

CJAGGREGATE DATA

Research findings from
the Criminal Justice
Clearinghouse



2017 Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

AUGUST 2018

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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, 2017

Initiation and current use

| | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| TOTAL | 254 | 217 | 239 | | 303 | | 367 | |
| Why did you first start using meth?* | | | | | | | | |
| Get high | N/A | N/A | 12% | 29 | 11% | 33 | 13% | 48 |
| Get more energy | N/A | N/A | 3% | 6 | 6% | 17 | 4% | 16 |
| Lose weight | N/A | N/A | 1% | 3 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 6 |
| Experiment | N/A | N/A | 42% | 98 | 42% | 126 | 38% | 140 |
| Escape problems | N/A | N/A | 10% | 23 | 11% | 34 | 13% | 46 |
| Stay awake | N/A | N/A | 4% | 10 | 6% | 18 | 5% | 20 |
| Replace another drug | N/A | N/A | 9% | 20 | 5% | 25 | 7% | 27 |
| Friends/peer use | N/A | N/A | 29% | 69 | 32% | 98 | 31% | 115 |
| Other | N/A | N/A | 13% | 30 | 11% | 34 | 9% | 33 |
| Why are you using meth now?* | | | | | | | | |
| Get high | N/A | N/A | 23% | 54 | 22% | 67 | 33% | 120 |
| Get more energy | N/A | N/A | 13% | 29 | 13% | 39 | 10% | 35 |
| Lose weight | N/A | N/A | 2% | 4 | 2% | 5 | 1% | 2 |
| Escape problems | N/A | N/A | 21% | 49 | 23% | 70 | 25% | 89 |
| Stay awake | N/A | N/A | 13% | 30 | 10% | 30 | 9% | 34 |
| Replace another drug | N/A | N/A | 4% | 2 | 2% | 6 | 4% | 13 |
| Friends/peer use | N/A | N/A | 9% | 20 | 9% | 27 | 7% | 27 |
| Addicted | N/A | N/A | 35% | 81 | 29% | 88 | 21% | 76 |
| Other | N/A | N/A | 24% | 55 | 20% | 61 | 12% | 43 |

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|--|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| In the past year, have you used meth just before or while at work/school? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 34% | 86 | 30% | 64 | 34% | 82 | 27% | 82 | 32% | 116 |
| No | 21% | 53 | 21% | 45 | 24% | 56 | 29% | 87 | 25% | 90 |
| N/A | 45% | 115 | 50% | 108 | 42% | 100 | 44% | 133 | 44% | 161 |
| How do you usually use meth? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snort | 11% | 27 | 19% | 42 | 16% | 39 | 11% | 33 | 11% | 42 |
| Smoke alone | 70% | 179 | 70% | 151 | 68% | 163 | 78% | 236 | 71% | 261 |
| Smoke with other drug | 4% | 11 | <1% | 1 | 0% | 0 | <1% | 1 | 1% | 4 |
| Inject alone | 13% | 33 | 9% | 20 | 15% | 37 | 10% | 31 | 16% | 58 |
| Inject with other drug | 1% | 2 | <1% | 1 | 0% | 0 | <1% | 1 | <1% | 1 |
| Eat/drink | 1% | 2 | <1% | 1 | 0% | 0 | <1% | 1 | <1% | 1 |
| How have you used meth in the past year?* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snort | 50% | 128 | 47% | 101 | 49% | 118 | 50% | 152 | 44% | 162 |
| Smoke | 92% | 233 | 88% | 190 | 87% | 209 | 91% | 277 | 89% | 326 |
| Inject | 35% | 89 | 29% | 62 | 30% | 71 | 25% | 76 | 32% | 119 |
| Eat/drink | 6% | 15 | 6% | 14 | 7% | 16 | 7% | 22 | 4% | 14 |
| How much meth do you typically use on a day you use meth? (Measurement unit of grams) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean (SD) | 1.54 (1.52) | | 1.22 (1.71) | | 1.36 (1.58) | | 1.18 (2.14) | | 1.00 (2.05) | |
| Median | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | .50 | |
| Range | .04 - 7.08 | | .05 - 7.00 | | .06 - 8.00 | | .08 - 28.30 | | .02 - 28.00 | |
| On a day you use meth, how many times do you use? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean (SD) | 5.30 (5.29) | | 4.83 (5.22) | | 5.15 (6.71) | | 5.12 (7.38) | | 4.50 (4.79) | |
| Median | 3.00 | | 3.00 | | 3.00 | | 3.00 | | 3.00 | |
| Range | 1-30 | | 1 - 40 | | 1 - 70 | | 1 - 100 | | 1 - 30 | |

| | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|
| During the last month, what was the most days in a row (longest run) you used meth? | | | | | | |
| Mean (SD) | 14.52 (12.23) | 13.97 (11.90) | 14.31 (12.53) | 11.87 (11.68) | 11.35 (11.53) | |
| Median | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 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 | N/A | 65% | 160 |
| Sleeplessness | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 81% | 200 |
| Dental problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 48% | 117 |
| Financial problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 51% | 126 |
| Family problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 61% | 150 |
| Work problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 36% | 89 |
| Skin problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 28% | 70 |
| Paranoia | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 38% | 93 |
| Hallucinations | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 25% | 61 |
| Violent behavior | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 23% | 56 |
| Legal problems | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 63% | 154 |
| Mental health | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 22% | 53 |
| Other | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2% | 6 |

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Quality and availability

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|---|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| TOTAL | 254 | | 217 | | 239 | | 303 | | 367 | |
| Compared to a year ago, is the quality of the meth you're using... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Worse | 56% | 130 | 49% | 95 | 52% | 111 | 57% | 151 | 53% | 172 |
| Same | 26% | 60 | 33% | 64 | 24% | 52 | 26% | 69 | 26% | 86 |
| Better | 18% | 41 | 18% | 36 | 23% | 50 | 17% | 45 | 21% | 68 |
| Compared to a year ago, is the price you're paying for meth... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lower | 47% | 108 | 52% | 103 | 45% | 87 | 40% | 100 | 37% | 109 |
| Same | 38% | 88 | 36% | 71 | 39% | 75 | 46% | 115 | 42% | 124 |
| Higher | 14% | 33 | 12% | 23 | 16% | 32 | 13% | 33 | 21% | 61 |
| Where do you typically buy/get meth? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indoors | 44% | 110 | 43% | 92 | 59% | 131 | 56% | 163 | 62% | 215 |
| Outdoors | 56% | 138 | 57% | 120 | 41% | 92 | 44% | 126 | 38% | 133 |
| Do you get meth within San Diego County? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 98% | 240 | 94% | 201 | 95% | 219 | 96% | 283 | 94% | 338 |
| No | 2% | 5 | 6% | 13 | 5% | 11 | 4% | 12 | 6% | 22 |
| (If yes) In what area of the County do you get it? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | 33% | 78 | 37% | 74 | 33% | 72 | 33% | 91 | 33% | 110 |
| North City | 14% | 34 | 11% | 21 | 12% | 25 | 7% | 19 | 7% | 23 |
| South Suburban | 11% | 26 | 9% | 17 | 15% | 32 | 14% | 40 | 13% | 42 |
| East Suburban | 21% | 51 | 18% | 36 | 20% | 44 | 27% | 75 | 25% | 84 |
| North County West | 9% | 21 | 8% | 15 | 4% | 9 | 8% | 21 | 8% | 25 |
| North County East | 8% | 20 | 10% | 20 | 12% | 27 | 10% | 29 | 11% | 37 |
| East | 3% | 8 | 8% | 15 | 4% | 8 | 1% | 3 | 3% | 9 |

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|--|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Do you have a main source for meth - one dealer you usually hook up with? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 43% | 107 | 50% | 106 | 39% | 91 | 43% | 128 | 37% | 134 |
| No | 57% | 142 | 50% | 107 | 61% | 140 | 57% | 172 | 63% | 228 |
| How long have you used that person? (Days) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean (SD) | 953.39 (1,375.71) | | 867.88 (1,197.88) | | 1,434.12 (2,005.69) | | 1,401.91 (2,042.67) | | 788.13 (1013.72) | |
| Median | 365.00 | | 365.00 | | 730.00 | | 365.00 | | 365.00 | |
| Range | 14 - 7,300 | | 3 - 7,300 | | 1 - 9,125 | | 6 - 9,125 | | 1 - 5,475 | |
| Do you get other drugs from that main source? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 32% | 34 | 23% | 24 | 23% | 20 | 26% | 33 | 29% | 38 |
| No | 68% | 72 | 77% | 80 | 77% | 68 | 74% | 92 | 71% | 95 |
| What do you usually do if your main source isn't around?* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buy from someone else | 47% | 50 | 57% | 60 | 52% | 46 | 54% | 68 | 58% | 77 |
| Get it through a friend | 5% | 5 | 5% | 5 | 10% | 9 | 6% | 7 | 6% | 8 |
| Use another drug | 4% | 4 | 3% | 3 | 2% | 2 | 2% | 2 | 1% | 1 |
| Don't buy anything | 34% | 36 | 32% | 34 | 26% | 23 | 30% | 38 | 29% | 38 |
| Source is always around | 12% | 13 | 6% | 6 | 8% | 7 | 10% | 12 | 3% | 4 |
| Other | 0% | 0 | 2% | 2 | 5% | 4 | 1% | 1 | 0% | 0 |
| TOTAL | 107 | | 105 | | 88 | | 126 | | 132 | |
| What is the ethnicity of your main source? | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 68% | 65 |
| Black | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 6% | 6 |
| Hispanic | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 23% | 22 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 2% | 2 |
| Other | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 0% | 0 |

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|---|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| Have you ever bought from someone you didn't know? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 59% | 149 | 53% | 114 | 48% | 114 | 49% | 148 | 47% | 170 |
| No | 41% | 102 | 47% | 100 | 52% | 123 | 51% | 154 | 53% | 189 |
| In the past year, have you carried a gun or other weapon while you were getting meth? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes, gun | 8% | 20 | 8% | 18 | 8% | 18 | 4% | 12 | 5% | 17 |
| Yes, other weapon | 20% | 51 | 14% | 31 | 15% | 36 | 20% | 60 | 22% | 81 |
| Yes, both | 8% | 20 | 9% | 20 | 3% | 7 | 4% | 12 | 5% | 18 |
| No | 64% | 161 | 68% | 146 | 74% | 174 | 72% | 219 | 68% | 249 |
| Compared to a year ago, would you say meth is more available, less available, or available about the same? | | | | | | | | | | |
| More | 46% | 112 | 35% | 71 | 46% | 99 | 34% | 96 | 35% | 118 |
| Less | 16% | 38 | 8% | 17 | 7% | 15 | 13% | 37 | 15% | 49 |
| About the same | 38% | 93 | 57% | 116 | 47% | 103 | 52% | 146 | 50% | 166 |

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Distribution and production

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| TOTAL | 254 | | 217 | | 239 | | 303 | | 367 | |
| Have you, yourself, sold meth or acted as a middleman in the last year? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 48% | 119 | 45% | 96 | 36% | 84 | 39% | 116 | 42% | 155 |
| No | 52% | 131 | 55% | 117 | 64% | 148 | 61% | 184 | 58% | 211 |
| (Of those who sold) Compared to a year ago, would you say the demand for meth has increased, decreased, or stayed the same? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Increased | 66% | 74 | 56% | 52 | 47% | 39 | 61% | 66 | 57% | 83 |
| Decreased | 8% | 9 | 4% | 4 | 14% | 12 | 10% | 11 | 11% | 16 |
| Same | 26% | 29 | 40% | 37 | 39% | 32 | 29% | 32 | 32% | 47 |
| Have you ever cooked meth yourself, or helped someone else to cook it? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 8% | 20 | 4% | 9 | 7% | 17 | 9% | 26 | 13% | 43 |
| No | 92% | 232 | 96% | 204 | 93% | 217 | 91% | 275 | 87% | 297 |
| (Of those who ever cooked) Have you cooked or helped cook in the past 12 months? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 15% | 3 | 22% | 2 | 6% | 1 | 28% | 7 | 21% | 9 |
| No | 85% | 17 | 78% | 7 | 94% | 15 | 72% | 18 | 79% | 33 |
| (Of those who cooked past year) What did you do?* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cook meth | 100% | 3 | 50% | 1 | 100% | 1 | 86% | 6 | | 44% |
| Obtain chemicals | 100% | 3 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 71% | 5 | | 56% |
| Find cooking location | 67% | 2 | 50% | 1 | 100% | 1 | 57% | 4 | | 44% |
| Get equipment to cook meth | 67% | 2 | 50% | 1 | 100% | 1 | 57% | 4 | | 44% |
| Cut/package meth | 67% | 2 | 0% | 0 | 100% | 1 | 71% | 5 | | 33% |
| Other | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 14% | 1 | | 11% |
| TOTAL | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | | 7 | | 9 |

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Other

| | 2017 | | 2016 | | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 | |
|---|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| TOTAL | 254 | | 217 | | 239 | | 303 | | 367 | |
| During the past six months, how many sex partners did you have? | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 16% | 38 | 15% | 33 | 16% | 38 | 17% | 51 | 13% | 47 |
| One | 48% | 116 | 49% | 105 | 53% | 124 | 56% | 168 | 53% | 194 |
| More than one | 37% | 89 | 36% | 76 | 30% | 71 | 27% | 83 | 34% | 124 |
| In the past six months, how often did you have sex while high on meth (of those with a partner during this time)? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | 11% | 22 | 12% | 22 | 11% | 21 | 12% | 31 | 16% | 52 |
| Once in a while | 37% | 76 | 30% | 54 | 37% | 72 | 39% | 97 | 37% | 117 |
| Fairly often | 26% | 54 | 26% | 46 | 21% | 40 | 20% | 51 | 19% | 60 |
| Very often | 26% | 53 | 32% | 58 | 31% | 61 | 28% | 71 | 28% | 89 |
| 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 | 85% | 175 | 89% | 161 | 92% | 180 | 96% | 240 | 92% | 291 |
| Once in a while | 11% | 22 | 6% | 11 | 6% | 11 | 2% | 4 | 6% | 19 |
| Fairly often | 1% | 3 | 4% | 2 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 3 |
| Very often | 2% | 5 | 4% | 2 | 2% | 4 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 5 |
| 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 | 75% | 152 | 68% | 122 | 76% | 148 | 81% | 202 | 73% | 230 |
| Once in a while | 17% | 34 | 21% | 37 | 16% | 32 | 12% | 29 | 18% | 57 |
| Fairly often | 6% | 12 | 4% | 8 | 4% | 7 | 4% | 11 | 4% | 12 |
| Very often | 3% | 6 | 6% | 10 | 4% | 8 | 2% | 6 | 5% | 16 |
| Don't know | 1% | 1 | 2% | 3 | 1% | 1 | N/A | | N/A | |
| 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 | 77% | 158 | 71% | 127 | 74% | 143 | 84% | 211 | 74% | 236 |
| Once in a while | 11% | 23 | 17% | 30 | 14% | 28 | 9% | 23 | 12% | 39 |
| Fairly often | 4% | 9 | 4% | 8 | 2% | 4 | 3% | 8 | 6% | 18 |
| Very often | 7% | 14 | 8% | 15 | 10% | 19 | 3% | 8 | 8% | 24 |