

# CJAGGREGGATE DATA

Research findings from  
the Criminal Justice  
Clearinghouse



## 2019 Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

OCTOBER 2020

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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, 2019

## Initiation and current use

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>		<b>239</b>	
<b>Why did you first start using meth?*</b>										
Get high	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		12%	29
Get more energy	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		3%	6
Lose weight	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		1%	3
Experiment	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		42%	98
Escape problems	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		10%	23
Stay awake	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		4%	10
Replace another drug	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		9%	20
Friends/peer use	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		29%	69
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		11%	34
<b>Why are you using meth now?*</b>										
Get high	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		23%	54
Get more energy	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	29
Lose weight	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		2%	4
Escape problems	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		21%	49
Stay awake	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		13%	30
Replace another drug	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		4%	2
Friends/peer use	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		9%	20
Addicted	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		35%	81
Other	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		24%	55
<b>In the past year, have you used meth just before or while at work/school?</b>										
Yes	33%	81	35%	76	34%	86	30%	64	34%	82
No	13%	31	21%	46	21%	53	21%	45	24%	56
N/A	54%	131	44%	97	45%	115	50%	108	42%	100

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>How do you usually use meth?</b>										
Snort	12%	31	15%	33	11%	27	19%	42	16%	39
Smoke alone	76%	191	68%	154	70%	179	70%	151	68%	163
Smoke with other drug	2%	5	3%	7	4%	11	<1%	1	0%	0
Inject alone	8%	20	13%	29	13%	33	9%	20	15%	37
Inject with other drug	<1%	1	1%	3	1%	2	<1%	1	0%	0
Eat/drink	1%	3	0%	0	1%	2	<1%	1	0%	0
<b>How have you used meth in the past year?*</b>										
Snort	40%	100	51%	115	50%	128	47%	101	49%	118
Smoke	91%	228	92%	208	92%	233	88%	190	87%	209
Inject	25%	63	30%	68	35%	89	29%	62	30%	71
Eat/drink	6%	14	3%	7	6%	15	6%	14	7%	16
<b>How much meth do you typically use on a day you use meth? (Measurement unit of grams)</b>										
Mean (SD)	1.21 (1.03)		1.27 (1.02)		1.54 (1.52)		1.22 (1.71)		1.36 (1.58)	
Median	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Range	.02-4.00		.10-4.00		.04-7.08		.05-7.00		.06-8.00	
<b>On a day you use meth, how many times do you use?</b>										
Mean (SD)	5.07 (6.03)		4.61 (5.45)		5.30 (5.29)		4.83 (5.22)		5.15 (6.71)	
Median	3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00		3.00	
Range	1-50		1-50		1-30		1-40		1-70	
<b>During the last month, what was the most days in a row (longest run) you used meth?</b>										
Mean (SD)	16.51 (12.26)		15.69 (12.34)		14.52 (12.23)		13.97 (11.90)		14.31 (12.53)	
Median	15.00		14.00		7.00		7.00		7.00	
Range	1-30		1-30		1-30		1-30		1-30	

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

## Quality and availability

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>		<b>239</b>	
<b>Compared to a year ago, is the quality of the meth you're using...</b>										
Worse	59%	135	49%	100	56%	130	49%	95	52%	111
Same	28%	64	33%	66	26%	60	33%	64	24%	52
Better	13%	29	18%	37	18%	41	18%	36	23%	50
<b>Compared to a year ago, is the price you're paying for meth...</b>										
Lower	53%	116	48%	98	47%	108	52%	103	45%	87
Same	33%	71	37%	75	38%	88	36%	71	39%	75
Higher	14%	31	15%	30	14%	33	12%	23	16%	32
<b>Where do you typically buy/get meth?</b>										
Indoors	41%	95	36%	75	44%	110	43%	92	59%	131
Outdoors	59%	136	64%	131	56%	138	57%	120	41%	92
<b>Do you get meth within San Diego County?</b>										
Yes	97%	237	96%	207	98%	240	94%	201	95%	219
No	3%	7	4%	8	2%	5	6%	13	5%	11
<b>(If yes) In what area of the County do you get it?</b>										
Central	38%	89	41%	85	33%	78	37%	74	33%	72
North City	7%	17	9%	19	14%	34	11%	21	12%	25
South Suburban	10%	23	11%	23	11%	26	9%	17	15%	32
East Suburban	24%	56	17%	36	21%	51	18%	36	20%	44
North County West	7%	17	5%	11	9%	21	8%	15	4%	9
North County East	12%	29	9%	19	8%	20	10%	20	12%	27
East	2%	5	6%	13	3%	8	8%	15	4%	8
<b>Do you have a main source for meth - one dealer you usually hook up with?</b>										
Yes	41%	101	46%	102	43%	107	50%	106	39%	91
No	59%	147	54%	119	57%	142	50%	107	61%	140

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>How long have you used that person? (Days)</b>										
Mean (SD)	1,370.20 (2,320.09)		1,233.05 (2,274.50)		953.39 (1,375.71)		867.88 (1,197.88)		1,434.12 (2,005.69)	
Median	548		365		365		365		730	
Range	14-14,600		14-12,045		14 -7,300		3-7,300		1-9,125	
<b>Do you get other drugs from that main source?</b>										
Yes	31%	28	32%	33	32%	34	23%	24	23%	20
No	69%	63	68%	69	68%	72	77%	80	77%	68
<b>What do you usually do if your main source isn't around?*</b>										
Buy from someone else	62%	56	52%	53	47%	50	57%	60	52%	46
Get it through a friend	8%	7	3%	3	5%	5	5%	5	10%	9
Use another drug	4%	4	2%	2	4%	4	3%	3	2%	2
Don't buy anything	27%	25	39%	40	34%	36	32%	34	26%	23
Source is always around	4%	4	5%	5	12%	13	6%	6	8%	7
Other	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2%	2	5%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>		<b>102</b>		<b>107</b>		<b>105</b>		<b>88</b>	
<b>Have you ever bought from someone you didn't know?</b>										
Yes	60%	150	58%	130	59%	149	53%	114	48%	114
No	40%	98	42%	95	41%	102	47%	100	52%	123
<b>In the past year, have you carried a gun or other weapon while you were getting meth?</b>										
Yes, gun	5%	13	4%	10	8%	20	8%	19	4%	12
Yes, other weapon	23%	56	22%	50	20%	51	15%	36	20%	60
Yes, both	5%	13	4%	8	8%	20	3%	7	4%	12
No	67%	165	70%	155	64%	161	74%	174	72%	219
<b>Compared to a year ago, would you say meth is more available, less available, or available about the same?</b>										
More	45%	104	44%	93	46%	112	35%	71	46%	99
Less	9%	20	10%	22	16%	38	8%	17	7%	15
About the same	47%	108	45%	96	38%	93	57%	116	47%	103

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

## Distribution and production

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>		<b>239</b>	
<b>Have you, yourself, sold meth or acted as a middleman in the last year?</b>										
Yes	38%	92	42%	93	48%	119	45%	96	36%	84
No	62%	153	58%	128	52%	131	55%	117	64%	148
<b>(Of those who sold) Compared to a year ago, would you say the demand for meth has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?</b>										
Increased	53%	46	56%	50	66%	74	56%	52	47%	39
Decreased	12%	10	9%	8	8%	9	4%	4	14%	12
Same	35%	30	35%	31	26%	29	40%	37	39%	32
<b>Have you ever cooked meth yourself, or helped someone else to cook it?</b>										
Yes	3%	7	5%	11	8%	20	4%	9	7%	17
No	97%	241	95%	214	92%	232	96%	204	93%	217
<b>(Of those who ever cooked) Have you cooked or helped cook in the past 12 months?</b>										
Yes	29%	2	0%	0	15%	3	22%	2	6%	1
No	71%	5	100%	11	85%	17	78%	7	94%	15
<b>(Of those who cooked past year) What did you do?*</b>										
Cook meth	50%	1	N/A		100%	3	50%	1	100%	1
Obtain chemicals	50%	1	N/A		100%	3	0%	0	0%	0
Find cooking location	0%	0	N/A		67%	2	50%	1	100%	1
Get equipment to cook meth	50%	1	N/A		67%	2	50%	1	100%	1
Cut/package meth	100%	2	N/A		67%	2	0%	0	100%	1
Other	0%	0	N/A		0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>N/A</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

## Other

	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>		<b>239</b>	
<b>During the past six months, how many sex partners did you have?</b>										
None	18%	40	16%	36	16%	38	15%	33	16%	38
One	50%	114	54%	120	48%	116	49%	105	53%	124
More than one	32%	73	30%	67	37%	89	36%	76	30%	71
<b>In the past six months, how often did you have sex while high on meth (of those with a partner during this time)?</b>										
Never	12%	22	19%	35	11%	22	12%	22	11%	21
Once in a while	36%	68	29%	54	37%	76	30%	54	37%	72
Fairly often	25%	47	24%	44	26%	54	26%	46	21%	40
Very often	27%	50	28%	51	26%	53	32%	58	31%	61
<b>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)?</b>										
Never	88%	168	92%	170	85%	175	89%	161	92%	180
Once in a while	5%	9	6%	12	11%	22	6%	11	6%	11
Fairly often	3%	6	1%	2	1%	3	4%	2	1%	1
Very often	4%	7	1%	1	2%	5	4%	2	2%	4
<b>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)?</b>										
Never	69%	132	77%	141	75%	152	68%	122	76%	148
Once in a while	18%	35	17%	32	17%	34	21%	37	16%	32
Fairly often	5%	9	3%	5	6%	12	4%	8	4%	7
Very often	5%	10	1%	2	3%	6	6%	10	4%	8
Don't know	2%	4	2%	4	1%	1	2%	3	1%	1
<b>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)?</b>										
Never	67%	127	74%	139	77%	158	71%	127	74%	143
Once in a while	20%	38	16%	30	11%	23	17%	30	14%	28
Fairly often	7%	14	5%	10	4%	9	4%	8	2%	4
Very often	6%	11	4%	8	7%	14	8%	15	10%	19