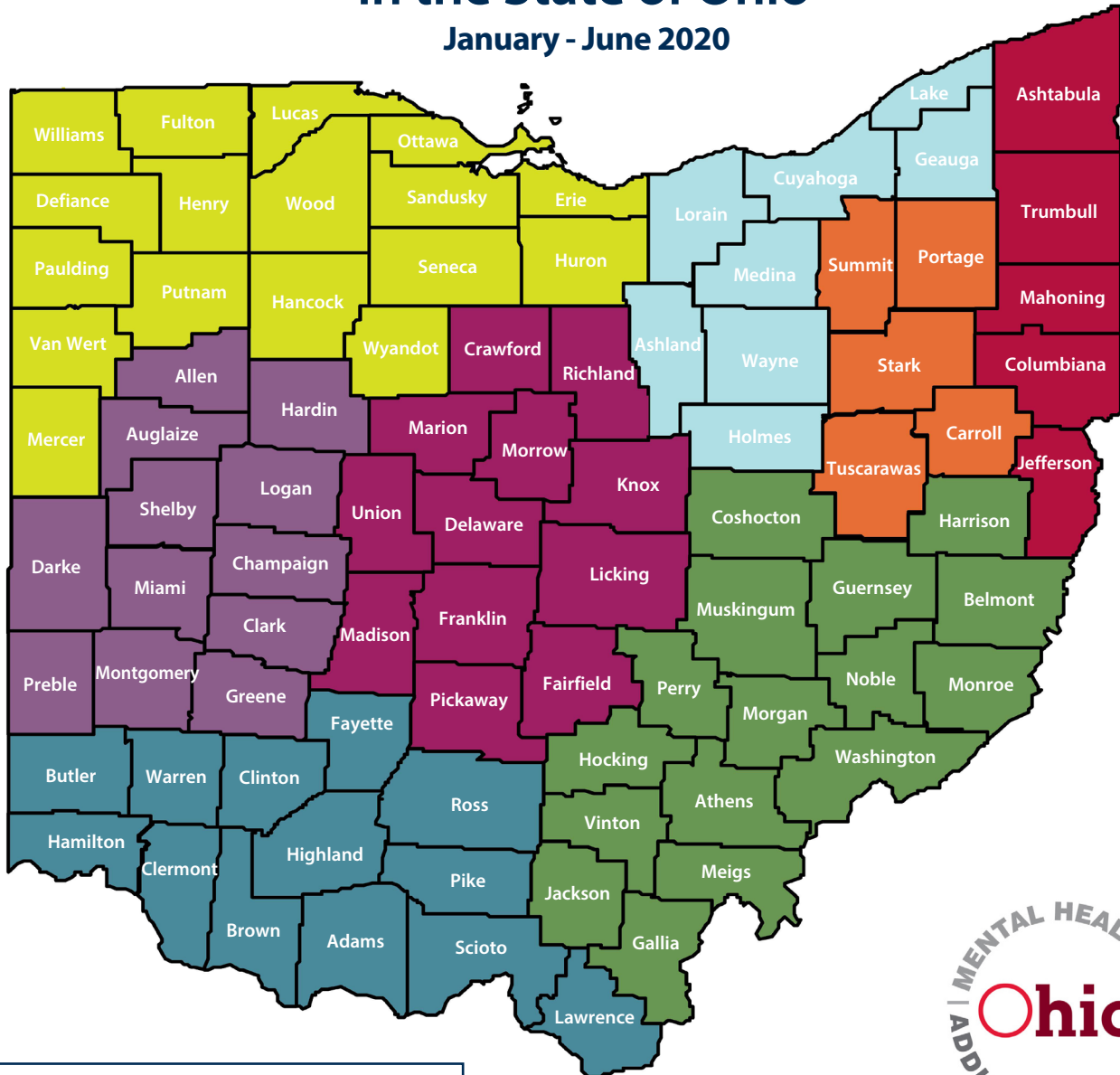




Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

January - June 2020



Legend	
■ Akron-Canton region	■ Columbus region
■ Athens region	■ Dayton region
■ Cincinnati region	■ Toledo region
■ Cleveland region	■ Youngstown region



Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

January - June 2020

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Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

Toledo Region

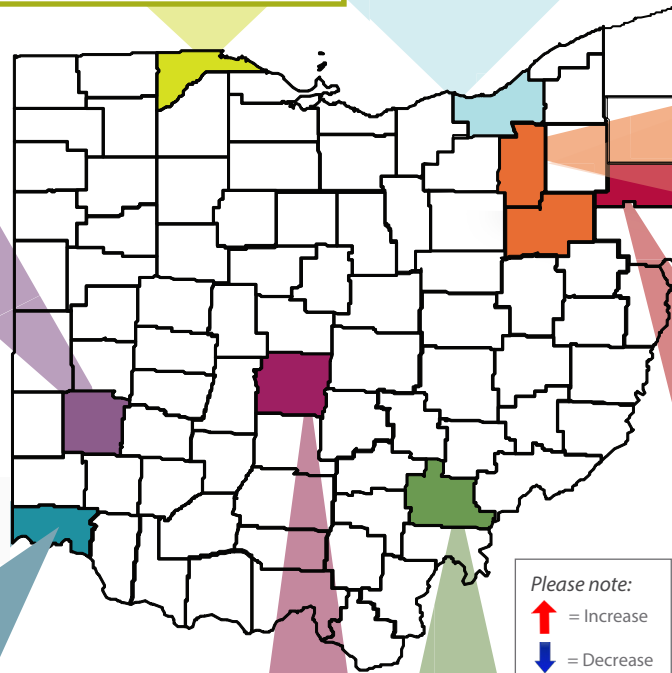
- ↑ Crack cocaine, meth & illicit gabapentin availability
- ↓ Heroin, illicit Rx opioids & illicit buprenorphine availability
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in fentanyl & carfentanil
- Almost 20% of urinalysis positive for gabapentin

Cleveland Region

- ↑ Meth & illicit gabapentin availability
- Kratom highly available; opiate users take it in lieu of heroin
- ODPS seizes 57 kg. of meth from region
- Law enforcement in Cleveland report ↑ in powdered cocaine availability
- Cuyahoga Co. lab reports incidence ↑ in crack cocaine

Dayton Region

- ↑ Marijuana & illicit gabapentin availability
- Fentanyl testers pushed unsolicited with dealer's number
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in fentanyl
- Almost 30% of urinalysis positive for cocaine
- Almost 50% of urinalysis positive for fentanyl
- 48% of T_x clients report recent fentanyl use



Please note:
 ↑ = Increase
 ↓ = Decrease

Akron-Canton Region

- ↑ Heroin & illicit Rx opioids availability
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in carfentanil
- Heroin users switching to meth for "safer" high
- Almost 20% of urinalysis positive for gabapentin
- Synthetic marijuana remains available; it is used by young people & found in correctional settings

Cincinnati Region

- ↑ Powdered cocaine, meth & LSD availability
- Kratom highly available; opiate users take it in lieu of heroin
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in fentanyl
- ODPS seizes 36 kg. of fentanyl from region
- Scioto Co. Coroner reports meth in 60% of drug-related deaths
- ODPS seizes 1,142 kg. of marijuana from region

Columbus Region

- ↑ Fentanyl, illicit buprenorphine, meth & illicit gabapentin availability
- Columbus Fire Dept. administers naloxone to 1,609 individuals during 6-month period
- BCI reports incidence ↑ in buprenorphine
- Law enforcement warn of fake "Xanax"

Athens Region

- ↑ Illicit gabapentin availability
- ↓ Illicit sedative-hypnotics availability
- Fentanyl used as cut for most other drugs
- ↓ Doctor prescribing of benzos limiting illicit supply
- 17% of T_x clients report recent meth use

Youngstown Region

- ↑ Illicit Rx opioid & LSD availability
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in fentanyl & carfentanil
- 25% of T_x clients report recent fentanyl use
- Law enforcement report ↑ in LSD availability
- BCI reports significant incidence ↑ in cocaine

Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio

January - June 2020

INTRODUCTION

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network consists of eight regional epidemiologists located in the following regions of the state: Akron-Canton, Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. OSAM Network conducts focus groups and individual interviews with active and recovering drug users and community professionals (treatment providers, law enforcement officers, etc.) to produce epidemiological descriptions of local substance abuse trends. Qualitative findings are supplemented with available statistical data such as coroner's reports and crime laboratory data. Mass media sources, such as local newspapers, are also monitored for information related to substance abuse. Once integrated, these valuable sources provide Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) with a real-time method of providing accurate epidemiological descriptions that policymakers need to plan appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

Exception

Due to coronavirus illness and resulting pandemic, treatment programs shifted their service delivery to virtual platforms. This made recruitment of active and recovering drug users for interviews impossible. Thus, OSAM identified GPRA data to inform on current substance use throughout OSAM regions. GPRA is an acronym for the Government Performance and Results Act which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1993, requiring agencies to engage in performance management tasks such as setting goals, measuring results, etc.¹ GPRA data are self-reported behavioral health data collected from persons entering publicly-funded treatment programs. Also, as a result of limited OSAM primary data for the reporting period, separate regional reports are not available for June 2020. OSAM research administrators in the Bureau of Quality, Planning and Research at OhioMHAS aggregated data from throughout OSAM regions to compile this summary of major findings with corresponding regional data presented in tables.

¹<https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/senate-bill/20>

Data Sources

This report presents findings from OSAM's data collection cycle of January to June 2020. It is based upon qualitative data collected via individual and focus group interviews. Respondents were 99 community professionals recruited from the following 22 counties, arranged by OSAM region: Akron-Canton (Portage and Summit); Athens

(Athens, Hocking, Noble and Washington); Cincinnati (Butler, Clinton, Hamilton and Highland); Cleveland (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Medina and Wayne); Columbus (Franklin, Marion and Union); Dayton (Montgomery), Toledo (Lucas and Wood); Youngstown (Jefferson and Mahoning).

Data triangulation was achieved through comparison of respondent data to data surveyed from coroner and medical examiner offices, family and juvenile courts, municipal courts, common pleas and drug courts, Millennium Health, which provides drug testing services throughout Ohio, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Crime Lab, police and county crime labs and Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), which logs drug task force seizures from across Ohio. All secondary data are summary data of cases processed from July through December 2019. Note OSAM respondents were asked to report on knowledge of drug use pertaining to the past six months prior to the interview; thus, current secondary data correspond to the reporting period of respondents. In addition to these data sources, Ohio media outlets in each region were queried for information regarding regional drug abuse for January through June 2020. GPRA data related to substance use during to the past 30 days prior to intake was also queried from January to June 2020, corresponding to OSAM primary data collection for the reporting period.

Powdered Cocaine

Powdered cocaine is moderately to highly available throughout most OSAM regions. Treatment providers generally discussed powdered cocaine as available to users who have connections to the drug. They said: *“If you know the people to get [powdered cocaine] from, then it is easy to get; A person has to ask [around] to get it.”* Treatment providers also explained that powdered cocaine is not typically a primary drug of choice among the clients they serve. They, along with law enforcement, noted use of crystal methamphetamine as more prevalent than use of cocaine. Comments included: *“[Powdered cocaine] is one of those [drugs] that doesn’t go away; People do it, but it’s not the drug of choice;*

[Powdered cocaine] is accessible, but it is not the trend in our area; I know the trends and the drug of choice is crystal ‘meth’ (methamphetamine) by far.”

Law enforcement in Akron-Canton, Cleveland and Toledo regions reported high current availability of powdered cocaine. An officer in Akron-Canton stated, *“It’s always readily available around here.”* Law enforcement in Cleveland discussed: *“Very easy ... I could walk two blocks and get it.... I could literally be back in 15 minutes with some powdered cocaine; I would say in this region it is readily available; It’s not as prevalent as methamphetamine, but it is almost as readily accessible.”* Law enforcement and treatment providers in the Toledo region noted opioid users switching from heroin/fentanyl to cocaine/methamphetamine. A provider said, *“Being a case manager, I’ve noticed a lot of opiate users who still have a problem with impulse control ... using [powdered cocaine] as a substitute.”* A probation officer shared, *“Most of our clients are on Vivitrol®. I think that they have realized that with Vivitrol® (medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder) they are not going to be able to get that high from the heroin anymore, so they are just seeking out other things that they can still get high off of, with cocaine being one of them.”*

In half of OSAM regions, community professionals reported that the availability of powdered cocaine has remained the same during the past six months. Professionals in the Cincinnati region reported increased availability of powdered cocaine while professionals in the remaining regions were not in agreement as to whether availability has changed. A Cincinnati treatment provider commented, *“[Powdered cocaine] has become more and more available. I wouldn’t say it’s on every street corner or anything like that, but it’s readily available to those who are looking for it.”* Cincinnati law enforcement stated: *“It’s definitely gotten far easier [to obtain powdered cocaine], and [drug dealers] are pushing a lot more of it; We have seen a lot more volume; We’re approaching almost 200 kilos of ‘coke’*

(powdered cocaine) [seized] in the last six months, and that is extraordinary.” Law enforcement in the Cleveland region also indicated increased availability during the past six months. An officer there shared, “I am looking at numbers from last year for seizures now [and seizures of powdered cocaine seem to be up] ... [powdered cocaine] is more readily available ... seen more in traffic stops, more in covert drug buys ... [powdered cocaine] is just more prevalent now. It is making a comeback for sure. It’s more readily available [than six months ago].”

it processes has increased during the past six months, while Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of powdered cocaine cases it processes has remained the same [this lab does differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine, and this pattern reflects powdered cocaine only]. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of cocaine cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months.

Other data sources indicated powdered cocaine as available throughout OSAM regions. Hancock County Probate Court (Toledo region) reported that of the 31 positive adult drug test results it recorded during the past six months, 12.9% was positive for powdered and/or crack cocaine.

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) reported drug taskforce seizure of 243.8 kilograms (537.4 lbs.) of powdered cocaine from throughout OSAM regions

Reported Change in Availability of Powdered Cocaine during the Past 6 Months			
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	BCI Cocaine Case Incidence Change*
Akron-Canton	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Increase
Athens	Low to Moderate	No Change	No Change
Cincinnati	No Consensus	Increase	Increase
Cleveland	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Increase
Columbus	Moderate	No Change	Increase
Dayton	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Increase
Toledo	High	No Change	Increase
Youngstown	Moderate	No Change	Increase

*BCI labs do not differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine.

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) reported that the incidence of cocaine cases their labs process has increased during the past six months for every OSAM region with the exception of the Athens region. For two regions, BCI reported a significant increase in the incidence of cocaine cases compared to the previous reporting period: from 465 to 833 cases for the Toledo region and from 695 to 1,205 cases for the Youngstown region.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted cocaine incidence data. Lake County Crime Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of cocaine cases

during the past six months; of which, 48.2% was seized from the Cincinnati region [ODPS reported seizure of 218.8 kilograms (482.3 lbs.) of powdered cocaine during the previous reporting period].

Millennium Health reported that 11.8% of the 193,530 urinalysis specimens submitted for cocaine testing during the past six months were positive for powdered and/or crack cocaine.

**Millennium Health
Urinalysis Test Results for Cocaine*
during the Past 6 Months**

Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	5.9%	30,013
Athens	4.5%	16,630
Cincinnati	16.0%	24,291
Cleveland	5.8%	18,256
Columbus	8.8%	24,477
Dayton	28.6%	10,367
Toledo	12.5%	50,630
Youngstown	20.3%	18,866
Total	11.8%	193,530

*Urinalysis does not differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine.

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to powdered cocaine this reporting period (selected media reports follow). Columbus Police (Franklin County, Columbus region) posted on social media that they confiscated over 200 grams of cocaine, 1,800 grams of suspected fentanyl, 17 pounds of marijuana, four guns and \$3,000 from a residence in Columbus (www.abc6onyourside.com, Feb. 11, 2020). Detectives with the Montgomery County Regional Agencies Narcotics and Gun Enforcement task force (Dayton region) seized a large quantity of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, cash and a firearm at a house in Trotwood, making three arrests on suspicion of drug trafficking (www.daytondailynews.com, Feb. 19, 2020). Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force (Dayton region) arrested a man believed to be responsible for transporting several kilograms of fentanyl and cocaine as part of a drug-trafficking operation from California to Dayton; officers seized 26 pounds of fentanyl and nine pounds of cocaine during the drug raid (www.daytondailynews.com, March 11, 2020). U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio

(Cleveland region) announced the indictment and arrest of 12 individuals for their roles in a multi-state drug distribution conspiracy; according to the indictment, a Cleveland man led a drug-trafficking organization that supplied members in the Ohio Valley with kilogram quantities of a heroin and cocaine mixture, along with powdered cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and illegal prescription medication (www.wtov9.com, June 8, 2020). Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office (Cleveland region) projected the county would see a record number of cocaine-related deaths in 2020; cocaine is projected to contribute to 392 overdose deaths, based on data through June 11 (www.news-herald.com, June 13, 2020).

Crime labs throughout OSAM regions indicated many adulterants (aka “cutting agents”) found in cocaine. Community professionals, along with media outlets, discussed the presence of cocaine cut with fentanyl in recent overdoses. A Columbus regional law enforcement officer noted, *“In the past week, I’ve been given reports about overdoses, and one of the interesting facts is there were a number of them, say within the last seven days, that involved cocaine use. And, so that’s indicating a trend that [cocaine] is being mixed, probably with an opiate, more than likely fentanyl. We don’t have lab results yet, but it’s interesting that when we go out on an overdose call, and [persons present at the scene] say the person suffering the overdose was using cocaine or was a cocaine user ... that’s an interesting factor that’s just come up.”*

**Cutting Agents
Reported by Crime Labs for Cocaine***

atropine (prescription heart medication), caffeine, diphenhydramine (antihistamine), levamisole (livestock dewormer), local anesthetics (benzocaine, lidocaine and procaine), mannitol (diuretic), phenacetin (banned analgesic)

*Crime labs do not differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine.

Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region) and Montgomery (Dayton region) reported that 39.6%, 37.4% and 23.1%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257 and 407 deaths) involved powdered and/or crack cocaine; of these cocaine-related deaths, 72.8%, 79.2% and 86.2%, respectively, also involved fentanyl. GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 12.2% reported powdered and/or crack cocaine use 30 days prior to intake.

[using powdered cocaine] as a problem; People in the night clubs ... that whole crowd ... 30 to 40 [years of age]; Usually more affluent ... hold jobs ... [powdered cocaine] is more of a party drug ... more of a weekend type thing; A typical user of cocaine would be a college student; College students are using [powdered cocaine] throughout [their college years]."

However, some community professionals noted powdered cocaine use among polysubstance users and non-White individuals. They shared: *"I hear it more with our African-American [treatment] clients [than previously]; Anybody; It's an old stereotype that White people use powdered cocaine; [Users] just go after the drugs that are easier to get, so cocaine is something they can get if they cannot get heroin or meth; It doesn't know any bounds ... we're finding [powdered cocaine] on everybody [during arrests]; It's used by all segments of society."*

Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	8.4%	191
Athens	4.2%	453
Cincinnati	11.7%	1,447
Cleveland	17.4%	1,095
Columbus	12.0%	716
Dayton	9.9%	436
Toledo	17.3%	862
Youngstown	4.8%	482
Total	12.2%	5,682

*GPRA does not differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine.

Community professionals continued to describe typical powdered cocaine users as White people of middle to upper socio-economic status, aged 30s to 40s, as well as college students. Comments included: *"I haven't heard much about powdered cocaine from our [treatment] clients. It is used by more of a high class, upper class [person], you have to have money [to afford powdered cocaine]; [Powdered cocaine use] is more prevalent with some of my clients, those who live in the suburb area and are between the ages of 30 and 40 [years]; White-collar and Caucasian; White, middle class, and they don't see*

Male	60.4%
Female	39.2%
18 - 29	28.3%
30 - 39	42.2%
40 - 49	19.2%
50 - 59	7.4%
60 +	3.0%
White	80.5%
African American	16.0%
Other or more than one race	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	6.4%

*GPRA does not differentiate between powdered and crack cocaine.

Crack Cocaine

Crack cocaine is moderately to highly available throughout OSAM regions. Consensus among community professionals was that crack cocaine is generally more available and easier to obtain than powdered cocaine. Comments included: *“I would say [crack cocaine] is easier to find than ‘powder’ (powdered cocaine) ... it’s more prevalent; In the Stark County area (Akron-Canton region), I would say [crack cocaine] is more prevalent, especially among the African-American community.”* Community professionals also discussed crack cocaine as part of typical polysubstance use of their clientele. They said: *“If they are using any drugs, then crack cocaine is part of it; I see a lot of people mixing [crack cocaine use] with fentanyl and heroin; [Crack cocaine] always seems to accompany any type of substance. Anybody that comes through [treatment], it’s rare that they don’t have some type of [recent] ‘crack’ (crack cocaine) use.”*

Many community professionals continued to associate crack cocaine with inner-city and urban areas of their regions. A law enforcement officer in the Akron-Canton region stated, *“[Crack cocaine] is easier to get in the city (Akron or Cleveland) than it is anywhere else.”*

An officer in the Dayton region observed, *“[Crack cocaine] is more available in certain areas with a lot of prostitution.”* Treatment providers in the Cincinnati region added: *“My experience with clients ... they’ve reported to me ... living in certain areas where housing is available to them (low-income housing), they have people that ‘deal crack’ (sell crack cocaine); It’s very readily available in pockets of the community.”* And, a provider in Cleveland remarked, *“You have people throwing [samples of crack cocaine with a dealer’s phone number] at you [at stop lights].”*

Similar to powdered cocaine, community professionals discussed the high current prevalence of methamphetamine as having made crack cocaine a secondary drug choice for some users. Law enforcement in the Cleveland region reported that the availability of crack cocaine has decreased slightly during the past six months due to an increased preference for methamphetamine as a more potent and cheaper alternative. An officer observed, *“Maybe the availability [of crack cocaine]*

Reported Change in Availability of Crack Cocaine during the Past 6 Months			
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	BCI Cocaine Case Incidence Change*
Akron-Canton	Moderate	No Consensus	Increase
Athens	Low to Moderate	No Change	No Change
Cincinnati	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Increase
Cleveland	High	No Consensus	Increase
Columbus	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Increase
Dayton	Moderate	No Consensus	Increase
Toledo	High	Increase	Increase
Youngstown	Moderate	No Change	Increase

*BCI labs do not differentiate between crack and powdered cocaine.

has decreased with the resurgence of meth because a lot of the people that were using crack are now using meth ... for an eighth of the cost [of crack cocaine].”

In most OSAM regions, there was no consensus among community professionals regarding a change in availability of crack cocaine during the past six months. However, professionals in the Toledo region reported increased availability of crack cocaine, while professionals in the remaining regions indicated that availability has remained the same. Treatment providers in the Toledo region attributed increased availability to increased demand among opioid users for stimulant drugs. A provider explained, *“Availability has increased ... opiate users have stopped using opiates and started using crack cocaine. People have a tendency of going back and forth between the two [opiates and crack cocaine]. They will substitute [opiates with] crack cocaine as they are dealing with trying to use Suboxone® (buprenorphine, medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder)... But, when they relapse [to drug use], crack is the main catalyst for [the relapse].”*

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted cocaine incidence data. Lake County Crime Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of cocaine cases it processes has increased during the past six months, while Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of crack cocaine cases it processes has increased [this lab *does* differentiate between crack and powdered cocaine, and this pattern reflects crack cocaine only]. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of cocaine cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months.

Other data sources indicated crack cocaine as available throughout OSAM regions. ODPS reported drug taskforce seizure of 2.8 kilograms (6.1 lbs.) of crack cocaine from throughout OSAM regions during

the past six months; of which, 38.6% was seized from the Cleveland region [ODPS reported seizure of 8.3 kilograms (18.1 lbs.) of crack cocaine during the previous reporting period]. In addition, media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to crack cocaine this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

Toledo Police (Lucas County, Toledo region) attempted to pull over a vehicle for a probable cause traffic stop and were led on a high-speed chase before arresting the driver of the vehicle for trafficking in drugs, possession of controlled substances, failure to comply with police officers' lawful order or direction, tampering with evidence and resisting arrest; officers saw the man throw a bag containing crack cocaine from his vehicle during the chase and discovered fentanyl hidden inside the man's vehicle (www.nbc24.com, Feb. 3, 2020). Belmont Major Crimes Unit Interdiction Team and the St. Clairsville Police (Belmont County, Athens region) working jointly on a narcotics investigation executed a search warrant on a local motel; officers found methamphetamine, heroin and crack cocaine, and arrested two guests of the motel for drug trafficking and possession (www.wtov9.com, April 27, 2020). Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) arrested a woman during a traffic stop in Summit County (Akron-Canton region); after smelling burnt marijuana coming from the woman's car, troopers conducted a search and found two ounces of crack cocaine and two pounds of methamphetamine worth approximately \$105,000 (www.cleveland19.com, June 10, 2020).

When asked to provide a profile description of typical crack cocaine users, community professionals throughout OSAM regions related crack cocaine use with persons of low socio-economic status. A law enforcement officer reported, *“I think the typical user tends to be on the lower socio-economic scale. I don't know that there's a racial divide ... [crack cocaine] is easy to come by, and it's very affordable ... people that have very little money available, that's*

what they go to.” Treatment providers confirmed: “I would say lower-income class for sure; [Crack cocaine] is seen as something the lower-income people do versus the powder cocaine that is seen as something for your upper and middle-class clients.”

In addition, treatment providers in Akron-Canton, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown regions continued to indicate that crack cocaine use is prevalent among African-American users, although many providers noted an increase in White users of the drug. Comments included: *“Black men and women. It is in the Black community for whatever reason; I’ve seen it mostly in the African-American community, but in the past couple years, I’ve seen it moving into the White community; I’m seeing both groups now, African Americans and White [people].”* Community professionals reported other descriptors of typical crack cocaine users, including polysubstance users and people engaged in prostitution. Comments included: *“[The] addicted person [uses crack cocaine]. He’ll take whatever he can get, whenever he can get it; [Crack cocaine] is more prevalent with prostitution ... for both customers and prostitutes; Prostitutes usually use [crack cocaine].”*

Heroin

Heroin is highly available in the majority of OSAM regions. In regions reporting low to moderate current heroin availability, respondents based their reports on the availability of unadulterated heroin. Throughout OSAM regions, community professionals continued to discuss heroin-fentanyl mixtures and fentanyl substitutions as the most available types of “heroin.” Law enforcement noted: *“Heroin and fentanyl are synonymous ... they’re interchangeable. There’s a lot of counterfeit heroin that’s really fentanyl; A lot of the heroin that we’re seeing now is fentanyl; It’s very difficult to find heroin by itself right now; We rarely see actual heroin [unadulterated*

with fentanyl] anymore; I don’t know when we saw a test result (crime lab analysis) come back for just heroin; Pure heroin, we don’t get that anymore. There’s nothing pure.” A law enforcement officer concluded, *“We have also found that people really don’t care what they get as long as they are getting something.”* Treatment providers concurred with law enforcement assessments, saying: *“We have seen quite a bit of heroin with fentanyl, that is most popular in this area; A lot of people identify heroin as their drug of choice, but when drug screens come back, it’s fentanyl; I’ve had clients straight tell me, ‘Heroin, you can’t get it anymore;’ It’s mostly fentanyl. You might get some traces [of heroin].”*

In Akron-Canton and Toledo regions, and in regions where there was no consensus regarding a change of availability for heroin during the past six months, community professionals attributed decreases in availability to the supplanting of heroin by a market saturation of fentanyl, an increase in user preference for fentanyl, a stronger opioid, and an overall decrease in demand for heroin as opioid users switch to methamphetamine, a perceived safer and cheaper high. They discussed: *“[Heroin availability] has changed. It’s probably trended downward, only because it’s being replaced by fentanyl; People who are seasoned users of opiates are now wanting fentanyl because of its strength (potency); We are not seeing [heroin] as much as we used to.... All of our heroin addicts have switched to ‘meth’ (methamphetamine); [Heroin users] will flat out tell you that they are converting from an opioid to meth [because] it’s cheaper and they are not going to overdose; If they’re opiate addicts, and they get the Vivitrol® (medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder), they can no longer get high with what they want (opioids), so they are turning to other substances.”*

Reported Change in Availability of Heroin during the Past 6 Months				
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	Most Available Type	BCI Heroin Case Incidence Change
Akron-Canton	Low to Moderate	Decrease	Powdered	Increase
Athens	High	No Change	Black Tar	Increase
Cincinnati	High	No Consensus	Brown Powdered	Increase
Cleveland	High	No Consensus	Powdered	Increase
Columbus	High	No Consensus	White Powdered	Increase
Dayton	Low to Moderate	No Change	Brown Powdered	Increase
Toledo	Moderate	Decrease	White Powdered	Increase
Youngstown	High	No Change	Powdered	Increase

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted heroin incidence data. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of heroin cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months, while the Lake County Crime Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of heroin cases it processes has increased. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of heroin cases it processes has decreased during the past six months.

Other data sources indicated heroin as available throughout OSAM regions. Fairfield County Municipal Court (Columbus region) reported that of the 6,576 positive adult drug specimens it recorded during the past six months, 8.9% was positive for heroin and/or prescription opioids (not including fentanyl). ODPS reported drug taskforce seizure of 87 kilograms (191.8 lbs.) of heroin from throughout OSAM regions during the past six months; of which, 65.1% was seized from the Columbus region [ODPS reported seizure of 60.0 kilograms (132.3 lbs.) of heroin during the previous reporting period].

Millennium Health reported that 2.0% of the 192,702 urinalysis specimens submitted for heroin testing during the past six months were positive for heroin.

Millennium Health Urinalysis Test Results for Heroin during the Past 6 Months		
Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	1.7%	29,328
Athens	1.2%	16,634
Cincinnati	3.4%	24,399
Cleveland	0.8%	18,081
Columbus	1.2%	24,441
Dayton	5.3%	10,474
Toledo	1.3%	50,523
Youngstown	3.5%	18,822
Total	2.0%	192,702

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to heroin this reporting period (selected media reports follow). Members of an Ashtabula County task force (Youngstown region) accidentally inhaled an unknown substance during a drug bust at apartments in Ashtabula; two officers were treated at the scene and a man was arrested on drug and weapons charges after officers seized 70 grams of suspected heroin and fentanyl, 59 grams of methamphetamine, three sheets (300 doses) of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), four grams of suspected ecstasy (MDMA), a handgun and more than \$1,500 (www.fox8.com, Jan. 29, 2020). Franklin County Prosecutor's Office (Columbus region) announced the indictment of a "large-scale heroin dealer;" on February 7, Columbus Police along with other law enforcement agencies in Central Ohio arrested the dealer with one kilogram of heroin, at least 120 grams of fentanyl and \$14,000 (www.abc6onyourside.com, Feb. 14, 2020).

Hamilton County Heroin Task Force (Cincinnati region) initiated an investigation of a North College Hill man after three overdoses in one day were traced back to him; officers arrested the man for corrupting another with drugs, trafficking in drugs, possession of drugs and endangering children after executing a search warrant of the man's home while his children were present and seizing 673 grams of suspected fentanyl, 105 grams of suspected cocaine, 60 grams of suspected crack cocaine and 62 grams of suspected heroin (www.wcpo.com, Feb. 26, 2020). Several law enforcement agencies worked together to apprehend 35 individuals in Richland County (Columbus region) suspected of drug trafficking; officers executed several search warrants as part of the joint four-year investigation, seizing prescription pills, marijuana, over 400 grams of heroin and fentanyl, and seven guns that were reported stolen out of the Columbus Police Department (www.cleveland19.com, March 12, 2020). OSHP arrested a Michigan man on Interstate 75 in Wood County (Toledo region) during a traffic stop in which the man consented to a search of his vehicle; troopers charged the man with possession of heroin,

trafficking in heroin, possession of methamphetamine and trafficking in methamphetamine after discovering a pound of marijuana, 136 grams of heroin, 60 grams of methamphetamine and 300 suspected fentanyl pills (www.nbc24.com, May 28, 2020). OSHP conducted a traffic stop and probable cause search of a vehicle on Interstate 70 in Preble County (Dayton region) after a K9 officer alerted to narcotics; troopers seized a pound of heroin worth \$50,000 (www.wdtn.com, June 9, 2020). Athens County Sheriff's officers (Athens region) conducted a traffic stop and probable cause search after a K9 officer alerted to possible drugs; officers found 21 grams of suspected heroin, 29 grams of suspected methamphetamine, a digital scale and \$2,455 cash which led to the arrest of a man for drug trafficking and possession (www.abc6onyourside.com, June 10, 2020). Agents of the Ohio Organized Crimes Investigations Commission, Washington-Morgan-Monroe-Noble Major Crimes Task Force (Athens region) executed search warrants for drug trafficking in Belpre and Marietta that resulted in the arrest of seven local people; during the searches, officers found 4.5 kilograms of a fentanyl/heroin mix, \$40,000 in cash and several handguns (www.mariettatimes.com, June 12, 2020).

Crime labs throughout OSAM regions reported processing beige, blue, brown, gray, off-white, pink, purple, tan, white and yellow powdered heroin as well as black tar heroin during the past six months. Law enforcement in the Cleveland region discussed the varying colors of heroin, explaining: "*We've seen [heroin] every color you can imagine; Normal heroin is tan. It's tan in color. [But], we come across gray, pink, blue, white, purple, orange [colored heroin] ... you name [the color and we have probably seen heroin that color].... The reason that [drug dealers] do that (add color to their heroin) is because they want people to think, 'Hey, this is the blue stuff. The blue stuff is the good stuff' ... it's a marketing gimmick....*" In addition to fentanyl, crime labs throughout OSAM regions indicated many

adulterants (aka “cutting agents”) found with heroin cases.

Note GPRA does not ask about fentanyl use specifically. Fentanyl patches and other pharmaceutical forms of fentanyl are asked about with prescription opioids. Thus, respondent definition of heroin may or may not have included non-prescribed fentanyl.

**Cutting Agents
Reported by Crime Labs for Heroin**

acetaminophen, benzodiazepines, caffeine, carfentanil, cocaine, diphenhydramine (antihistamine), fentanyl, inositol (dietary supplement), lidocaine (local anesthetic), mannitol (diuretic), methamphetamine, papaverine (vasodilator), pentobarbital (barbiturate), quinine (antimalarial), sorbitol (artificial sweetener), tramadol, xylazine (animal sedative)

Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region), Montgomery (Dayton region) and Scioto (Cincinnati region) reported that 16.4%, 13.2%, 9.3% and 9.1%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257, 407 and 33 deaths) involved heroin; of these heroin-related deaths, 95.9%, 88.2%, 97.4% and 100%, respectively, also involved fentanyl. GPRA data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 27.6% reported heroin use 30 days prior to intake.

Community professionals throughout OSAM regions continued to describe typical heroin users as White people, aged 20-40 years of low socio-economic status. Comments included:

“Predominately White or Caucasian, early 20s to late 40s ... lower income or those who are less educated; Young, White and becoming poor.”

**GPRA Intake: Heroin Use
during the Past 30 Days**

Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	15.2%	191
Athens	19.6%	453
Cincinnati	29.3%	1,447
Cleveland	33.6%	1,095
Columbus	27.5%	716
Dayton	21.6%	436
Toledo	36.1%	862
Youngstown	12.0%	482
Total	27.6%	5,682

**GPRA Demographic Data of All
Intake Clients Who Used Heroin
during the Past 30 Days (N = 1,568)**

Male	56.8%
Female	42.9%
18 - 29	26.1%
30 - 39	44.8%
40 - 49	18.3%
50 - 59	7.5%
60 +	3.3%
White	82.9%
African American	12.5%
Other or more than one race	4.3%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	6.3%

However, respondents in half of OSAM regions (Akron-Canton, Athens, Cleveland and Columbus) indicated a greater diversity in heroin users. These professionals said: “[Heroin] is getting teens all the way up to people in their 50s. If I was to go to the

high school and see the kids that are doing it, some of them come from really good families just hanging out with the wrong crowds; [Heroin] is literally everywhere, bad neighborhoods, good neighborhoods, it doesn't matter. With cell phones, you can sell 'dope' (heroin) wherever you want ... the entire city; I don't think there is any typical heroin user. I've seen businessmen who run construction companies that are heroin users; When you look at overdoses and heroin/opioid use [by location], the map is covered ... every neighborhood, every suburb, every income level and all races [use heroin]."

Fentanyl

With the exception of the Athens region, community professionals throughout OSAM regions universally reported high current availability of fentanyl. Those respondents in the Athens region who reported low to moderate fentanyl availability noted "straight" fentanyl as somewhat difficult to obtain, acknowledging however that fentanyl is widespread in its use as a "cut" (adulterant) for almost every drug. Treatment providers in the Athens region stated: *"Fentanyl is in our area. However, it is in something else. I think I had one client in the last six months tell me that they have used straight fentanyl; Sadly, [fentanyl] is getting mixed into all kinds of other substances."*

Professionals reporting current high fentanyl availability indicated high demand among users for a potent and cheap high along with intense dealer solicitations as driving the sale and use of fentanyl. Comments included: *"I'm hearing fentanyl as a drug of choice more often [than previously]; A lot of people who were using heroin transitioned to fentanyl, so there is the big demand for it; I can drive through a certain neighborhood [in Dayton], and if I'm going slow enough with my windows down, somebody will throw a [fentanyl] tester with their*

phone number attached to it to get me to try their product; [Fentanyl] is what they are looking for now. They don't want heroin anymore. People want straight fentanyl; Dealers are getting [fentanyl] for cheaper prices [than heroin], and users are feeling stronger effects [than they would with heroin only]; You can get more bang for your buck [buying fentanyl versus heroin] so to speak...."

While respondents in half of OSAM regions did not reach consensus as to a change in availability for fentanyl during the past six months, community professionals throughout regions most often reported that availability has either remained the same (highly available) or it has increased. Comments expressing availability as having remained the same included: *"[Fentanyl] has been so prevalent for such a long time, so it's hard to say [whether availability has increased]; It's been [highly available] for so long; There's been a steady stream [of dealers selling/passing fentanyl]."* However, a law enforcement officer in the Athens region noted an increase in overdose as evidence of an increase in the incidence of fentanyl. The officer said, *"We have had almost more overdoses in the last six months than we had all of last year."* And, a treatment provider in the Dayton region related a reported increase in fentanyl use during the past six months to the current COVID-19 pandemic, stating *"The cancellation of in-person meetings for the 12-step community [due to COVID-19] has had a direct effect on people who did not have their recovery solidified. We have seen people relapse who were fentanyl users and I think that is a huge contributor to why we have seen an increase in fentanyl use."*

BCI crime labs reported an increase in the incidence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases they process for every OSAM region during the past six months, although the labs reported significant increases for half of the regions. BCI labs reported the following increases in fentanyl and fentanyl analogue case incidence: from 875 to 1,488 cases for the Cincinnati region; from 787 to 1,332 cases for the Dayton

region; from 483 to 1,084 cases for the Toledo region; and from 548 to 1,107 cases for the Youngstown region.

naloxone (opioid overdose reversal medication) to 1,609 individuals in the city of Columbus during the reporting period.

Reported Change in Availability of Fentanyl during the Past 6 Months				
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	BCI Fentanyl Case Incidence Change	BCI Carfentanil Case Incidence Change
Akron-Canton	High	No Change	Increase	Increase
Athens	No Consensus	No Consensus	Increase	Increase
Cincinnati	High	No Consensus	Increase	Increase
Cleveland	High	No Change	Increase	Increase
Columbus	High	Increase	Increase	Increase
Dayton	High	No Consensus	Increase	Increase
Toledo	High	No Consensus	Increase	Increase
Youngstown	High	No Change	Increase	Increase

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted fentanyl incidence data. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months, while Lake County Crime Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases it processes has increased. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases it processes has increased during the past six months.

Other data sources indicated fentanyl as available throughout OSAM regions. Hancock County Probate Court (Toledo region) reported that of the 31 positive adult drug test results it recorded during the past six months, 19.4% were positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analogues. Columbus Fire Department (Franklin County, Columbus region) reported administering 2,214 total doses of

Millennium Health reported that 20.0% of the 214,227 urinalysis specimens submitted for fentanyl testing during the past six months were positive for fentanyl.

Millennium Health Urinalysis Test Results for Fentanyl during the Past 6 Months		
Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	14.3%	31,271
Athens	11.1%	16,904
Cincinnati	39.3%	31,299
Cleveland	4.3%	17,747
Columbus	6.1%	24,727
Dayton	47.7%	14,488
Toledo	17.3%	55,813
Youngstown	24.7%	21,978
Total	20.0%	214,227

ODPS reported drug taskforce seizure of 65.9 kilograms (145.3 lbs.) of fentanyl from throughout OSAM regions during the past six months; of which, 54.8% was seized from the Cincinnati region [ODPS reported seizure of 49.0 kilograms (108.1 lbs.) of fentanyl during the previous reporting period]. In addition, media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to fentanyl this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

With the help of the FBI, Butler County Undercover Regional Narcotics Taskforce (Cincinnati region) searched an apartment in West Chester and seized 3.4 ounces of fentanyl; officers arrested a man living in the apartment for aggravated drug trafficking and possession of a controlled substance (www.local12.com, Jan. 8, 2020). Akron Police (Summit County, Akron-Canton region) executed search warrants at several locations in Akron and arrested two men for trafficking and possession of fentanyl; officers seized 50 grams of fentanyl, \$40,000, a rifle and a loaded semi-automatic pistol (www.fox8.com, Jan. 9, 2020). The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio reported that the Franklin County Coroner's Office (Columbus region) logged seven overdose deaths linked to fentanyl during the last weekend of January; the attorney noted that many of the opioids found in the Southern District of Ohio are in fact fentanyl analogues smuggled into the U.S. from other countries (www.nbc4.com, Jan. 28, 2020). From January 31 to February 8, Franklin County Coroner's Office reported that 28 people died of drug overdose; the coroner indicated fentanyl as the cause of overdose in most deaths, warning users to use fentanyl testing strips and acquire Narcan® (opioid overdose reversal medication) (www.cleveland19.com, Feb. 10, 2020). Middletown Police (Butler County, Cincinnati region) arrested four people at a residence while investigating a drug ring; officers seized hundreds of grams of fentanyl, \$130,000 and several cars (www.local12.com, Feb. 18, 2020). Butler County Sheriff's officers arrested two people during a traffic stop after a K9 officer

located 2.2 pounds of fentanyl hidden in the car (www.local12.com, Feb. 18, 2020). Marion Metro Drug Enforcement Unit (Columbus region) worked with other law enforcement agencies to make the largest fentanyl bust in Marion County history; officers conducted several warrant searches and arrested a man for drug trafficking after seizing 430 grams of fentanyl, \$10,000 and a firearm (www.marionstar.com, May 4, 2020). Franklin County Coroner reported that their office saw 62 people die of overdose in the month of April; the coroner warned that a lot of cocaine is adulterated with fentanyl without people knowing (www.10tv.com, May 8, 2020). Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (Cleveland region) announced that at least 66 fatal drug overdoses from heroin, fentanyl and cocaine occurred in May, nearly matching the deadliest month in the history of the county (February 2017, 77 overdose deaths) (www.cleveland19.com, June 10, 2020). Hamilton County Coroner's Office (Cincinnati region) issued an alert that 23 people had died of overdose from June 1-10; the coroner warned of a high supply of fentanyl and cautioned that those who use cocaine, crack cocaine and methamphetamine are also at risk for fentanyl overdose and death (www.wcpo.com, June 11, 2020). Correlating the COVID-19 pandemic with a surge in opioid overdoses, Dayton Police (Montgomery County, Dayton region) reported that there were 17 overdose deaths in the city of Dayton in May; Montgomery County Coroner noted a resurgence of fentanyl analogues as a factor in many of the recent overdoses, reporting that the usual concoction they see in overdoses is a mix of fentanyl, methamphetamine and sometimes cocaine (www.wdtn.com, June 22, 2020).

In terms of carfentanil (synthetic opioid significantly more potent than fentanyl), community professionals in just two OSAM regions, Cincinnati and Cleveland, reported on its availability and use during the past six months. Cleveland respondents discussed: *"I have heard of the carfentanil going around the area for sure. A lot of my clients,*

[carfentanil] *is something they bring up. They are afraid of using heroin because of it being laced (adulterated) with fentanyl/carfentanil ... [fatal overdose] has been a pretty serious concern here recently; Carfentanil is back in business ... in January there was a bunch of carfentanil that came in; Carfentanil is pretty available. Regular old fentanyl is pretty available. You name it, we have seen a lab report. There is stuff I can't pronounce (fentanyl analogues) that's coming out ... it says 'fentanyl' at the end of it.*" A Cincinnati treatment provider shared, *"I had one client that reported overdosing [recently] ... it was on carfentanil."*

BCI crime labs reported an increase in the incidence of carfentanil cases they process for every OSAM region during the past six months, although the labs reported significant increases for three of the regions. BCI labs reported the following increases in carfentanil case incidence: from 79 to 296 cases for the Akron-Canton region; from 17 to 127 cases for the Toledo region; and from 79 to 424 cases for the Youngstown region.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted carfentanil incidence data. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of carfentanil cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months, while Lake County Crime Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of carfentanil cases it processes has increased. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of carfentanil cases it processes has decreased during the past six months.

Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region), Montgomery (Dayton region) and Scioto (Cincinnati region), reported that 59.1%, 80.2%, 79.4% and 81.8%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257, 407 and 33 deaths) involved

fentanyl/fentanyl analogues. In addition, Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office reported that 55.4% of the 298 drug-related deaths it processed during the past six months involved carfentanil; coroners' offices from the other participating counties reported processing very few cases involving carfentanil during the past six months.

Throughout OSAM regions, community professionals continued to describe typical fentanyl users most often as heroin users, while pointing out that anyone could be a fentanyl user, especially since fentanyl is an adulterant for many other drugs. Comments included: *"[Fentanyl users] mirror the characteristics of heroin users; Predominantly White, 20s, 30s ... typically, people are using heroin ... want an even better high, and they'll try fentanyl; It seems like whoever is using heroin is using fentanyl, they're interchangeable; Everybody, [fentanyl use] varies from age, sex, race. It doesn't matter. I would say around the same age range as heroin though ... 20s and 30s; It's an epidemic, it's hit about everybody; Middle class, lower middle class; Everybody, people you wouldn't even think [use fentanyl]."*

Prescription Opioids

The current availability of prescription opioids for illicit use is moderate for the majority of OSAM regions. The consensus among community professionals was that prescription opioids are limited for illicit use due to restrictions imposed by prescribing guidelines. Thus, they noted that diverted opioids command a high price, making them cost prohibitive to most users, especially given that fentanyl is a far cheaper alternative, one that is widely available. Treatment providers discussed: *"Honestly, [prescription opioids] are not something that too many of our folks report using; They all say they're harder to find, and when they find them, they're super expensive; Most of my clients don't*

bother to try to find [prescription opioids] anymore because they were having such difficulty [obtaining them]; It's not as easy to get prescriptions [as previously]. 'I've got a backache' doesn't work anymore; There are stricter guidelines, and doctors are afraid to prescribe [opioids] now because of lawsuits."

Law enforcement concurred with treatment providers. One officer summarized, *"The price is [high] and fentanyl is so readily available.... A lot of the [illicit availability], originally, was due to doctors [over] prescribing, but there's been a big push to limit the amount of pills (prescription opioids) that reach the streets."* Law enforcement, along with treatment providers throughout OSAM regions, also continued to report high current availability of "fake pills," typically pressed fentanyl pills made to look like legitimate prescription opioids. Officers commented: *"We are seeing a lot of fake pills, pressed fentanyl pills. Everything we're getting is coming back from the [crime] lab as fentanyl, even though it is supposed to be Percocet®; With the flood of fentanyl in the area, why would you go to the pharmacy for Percocet® when you can just [buy] pressed pills? I don't think that really happens anymore, the 'doctor shopping' (going to several doctors to try to obtain prescriptions for opioids); There's tons of fake pills...."*

While the availability of prescription opioids for illicit use has remained the same during the past six months for half of the OSAM regions, respondents in

Akron-Canton, Toledo and Youngstown regions, along with treatment providers in the Cleveland region, reported decreased street availability. Cleveland providers said: *"[Prescription opioids] are still fairly available, but definitely less [available] in the past six months; We haven't had a lot of positive [drug] screens for prescription opioids ... they are being used less, so they are probably less available."* A treatment provider in the Youngstown region shared, *"There were new laws implemented with doctors and how they prescribe medications, so [opioids are] not as readily available as they might have been a year ago. We are finally seeing that number drop (decreases in illicit use of opioids)."*

Reported Change in Availability of Prescription Opioids during the Past 6 Months			
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	Most Available
Akron-Canton	Low to Moderate	Decrease	Percocet®, Vicodin®
Athens	No Consensus	No Change	Percocet®, Vicodin®
Cincinnati	Moderate to High	No Change	OxyContin®, Percocet®, Tramadol
Cleveland	Moderate	No Consensus	OxyContin®, Percocet®, Vicodin®
Columbus	No Consensus	No Change	OxyContin®, Percocet®
Dayton	Moderate	No Change	OxyContin®
Toledo	Moderate	Decrease	OxyContin®, Percocet®
Youngstown	Low to Moderate	Decrease	Percocet®, Vicodin®

Community professionals identified OxyContin®, Percocet®, tramadol and Vicodin® as the most popular prescription opioids in terms of widespread illicit use. Treatment providers reported: *“Usually ‘perks’ (Percocet®) with some Vicodin® thrown in there; ‘Oxy’ (OxyContin®) is one that is still fairly available, although I have heard Vicodin® and Percocet® [as available], lately; Every once in a while you’ll hear about Dilaudid®, or something like that, but I would say Percocet® and OxyContin® would be the main two; Percocet® ... I hear that one a lot ... probably Vicodin® would be next ... they are probably the most prescribed.”*

BCI crime labs reported incidence data for each of the aforementioned community professional identified most available opioids. BCI labs also reported processing very few cases of hydromorphone (Dilaudid®), oxymorphone (Opana®) and methadone from all OSAM regions. However, BCI labs reported that the incidence of hydromorphone, methadone and oxymorphone cases has slightly increased for the Columbus region during the past six months, although the numbers remain very low.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted opioid incidence data. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of tramadol cases it processes has increased during the past six months, while the incidence of hydromorphone cases has also increased, it remains low. Incidence of hydrocodone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone and oxymorphone cases this lab processes has decreased or remained the same. Lake County Crime Lab (also Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of oxycodone and tramadol cases it processes has increased during the past six months; this lab reported processing few to no cases of hydrocodone, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine and oxymorphone. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of morphine cases it processes has increased during the past six months, although it remains low. Incidence of hydrocodone, oxycodone and tramadol cases has decreased or remained the same; this lab reported processing very few cases of hydromorphone, methadone and oxymorphone.

Other data sources indicated prescription opioids as available for illicit use throughout OSAM regions. Millennium Health reported that 11.6% of 188,176 urinalysis specimens submitted for opioid testing during the past six months were positive for morphine, codeine, hydromorphone/hydrocodone; 4% were positive for oxycodone/oxymorphone.

Change in BCI Case Incidence for Prescription Opioids during the Past 6 Months

Region	Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)	Morphine	Oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®)	Tramadol (Ultram®)
Akron-Canton	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Athens	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase
Cincinnati	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
Cleveland	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase
Columbus	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Dayton	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Toledo	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Youngstown	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase

**Millennium Health
Urinalysis Test Results for Opioids
during the Past 6 Months**

Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	12.2%	28,922
Athens	7.8%	15,385
Cincinnati	18.8%	24,167
Cleveland	5.5%	17,381
Columbus	9.2%	23,564
Dayton	25.9%	9,818
Toledo	7.0%	50,031
Youngstown	17.5%	18,908
Total	11.6%	188,176

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to prescription opioids this reporting period (selected media reports follow). Lorain Police (Lorain County, Cleveland region) and agents from the U.S. Marshals Service arrested two men during a drug raid on an apartment; officers seized suspected fentanyl, cocaine and oxycodone pills, charging the men with drug trafficking among other charges (www.cleveland19.com, Feb. 20, 2020). The father of a child who overdosed on methadone was indicted for child endangering and obstructing justice; the man’s 2-year-old son was taken to Toledo Hospital (Lucas County, Toledo region) where emergency room staff administered three doses of naloxone, reviving him, and afterwards, staff notified child protective services (www.wtol.com, Feb. 10, 2020).

Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region), Montgomery (Dayton region) and Scioto (Cincinnati region) reported that 11.4%, 10.5%, 8.6% and 9.1%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257, 407 and 33 deaths) involved one or more

prescription opioid. GPRA data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 6.8% reported illicit prescription opioid use 30 days prior to intake.

A profile of a typical illicit prescription opioid user did not emerge from the data. However, respondents throughout OSAM regions continued to discuss typical illicit users as people of middle to high socio-economic status due to the high street cost of prescription opioids. Comments included: *“People with money because [prescription opioids] are very expensive. The only people (treatment clients) I have [illicitly] using Percocet® are working people; You have to have some money [to afford illicit opioids], so people with money, and maybe a little older.”*

**GPRA Intake: Illicit Rx Opioid Use
during the Past 30 Days**

Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	10.5%	191
Athens	7.7%	453
Cincinnati	5.7%	1,447
Cleveland	5.8%	1,095
Columbus	10.5%	716
Dayton	4.8%	436
Toledo	8.2%	862
Youngstown	3.1%	482
Total	6.8%	5,682

Community professionals also discussed people with access to the medications through work in medical/healthcare settings and younger people with access through medicine cabinets of relatives as illicit users of prescription opioids. Law enforcement

commented: *“Believe it or not, home healthcare. Most of the people we get we are [arresting] with pills, are home health workers, aids and nurses. Most of the people we get have stolen their pills; Everybody takes them; Kids, this is the entry-level drug for them; High school [and] college age, they think it’s the safe, easy route [to illicitly use prescription opioids versus street drugs].”* However, many respondents held the belief that anyone could illicitly use prescription opioids. Comments included: *“I think [illicit use of opioids] is very widespread. I think that it is even more widespread than probably any of the other substances; It’s any race, any age; I’m not seeing any difference in gender at all; It’s just everyone.”*

Male	63.5%
Female	36.2%
18 - 29	26.0%
30 - 39	32.3%
40 - 49	24.5%
50 - 59	12.2%
60 +	4.9%
White	70.6%
African American	24.5%
Other or more than one race	5.0%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	8.1%

Buprenorphine

Buprenorphine (medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder, including Suboxone®, Subutex®,

as well as generic and other forms of buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone) is moderately to highly available for illicit use throughout most OSAM regions. While community professionals continued to discuss persons receiving buprenorphine as selling/trading the drug to obtain other drugs, there were many discussions regarding prescribers holding their patients accountable and clients benefitting from adherence to prescribing instructions. Comments included: *“We have a clinic where [buprenorphine] is safely used ... they are strict with how they prescribe; I had a couple of clients report that people who get the prescription have to take their pills in and have their Suboxone® doctor count the pills. So, I think that is causing a little decrease in the availability [of diverted buprenorphine]; I know a lot of people who used Suboxone® to recover and it saved their life. It works, if you work it.”*

In terms of current supply and demand for illicit buprenorphine, community professionals throughout regions discussed both as relatively high. They said: *“So many people have [buprenorphine] ‘scripts’(prescriptions); Some doctors, who aren’t even affiliated with a [treatment] agency are starting to prescribe Suboxone® in their general practice; [Doctors] are also using [buprenorphine] to treat pain; If someone needs to make a quick buck, you can easily sell Suboxone® in our area; I know quite a few people who are buying Suboxone® on the street ... some are buying it on the street because they want to stop [their opioid] addiction; I know of people who will go get their Suboxone® and trade it for some meth, sadly; Sometimes the fentanyl dealers will also have Suboxone® ‘strips’ (sublingual filmstrips)... We come across them on search warrants. I assume [drug dealers] are getting it from customers who are trading it for actual fentanyl.”*

Law enforcement discussed that the primary illicit use of buprenorphine is to alleviate opioid withdrawal symptoms, particularly among users who are not able to access legitimate prescriptions due to lack of insurance and money. One officer

shared, “It’s one of the things that is a double-edged sword.... People get Suboxone® prescriptions and they will sell the Suboxone® prescription to fund their heroin addiction.... Someone else that legitimately can’t get that prescription is now buying that prescription to help them get off heroin. So, it’s kind of like, ‘Why aren’t you going after them? They are selling Suboxone®.’ Well, they are selling it to someone who wants to stop heroin. So, it’s like do you want to enforce that? Yeah, the [seller] is trafficking Suboxone®, but he’s

who use the drug to self-medicate or to alleviate withdrawal symptoms between heroin/fentanyl buys. Comments included: “The same demographic that is using opiates and fentanyl; If they can’t get [heroin], they are using Suboxone®; Someone who is trying to stay sober but does not want to go through the structure of treatment, with the demands of going to groups and appointments.” In addition, law enforcement in the Cincinnati region noted the prevalence of illicit buprenorphine use in jail settings. Officers shared: “The biggest thing we’re

seeing right now is they’re smuggling [Buprenorphine] into jails, big time; It’s kind of crazy that [buprenorphine] is becoming a currency inside of lockup....”

Reported Change in Availability of Buprenorphine during the Past 6 Months			
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	BCI Buprenorphine Case Incidence Change
Akron-Canton	Low to Moderate	No Consensus	Increase
Athens	Moderate to High	No Change	Increase
Cincinnati	Moderate to High	No Change	Increase
Cleveland	Moderate	No Consensus	Increase
Columbus	High	Increase	Increase
Dayton	Moderate	No Consensus	Increase
Toledo	Moderate	Decrease	Increase
Youngstown	High	No Change	Increase

giving something to someone who is not trying to achieve a high. They are trying to not die....”

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted buprenorphine incidence data. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab and Lake County Crime Lab (both Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of buprenorphine cases they process has increased during the past six months. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of buprenorphine cases it processes has decreased during the past six months.

Community professionals continued to describe typical illicit buprenorphine users as opiate users

Sedative-Hypnotics

Sedative-hypnotics (benzodiazepines, barbiturates and muscle relaxants) remain moderately available for illicit use in most OSAM regions. Respondents discussed relative ease in obtaining prescriptions for sedative-hypnotics from local physicians. Treatment providers said: “A lot of people are being prescribed ‘benzos’ (benzodiazepines); If you say the right things to a doctor, you can get a prescription; Pretty much anybody can walk into their PCP (primary care physician) and say they have anxiety issues and get prescribed something.” However, a treatment

provider clarified: *“I wouldn’t say [sedative-hypnotics] are many people’s drug of choice by any means.”* Law enforcement reported not coming across sedative-hypnotics too frequently. An officer in the Dayton region stated, *“We just don’t see [sedative-hypnotics] a lot on the street. People don’t offer them for sale a whole lot, so we don’t run into them often.”*

Community professionals universally identified Xanax® as most available sedative-hypnotic in terms of widespread illicit use. Treatment providers said: *“Xanax® has been the top prescription drug on the street for quite a while. That’s really nothing new; Xanax® is short-acting, so it’s the one that people want the most; Klonopin® is less sought after because it’s a long-acting, twelve-hour thing; [Klonopin®] availability may be a little lower because it’s not preferred; Definitely Xanax®. I think it’s become a lot more destigmatized because of music and [pop] culture, unfortunately. And, for a lot of younger people ... teens, early 20s, Xanax® has become a party drug....”* Law enforcement concurred that Xanax® is most available. An officer remarked, *“It’s the easiest drug for everybody to get from a doctor.”* However, similar to prescription opioids, law enforcement reported the presence of fraudulent pressed Xanax® pills. An officer in the Columbus region noted, *“Even those are being*

counterfeited with fentanyl.” In addition, OSHP reported that counterfeit Xanax® tablets often contain designer benzodiazepines such as flualprazolam, clonazolam and etizolam.

While the availability of sedative-hypnotics for illicit use has remained the same during the past six months for half of OSAM regions, many community professionals reported decreased availability. These professionals attributed less doctor prescribing of these medications as limiting current street availability. A treatment provider in the Akron-Canton region stated, *“In the past six months, I would say it’s a little more difficult [to obtain sedative-hypnotics] because not too many people are going to their doctors’ visits [due to COVID-19].”* Athens providers commented: *“Doctors do not prescribe like they used to; The doctors in our area ... are so cautious right now [when prescribing sedative-hypnotics].... It is not easy for the people who need them [legitimately] to come by them.”* And, a provider in the Cleveland region observed, *“They are cracking down on [prescribing sedative-hypnotics], too ... it’s harder to get a prescription, so there is less and less on the street.”*

BCI crime labs reported incidence data for sedative-hypnotics during the past six months for each OSAM region. In addition to the drugs presented in the

table (left), BCI labs reported processing few to no cases of carisoprodol (Soma®) and zolpidem (Ambien®) during the past six months for Akron-Canton, Athens, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo regions.

Reported Change in Availability of Sedative-Hypnotics during the Past 6 Months

Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	Most Available
Akron-Canton	Low to Moderate	No Consensus	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Athens	No Consensus	Decrease	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Cincinnati	Moderate	No Change	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Cleveland	Moderate to High	No Consensus	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Columbus	Moderate	No Change	Xanax®
Dayton	Low to Moderate	No Change	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Toledo	Low to Moderate	No Consensus	Klonopin®, Xanax®
Youngstown	Moderate	No Change	Xanax®

For the Cleveland region, BCI reported that the incidence of zolpidem cases it processes has increased; BCI processed few cases of carisoprodol from this region during the past six months. For the Columbus region, BCI reported that the incidence of carisoprodol and zolpidem cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months. For the Youngstown region, BCI reported that the incidence of carisoprodol cases it processes has increased; BCI processed no cases of zolpidem from this region during the past six months.

reported that it processed 10 or fewer cases each of alprazolam, carisoprodol, clonazepam, diazepam, lorazepam and zolpidem during the past six months. In addition, this lab reported that it processed 11 cases of designer benzodiazepines (clonazolam, diclazepam, etizolam and flualprazolam) that were present in counterfeit Xanax® tablets. Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that the incidence of alprazolam and clonazepam cases it processes has decreased during the past six months. This lab reported processing few cases of

carisoprodol, diazepam, lorazepam and zolpidem during the past six months; in addition, it processed 141 cases of counterfeit tablets containing designer benzodiazepines.

Change in BCI Case Incidence for Sedative-Hypnotics during the Past 6 Months

Region	Alprazolam (Xanax®)	Clonazepam (Klonopin®)	Diazepam (Valium®)	Lorazepam (Ativan®)
Akron-Canton	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease
Athens	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Few Cases*
Cincinnati	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase
Cleveland	Increase	Increase	Few Cases*	Few Cases*
Columbus	Increase	No Change	Increase	Decrease
Dayton	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease
Toledo	Increase	Increase	Few Cases*	Few Cases*
Youngstown	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase

*BCI labs reported processing few cases of this drug for this region during the past six months.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for sedative-hypnotics. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that the incidence of clonazepam cases it processes has increased during the past six months, while the incidence of alprazolam, carisoprodol, diazepam, lorazepam and zolpidem cases has decreased or remained the same. In addition, this lab reported an increase in incidence of designer benzodiazepines (diclazepam, etizolam and flurazepam) to 88 cases during the past six months. Lake County Crime Lab (also Cleveland region)

Other data sources indicated sedative-hypnotics as available for illicit use throughout OSAM regions. Fairfield County Municipal Court (Columbus region) reported that of the 6,576 positive adult drug specimens it recorded during the past six months, 7.6% were positive for benzodiazepines. Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region) and Montgomery (Dayton region) reported that 19.5%, 9.3% and 3.9%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257 and 407 deaths) involved one or more benzodiazepine and/or other sedative-hypnotic.

Millennium Health reported that 10.7% of 187,344 urinalysis specimens submitted for benzodiazepine testing during the past six months were positive for benzodiazepines.

Millennium Health Urinalysis Test Results for Benzodiazepines during the Past 6 Months		
Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	11.6%	28,075
Athens	9.5%	15,303
Cincinnati	16.8%	24,695
Cleveland	12.1%	17,663
Columbus	9.2%	23,541
Dayton	17.2%	9,585
Toledo	6.8%	49,743
Youngstown	9.4%	18,739
Total	10.7%	187,344

GPR data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 4.8% reported illicit sedative-hypnotic use 30 days prior to intake, including benzodiazepines, barbiturates and/or other sedatives/tranquilizers.

GPR Intake: Illicit Sedative-Hypnotic* Use during the Past 30 Days		
Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	6.3%	191
Athens	6.2%	453
Cincinnati	5.3%	1,447
Cleveland	5.8%	1,095
Columbus	3.8%	716
Dayton	6.0%	436
Toledo	2.9%	862
Youngstown	2.5%	482
Total	4.8%	5,682

Community professionals most often described typical illicit sedative-hypnotic users as young people and college students, while they also continued to note illicit use among females, White people and people who misuse other substances, particularly alcohol, heroin/fentanyl, marijuana and methamphetamine. Treatment providers discussed: *“White, younger; They usually would have middle-class parents, these are youngsters still at home, 18-25 [years of age], 20s to 30s; Younger ... late teens to early 20s, White kids ... probably because their parents have prescriptions [for sedative-hypnotics] and they are finding it.”* Law enforcement commented: *“Younger, 30s and younger ... there is no doubt college age are involved [in illicit sedative-hypnotic use]; [Illicit users] are younger. It’s the same group that uses marijuana.”*

GPR Demographic Data of All Intake Clients Who Used Sedative-Hypnotics Illicitly during the Past 30 Days (N = 273)	
Male	59.3%
Female	40.0%
18 - 29	27.8%
30 - 39	48.1%
40 - 49	16.7%
50 - 59	5.2%
60 +	2.2%
White	92.0%
African American	8.0%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	4.8%

Regarding illicit sedative-hypnotics use among females, community professionals discussed: *“A lot of ladies come in (enter treatment) with [sedative-hypnotics] already prescribed because women tend*

to their health better than men; Females get actually prescribed [sedative-hypnotics] more often [than males], then it snowballs [into illicit use and dependence]; I think a lot of [females] can go to the doctor and kind of bend the truth a little bit [and obtain a prescription for sedative-hypnotics easier than males].”

Community professionals throughout OSAM regions indicated that illicit use of sedative-hypnotics is often combined with other drug use. Comments included: *“People tell me they use [sedative-hypnotics] with heroin, [and] they use it with Suboxone®; They use it when coming down from heroin; With the meth use, if someone is coming down off that high of methamphetamine ... nine times out of 10 they are going to use a benzo to calm them down and get them to sleep; A lot of people who, when they relapse, drink [alcohol] then they go right to benzos. It just knocks them out. They like to drink, and those pills just intensify the high.”*

Marijuana

Marijuana remains highly available throughout OSAM regions. Community professionals attributed high marijuana availability to increasing societal acceptance and decreasing stigma for marijuana use, generally, as well as to expanded access resulting from the legalization of recreational marijuana use in other states. Comments included: *“Once the States in the West started legalizing [marijuana] ... people realized that you could go out there and bring it back and sell it for higher prices; [Marijuana] is basically legal unless it is bulk amount; [Marijuana use] is pretty broadly accepted; People feel worse about admitting that they are a tobacco user than they feel about saying that they are a marijuana user; [Municipal governments] are decriminalizing [marijuana for personal use] ... the penalties aren't that much, so people are more willing to take the risk*

[and more openly use marijuana]; You can walk in your local bar and you smell [marijuana]; People use [marijuana] for relaxation; Everyone is like, ‘Hey, it’s not a drug, it’s an herb ... it helps me with my anxiety, my depression’ ... my whatever.”

There was consensus among respondents that Ohio marijuana dispensaries have little to no impact on the availability of marijuana generally. A treatment provider stated, *“The dispensaries are too expensive. They get a card to buy [marijuana] legally, but they buy it on the street. They think they’re covered (protected from prosecution if they hold a medical marijuana card).”* A law enforcement officer stated, *“The biggest impact we’ve seen [on marijuana access] is ... we don’t have dispensaries here (Carroll County), we have people leaving the State and bringing [marijuana] back here. We had a guy meet someone at the border with Michigan, bringing in the edibles and juices (made from concentrated tetrahydrocannabinol [THC], the psychoactive property of marijuana)....”*

Community professionals in the majority of OSAM regions also reported high current availability of high-grade marijuana extracts and concentrates, often appearing as oil and waxy forms of the drug (aka “dabs”). Although highly available in most OSAM regions, the consensus was that marijuana is less expensive and more available than THC extracts and concentrates. Law enforcement discussed: *“It’s probably harder to get [extracts and concentrates] than just regular marijuana ... most people are just still smoking marijuana around here ... the oils and waxes are more expensive; [Dabs] are a little more pricy, more exotic.... Maybe people who have been smoking [marijuana] for a long time are looking for a new high, a way to get higher [turn to dabs]; If you hang out in a head shop long enough, you can get [extracts and concentrates]; There are shops that are selling that stuff out the back door all over our region (Cleveland region).”*

Reported Change in Availability of Marijuana during the Past 6 Months				
Region	Marijuana Current Availability & Availability Change		Concentrated THC Current Availability & Availability Change	
Akron-Canton	High	No Change	High	Increase
Athens	High	No Change	High	No Change
Cincinnati	High	No Change	High	Increase
Cleveland	High	No Change	High	No Change
Columbus	High	No Change	Moderate to High	Increase
Dayton	High	Increase	High	Increase
Toledo	High	No Change	Moderate	No Consensus
Youngstown	High	No Change	Moderate	Increase

Community professionals overwhelmingly reported that the high availability of marijuana has remained the same during the past six months. Law enforcement in the Columbus region summarized: “[Marijuana availability] has stayed widely and consistently available. It hasn’t changed; More people are just open to talk about [their marijuana use] now [than previously].” In regions that reported increased availability of marijuana extracts and concentrates during the past six months, community professionals discussed potency and ease of concealment of use via vape pens and edibles as reasons for the increased popularity/demand/supply of dabs.

Comments included: “There’s been more of the dabs, the homemade dabs, and the vape pens; You get into using [e-cigarettes], you’re getting up to 30 percent THC content; The potency is definitely much higher [than traditional marijuana]; The extracts and the vapes are more widely available now than they probably were six months or a year ago; You can get [THC oils] through the mail, and you don’t have to deal with the smell [of smoking marijuana]. [Dabs are] a lot less detectable.... The gummy bears and brownies [infused with THC] ... the edibles ... make it so there’s a lot less stigma, too; [Law

enforcement] sees a lot more edibles coming in through the mail. People are buying them ... in the [online] dispensaries and reselling them on the street.”

Crime labs throughout OSAM regions reported that the incidence of cannabis (including edible cannabis) as well as concentrated THC (oils, dabs) cases they process has decreased during the past six months. Notably, crime lab testing on marijuana products was affected in 2019 by Ohio Senate Bill 57, which decriminalized hemp and hemp-derived products in Ohio. Crime labs temporarily paused testing marijuana samples while they designed a testing procedure that would allow the differentiation of illegal marijuana and legal hemp. This resulted in a decreased number of cases in every region during this time period.

Other data sources indicated marijuana as available throughout OSAM regions. Fairfield County Municipal Court (Columbus region) reported that of the 6,576 positive adult drug specimens it recorded during the past six months, 20.1% were positive for cannabinoids. Hancock County Probate Court (Toledo region) reported that of the 31 positive adult drug test results it recorded during the past six

months, 32.3% were positive for cannabinoids; the court also reported that 83.3% of the 42 positive juvenile drug test results it recorded during the past six months were positive for cannabinoids. Summit County Juvenile Court (Akron-Canton region) reported that 39.6% of the 359 drug tests it performed during the past six months were positive for cannabinoids. Millennium Health reported that 21.5% of the 189,857 urinalysis specimens submitted for marijuana testing during the past six months were positive for cannabinoids.

Toledo Police (Lucas County, Toledo region) conducted a search of a home and seized roughly 30 marijuana plants along with dried marijuana, electrical converters, growing lights, THC wax equipment, seven pounds of marijuana wax and digital scales; officers charged the man living in the residence with illegal manufacture of drugs/ cultivation of marijuana and drug trafficking (www.nbc24.com, Jan. 8, 2020). Columbus Police Drug Cartel Unit (Franklin County, Columbus region) made nine arrests after completing an investigation into a drug trafficking organization that received large quantities of narcotics from Mexico for distribution throughout Central Ohio; during the investigation officers seized 905 pounds of marijuana, 698 grams of cocaine, 26 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 83 guns, 12 of which were stolen, and \$14,720 (www.wlwt.com, March 4, 2020). Mt. Healthy Police (Hamilton County, Cincinnati region) conducted a traffic stop and recovered nearly five pounds of marijuana, oxycodone, two loaded semi-automatic pistols and more than \$6,000; officers arrested the driver on weapons charges and for drug possession (www.fox19.com, March 10, 2020). Avon Police (Lorain County, Cleveland region) responded to a call of a break-in at an abandoned house and found more than 300 marijuana plants worth \$300,000; officers arrested a man at the home connected to the marijuana-grow operation (www.chroniclet.com, March 18, 2020). After being lead on a high-speed chase while attempting to make a traffic stop, Berea Police (Cuyahoga County, Cleveland region), seized four bags, each containing 3.5 grams of marijuana, along with two “London Pound Cakes” and two packages of “Cheetah Piss,” both marijuana products; officers arrested the occupants of the car, a man and a woman, after finding the drugs in the car and an additional bag of drugs that was thrown from the car during the police pursuit (www.cleveland.com, April 24, 2020).

Millennium Health Urinalysis Test Results for Marijuana during the Past 6 Months		
Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	18.4%	29,784
Athens	26.2%	15,969
Cincinnati	30.2%	23,007
Cleveland	14.8%	18,662
Columbus	23.4%	24,509
Dayton	29.6%	8,672
Toledo	17.7%	50,682
Youngstown	22.4%	18,572
Total	21.5%	189,857

ODPS reported drug taskforce seizure of 3,199.1 kilograms (7,052.8 lbs.) of marijuana from throughout OSAM regions during the past six months; of which, 35.7% was seized from the Cincinnati region, 18.7% from the Cleveland region and 18.3% from the Columbus region [ODPS reported seizure of 2,290.0 kilograms (5,048.6 lbs.) of marijuana during the previous reporting period]. In addition, media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to marijuana this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

Youngstown Police (Mahoning County, Youngstown region) while on patrol noticed the stench of raw marijuana emanating from a building on the west side of the city and secured a warrant to search the premises; officers located a marijuana-grow operation and seized several dozens of marijuana plants of varying sizes (www.wkbn.com, April 24, 2020). Akron Police (Summit County, Akron-Canton region) arrested a teen boy during a traffic stop after finding him in possession of a bookbag containing 69 grams of marijuana and \$46,000; officers charged the boy with trafficking drugs and possession of marijuana before transporting him to the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center (www.news5cleveland.com, May 13, 2020). Belmont County Sheriff's Office (Athens region) arrested three people for drug trafficking and child endangerment after locating 30 marijuana plants growing in a child's bedroom in a St. Clairsville home; officers also seized 12 pounds of marijuana, a loaded handgun and narcotics (www.wtov9.com, June 2, 2020). Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force apprehended a shooting suspect in Akron, and when searching the man's vehicle, officers found a handgun, a pound of marijuana and \$15,000; during a subsequent search of the man's home, officers found two more handguns, 16 additional pounds of marijuana, 1,100 suspected fentanyl pills and \$55,000 (www.fox8.com, June 17, 2020). During a traffic stop and probable cause search along Interstate 70 in Madison County (Columbus region), OSHP arrested a California man for being in possession of nearly 600 pounds of marijuana and products infused with THC; the seized marijuana and THC-infused products were worth approximately \$2.5 million (www.cleveland19.com, June 23, 2020).

GPRA data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 18.4% reported marijuana use 30 days prior to intake.

GPRA Intake: Marijuana Use during the Past 30 Days		
Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	19.4%	191
Athens	24.5%	453
Cincinnati	18.1%	1,447
Cleveland	16.1%	1,095
Columbus	21.9%	716
Dayton	20.9%	436
Toledo	20.9%	862
Youngstown	7.3%	482
Total	18.4%	5,682

A profile for a typical marijuana user did not emerge from the data. Consistent with previous reports, respondents reported that marijuana users are of any age, race, gender, occupation and socio-economic status. However, community professionals continued to describe typical users of marijuana extracts and concentrates as younger, people aged teens to 30s. Comments included: *“Most of the clients that we have come in will endorse some kind of marijuana use; Marijuana is definitely one of those that run the spectrum of users; Any age, any race, any economic status; Everyone is doing it ... and they're not hiding it.”* Regarding the use of extracts and concentrates, community professionals discussed: *“The younger group, teenage up to mid-20s or 30s [typically use dabs]; It's always the younger ones that are vaping and also using those [THC] cartridges; This school year, students are getting in trouble with the vape pens at school. They were using [dabs] in the bathrooms.”*

GPR A Demographic Data of All Intake Clients Who Used Marijuana during the Past 30 Days (N = 1,045)

Male	60.4%
Female	39.2%
18 - 29	28.3%
30 - 39	42.2%
40 - 49	19.2%
50 - 59	7.4%
60 +	3.0%
White	80.5%
African American	16.0%
Other or more than one race	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	6.4%

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine has increased in availability during the past six months for half of OSAM regions. However, there was consensus among community professionals throughout regions that current availability of methamphetamine is high. Reasons for high availability of methamphetamine, reportedly, are the low cost of the drug and high demand partly due to the migration of opiate users to stimulant drugs. Community professionals explained that Vivitrol® and other forms of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder block the ability to obtain an opioid high; thus, users who still desire to continue drug use are turning to methamphetamine for an alternative high.

Treatment providers commented:

"[Methamphetamine] is right up there with weed (as available as marijuana), neck and neck; I have a ton

of clients who say they are using 'meth' (methamphetamine) to help to come off of heroin, and they are having no problem finding it. It's like getting a loaf of bread (highly accessible); [Methamphetamine] is everywhere. You don't have to look very far; Hands down [methamphetamine] is the hottest thing (most in demand drug) in our area right now; [Vivitrol® clients say], 'I can't use heroin ... I can use meth ... it's not my drug of choice, but it can still get me high;' People know where to go for meth. There are certain blocks in Cleveland where even I know there is meth ... the amount of people with meth is just skyrocketing; [Methamphetamine] is super highly available; A huge supply [of methamphetamine] has flooded into the area ... and it's cheap."

Throughout OSAM regions, community professionals reported crystal methamphetamine as the most prevalent form of methamphetamine. They explained that crystal methamphetamine is cheaper, more potent and easier to obtain than powdered methamphetamine (aka "shake-and-bake"). A law enforcement officer summarized, "[High availability of crystal methamphetamine is due to] the [low] price ... and the influx from the southwest border ... the importation of cheap methamphetamine [from Mexico] that is 96 percent to 98 percent to 100 percent pure.... You can't even make [shake-and-bake] for [the price] you can buy crystal methamphetamine. You could make five grams [of shake-and-bake] for [the price of] an ounce [of crystal methamphetamine] right now.... You can't buy the pseudoephedrine (precursor chemical for shake-and-bake manufacture) for what you can buy the finished product [of crystal methamphetamine] ... which is six to 10 times more potent."

Law enforcement in several OSAM regions indicated increased availability of crystal methamphetamine during the past six months. Officers discussed: "Over the last six months, it's gotten worse ... the demand and supply for methamphetamine is definitely increasing; The trend we're seeing is the

methamphetamine ... it is the tidal wave coming behind the fentanyl crisis; [Opioid] users are saying, 'I'm switching to methamphetamine 'cause it's safe;' You got people dying off of heroin ... so, [users] are shifting [to methamphetamine]; Our seizures are saying that [methamphetamine] is slightly more available."

data for methamphetamine. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of methamphetamine cases it processes has slightly decreased during the past six months (from 561 to 549 cases); Lake County Crime Lab reported that the incidence of methamphetamine cases it processes

In addition, community professionals discussed the impact of the current coronavirus pandemic on the use of methamphetamine. A few professionals reported that the pandemic has somewhat limited the supply of methamphetamine while increasing the demand for the drug. Comments included: *"Because of COVID-19, [methamphetamine] is a little harder to find; [Drug cartels] are having transportation issues right now because of the shutdown (border closings); My clients are saying that they are having a lot of trouble of obtaining [methamphetamine] now due to COVID-19. The stimulus money has also contributed to [increased methamphetamine demand] because [users] have been able to buy more of it. So, the suppliers cannot keep up with the demand of people getting stimulus checks at different times; With the stay at home orders, we are finding that people are at home just doing drugs because there is nothing else to do."*

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence

has slightly increased (from 164 to 168 cases). The labs reported processing brown, tan and white powder/solid specimens; and blue, clear and white crystal methamphetamine during the past six months. For the Dayton region, Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab reported that the incidence of methamphetamine cases it processes has slightly increased during the past six months (from 1,039 to 1,046 cases). This lab reported processing mostly clear crystal methamphetamine as well as some brown and tan powdered methamphetamine.

Reported Change in Availability of Methamphetamine during the Past 6 Months			
Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	BCI Methamphetamine Case Incidence Change
Akron-Canton	High	No Consensus	Increase (830 to 1,574 cases)
Athens	High	No Consensus	Increase (1,231 to 1,846 cases)
Cincinnati	High	Increase	Increase (1,644 to 2,643 cases)
Cleveland	High	Increase	Increase (636 to 963 cases)
Columbus	High	Increase	Increase (1,313 to 2,127 cases)
Dayton	High	No Consensus	Increase (1,240 to 2,242 cases)
Toledo	High	Increase	Increase (702 to 1,332 cases)
Youngstown	High	No Change	Increase (521 to 1,158 cases)

Other data sources indicated methamphetamine as available throughout OSAM regions. Fairfield County Municipal Court (Columbus region) reported that of the 6,576 positive adult drug specimens it recorded during the past six months, 20.0% were positive for methamphetamine. Millennium Health reported that 8.5% of the 184,725 urinalysis specimens submitted for methamphetamine testing during the past six months were positive for methamphetamine.

after she sold a police informant 203 grams of crystal methamphetamine in a parking lot (www.cantonrep.com, Jan. 7, 2020). Fremont Police (Sandusky County, Toledo region) arrested an alleged fentanyl trafficker following a high-speed chase; officers caught the man, who was awaiting a jury trial for fentanyl trafficking, with an unspecified amount of crystal methamphetamine on his person and hidden inside a door panel of his truck

Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	10.9%	27,140
Athens	14.4%	16,617
Cincinnati	16.3%	24,406
Cleveland	4.0%	16,026
Columbus	8.0%	23,354
Dayton	15.3%	10,087
Toledo	2.2%	48,449
Youngstown	6.4%	18,646
Total	8.5%	184,725

ODPS reported drug taskforce seizure of 142.0 kilograms (313.1 lbs.) of methamphetamine from throughout OSAM regions during the past six months; of which, 40.1% was seized from the Cleveland region, 23.2% from the Cincinnati region and 17.2% from the Columbus region [ODPS reported seizure of 128.5 kilograms (283.3 lbs.) of methamphetamine during the previous reporting period]. In addition, media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to methamphetamine this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

Alliance Police (Stark County, Akron-Canton region) arrested a woman who was on parole for aggravated drug trafficking and drug possession

(www.the-news-messenger.com, Jan. 10, 2020). Piqua Police (Miami County, Dayton region) arrested three people at a suspected “meth house” while executing a search warrant; officers observed chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and charged the individuals with drug trafficking and possession of drugs and paraphernalia (www.whio.com, Jan. 17, 2020). Akron Police (Summit County, Akron-Canton region) along with members of the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force conducted a raid on the home of a wanted fugitive and seized more than 11 pounds of methamphetamine, 45 grams of marijuana, an undisclosed amount of oxycodone pills, three cell phones, a stolen handgun, around \$13,000 and various items used to traffic drugs; the fugitive was additionally charged with possession of drugs, trafficking drugs

and receiving stolen property (www.news5cleveland.com, Jan. 24, 2020). Circleville Police (Pickaway County, Columbus region) seized more than 85 grams of methamphetamine along with fentanyl, heroin, firearms and drug paraphernalia while serving an arrest warrant at a Circleville hotel; officers arrested two men for trafficking drugs, possession of drugs, having weapons and tampering with evidence (www.abc6onyourside.com, Jan. 31, 2020). Law enforcement in Dearborn County, Indiana followed two men from Aurora, Indiana to Saint Bernard, Ohio, a village near Cincinnati (Hamilton County, Cincinnati region), arresting the men after they witnessed a drug transaction; officers seized more

than 28 grams of methamphetamine during the arrest (www.cincinnati.com, Feb. 7, 2020). Wooster Police (Wayne County, Cleveland region) arrested a man during a traffic stop after the man consented to a search of his vehicle; officers found a bag of methamphetamine with an approximate street value of \$6,000 (www.cleveland19.com, Feb. 8, 2020). Cadiz Police along with Harrison County Sheriff's Office (Athens region) arrested five drug dealers for aggravated trafficking in methamphetamine after a months-long investigation; officers seized an unspecified amount of methamphetamine and guns during the arrests (www.wtov9.com, Feb. 14, 2020). Jefferson Police (Ashtabula County, Youngstown region) busted six methamphetamine labs over a single weekend after a months-long investigation into the purchase of chemicals needed to manufacture methamphetamine; officers arrested two people and seized a large amount of suspected methamphetamine, money, drug paraphernalia, chemicals, a gun, drug abuse instruments and drug trafficking supplies (www.news5cleveland.com, March 9, 2020). After receiving tips of possible drug activity, Cadiz Police made possibly the biggest bust of methamphetamine (46.5 grams) in the Harrison County history; officers arrested one man at a Cadiz home in connection to the methamphetamine (www.wtrf.com, March 10, 2020). During a Scioto County (Athens region) traffic stop, OSHP conducted a probable cause search and seized 458 grams of methamphetamine and 28 grams of heroin worth approximately \$48,600, as well as a loaded handgun; troopers arrested a Columbus man and his female passenger for possession of methamphetamine and heroin (www.abc6onyourside.com, March 12, 2020). Franklin County Sheriff's Office (Columbus region) arrested two individuals from California who intended to sell 14 pounds of methamphetamine in Central Ohio; law enforcement estimated the street value of the seized methamphetamine as \$725,700 (www.abc6onyourside.com, March 19, 2020). Pickaway County Sheriff's Office arrested two Columbus men after a K9 officer alerted to drugs in

their car during a traffic stop; officers seized 100 grams of suspected methamphetamine, a handgun, two cell phones, a laptop, plastic baggies, a scale and \$183, arresting the men for drug trafficking and possession (www.nbc4i.com, April 27, 2020). Geauga County Sheriff's deputies (Cleveland region) arrested two men during a traffic stop in Middlefield Township; after witnessing suspicious activity and criminal indicators, deputies searched the men's vehicle with the aid of a K9 officer and found 28 grams of methamphetamine, a handgun and \$1,125 (www.cleveland19.com, May 8, 2020). U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Cincinnati, with the aid of a K9 officer and an x-ray machine, discovered two separate containers sent from the same shipper in Mexico that contained 50 pounds of methamphetamine emulsified in soap bars; the estimated street value of the methamphetamine was \$217,000 (www.local12.com, May 21, 2020).

Community professionals discussed adulterants (aka "cuts") for methamphetamine. An Akron-Canton treatment provider shared, *"Eight times out of 10, [methamphetamine] is going to be laced with fentanyl or something else. They're putting fentanyl in everything.... I just talked to a girl the other day, she went to probation for a drug test, and she knew she was going to fail, admitted to using meth, and when [the urinalysis results] came back, she tested for ecstasy (MDMA). She stated she hadn't taken ecstasy in years, so it was shocking to her."*

Cutting Agents Reported Crime Labs for Methamphetamine
dimethyl sulfone (DMSO; dietary supplement), diphenhydramine (antihistamine), magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts)

BCI crime labs reported that crystal methamphetamine throughout OSAM regions has been adulterated with dimethylsulfone (DMSO) and Epsom salts, while powdered methamphetamine is

not typically adulterated, but often contains precursor agents like pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. BCI labs did not indicate the colors or specify the types of methamphetamine they process.

Coroner and medical examiner offices in the counties of Cuyahoga (Cleveland region), Hamilton (Cincinnati region), Montgomery (Dayton region) and Scioto (Cincinnati region) reported that 10.1%, 20.2%, 31.0% and 60.6%, respectively, of all drug-related deaths they recorded this reporting period (298, 257, 407 and 33 deaths) involved methamphetamine; of these methamphetamine-related deaths, 83.3%, 82.7%, 80.2% and 80.0%, respectively, also involved fentanyl. GPRA data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 11.4% reported methamphetamine use 30 days prior to intake.

GPRA Intake: Methamphetamine Use during the Past 30 Days		
Region	% Yes	Total N
Akron-Canton	11.5%	191
Athens	17.4%	453
Cincinnati	15.9%	1,447
Cleveland	9.5%	1,095
Columbus	12.3%	716
Dayton	19.0%	436
Toledo	3.4%	862
Youngstown	3.1%	482
Total	11.4%	5,682

Consistent with previous reports, respondents described typical methamphetamine users most often as White people of low socio-economic status and heroin users. However, many community professionals indicated that the profile of typical use has expanded to include any illicit drug user. Treatment providers commented: *“Everyone; It’s similar to heroin, now it seems like [methamphetamine] touches everyone; [Clients] talk*

about [their methamphetamine use] so openly. It used to be so stigmatized; The majority of my clients right now use meth. If they use nothing else, they use meth, or if they use everything else, they also use meth ... I think that meth is the hardest for them to not use....”

Law enforcement discussed: *“Everybody who would have a drug addiction ... because [methamphetamine] is easier to get and it’s cheaper [than other drugs], and a lot of times the real hardcore [users] will mix the meth with the heroin because heroin tends to make you kind of sleepy and the meth charges you up a little bit, so those two are used in combination (aka ‘speedballing’); A lot of people are buying opioids and methamphetamine at the same time; I’ve seen the explosion of [methamphetamine use].... People that were crack users, now are meth users.”* Law enforcement also noted methamphetamine use among people who work long and/or late hours. A law enforcement officer stated, *“We’re seeing [methamphetamine] with truck drivers, oil and gas workers, people who work a lot of hours....”*

GPRA Demographic Data of All Intake Clients Who Used Methamphetamine during the Past 30 Days (N = 648)	
Male	60.6%
Female	39.4%
18 - 29	28.2%
30 - 39	46.2%
40 - 49	20.8%
50 - 59	3.8%
60 +	1.0%
White	93.1%
African American	4.9%
Other or more than one race	2.0%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	3.5%

Prescription Stimulants

Throughout OSAM regions, prescription stimulants remain available for illicit use. However, respondents in Toledo and Youngstown regions as well as many respondents in the majority of other regions reported low current street availability of the drugs. These community professionals reasoned that the low supply of illicit prescription stimulants is due to doctors prescribing stimulants less than previously and diminished user demand. Treatment providers discussed: *“Anything prescribed is going to be very low; The doctors are really cautious about prescribing anything; You have to have a prescription. I don’t know if you could buy [prescription stimulants] off the common drug dealer; There does not seem to be as many prescriptions for [stimulants] written as we had before ... because of the opioid problem; I’m not hearing anybody that seeks [prescription stimulants]. If they want a stimulant, they’ll get meth.”*

Law enforcement concurred with treatment providers. They shared: *“I don’t hear of [prescription stimulants] much; There are not a lot of primary care doctors who like to prescribe that. A lot of that is prescribed by specialists, like psychiatrists, and we do not have a lot of those [in Athens region]. So, the availability is not good; On the street ... we haven’t come across [illicit prescription stimulants lately].”* However, law enforcement along with some treatment providers acknowledged that if users wanted to obtain prescription stimulants for illicit use, they could find them. Comments included: *“I haven’t seen a lot of failed drug screens for [amphetamines], but, if you want it, you can get it; You just have to call around to see who’s got it; It’s available if you ask for it; That’s not something [law enforcement] deals with. I am sure it’s out there in*

the suburbs.... No one is coming to the city (Cleveland) to get Adderall®. They are getting that out in the suburbs; They have access to [prescription stimulants] in their home [through children prescribed stimulants for ADHD (attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder)], or someone they know has it. It’s not something that our clients come in (enter treatment) endorsing off-hand [illicit use of prescription stimulants may be in a client’s substance use history].”

Throughout OSAM regions, with the exception of the Athens region, the availability of prescription opioids for illicit use has remained the same during the past six months. There was no consensus as to a change

Reported Change in Availability of Prescription Stimulants during the Past 6 Months

Region	Current Availability	Availability Change	Most Widely Used
Akron-Canton	Low to Moderate	No Change	Adderall®, Ritalin®
Athens	Low to Moderate	No Consensus	Ritalin®, Vyvanse®
Cincinnati	No Consensus	No Change	Adderall®
Cleveland	Low to Moderate	No Change	Adderall®, Ritalin®
Columbus	Moderate to High	No Change	Adderall®, Ritalin®
Dayton	Moderate	No Change	Adderall®
Toledo	Low	No Change	Adderall®, Vyvanse®
Youngstown	Low	No Change	Adderall®

of availability among community professionals in the Athens region; respondents were split as to whether street availability has remained the same or has decreased during the past six months. Community professionals almost universally identified Adderall® as the most available prescription stimulant in terms

of widespread illicit use. Comments included: *“Usually, it’s Adderall® more than anything else; Adderall® is most common. People’s children are being prescribed this ... the parents are using it and selling it.”*

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to prescription stimulants this reporting period (selected media reports follow). U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Cleveland (Cuyahoga County, Cleveland region) issued a report regarding increased abuse of prescription stimulants, warning of a possible new drug epidemic involving drugs often prescribed for weight loss and treatment of ADHD (attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder); the report cited DEA research which found that prescription stimulants are being abused most by young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 years, with college students using the drugs to stay awake, to have more focus for studying and test taking (www.news5cleveland.com, Jan. 7, 2020).

BCI crime labs reported processing few to no amphetamine (Adderall®), lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse®) and methylphenidate (Ritalin®) cases from throughout OSAM regions during the past six months. In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for prescription stimulants. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of amphetamine cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months, while Lake County Crime Lab reported increased case incidence of amphetamine. Both these labs reported processing very few cases of lisdexamfetamine and methylphenidate during the past six months. For the Dayton region, Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab reported that the incidence of amphetamine cases it processes has remained the same during the past six months. This lab reported processing very few to no

cases of lisdexamfetamine and methylphenidate. Millennium Health reported that 9.8% of the 186,199 urinalysis specimens submitted for amphetamine testing during the past six months were positive for amphetamines.

Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	12.6%	27,692
Athens	13.8%	16,551
Cincinnati	16.1%	24,314
Cleveland	8.4%	17,220
Columbus	9.5%	23,245
Dayton	13.5%	10,029
Toledo	4.0%	48,571
Youngstown	8.9%	18,577
Total	9.8%	186,199

Community professionals continued to describe typical illicit users of prescription stimulants as young people (18-30 years of age), high school and college students, parents of children with prescriptions for stimulants and street stimulant users. Comments included: *“I don’t know that many people seek out Adderall® unless they are looking to concentrate or get something done; College kids [illicitly use prescription stimulants] to study all night ... and they don’t think there is anything wrong with it; High school kids are using it, too, to get better test scores; I don’t think there is a negative stigma about [stimulant use among students]; There’s a lot of college students who will get on [Adderall®] to just sell it ... easy way to make money; [Street drug users] use [prescription stimulants] ... when they don’t have something else to use. Like, if they are out of cocaine, then they get a couple of Adderall®; Moms, too [illicitly use prescription stimulants] ... they literally run on Adderall® and caffeine.”*

Ecstasy

Throughout most OSAM regions, community professionals reported current availability of ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine; MDMA, or other derivatives containing BZP, MDA and/or TFMPP) as low to moderate. However, one treatment provider cautioned, *“I think you’d get a different take (report of current ecstasy availability) if you spoke with the clients.”* While current availability and use of the pressed tablet form of ecstasy and of “molly” (powdered MDMA) were discussed in every region, there was consensus among community professionals that these substances are not primary drugs of choice and that they are used when the opportunity to do so is present. Treatment providers discussed: *“[Ecstasy] is another opportunistic drug ... [used] if someone happens to offer it to you [at a party or dance club]; The only time I hear about ecstasy and molly is during [music] festival season (spring/summer) ... or when [the university] is in session.... [Ecstasy] is typically a festival drug.”* Law enforcement reported: *“On the street, maybe not ... if I go to a bar, one of the party bars or club bars ... I guarantee I could walk out with [ecstasy/molly]; That’s one of those drugs that we know that’s out there, but we don’t see [ecstasy/molly] a lot.”*

There was also consensus among community professionals that ecstasy and molly are obtainable by those desiring them and those with the right connections. Comments included: *“If you want it, I’m sure you can call around and find it; [Ecstasy/molly] is accessible. Everything is accessible.... It is just not as hot (in demand) as heroin and meth; [Ecstasy/molly] is readily available if you know the right people.... It’s not something that fentanyl dealers or meth dealers typically have.”*

In addition, community professionals discussed ecstasy/molly as obtainable via other drugs as these

substances are used as adulterants for other drugs. A law enforcement officer in the Athens region shared: *“We have more people testing for it (screening positive through urinalysis for MDMA use), and I think [molly] is being cut into meth, opioids and other substances. So, we don’t have a lot of people actively seeking [ecstasy/molly] ... it is in other illicit drugs....”* Treatment providers concurred: *“[Drug dealers] are cutting the meth with [molly] to make [methamphetamine] spread further. I do not really know anyone buying [ecstasy/molly] on its own; In the last six months, [molly] has been showing up in the meth; We’ve [become aware of molly] being a part of the pills (pressed into fraudulent prescription pills) now.”* In addition, OSHP reported that counterfeit ecstasy tablets have been found consisting of methamphetamine and eutylone (substituted cathinone) or methamphetamine alone.

Region	Current Availability	Availability Change
Akron-Canton	Low	No Change
Athens	Low	No Change
Cincinnati	No Consensus	No Consensus
Cleveland	Low	No Change
Columbus	No Consensus	No Consensus
Dayton	Moderate	No Change
Toledo	Low to Moderate	No Change
Youngstown	Low to Moderate	No Change

While BCI crime labs reported low incidence of MDMA (ecstasy/molly) cases for each OSAM region during the past six months, the labs noted slight incidence increases for every region, with the exception of the Athens region. MDMA case incidence ranged from 13 to 60 across regions, an

increase from 4 to 22 MDMA cases for the previous six months (case incidence increases ranged from 5 to 38). For the Athens region, BCI crime labs reported that the incidence of MDMA cases has decreased during the past six months from 13 to 4 cases.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for ecstasy/molly. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of MDMA cases it processes has increased during the past six months (from 23 to 45 cases), while Lake County Crime Lab reported processing very few cases of MDMA during the past six months (from 4 to 5 cases). For the Dayton region, Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab reported that the incidence of MDMA cases it processes has decreased during the past six months and remains low (from 18 to 9 cases).

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to ecstasy this reporting period (selected media reports follow). OSHP conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 75 in Shelby County (Dayton region), and upon smelling the odor of raw marijuana emanating from the vehicle, troopers conducted a search and seized 1,000 ecstasy pills and 60 grams of marijuana; troopers arrested the two male occupants of the car on felony drug charges (www.whio.com, Feb. 18, 2020).

Community professionals continued to describe typical ecstasy/molly users as college students and people who frequent music festivals and dance/night clubs as well as young people who attend “raves” (dance parties). They said: *“[Ecstasy/molly] is more of a college drug, especially in Columbus; Typically, 19 to 25 [years of age]; [Ecstasy] is a college student drug, someone who doesn’t necessary do the hardcore drugs or opioids, someone who wants to have a good time, sporadically; It’s more of a club drug; Your demographic is still going to be primarily your*

college age for the raves and parties ... that is where we are seeing [ecstasy/molly].... You can’t define [typical use] by gender or race, but I could say that age group is 20s; Club-goers; Molly is obviously in the raves, the electronic dance community sectors.... It’s tied directly to the music ... concert scene.” In addition, one treatment provider observed, *“You hear about people who use [ecstasy/molly] to party, but then also, I’ve heard more recently, people just using it just to feel good.”*

Other Drugs in the OSAM Regions

Community professionals listed a variety of other drugs as currently available, but these drugs were not mentioned by the majority of people interviewed. Several of these other drugs were not reported as present in every region. Note no mention/discussion of a drug does not indicate the absence of the drug in the region(s)

Reported Availability of Other Drugs in Each of the OSAM Regions	
Regions	Other Drugs
Akron-Canton	bath salts*, hallucinogens (psilocybin mushrooms), synthetic marijuana
Athens	gabapentin
Cincinnati	hallucinogens (lysergic acid diethylamide [LSD]), kratom
Cleveland	bath salts*, gabapentin, hallucinogens (LSD, phencyclidine [PCP]), kratom, synthetic marijuana
Columbus	gabapentin, hallucinogens (LSD, psilocybin mushrooms)
Dayton	gabapentin
Toledo	gabapentin
Youngstown	hallucinogens (LSD)

*substituted cathinone

Gabapentin

Community professionals in the majority of OSAM regions discussed current availability of gabapentin (i.e. Neurontin®, an anticonvulsant used to treat nerve pain). Respondents in Athens and Dayton regions described current availability of gabapentin for illicit use as high, while respondents in Cleveland and Columbus regions described it as moderate to high, and respondents in the Toledo region described it as moderate. Community professionals throughout regions most often reported that the availability of gabapentin for illicit use has increased during the past six months. However, a law enforcement officer noted, *“They changed [gabapentin] to a scheduled drug ... it’s going to be harder to get.”*

Other data sources indicated gabapentin as available for illicit use throughout OSAM regions. Millennium Health reported that 20.6% of the 166,343 urinalysis specimens submitted for gabapentin testing during the past six months were positive for gabapentin.

Community professionals agreed that a prescription for gabapentin is easy to obtain and that the drug is illicitly used most often as a replacement for opioids. They said: *“Everyone has it; They are using it in place of [heroin]; [Gabapentin] mimics the effects of opiates ... [opioid users] think that if they are taking gabapentin ... at least they are not using heroin, so they kind of justify [illicit use] to themselves.”* Respondents continued to describe typical illicit gabapentin users as opiate users.

Community professionals also discussed doctors prescribing gabapentin for an array of issues. Comments included: *“Pretty much all clients who have a substance abuse [diagnosis] are getting [gabapentin] prescribed for anxiety and sleeping and other things; Doctors look at [gabapentin] as a super drug ... there’s been doctors that prescribe it for nerve pain, back pain, dental pain, anxiety.... I think there’s been a couple that have treated depression with it; People who are prescribed [gabapentin] are selling or taking more than prescribed (not as directed by physician).”*

Hallucinogens

In the majority of OSAM regions, respondents reported on current availability of hallucinogens. Generally, community professionals continued to report moderate availability of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and psilocybin mushrooms, and they reported that the availability of hallucinogens has remained the same during the past six months. Exceptions were Cincinnati and Youngstown regions where law enforcement reported increased availability of LSD. An officer in Youngstown said, *“‘Acid’ is easy [to obtain]. It’s cheap and you can hide it ... you can put it on a stamp, you can put it on a sticker, you can put it on just a plain sheet of paper and suck on it. It’s an easy way to do drugs without getting caught.”* A Cincinnati officer observed, *“[LSD] is starting to make a little bit of a comeback. We’re seeing it in the high schools.”*

**Millennium Health
Urinalysis Test Results for Gabapentin
during the Past 6 Months**

Region	% Tested Positive	Number Tested
Akron-Canton	19.8%	21,644
Athens	17.0%	15,677
Cincinnati	24.8%	23,282
Cleveland	18.8%	13,664
Columbus	24.3%	18,928
Dayton	25.0%	8,469
Toledo	19.8%	47,795
Youngstown	16.7%	16,884
Total	20.6%	166,343

In addition to LSD and psilocybin mushrooms, community professionals in Cleveland continued to report availability of phencyclidine (PCP). A law enforcement officer noted, *“PCP. I could go down the street and buy it.... Cleveland has always kind of been the PCP market.... I could go in certain neighborhoods, and they would hold a cigarette [dipped in PCP for sale] out the [car] window .”*

BCI crime labs reported an increase in the incidence of LSD cases they process during the past six months for all regions with the exception of the Athens regions for which they reported a decrease in LSD incidence. BCI labs also reported an increase in the incidence of psilocybin mushroom cases for all regions with the exception of Athens and Youngstown regions for which they reported decreased psilocybin mushroom incidence. BCI labs reported processing very few cases of PCP for all regions during the past six months, including for the Cleveland region.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for hallucinogens. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of LSD and PCP cases it processes has increased during the past six months; Lake County Crime Lab reported processing very few cases of hallucinogens in the past six months; however, the lab did report processing eight cases of LSD. For the Dayton region, Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab reported that the incidence of LSD and psilocybin mushrooms cases it processes has increased during the past six months but remains low. GPRA data collected from 5,682 persons entering publicly-funded SUD treatment programs during the past six months found 1.3% reported hallucinogen use 30 days prior to intake.

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to hallucinogens this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

Columbiana County Drug Task Force (Youngstown region) raided a home in Rogers and seized an unspecified amount of LSD, four grams of methamphetamine, \$200 and digital scales; officers arrested one individual inside the home on outstanding warrants with more charges pending confirmatory laboratory test results on the seized drugs (www.wkbn.com, Feb. 21, 2020). The Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County (Youngstown region) raided a home in Geneva-on-the-Lake and seized an unspecified amount of suspected LSD, psilocybin mushrooms and marijuana, over 100 grams of methamphetamine, approximately \$2,500 and five guns; officers arrested a woman at the home (www.wkbn.com, April 13, 2020).

Respondents generally described typical hallucinogen users as young people, particularly those engaged in the dance club, music and concert scenes as well as hippies. A treatment provider remarked, *“Earthy hippies.”*

Male	64.0%
Female	36.0%
18 - 29	38.7%
30 - 39	41.3%
40 - 49	16.0%
50 +	4.0%
White	84.0%
African American	14.7%
Other or more than one race	2.0%

Treatment providers in the Columbus region indicated that hallucinogen use is coupled with ecstasy/molly use. A provider explained, *“Sometimes people who are in [the music scene] ... like the molly*

or ecstasy community ... will go on 'benders' (drug binges) ... and [hallucinogen use is combined with ecstasy/molly use]... 'Candy-flipping' is [the term for] LSD and molly combined, and 'hippie-dipping' is 'shrooms' (psilocybin mushrooms) and molly." Law enforcement in the Akron-Canton region again noted hallucinogen use as popular on college campuses.

Kratom

Kratom (mitragynine, a psychoactive plant substance) was discussed in two OSAM regions: Cincinnati and Cleveland. Due to its availability for legal purchase, respondents continued to report that kratom is highly available. A treatment provider shared, "I have clients that have [established abstinence from] heroin by using kratom ... they say that it mimics the effects of [heroin]... But, it's legal and so they can get away with it. It flies under the radar. Drug screens don't pick it up unless you specifically ask for it." Treatment providers reported that the general availability of kratom has increased during the past six months, stating: "You can get it from the tobacco stores downtown. You can get it anywhere. You can order it online; Probably more available until it's outlawed; I think people are using [kratom] when you can't find anything else." Community professionals continued to describe typical kratom users as opiate users.

Crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for mitragynine. Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab (Cleveland region) reported that it processed nine cases of mitragynine during the past six months, while Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that it processed four mitragynine cases.

Other data sources indicated kratom as available throughout OSAM regions. Millennium Health reported that 0.9% of the 123,387 urinalysis specimens submitted for kratom testing during the

past six months were positive for kratom. The percentage of positives for kratom ranged from 0.6% to 1.0% throughout regions.

Substituted Cathinone

Substituted cathinone (aka "bath salts," compounds containing methylone, mephedrone, MDPV or other chemical analogues) remain available in Akron-Canton and Cleveland regions. Only law enforcement in these two regions mentioned bath salts, reporting the current availability of bath salts as low. An officer in Akron-Canton cited lower demand for the drug, stating, "When people were using [bath salts], it was lower class [individuals] ... people who couldn't afford meth. Now that meth is so cheap, meth's taken over." Law enforcement in the Cleveland region reported that the availability of bath salts has remained the same during the past six months. They described typical bath salts users as White males, usually aged late teens to early 20s.

BCI crime labs reported that the incidence of substituted cathinone cases they process has increased during the past six months for Akron-Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Youngstown regions; slightly increased and remains low for the Cincinnati region; slightly decreased and remains low for the Athens region; and decreased for the Toledo region.

In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for substituted cathinone. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of substituted cathinone cases it processes has slightly decreased during the past six months and remains low. Lake County Crime Lab (Cleveland region) and Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab (Dayton region) reported that they each processed only one case of substituted cathinone during the past six months; both labs reported eutylone.

Synthetic Marijuana

Synthetic marijuana (synthetic cannabinoids) was discussed in two OSAM regions: Akron-Canton and Cleveland. Community professionals in the Cleveland region reported that the current availability of synthetic marijuana remains high, while community professionals in the Akron-Canton region could not rate current availability; they discussed that availability of synthetic marijuana in the region seems limited to Tuscarawas County. Law enforcement discussed: *“It’s in Tuscarawas County, not the same [synthetic marijuana] as going to a head shop and buying it. [Users] are ordering something online from China and are spraying it on material that can be smoked; In Tuscarawas County, they have a problem with ‘spice’ (synthetic marijuana).”* Reportedly, the availability of synthetic marijuana has remained the same during the past six months.

BCI crime labs reported that the incidence of synthetic cannabinoid cases they process has increased for Akron-Canton and Dayton regions, while slightly increasing for Columbus and Toledo regions; the labs reported processing very few cases of synthetic cannabinoids for all remaining regions during the past six months. In addition to BCI reporting, other crime labs in Cleveland and Dayton regions submitted incidence data for synthetic cannabinoids. For the Cleveland region, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Lab reported that the incidence of synthetic cannabinoid cases it processes has decreased, while Lake County Crime Lab reported processing one case of synthetic cannabinoids during the past six months. For the Dayton region, Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab reported that it did not process any cases of synthetic cannabinoids during the past six months.

Media outlets reported on law enforcement seizures and arrests related to synthetic marijuana this reporting period (selected media reports follow).

Following a lengthy investigation conducted by undercover officers, a grand jury in Auglaize County (Dayton region) issued indictments against 10 people for drug possession and drug trafficking; some of the drugs involved included prescription pills, K-2 and Spice (synthetic marijuana brands), methamphetamine, fentanyl and heroin (www.limaohio.com, Jan. 13, 2020).

Respondents continued to describe typical synthetic marijuana users as young people aged in their 20s, incarcerated people and individuals subject to random drug screenings such as those on probation or parole. Comments included: *“It’s the 18-30 [year-old] crowd, lower middle-class. A lot of younger people started using [synthetic marijuana] instead of marijuana and liked it; I worked at an [correctional] institution where that’s what [inmates] were using, and it didn’t show up in the urine [drug] screen.”*