

# CJaggregate

Research findings from  
the Criminal Justice  
Clearinghouse



## 2020 Methamphetamine Use by San Diego County Arrestees

DECEMBER 2021

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### Notes

Please take into account the following factors when interpreting this information:

- Some variables were only answered by a small number of respondents. Caution should be used when generalizing these findings.
- When distributions are skewed, the median is the more appropriate measure of central tendency, rather than the mean.
- Due to COVID-19 and efforts to maintain social distancing and protect those being interviewed and those interviewing, the questions asked as part of this interview in 2020 were reduced.

Source: SANDAG, 2021

## Initiation and current use

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>		<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>	
<b>Why did you first start using meth?*</b>										
Get high	27%	40	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Get more energy	8%	12	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Lose weight	3%	5	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Experiment	49%	74	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Escape problems	19%	29	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Stay awake	13%	20	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Replace another drug	5%	8	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Friends/peer use	36%	54	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Improve/enhance sex	1%	2	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Other	5%	7	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
<b>Why are you using meth now?*</b>										
Get high	36%	50	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Get more energy	19%	26	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Lose weight	7%	10	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Escape problems	35%	49	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Stay awake	21%	30	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Replace another drug	2%	3	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Friends/peer use	17%	24	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Addicted	33%	46	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Improve/enhance sex	2%	3	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Other	7%	10	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
<b>In the past year, have you used meth just before or while at work/school?</b>										
Yes	N/A		33%	81	35%	76	34%	86	30%	64
No	N/A		13%	31	21%	46	21%	53	21%	45
N/A	N/A		54%	131	44%	97	45%	115	50%	108

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>How do you usually use meth?</b>					
Snort	N/A	12% 31	15% 33	11% 27	19% 42
Smoke alone	N/A	76% 191	68% 154	70% 179	70% 151
Smoke with other drug	N/A	2% 5	3% 7	4% 11	<1% 1
Inject alone	N/A	8% 20	13% 29	13% 33	9% 20
Inject with other drug	N/A	<1% 1	1% 3	1% 2	<1% 1
Eat/drink	N/A	1% 3	0% 0	1% 2	<1% 1
<b>How have you used meth in the past year?*</b>					
Snort	N/A	40% 100	51% 115	50% 128	47% 101
Smoke	N/A	91% 228	92% 208	92% 233	88% 190
Inject	N/A	25% 63	30% 68	35% 89	29% 62
Eat/drink	N/A	6% 14	3% 7	6% 15	6% 14
<b>How much meth do you typically use on a day you use meth? (Measurement unit of grams)</b>					
Mean (SD)	N/A	1.21 (1.03)	1.27 (1.02)	1.54 (1.52)	1.22 (1.71)
Median	N/A	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Range	N/A	.02-4.00	.10-4.00	.04-7.08	.05-7.00
<b>On a day you use meth, how many times do you use?</b>					
Mean (SD)	N/A	5.07 (6.03)	4.61 (5.45)	5.30 (5.29)	4.83 (5.22)
Median	N/A	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Range	N/A	1-50	1-50	1-30	1-40
<b>During the last month, what was the most days in a row (longest run) you used meth?</b>					
Mean (SD)	N/A	16.51 (12.26)	15.69 (12.34)	14.52 (12.23)	13.97 (11.90)
Median	N/A	15.00	14.00	7.00	7.00
Range	N/A	1-30	1-30	1-30	1-30

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

## Quality and availability

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>		<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>	
<b>Compared to a year ago, is the quality of the meth you're using...</b>										
Worse	52%	70	59%	135	49%	100	56%	130	49%	95
Same	15%	20	28%	64	33%	66	26%	60	33%	64
Better	33%	45	13%	29	18%	37	18%	41	18%	36
<b>Compared to a year ago, is the price you're paying for meth...</b>										
Lower	31%	43	53%	116	48%	98	47%	108	52%	103
Same	36%	50	33%	71	37%	75	38%	88	36%	71
Higher	34%	47	14%	31	15%	30	14%	33	12%	23
<b>Where do you typically buy/get meth?</b>										
Indoors	N/A		41%	95	36%	75	44%	110	43%	92
Outdoors	N/A		59%	136	64%	131	56%	138	57%	120
<b>Do you get meth within San Diego County?</b>										
Yes	N/A		97%	237	96%	207	98%	240	94%	201
No	N/A		3%	7	4%	8	2%	5	6%	13
<b>(If yes) In what area of the County do you get it?</b>										
Central	N/A		38%	89	41%	85	33%	78	37%	74
North City	N/A		7%	17	9%	19	14%	34	11%	21
South Suburban	N/A		10%	23	11%	23	11%	26	9%	17
East Suburban	N/A		24%	56	17%	36	21%	51	18%	36
North County West	N/A		7%	17	5%	11	9%	21	8%	15
North County East	N/A		12%	29	9%	19	8%	20	10%	20
East	N/A		2%	5	6%	13	3%	8	8%	15
<b>Do you have a main source for meth - one dealer you usually hook up with?</b>										
Yes	N/A		41%	101	46%	102	43%	107	50%	106
No	N/A		59%	147	54%	119	57%	142	50%	107

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016				
<b>How long have you used that person? (Days)</b>									
Mean (SD)	N/A	1,370.20 (2,320.09)	1,233.05 (2,274.50)	953.39 (1,375.71)	867.88 (1,197.88)				
Median	N/A	548	365	365	365				
Range	N/A	14-14,600	14-12,045	14 -7,300	3-7,300				
<b>Do you get other drugs from that main source?</b>									
Yes	N/A	31%	28	32%	33	32%	34	23%	24
No	N/A	69%	63	68%	69	68%	72	77%	80
<b>What do you usually do if your main source isn't around?*</b>									
Buy from someone else	N/A	62%	56	52%	53	47%	50	57%	60
Get it through a friend	N/A	8%	7	3%	3	5%	5	5%	5
Use another drug	N/A	4%	4	2%	2	4%	4	3%	3
Don't buy anything	N/A	27%	25	39%	40	34%	36	32%	34
Source is always around	N/A	4%	4	5%	5	12%	13	6%	6
Other	N/A	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>105</b>				
<b>Have you ever bought from someone you didn't know?</b>									
Yes	N/A	60%	150	58%	130	59%	149	53%	114
No	N/A	40%	98	42%	95	41%	102	47%	100
<b>In the past year, have you carried a gun or other weapon while you were getting meth?</b>									
Yes, gun	N/A	5%	13	4%	10	8%	20	8%	19
Yes, other weapon	N/A	23%	56	22%	50	20%	51	15%	36
Yes, both	N/A	5%	13	4%	8	8%	20	3%	7
No	N/A	67%	165	70%	155	64%	161	74%	174
<b>Compared to a year ago, would you say meth is more available, less available, or available about the same?</b>									
More	N/A	45%	104	44%	93	46%	112	35%	71
Less	N/A	9%	20	10%	22	16%	38	8%	17
About the same	N/A	47%	108	45%	96	38%	93	57%	116

## Distribution and production

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>		<b>251</b>		<b>226</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>217</b>	
<b>Have you, yourself, sold meth or acted as a middleman in the last year?</b>										
Yes	34%	52	38%	92	42%	93	48%	119	45%	96
No	66%	102	62%	153	58%	128	52%	131	55%	117
<b>(Of those who sold) Compared to a year ago, would you say the demand for meth has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?</b>										
Increased	67%	33	53%	46	56%	50	66%	74	56%	52
Decreased	6%	3	12%	10	9%	8	8%	9	4%	4
Same	27%	13	35%	30	35%	31	26%	29	40%	37
<b>Have you ever cooked meth yourself, or helped someone else to cook it?</b>										
Yes	N/A		3%	7	5%	11	8%	20	4%	9
No	N/A		97%	241	95%	214	92%	232	96%	204
<b>(Of those who ever cooked) Have you cooked or helped cook in the past 12 months?</b>										
Yes	N/A		29%	2	0%	0	15%	3	22%	2
No	N/A		71%	5	100%	11	85%	17	78%	7
<b>(Of those who cooked past year) What did you do?*</b>										
Cook meth	N/A		50%	1	N/A		100%	3	50%	1
Obtain chemicals	N/A		50%	1	N/A		100%	3	0%	0
Find cooking location	N/A		0%	0	N/A		67%	2	50%	1
Get equipment to cook meth	N/A		50%	1	N/A		67%	2	50%	1
Cut/package meth	N/A		100%	2	N/A		67%	2	0%	0
Other	N/A		0%	0	N/A		0%	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>N/A</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	

\*Percentages based on multiple responses.

## Other

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>During the past six months, how many sex partners did you have?</b>					
None	N/A	18%	40	16%	33
One	N/A	50%	114	54%	105
More than one	N/A	32%	73	30%	76
<b>In the past six months, how often did you have sex while high on meth (of those with a partner during this time)?</b>					
Never	N/A	12%	22	19%	22
Once in a while	N/A	36%	68	29%	54
Fairly often	N/A	25%	47	24%	46
Very often	N/A	27%	50	28%	58
<b>In the past 6 months, how often did you exchange sex for meth or for money to buy meth (of those with a partner during this time)?</b>					
Never	N/A	88%	168	92%	161
Once in a while	N/A	5%	9	6%	11
Fairly often	N/A	3%	6	1%	2
Very often	N/A	4%	7	1%	2
<b>In the past six months, how often did you engage in a sexual practice you usually wouldn't do if you weren't high on meth (of those who had sex during this time)?</b>					
Never	N/A	69%	132	77%	122
Once in a while	N/A	18%	35	17%	37
Fairly often	N/A	5%	9	3%	8
Very often	N/A	5%	10	1%	10
Don't know	N/A	2%	4	2%	3
<b>In the past six months, how often did you worry that your sexual behavior may put you at risk for getting HIV/STDs (of those who had sex during this time)?</b>					
Never	N/A	67%	127	74%	127
Once in a while	N/A	20%	38	16%	30
Fairly often	N/A	7%	14	5%	8
Very often	N/A	6%	11	4%	15