

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

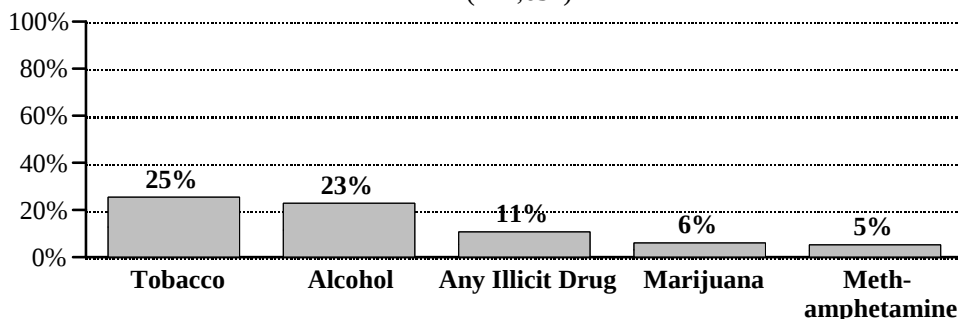
University of Maryland, College Park

Study Finds 5% of Pregnant Women Use Methamphetamine in Methamphetamine-Prevalent Areas of the U.S.

According to the first large-scale study to estimate the prevalence of prenatal substance use in areas of the U.S. known to have methamphetamine problems, 5% of women living in these regions used methamphetamine at least once during their pregnancy. One-fourth of the women in this study used tobacco and 23% used alcohol while pregnant. In addition, 11% used illicit drugs prenatally. The authors note that “the finding that approximately 5% of pregnant women in this study use methamphetamine at some point during their pregnancy highlights the need for educating primary care physicians and obstetric and gynecologic specialty practitioners to be aware of treatment options and community resources to enable access to treatment,” particularly “in regions where methamphetamine is currently a large problem and in other areas where it is an emerging concern” (p. 8).

Percentage of Women Using Substances At Least Once During Pregnancy, Los Angeles, CA; Des Moines, IA; Tulsa, OK; and Honolulu, HI; 2004

(n=1,632)



NOTES: Data presented are from initial results of the Infant Development, Environment, and Lifestyle (IDEAL) study, an ongoing longitudinal multi-site study of prenatal methamphetamine exposure being conducted in Los Angeles, CA; Des Moines, IA; Tulsa, OK; and Honolulu, HI (NIDA Grant R01DA014948; P.I.: Dr. Barry Lester). Staff members at each site were responsible for monitoring hospital delivery logs and attempting to approach every mother who delivered a baby within the last 48 hours. An average of 75% of mothers who recently delivered were approached for consent and screened for eligibility. Substance use was determined by either self-report or meconium testing.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Arria, A.M.; Derauf, C.; LaGasse, L.L.; Grant, P.; Shah, R.; Smith, L.; Haning, W.; Huestis, M.; Strauss, A.; Della Grotta, S.; Liu, J.; and Lester, B. “Methamphetamine and Other Substance Use During Pregnancy: Preliminary Estimates from the Infant Development, Environment, and Lifestyle (IDEAL) Study,” *Maternal and Child Health Journal* Online First, 1-10, January 5, 2006. For more information, contact Dr. Amelia Arria of CESAR at aarria@cesar.umd.edu.

CESAR Seeking PI-Level Researchers with Existing Funding

CESAR is seeking PI-level researchers who wish to relocate to CESAR with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR in obtaining new funding. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating, university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

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