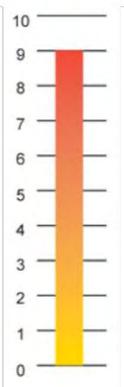


Crack cocaine received an availability rating of 8 on a scale ranging from 0 to 10. A law enforcement officer commented on high availability of crack cocaine in Meigs County: *“Crack is like wildflowers growing down here.”* Two female users also indicated: *“Crack is number one”*; *“It used to be called Meigs County green [marijuana, the most ‘popular’ drug], now it’s called Meigs County white [crack].”*

Current street names of crack cocaine in Meigs County include “hard” and “rock.” Crack cocaine sells for \$75 to \$100 per gram in Meigs County. The modal method of administration is smoking, although one participant stated that the quality of crack cocaine is becoming so poor that users are beginning to inject crack to obtain a more intense high. Crack cocaine is said to be used by persons of lower socioeconomic status in Meigs County, with the average user being in their late-teens to early-30s. One user of crack cocaine in Meigs County indicated that some people prefer crack cocaine over powdered cocaine because there is less potential for it to be “stepped on” (i.e., users believe that they are getting better quality cocaine when they purchase crack as opposed to powdered cocaine). A law enforcement officer indicated that most crack cocaine in Meigs County is brought into the county from Dayton, Ohio.

## POWDERED COCAINE

Powdered Cocaine Availability



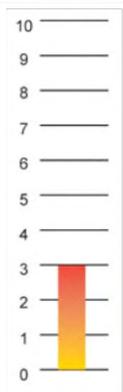
Users in Meigs County reported high availability of powdered cocaine, rating it a 9 on the 0 to 10 scale. Street names for powdered cocaine in Meigs County include “snow,” “go snow skiing,” or “wanna play pool” (which means that the person is looking for an “8-ball”). Powdered cocaine sells for \$50 per ½ gram, \$100 per gram, or \$175-\$220 per “8-ball” (1/8 ounce). Users indicated that the quality of powdered cocaine varies, but most described it as being of “poor quality.” One user estimated that 90% of persons who purchase

powdered cocaine “rock it up” (convert to crack) and smoke it: *“A lot a people snort it though... yeah, but more than nine out of ten are [rocking it up] and smoking’ it.”* When asked to describe the typical powdered cocaine user in Meigs County, participants indicated that it was used by both males and females and by persons ranging in age from teenagers to older adults.

## HEROIN

Heroin received an availability rating of about 3, which was noticeably lower than heroin availability reported in neighboring Athens area. A law enforcement officer commented: *“We haven’t dealt much with heroin.”* And a user indicated in a similar way, *“I don’t hear much about heroin.”* The most common type of heroin available in Meigs County is tar. Common street names for heroin in Meigs County include “dope” or “dogfood.” When asked to describe the price of heroin, most participants listed prices by the “balloon” or “bag,” such as “a \$20 bag,” “a \$20 balloon,” “3 balloons for \$50,” or “5 to 7 balloons for \$100.” Injection is the most common method of administration. One law enforcement officer indicated that most heroin is brought into the county from Cincinnati, Ohio. One heroin user provided the following description of heroin users: *“dirty looking...smelly...tired all the time.”*

Heroin Availability



## OTHER OPIOIDS

Pharmaceutical opioids received an overall availability rating between 6 and 7 on a scale 0-10. Opiates such as Vicodin® (hydrocodone), Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen), Percodan® (oxycodone and aspirin), and OxyContin® (oxycodone, extended-release) often received availability ratings of 8 or higher. Moreover, in one focus group, methadone received a mean availability rating of 10. Other opiates, such as fentanyl, were described as being available but received lower availability ratings, typically 5 or less. One law enforcement officer indicated that OxyContin® was brought into Meigs County from Toledo. This law enforcement officer also indicated

that they recently conducted a drug bust in which the arrested individual had in his possession more than one hundred 80-milligram OxyContin® tablets. Common street names for OxyContin® in Meigs County included “OCs,” and “Old Cars.” OxyContin® sells for approximately \$1 per milligram; although one user indicated that she recently purchased an 80-milligram OxyContin® tablet for \$110. One user also indicated that he paid \$25 for a fentanyl patch that he placed under his tongue. Most users of Vicodin®, Percocet®, and Percodan® “snort” the crushed tablets. Intranasal inhalation and injection are the most common methods of administration of OxyContin®. One female user commented: *“I don’t think there’s really very many people ‘round here that eats them [OxyContin], they’re always shootin’ ‘em up or snortin’ em.”* Another female user added: *“I don’t think anybody ever eats a pill anymore, very rarely.”*

One focus group of treatment providers and administrators indicated that illicit use of “pain pills” is a large problem in Meigs County and Southeast Ohio in general. These individuals described the practice of “bowling,” which involved people entering into a party and dumping handfuls of tablets into a large bowl. Later, party attendees would take a handful of pills and eat or snort the various tablets.

### Suboxone®

According to users, Suboxone® (buprenorphine and nalaxone) is increasing in availability in Meigs County. One female user indicated: *“It was April of last year [2007], and... um... I was getting rid of the Suboxone for 15 dollars apiece, and I was having a hard time getting people to buy them. When I got out of prison [this year], they’re goin’ for 20 and 25 dollars, depending on, you know, how desperate they are for ‘em. And everybody wants them.”*

### METHAMPHETAMINE

Users rated methamphetamine availability in Meigs County 8 on the 0 to 10 scale, although none of the users interviewed had experience with the drug. This was considered high for the region given that methamphetamine typically receives “low” availability ratings in the Athens area. Users indicated that most methamphetamine in Meigs

County is manufactured locally. Methamphetamine was said to be manufactured in places such as “the woods,” “abandoned buildings,” or “farms.” Methamphetamine sells for \$75 to \$100 per gram in Meigs County. Methamphetamine is typically administered via smoking or injection. Some users suggested that methamphetamine use was more common in women than in men; one user stated: *“Guys have it, girls want it.”*

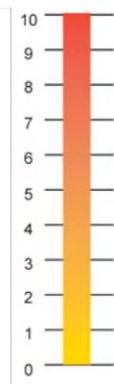
One law enforcement officer in Meigs County indicated that the department was experiencing an increase in the number of local methamphetamine laboratory busts.

In contrast to law enforcement and user reports, treatment providers have not noted any increases in methamphetamine-related treatment admissions. One treatment provider commented, *“We weren’t seeing that [meth] here, and I don’t know, ah, I’m sure we’d be extremely naïve to think that it wasn’t being manufactured but you just didn’t, didn’t hear the prevalence of it that much, and I think that was somewhat surprising.”*

### MARIJUANA

Marijuana availability was rated at 10 on a scale 0 -10. Types of high-grade marijuana currently available in Meigs County include “Jamaican Indica,” “Blueberry,” “Northern Lights,” and “Purple Haze.” High-grade marijuana is easy to find in Meigs County. For high-grade marijuana, prices quoted by users were \$5 per joint, \$50 for 1/8 ounce, \$350 to \$400 per ounce, or \$5,000-\$6000 per pound. One marijuana user indicated that there are certain types of marijuana grown in Meigs County that are so high in quality that they “never make it onto the streets” and that they are smoked only by the growers and their family members and close friends.

Marijuana Availability



### PHARMACEUTICAL STIMULANTS

Pharmaceutical stimulants (i.e., Adderall® and Ritalin®) were described as very available in Meigs County. Users rated Adderall® (amphetamine mixed salts) and Ritalin® (methylphenidate), availability at 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. One

participant described the availability of Adderall® and Ritalin® as “booming” and added, *“Those are boomin’ around here, because you got so many people nowadays goin’ to the doctor cryin’, ‘Ob my kid’s got this, my kid’s got that’... gettin’ drugs for their kids and then selling ‘em or doin’ them.”* Most participants believed that Adderall® was more available than Ritalin®.

The price quoted for Adderall® was \$8 for a 30-milligram tablet. When asked to describe the typical user of Adderall® and Ritalin® in Meigs County, the most common response among users was, *“[white] kids between the ages of 16 and 22.”* Some participants also indicated that they are sought out by adults as well for personal use or to sell on the streets.

### HALLUCINOGENS

According to a law enforcement official, LSD, Ecstasy and other club drugs are brought into Meigs County from Athens, Ohio. One participant, who was highly familiar with LSD use, indicated that LSD was very common in Meigs County.

He reported the following prices for LSD: one hit for \$5, one “strip” (about 10 hits) for about \$35-\$40, one “sheet” (about 100 hits) for about \$350-\$400. Recent batches of LSD featured drawings of “Beavis and Butthead” and “Blue Unicorns.”

This user also indicated that GHB and Ecstasy were available in Meigs County and that both of these substances were more available than heroin. Ecstasy/MDMA was described as a “summer drug” in Meigs County. Recent batches of Ecstasy in Meigs County were pressed with pictures of “blue dolphins” and “yellow roses.” Ecstasy sells for \$7-\$8 per tablet. Ecstasy use was more common among individuals between 18 and 28 years of age.

A few users mentioned psilocybin mushrooms use in Meigs County. Mushrooms sold for \$5-\$6 per bag.



Ohio Substance  
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Network

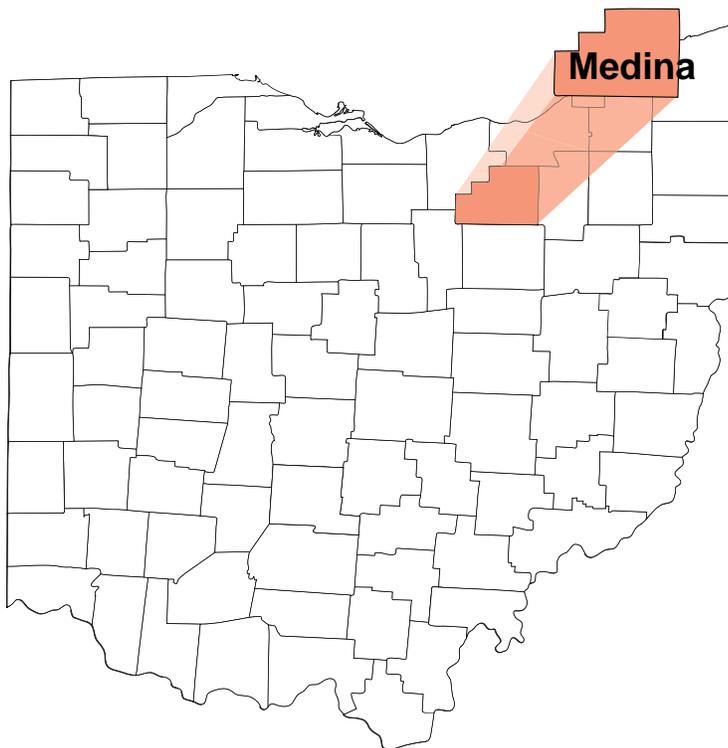


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
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**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

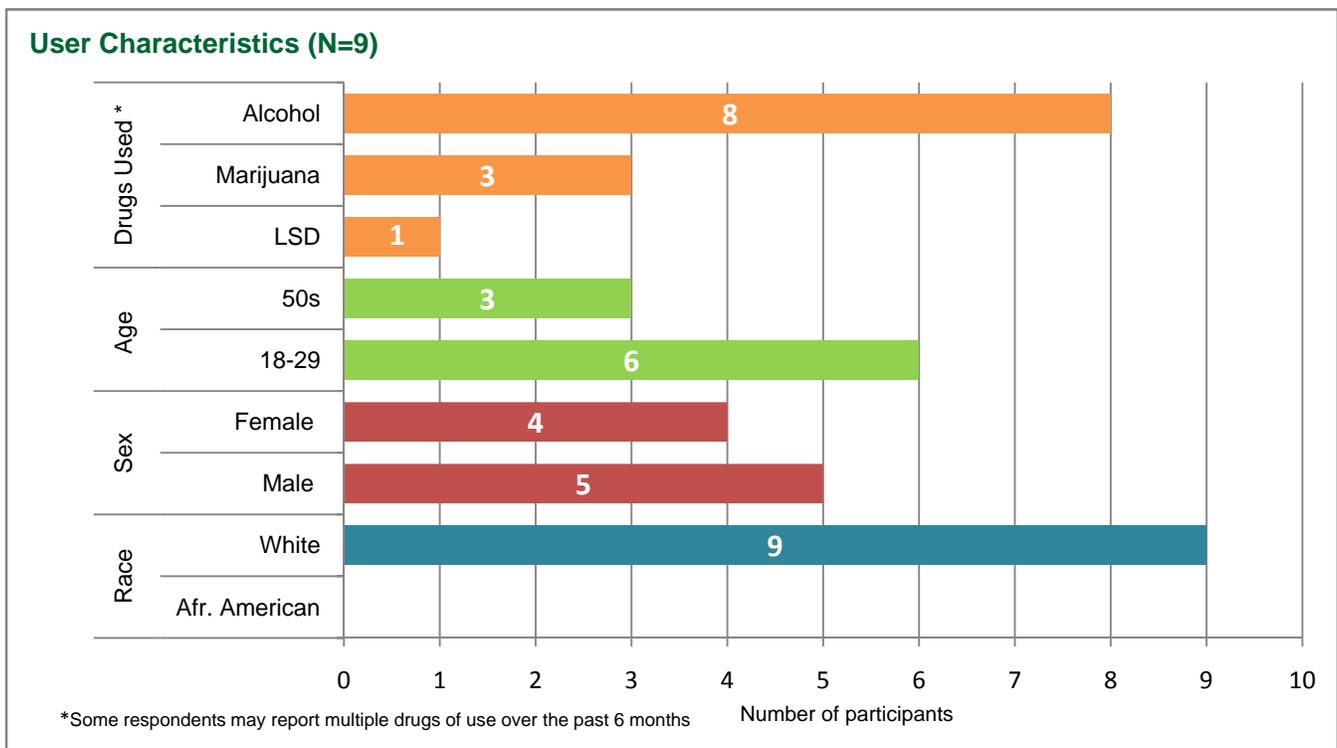
**AREA PROFILE**

Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Medina County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	169,353	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	96.9%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	1.2%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	1.1%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	88.8%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$144,400	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	5.9%	11.7%

**DATA SOURCES**

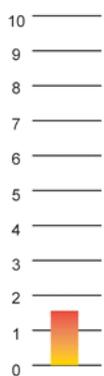
Interviews Conducted in Medina County		
Date	Number	Participants
01/08/08	3	Active and recovering users
01/09/08	4	Active and recovering users
01/17/08	4	Professionals
01/28/08	2	Active and recovering users
<b>Total number:</b>		
Focus groups	4	
All participants	13	
All users	9	

**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon four focus groups with active and recovering drug users, treatment providers and law enforcement officers.



### CRACK COCAINE

**Crack Availability**



According to users, crack-cocaine availability in Medina County has always been very low. The highest rating made by users was a 3 on a scale from 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). Most users indicated that crack was not typically available in Medina County and that one would need to travel to Akron or Cleveland to get the drug. One user stated, *“I’m sure people go to Cleveland or Akron to get it, but they bring it back and sell it. The main source is not in Medina County.”*

Treatment providers rated availability somewhat higher with a rating of 7. Treatment providers also reported that most crack cocaine is purchased outside of the county, but that crack is available within the county as well. One treatment provider supported this perception: *“Just last week I had a client say, ‘You know, there’s a crack house just one block away from here if you want to walk there.’”* Treatment providers believed availability of the drug had remained stable over the past six months.

Law enforcement rated availability of crack cocaine as stable, but higher than did users or treatment providers. According to the law enforcement officer, crack was available in the area at a rating of 9. It was this officer’s perception that crack-cocaine use was concentrated among individuals residing in low-income housing units.

Respondents had difficulty reporting prices based on specific weights of crack cocaine. Instead, most provided pricing for “rocks.” One user reported purchasing a vial containing two “rocks” for \$5. A user and the law enforcement officer reported the price of an “8-ball” (1/8 ounce) at \$120-\$150. The law enforcement officer detailed the buying and selling of crack cocaine: *“We’re seeing that we’re buying a lot of crack at \$20 piece, a \$50 piece. If we buy an 8-ball, it’s \$150 for 8-ball. We don’t buy a lot of ounce or 1/2 ounce amounts of crack. We buy a lot of pieces-parts. A lot of sellers they won’t be selling by weight, they’ll be saying, ‘How much do you have?’... They are going with dollar amounts specifically. They can get away with selling less and making a specific profit than selling weight.”*

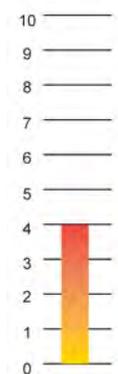
Crack-cocaine users were described as typically

lower-income African Americans and whites. The law enforcement officer reported that slightly more African Americans than whites were using crack. Use of crack by Hispanics in Medina County was very limited. By far, the majority of users were smoking crack cocaine. Law enforcement reported that crack-cocaine injection was rare.

### POWDERED COCAINE

In general, the availability of powdered cocaine in Medina County was perceived as being low. Users rated the availability of the drug between 3 and 5 on a scale from 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). Most respondents believed that availability had remained stable over the past six months. One user group reported a decrease in availability.

**Powdered Cocaine Availability**



A law enforcement officer rated availability at 4. According to the officer, *“Powdered cocaine is not as prevalent as crack cocaine in Medina County, but we are seeing some purchases and some instances of abuse with powdered cocaine.”* The officer suggested that most drugs found in Medina County are purchased elsewhere: *“It all depends on what area of the county you’re talking about. Those north cities, Brunswick, Hinckley, Brunswick Hills, Valley City area—those people just tend to shoot up 71 North to Cleveland for heroin, cocaine, and marijuana... North end of the county tends to go to Cleveland. Everyone else goes to Akron.”*

Rating powdered cocaine availability at 6, treatment providers were in agreement with law enforcement regarding the purchase of powdered cocaine. According to treatment providers, powdered cocaine is often purchased outside of the county: *“I’m sure it’s [cocaine] available on the streets in Medina, but I do know that people go to Cleveland to score drugs.”*

Prices for powdered cocaine were reported at \$50 a gram by one user. Another user reported an “8-ball” (1/8 ounce) of powdered cocaine selling for \$100. However, the purchase was not made in Medina County. Although unable to provide individual prices for powdered cocaine, the law enforcement officer perceived prices as remaining stable over the past six months. Common street names for

powdered cocaine included, “ya-bo,” “snow,” “blow,” and “ski.”

The quality of powdered cocaine was considered to be moderate to poor by most respondents. While some respondents believed quality had remained stable over the prior 6-month period, others believed quality had declined. The law enforcement officer commented on declining purity levels: *“The purity levels are not consistent. We’re finding more and more mid- to upper-level traffickers who are pushing it down and using a lot of cut to make more profit. We’re finding that the purity levels by the time it gets to the street are much less than historically it’s been in the past.”*

Respondents described powdered cocaine users as being primarily white individuals with higher incomes. However, one female user reported that during her years of powdered cocaine use she had met powdered cocaine users ranging from the educated and rich to the homeless. Treatment providers indicated that more males were using the drug. The law enforcement officer reported that both Whites and African Americans with higher income levels are using the drug, but perceived use to be more common among whites. The officer reported, *“We’re finding the cases where we have purchased cocaine from, [they] have been probably average to above average in income.”*

Respondents believed that users were primarily utilizing intranasal inhalation as a route of administration. Alcohol and marijuana were reported as drugs commonly used in combination with powdered cocaine. Several users reported “lacing” marijuana joints with cocaine.

## HEROIN

The users interviewed did not have direct experience with heroin and thus were unable to accurately report on availability. Two users reported that availability had remained stable for several years, and rated availability between 1 and 3. Treatment providers perceived heroin availability to be significantly higher with ratings of 8 in Medina County. However, treatment providers agreed that most users were purchasing heroin from Cleveland. Interestingly, one treatment provider reported that some of her clients were having the drug delivered from Cleveland: *“I have some clients who say that all they*

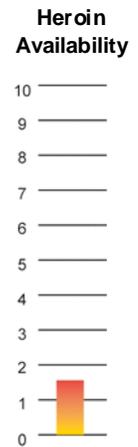
*have to do is make a call and my dealer will deliver. I’ve got such a running tab. I could sit at home in Medina and they’ll come.”*

Treatment providers commented on the fluctuating availability of the drug, noting population changes at the detoxification program. According to these treatment providers, *“When there is no [heroin] availability, there’s a rush to go to detox, and we’ve had one of those in the past six months. It was available and then availability dropped, so I had a lot of clients come in detox, and now it seems to be steady again.”*

Law enforcement rated heroin availability to be stable at 6. Supporting reports from treatment providers, the officer detailed the logistics of obtaining heroin in Medina County: *“A few years ago we had an epidemic here in Medina County with a lot of overdoses, and we were asked to do a kind of survey . . . What we found with heroin, is that mostly it’s a subgroup of 4-5 people and today ‘Joe’ is going to go up to Cleveland to pick up some heroin, so he’s going to call his group of 4-5 or say, ‘Hey, listen, I’m going up to Cleveland today. I’m going to make a run. What do you need?’ and he would take that chance going up there and get his heroin. Obviously, for the price of doing that, he’d take a bag off of each one of theirs or take some money for taking the risk. Tomorrow ‘Suzy’ might be the one going up to Cleveland, but that is what we primarily see in Medina County.”*

In terms of prices for heroin, only the law enforcement officer was able to provide information. According to the officer, heroin is predominately sold by the “bag,” which is typically a tenth of gram. A “bag” sells for \$10-\$15. Treatment providers reported hearing accounts of powder and tar heroin being available in the area. The law enforcement reported seeing only white powder. Again, users were not familiar enough to report on the drug.

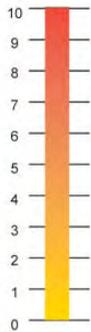
A treatment provider reported on an increasing trend of heroin abuse in Medina County, *“This may be hard to believe, but I think we actually have more cases of heroin currently than we do of cocaine, which you would not think would be the case—at least I wouldn’t—but I know that heroin is more prominent in Medina, at least in the*



people we're seeing." Although heroin users ranged in age from the teens to 50s, many users were described as being primarily younger (18-25). A treatment provider commented, "This blows me away. What amazes me is having young girls, 18, 19, 20 years old that you would never suspect are shooting up with a needle. What I would think a stereotype heroin addict is not. A lot of young people—male and female—strung out on heroin." The majority of users reportedly inject the drug, and use commonly occurs with other drugs such as alcohol, marijuana and powdered cocaine.

## OTHER OPIOIDS

Pharmaceutical  
Opioid  
Availability



In general, participants reported that pharmaceutical opioids were readily available in Medina County. Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen), OxyContin® (oxycodone, extended-release), and Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen) were the most commonly mentioned pharmaceutical opioids. The law enforcement officer commented on the availability of pharmaceutical opioids with regard to younger users: "We're finding so

many younger age kids 17, 18, 19 years old. We're finding they're going to Mom and Dad's medicine cabinet. Parents aren't keeping track of their drugs. They're not taking proper precautions to make sure their prescriptions are secure and in a place where their kids don't know. And 99% of the parents in the county aren't counting their drugs to make sure what's there is supposed to be there. So we're finding kids have accessibility through Mom and Dad's or Grandma and Grandpa's medicine cabinet and taking what they need. Increasing trend and I think we'll see a lot more until we actually get out there and educate the parents."

OxyContin® availability varied with ratings as high as 9 and as low as 1 on a scale of 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). Treatment providers believed OxyContin® availability had decreased in the past six months. One treatment provider commented, "Again I have heard lately that there is not as much OxyContin® out there. I guess they've tightened up with doctors prescribing them. The doctors aren't prescribing as much OxyContin® as they once did before because of the problems with OxyContin® across the country. Even in

Medina it's not as readily available as it was on the streets."

OxyContin® reportedly sells for \$0.50-\$1 per milligram.

Vicodin® availability ratings typically ranged from 6 to 8. While many respondents thought availability of Vicodin® had increased over the past several months, others thought availability had decreased or remained stable. Vicodin® sells for about \$2-\$10 per tablet, with Vicodin ES® selling at the higher end of the range.

The availability of Percocet® ranged from "limited" to 10, with most ratings falling between 4 and 8. Respondents reported availability to be stable or increasing in the past 6 months. Prices for Percocet® ranged from \$3 to about \$5 per tablet.

Codeine was reported by one user as being available at a rating of 5. Morphine was also reported as available and sells for \$15 per 5-milligram tablet, and \$50 for the same dose in liquid form. Availability ratings for methadone and fentanyl were not provided.

Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) abuse was rarely mentioned. It was the perception of most respondents that abuse of buprenorphine was uncommon.

There was disagreement as to descriptions of typical pharmaceutical opioid users. Some respondents described users as being in their 20s and 30s, while others described mainly individuals in their 40s and 50s. Law enforcement perceived an increase in younger individuals abusing the drugs.

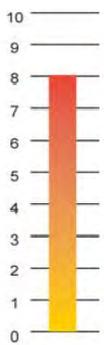
## METHAMPHETAMINE

Respondents had little knowledge about methamphetamine use trends in Medina County. Many claimed it was not available, while others rated availability of the drug at "1" or "rare."

Treatment providers indicated that they rarely saw clients who reported using methamphetamine. One user group perceived use of methamphetamine to be limited to individuals who frequented clubs.

## MARIJUANA

### Marijuana Availability



Availability ratings for marijuana varied widely. Users rated availability in Medina County to be a 6 on a scale from 0 (not available) to 10 (very available). Treatment providers rated availability stable at 10. Some users believed that although marijuana was readily available in Medina County, it was less expensive outside the county. One user explained, *“I would always go out of Medina. You could get more for your money if you go somewhere else. It’s still out here, but I wouldn’t bother wasting my time.”* Users also described how police presence affected marijuana availability in Medina County: *“And the police are like crazy, so it’s not even worth the trouble. It’s way different than living in the city. Rather than to take the chance myself, I’d rather go where I know than go around here where you are almost guaranteed to go to jail.”*

Respondents indicated the following prices: \$30-\$60 for 1/8-ounce of mid-grade marijuana, and \$10-\$30 for the same quantity of low-grade marijuana. Respondents reported marijuana users lacing joints with cocaine, PCP, and embalming fluid. However, none of this was perceived as a common practice. Users were described as being diverse in terms of age, gender, and ethnicity. That said, many respondents noted use to be especially typical among younger individuals ranging in age from 13 to 30.

Common street names for high-grade marijuana included, “hydro,” “con bud,” and “nugget.” Low-grade marijuana is referred to as “mersh.”

One user reported hearing of individuals using *Salvia divinorum* in combination with marijuana. Some indicated that the drug is available in “head shops” (retail outlets specializing in drug paraphernalia). Likewise, the drug can be ordered online. Availability was rated by one user as a “10.”

## BENZODIAZEPINES

Respondents reported Xanax® (alprazolam), Valium® (diazepam), Klonopin® (clonazepam), and Ativan® (lorazepam) as the most readily available benzodiazepines in the Medina County area.

Availability ratings ranged greatly. Xanax® availability ranged from a low of 2 to a high of 9. Valium® ratings ranged from a low of 2 to a high of 5, and Klonopin® ratings ranged from 4 to 7 on a scale 0-10. Prices were dependent upon the dosage, but generally were between \$2 and \$5 per tablet. Users primarily swallow or chew the tablets, and some crush the tablets and inhale the drug intranasally. Benzodiazepines are commonly used in conjunction with alcohol.

## HALLUCINOGENS

Ecstasy use was reported as being more common among younger individuals, and availability was rated between 2 and 8. Treatment providers reported a decline in Ecstasy use.

“My sense is it [Ecstasy] may be on the decrease. I don’t hear a lot of people using Ecstasy anymore.” -Treatment provider

Hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD and psilocybin mushrooms were rated from a low of 3 or 4 to a high of 7 or 8 in terms of availability. No prices were available for these drugs.



Ohio Substance  
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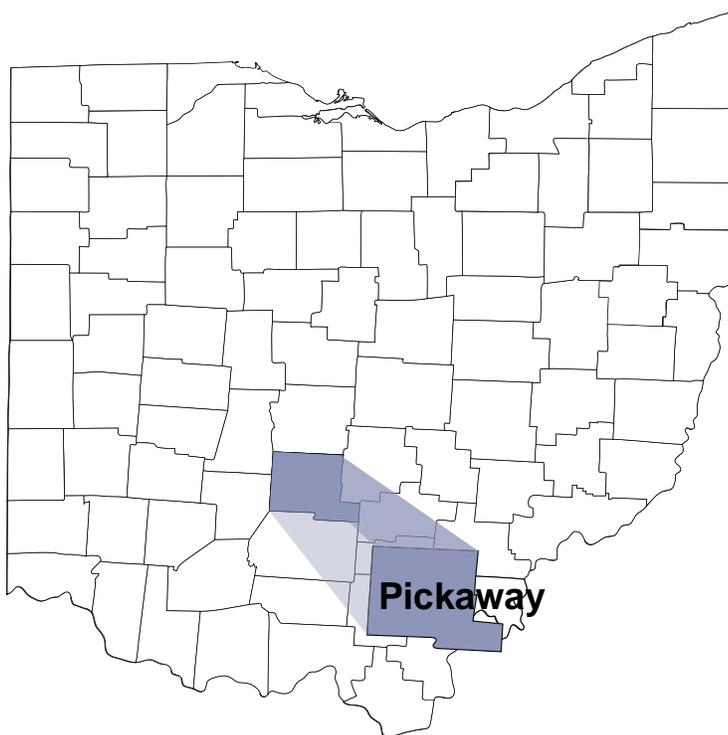


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron

**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

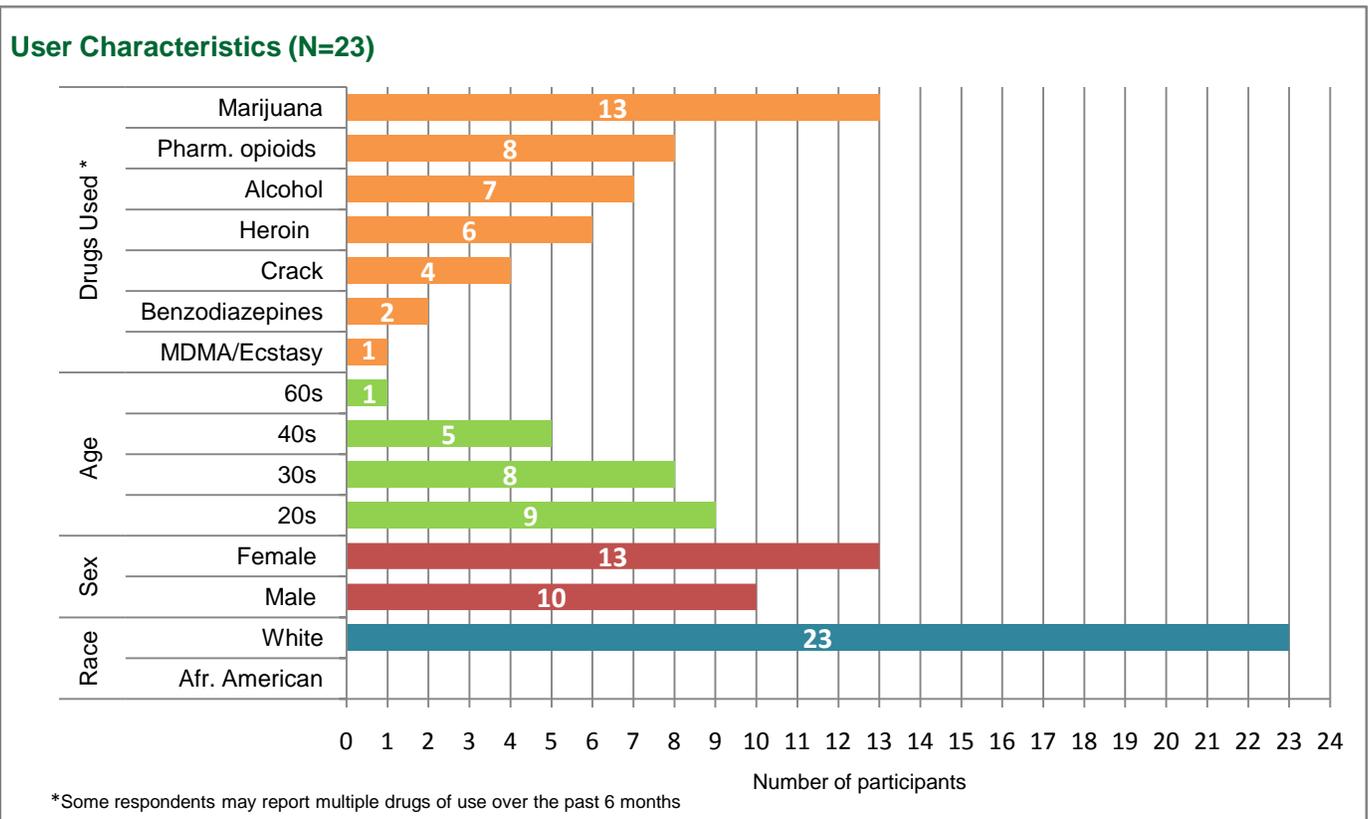
**AREA PROFILE**

Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Pickaway County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	53,606	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	93.1%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	5.1%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	0.8%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	77.2%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$44,595	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	11.1%	11.7%

**DATA SOURCES**

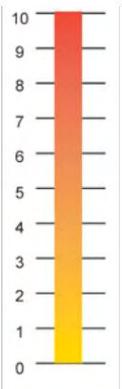
Interviews Conducted in Pickaway County		
Date	Number	Participants
12/17/08	5	Active and recovering users
05/08/08	3	Professionals
05/29/08	10	Active and recovering users
05/29/08	8	Active and recovering users
<b>Total number:</b>		
Focus groups	4	
All participants	26	
All users	23	

**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon four focus groups with active and recovering drug users, treatment providers and law enforcement officers.



### CRACK COCAINE

Crack Availability



The availability of crack cocaine was high in Pickaway County with users rating it a “10+” on the 0 to 10 scale. Users felt that this high availability was consistent over the past 6 months. A user in recovery noted, *“I know I used to go out looking for OxyContin and they’d say I got crack. I can get crack anywhere in this town. They take one person down and another one sets up shop.”*

Crack cocaine was priced at \$80-\$100 a gram in Pickaway County, and recovering users felt that they were paying more for the drug than people in nearby Columbus. One user said, *“The price of everything goes up everyday. People are gonna do what they need to survive. That’s all they know.”* Police and treatment professionals also emphasized that crack cocaine is frequently brought in from Columbus. One officer added, *“Everyone we’ve busted comes straight from Columbus with crack.”*

One treatment provider mentioned a few incidences in local high schools of students buying and selling crack cocaine. Recovering users indicated increasing numbers of young dealers were getting younger, but older dealers were still around. Users also reported crack use among “all ages,” including older adults.

“You look around and see people like your grandparents [using crack]. Grandkids running around the house while you’re over there buying [crack] and stuff... It’s all ages.”  
-Pickaway County user

Crack cocaine is typically smoked and used in combination with alcohol and heroin.

### POWDERED COCAINE

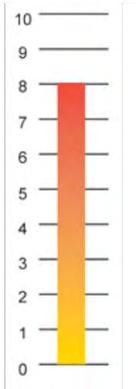
Recovering users rated the availability of powdered cocaine between 7 and 10 on a 0 to 10 scale. Users reported that availability was stable over the last year. Treatment professionals and law enforcement officers rated powdered cocaine availability at 8 within the city of Circleville and lower, 6-7, in other parts of the county. Although users reported stable

availability, treatment providers felt it was less available than in the previous six months, based on a reduced number of patients presenting in treatment for powdered cocaine use.

Recovering users priced powdered cocaine at \$10 for 1/10 gram, \$80 for a gram, \$200 per 1/8 ounce. Overall, users in Pickaway County reported higher powdered cocaine prices than what is reported in Columbus. For example, 1/4 ounce of powdered cocaine sold for \$250-\$300 in Pickaway County, and about \$150-\$180 in Columbus. One recovering user commented, *“You got a lot of major dealers there [Columbus]. It’s all small time here; that don’t buy a whole lot and you got to jack the price up a little bit more.”*

Users reported decreased quality of the drug, although treatment professionals felt that the quality was improving. Intranasal inhalation was the primary route of administration. Recovering users reported that injection use of powdered cocaine (typically, in conjunction with heroin) was increasing. Participants also indicated that the age of users was decreasing. Powdered cocaine is commonly used with heroin, alcohol, Xanax® (alprazolam) and marijuana.

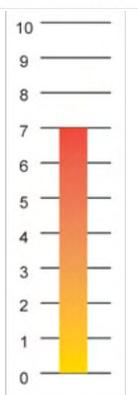
Powdered Cocaine Availability



### HEROIN

Heroin availability was moderate with users rating it 6-7 on a 0 to 10 scale. Users also reported increasing availability over the past six months. One recovering user said, *“It’s bad now, but it’s getting worse every day. In five years, it’s going to be the worst epidemic we’ve ever seen. It’s going to spread to every little small town.”* Both providers and recovering users linked increases in heroin availability to the expanding networks of Hispanic dealers in the area.

Heroin Availability



Both brown powder and tar heroin are available although the availability of the tar form has dramatically increased in the past six months. Users

who administered heroin intranasally preferred powder-type heroin: *“With the black tar, you have to set it out on a plate, beat it up, let it dry, scrape it and then go from there. You can’t do it out in the open. With the powder, you got to the bathroom, snort it, and the other you got to go home and cook it up. And once you cook it up, you got to do it then and there.”*

Recovering users estimated cost at \$120-\$130 for a gram of tar or powder. A balloon of tar heroin (approximately 0.1 gram), which is purchased in Columbus for \$20-\$40, can be resold in Circleville for \$50. One user in recovery commented, *“You can spend \$200 up there and come back and make \$600.”* Heroin quality was said to be high.

Users reported smoking and intranasal inhalation as common modes of heroin administration. Although less common, there were some reports of intravenous use. A white user in treatment commented, *“Once you start shooting coke, heroin, anything, you know, I’ve shot Xanax, all kinds of crazy things. Once you start boosting, you don’t want to do anything else. There are people who are snorting it, but they won’t be for long.”*

Both users and treatment providers noted a transition to heroin from pharmaceutical opioids. They noted that the cost of heroin was particularly attractive, compared with the high prices and decreasing availability of pharmaceutical opioids. A recovering user reported, *“Kids are going to heroin because it’s cheaper than pills. I’m told it’s cheap, cheaper than Oxy.”*

“It seems to me that everyone I knew that got on heroin started out on OxyContin. Because it got too expensive and too hard to find OxyContin, and the heroin was cheaper.”  
Pickaway County user

Treatment providers felt that heroin use was increasing among white high-school aged youth in the county. Other typical users were reported as middle-aged whites. Younger users are using alcohol in combination with heroin. It is also used with cocaine and marijuana.

## OTHER OPIOIDS

Pharmaceutical opioid availability was rated high in Pickaway County, and users described it as “rampant,” a “10+” on the 0 to 10 availability scale. Law enforcement indicated that illicit use of pharmaceutical drugs is initiated at an increasingly younger age. They felt that pharmaceutical abuse opens the door to “harder drugs.” One participant commented on availability, *“You can walk up and down the streets and have pocketfuls by the time you get home.”* Another recovering user said, *“Pills are really a big thing, a really big thing here in Circleville. It’s bad. I think people would trade their kid [for pills].”*

Recovering users perceived that Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) and Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen) were the most available pharmaceuticals in the area. In contrast, professionals perceived that OxyContin® (oxycodone extended-release) was the most available pharmaceutical opioids in the area. They rated OxyContin® availability at “10+” on a scale 0 -10, and availability of Vicodin® and Percocet® was rated at 8-9.

According to respondents, younger people obtain pharmaceutical opioids by stealing them from medicine cabinets of friends and family or swapping with other users. Users over the age of 25 often “doctor shop” and frequent emergency rooms to obtain the drugs. Users commented on elderly, financially-limited individuals, selling their own prescriptions: *“A lot of older people are selling their pills... So you hear on the news that I can sell this dope for \$70, so they can pay for their rent and have extra money in their pocket. ‘Cause they can hardly afford food.”*

Another user also noted, *“Old people get them legally, you know, and they’re broke, and they sell ‘em. And they [diverted prescription drugs] go down the line, and they get to you eventually. That’s why they’re [prices] so high, cause they go through so many damned people.”*

Users priced Vicodin® at \$3 for a 5-milligram tablet and \$8-\$10 for a 10-milligram tablet. Percocet® sells for \$1 per milligram of opioids content. Respondents indicated some availability of Duragesic® (fentanyl transdermal system), but noted that it was more available in Chillicothe than in Circleville. Methadone tablets were also available

but were reportedly brought into Pickaway County from Columbus.

One treatment provider remarked that Ultram® (tramadol) use was common among women with both substance abuse and mental health diagnoses. There were no reports of Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) abuse or diversion in Pickaway County; however, potential increases in Suboxone® abuse have been noted in neighboring Ross County.

Most pharmaceutical opioid tablets are ingested. However, there were some reports of intranasal inhalation and some injection of OxyContin®.

Treatment professionals discussed a variety of rural-specific treatment concerns. With decreasing availability of pharmaceutical opioids, and younger whites transitioning to heroin, more people are presenting in treatment with opioid dependence. Currently, there is no opiate detoxification facility in the 5-county area. When users present for treatment, they must be put on a waiting list for a Franklin County facility. Pregnant women and other at-risk populations are given treatment priority, filling the limited availability and leaving opiate-addicted males with little to no treatment options. Many users are forced to detoxify in emergency rooms or jail. Treatment providers also indicated an increase in males, recently released from incarceration, seeking drug and alcohol treatment.

### METHAMPHETAMINE

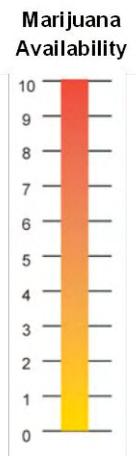
Users, treatment providers and law enforcement professionals all commented that due to law enforcement efforts, methamphetamine availability has decreased in the county. Users rated methamphetamine availability as low, a 1-2 on the 0-10 scale. In contrast, law enforcement perceived higher availability rating it a 7. One treatment provider working in the local five-county region reported a drastic decrease in methamphetamine use in Pickaway and Fayette counties, but felt that methamphetamine was more available in Ross and Highland counties.

Methamphetamine was believed to be locally manufactured. A treatment provider noted that it was commonly used among 18-25 aged dually

diagnosed clients.

### MARIJUANA

According to users, law enforcement officials and treatment providers, marijuana availability in Pickaway County is high and stable. Users rated it at 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. One law enforcement professional commented, *“Marijuana is as common as breathing.”* However, one recovering user noted, *“You can get crack a lot quicker that you can get a bag of pot. It don’t take as long to make as much money off pills than it does to sell weed.”* Police reported confiscating large quantities of marijuana, referred to by users as “Meigs County Gold.” Law enforcement professionals also reported increasing amounts of “local grows” which they are seeing in increasingly larger quantities.



Recovering users price high quality marijuana, or hydro, at \$50 per gram and \$400 per ounce. A pound of low grade marijuana can be purchased in Columbus for \$500 and resold in Pickaway County for \$1500. All marijuana types and quality are readily available. Treatment providers remarked that they are seeing severe behavioral issues in young people using marijuana and hypothesized about physical dependence and potency of the drug.

### BENZODIAZEPINES

Xanax® (alprazolam), Valium® (diazepam), and Ativan® (lorazepam) were the most commonly abused tranquilizers, and users and treatment providers rated them between 7 and 10 on the availability scale. Xanax® was more commonly abused by young people under the age of 25. Valium® and Ativan® abuse was more frequent among older users. Ativan® was perceived as the least desirable. Recovering users reported tranquilizers were easily obtained and availability has remained stable over the last six months.

Recovering users reported that oral ingestion was the most common form of administration, but that intranasal inhalation of crushed tablets was increasing in popularity. Pharmaceutical tranquilizers

are commonly used with alcohol and marijuana.

## OTHER PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

### Soma®

Soma® (carisporodol) was said to be readily available (10 on a scale of 0-10) and sells for \$2 per tablet. This drug has decreased in popularity over the past year according to recovering users.

### Seroquel®

Treatment providers described that Seroquel® (quetiapine fumarate) is often abused by young women in their “late teens, early twenties” and among clients with dual diagnosis.

## Pharmaceutical Stimulants

Users reported seeing “a lot” of Ritalin® (methylphenidate) and Adderall® (amphetamine mixed salts) abuse but were unable to comment on prices as these drugs are frequently traded or given away free of charge.

## HALLUCINOGENS

Hallucinogens are not readily available in Pickaway County and were consistently rated low, 2-3 on a 0 to 10 scale. Users reported having to request the drug in advance with some wait time.

MDMA use was reportedly more common among younger individuals. Law enforcement officials reported a male high school student was recently busted with a two gallon bag of Ecstasy tablets.

There were no mentions of *Salvia divinorum*.



Ohio Substance  
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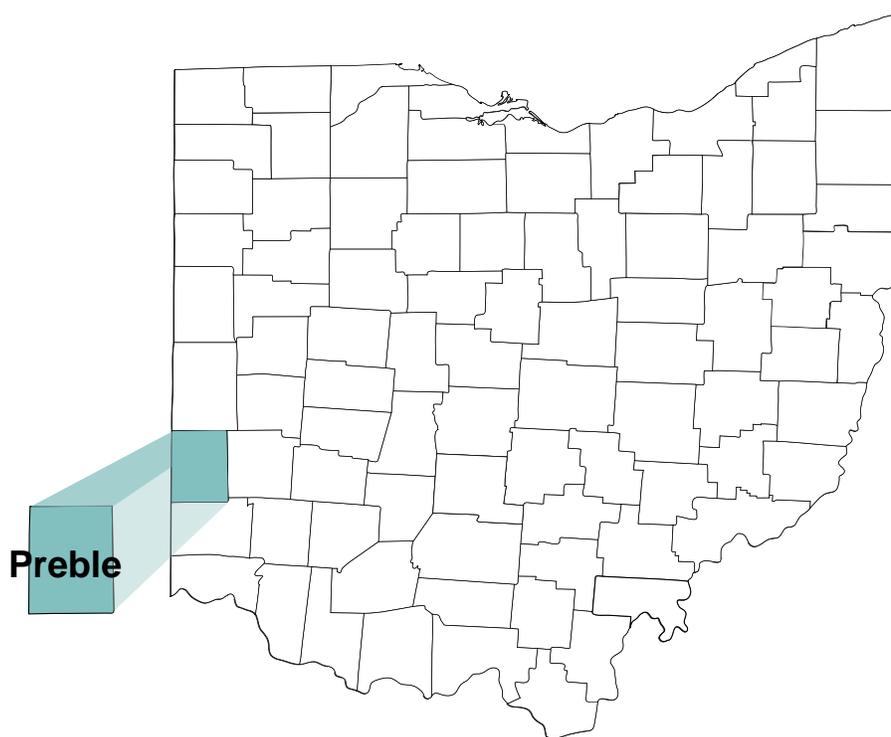


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron

**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

AREA PROFILE

Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Preble County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	42,491	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	98.0%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	0.6%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	0.6%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	81.7%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$43,281	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	8.1%	11.7%

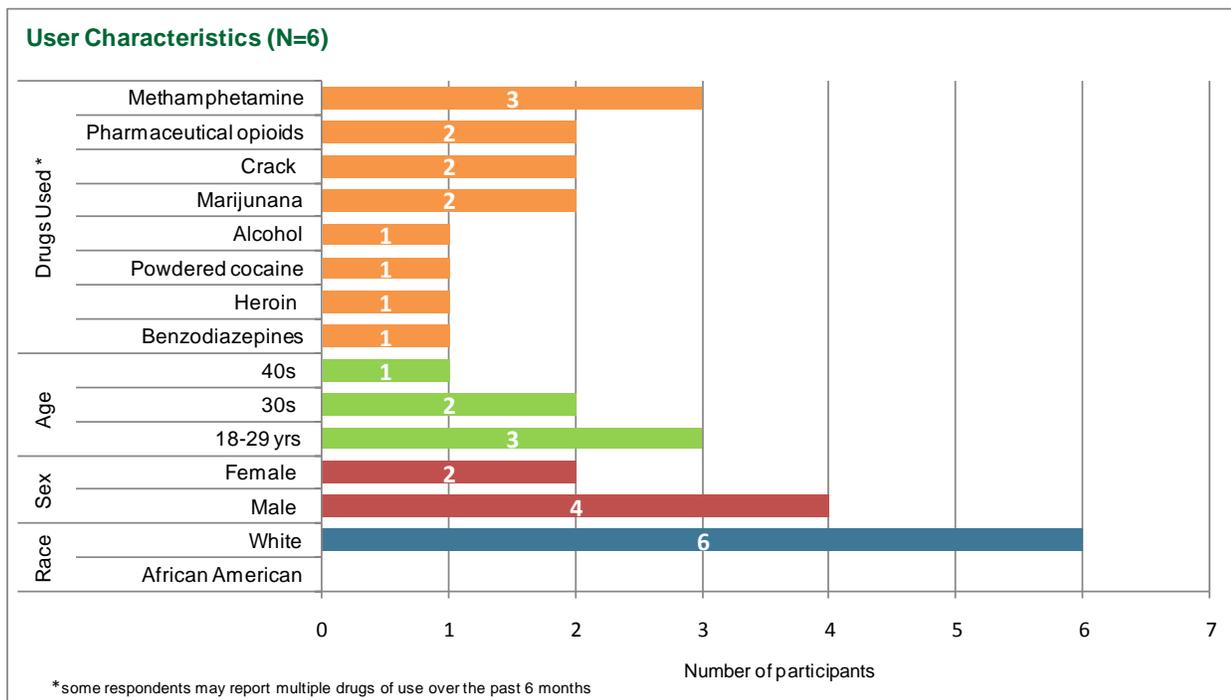
DATA SOURCES

Interviews Conducted in Preble County		
Date	Number	Participants
12/12/07	5	Treatment providers
01/08/08	4	Service providers for juvenile offenders
01/15/08	1	Recovering user
01/15/08	2	Law enforcement officers
01/15/08	1	Law enforcement officer
02/05/08	12	Treatment providers
03/06/08	1	Treatment provider
03/06/08	1	Social service provider
03/06/08	7	School officials and counselors
05/19/08	1	Recovering user
<b>Total numbers:</b>		
Focus groups	5	
Interviews	9	
All participants	39	
All users	6	

**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon five focus groups and nine individual interviews with active and recovering drug users, treatment providers, law enforcement officers, social service providers and school officials.

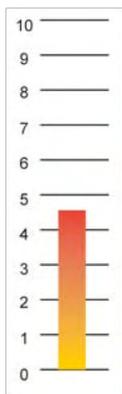
**Montgomery County Coroner’s Office** provides services to over 40 counties in Ohio. Data on accidental overdose death cases registered in Preble County in 2007 were used for this report.

**2007 PRIDE Survey conducted among Preble County students:** Annual prevalence rates of illicit drug use among 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 12<sup>th</sup> graders were used to supplement qualitative data sources. In 2007, the sample included 380 students from grade 10, and 221 students from grade 12. In 2001, the sample had 442 students from grade 10 and 307 students from grade 12.



## CRACK COCAINE

Crack Availability



According to users, crack-cocaine availability in Preble County is low to moderate (3 to 6 on a scale of 0 to 10). Users, treatment providers and law enforcement officers indicated that most crack users typically travel to Dayton to purchase it, where availability of crack and other “hard” drugs is higher. A user indicated: *“Crack availability [is] not very good, you really can’t find hard drugs in Eaton unless it’s methamphetamine. Basically, people from here are going to Dayton to get crack.”*

According to participants, crack availability has been stable over the past couple of years. However, occasional, temporary increases were associated with an out-of town drug dealer (typically from Dayton) setting up a local distribution site at a user’s home (in exchange for crack). Law enforcement officers indicated that in late 2006 and early 2007 an increase in crack availability occurred in Eaton, but that local distribution declined due to successful law enforcement operations.

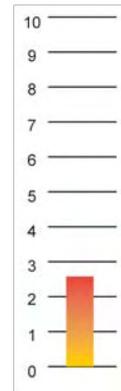
Locally, crack sold for about \$150 per 1/8 ounce. If users traveled to Dayton, they could obtain crack for as low as \$35-\$40 per gram, \$100 per 1/8 ounce, and \$600 per ounce.

Treatment providers reported low levels of crack-related treatment admissions. According to users and treatment providers, crack use is more common among those aged 40 and older. Law enforcement officials described typical crack users as being white males between 20 and 40 years of age. Some participants characterized crack users as individuals of lower socioeconomic status who are frequently unemployed and who have to engage in illegal activities to obtain money for drugs.

Users reported crack use in conjunction with alcohol, benzodiazepines and pharmaceutical opioids. As one user indicated, *“[I would use] alcohol or Xanax to try to come down...level myself back out.”* Smoking was the most common mode of administration, and users had no knowledge about injection use of crack cocaine. Treatment providers said that the few crack users who were currently in treatment (younger, aged 16-25), were referred through the legal system.

## POWDERED COCAINE

Powdered Cocaine Availability



Most participants reported low availability of powdered cocaine in Eaton and other areas in Preble County and rated it between 1 and 4 on a scale of 0 to 10. As with crack cocaine, users typically travel to Dayton to obtain powdered cocaine. One user indicated that a temporary drought of powdered cocaine occurred at the end of 2007: *“There was a point about six months ago when it was hard to get cocaine even in Dayton, there were a couple drug busts, and there was a drought, but now, obviously, it’s back again.”*

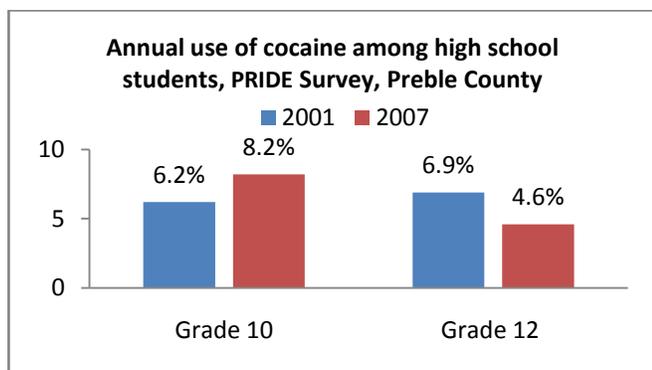
Participants indicated that local availability and use of powdered cocaine declined over the past few years. As one female user noted, *“I think it has decreased for cocaine; it does not seem like there is much cocaine around, I guess maybe because of crack.... You don’t really hear people do powder anymore.”* A law enforcement officer noted that local availability of powdered cocaine declined when methamphetamine became more available in Preble County.

Law enforcement officers reported local prices for powdered cocaine in the range of \$50-\$75 per gram. Users reported buying powdered cocaine in Dayton for as low as \$35-\$50 per gram, and for \$100 per 1/8 ounce. Some users noted that quality of powdered cocaine locally was generally lower than that in Dayton.

Treatment providers reported seeing low levels of powdered cocaine use among their clients, and indicated that it tends to be a secondary drug among primary marijuana and alcohol users.

Users and law enforcement officers reported that powdered cocaine use is more common among those aged 15 to 18. Service providers working with juvenile offenders also reported cases of powdered cocaine abuse among them.

According to the results of the PRIDE survey, conducted in Preble County, in 2007 rates of past-year (annual) use of cocaine (including crack and powdered cocaine) were 8.2% among 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 4.6% among 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Compared to 2001 data, rates declined among 12<sup>th</sup> graders and increased among 10<sup>th</sup> graders (Figure below).



Occasional use of powdered cocaine was reported among primary methamphetamine users. One female user explained: *“When we could not get meth, we did cocaine. That was the only reason we did it. We went to Dayton and got it.”*

Intranasal inhalation was the most common mode of use. Injection use of powdered cocaine was reported only among those who also injected heroin. Service providers noted that smoking marijuana laced with powdered cocaine was more commonly seen among juveniles.

### HEROIN



Although heroin abuse was viewed as increasing in Preble County, its local availability was generally rated as very low, in the range of 0 to 3 on a scale from 0 to 10. A law enforcement officer commented: *“Heroin, it’s here, uh, it’s available if you know the right people... once every couple months we’ll learn of somebody that’s trafficking in heroin, but we don’t make a lot of arrests for heroin here, very few.”*

Similar to crack and powdered cocaine users, heroin users typically travel to Dayton or other larger cities (including Richmond, Indiana) to obtain heroin.

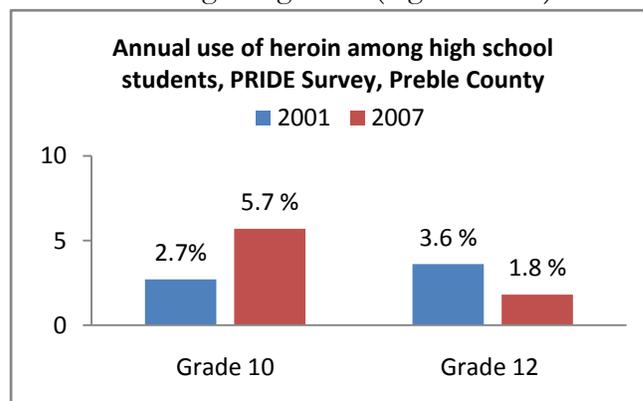
One male heroin user commented, *“It’s not really available here in Preble County, Eaton, it’s mostly Dayton and the surrounding cities. But I always went to Dayton, and over there sometimes you have to know people, but for the most part, you can go to a street corner or gas station and get crack... like in some parts of town. I’d say it’s [availability is] a 9 on that scale [from 0 to 10].”*

Heroin prices reportedly ranged between \$100 and \$130 per gram, and \$15 per “cap.” Powder or rock

form heroin that varied in color from grey to light brown and typically sold in capsules was reported as the most common type. Occasional cases of black tar heroin were reported by law enforcement professionals and users. One user reported buying heroin that turned purple when mixed with water, but indicated that the quality was very poor and this type of heroin was available in Dayton only for a very brief period of time.

Users and treatment providers noted an increasing trend of heroin use in Preble County, primarily among young (between 20 and 30), white males of lower to middle-class socioeconomic backgrounds. A white man who had been using heroin for about two years and who had a prior history of marijuana, LSD, powdered cocaine and crack use, described his experiences: *“When I was in prison first time, I was in prison for selling pot [marijuana]... And when I got out, my fiancée was splitting up, and I was going through depression, basically because of depression [I started heroin use], and then before I knew it, it was addiction... I was making 2 or 3 trips to Dayton a day, just back and forth ... I would get 2 or 3 caps of heroin, and then I would get half a gram of cocaine and half a gram of crack cocaine, and I would shoot the cocaine, and shoot the heroin, and smoke crack, and then I come back here, make some money, and go back....”*

According to the results of the PRIDE survey conducted in Preble County in 2007, rates of past-year (annual) use of heroin were higher among 10<sup>th</sup> graders than among 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Compared to 2001 data, rates declined among 12<sup>th</sup> graders and increased among 10<sup>th</sup> graders (Figure below).



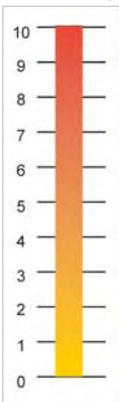
Some users and law enforcement professionals reported heroin use among primary methamphetamine users. One male user commented: *“I would snort heroin [after smoking*

*methamphetamine], 'cause after staying up so long you start hurting, [needing heroin] just to ease the pain.'*

Intranasal inhalation and injection use are common modes of administration. Marijuana, benzodiazepines, and powdered cocaine are frequently used in conjunction with heroin.

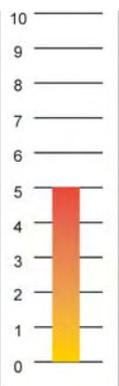
**OTHER OPIOIDS**

**Vicodin® Availability**



Most participants reported high levels of pharmaceutical opioid availability and abuse in Preble County. As one female user explained, *“They are easy to get. [A woman that introduced me] had an address book full of names that she could flip it open and call any of those people and get me whatever kind of pills I wanted, and they were all here in Preble County.”* Overall, users and treatment providers noted that pharmaceutical opioid abuse has increased in Preble County over the past few years.

**OxyContin® Availability**



According to user and law enforcement reports, Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) was the easiest pharmaceutical opioid to obtain for illicit use, with street availability rated at 10. Availability of Lortab® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) was rated at 9, Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen) at 6-10, OxyContin® (oxycodone extended-release) at 4-6, methadone wafers at 3-7, fentanyl patches (Duragesic®) and suckers (Actiq®) at 3-5, and Dilaudid®

(hydromorphone) at 2. Participants also reported some availability of liquid methadone and morphine tablets. Participants had no knowledge about non-medical use of Suboxone® (buprenorphine and nalaxone) or Subutex® (buprenorphine).

As seen from the table below, street prices of pharmaceutical opioids ranged from \$0.50 to \$1 per milligram of opioid content.

Users, treatment providers, school officials and other service providers noted high levels of

pharmaceutical drug abuse in Preble County. They

**Street prices of pharmaceutical opioids**

<b>Vicodin®</b>	7.5 mg	\$3-\$5
	5 mg	\$2-\$3
<b>Percocet®</b>	5 mg	\$3
	7.5 mg	\$4
<b>OxyContin®</b>	20 mg	\$15
	40 mg	\$20
<b>Methadone</b>	40 mg (wafer)	\$10-\$20
<b>Fentanyl</b>	Duragesic® patch	\$10-20
	Actiq® sucker	\$50

related the increasing popularity and accessibility of pharmaceutical opioids to medical professionals and to relatively little stigma associated with pharmaceutical opioid abuse. As one user commented: *“If you want to do drugs but don’t want anybody to know that secret, then pharmaceuticals are the way to go, cause you can be a lawyer and do pharmaceuticals and no one is gonna know...”*

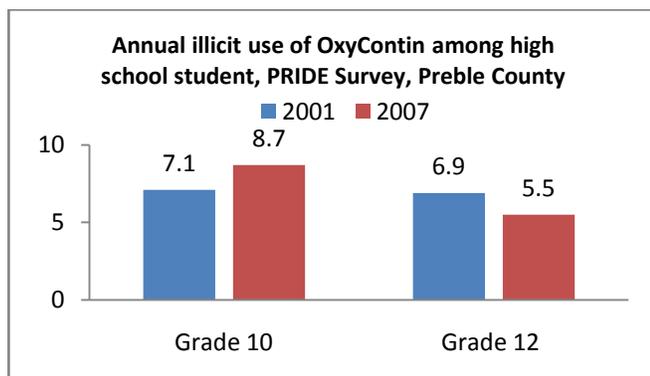
Pharmaceutical drug abuse was reported as common among diverse users. First, some users noted that *“a lot of older people with chronic pain issues are abusing them.”* Treatment providers also indicated high rates of chronic pain co-morbidity among individuals addicted to pharmaceutical opioids.

Second, users, treatment providers, school officials and other service providers indicated high rates of pharmaceutical opioid abuse among adolescents and young adults. Reportedly, they frequently obtain prescription drugs by stealing them from their parents, grandparents or other family members and use them in conjunction with alcohol, marijuana and benzodiazepines. One service provider commented: *“We hear stories of kids at parties; kids go to the parties at someone’s house or just visiting a friend and hitting the medicine cabinets and taking things out....”*

Pharmaceutical opioids and other prescription drugs were rated as the third most important substance abuse problem among juveniles, after alcohol and marijuana.

High rates of prescription drug abuse among the area high school students were confirmed by the PRIDE Survey. According to the data collected in

2007, about 16% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and about 17% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported lifetime non-medical use of any prescription drug (not limited to pharmaceutical opioids). In 2007, close to 9% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in Preble County reported illicit use of OxyContin® in the past year. As seen from the figure below, rates of illicit use of OxyContin® increased among 10<sup>th</sup> graders and declined among 12<sup>th</sup> graders.



According to the focus group participants, pharmaceutical opioids, especially methadone, are also commonly abused by heroin users, who take them to self-medicate withdrawal symptoms. One heroin user described distinct groups of pharmaceutical opioid users in the following way: “I know people that love Vicodin and Percocet, but won’t eat methadone wafer because they think it will be more like OxyContin or heroin, and I know people that use OxyContin and [methadone] wafers but won’t touch heroin. But most heroin users will use pills.”

Law enforcement professionals and users reported high levels of pharmaceutical opioid abuse among primary methamphetamine users. A law enforcement officer noted: “A lot of times if we arrest somebody and they have meth on them, it seems like they’ve always got some kind of prescription pills, you know, like in a baggy or something, you know... just to bring them down when they wanna come down.”

In addition to oral use, intranasal inhalation of crushed tablets (Vicodin®, Percocet®, OxyContin® etc.) was reported as common among users in Preble County. Users reported that aluminum cans or broken light bulbs are used to “smoke” the fentanyl gel they extract from Duragesic® patches. Treatment providers noted that injection use of OxyContin® was common among individuals addicted to opiates.

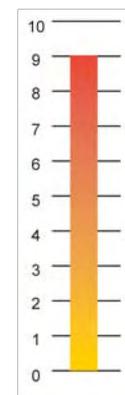
According to the coroner’s data, in 2007, there were seven accidental overdose death cases in Preble County, and all of them tested positive for pharmaceutical opioids, including fentanyl (3), oxycodone (2), methadone (2), and hydrocodone (3).

## METHAMPHETAMINE

### Methamphetamine availability

All participants reported high levels of methamphetamine availability and abuse in Preble County. As one user suggested, “It’s all over out here in Preble County, it’s everywhere; it seems like that’s what most people are doing out here.” A law enforcement officer also commented: “Our methamphetamine [availability] is probably right up there with weed. I mean, it’s just that easy to get it out here, everybody is doing it. Yeah. By far, hands down, methamphetamine is our biggest problem, by far.”

Methamphetamine Availability



Users rated methamphetamine availability at 10 on a scale of 0 to 10, and treatment providers and law enforcement officers rated it between 7 and 10. Although many participants commented that methamphetamine availability has been higher in Preble County than in many other areas of the state, law enforcement officers pointed out that high methamphetamine-related crime statistics reflect successful interdiction efforts. As one law enforcement professional commented, “We have taken a very strong stand against methamphetamine... so I think that, in part, we’ve gained the popularity [as a region with high rates of methamphetamine abuse] because of our success in our enforcement efforts...”

Some users indicated that methamphetamine has been an ongoing problem in Preble County for 5 to 10 years, and treatment providers reported seeing methamphetamine abusers in the local treatment program since 2001-2002. However, most participants agreed that methamphetamine availability and abuse increased substantially once local manufacture was introduced three to four years ago. A law enforcement officer noted: “About 4 years ago, we made our first methamphetamine manufacturing arrest in this county and from that point on it just seems to

*have increasingly been a problem for our county. Uh, particularly in the last couple years and our numbers have gone way up.”*

Some participants thought that, due to law enforcement efforts, the availability of methamphetamine in Preble County may have declined over the past six months, although others felt that it was still easy to obtain.

### Methamphetamine manufacture

Most methamphetamine in Preble County is manufactured locally using the so-called anhydrous ammonia method. Participants reported that local cooks have learned to manufacture their own anhydrous ammonia, whereas for years they either purchased it or stole it from nearby farmers. Law enforcement and users also noted that a few local cooks have attempted to use the so-called red phosphorus method, which predominates in northeastern Ohio (e.g., Summit and Stark counties).

Typically, local “cooks” produce methamphetamine for their own personal use and for distribution within their immediate network of users. “Cooks” are more commonly males, although some participants noted increasing female involvement in methamphetamine manufacture.

Participants reported a wide range of locations where methamphetamine is produced, including motels, sheds and garages, “*Out in the woods, then there is dirt and everything in there [methamphetamine],*” and at home, around family members and young children.

Most users and law enforcement professionals felt that the law regulating sales of over-the-counter medications containing pseudoephedrine had only minimal impact on methamphetamine production trends in Preble County. Participants commented that those involved in methamphetamine manufacture find it easy to visit several pharmacies and obtain requisite quantities of pseudoephedrine-containing medications. As one user commented, “*You have a meth circle, all your friends that we do meth together. And when somebody is getting ready to do a cook, then a few of us will get together, and we’ll go shopping to get the ingredients, and we will go to Dayton or wherever, and three of us can go shopping; in an hour or so we can have 20*

*boxes of Sudafed. ... I can go to different pharmacies with my ID and buy a box of Sudafed...*

### Types, quality and prices

Powder-type methamphetamine is the most commonly seen form of the drug in Preble County. Usually, it is locally manufactured and looks like “*powdered sugar, almost like cocaine.*” Law enforcement professionals indicated that the purity was between 60%-70%.

Users and law enforcement reported occasional availability of glass-type methamphetamine, which was believed to be of higher quality and to have been brought into the area from outside the state. One user indicated that a few local cooks knew how to make glass-type methamphetamine, but the manufacturing process involved a few “extra steps.”

Most participants and law enforcement reported stable prices of methamphetamine: \$25 per ¼ gram, \$50 per ½ gram, and \$100 per gram. Glass-type methamphetamine sold for about \$125 per gram. One user explained that “*If you know the cook, you can get ¼ g for \$20. If you get a box of Sudafed for \$5 at Wal-Mart, then you can trade that for ½ gram, because you are putting your name out there for that Sudafed.*”

### User groups

Most participants reported that “*meth has no boundaries...*” in terms of sociodemographic characteristics of users. One user explained that methamphetamine appealed to a broad range of user groups: “*I believe it’s because... we all trying to work harder, we all trying to get further, we all have to go, go, go, well, meth let’s you to go, go, go. You know, if you are at work, and you trying to get that promotion, or... we are all trying to get something, meth helps, it makes you think it is helping you work harder or work longer or work faster, or whatever. ... I was [a]single mom, did it make taking care of kids, taking care of the house, and all that kind of stuff easier? Sure....”*

Some participants characterized users as ranging from teenagers to older adults, but treatment providers and law enforcement professionals indicated that a typical age range is between 20 and 40 years. Case managers, school officials, and a family services provider indicated increases in young children and adolescents that are being exposed to

methamphetamine use and manufacture through their parents' involvement. Most participants indicated that methamphetamine is used about equally by males and females. Participants also noted great variability in terms socioeconomic backgrounds. As one law enforcement officer pointed out, *"It ranges from, uh, people of, probably no income at all, to people that actually are pretty well off that just got hooked on it [because] of, um, like, family trouble or something."*

Participants also noted great variability among methamphetamine users in terms of their drug use histories. As a law enforcement officer reported: *"We see them all the way from, um, actually, people that have never actually, really, really done any narcotics or drugs before... And then we've got people that are, you know, like, maybe in their 40s; that's, you know, pretty much told us that they've done drugs all their life and then they've just been hooked on meth in the last couple years."*

Treatment providers estimated that about 10%-12% of their clients are methamphetamine users. They pointed out, however, that most users are in jail or in prison and never get into a substance abuse treatment program.

### Use patterns

Participants described two, sometimes overlapping patterns of methamphetamine use—its use to increase energy for work, and its use in party-like, recreational situations. For example, a 39 year-old white man, who was introduced to methamphetamine by his co-worker, typically used it a few times per week: *"I stay up, I can do a lot more work, twice the work..."* In contrast, a 37 year-old woman who also felt that, initially methamphetamine allowed her to be more productive in her daily chores, described party-like situations of methamphetamine use: *"When we get real high, we like to share, it's fun... It would be a party-like situation... [We would] smoke meth, sit around and talk, and tinker around with stuff, put things together, clean something, whatever..."*

Local users typically smoke or snort methamphetamine, but some participants also reported oral administration. Injection use was generally viewed as uncommon.

Methamphetamine is typically used in conjunction

with marijuana, alcohol, pharmaceutical opioids and benzodiazepines. Some participants mentioned cases of heroin use in conjunction with methamphetamine.

According to the results of the PRIDE Survey 2007, about 5.4% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 1.9% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported use of methamphetamine in the past year. No data on methamphetamine use in Preble County were collected in 2001 PRIDE Survey.

## MARIJUANA

Marijuana availability was rated as high (10 on a scale of 0 to 10) by all study participants: *"it is always available," "every kid in town knows how to get it."* A school counselor noted: *"We're seeing more and more, a lot of pot. You know, when you talk to the kids... if you ask about pot, it's very easy to get over here for the kids..."*

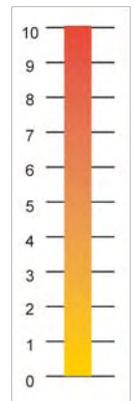
Participants reported that marijuana is frequently brought into the area from Dayton, Richmond (Indiana), and other larger towns. Users reported high availability of locally grown marijuana, although a law enforcement officer indicated a decrease in local marijuana growing operations: *"Our plants that we seize went down over the last few years. A few years ago it wasn't uncommon to go out and pull 1,000 plants in a day's work, and now, if we're pulling 100 we're pretty happy, you know."*

Overall, users indicated that quality of marijuana has been high. Prices ranged from \$30 to \$50 per 1/8 ounce, and \$60 to \$80 per 1/4 ounce, depending on type and quality. One user indicated that he used to buy marijuana in Dayton for \$1,000-\$1,200 per pound and then sell it locally for \$1,500-\$1,600 per pound.

Participants reported high levels of marijuana abuse among diverse populations, including adolescents. Treatment providers reported that juveniles are being introduced to marijuana at an increasingly younger age, and that intergenerational use is common. As one treatment provider commented, *"We hear story after story of that's who introduced it to them was their parents."*

All participants reported that marijuana is viewed as

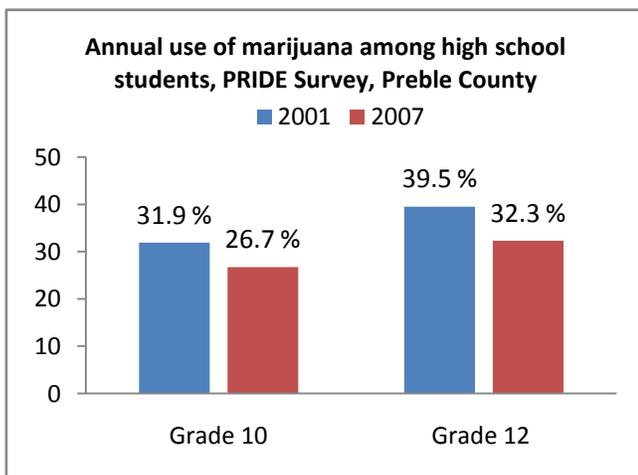
Marijuana Availability



a socially acceptable and low risk substance. A case manager working with juveniles indicated, “[*Marijuana*] It’s like cigarettes to them, and they’ll sit there and argue with you why it needs to be legalized.” Two school officials commented that “*Marijuana use is across the board... No stigma at all, it seems*”; “*I mean, I don’t think there is any [stigma] now. Good kids, bad kids, in-between: they all do it.*”

Marijuana is sometimes used in conjunction with benzodiazepines and alcohol. Two users reported that some individuals like to lace marijuana with opium, although two of the three forms mentioned, which sell for \$10-\$15 per gram, are probably incense (see below).

According to the results of the PRIDE Survey 2007, about a third of all 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported past-year use of marijuana. Unlike most other drugs of abuse surveyed by the study, rates of marijuana use were lower among 10<sup>th</sup> graders than among 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Compared to 2001 data, rates of marijuana use declined both among 12<sup>th</sup> graders and among 10<sup>th</sup> graders (Figure below).



## BENZODIAZEPINES

Participants reported high street availability of benzodiazepines. Law enforcement professionals and users rated availability of Xanax® (alprazolam) at 10, Valium® (diazepam) at 7-8, and Klonopin® (clonazepam) at 8 on a scale of 0 to 10.

Treatment providers and users reported high levels of benzodiazepine abuse among adolescents and young adults, typically in combination with marijuana, alcohol and pharmaceutical opioids.

Benzodiazepines are also frequently used to self-medicate anxiety and stress. One service provider commented: “*They’ll say, ‘Well, I take, uh, you know, Xanax three times a day, it just keeps me calm.’ And I’ll say, ‘Well, who prescribed that, who is your prescribing physician?’ ‘Well, I just buy it on the street...’*”

Similarly, a 46-year-old white woman described her use of pharmaceuticals: “*First thing in the morning, [I’ll take] 4-5 pain pills, a couple of Xanax—will get a relax feeling, like I am not nervous or uptight. I have always been a very nervous person, that’s where my drug use came in.*”

Benzodiazepines are frequently used by methamphetamine and crack cocaine users to come down from a stimulant high. According to treatment providers, benzodiazepine abuse is also common among primary heroin users.

## HALLUCINOGENS

Availability of Ecstasy (MDMA, or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), LSD and psilocybin mushrooms was generally rated as low. As one user indicated, “*LSD only comes around when somebody goes to a hippy festival and brings it back, but it comes around once or twice a year.*” One user indicated some recent increase in MDMA availability, and another user reported moderate availability of PCP (phencyclidine). Two users reported low to moderate availability of ketamine (Special K). A few users reported that they had smoked *Salvia divinorum*.

According to the PRIDE Survey, in 2007 6.6% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 3.2% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported Ecstasy use in the past year.

## DXM

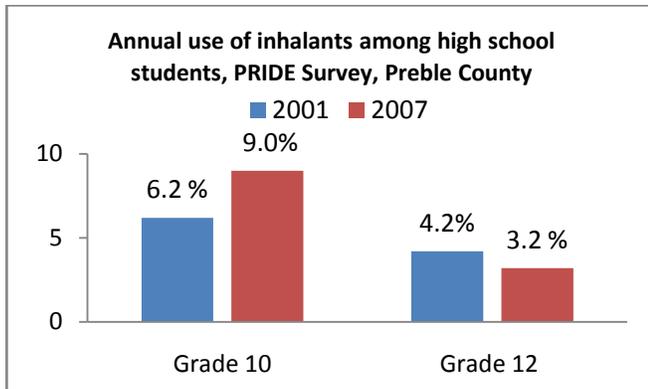
Service providers and law enforcement officers reported high levels of DXM (dextromethorphan) use among school-aged youth. DXM is an ingredient in over-the-counter cough and cold medications such as Robitussin® and Coricidin®. One treatment provider commented: “*Robotripping’ is a huge issue... most kids have at least tried it.*” Participants reported “*a rash of thefts at the local stores, kids caught stealing cough syrup.*”

## INHALANTS

Law enforcement officers, service providers, and school officials reported a significant problem of

inhalant abuse among adolescents, including “problems with air dusters, nail polish, gasoline,” and noted a few recent fatal cases linked to inhalant abuse.

According to the PRIDE Survey, about 9% of 10<sup>th</sup> and about 3% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported inhalant use in 2007. Compared to 2001 data, rates of inhalant use declined among 12<sup>th</sup> graders and increased among 10<sup>th</sup> graders (Figure below)



## ALCOHOL

School officials considered alcohol consumption to be the most significant substance abuse problem among school-age youth and said that it was increasing. They reported increasing popularity of hard liquor and patterns of binge-drinking. Cases of alcohol dealing in schools among juveniles were also reported. One participant noted, “Kids are dealing alcohol, they’re selling it in water bottles...” Another participant also added: “I believe one of those bottles could go anywhere from \$25 to \$35. Well, a bottle of vodka, you know, juiced up in some bottles like this, that works pretty well, and you can make a pretty good killing on, you know, \$20 dollar bottle of vodka, you can divide it up and make some nice money...”

According to the PRIDE Survey, in 2007, about 56.1% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and about 65.8% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported alcohol use in the past year. Past month use of hard liquor was reported by Almost 23% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 32.4% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported past month use of hard liquor.

## OTHER TRENDS

Two users reported local availability of red rock “opium” and white rock “opium” (both substances are sold as opium but are different forms of incense). They sell for about \$10-\$15 per gram, and are typically used to lace marijuana joints. The same two participants also reported cases of black tar opium (presumably real opium) use, and estimated its availability at 1-2.



Ohio Substance  
Abuse Monitoring  
Network

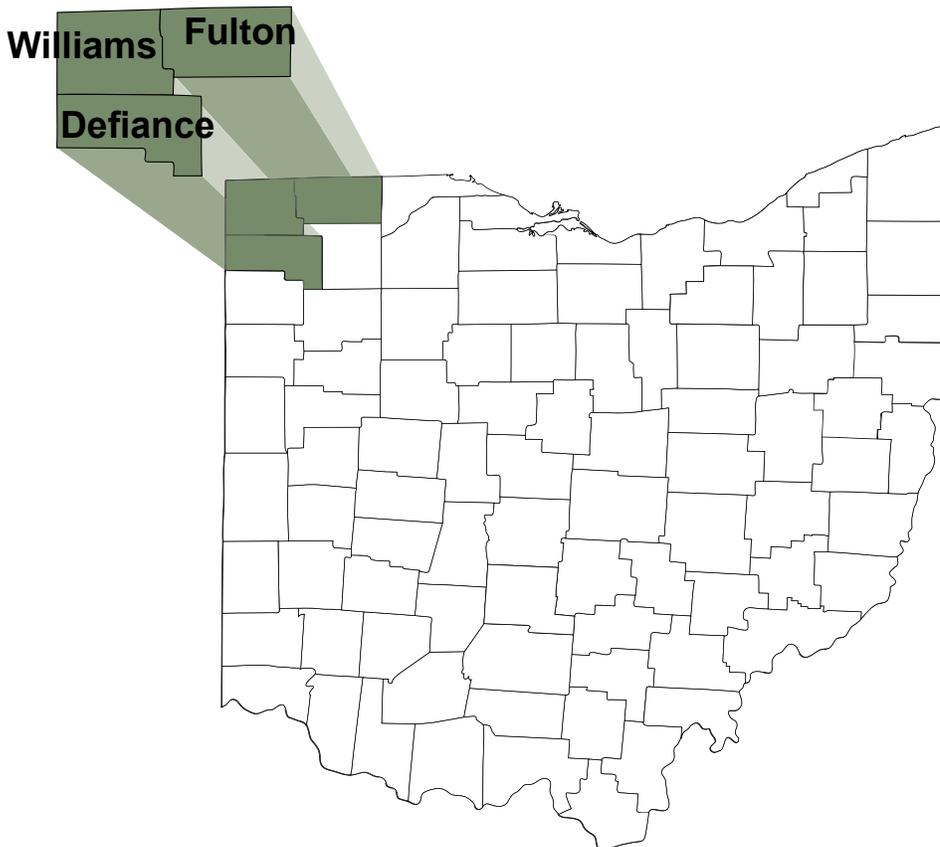


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron

**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

AREA PROFILE

Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Defiance County	Fulton County	Williams County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	39,091	42,900	38,719	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	96.5%	97.9%	97.5%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	2.0%	0.4%	0.8%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	7.7%	6.0%	3.2%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	84.7%	85.3%	83.1%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$46,151	\$47,958	\$41,939	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	7.9%	7.1%	8.3%	11.7%

DATA SOURCES

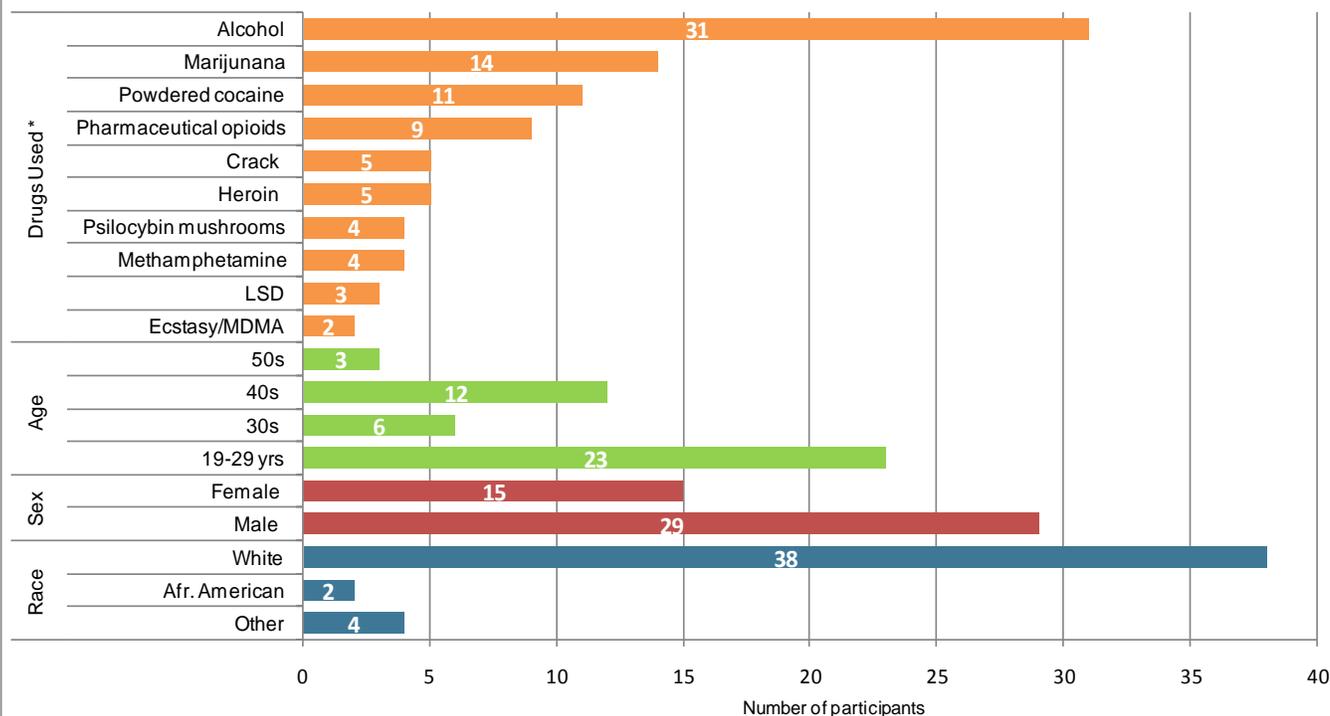
Interviews Conducted in Northwest Ohio		
Date	Number	Participants
01/16/08	9	Active and recovering users
01/16/08	12	Active and recovering users
03/13/08	4	Active and recovering users
03/13/08	9	Active and recovering users
03/13/08	10	Active and recovering users
05/28/08	7	Treatment Providers
05/28/08	3	Law enforcement officers
05/28/08	2	Corrections facility staff
05/29/08	1	School official
06/10/08	1	School official
<b>Total numbers:</b>		
Focus groups	8	
Interviews	2	
All participants	59	
All users	44	

**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon eight focus groups and two individual interviews with active and recovering drug users, treatment providers, law enforcement officers and school officials.

**Media reports:** *The Toledo Blade* and other media sources were monitored for information about local drug abuse trends.

**Other data sources:** Data from the 2006 Williams County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 2006 Fulton County Youth Survey, and 2006 Swanton Local School Survey were used to triangulate OSAM findings.

User Characteristics (N=44)



## INTRODUCTION

OSAM's Rural Targeted Response Initiative in Northwest Ohio included Fulton, Williams and Defiance counties. Availability is reported by county followed by overall trends for the region.

## CRACK COCAINE

### Defiance County

Crack cocaine was most prevalent in Defiance County where availability was high and users rated it a 10 on a 0 to 10 scale. Crack was priced at \$100 per gram and \$160 per 1/8 ounce, but users reported that the drug was most commonly sold in small \$20 "rocks" or "pieces." Users reported that quality varied and most of the crack was "average." However, one 25 year-old male user indicated paying up to \$250 per 1/8 ounce for higher quality crack, *"You gotta think about it, every penny you pay for the quality. You can easily get some bull-- that been cooked up and rebroke down...or if you want to spend your money, you can get a good ride for it."*

### Williams County

Users in Williams County also reported high availability of crack cocaine, rated it at a "9." Users also reported availability had "skyrocketed" in the past six months and perceived much of the supply was being brought into the county from nearby cities such as Toledo and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Crack cocaine in Williams County was priced at \$20 per 1/2 gram and \$120 per 1/8 ounce.

"Well, I could probably go get crack before I could get a bag of weed in this town."

-Williams County user

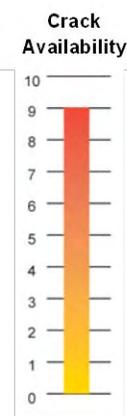
### Fulton County

Fulton County reported the lowest prevalence of crack cocaine; with both users and treatment providers rating it's availability at 7 or 8 on the 0 to 10 scale. Although law enforcement officers reported only two cases of crack cocaine in Fulton County last year, officers felt availability and use was increasing. One officer commented, *"I just think that a lot of it is the stigma of the crack cocaine."* Crack cocaine sold for \$50 per gram and \$160 per 1/8 ounce.

Fulton County treatment providers indicated that the county's close proximity to the Ohio Turnpike facilitated distribution of the drug. One provider commented, *"We're very close to the turnpike that enables them to get it very fast and very easy."* Media reports indicated that 12 kilograms of cocaine, valued at \$1.8 million was seized on the Ohio Turnpike in Fulton County in early April (*The Toledo Blade*, 4/6/2008). Treatment providers also noted crack cocaine was not a popular drug among users currently in treatment and that the few crack users who were currently in treatment (younger, aged 16-25), were referred through the legal system.

### Overall Trends

Overall, the reported availability of crack cocaine ranges from 7-10 in rural northwest Ohio, although it may be more difficult to purchase there than it is in Toledo. Crack cocaine is not sold openly on the street as is common in more urban areas of the state; rather, users described making a phone call or series of phone calls to obtain the drug. One user in Defiance indicated, *"Basically phone calls, if you know somebody that knows somebody... so it's here, you can't get around it."* Larger quantities of crack cocaine were said to be more difficult to obtain in rural Northwest Ohio, and obtaining quantities larger than a gram usually required a trip to Toledo. A law enforcement officer in Fulton County commented, *"Yeah it's being brought in...I think that's the majority of the problem is that they're leaving the county, going to Toledo, purchase it, bringing it back and then selling it."* Users in all three counties reportedly purchase larger quantities (i.e. "8-ball", ounce) of powdered cocaine that is more readily available and "rock it up" at home.



Users in and from Defiance County and other rural areas reported difficulty obtaining crack paraphernalia (i.e. glass pipes, "rose stems") and saw this as a barrier to use. One user in residential treatment commented, *"I'm not gonna waste the rock by letting it roll around on a piece of foil... unless you can find a glass cigar case and use that."* Many users reported traveling about one hour back and forth to urban areas of the state to obtain both crack cocaine and

crack paraphernalia. Overall, smoking was the primary method of administration, with little to no reports of crack injection. Crack is typically used in combination with alcohol, marijuana, and benzodiazepines.

## POWDERED COCAINE

### Defiance County

Users in Defiance County indicated high availability of powdered cocaine, “*everyday, all day*” and rated it a “10” on the availability scale. Powdered cocaine sells for \$100-\$125 per gram and about \$900 per ounce. One user indicated, as others agreed, “The more you buy, the cheaper it is.” Quality was said to be good. Several males in their early 20s reported using powdered cocaine since high school. A 20 year-old male described his experiences: “*I was really bad into cocaine too, lost my parents’ house over it. That’s how bad I got into debt. I was doing it for probably half a year straight. Every day getting a brick, put it out in front of me, sit by myself and just put my face in it.*”

“I started when I was 14, started with pot. Then it was coke and drinking. I was really bad into coke spent an inheritance in one month.”

-Defiance County user

### Williams County

Williams County users reported moderate availability of powdered cocaine, and rated it between 5 and 7 on a 0 to 10 scale. A male user in Williams County said, “*It’s just, sometimes it’s here and sometimes it’s not, I mean it could be here today and you ain’t gonna find none for 6 months.*” A professional at the local correctional facility rated it even lower, “*For powder, now Williams County, I probably put a little bit lower [than Fulton], maybe a 5 or 4.*” Prices were said to have increased over the past six months. A year ago, 1/8 ounce typically sold for \$160-\$180, currently it sells for about \$270. A gram of powdered cocaine was priced at \$80-\$100. Quality was said to be poor if the cocaine was purchased within the county. A male user commented, “*Too many people put their hands on it. You know they wanna cut it with baking soda... by the time we get it, it’s fifty percent junk.*” A female user added, “*If you want it, and, to be pure you have to go to the city pretty much.*” Williams County users sometimes

travel forty minutes to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to obtain powdered cocaine.

### Fulton County

Powdered cocaine availability in Fulton County was high according to users, who rated it between 8 and 9 on a 0 to 10 scale. Treatment providers confirmed high availability (rating it an 8), and noted that most primary powdered cocaine users currently in treatment were women, and a few Hispanic men. A professional at a local correctional facility said, “*Fulton County area, [I] have identified more powder cocaine than crack cocaine, but cocaine.*” Powdered cocaine sold for \$40-\$50 per gram and \$100-\$160 per 1/8 ounce. Quality was said to be “super high” by two 20 year-old white female users in Fulton County. Users in Fulton County indicated they prefer powdered cocaine over crack because of the negative stigma associated with crack-cocaine use. A law enforcement officer noted similar views among youth in Fulton County: “*They’re looking at crack, more like, more of the harder drugs, where cocaine is just one of those ‘party’ drugs. They’re recreational drugs and don’t see it as big [thing]...If the kids want the powder they’re gonna bring the powder in, they’re not gonna bring in the rock.*”

### Overall Trends

Overall, powdered cocaine was reported as more accessible within the rural counties than crack cocaine, although a few “dips” in availability were noted in the past year. Some users reported traveling to other cities to obtain the drug, but most felt it was fairly accessible within the counties. Users had difficulty identifying typical user groups, one male user in Defiance commented, “*I see the older crowd using powder, like 38-60...*” and added, “*then you see like 16-20 year olds using powder, hanging out with friends.*” Among the participants, powdered cocaine was a typical drug of choice, particularly among younger whites aged 20-25. A female methamphetamine user in Williams County indicated, “*My husband’s Hispanic and he does coke, so [does] his whole family. Weed too, but not as much as coke.*”

A professional who works with adolescents at a local correctional facility noted, “*They usually start out with powder cocaine and then moving in to the crack and usually, most of the area around here, they’re being introduced to it by family. I’d probably put 80 maybe 75-80% is*

*through their family, cousins, brother, sisters, a lot of their parents."*

Powdered cocaine administration varied greatly in rural Northwest Ohio and was largely based on user preference and previous drug experience. There were several reports of smoking powdered cocaine, or "freebasing" the powder off of tin foil. A user in Williams County describes, *"Yeah, I free, usually when I do it that's what I do—freebase, put it on tin foil with some water and just light it with a lighter, smoke up."* Users also reported "snorting" the drug, *"I would use my dollar bill and snort it right up my nose."* A Fulton County treatment provider noted, *"The ones [clients] I've got are snorting it, and I don't even think I've heard of anybody using IV around here."* However, a treatment provider felt that intravenous cocaine use was common among the opiate-addicted women. A 38 year-old white male user in Defiance commented, *"I don't smoke it, I shoot it - that soft [powdered cocaine]... it's not common, just how I learned when I was a kid."*

Users reported that powdered cocaine was typically used in combination with marijuana and alcohol. A 20 year-old white male in Defiance said, *"I think that when you do it, you can drink as much as you want, until you stop using. Then like an hour after you stop using, it's gonna hit you all at once. You better be someplace safe, 'cause it will hit you like a brick wall."* A female user in Williams County also noted, *"Yeah [you] can definitely drink a whole lot more doing cocaine. You probably drink like 5 times the limit and still be alive."* Use of marijuana laced with powdered cocaine, typically called "Rock Star" or "Cocoa Puffs," was said to be more common among teenagers.

## HEROIN

### Defiance County

According to users, heroin availability in Defiance County was moderate. Users rated it a 7 or 8 on a 0 to 10 scale and indicated a marked decrease over the past six months. A 21 year-old male user commented, *"7, it went down, just a couple months ago... actually yea, three, four months ago... There's still a couple people that deal it, but in this area, the main supply is like gone, you gotta have a drive to get it."* Users attributed this decrease to a recent "bust." Media reports indicated that a Defiance man was arrested on charges of possession of 17 grams of heroin in

March of this year ([The Crescent News](#), 3/11/08.) A 38 year-old white male reported several users he knows drive up to three hours to Dayton to obtain the drug. A 20 year-old white male reported driving to the nearby Paulding County to obtain white powder heroin. Heroin prices were noted as high and increasing. *"Here you's paying \$275 for a ball [1/8 ounce] of heroin, just the fact that it's so hard to get it. It's hard to get it, and plus once they get it - they need it - you can charge whatever you want."* Another user commented, *"I get tar in Dayton, 20's [\$20] in wax paper or a strip of 7 for \$100."* Younger whites aged 21 and up were said to be typical users.

### Williams County

Users in Williams County had little knowledge of heroin availability, use and prices. A male user commented, *"I've seen heroin in this town once and it was 'cause it was brought from [west coast]."* A female added, *"I've never seen it. I don't know anybody who does it."* One female added that some time ago she saw heroin used by younger whites, *"Um, I'd say this would probably be like a year ago that I seen probably of the ones that did heroin was like, 5 or 6 of them and they were all 21, 22."*

### Fulton County

Fulton County reports on heroin availability varied. Fulton County recovering users rated heroin availability as a 5 on a 0 to 10 scale. Law enforcement officers rated availability low, 1 or 2 on the same scale, but felt that it was higher in the eastern part of the county, adjacent to Lucas County. Users reported going to Toledo or Detroit to obtain the drug. There was again some mention of heroin availability in Paulding County. Heroin was typically sold in \$10 "packs," described as tan heroin powder, wrapped in old Michigan lottery tickets. A treatment provider reported several of her clients used intravenous heroin and they reportedly travel over 1.5 hours to Detroit to purchase the drug. Overall, Fulton County treatment providers reported an increase in heroin admissions over the past six months. They attributed this increase to the decrease in OxyContin® (oxycodone extended-release) availability in the area.

Several treatment providers' and law enforcement

officers indicated a potential increase in intravenous heroin use among high school youth, although it appeared to be isolated to one district in the county. A professional at a local correctional facility confirmed these reports saying, *“Especially increased in Fulton County, specifically, with the heroin use. This recent past probably six months, I’ve had three clients that come in, one former client here in the program and a kid in the program right now, and they’re just talking about how the heroin use has just increased...They’re white. Males or females... I think in one sense they’re snorting it to a point but I think, I’ve had a lot of cases where they start up shooting.”*

A school official confirmed the heroin problem, but noted it was limited to a small group of students. The official also added, *“We’ve definitely tried to work with the students who have been identified... these students tend to be economically disadvantaged and some are learning it [drug use] at home.”* According to some participants, the increase in heroin use was partly attributed to reduced stigma among youth surrounding heroin, *“...[youth say] you’d be a very bad addict if you were using meth. While heroin, now, has grown in popularity and hasn’t shown to be as bad of a deal as, crack or meth.”*

Users reported that heroin is commonly used alone or with other opiates. Heroin is most commonly administered through intranasal inhalation or injection. A white male opiate user said, *“Not too many people are snortin’ it anymore though, they just bang it [inject].”*

Data from a 2006 Fulton County youth survey indicated that 1.4% of students (N=563), grades 7-12, reported using heroin in the past year.

### Overall Trends

Only five of the forty-four total participants interviewed for this study reported heroin use in the six months prior to the interview. Users noted that heroin is commonly obtained in larger cities such as Toledo, Dayton, and Detroit, Michigan. Users also indicated the nearest opiate treatment facilities were over forty minutes away in Lucas County or Monroe, Michigan. Availability of heroin varied greatly both between and within the counties. Although there were no groups conducted in the neighboring Paulding County, users in several groups indicated that white powder heroin could be

obtained there for \$90 per gram.

## OTHER OPIOIDS

### Defiance County

Users in Defiance County indicated that pharmaceutical opioid availability and abuse is high and increasing. They rated availability at 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. One 21 year-old, white male user commented, *“Pretty much ‘everybody’s’ using them because they are so easy to get.”* Users rated OxyContin® (oxycodone extended-release) to be highly available, a “10” on the scale. Generic oxycodone extended-release tablets were rated at 8; however, users perceived these as undesirable, *“It’s the generic form they gel up instantly, like even if you snort it, it gels up in like, when you snort it back you just get this clog of gunk.”* Users also reported easy access to other pharmaceutical opioids through “doctor shopping” and emergency rooms. One user noted, *“Percocets and Vicodin they easy to get it. You just go to the hospital and say you got a back pain.”* Users indicated low availability of morphine tablets, and decreased availability of Duragesic® (fentanyl transdermal system). A user commented, *“Patches were around like hard core until they had that person ‘go out’ [overdose]. All you have to do it toss it on a foil and smoke it up, you get really bad.”* Street availability of methadone, both tablets and wafers, was also rated as high, although users reported the wafers are increasingly difficult to obtain in the last three months. This decline coincides with the new restrictions regarding methadone prescriptions. Methadone 40-milligram wafers are no longer prescribed by general physicians for pain and are available only in approved methadone treatment programs.

OxyContin® was priced at \$50 per 80-milligram tablet. Percocet® sells for \$2.50 per 5-milligram tablet; methadone sells for \$30 per 40-milligram wafer, and \$5-\$10 per 10-milligram tablet. Morphine reportedly costs \$10 per 30-milligram tablet.

### Williams County

Users reported pharmaceutical opioid availability in Williams County was high (10) and stable, *“number one drug in the county.”* A male user added, *“See if I walked out of this room and wanted a pill, I could probably call 3 people and the first one’s gonna have what I need.”* Vicodin® and Percocet® were believed to be the

most available, 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. OxyContin® was rated an 8 by users adding, *“It’s a little more difficult and that’s a little more expensive.”* Methadone diversion and abuse was said to have increased over the past six months. A female user in treatment indicated, *“Methadone is really popular.”* Another female user added, *“Methadone, yeah, that’s a 10.”* Tablet form was reportedly more common than methadone wafers.

OxyContin® was priced at \$0.50 per milligram and Vicodin® and Percocet® sell for \$1-\$2 per tablet. Although focus group participants mentioned availability of methadone, Percodan®, Darvocet® (propoxyphene and acetaminophen), and Ultram® (tramadol), no prices were given. A few users reported Duragesic® abuse and that they had obtained the patches from family or friends with cancer. One male user commented, *“I’ve seen people get them, not as easily, but if like they have a sick family member there’s tons of them.”*

According to the Williams County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, in 2006, 5% of Williams County youth ages 12-18 had used a medication not prescribed for them or they took more than prescribed to feel good or high and/or more active or alert at sometime in their lives.

### Fulton County

Users and treatment providers rated pharmaceutical availability in Fulton County as high, “10+” on the 0 to 10 scale. All participants indicated OxyContin®, Vicodin®, and Percocet® were the most commonly diverted opioids. Treatment providers commented, *“The biggest is OxyContin”* another added, *“And Vicodin is a close second.”* Methadone diversion, mostly tablets, was said to be increasing, and its street availability was rated at 8-9 according to active users and treatment providers. Duragesic® availability was reported as “low.”

A Fulton County treatment provider noted, *“I’m seeing a big surge lately in Dilaudid”* among women. A male user from Fulton County was admitted to a treatment program for intravenous Dilaudid® (hydromorphone) abuse. He believed availability was low (3). This individual reported abusing Dilaudid® a year ago, when heroin was difficult to find or of poor quality. He used it in a network of

four or five people and priced Dilaudid® at \$15 per 4-milligram tablet (“K4”). Another user, from Defiance County, reported her friends travel from Defiance to Toledo to buy Dilaudid®. Dilaudid® is typically diluted in water and injected.

Users reported OxyContin® was priced at \$0.50 per milligram. Percocet® sells for \$1.50-\$3 per tablet. Prices for other pharmaceutical opioids were not available.

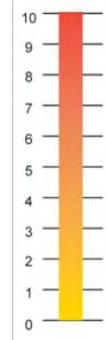
### Overall Trends

Overall, high rates of pharmaceutical opioid abuse were reported in the rural counties of Northwest Ohio, particularly among younger whites, aged 18-25 years. Street prices were said to have increased in the area in the last six months, *“People are realizin’ that they’re so addictive so you can raise the price and make money off them.”* Users in several groups described individuals with limited incomes selling their prescriptions to pay the bills. A user commented, *“You got people who are getting pharmaceuticals from the doctor, and they don’t have jobs or insurance or anything. So they gotta pay for their stuff so they’re sellin’ their medication to make the bills.”* Users and treatment providers reported that increasing popularity and prices of pharmaceuticals were linked social acceptability of the drugs.

Although ingestion and insufflation of crushed tablets were the common modes of administration of most pharmaceutical opioids, users reported that OxyContin® is sometimes injected. One white, male user in Defiance explains, *“Oxycontin, you can just toss it on a spoon and shoot that up and that’s heroin right there.”*

Many users indicated that pharmaceutical opioid addiction is frequently linked to prior injuries or other medical problems. Users reported that pharmaceutical opioid abuse is more common among whites than Hispanics or African Americans. Pharmaceutical opioid abuse was described by all focus group participants as a growing problem among adolescents. A treatment administrator responsible for the five-county region reported, *“We’re seeing more adolescents using prescriptions. That’s*

Pharmaceutical Opioid Availability



*been a noticeable increase...they steal from parents and grandparents right in that medicine cabinet.”* Law enforcement officers also confirmed these reports. One officer from Fulton County commented, *“Yes, yes we’ve seen a lot of the OxyContin being taken from Grandma’s medicine cabinet. I know one kid, his grandmother passed away and he went through the medicine cabinet and he had a smorgasbord of pills that he had cut up and was selling them.”*

Data from a 2006 Fulton County youth survey indicated that 15.2% of students (N=561), grades 7-12, reported using OxyContin® and other painkillers (without a prescription) in the past year and 14.2% of students (N=563) reported abusing the drugs in the 30-day period prior to the survey.

### Suboxone®

Users in Defiance and Fulton counties reported Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) diversion and abuse. One 21 year-old white male user in Defiance commented, *“Availability on the street, its going up – some people are like trying to get off the dope, and a lot of people are selling their Suboxone so they can get some dope for it...before I got put on it, I had a buddy try to sell it to me for \$20 a pop.”* Suboxone® was being sold on the street for \$20 per 8-milligram tablet in Defiance County and \$5-\$8 per tablet in Fulton County. Several users in treatment for opiate addiction commented on the effectiveness of buprenorphine-based medications, *“Suboxone®, miracle, it’s a miracle.”* A 21 year-old white male described his experience with Suboxone®, *“Ever since I’ve been taking this for the last 2 weeks now, I haven’t had a single thought about using, and, I haven’t. I don’t have no withdrawals like I used to, I was a real bad pill head, I used to do pretty much 200 milligrams to about 300 milligrams of OxyContin every day, and, but, it’s a miracle for me.”*

### Promethazine/Codeine Syrup in Defiance

Both white and African-American users aged 20-25 years in Defiance County rated availability of codeine/promethazine syrup or “lean” as a “10” on the 0 to 10 scale. The prescription cough syrup contains the narcotic, codeine and the antihistamine, promethazine, and is typically purple in color. Although this trend was not mentioned in either Fulton or Williams County, there was significant

mention of its abuse in Defiance County.

Users indicated codeine syrup is typically obtained through local physicians, and street availability of the drug increases during the winter months, *“All I gotta do, you can go to a doctor if you have a stuffed up nose really bad. You’re in and out in five minutes with a prescription and a refill...”* Users reported selling the syrup on the street for \$40-\$50 per ounce. Several users explained how to drink “lean:” *“Basically, you would get a foam cup, fill you up with some ice, pour your ounce [of codeine cough syrup] in there – get you sprite, pop, and just walk around the whole day sippin’.”* “Lean” is most commonly used by males aged 18-25, and some users even preferred this practice to drinking alcohol, commenting, *“I think people would drink lean quicker than they would drink alcohol, cause with that you won’t have no hangover, and it will last longer.”*

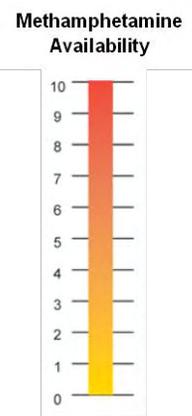
## METHAMPHETAMINE

### Defiance County

According to users, methamphetamine availability in Defiance County has been high and increasing. When asked to rate the availability of the drug on a 0 to 10 scale, a 38 year-old white user said, *“Where I live it’s every day I see it,...meth is pretty common where I’m at, it’s Defiance County.. It’s all meth over there, a rural community.”* Other users indicated that

methamphetamine was available in bars or through connections with local cooks (“uncle festers” or “the chef”). Older users indicated that methamphetamine has been an ongoing problem in the county for over 20 years, but it seemed to gain momentum in 2001.

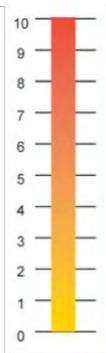
Users reported that glassy crystals, white or pink in color, was the most common form of the drug. One user commented on the pinkish color, *“...It’s the dye from the pills that they use.”* Methamphetamine is sold in Defiance County for \$80-\$125 per gram but is more commonly sold in “8-balls” (1/8 ounce) priced at \$300-\$350 each. One user commented, *“You’re not gonna find it, that one is hard to find [a gram]...They made it so hard to get some of the chemicals*



that the prices have went way up cause you can't make it, a pound at a time anymore, you can only make about an ounce at a time." Quality was said to be good, "It's so potent you could cut it 2 or 3 times and you're still gonna get off like a rocket!"

### Williams County

Methamphetamine Availability



Methamphetamine availability in Williams County was also said to be high. Users rated it a "10" on the 0 to 10 scale and added, "Every third house is a meth house." Several users from other groups indicated, "You have to go to Bryan [Williams County] if you want meth." And a local school official noted, "Meth in Williams County is true...kids talk about methamphetamine." Users noted that availability often fluctuates, "Yeah at times if you could not get it and at other

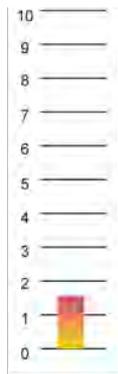
times it just levels back out." Media reports indicated five men were arrested when police in Williams County found an active methamphetamine lab inside their home along with two young children (The Journal Gazette, 5/4/08).

The most common type of methamphetamine found in Williams County was reported to be locally manufactured white or pink powder, or "Anhy" (pronounced ann-ie). User also referred to it as "diesel", "chicken feed", "bathtub crank" or "peanut butter." This form sells for about \$80-\$100 per gram, \$270 per 1/8 ounce. "Glass" methamphetamine was said to be harder to find and sells for \$120 per gram.

### Fulton County

Fulton County users, treatment providers and law enforcement officers had little knowledge of methamphetamine abuse in the county and rated it low, 1-2 on the 0 to 10 scale. Treatment providers indicated only 1 or 2 clients in the past year presenting for primary methamphetamine abuse. Law enforcement officers in Fulton County commented on methamphetamine, "I don't

Methamphetamine Availability



think there's that high in the County...not in the last year. We've had a couple of guys that had had the stuff for it but not actually the finished product." Another added, "We're always busting people for stealing anhydrous."

Data from a 2006 Fulton County youth survey indicated that 2.8% of students (N=563), grades 7-12, reported using methamphetamine in the past year.

### Overall Trends

Overall, the availability of methamphetamine is still prevalent in some counties in Northwest Ohio. Most methamphetamine available in Williams County is locally manufactured using the, "bathtub," anhydrous ammonia method. A female user in Williams County said, "Well they make it...all over I mean it's everywhere. It just, this is the country out here so people make it." Quality and type (i.e. powder or crystals) was reportedly dependent on who you buy if from. A female user in Williams County explained, "They say it's all who you get and the chemist you buy it from...it's still methamphetamine, it's just, it's really powdery and you smoke it. There's just, yeah, it depends on who you're going to get it 'cause there's certain people do it different ways." Williams County users also reported stealing anhydrous from local farmers was common. Users and law enforcement officials reported that "Cooks" or "chefs" are more commonly male, although there was some mention of females participating. Several users in both Defiance and Williams counties talked about ways to circumvent pseudoephedrine laws to provide "cooks" with the materials needed for methamphetamine production. A 20 year-old male user in Defiance explained, "The best way to get methamphetamine is to go get pseudoephedrine boxes and you take 'em to the person. Then you get, most of the time take about 10-15 boxes and you'll get at "teener" [1/16 ounce], if not more, for free. Well not for free, because you have to buy the boxes..." A 21 year-old user said, "...go store hoppin... we always got like 5-7 people in a van." Other users added, "Send you girlfriends out to stores to get boxes"; "You buy two boxes here, two boxes there."

Typical age range for methamphetamine users in Northwest Ohio was between 20 and 40 years. Although methamphetamine abuse is more commonly linked to white males, there were two female users interviewed from Williams County and

an African-American user in Defiance.

Smoking was said to be the most common mode of methamphetamine administration. A 20 year-old white male from Defiance explained, *"I think 'boats' are the most common, take aluminum foil, it kinda looks like a canoe, and you just like rock it. When it starts to run you just tilt it...follow the smoke."* A 38 year-old white male who reported using methamphetamine in Defiance County for over 20 years noted, *"...old timers shoot."* Methamphetamine is frequently used in conjunction with marijuana and alcohol. Users also reported abusing Klonopin® (clonazepam) to come down from a methamphetamine high.

## MARIJUANA

### Defiance County

Marijuana availability in Defiance County was reported to be high and stable. Users rated it a 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. Although there is some locally grown marijuana distributed in the county, many users reported going to Toledo for larger amounts. A 21 year-old white male indicated, *"When I was selling it, I would go to Toledo to get my main supply. I would get probably 2-3 pounds of mid grade, come back to Defiance and spread it out."*

Marijuana is typically obtained through phone connections, *"Weed is like powder or crack up here, you just make a phone call."*

Low quality marijuana or "dirt" sells in Defiance County for \$50 per ounce. Users reported that "Nug" or "white widow," the highest quality marijuana, is sold for \$50 per 1/8 ounce (\$300 per ounce).

### Williams County

According to users, marijuana availability in Williams County was also high. One female user commented on marijuana availability, *"I think of all the drugs, it would be that one, any of us could probably walk right out and get it."* Users described that most all of the marijuana available in Williams County is brought in from Toledo, Defiance, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. A female user commented, *"Yeah you're gonna get no home grown stuff around here that's good...I always get mine out of Toledo."* Users also indicated that there were several "low" periods over the past year

where the drug was difficult to find.

Marijuana in Williams County was priced at \$20 per 1/8 ounce or \$100 per ounce for "mid-grade" and \$40 per 1/8 ounce or up to \$500 per ounce for higher quality marijuana. A few users commented that "hydro" was particularly expensive, *"I've paid a lot of money for an eighth before but it's really good stuff."*

In the fall of 2006, 3% of Williams County youth ages 12-18 had used marijuana at least once in the past 30 days, according to the Williams County Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

### Fulton County

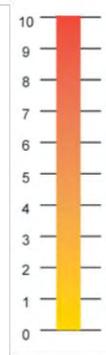
Marijuana availability in Fulton County was a "10+" according to users, treatment providers, and law enforcement officers. Law enforcement believed that most of the available marijuana is grown locally, *"I mean, in a couple months, if you walk out in just about any cornfield, you may well find some hash growing... we even have them growing in the planters in the middle of the city."* Treatment providers felt that marijuana is also highly available due to the county's close proximity to the Ohio Turnpike. In May, the Toledo Blade reported that authorities in Maumee seized 4 1/2 pounds of marijuana, valued at over \$200,000, during a traffic stop on the Ohio Turnpike in Lucas County ([The Toledo Blade](#), 5/20/08).

As in the other counties, prices were dependent on quality. Poorer quality marijuana sells for \$40-\$50 per 1/4 ounce. High-grade "funk" or "HunDun" sells for \$100 per 1/4 ounce. Users indicated the highest quality marijuana or "fruit" is priced at \$150-200 per 1/4 ounce ("quarter").

### Overall Trends

In Northwest Ohio, marijuana use varies greatly with regard to age and socioeconomic status. A treatment provider in Fulton County commented, *"I've had marijuana use across age brackets all the way up to the oldest to the youngest, but probably more popular with the younger people, 25 and below."* Another treatment provider commented, *"By the time I see them, they're all using marijuana to help with the anxiety of crack."* One provider working with

Marijuana Availability



women felt that marijuana use was not as popular among her clients, *“I think about my women’s group right now and I’ve only got, let me think going around the room, one out of 7 that smokes pot, the rest of them are either alcohol or crack.”*

Marijuana is sometimes smoked in combination with crack or powdered cocaine (“Cocoa Puffs”). Marijuana is also used in conjunction with benzodiazepines and alcohol.

## BENZODIAZEPINES

### Defiance County

Pharmaceutical tranquilizer availability in Defiance County was rated by users as high, 10 on the 0 to 10 scale. Xanax® (diazepam) was said to be the most available, *“Like you can find it all day if you wanted.”* Users also mentioned street diversion and abuse of Valium® (diazepam) and Klonopin® (clonazepam). A 38 year-old white male who abuses Klonopin® commented, *“It’s nice to have when you’re coming down off of powder.”* Users also reported abusing Prozac® (fluoxetine), a prescription antidepressant, to come down off of crack cocaine or heroin. Xanax® was priced at \$3-\$4 per 1-milligram tablet and \$5-\$6 per 2-milligram “bars”. Prices were not given for other benzodiazepines as these drugs are often traded or given away.

### Williams County

Users in Williams County reported moderate availability of benzodiazepines, 7 on the 0 to 10 scale. Many users did not acknowledge diversion of pharmaceutical tranquilizers as a problem, and reported little to no street value as most tablets are “free” or traded for other drugs. Xanax® or “xanny bars” were said to be most common, with some availability of Klonopin®.

### Fulton County

In Fulton County, users and treatment providers indicated high availability and abuse of benzodiazepines, particularly Xanax® (10), and to a lesser extent, Klonopin® and Valium®. Benzodiazepines were again not seen as an “abused” substance and tablets are typically traded or given away free. Xanax® was priced at \$1-\$2 per tablet, but again, was mostly traded.

## Overall Trends

Overall, users felt there was relatively low risk associated with pharmaceutical tranquilizer abuse. Abuse was more common among women. Users reported benzodiazepines are commonly used in combination with alcohol and cocaine. A male user in Defiance County commented on benzodiazepine use, *“We used, a lot of people used to use that like, probably like a year ago. I think a lot of people used to use them when they’re coming down off of coke, they used to use Valium and, uh, like, when they take mushrooms.”*

## OTHER PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

### Seroquel®

In Defiance County, users priced Seroquel® at \$10 per 5-milligram tablet and reported it was commonly used by ex-heroin addicts to calm their nerves or by cocaine users to come down. Users in Defiance commented that women aged 18-35 commonly abuse Seroquel® in a party setting, *“Yeah cause, [for a] female, it’s like a party drug. They would take that and relax, then anything goes...”*

Users in Williams and Fulton County reported little Seroquel® abuse or availability, although treatment providers in Fulton County believed some of their clients used the drug off label as a sleep-aid or to come down off of stimulants. A corrections officer commented that youth aged 13-18 from Fulton County were using Seroquel® to come down off of powdered cocaine.

### Pharmaceutical Stimulants

Most users in Northwest Ohio reported little availability and abuse of Ritalin® (methylphenidate) or Adderall® (amphetamine mixed salts). Users indicated abuse was most common among adolescents who trade the tablets at school and use the drugs to stay awake in class and for concentration. However, users in Fulton County, rated Adderall® a 10 on the 0-10 scale, but no street prices were provided as users typically obtain the drug from friends. There was some mention in Fulton County of adults abusing their child’s Adderall® prescription.

A few users in Defiance County reported abuse of Meridia® (subutramine HCl), a prescription appetite

suppressant typically prescribed for weight loss. A 38 year-old methamphetamine user said, *“It’s an amphetamine, not methamphetamine, just amphetamine. They usually they give it women for weight loss, but it’s got a hell of a buzz to it!”* Although use was limited to whites and not perceived as common, user ages ranged from early 20s to late 40s. One 22 year-old white male described chewing the tablets, *“You eat about two of them, chew em’ up and chase each one with a red bull. You’re gonna be zinging around.”* Users did not indicate specific prices or street availability ratings.

Data from a 2006 Fulton County youth survey indicated that 7.7% of students (N=562), grades 7-12, reported abusing Ritalin® or Adderall® in the past year, and 5.9% of students (N=559) reported abusing the drugs in the 30-days prior to being surveyed.

## HALLUCINOGENS

### Ecstasy (MDMA)

Ecstasy availability in Defiance County was rated high (10 on a scale 0-10), and increasing. Users in Defiance County reported using “mollies” which were said to be “pure MDMA.” A white male user commented on the price, *“Mollies – mollies are gonna be \$50 for not even a gram – it’s just a couple lines. Just in powder.”* Several of these users also noted a less common trend referred to as “Jesus Juice.” A 25 year-old opiate user commented, *“We’re breaking it down into liquid and calling it ‘Jesus Juice’ or ‘JJ’... Take 20 ecstasy pills, put ‘em in a blender, grind them down, go to the store by the cheapest vodka or gin you can buy... mix it up with a fifth and sell it off an ounce at a time... \$75 per ounce.”*

Fulton County users rated Ecstasy as slightly less available, 7-10, on the 0 to 10 scale. Data from a 2006 Fulton County youth survey indicated that 2.6% of students (N=562), grades 7-12, reported using Ecstasy in the past year. Ecstasy was said to be most commonly used by younger people involved in the party and rave scene. One younger user in Fulton County commented, *“All my friends talk about X and sex.”* A 20 year-old white male in Defiance also associated the drug with sexual activity, *“It’s usually a party drug, it’s a really good way if you’re into it to have sex.”*

Williams County users rated the availability of

Ecstasy a 4 on the 0 to 10 scale but added the drug was “huge” in Toledo. Prices ranged from \$10-\$20 per “hit” in Northwest Ohio.

### Psilocybin Mushrooms and LSD

Users in Northwest Ohio indicated that availability of psilocybin mushrooms was largely seasonal. Summer brings increased accessibility (10 on the 0 to 10 scale) of the drug for “festies” or local festivals. Winter and fall availability was said to be very limited. Users noted that with the abundance of farmland, most of the mushrooms are grown locally. Prices were noted as \$25-\$40 per 1/8 ounce.

Users provided only brief mentions of LSD, which was also said to increase in availability during the summer concert and festival season. LSD was priced at \$25 per hit in Defiance County and \$5-\$10 per hit in Fulton County.

### PCP in Defiance

User reports of PCP use were limited to Defiance County. Users in Defiance referred to cigarettes dipped in what they perceived to be PCP as “wets,” “sticks,” or “water.” This dipping practice was used on marijuana joints or tobacco cigarettes. Availability was rated a 7, moderately high, on the 0 to 10 scale. One 25 year-old male commented on the prices, *“I was selling sticks of PCP up here [Defiance County], I was charging \$50. Take a Newport, cut it in half, dip it one time and let it dry – that was \$50.”* Users justified the cost by explaining “sticks” are a complicated process, *“You gotta put heat to it, embalming fluid, ether, alcohol... find someone who work in a funeral home, that little bottle they gonna charge you about \$300 a bottle.”* Typical users were described as young (late 20s) African Americans and whites.

### Salvia divinorum

There were brief mentions of *Salvia divinorum* abuse by users in Fulton and Defiance Counties. Users in Defiance County reported negative experiences with the drug. A 19 year-old male user commented, *“...I done seen one girl, white girl, about 18, they pretty much tied her down ‘cause she was about ready to kill herself...when I first done it, my trip off of that, I would never touch it again because of what happened to me, like, my brother said that I was twitching non-stop on my trip, that when I got off of it I was drooling and screaming at the top of my lungs.”*

Another user added, *“It’s like a 15 minute trip. Every time I did it, I just thought I would hear [things], that stuff would be so funny to me, I would just laugh the whole time.”*

### ALCOHOL ABUSE

Alcohol abuse was noted by users as a major problem in Northwest Ohio. One user in Fulton County commented, *“Alcohol is probably one of the, it is, the biggest substance abuse up in Fulton County.”* Users reported initiating alcohol use as young as 8 years old, and many reported that alcohol consumption among minors was frequently viewed as socially acceptable. Boredom, lack of parental supervision, and social pressures were all listed as common causes of alcohol abuse at a young age. A user in Fulton County said, *“I know kids that are 16 years old, they’re going into bars and getting served, yeah...they’re just seriously that bored around here, there’s nothing to do.”* A female user in Williams County commented, *“[At] 9 years old, it wasn’t nothing to go to the refrigerator down there and get the Mad Dog... there’s nothing to do so we all started drinking when we were young.”* Another male added, *“Well, like, my parents they always encouraged us kids to get drunk, you gotta stay at the house though. Alright, go buy me two cases of beer mom, me and the boys are staying home...you know, she’d lock us in the house, we’d just stay at home and get drunk.”*

Due to the lack of public transportation, including taxi services, driving under the influence was reported as a significant problem in these counties; many participants spoke about high rates of alcohol-related car crashes in the county.



Ohio Substance  
Abuse Monitoring  
Network

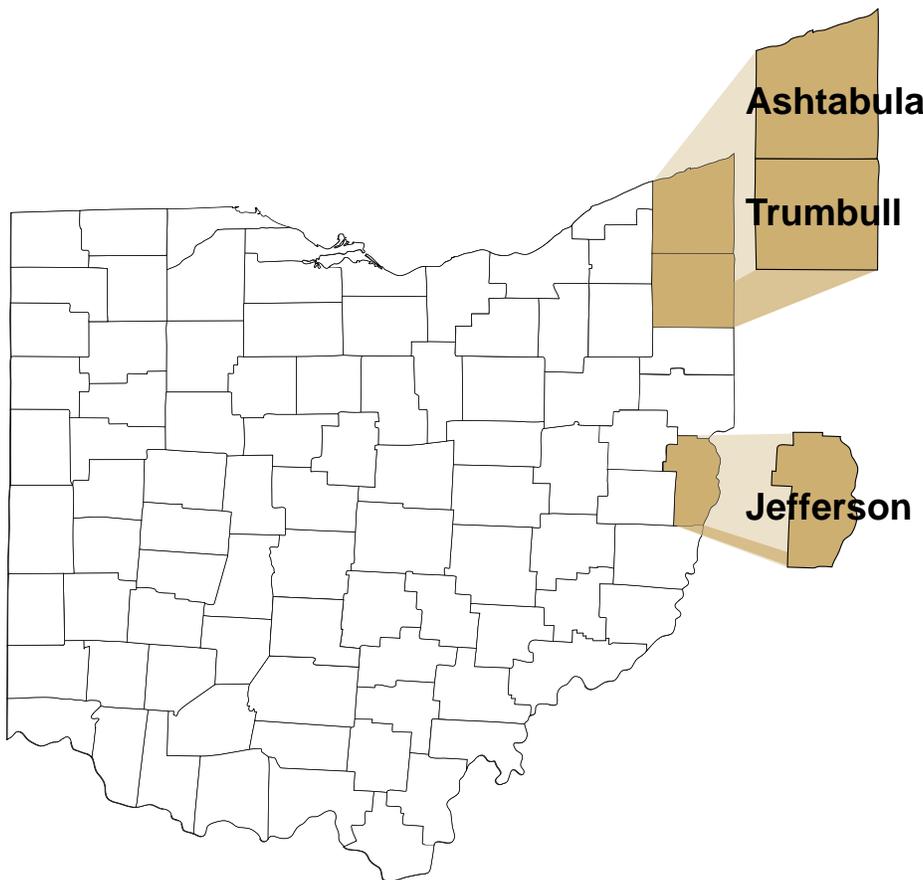


Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Seventeen, June 18, 2008

January 2008 – June 2008

# Drug Abuse Trends in Rural Ohio: A Targeted Response Initiative



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**A Report Prepared for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and  
Drug Addiction Services**

In Collaboration with Wright State University and the University of Akron

**Ohio**

Department of Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Services

**AREA PROFILE**

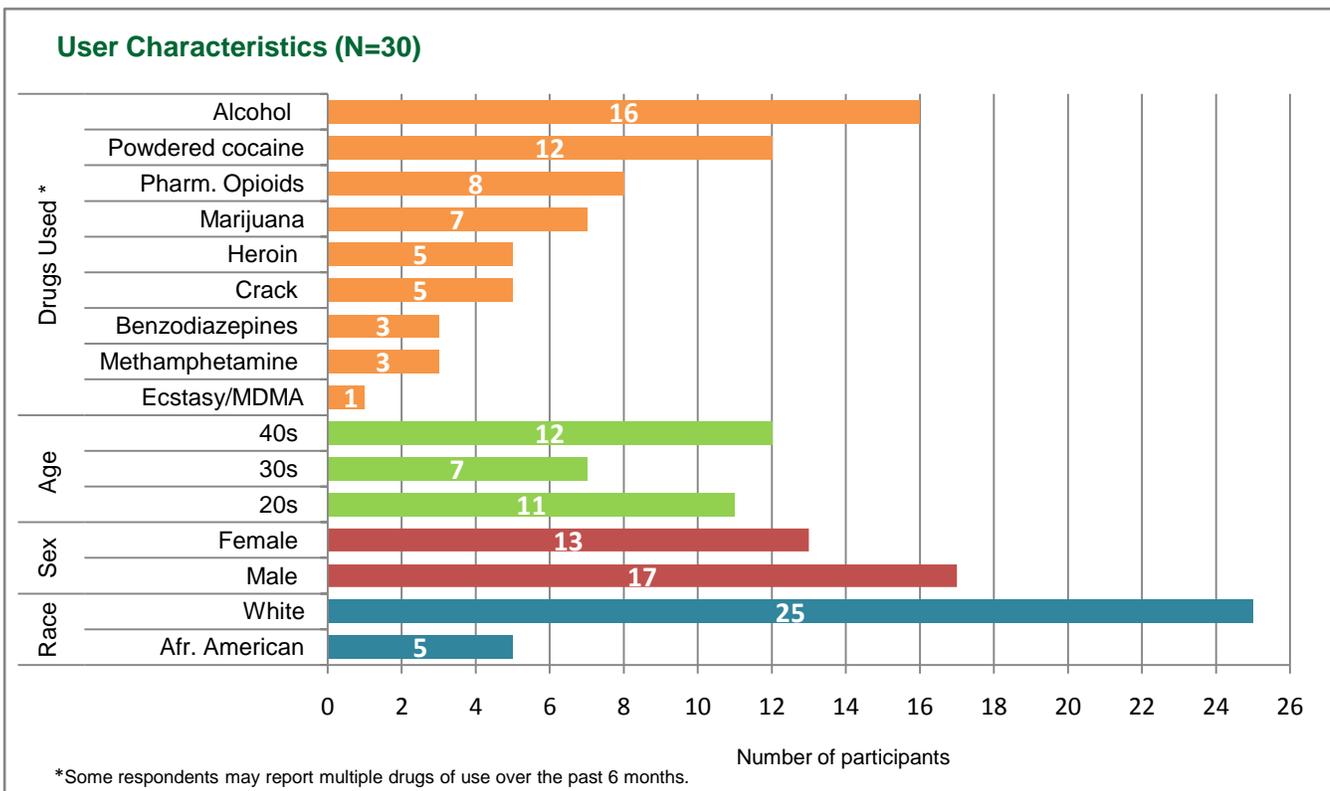
Indicator (Source: US Census, Quick Facts)	Ashtabula County	Jefferson County	Trumbull County	Ohio
Total population, 2006 estimate	102,703	70,125	217,362	11,478,006
Whites, 2006	94.8%	92.4%	90.1%	84.9%
African Americans, 2006	3.4%	5.7%	8.2%	12.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin, 2006	2.7%	0.8%	0.9%	2.3%
High school graduates (age ≥25), 2000	79.9%	81.7%	82.5%	83.0%
Median household income, 2004	\$37,729	\$33,691	\$39,176	\$43,371
Persons below poverty, 2004	12.7%	14.7%	12.1%	11.7%

**DATA SOURCES**

Interviews Conducted in Ashtabula, Trumbull and Jefferson		
Date	Number	Participants
11/28/07	8	Active and recovering users
04/28/08	9	Active and recovering users
04/30/08	6	Active and recovering users
04/30/08	1	Law enforcement
05/05/08	1	Treatment provider
05/05/08	7	Active and recovering users
05/15/08	2	Treatment providers
<b>Total number:</b>		
Focus groups	5	
Interviews	2	
All participants	34	
All users	30	

**Qualitative data:** This report is based upon six focus groups and two individual interviews conducted with active and recovering users, treatment providers and a law enforcement officer.

**Media reports:** Local newspapers and other media sources were monitored for information about local drug abuse trends.

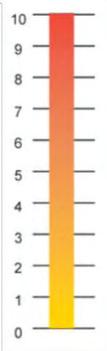


## INTRODUCTION

OSAM's Rural Targeted Response Initiative in Northeast Ohio included Ashtabula, Trumbull, Jefferson and rural areas of Columbiana Counties. Availability is reported by region with mentions of individual county trends where applicable.

## CRACK COCAINE

Crack Availability



In general, participants reported similar trends of crack cocaine use in rural areas of all four counties. Users reported crack cocaine to be very available, with ratings of 10 on a scale of 0 to 10. According to these respondents, availability has remained stable or increased over the past six months. A treatment provider commented that she had noticed an increase in crack use among heroin users: "I'm seeing them 'relaxing' with the crack cocaine when they are on Suboxone®

for heroin. Instead of heroin, they'll use crack or marijuana." A law enforcement officer commented that most of the crack cocaine in the county can be found in the cities of Ashtabula and Conneaut.

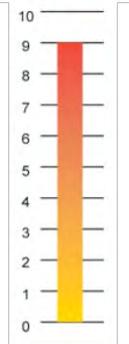
Crack cocaine was priced at \$75-\$80 per 1/16 ounce. Users felt that the quality of crack cocaine was variable, but poor in general. On the contrary, a law enforcement officer estimated crack cocaine to be between 85%-90% pure. Smoking was the primary route of administration for most users. Crack injection was reported as well, but was considered to be much less common. Common names for crack cocaine included "rocks" and "doves."

Users could not specify the typical crack-cocaine user. A law enforcement officer reported that most crack-cocaine users were African-American. However, treatment providers in Trumbull County noted increases in white users. According to one treatment provider, "In the past, a lot more African-Americans, but now I see more Caucasians smoking it [crack] just as much. They used powder [cocaine] before they started smoking and got addicted to that."

## POWDERED COCAINE

Availability ratings for powdered cocaine varied across this four-county region. Users in Columbiana County rated availability as high, a 10 on the 0-10 scale, but noted some decreases over the previous six month period. Trumbull County treatment providers and law enforcement personnel perceived stable availability between 8 and 9. One user who resided outside of the city of Ashtabula indicated that powdered cocaine was not available in that area.

Powdered Cocaine Availability



Users reported quality to be variable but "decent." According to one user, "Quite honestly, it depends where you get it. A lot of it is cut, and there's not a whole lot that's pure." Prices reported for powdered cocaine were \$100-\$125 per 1/8 ounce and \$50 per 1/2 gram. Common street names for powdered cocaine included "snow," "soft," "coke," and "girl."

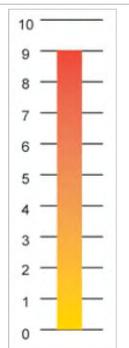
Preferred route of administration varied by area. Columbiana County users could not agree as to whether intranasal inhalation, smoking or injecting was more common. Treatment providers in Trumbull County reported that most of their clients inhaled the drug intranasally.

Respondents perceived powdered cocaine use to be more common among young individuals in their 20s.

## HEROIN

In general, availability of heroin was high in this region. Respondents provided ratings that ranged from 6 to 10, with most ratings between 8 and 10. One user commented, "It's [heroin] become a bigger drug for Ashtabula County. I know a lot of my friends are doing it. Everybody goes to Cleveland to find it." A treatment provider commented, "[Clients] talk about it [heroin] being more available. I think it's on the upward swing. I'm seeing more and more heroin addicts coming in." Common forms of heroin included yellowish or brown powder. Some users reported the availability of white powder and tar heroin, but

Heroin Availability



indicated that those forms of the drug were relatively rare. Respondents from the Jefferson County area reported an increase in recent months in the availability of tar heroin.

The treatment provider in Columbiana County made the following comment about heroin users: *“Almost every one of my heroin addicts was on Suboxone®, and they’re praising it. But I’m seeing them relapse on other drugs. They are just going from one drug to another. They know they can’t take heroin. They won’t get high on heroin now, so they’ll go to something else. They’re not using the skills that they learn. They are still depending on a drug.”*

All respondents were able to provide prices for a “bag” (0.1 gram) of heroin, but were unable to give prices for specific weights. A “bag” of heroin sold for \$20 each. Respondents unanimously agreed that injection was the most common route of administration. Intranasal inhalation was the second most commonly utilized route of administration. Common street names for heroin included “boy,” “smack,” “liquid gold,” and “stamp.”

A treatment provider in Columbiana County noted an increase in female heroin users between the ages of 20 and 30. Similarly, Jefferson County respondents reported an increase in young, white females (18-25). Respondents in Jefferson County also noted an increase in clients involved in drug maintenance programs. A user in Columbiana County reported that more whites than blacks use heroin. According to this user, *“There aren’t very many black people who use heroin. They sell it, they don’t use it.”* Regarding Ashtabula County, a law enforcement officer perceived an increase in use among young, white males. Users in Ashtabula described users as primarily young and white.

Participants also noted that pharmaceutical opioids abuse remains one of the commonly reported pathways to heroin use.

*“All my friends like Oxys, but they’re all doing heroin because they found a hookup, and it became justified. If you’re doing Oxys you might just as well do heroin because technically it’s the same thing, whereas heroin used to sound bad to us, and it doesn’t sound bad anymore.”*

-Ashtabula County user

## OTHER OPIOIDS

The most commonly abused pharmaceutical opioids included OxyContin® (oxycodone, extended-release), Vicodin® (hydrocodone and acetaminophen) and Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen). With the exception of OxyContin® availability in Columbiana County, availability ratings ranged from about 7 to 10 for each drug. In Columbiana County, users perceived OxyContin® to be hard to find, with a low rating of 1. A law enforcement officer from Ashtabula County perceived a slight increase in availability of pharmaceutical opioids over the past six months.

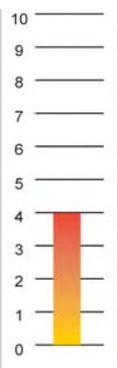
Prices for OxyContin® typically ranged between \$.50 and \$1 per milligram. A user in Columbiana County reported being able to purchase an 80-milligram OxyContin® for as little as \$25 on some occasions. Vicodin® reportedly sells for about \$3 per 7.5-milligram tablet, and for \$5 per 10-milligram tablet. Percocet® sells for \$3-\$5 per tablet, depending on dosage. Duragesic® (fentanyl transdermal system; 50 mcg/hour) sells for \$30-\$60 in Ashtabula County.

Users were described as being primarily young individuals between the ages of 16 and 25. “Older” users, in their 40s, were noted as well. Users in Jefferson County reported that abuse of pharmaceutical opioids was more common among middle-class, white “housewives.” Users in Ashtabula County indicated that some pharmaceutical opioid abusers transition to heroin use.

Reports of Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) availability varied across the region. Trumbull County treatment providers believed street availability of Suboxone® was very low. In contrast, a treatment provider from Columbiana County believed that abuse of the drug had increased: *“We count their pills on Suboxone® because that is starting to be sold on the street. We are counting them, checking the dates on their prescription, how many should be gone. We keep track of that and monitor that.”*

## METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine Availability



Few respondents had direct knowledge of methamphetamine availability and abuse. One user in Columbiana County, who did not use methamphetamine, estimated availability of the drug at 5. A treatment provider in Trumbull County rated availability of methamphetamine at 4 and stated that only a few of her clients have reported experience with the drug. One user group reported that availability of methamphetamine was

higher (rated 7) in the city of Conneaut. One user explained a decrease in methamphetamine availability in Ashtabula County by saying: *"In Ashtabula County here, if you would have asked a few years ago, everybody was making it, everybody had it, it was everywhere. And they had such a smackdown on it. All my friends are former tweakers who now do heroin because it's hard. People are getting into so much trouble to sell."*

A law enforcement official reported that his agency busts about 20-22 methamphetamine labs each year. The officer also commented that because of the changes in Ohio law that have increased penalties for manufacturing methamphetamine and have restricted access to materials needed to produce the drug, the manufacturing process has changed significantly. An officer reported: *"We used to see the house where they did manufacturing... everything was done there. Now we aren't getting that. Now it's this house over here is breaking down the pills and then transporting them. They're grinding the pills and soaking the pills. Since we are cutting back on what you can buy, now if you want to make a buy, you have to bring them [cookers] pills [pseudoephedrine] too."*

A law enforcement officer perceived use to be more common among whites between the ages of 35 and 45. The officer did mention that, although African Americans typically were not using the drug in the Ashtabula area, there were African Americans selling the drug.

## MARIJUANA

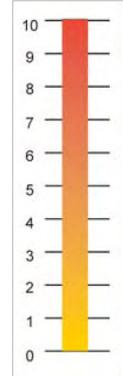
All respondents rated the availability of marijuana at 10, and noted that marijuana was "everywhere." A treatment provider in Columbiana County commented on the social acceptability of the drug, *"They don't consider that [marijuana] a drug. They aren't sure why they're in a group if it's just marijuana. They think it should be legalized because it's not a drug."* Respondents believed availability had remained stable for several months.

Commenting on the availability of marijuana, a law enforcement officer reported that over the past year, seven marijuana fields had been confiscated locally. Each field contained approximately 100-150 plants. According to the officer, there has been an increase in hydroponic labs as well.

Prices for high-quality marijuana, commonly referred to as "purple," "hydro," and "purp," were reported at \$250-\$275 per ounce. Middle-grade marijuana, referred to as "red hair," sells for \$100-\$150 per ounce. "Dirt-weed" or low-quality marijuana sells for \$75-\$80 per ounce. In Jefferson County, users reported slightly lower prices, with an ounce of high-grade marijuana selling for between \$200 and \$250. Middle-grade marijuana in Jefferson County sells for \$100-\$120 per ounce.

Respondents reported that marijuana was commonly used with crack cocaine to moderate the effects of crack. Although there were sporadic reports of users eating or baking marijuana into food products such as brownies, the overwhelming majority of users smoke the drug. Users also reported the use of "wets" (marijuana dipped in formaldehyde and/or potentially PCP). Trumbull County treatment providers noted an increase in use among older individuals in their 40s and 50s. An Ashtabula County law enforcement officer commented on a recent drug bust involving marijuana in which a seven-year-old female was arrested for possession of marijuana at school. According to the girl, she had gotten the marijuana from another seven-year-old student.

Marijuana Availability



## BENZODIAZEPINES

Users reported Xanax® (alprazolam), Valium® (diazepam), Klonopin® (clonazepam), and Ativan® (lorazepam) as commonly abused benzodiazepines in the area. Users in Ashtabula County reported availability of benzodiazepines to be relatively low, with ratings between 2 and 3 on the 0 to 10 scale. However, Valium® (diazepam) was rated a 6 or 7 by one user, and a 9 or 10 by another. Respondents in Ashtabula County perceived availability to be stable over the previous six-month period.

A treatment provider from Columbiana County commented, *“Since I’ve been here, I think they’ve gone up. They’re easy to get through the doctor. They think it’s okay. It’s not an addiction. Even if they take more than prescribed, they don’t see it as an addiction, because it’s from the doctor.”* Columbiana County respondents reported Klonopin® to be increasingly popular among users. Ativan® was not mentioned in Columbiana County focus groups.

In Trumbull County, Xanax® availability ratings ranged from 7 to 10, Valium® ratings were between 7 and 9, and Ativan® was rated at 10. Respondents stated that Klonopin® was uncommon in Trumbull County.

In Jefferson County, users were described as being primarily younger (12-25 years of age). Older individuals who tend to have prescriptions for the medications reportedly sell the drugs.

Although other areas of the state have reported that users typically take benzodiazepines orally, users in Jefferson County indicated that most users in that area are crushing and then inhaling the drugs intranasally. Trumbull County respondents reported younger users in their 20s and 30s abusing benzodiazepines. Alcohol is commonly used in conjunction with benzodiazepines.

## CARISOPRODOL

Users in one group reported Soma® (carisoprodol) to be very available in the Ashtabula area, and selling for \$5 per tablet.

## ECSTASY (MDMA)

Users in Columbiana County perceived a decrease in the availability of Ecstasy (MDMA) over the past 6 months. These users rated its availability a moderate 5 on the 0 to 10 scale. Treatment providers in Trumbull County rated availability of Ecstasy an 8, and noted that there had been a recent increase in availability of the drug. Both groups believed Ecstasy users to be primarily younger individuals between the ages of 16 and 32. Treatment providers had seen only a few clients reporting MDMA use.