Among Young Adults, Native American and White Males in South and West Most Likely to Use Crystal Methamphetamine

In 2001–2002, 2.8% of young adults reported using crystal methamphetamine in the past year, according to data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). While this rate is relatively low compared to the use of other drugs, it is higher than that reported by previous surveys (see CESAR FAX, Volume 16, Issue 28). The study also found that among young adults ages 18 to 26, men and persons living in the southern and western regions of the U.S. were more likely to use crystal methamphetamine. Other significant predictors of crystal methamphetamine use were being of Native American or white race and having an incarcerated father (see figures below).* Among women, crystal methamphetamine use was found to be significantly associated with drug selling, low condom use, and regretting a sexual situation due to alcohol or drug use (data not shown). The authors suggest the future research focus on the high prevalence rates among Native Americans, the effect of a father’s incarceration on methamphetamine and other drug use, and the relationship between methamphetamine use and criminal and sexual activity among women.

Percentage of U.S. Residents Ages 18 to 26 Reporting Past Year Crystal Methamphetamine Use, 2001–2002

*These differences were statistically significant after controlling for socio-demographic characteristics; cigarette, alcohol, cocaine, and I.V. drug use; and novelty seeking.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Iritani, B.J.; Hallfors, D.D.; and Bauer, D.J. “Crystal Methamphetamine Use Among Young Adults in the USA,” Addiction 102(7): 1102-1113, 2007. For more information, contact Bonita J. Iritani at iritani@pirc.org.

Baltimore City Substance Abuse Authority (BSAS) Seeks Chief of Program Operations

Duties of this full-time position include planning & overseeing the implementation & monitoring of service programs aimed at reducing substance abuse. A Master’s degree and 10 years experience in program management & substance abuse treatment required. Please send cover letter & resume to Arnold L. Ross, BSAS, One N. Charles St., Ste 1600, Baltimore, MD 21201.

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