

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Arizona Youth Survey 2006 Methamphetamine Fact Sheet

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

August 2007

The 2006 Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) collected information from 60,401 students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade from all 15 counties in Arizona. Among the information collected in the 2006 AYS were responses to questions about lifetime substance use and past 30-day substance use.

Table 1: Percentage Reporting Having Used Meth in Their Lifetime by County, 2002-2006

| | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 |
|------------|------|------|------|
| Apache | 5.9 | 12.8 | 8.9 |
| Cochise | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.6 |
| Coconino | 5.8 | 8.8 | 6 |
| Gila | 6.4 | 7.2 | 5.6 |
| Graham | 11.7 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Greenlee | 12.8 | 10.6 | 4.7 |
| La Paz | 11.1 | 8.9 | 6.2 |
| Maricopa | 4.9 | 4.5 | 3.9 |
| Mohave | 9.3 | 7.3 | 8 |
| Navajo | 7.9 | 11.8 | 9.2 |
| Pima | 5.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| Pinal | 6.7 | 10.1 | 7.7 |
| Santa Cruz | 3 | 4.5 | 3.3 |
| Yavapai | 5.9 | 7.1 | 4.1 |
| Yuma | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| Arizona | 6.1 | 5.6 | 4.6 |

Table 2: 30-day Meth Use by County, 2002 and 2006

| | 2002 | 2006 |
|------------|------|------|
| Apache | 0.8 | 2.5 |
| Cochise | 2.2 | 1.7 |
| Coconino | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| Gila | 2.2 | 2 |
| Graham | 6.1 | 3.8 |
| Greenlee | 4.7 | 0.5 |
| La Paz | 5.7 | 3.1 |
| Maricopa | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| Mohave | 3.4 | 2.5 |
| Navajo | 1.8 | 3 |
| Pima | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| Pinal | 2.8 | 2.1 |
| Santa Cruz | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Yavapai | 3 | 1.3 |
| Yuma | 2 | 1.4 |
| Arizona | 2.4 | 1.3 |

According to the data from the 2006 survey, methamphetamine is the 7th most prevalent drug used by junior and high school students in Arizona after alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, inhalants, cocaine, and stimulants (other than meth). In this report, the results from the 2002, 2004, and 2006 surveys on youth substance use, with an emphasis on methamphetamine use, are summarized.

Youth Lifetime Use of Methamphetamine

Table 1 contains data on the percentage of youth who reported trying methamphetamine at least once in their lifetimes from the 2002, 2004, and 2006 Arizona Youth Surveys.

From 2002 to 2004, the percentage of youth reporting meth use in their lifetimes increased in seven of the 15 counties in Arizona. The largest increases in youth meth use from 2002 to 2004 occurred in Apache, Navajo, and Pinal Counties. From 2004 to 2006, the percentage of youth who reported using meth during their lifetimes decreased in 12 of Arizona's 15 counties. Mohave County was the only county that saw an increase in lifetime meth use, and two counties, Graham and Pima, had no change in lifetime meth use during this time.

The data in Table 1 also reveals significant variation in meth use by county in 2006, ranging from 3.3 percent to 9.2 percent of youth that reported trying meth in their lifetimes. This suggests that not all Arizona youth are equally at risk for meth use, with youth from Navajo and Apache Counties at the greatest risk, and youth from Santa Cruz and Maricopa Counties at less risk than youth in other counties. It is important to note Maricopa County has a large youth population and even though they have one of the lowest per capita rates of meth use in Arizona, they are likely to have the largest number of youth having tried meth.

Overall, the percentage of Arizona youth who have tried meth in their lifetimes has declined by one-fourth from 2002 to 2006.

Youth 30-day Use of Methamphetamine

Table 2 contains data on the percentage of youth who reported using methamphetamine at least once in the 30 days prior to completing the survey from the 2002 and 2006 surveys. The question about 30-day methamphetamine use was not asked in the 2004 administration of the survey.

Consistent with the lifetime use measure, variation across counties can be seen in the percentage of youth reporting meth use in the 30 days prior to completing the survey. Also consistent with the lifetime meth data, 30-day use declined from 2002 to 2006 in all of Arizona's counties, with the exception of Apache and Navajo Counties. Statewide, the percentage of youth reporting using meth in the 30 days prior to completing the survey was lower in 2006 than in 2002.

Youth Meth Use by Gender

Table 3 contains data on lifetime meth use by gender and county of residence. Generally speaking, male and female youth statewide have relatively similar percentages of lifetime meth use. Yet, in both 2004 and 2006, a slightly higher percentage of females reported lifetime meth use than males. In 2006, a higher percentage of female youth reported lifetime meth use than their male counterparts in 11 of Arizona's 15 counties. In three counties, Greenlee, Navajo, and Pinal, the percentage of females reporting lifetime meth use was greater than twice that of males.

When looking at 30-day meth use by gender and county (Table 4), a somewhat different perspective emerges. Although a slightly higher percentage of females than males statewide reported 30-day meth use, in eight of the 15 counties in Arizona, a higher percentage of males than females reported 30-day use.

Table 4: Percentage of Youth Reporting Meth Use in the Last 30-days by Gender and County, 2002 and 2006

| | 2002 | | 2006 | |
|------------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Apache | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 3.2 |
| Cochise | 3.6 | 1 | 2.1 | 1.4 |
| Coconino | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 0.8 |
| Gila | 2.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| Graham | 8.1 | 4 | 3.3 | 4 |
| Greenlee | 4.3 | 5.4 | 0 | 0.9 |
| La Paz | 6.7 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 2.3 |
| Maricopa | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Mohave | 4.7 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 3.4 |
| Navajo | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 3.6 |
| Pima | 2 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Pinal | 1.6 | 4.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Santa Cruz | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0.6 |
| Yavapai | 2.9 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 0.8 |
| Yuma | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Arizona | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 |

Table 6: Percentage of Youth Reporting Lifetime Meth Use and Other Anti-Social Behavior

| | Has Used Meth | Never Used Meth |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Carried a Handgun in the Last 12 Months | 25.9 | 6.5 |
| Sold Drugs in the Last 12 Months | 47.4 | 5.5 |
| Stolen a Vehicle in the Last 12 Months | 22.1 | 3.3 |
| Attacked Someone in the Last 12 Months | 42.1 | 15 |
| Currently Belong to a Gang | 14.6 | 3 |

Methodology

The 2006 Arizona Youth Survey is a biennial school-based, self-reported survey that uses the Communities that Care Risk and Protective framework as its core data elements. The data collected through this framework allows for state and local delinquency prevention efforts to better understand those factors that put Arizona youth at risk for delinquency, drug use, and anti-social behavior.

Table 3: Percentage of Youth Reporting Meth Use in Their Lifetimes by Gender and County, 2002-2006

| | 2002 | | 2004 | | 2006 | |
|------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Apache | 7.6 | 4.1 | 11 | 14.3 | 8.4 | 9.6 |
| Cochise | 5.7 | 5 | 5 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| Coconino | 7.4 | 4.1 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 4.5 | 7.7 |
| Gila | 6.9 | 6 | 7.5 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 6.4 |
| Graham | 16 | 7.4 | 9.8 | 7.9 | 6.9 | 9.6 |
| Greenlee | 7.1 | 20.4 | 7.3 | 13.6 | 1.9 | 7.6 |
| La Paz | 12.1 | 9.2 | 11.2 | 6.7 | 5 | 7.7 |
| Maricopa | 4.8 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Mohave | 9.2 | 8.5 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 6.2 | 9.4 |
| Navajo | 8.4 | 7.7 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 5.8 | 12.1 |
| Pima | 5.5 | 6 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| Pinal | 5.9 | 7.7 | 9 | 11.1 | 4.9 | 10.1 |
| Santa Cruz | 2.6 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 2.7 |
| Yavapai | 4.3 | 7.6 | 4.8 | 9.6 | 3.5 | 4.7 |
| Yuma | 6.6 | 5.2 | 5 | 5 | 4.3 | 5 |
| Arizona | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 4.2 | 4.9 |

Meth, Other Drug Use, and Anti-Social Behavior

Table 5 contains data from the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey on the percentage of youth who reported having used meth in their lifetimes and lifetime use of eight other substances. More than 90 percent of youth who reported meth use in their lifetimes also reported using alcohol or marijuana in their lifetimes. Nearly three-quarters of youth who reported lifetime meth use also reported trying cocaine.

For all eight substances listed in Table 5, youth who reported having tried meth in their lifetime reported higher levels of other lifetime substance use than youth who reported no meth use.

Table 6 contains data comparing meth use to involvement in other anti-social behaviors. Similar to the findings on meth use and other drug use, youth who reported using meth in their lifetimes reported higher levels of carrying a handgun, drug sales, stealing a vehicle, attacking someone, and current gang membership.

Table 5: Percentage of Other Drug Use by Lifetime Meth Use, 2006

| | Has Used Meth | Never Used Meth |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Alcohol | 97.4 | 60.2 |
| Marijuana | 91.8 | 26.2 |
| LSD | 44.4 | 1.7 |
| Cocaine | 71.3 | 3.9 |
| Heroin | 25.6 | 0.8 |
| Prescription | 54.9 | 12.3 |
| Ecstasy | 31.8 | 1.6 |
| Inhalants | 45.4 | 11.3 |

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