

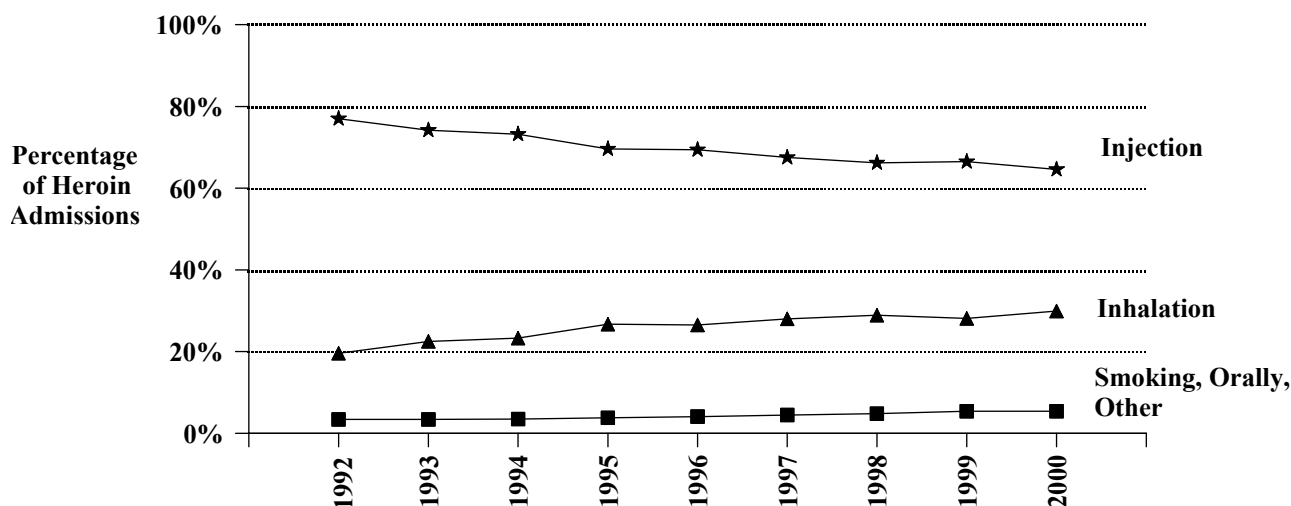
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

U.S. Residents Seeking Treatment for Heroin Increasingly More Likely to Inhale the Drug

Heroin users admitted to treatment in the United States are increasingly more likely to be inhaling the drug, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). The percentage of heroin users admitted to treatment who reported inhalation as their primary route of administration has gradually increased from 20% in 1992 to 30% in 2000 (the most recent year for which data is available). At the same time the proportion of heroin treatment admissions reporting injecting the drug has slowly decreased from 77% in 1992 to 65% in 2000 (see figure). These trends are most likely caused by 1) a fear of contracting infectious diseases from contaminated needles and 2) the increased purity of available heroin that enables people to get an effective high from inhaling the drug (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 10, Issue 11 for more information on the increase in heroin purity).

Route of Heroin Administration by U.S. Heroin Treatment Admissions, 1992-2000



NOTES: TEDS includes facilities that are licensed or certified by the State substance abuse agency to provide substance abuse treatment. There were 168,321 heroin admissions in 1992 (of which 160,931 had information on route of administration) and 243,523 heroin admissions in 2000 (of which 225,640 had information on route of administration).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS): 1992-2000*, 2003. Available online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/dasis.htm#teds2>.

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