

CJAGGREGATE DATA

Research findings from
the Criminal Justice
Clearinghouse



2018 Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

SEPTEMBER 2019

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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, 2018

Initiation and current use

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
Total	226		254		217		239		303	
Why did you first start using meth?*										
Get high	N/A		N/A		N/A		12%	29	11%	33
Get more energy	N/A		N/A		N/A		3%	6	6%	17
Lose weight	N/A		N/A		N/A		1%	3	1%	3
Experiment	N/A		N/A		N/A		42%	98	42%	126
Escape problems	N/A		N/A		N/A		10%	23	11%	34
Stay awake	N/A		N/A		N/A		4%	10	6%	18
Replace another drug	N/A		N/A		N/A		9%	20	5%	25
Friends/peer use	N/A		N/A		N/A		29%	69	32%	98
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	30	11%	34
Why are you using meth now?*										
Get high	N/A		N/A		N/A		23%	54	22%	67
Get more energy	N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	29	13%	39
Lose weight	N/A		N/A		N/A		2%	4	2%	5
Escape problems	N/A		N/A		N/A		21%	49	23%	70
Stay awake	N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	30	10%	30
Replace another drug	N/A		N/A		N/A		4%	2	2%	6
Friends/peer use	N/A		N/A		N/A		9%	20	9%	27
Addicted	N/A		N/A		N/A		35%	81	29%	88
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		24%	55	20%	61
In the past year, have you used meth just before or while at work/school?										
Yes	35%	76	34%	86	30%	64	34%	82	27%	82
No	21%	46	21%	53	21%	45	24%	56	29%	87
N/A	44%	97	45%	115	50%	108	42%	100	44%	133

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
How do you usually use meth?										
Snort	15%	33	11%	27	19%	42	16%	39	11%	33
Smoke alone	68%	154	70%	179	70%	151	68%	163	78%	236
Smoke with other drug	3%	7	4%	11	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1
Inject alone	13%	29	13%	33	9%	20	15%	37	10%	31
Inject with other drug	1%	3	1%	2	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1
Eat/drink	0%	0	1%	2	<1%	1	0%	0	<1%	1
How have you used meth in the past year?*										
Snort	51%	115	50%	128	47%	101	49%	118	50%	152
Smoke	92%	208	92%	233	88%	190	87%	209	91%	277
Inject	30%	68	35%	89	29%	62	30%	71	25%	76
Eat/drink	3%	7	6%	15	6%	14	7%	16	7%	22
How much meth do you typically use on a day you use meth? (Measurement unit of grams)										
Mean (SD)	1.27 (1.02)		1.54 (1.52)		1.22 (1.71)		1.36 (1.58)		1.18 (2.14)	
Median	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Range	.10 - 4.00		.04 - 7.08		.05 - 7.00		.06 - 8.00		.08 - 28.30	
On a day you use meth, how many times do you use?										
Mean (SD)	4.61 (5.45)		5.30 (5.29)		4.83 (5.22)		5.15 (6.71)		5.12 (7.38)	
Median	3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00	
Range	1-50		1-30		1 - 40		1 - 70		1 - 100	
During the last month, what was the most days in a row (longest run) you used meth?										
Mean (SD)	15.69 (12.34)		14.52 (12.23)		13.97 (11.90)		14.31 (12.53)		11.87 (11.68)	
Median	14.00		7.00		7.00		7.00		5.00	
Range	1-30		1-30		1 - 30		1 - 30		1 - 30	

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Quality and availability

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
Total	226		254		217		239		303	
Compared to a year ago, is the quality of the meth you're using...										
Worse	49%	100	56%	130	49%	95	52%	111	57%	151
Same	33%	66	26%	60	33%	64	24%	52	26%	69
Better	18%	37	18%	41	18%	36	23%	50	17%	45
Compared to a year ago, is the price you're paying for meth...										
Lower	48%	98	47%	108	52%	103	45%	87	40%	100
Same	37%	75	38%	88	36%	71	39%	75	46%	115
Higher	15%	30	14%	33	12%	23	16%	32	13%	33
Where do you typically buy/get meth?										
Indoors	36%	75	44%	110	43%	92	59%	131	56%	163
Outdoors	64%	131	56%	138	57%	120	41%	92	44%	126
Do you get meth within San Diego County?										
Yes	96%	207	98%	240	94%	201	95%	219	96%	283
No	4%	8	2%	5	6%	13	5%	11	4%	12
(If yes) In what area of the County do you get it?										
Central	41%	85	33%	78	37%	74	33%	72	33%	91
North City	9%	19	14%	34	11%	21	12%	25	7%	19
South Suburban	11%	23	11%	26	9%	17	15%	32	14%	40
East Suburban	17%	36	21%	51	18%	36	20%	44	27%	75
North County West	5%	11	9%	21	8%	15	4%	9	8%	21
North County East	9%	19	8%	20	10%	20	12%	27	10%	29
East	6%	13	3%	8	8%	15	4%	8	1%	3
Do you have a main source for meth - one dealer you usually hook up with?										
Yes	46%	102	43%	107	50%	106	39%	91	43%	128
No	54%	119	57%	142	50%	107	61%	140	57%	172

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
How long have you used that person? (Days)										
Mean (SD)	1,233.05 (2,274.50)		953.39 (1,375.71)		867.88 (1,197.88)		1,434.12 (2,005.69)		1,401.91 (2,042.67)	
Median	365.00		365.00		365.00		730.00		365.00	
Range	14 - 12,045		14 - 7,300		3 - 7,300		1 - 9,125		6 - 9,125	
Do you get other drugs from that main source?										
Yes	32%	33	32%	34	23%	24	23%	20	26%	33
No	68%	69	68%	72	77%	80	77%	68	74%	92
What do you usually do if your main source isn't around?*										
Buy from someone else	52%	53	47%	50	57%	60	52%	46	54%	68
Get it through a friend	3%	3	5%	5	5%	5	10%	9	6%	7
Use another drug	2%	2	4%	4	3%	3	2%	2	2%	2
Don't buy anything	39%	40	34%	36	32%	34	26%	23	30%	38
Source is always around	5%	5	12%	13	6%	6	8%	7	10%	12
Other	0%	0	0%	0	2%	2	5%	4	1%	1
Total	102		107		105		88		126	
Have you ever bought from someone you didn't know?										
Yes	58%		130		59%		149		53%	
No	42%		95		41%		102		47%	
In the past year, have you carried a gun or other weapon while you were getting meth?										
Yes, gun	4%		10		8%		20		8%	
Yes, other weapon	22%		50		20%		51		14%	
Yes, both	4%		8		8%		20		9%	
No	70%		155		64%		161		68%	
Compared to a year ago, would you say meth is more available, less available, or available about the same?										
More	44%		93		46%		112		35%	
Less	10%		22		16%		38		8%	
About the same	45%		96		38%		93		57%	

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Distribution and production

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
Total	226		254		217		239		303	
Have you, yourself, sold meth or acted as a middleman in the last year?										
Yes	42%	93	48%	119	45%	96	36%	84	39%	116
No	58%	128	52%	131	55%	117	64%	148	61%	184
(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%	50	66%	74	56%	52	47%	39	61%	66
Decreased	9%	8	8%	9	4%	4	14%	12	10%	11
Same	35%	31	26%	29	40%	37	39%	32	29%	32
Have you ever cooked meth yourself, or helped someone else to cook it?										
Yes	5%	11	8%	20	4%	9	7%	17	9%	26
No	95%	214	92%	232	96%	204	93%	217	91%	275
(Of those who ever cooked) Have you cooked or helped cook in the past 12 months?										
Yes	0%	0	15%	3	22%	2	6%	1	28%	7
No	100%	11	85%	17	78%	7	94%	15	72%	18
(Of those who cooked past year) What did you do?*										
Cook meth	N/A	100%	3	50%	1	100%	1	86%		
Obtain chemicals	N/A	100%	3	0%	0	0%	0	71%		
Find cooking location	N/A	67%	2	50%	1	100%	1	57%		
Get equipment to cook meth	N/A	67%	2	50%	1	100%	1	57%		
Cut/package meth	N/A	67%	2	0%	0	100%	1	71%		
Other	N/A	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	14%		
Total	N/A	3	2	1	7					

*Percentages based on multiple responses.

Other

	2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
Total	226		254		217		239		303	
During the past six months, how many sex partners did you have?										
None	16%	36	16%	38	15%	33	16%	38	17%	51
One	54%	120	48%	116	49%	105	53%	124	56%	168
More than one	30%	67	37%	89	36%	76	30%	71	27%	83
In the past six months, how often did you have sex while high on meth (of those with a partner during this time)?										
Never	19%	35	11%	22	12%	22	11%	21	12%	31
Once in a while	29%	54	37%	76	30%	54	37%	72	39%	97
Fairly often	24%	44	26%	54	26%	46	21%	40	20%	51
Very often	28%	51	26%	53	32%	58	31%	61	28%	71
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	92%	170	85%	175	89%	161	92%	180	96%	240
Once in a while	6%	12	11%	22	6%	11	6%	11	2%	4
Fairly often	1%	2	1%	3	4%	2	1%	1	1%	3
Very often	1%	1	2%	5	4%	2	2%	4	1%	3
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	77%	141	75%	152	68%	122	76%	148	81%	202
Once in a while	17%	32	17%	34	21%	37	16%	32	12%	29
Fairly often	3%	5	6%	12	4%	8	4%	7	4%	11
Very often	1%	2	3%	6	6%	10	4%	8	2%	6
Don't know	2%	4	1%	1	2%	3	1%	1		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	74%	139	77%	158	71%	127	74%	143	84%	211
Once in a while	16%	30	11%	23	17%	30	14%	28	9%	23
Fairly often	5%	10	4%	9	4%	8	2%	4	3%	8
Very often	4%	8	7%	14	8%	15	10%	19	3%	8