National Treatment Admissions for Primary Abuse of Marijuana, Methamphetamine, and Other Opiates Continue to Increase; Heroin Decreases

The percentage of marijuana-, methamphetamine- and other opiates-related admissions to state-funded substance abuse treatment facilities have continued to increase in recent years, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). The percentage of treatment admissions citing marijuana as a primary substance of abuse has increased steadily over the past few years, reaching a high of 15.9% in 2004 (the most recent year for which data are available). Admissions for the primary abuse of methamphetamine and opiates other than heroin have also increased. Since 2000, treatment admissions for other opiates have doubled (from 1.6% to 3.4% in 2004) while those for methamphetamine have nearly doubled (from 3.7% to 6.9%). Heroin-related treatment admissions have declined in recent years, while admissions for primary abuse of cocaine have remained relatively steady.

*The category “Other Opiates” is composed primarily of oxycodone and nonprescription methadone, but also include other opiates and synthetics such as codeine and hydrocodone.