

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***New CEWG Advance Report Released:
Cocaine Most Widely Abused Illicit Stimulant; Methamphetamine Abuse Varies***

The Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG) is a network of epidemiologists and researchers from 21 U.S. areas that meets twice a year to discuss current and emerging substance abuse problems. The 57th meeting, held in California this past January, focused on stimulant abuse, particularly of methamphetamine and cocaine. Following are highlights from the recently released advance report of the meeting proceedings.

- **Cocaine** continues to be the most widely abused illicit stimulant in CEWG areas. Indicators of cocaine abuse remain high in all CEWG areas except Honolulu and San Diego, where cocaine indicators are low but methamphetamine indicators remain at high levels.
- The extent of **methamphetamine** abuse varies greatly across CEWG areas. Methamphetamine abuse indicators continue to be high in Honolulu, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. "Eastern CEWG areas other than Atlanta continue to report very low indicators of methamphetamine abuse, but some eastern area CEWG representatives reported recent increases in methamphetamine labs instate and, although the numbers remain small, increases were observed in methamphetamine treatment admissions in some CEWG metropolitan and outlying nonmetropolitan areas" (p. 6).
- While **methamphetamine** continues to be more prevalent in rural areas, there are clear indications of the availability and abuse of methamphetamine in some suburban and urban areas as well. In Atlanta, "methamphetamine is an increasing threat in the suburban areas because of the drug's low price and ease of availability; as a consequence, it is replacing some traditional drugs as a less expensive, more potent alternative" (p. 15).
- **Methamphetamine** use among gay males was reported in several CEWG areas, including New York; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; and Miami, "raising concern that the combination of methamphetamine use and associated sexual behaviors may increase risk for HIV transmission" (p. 16).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from National Institute on Drug Abuse, Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report and Highlights/Executive Summary: Abuse of Stimulants and Other Drugs*, 2005. Available online at http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/AdvReport_Vol1_105.pdf.

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