

A FACT SHEET

SUBSTANCE USE & ABUSE IN OREGON

- ✓ Oregon's per capita drug use exceeded the national per capita average in 2006, with Oregonians most using marijuana, methamphetamine and illicit painkillers and stimulants
- ✓ Oregonians lead the nation in abuse of prescription drugs and are showing up at treatment centers in larger numbers than users of meth, cocaine and heroin combined
- ✓ Treatment admissions in Oregon for illicit prescription drugs increased 332% in past 10 years
- ✓ While local methamphetamine lab seizures have continued to decrease, addiction to meth remains widespread due to imports from labs in Mexico and in other states
- ✓ Oregon is listed as one of the top seven marijuana-producing states in the country, with large outdoor marijuana grows discovered on public and private property
- ✓ Law enforcement eradicated six times the amount of outdoor marijuana plants in 2007 than in 2005
- ✓ Drug-related deaths increased eight percent statewide in 2007
- ✓ Law enforcement has identified 140 drug-trafficking organizations in Oregon
- ✓ Oregon adults have higher rates of alcohol use and heavy drinking than the nation for all age categories over 21 years
- ✓ 41% of Oregon's motor vehicle fatalities involved alcohol, a rate unchanged for past 10 years
- ✓ 30% of physical assaults, 23% of sexual assaults, and 3% of robberies are attributable to alcohol; and well over 50% of property crimes are linked to drug and alcohol abuse
- ✓ The vast majority of inmates (75-85%) have substance abuse problems ranging from moderate to severe addiction
- ✓ 62.4% of children placed in foster care in Oregon were removed from their home because of parent drug abuse
- ✓ Alcohol use by Oregon 8th graders is 76% higher than nationally (30% in Oregon vs. 17% nationally)
- ✓ 8th and 11th graders in Oregon are more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes
- ✓ Over 302,000 Oregonians or almost 1 in 10 are in need of treatment

Sources: Oregon DHS, SEOW 2007, AOCMHP, Workdrugfree Oregon.