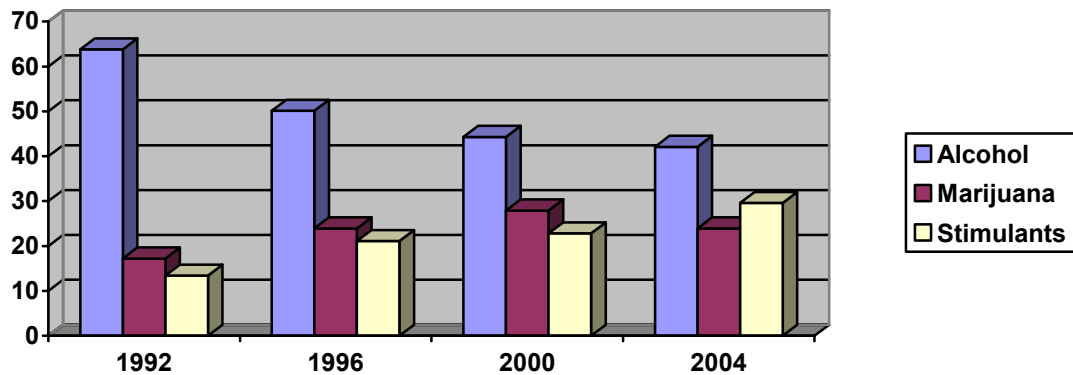


Methamphetamine Trend Analysis (1992-2004)

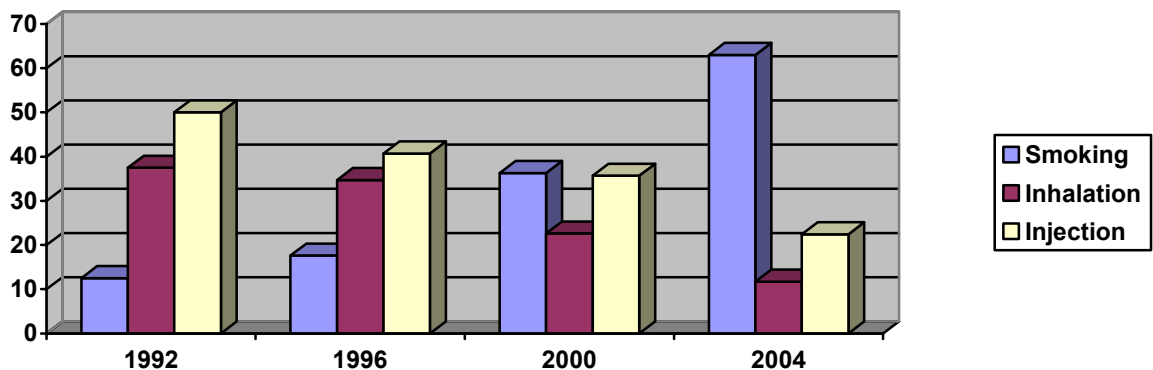
Amphetamines and methamphetamines are stimulants that affect the central nervous system. Stimulants are the primary substance of abuse in almost 30% of Colorado treatment admissions in 2004, up from 13% in 1992. When combining methamphetamines and cocaine into one category, their combined treatment admissions now surpass marijuana by nearly 6% (29.6% vs. 23.9%).

Figure 1. Treatment Admissions, by Primary Drug Type: 1992-2004



Methamphetamines can be consumed in many different methods, but smoking is the primary route. Smoking is not only the preferred method, but continues to increase in popularity among methamphetamine users. In 1992, the percentage of methamphetamine admissions that indicated smoking as the primary route was at 12%. In 2004, that number had skyrocketed to 63%. This upward trend for smoking methamphetamines was also reflected in the national figures, where smoking went from 12% in 1992 to 50% in 2002 according to data provided by SAMHSA.

Figure 2. Methamphetamine Treatment Admissions, by Route of Administration: 1992-2004



The demographic analysis of methamphetamine treatment admissions also shows some clear trends.

Race

Methamphetamine use has increased among all races but is increasing faster in the White community than other populations. In analyzing all treatment admissions by Whites, those who identify methamphetamine as their primary drug have gone from 2% in 1992 to 20% in 2004. In that same time frame, cocaine has stayed steady among Whites as their primary drug with 9.1% of treatment admissions in 1992 and 8.7% of treatment admissions in 2004.

Blacks (3.3%), Hispanic Mexicans (8%) and Native Americans (9%) who enter treatment all have under 10% of their population identifying methamphetamine as their primary substance and each of them identify cocaine as their primary drug more often.

Of all the methamphetamine treatment admissions in 2004, 84% of the clients were White.

Gender

Methamphetamine use has also increased among both male and female clients. The percentage of males admitted into treatment who identify methamphetamine as their primary drug has increased from 1.6% in 1992 to 11.6% in 2004. Cocaine use over that same time has only increased slightly from 9% to 11.7%. Female admissions that identify methamphetamine as their primary drug have increased at an even higher percentage going from 1.9% in 1992 to 18.4% in 2004. Cocaine use among women has also increased from 10% in 1992 to 17.7% in 2004.

Age

Young adults are much more likely to identify methamphetamine as their primary drug than more mature adults. Methamphetamine is identified as the primary drug among 18-25 year olds (32.5%) and 26-35 year olds (35%) in 2004, outpacing cocaine in both these age groups. The percentage of clients admitted with cocaine as their primary drug peaks with the 36-45 year olds at 37% while methamphetamines begin to trail off at just 22%. Methamphetamine use is a much lower percentage of the admissions for the 46-55 year olds (4.2%) and 56-65 year olds (0.2%)

Location*

Methamphetamine use in both rural and urban Colorado continues to rise. Methamphetamines have surpassed cocaine as the primary drug among treatment admissions in rural clients for the past 4 years. In 2004, for all admissions in rural areas that identified stimulants as their primary drug, methamphetamine outpaced cocaine (63% vs. 37%). In 2004, we saw methamphetamines surpass cocaine for the second straight year with urban clients (52.8% vs. 47.2%).

**urban clients are those whose county of residence include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson or Larimer Counties. Clients who identified any other county of residence were categorized as rural clients.*