New National Household Survey Data Illustrates
Geographical Variation in Methamphetamine Use

Methamphetamine use is highest in the western United States and lowest in the Northeast, according to recently released data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Overall, 0.6% of U.S. residents—an estimated 1.4 million persons—reported using methamphetamine in the past year, ranging from 2.2% in Nevada to 0.04% in Connecticut. States with 1% or more of their residents reporting methamphetamine use were predominantly in the western U.S., while states with less than 0.5% of their residents reporting methamphetamine use were clustered in the northeastern part of the nation. These findings support geographical variations found in other indicators of methamphetamine use (see CESAR FAX, Volume 14, Issues 12 and 30). It should be noted, however, that the average level of methamphetamine use across the United States (0.6%) remains substantially lower than those of almost all other illicit drugs, including marijuana (10.6%), prescription pain relievers used non-medically (4.7%), cocaine (2.4%), tranquilizers (2.1%), and hallucinogens (1.6%).

Methamphetamine Use in the Past Year Among U.S. Residents Age 12 or Older, 2002-2004

- 0.0% to 0.4%
- 0.5% to 0.9%
- 1.0% to 2.2%