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***Injection Drug Use Up Among Younger Heroin Treatment Clients;
Down Among Older Clients***

Injection is increasingly becoming the prevalent route of administration among younger heroin users admitted to treatment, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Since 1995, the percentage of primary heroin treatment admissions ages 29 and younger who reported injection as their usual route of administration has increased steadily, from 53% to 72% in 2004. At the same time, the percentage of older heroin treatment admissions (age 30 and older) who reported injection as their usual route of administration has decreased from 82% in 1992 to 59% in 2004. One possible explanation for this trend is that younger heroin users perceive less social stigma and/or risk of contracting HIV/AIDS associated with injecting drug use than do their older counterparts.

NOTES: TEDS includes facilities that are licensed or certified by the State substance abuse agency to provide substance abuse treatment. Data are of admissions and not individual clients. The category "Other" includes smoking, oral, and other routes of administration.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive, online analysis of the concatenated 1992-2004 TEDS data set, conducted 11/15/2006. The SAMHDA is available online at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SAMHDA>.

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***Majority of Young Adults Who Use Prescription Pain Relievers
Nonmedically Obtain the Drugs Free from a Friend or Relative; Few
Obtain Over Internet***

In 2005, more than 4 million adults ages 18 to 24 reported using prescription pain relievers nonmedically in the past year, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). More than one-half (53%) of these young adults obtained the pain relievers free-of-charge from a friend or relative. The other most commonly mentioned methods were obtaining them from prescriptions from one doctor (13%) and buying them from a friend or relative (11%). Users who also met the criteria for prescription pain reliever abuse or dependence were less likely to report obtaining the drugs free from a friend or relative (38%) but were more likely to report buying the drug either from a friend or relative (20%) or a drug dealer (13%). This report is available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k6/getPain/getPain.cfm>.

NOTE: The response options "Wrote a fake prescription" and "Stole them from a health facility" were reported by less than one percent of both those who used and those who abused or were dependent on prescription pain relievers in the past year and are not shown in the figure above.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "How Young Adults Obtain Prescription Pain Relievers for Nonmedical Use," *The NSDUH Report*, Issue 39, 2006.