GULF COAST ADDICTION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER

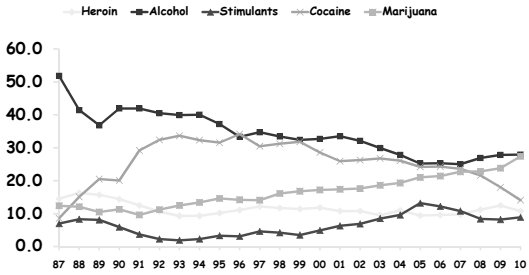
Update on Latest Drug Trends

Jane C. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Addiction Research Institute
The University of Texas at Austin
www.utattc.net

Data Sources

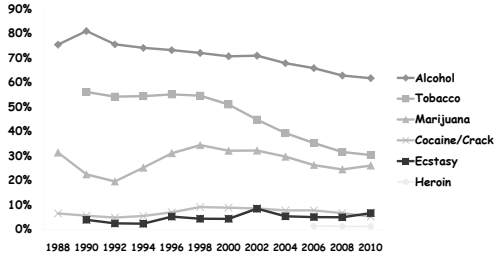
- Death data (DSHS) - 2009
- Poison Control Center cases (DSHS) - 2010
- Treatment admission records (DSHS) – ½ 2010
- Surveys (DSHS) 2010 ad (YRBS) 2009
- Forensic laboratory tests (NFLIS) – ½ 2010
- DEA Dallas, El Paso, and Houston Field Division Intelligence Reports – ½ 2010
- NIDA, R21 DA025029

% Texas Treatment Admissions by Primary Substance of Abuse: 1987-1/2 2010



Source: DSHS

Lifetime Use as Reported in the Texas Secondary School Survey: 1988-2010

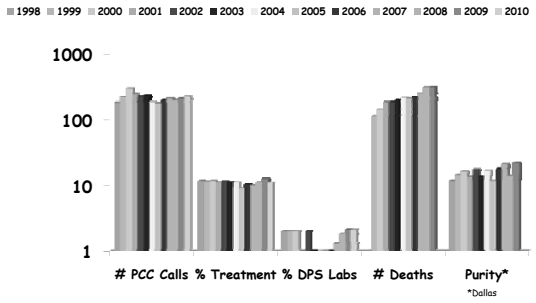


Source: DSHS

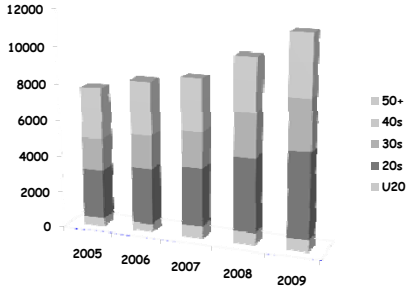
Heroin: Texas Update

- **Indicators level.**
- **El Paso DEA-moderate/stable**
- **Dallas DEA-moderate availability-mainly Black Tar but white heroin transits thru to Northeast**
- **Houston DEA-moderate-white occasionally available. Reports of "shebanging" or "Monkey Water"—liquid heroin taken intranasally.**

Heroin Indicators in Texas: 1998-2010



Texas Heroin Admissions by Age Group: 2005-2009



Source: DSHS data; analysis by JC Maxwell

Other Opiates: Texas Update

- Indicators up.
- El Paso DEA-moderate—drugs requiring Rx in US and some clinical "trial" drugs legally available in Mexico.
- Dallas DEA-hydrocodone, alprazolam, codeine are top. Dipping joints in promethazine with codeine.
- Houston DEA-"Holy Trinity" of hydrocodone, alprazolam, and carisoprodol. None are Schedule II.

"Holy Trinity"

- "Houston Cocktail"
- Hydrocodone, alprazolam, and carisoprodol
- 6 Houston "pain clinic" doctors each wrote between 23,907 and 43,383 scripts in a 15-month period.
- Need real-time on-line Texas prescription monitoring program.

"SYRUP" in Texas

- Codeine cough syrup continues to be abused.
- Cut with Karo syrup, jolly ranchers, and soft drink.
- Rap music on syrup continues.
- Prepackaged to introduce to youths or ready to add the syrup?

New "Soft" Drinks: Drank and *Lean*

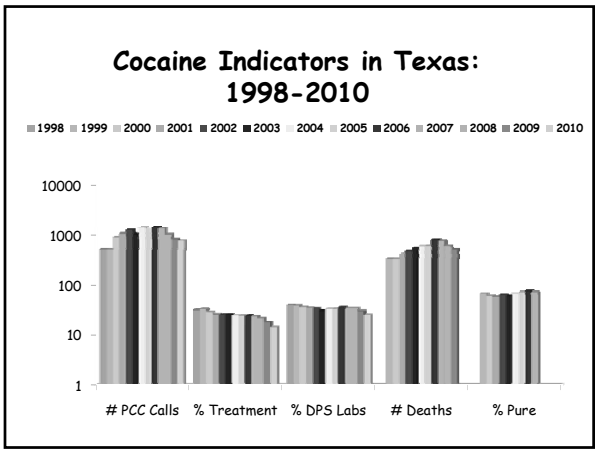
Valerian Roots

Melatonin

Rose Hips

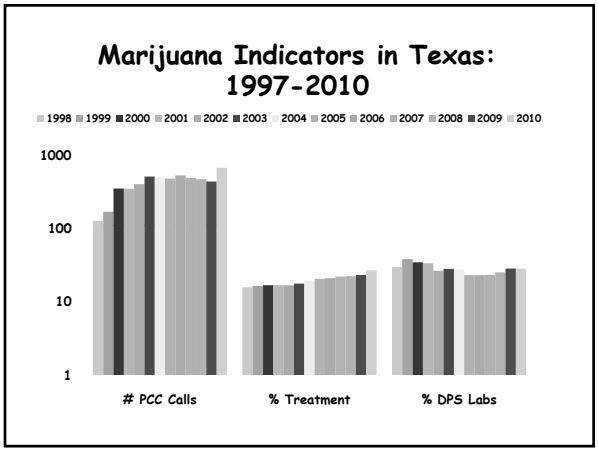
"Slow Your Roll"

"Slow Motion Potion"



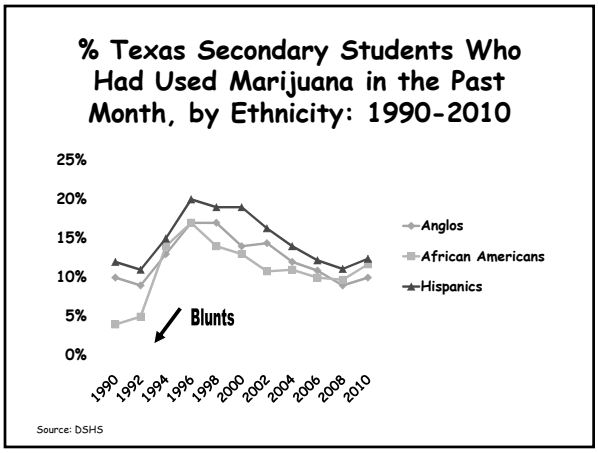
Cocaine: Texas Update

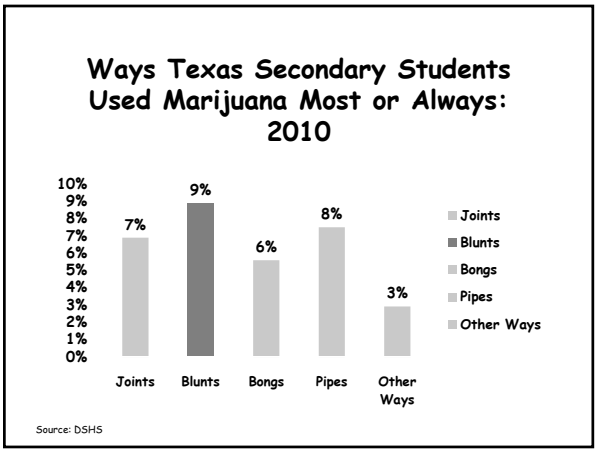
- Indicators down.
- El Paso DEA-moderate—DTOs curtailed smuggling thru 2008 but rising now but not at earlier levels.
- Dallas DEA-high availability
- Houston DEA-high availability



Cannabis: Texas Update

- Indicators level.
- El Paso DEA-high-from Mexico-little locally grown
- Dallas DEA-high-Mexican & sophisticated indoor grows-less Mexican domination in the future?
- Houston DEA-high-Mexican & indoor grows-Asian DTOs importing from Canada.





Relationship of Use of Tobacco, Marijuana & Blunts: 2010 Texas Secondary School Survey

Tobacco	Marijuana	Cigars
Ever Used	Never Used	5%
Never Used	Ever Used	66%
Ever Used	Ever Used	77%

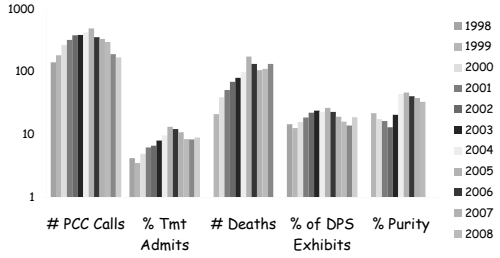
Source: DSHS

Calls on Marijuana Homologs to Texas Poison Centers 1/1/10-1/3/11

- 459 exposures, 74% male, ages 12-67; up from 3 in January to 61 in December.
- 87% intended to misuse or abuse
- 37% reported tachycardia, 16% vomiting, 19% agitation, 9% confusion, 19% drowsiness.

Source: DSHS, Mathias Forrester

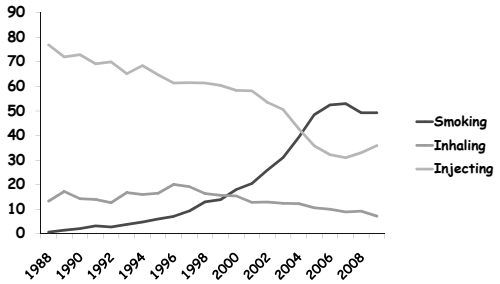
Methamphetamine & Amphetamine Indicators in Texas: 1997-2010



Methamphetamine: Texas Update

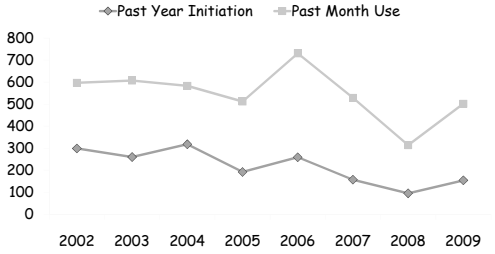
- Indicators starting up.
- El Paso DEA-powder moderate; ice low; from Mexico with some small local PSE labs.
- Dallas DEA-high-Mexican-took out 300# of ~100% pure with no reduction in availability. Wholesale prices imposed from Mexico to make up for the loss-La Familia
- Houston DEA-high-mostly ice from Mexico-few small local labs-Aryan Brotherhood and Mexican Mafia.

Routes of Administration of Methamphetamine of Clients in Texas Programs: 1988-2009

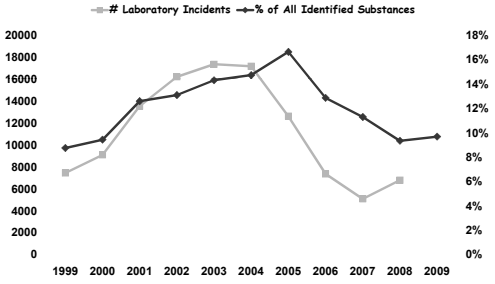


DSHS data; analysis by JC Maxwell

Past Year Initiation of Methamphetamine Use and Past Month Use: 2002-2009

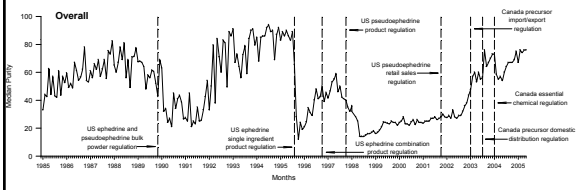


Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratory Incidents and % of All Substances Identified That Were Methamphetamine in the US: 1999-2009



Source: NFLIS & DEA

Median Methamphetamine Purity in the Continental United States (1985-2005)



Impact of US and Canadian precursor regulation on methamphetamine purity in the United States. (2009) Cunningham JK, Liu L-M, Callaghan R. *Addiction*; 104, 441-453.

Mexico Methamphetamine Treatment Admissions

Cunningham et al., Mexico's Methamphetamine Precursor Chemical Interventions: Impacts on Drug Treatment Admissions, *Addiction*, in press, 2010

US Money Seized in Closure of Rogue Mexican Chemical Company: 2007

Texas Treatment Admissions

Mexico's Methamphetamine Precursor Chemical Interventions: Impacts on Drug Treatment Admissions, *Addiction*, in press, 2010

DEA Methamphetamine Profiling Program

- *d*-meth has more potent physiologic and behavioral effects and higher abuse liability (Mendelson et al., 2006), as well as being a more potent dopamine releaser (Kuzcenski et al., 1995). Users injected with *d*-, *dl*-, and *l*-meth gave l-meth lower ratings for ability to produce "intoxication" and "drug liking".
- 63% of samples were from P2P process, 13% phosphorus-iodine.
- Mexican cooks are refining the P2P product so very little *l*-meth is present.
- Non-Mexican foreign samples were 89% pure and all were *d*-meth.

Reports from the Field

(Examples of the Different Attitudes)

Impressions of quality/potency are not consistent.
Descriptions of the differences based on recipes:

- **P2P-on top of the world-"Holy Grail"**
- **Anhydrous—dirty-makes you paranoid**
- **Red Phosphorus—"sexy dope"-leaves a black residue in pipe after smoking-"Black Meth?".**
- **Crystal-relaxed high-can sleep**
- **Pill dope—IDU-if eat, effects like ecstasy.**

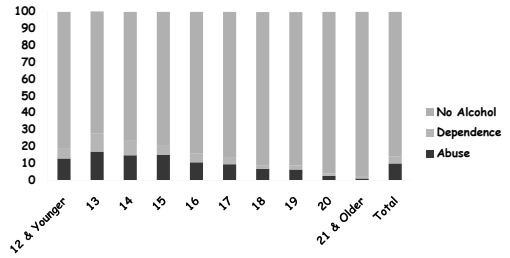
Preliminary Findings from Survey of 154 Meth Users Early in Treatment

- **Multiple routes: Smoke (60%), IDU (50%), Snort (38%), Swallow (21%), Shaft (3%).**
- **Other drugs used in combo with meth: pot (53%), alcohol (51%), Xanax (39%), cocaine (33%), Vicodin (32%), heroin (24%), crack (21%).**
- **Top Benefits: increased energy/stay awake (63%), enhanced sex (54%), weight loss (38%), "The High" (30%), increased confidence (30%).**
- **Top Risks (excluding addiction): depression (39%), anxiety/panic (37%), paranoia (38%), legal/police problems (36%), family/cps problems (32%).**

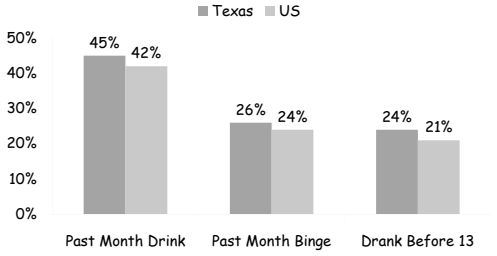
- **Very different opinions as to the quality of meth and source. Some home-cooked powder with heavy metals added; most is crystal.**
- **Obvious cognitive deficits; lack of concentration.**
- **Self-reports of rage, visions, schizophrenic episodes; evidence of cognitive deficits; 61% had ever received mental health diagnosis.**
- **Increasing need for treatment for severely impaired addicts, including increased residential treatment capacity and counselors well-trained to deal with methamphetamine and mental illness.**
- **Need to upgrade skills of counselors to treat co-occurring conditions.**

Alcohol

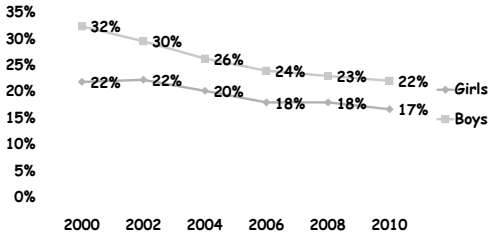
Relationship Between Age of Onset of Drinking and Prevalence of DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence: 1994



Percent Alcohol Use by High School Students: 2009 YRBS

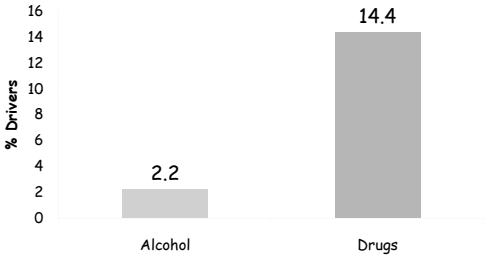


Percentage of Texas Secondary Students Who Reported They Normally Consumed Five or More Drinks at One Time, by Gender: 2000–2010



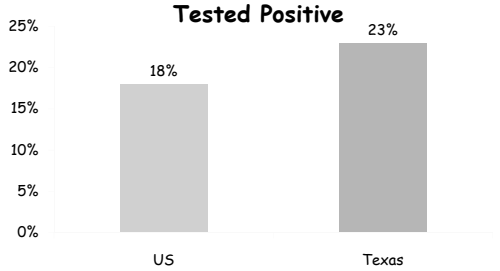
Liu, L. Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students in Grades 7-12, DSHS.

% of Weekend Nighttime Drivers with BACs>0.08g/dL or Positive for Drugs in the 2007 National Roadside Survey



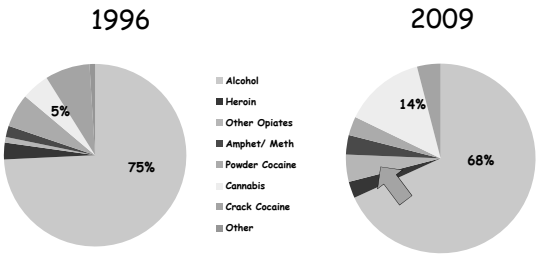
NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, 2009

Drug Involvement of Fatally Injured Drivers: US and Texas 2009



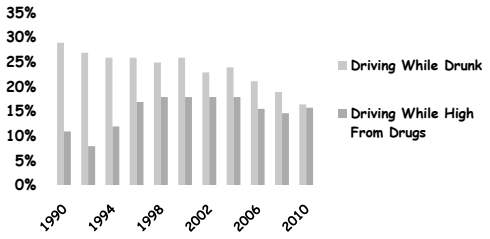
NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts DOT HS 811 415, 2010

Primary Problem of Texas Past-Year DUI Arrestees Entering Treatment



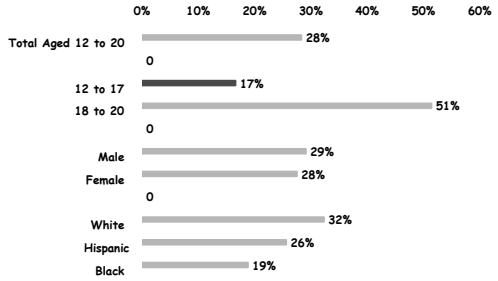
Source: DSHS, analysis by Maxwell

Percentage of Texas Seniors Who Had Driven While Drunk or High from Drugs: 1990–2010



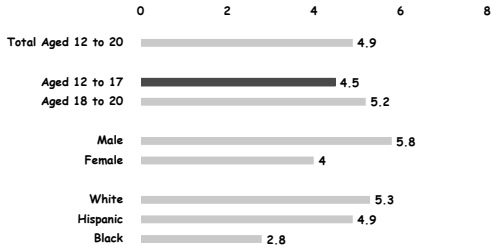
Source: DSHS

% Past Month Alcohol Users in the U.S. Ages 12 to 20: 2005-2006



SAMHSA, The NSDUH Report: Quantity and Frequency of Alcohol Use Among Underage Drinkers, 4/2008

Average # Drinks per Day on the Days Used Alcohol among Past Month U.S. Alcohol Users Ages 12 to 20: 2005-2006



SAMHSA, The NSDUH Report: Quantity and Frequency of Alcohol Use Among Underage Drinkers, 4/2008

Alcoholic Energy Drinks

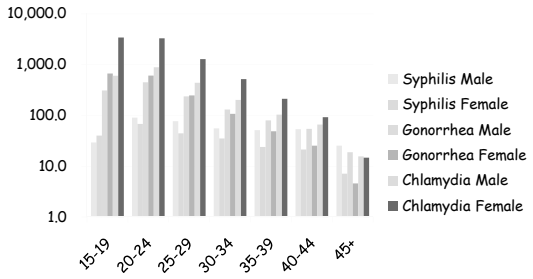
Deciphering Skills

Binge Drinking and Women

- Women binge drinkers engaged in anal sex more often than women who drank alcohol without binges (33% vs. 16%) and 3 times the rate of women who abstained from alcohol (11%).
- Having multiple sex partners was more than twice as common among women binge drinkers than women abstainers (41% vs. 17%).
- Gonorrhea was nearly 5 times higher among women binge drinkers compared to women abstainers (11% vs. 2%).
- Among men, rates of risky sexual behaviors/STDs were high, but did not differ by alcohol use.
- The findings support the need to routinely screen for binge drinking as part of clinical care in STD clinics.
- **Women binge drinkers may benefit from interventions that jointly address binge drinking and risky sexual behaviors.**
- **Developing gender-specific interventions could improve overall health outcomes in this population.**

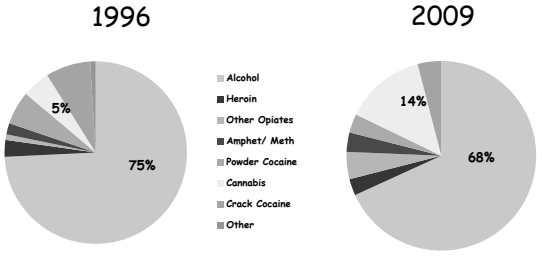
Hutton, H. et al., (2008). The Relationship Between Recent Alcohol Use and Sexual Behaviors: Gender Differences Among Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Patients, Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research

Texas STD Case Rates: 2009



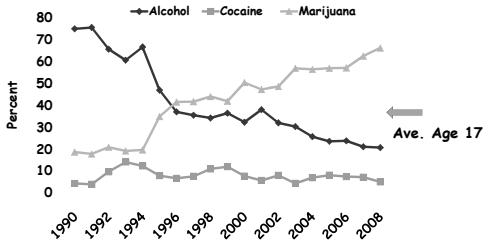
Impaired Driving: Not Just Alcohol!

Primary Problem Substance of Texas DUI Admissions to Treatment

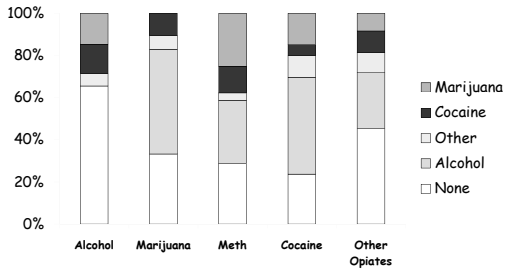


Maxwell, Impaired Drivers at Admission to Substance Abuse Treatment, RSA Poster, 2006.

Primary Problem of Texas DUI Clients Under Age 21 at Treatment Admission: 1990-2008



Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs by Primary Problem at Admission: 2005-2009



Source: DSHS, analysis by J C Maxwell

Findings from Texas Studies on Impaired Drivers in Treatment: Adults & Youths

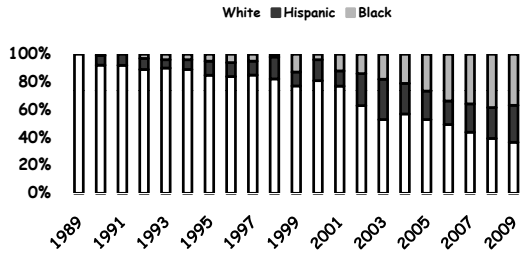
- Not being abstinent at 60-day follow-up was predicted by living in household where exposed to alcohol and drugs, more past-year DWI arrests, and residential treatment.
- Need for sober housing, mental health treatment and medication, closer supervision of more impaired clients and use of interlocks and electronic monitoring on selected clients.

Club Drugs

Ecstasy: Texas Update

- Indicators level-up.
- El Paso DEA-low-from Mexico-shift in use by young to El Paso clubs rather than clubs in Juarez.
- Dallas DEA-moderate but more available—from Ontario and BC thru Asian DTOs.
- Houston DEA-moderate-from Canada, the Northeast & Europe-Asian & Caucasian traffickers.

Texas Treatment Admissions with a Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Problem with Ecstasy: 1998-2009



DSHS data; analysis by JC Maxwell

Mephedrone

- 4-Methylmethcathinone (Meow, M-Cat, Bubbles)
- Synthetic stimulant similar to methcathinone, MDMA, cocaine, methamphetamine
- Sold on-line
- Interviewed 2 heavy X users who got drug in Austin club district. 4 cases of MDPV and 1 4-MMC (mephedrone)in ½ 2010 DPS lab findings and 19 poison control center cases.

Ivory Wave

"Soothing Bath Salts"

- Sold on-line with no mention of dosage or harms
- Could be MDPV-Methylenedioxypyrovalerone but no one is sure
- Effect similar to Ecstasy
- Taken orally or by inhaling.
- Negative side-effects reported.

Piperazines

Including BZP & TFMPP

- "A2", "Frenzy",
- "Nemesis"
- Stimulants which are combined to be alternative to Ecstasy & methamphetamine.
- BZP is Schedule 1 but TFMPP is legal in US.

BZP & TFMPP

- Texas DPS laboratory items of Benzylopiperazine (BZP) and trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP) identified.

	BZP	TFMPP
2007	19	2
2008	312	66
2009	436	87
½ 2010	291	75

Source: NFLIS

Salvia Divinorum

- Family : Lamiaceae (mint)
- Most potent natural hallucinogen (dose 0.2-1mg)
- Clinical: Visual distortions; feeling of unreality; depersonalization, dissociation; motor in coordination.
- Many Salvia users try it only once because of unpleasant effects.
- Route: chewed or smoked; onset 1 minute; duration 1 hour.
- **73 calls to Texas Poison Centers in 2008; 7 in 2009; 13 in 2010.**

Other Drugs

- Sibutramine (diet suppressant) no longer available in US but coming in from China.
- Steroids-lab found in Dallas as well as from China and Thailand
- Khat seizures in Dallas
- Ketamine diverted from veterinarians.

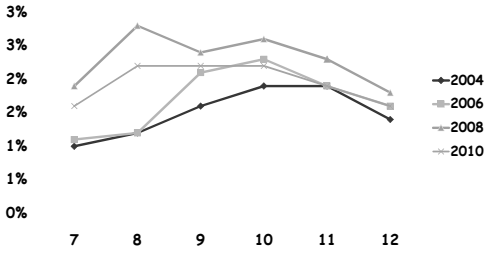
What is **DxM**? **Dextromethorphan** is a psychoactive drug found in common over the counter cough medicines.

Source: www.http:third-plateau.lycaeum.org/beginner/index.html

Dextromethorphan in Texas

- At high doses, may produce dissociative hallucinations.
- Can produce tachycardia, hypertension, agitation, ataxia, and psychosis at high doses.
- Abuse/misuse calls for Coricidin HBP to Texas Poison Control Centers were 7 in 1998 and 146 in 2010; average age 17.7 years.
- Abuse/misuse calls for DXM were 99 in 1998 and 511 in 2010; average age 21.

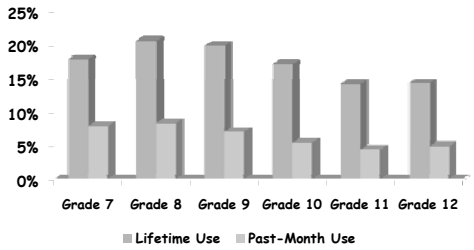
Past Month Use of Coricidin: Texas Secondary School Survey 2004-2010



Source: DSHS

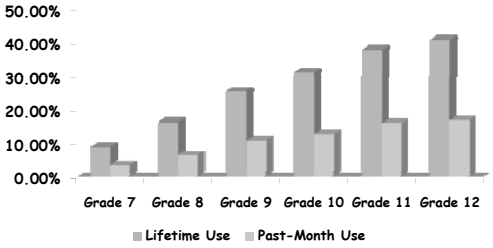
Inhalants

% Texas Secondary Students Who Had Used Inhalants Ever or in the Past Month, by Grade: 2006



Source: DSHS

% Texas Secondary Students Who Had Used Marijuana Ever or in the Past Month, by Grade: 2006



Source: DSHS

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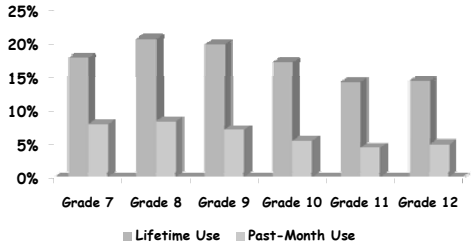
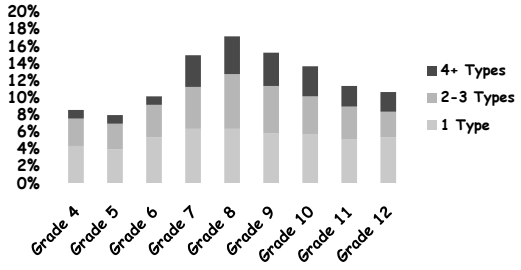


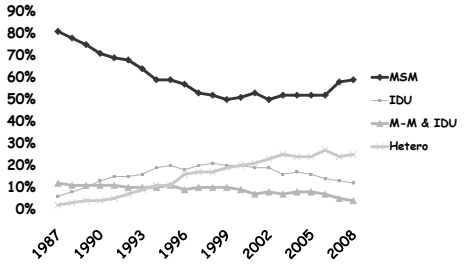
Source: DSHS

Percentage of Texas Students Who Had Ever Used Inhalants, by Grade and Number of Different Types Used: 2006



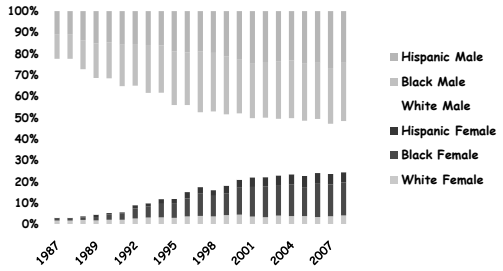
Source: DSHS

Percent of Texas AIDS Cases Reported by Selected Modes of Exposure: 1987-2008



Source: DSHS

Texas Male and Female AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity: 1999-2008



Source: DSHS

In Summary

- El Paso, Dallas, & Houston differ.
- Young heroin users increasing.
- Abuse of prescription drugs increasing.
- Plentiful meth with changing manufacturing —no decreases expected with P2P process
- Role of cigars and increased use of pot.
- Underage bingers—what to do?
- Drugged driving.
- "Chemical" drugs proliferate

To stay informed about some of these new chemicals, check www.erowid.org

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