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

The percentage of admissions to state-funded substance abuse treatment facilities citing heroin as a primary substance of abuse decreased from a recent peak of 15.5% in 2000 to 13.8% in 2005, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). In contrast, admissions for the primary abuse of opiates other than heroin, such as oxycodone and nonprescription methadone, have more than tripled during the past decade, reaching a high of 3.7% in 2005. Methamphetamine-related admissions have also increased (from 2.8% in 1995 to 8.2% in 2005). However, national household survey data show that the number of new methamphetamine users decreased significantly from 2004 to 2005, suggesting that rates of methamphetamine are declining (data not shown; see CESAR FAX, Volume 16, Issue 6).