

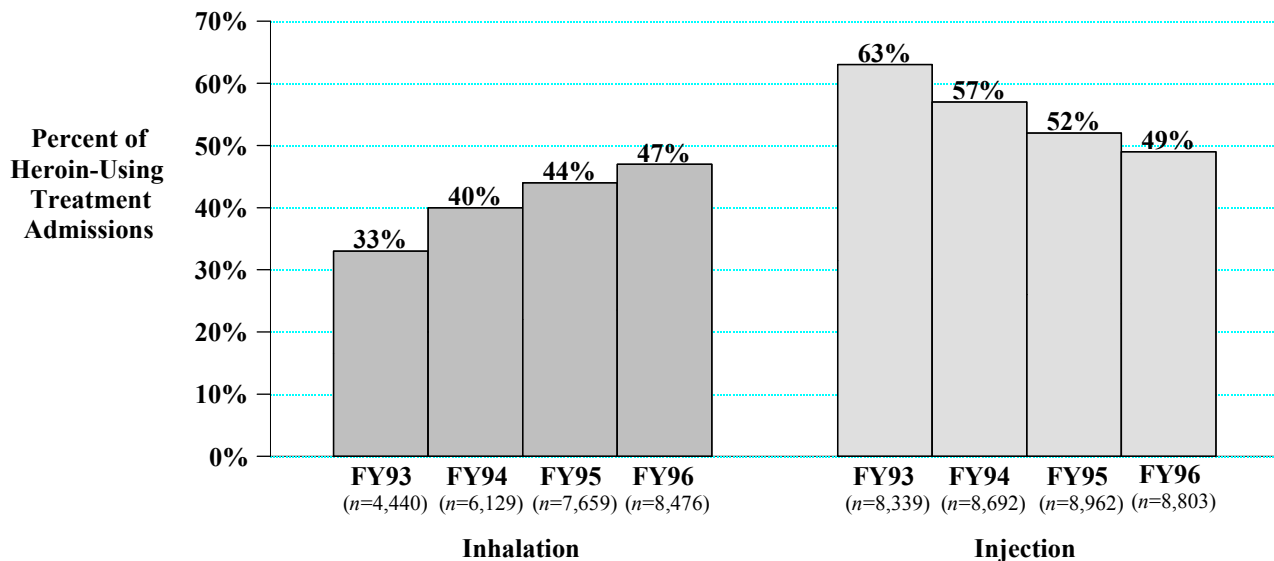
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Maryland Treatment Data Show Heroin Inhalation Increasing, Injection Decreasing

Data recently released by the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) show that heroin inhalation has been steadily increasing among heroin-using treatment admissions since FY93, while heroin injection has been steadily decreasing over the same period. ADAA officials believe this shift in the route of heroin administration has occurred because “injected drug use has become the leading factor in new cases of HIV infection in Baltimore and it is likely more addicts are rejecting needles as a mode of administration.” Another contributing factor may be that “Maryland State Police report the heroin available on the street is of a higher purity than in the past, making inhalation a more acceptable route of administration to many users” (p. 91).

**Primary Route of Heroin Administration at Admission,
Maryland Heroin-Using Treatment Clients,
Fiscal Years 1993-1996**



SOURCE: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, *Trends and Patterns in Maryland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment: Fiscal Year 1996*. For more information, contact the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration at 410-767-6886.

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