

CJAGGREGGATE DATA

Research findings from
the Criminal Justice
Research Division



2016 Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

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Notes

Please take into account the following factors when interpreting this information:

- Some variables were only answered by a small number of respondents. Caution should be used when generalizing these findings.
- When distributions are skewed, the median is the more appropriate measure of central tendency, rather than the mean.

SOURCE: SANDAG, 2016

Initiation and current use

	2016	2015		2014		2013		2012	
TOTAL	217	239		303		367		246	
Why did you first start using meth?*									
Get high	N/A	12%	29	11%	33	13%	48	8%	20
Get more energy	N/A	3%	6	6%	17	4%	16	8%	20
Lose weight	N/A	1%	3	1%	3	2%	6	2%	5
Experiment	N/A	42%	98	42%	126	38%	140	44%	109
Escape problems	N/A	10%	23	11%	34	13%	46	8%	19
Stay awake	N/A	4%	10	6%	18	5%	20	5%	13
Replace another drug	N/A	9%	20	5%	25	7%	27	6%	14
Friends/peer use	N/A	29%	69	32%	98	31%	115	37%	91
Other	N/A	13%	30	11%	34	9%	33	7%	18
Why are you using meth now?*									
Get high	N/A	23%	54	22%	67	33%	120	35%	85
Get more energy	N/A	13%	29	13%	39	10%	35	13%	31
Lose weight	N/A	2%	4	2%	5	1%	2	2%	5
Escape problems	N/A	21%	49	23%	70	25%	89	22%	54
Stay awake	N/A	13%	30	10%	30	9%	34	6%	15
Replace another drug	N/A	4%	2	2%	6	4%	13	1%	3
Friends/peer use	N/A	9%	20	9%	27	7%	27	9%	21
Addicted	N/A	35%	81	29%	88	21%	76	28%	69
Other	N/A	24%	55	20%	61	12%	43	10%	24

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
In the past year, have you used meth just before or while at work/school?										
Yes	30%	64	34%	82	27%	82	32%	116	54%	75
No	21%	45	24%	56	29%	87	25%	90	46%	65
N/A	50%	108	42%	100	44%	133	44%	161	41%	100
How do you usually use meth?										
Snort	19%	42	16%	39	11%	33	11%	42	11%	28
Smoke alone	70%	151	68%	163	78%	236	71%	261	74%	182
Smoke with other drug	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1	1%	4	1%	2
Inject alone	9%	20	15%	37	10%	31	16%	58	13%	31
Inject with other drug	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1	<1%	1	1%	1
Eat/drink	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1	<1%	1	1%	2
How have you used meth in the past year?*										
Snort	47%	101	49%	118	50%	152	44%	162	44%	109
Smoke	88%	190	87%	209	91%	277	89%	326	89%	219
Inject	29%	62	30%	71	25%	76	32%	119	29%	71
Eat/drink	6%	14	7%	16	7%	22	4%	14	5%	13
How much meth do you typically use on a day you use meth? (Measurement unit of grams)										
Mean (SD)	1.22 (1.71)		1.36 (1.58)		1.18 (2.14)		1.00 (2.05)		.93 (1.06)	
Median	1.00		1.00		1.00		.50		.50	
Range	.05 - 7.00		.06 - 8.00		.08 - 28.30		.02 - 28.00		.05 - 7.00	
On a day you use meth, how many times do you use?										
Mean (SD)	4.83 (5.22)		5.15 (6.71)		5.12 (7.38)		4.50 (4.79)		4.70 (4.93)	
Median	3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00	
Range	1 - 40		1 - 70		1 - 100		1 - 30		1 - 30	

	2016	2015	2014	2013		2012	
During the last month, what was the most days in a row (longest run) you used meth?							
Mean (SD)	13.97 (11.90)	14.31 (12.53)	11.87 (11.68)	11.35	(11.53)	12.28	(12.38)
Median	7.00	7.00	5.00	5.00		5.00	
Range	1 - 30	1 - 30	1 - 30	1 - 30		1 - 30	
Has your meth use resulted in any of the following?*							
Weight loss	N/A	N/A	N/A	65%	160	67%	137
Sleeplessness	N/A	N/A	N/A	81%	200	84%	172
Dental problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	48%	117	45%	93
Financial problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	51%	126	50%	102
Family problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	61%	150	60%	124
Work problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	36%	89	36%	74
Skin problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	28%	70	29%	59
Paranoia	N/A	N/A	N/A	38%	93	37%	75
Hallucinations	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%	61	31%	63
Violent behavior	N/A	N/A	N/A	23%	56	28%	57
Legal problems	N/A	N/A	N/A	63%	154	64%	132
Mental Health	N/A	N/A	N/A	22%	53	N/A	
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%	6	3%	6

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Quality and availability

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
TOTAL	217		239		303		367		246	
Compared to a year ago, is the quality of the meth you're using...										
Worse	49%	95	52%	111	57%	151	53%	172	53%	121
Same	33%	64	24%	52	26%	69	26%	86	31%	70
Better	18%	36	23%	50	17%	45	21%	68	16%	36
Compared to a year ago, is the price you're paying for meth...										
Lower	52%	103	45%	87	40%	100	37%	109	24%	51
Same	36%	71	39%	75	46%	115	42%	124	49%	105
Higher	12%	23	16%	32	13%	33	21%	61	27%	59
Where do you typically buy/get meth?										
Indoors	43%	92	59%	131	56%	163	62%	215	69%	164
Outdoors	57%	120	41%	92	44%	126	38%	133	31%	72
Do you get meth within San Diego County?										
Yes	94%	201	95%	219	96%	283	94%	338	96%	229
No	6%	13	5%	11	4%	12	6%	22	4%	10
(If yes) In what area of the County do you get it?										
Central	37%	74	33%	72	33%	91	33%	110	31%	70
North City	11%	21	12%	25	7%	19	7%	23	10%	23
South Suburban	9%	17	15%	32	14%	40	13%	42	10%	23
East Suburban	18%	36	20%	44	27%	75	25%	84	27%	60
North County West	8%	15	4%	9	8%	21	8%	25	9%	19
North County East	10%	20	12%	27	10%	29	11%	37	12%	27
East	8%	15	4%	8	1%	3	3%	9	1%	2

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
Do you have a main source for meth - one dealer you usually hook up with?										
Yes	50%	106	39%	91	43%	128	37%	134	42%	104
No	50%	107	61%	140	57%	172	63%	228	58%	142
How long have you used that person? (Days)										
Mean (SD)	867.88 (1,197.88)		1,434.12 (2,005.69)		1,401.91 (2,042.67)		788.13 (1013.72)		1,296.94 (2,016.92)	
Median	365.00		730.00		365.00		365.00		395.00	
Range	3 - 7,300		1 - 9,125		6 - 9,125		1 - 5,475		21 - 10,950	
Do you get other drugs from that main source?										
Yes	23%	24	23%	20	26%	33	29%	38	32%	31
No	77%	80	77%	68	74%	92	71%	95	69%	71
What do you usually do if your main source isn't around?*										
Buy from someone else	57%	60	52%	46	54%	68	58%	77	49%	51
Get it through a friend	5%	5	10%	9	6%	7	6%	8	5%	5
Use another drug	3%	3	2%	2	2%	2	1%	1	1%	1
Don't buy anything	32%	34	26%	23	30%	38	29%	38	38%	39
Source is always around	6%	6	8%	7	10%	12	3%	4	7%	7
Other	2%	2	5%	4	1%	1	0%	0	1%	1
TOTAL	105		88		126		132		104	
What is the ethnicity of your main source?										
White	N/A		N/A		N/A		68%	65	58%	41
Black	N/A		N/A		N/A		6%	6	6%	4
Hispanic	N/A		N/A		N/A		23%	22	34%	24
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A		N/A		N/A		2%	2	1%	1
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		0%	0	1%	1

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
What is the gender of your main source?										
Male	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		80%	78
Female	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		20%	20
Couple	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Have you ever bought from someone you didn't know?										
Yes	53%	114	48%	114	49%	148	47%	170	47%	114
No	47%	100	52%	123	51%	154	53%	189	53%	131
In the past year, have you carried a gun or other weapon while you were getting meth?										
Yes, gun	8%	18	8%	18	4%	12	5%	17	2%	6
Yes, other weapon	14%	31	15%	36	20%	60	22%	81	17%	42
Yes, both	9%	20	3%	7	4%	12	5%	18	8%	20
No	68%	146	74%	174	72%	219	68%	249	72%	177
Compared to a year ago, would you say meth is more available, less available, or available about the same?										
More	35%	71	46%	99	34%	96	35%	118	27%	63
Less	8%	17	7%	15	13%	37	15%	49	21%	49
About the same	57%	116	47%	103	52%	146	50%	166	52%	121

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Distribution and production

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
TOTAL	217		239		303		367		246	
Have you, yourself, sold meth or acted as a middleman in the last year?										
Yes	45%	96	36%	84	39%	116	42%	155	34%	84
No	55%	117	64%	148	61%	184	58%	211	66%	161
In what year did you start dealing meth or acting as a middleman? (Number of years since began)										
Mean (SD)	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		7.42 (8.29)	
Median	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		4.00	
Range	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		0 - 31	
Do you sell or middleman outside San Diego County?										
Yes	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		30%	25
No	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		70%	59
(If yes) Where do you sell/middleman?*										
Other California counties	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		25%	21
Other states	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	11
Outside the U.S.	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		5%	4
TOTAL	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		25	
In the past seven days, about how many different people have you sold to or obtained meth for?										
Mean (SD)	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		13.09 (20.81)	
Median	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		5.00	
Range	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		1 - 100	
None	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		35%	29

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
In the past 30 days, how much money have you made selling meth/acting as a middleman?						
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,484.44 (\$2,482.67)	
Median	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$300.00	
Range	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$10 - \$12,000	
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44%	35
What is the smallest amount you sell or obtain for others?						
Less than .25 gram	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34%	27
.25 gram	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	39%	31
Between .25 and 1 gram	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11%	9
Over 1 gram to 3 grams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6%	5
More than 3 grams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9%	7
Are you currently selling meth or acting as a middleman?						
Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	60%	50
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40%	34
Why did you stop selling meth or acting as a middleman?						
Tired of getting busted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6%	2
Tired of the lifestyle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	29%	10
Started selling another drug	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9%	3
For my family	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3%	1
Police activity hot	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0
In jail	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0
Ran out of supply	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3%	1
Too risky	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21%	7
Not making enough money	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9%	3
Not a regular seller	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21%	7
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
(Of those who sold) Compared to a year ago, would you say the demand for meth has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?										
Increased	56%	52	47%	39	61%	66	57%	83	58%	46
Decreased	4%	4	14%	12	10%	11	11%	16	11%	9
Same	40%	37	39%	32	29%	32	32%	47	31%	25
Have you ever cooked meth yourself, or helped someone else to cook it?										
Yes	4%	9	7%	17	9%	26	13%	43	8%	19
No	96%	204	93%	217	91%	275	87%	297	92%	225
What did you do?*										
Cook meth	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		67%	12
Obtain chemicals	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		47%	8
Find cooking location	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		47%	8
Get equipment to cook meth	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		47%	8
Cut/package meth	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		47%	8
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		18%	3
TOTAL	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A			17 - 18
(Of those who ever cooked) Have you cooked or helped cook in the past 12 months?										
Yes	22%	2	6%	1	28%	7	21%	9	37%	7
No	78%	7	94%	15	72%	18	79%	33	63%	12

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
(Of those who cooked past year) What did you do?*										
Cook meth	50%	1	100%	1	86%	6	44%			N/A
Obtain chemicals	0%	0	0%	0	71%	5	56%			N/A
Find cooking location	50%	1	100%	1	57%	4	44%			N/A
Get equipment to cook meth	50%	1	100%	1	57%	4	44%			N/A
Cut/package meth	0%	0	100%	1	71%	5	33%			N/A
Other	0%	0	0%	0	14%	1	11%			N/A
TOTAL		2		1		7		9		N/A

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Other

	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
TOTAL	217		239		303		367		246	
During the past six months, how many sex partners did you have?										
None	15%	33	16%	38	17%	51	13%	47	12%	30
One	49%	105	53%	124	56%	168	53%	194	55%	134
More than one	36%	76	30%	71	27%	83	34%	124	33%	82
In the past six months, how often did you have sex while high on meth (of those with a partner during this time)?										
Never	12%	22	11%	21	12%	31	16%	52	17%	36
Once in a while	30%	54	37%	72	39%	97	37%	117	36%	78
Fairly often	26%	46	21%	40	20%	51	19%	60	21%	45
Very often	32%	58	31%	61	28%	71	28%	89	26%	55
In the past 6 months, how often did you exchange sex for meth or for money to buy meth (of those with a partner during this time)?										
Never	89%	161	92%	180	96%	240	92%	291	95%	205
Once in a while	6%	11	6%	11	2%	4	6%	19	3%	7
Fairly often	4%	2	1%	1	1%	3	1%	3	1%	3
Very often	4%	2	2%	4	1%	3	2%	5	0%	0
In the past six months, how often did you engage in a sexual practice you usually wouldn't do if you weren't high on meth (of those who had sex during this time)?										
Never	68%	122	76%	148	81%	202	73%	230	79%	170
Once in a while	21%	37	16%	32	12%	29	18%	57	13%	27
Fairly often	4%	8	4%	7	4%	11	4%	12	5%	11
Very often	6%	10	4%	8	2%	6	5%	16	2%	5
Don't know	2%	3	1%	1	N/A		N/A		1%	2
In the past six months, how often did you worry that your sexual behavior may put you at risk for getting HIV/STDs (of those who had sex during this time)?										
Never	71%	127	74%	143	84%	211	74%	236	79%	169
Once in a while	17%	30	14%	28	9%	23	12%	39	12%	26
Fairly often	4%	8	2%	4	3%	8	6%	18	4%	8
Very often	8%	15	10%	19	3%	8	8%	24	5%	11