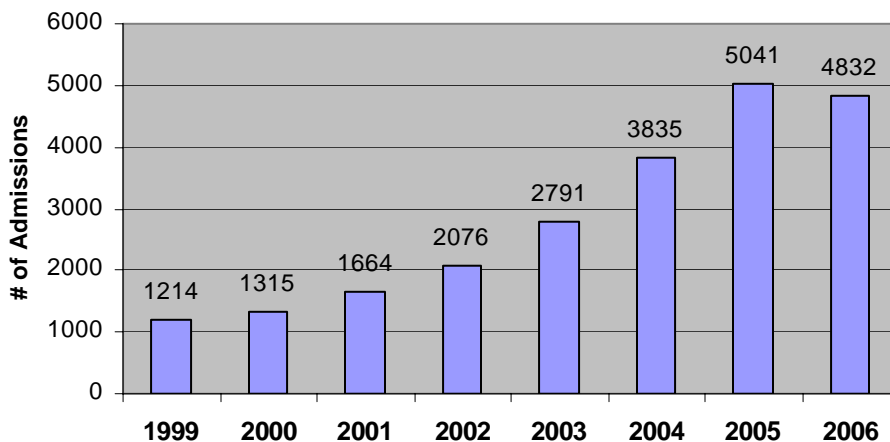
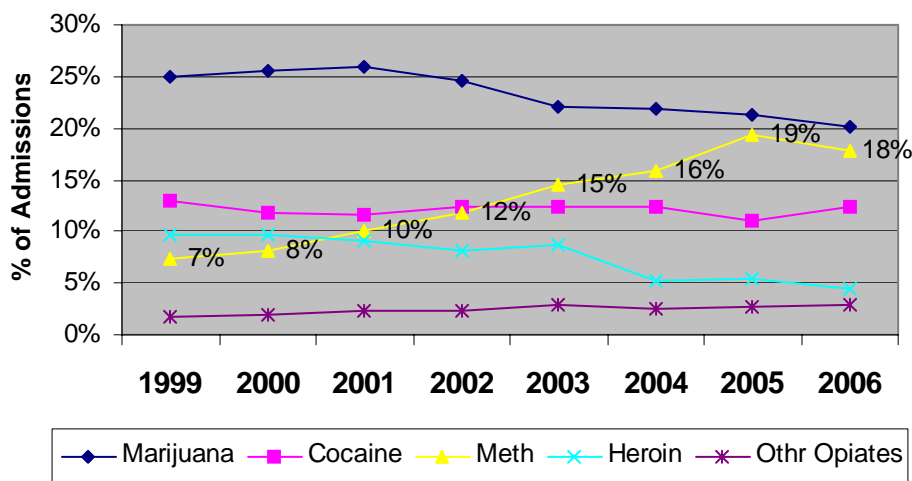


Colorado
2007 NASADAD State Snapshot on Methamphetamine

Colorado Methamphetamine Admissions: Numbers



Colorado Methamphetamine Admissions: Percents



While the numbers of treatment admissions for all drugs, including alcohol, have increased over the years, the proportion of admissions made up by methamphetamine users Statewide rose from 7% in 1999 to a high of 19% in 2005. The number and proportion of methamphetamine admissions exceeded cocaine admissions in 2003, and since then, the volume of methamphetamine admissions has ranked third behind alcohol and marijuana admissions. However, in 2006, the number and proportion of admissions declined for the first time since 1999 to 4832 and 18% respectively.

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

The proportion of users that smoked methamphetamine increased steadily from 27% in 1997 to 66% in 2006, while those inhaling decreased from 34% to 11% and those injecting decreased from 34% to 20%.

2006 Demographics for First-Time* Methamphetamine Admissions

- 78% White
- 17% Hispanic**
- 32% Under 25 years old***
- 48% Female

*Persons entering substance abuse treatment for the first-time.

**Since 2000, the proportion of Latino methamphetamine (first-time) admissions rose from 9 to 17%, despite the fact that the proportion of Latinos in first-time treatment admissions overall declined from 33% in 1998 to 26% in 2006.

***Except for marijuana, where 67% of users entering treatment for the first time are under 25 years of age, meth users tend to be the youngest. 32 % are under 25 compared to users of cocaine, heroin and other opiates, where 23% are under 25. Also, outside of marijuana users, meth users have the earliest age of onset (19 years; marijuana users start using at an average age of 14).

Treatment Effectiveness Data

In CY 2006, 86% of methamphetamine users were abstinent at discharge.

Location

For all drugs except methamphetamine, at least 50% of users live in the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area and 72% of heroin users live in the metropolitan area. Despite the fact that 55% of the State's population lives in the Denver/Boulder area, only 35% of methamphetamine users in treatment live in that area, making methamphetamine Colorado's most geographically dispersed illicit drug around the State.

Other State Activities to Note

ADAD has been part of a legislatively created Statewide Methamphetamine Task Force to:

- Assist local communities with implementation of the most effective practices to respond to illegal methamphetamine production, distribution, and use;
- Develop Statewide strategies in collaboration with local communities to address prevention, intervention, treatment, and enforcement; and
- Take a comprehensive approach to and provide assistance and recommendations concerning prevention, intervention, and treatment and the response of the criminal justice system to the methamphetamine problem in Colorado.
- ADAD Staff also provides training for child welfare workers, probation officers, and the public at large concerning treatment effectiveness and drug trends regarding methamphetamine.

If **additional resources** were made available to improve services, the areas in most need of assistance would be:

- Residential and outpatient capacity
- Prevention/intervention services
- Wrap-around services
- Additional staff

For more information, please contact the Colorado Single State Authority for Substance Abuse (SSA):

Janet Wood, Director
Behavioral Health Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division
Colorado Department of Human Services
Phone: (303) 866-7486 · Fax: (303) 866-7428
Email: Janet.Wood@State.CO.US

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Morrison, Director of Public Policy, at (202) 293-0090 ext 106 or email: rmorrison@nasadad.org or Barbara Durkin, Public Policy Associate, at (202) 293-0090 ext 111 or email: bdurkin@nasadad.org.