



Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

Data from the SANDAG Substance Abuse Monitoring Program

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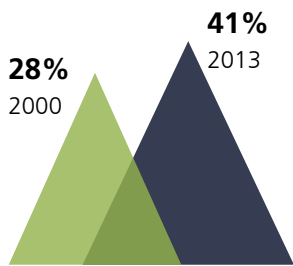
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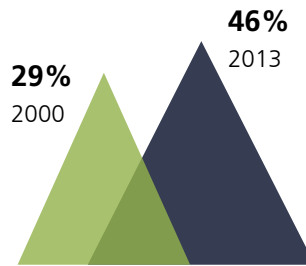
Introduction: Interviews with adult and juvenile arrestees regarding drug use and other risky behavior have been conducted by SANDAG since 1987. As part of this effort, all arrestees who are randomly selected to participate in the SAM project and report meth use in the past 30 days are asked to complete a methamphetamine (meth) addendum. This meth addendum was added to the research protocol because meth has consistently been the second most commonly used illicit drug by arrestees in San Diego County and because the risk the drug poses to the user (physically and mentally), children in the household, and the community in general. This CJ in Brief summarizes data from these interviews and completes the series of publications for this project from this most recent calendar year.

✦ Compared to 2000, recent meth use was up for adults and around the same for juveniles, as measured by the percent of arrestees positive for the drug. While these 2013 rates were not 14-year highs, they were among the highest seen since 2005.

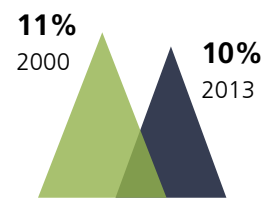
Adult Males Positive for Meth



Adult Females Positive for Meth



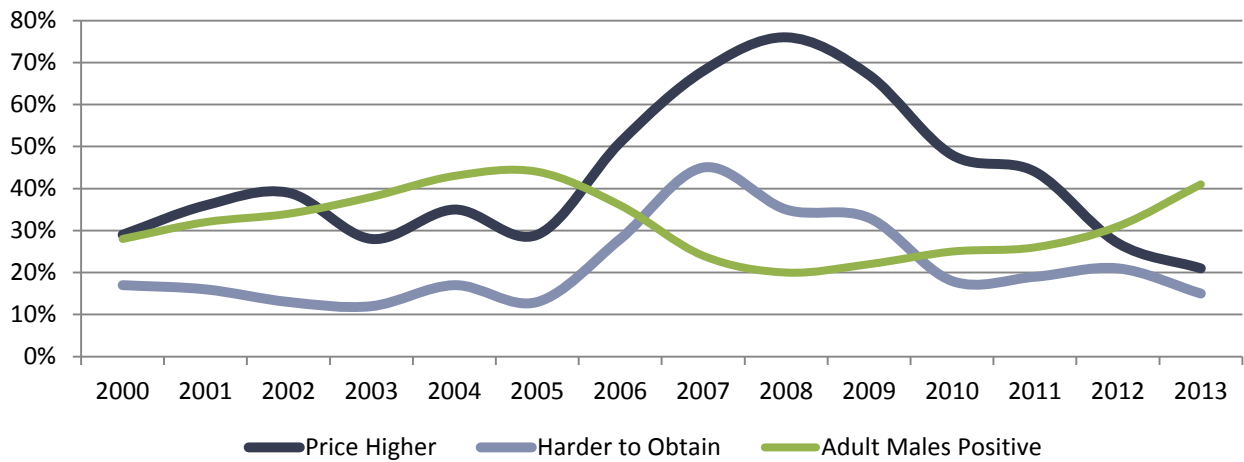
Juveniles Positive for Meth



Percent of Arrestees Positive For Meth, 2000-2013

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Adult Males	28%	32%	34%	38%	43%	44%	36%	24%	20%	22%	25%	26%	31%	41%
Adult Females	29%	37%	37%	47%	42%	51%	47%	44%	31%	38%	33%	39%	47%	46%
Juveniles	11%	11%	12%	15%	13%	21%	10%	8%	10%	6%	8%	4%	4%	10%

+ Higher meth prices correlate with perception meth is harder to obtain and less use.

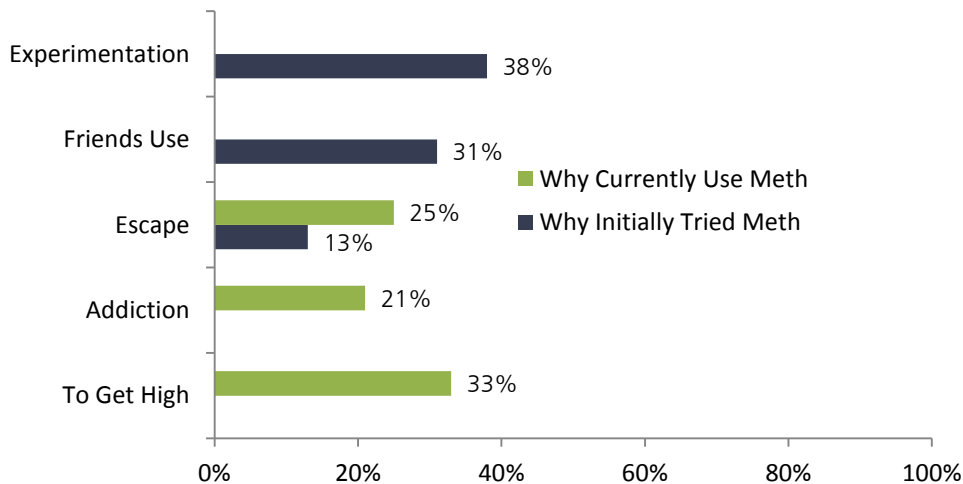


- + When price is higher, it is also harder to obtain (positively correlated 9 of 13 comparison years).
- + When price is higher, fewer arrestees test positive for the drug (negatively correlated 10 of the 13 comparison years)
- + Since 2009, the percent who said the price is higher has consistently decreased, at the same time the percent positive for meth has consistently increased. According to officials, around this time, drug trafficking organizations in Mexico, in response to legislation that banned the legal importation of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, changed their production method to the P2P method in "super labs" which are capable of producing meth that is highly pure at low cost.

"I wish it was never created. I fall for it again and again. There's so many people who can't get off this merry-go-round."

-55 year old White female arrested for drug possession

+ Top Reasons Meth Users Start Using the Drug Different Than Why They Keep Using the Drug



How Do "Typical" Meth-Using Arrestees Get the Drug? How Long & How Do They Use It? How Often & How Much Do they Use?

"Meth is doing what the evil intended crack to do 10 times over".

-39 year old Black male arrested for robbery

Method for Obtaining It

- 94% purchased in San Diego County
- 42% have sold meth or acted as a middleman
- 37% have a main source
- 32% have carried a weapon with them when they got meth

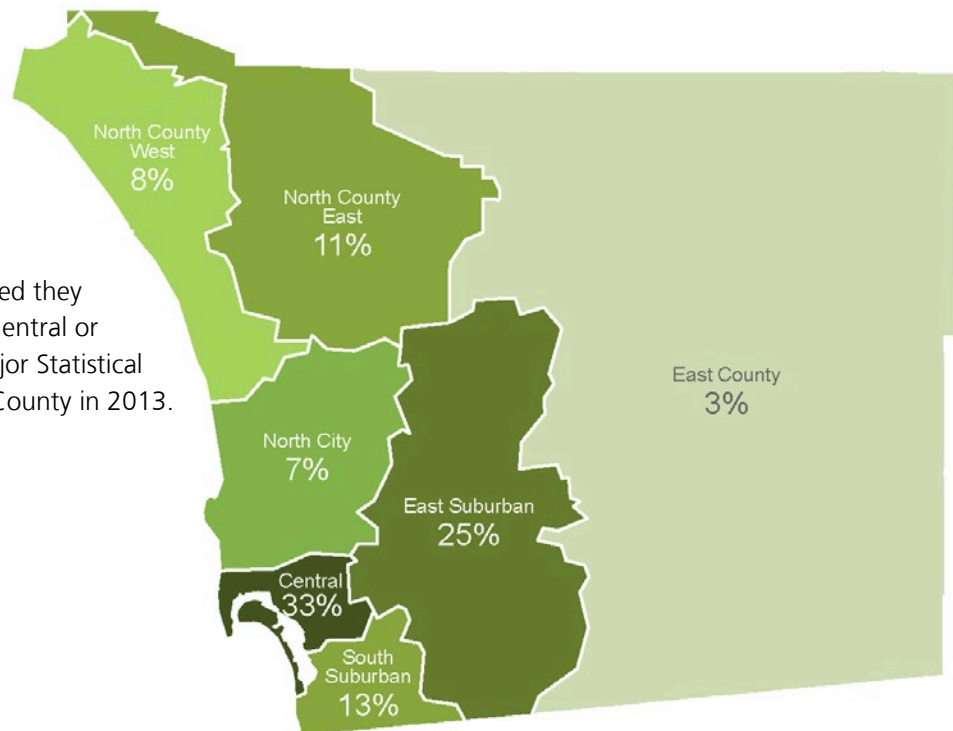
Pattern of Use

- Use 3 times in a day, on average when they use
- Use 5 days in a row, on average
- Use 1/2 gram of meth, on average, when they use

Length and Mode of Use

- 72% usually smoke it
- 44% have also snorted it and 32% have injected it
- On average, adults had used meth for 12 years, with the range from less than a year to 46 years

+ Most arrestees reported they bought meth in the Central or Eastern Suburban Major Statistical Areas (MSAs) of the County in 2013.



56%

report using meth before going to work or school.

+ The most common job types reported by these arrestees were construction, unskilled labor, and professional/managerial.

Study Background: In 2013, a total of 930 adults were interviewed as part of SAM. Of these, 345 reported (37%) having used meth in the past 30 days. The meth addendum was completed with 344 adults, including 216 males and 128 females. For the juveniles, 17 reported (13%) meth use in the past 30 days and 17 addenda were completed, all by males.

Acknowledgements: This SANDAG CJ In Brief is part of a series of reports highlighting findings from data collected as part of the SAM program. As part of this project, adult and juvenile arrestees are approached within 48 hours of their arrest (and booking) to participate in an interview regarding their drug use and other recent behaviors. This effort would not be possible without the cooperation of the San Diego County Sheriff's and Probation Departments, and the funding support of the California Border Alliance Group, County of San Diego, and SANDAG member agencies.

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- + To learn more about the SAM project and access other current reports, as well as aggregate data from the meth addendum, please visit sandag.org/sam.
 - + Recommended Citation: Burke, C. (2014). *Methamphetamine Use By San Diego County Arrestees*. San Diego, CA: SANDAG