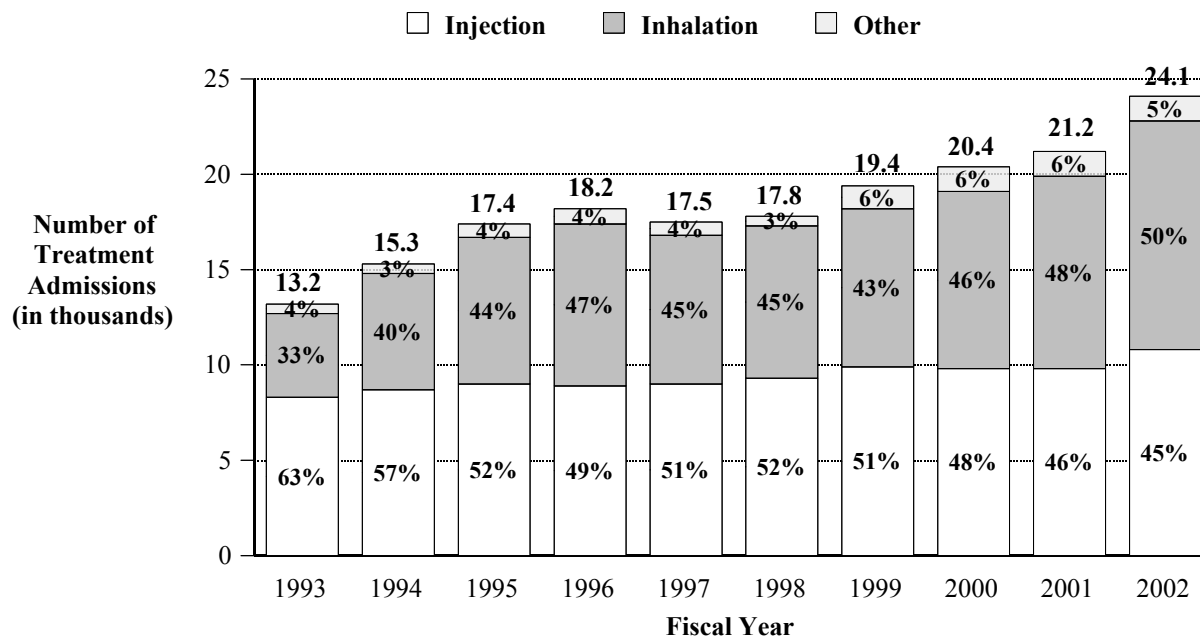


## Maryland Treatment Admissions for Heroin Use Have Doubled From 1993 to 2002; One-Half of Users Now Inhale the Drug

According to data from the Maryland Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS) an estimated 24.1 thousand treatment admissions mentioned heroin as a substance of abuse in fiscal year (FY) 2002, compared to 13.2 thousand in FY 1993. The route of administration has also changed. In FY 1993 one-third of heroin treatment clients reported inhaling the drug and nearly two-thirds reported injecting the drug. By FY 2002, one-half of heroin treatment clients reported inhalation as their primary route of administration. This statewide shift to heroin inhalation is due largely to an increase in inhalation by treatment clients residing in Baltimore City. "Heroin purity levels reached 96 percent in Baltimore during FY 2001," which "helps to explain the prevalence of inhalation among City resident admissions, as inhalation is a more effectual mode of heroin administration when purity is high" (p. 25). Treatment clients residing in suburban and rural counties, where heroin purity levels are much lower, are more likely to report injecting heroin. In fourteen counties\* at least 55% of clients reported injecting the drug in FY 2002.

**Estimated Number of Maryland Treatment Admissions for Heroin,  
by Route of Administration, FY 1993-FY 2002**



\*Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, "Outlook and Outcomes 2002 Annual Report," 2003. Available online at <http://maryland-adaa.org>. For more information, contact Eric Wish of CESAR at 301-405-9774 or [ewish@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:ewish@cesar.umd.edu).