

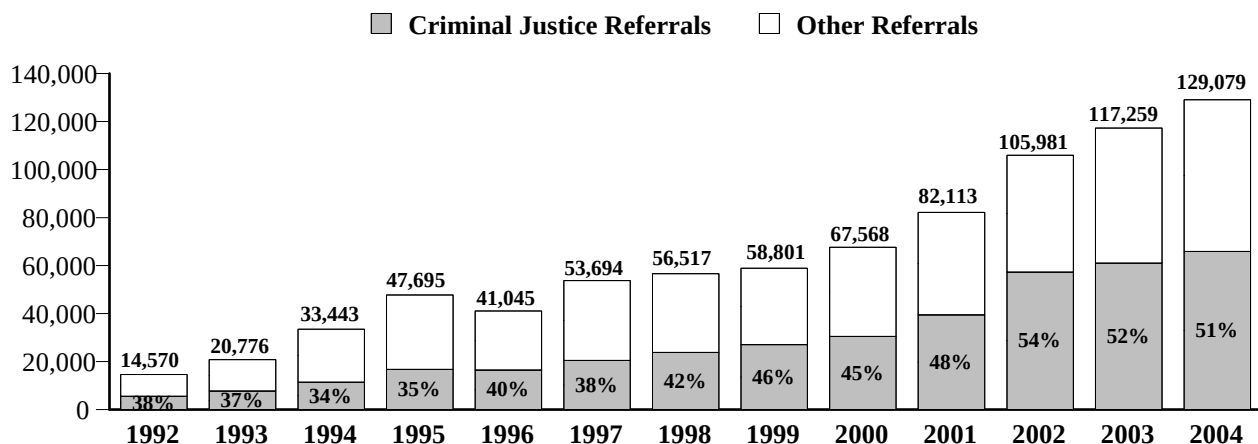
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Dramatic Increase in National Treatment Admissions for Methamphetamine Coincides with Increase in Criminal Justice Referrals

The number of national treatment admissions reporting methamphetamine as the primary substance of abuse increased dramatically from 1992 to 2004, according to data from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). In 1992, 14,570 treatment admissions reported methamphetamine as the primary substance of abuse (comprising 1% of all admissions), compared to 129,079 in 2004 (7% of all admissions).^{*} At the same time, the proportion of methamphetamine treatment admissions that were referred by the criminal justice system also increased, from 38% to 51%. Referrals from individuals (including self-referrals) decreased over this period (from 34% to 24%) as did those from substance abuse care providers (from 9% to 5%; data not shown). Caution should be used in utilizing treatment admissions data as an indicator of use or dependence since treatment admissions may also be influenced by changes in law enforcement and sentencing practices as well as changes in legislation which divert drug offenders to treatment.

Number of Primary Methamphetamine Treatment Admissions and Percentage that Were Criminal Justice Referrals, 1993 to 2004



^{*}Methamphetamine treatment admissions varied regionally. In 2004, nearly 53% of all treatment admissions reported were from California and Washington, while less than 1% were from 11 Northeastern states (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT). Methamphetamine numbers do not include states that did not distinguish between amphetamine and methamphetamine (1992 to 2000: AR, CT, OR, TX; 2001 to 2003: AR, OR, TX; 2004: OR, TX).

NOTES: TEDS provides information on the demographic and substance abuse characteristics of admissions to treatment for abuse of alcohol and drugs in facilities that report to individual State administrative databases. The category "Other Referrals" includes referrals from individuals (including self-referrals), substance abuse providers, other health care providers, schools, employers, and other community sources.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive, online analysis of the concatenated 1992-2002 TEDS data set, conducted 6/2/2006. The SAMHDA is available online at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SAMHDA>.

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