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## Drug Scan Annual Report Reveals Problems with Ecstasy, Oxycodone, and Heroin Among Most Maryland Counties

Ecstasy, oxycodone products, and heroin were identified as a problem by drug abuse professionals in most Maryland counties, according to the most recent Drug Scan annual report. Each year, Drug Scan staff interview approximately 100 to 130 professionals, working in such areas as treatment, education, prevention, criminal justice, and emergency medicine, about emerging drug trends among the populations they work with. The qualitative Drug Scan information supplements other information gathered through the DEWS program to provide a more complete picture of local drug trends. Following are some of the findings from the 2001 Drug Scan interviews.

- County contacts expressed concerns with the increasingly common use of **ecstasy** and the fact that its use has moved beyond the rave scene. Contacts in Calvert County reported that “youth use ecstasy at home parties and in the context of ‘just hanging out’” (p. 8).
- Problems with **oxycodone** products were reported by contacts in more than half of the counties. Howard County contacts reported that “many youth are stealing oxycodone products from their parents or they are taking the drug from pharmacies where they are employed” (p. 17).
- While concerns about **heroin** varied by county, the shifts were noteworthy enough to be included in the emerging drugs section. Heroin continues to be a major part of the drug problem in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Contacts in Charles County report that “heroin use has become more popular among those over 25” and is “frequently used at social events” (p. 12).
- Contacts in each county underscored the continued problems with **alcohol** and **marijuana** use among youth and adults and contacts in many counties expressed concern about the common use of powder and crack **cocaine**.

A copy of the report is available online ([www.dewsonline.org](http://www.dewsonline.org)) or by calling CESAR at 301-403-8329.

NOTE: Maryland Drug Scan, a project of Maryland’s Drug Early Warning System, is a snapshot of the perceptions of drug use in the State of Maryland by over 100 professionals working in treatment, education, prevention, criminal justice, and emergency medicine who are contacted yearly to obtain timely information about drug use and drug trends.

SOURCE: Moore, J., Winters, C., Smoak, K., Artigiani, E., and Wish E.D. *Maryland Drug Scan 2001*, October 2002. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani at [erin@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:erin@cesar.umd.edu).