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***Rural Methamphetamine Users May Be at Higher
Risk for Health Complications***

Rural methamphetamine users living in the Midwest may be at higher risk than urban users for medical complications related to their methamphetamine use, according to a recent study of adult methamphetamine users receiving services at five Midwestern drug treatment centers. Rural methamphetamine users were significantly more likely to report ever using the drug intravenously (54% vs. 32%) as well as exclusive intravenous use of methamphetamine (i.e., they never used the drug any other way) (37% vs. 20%). In addition, rural methamphetamine users were more likely to meet the criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence and to smoke a greater number of cigarettes per day than urban users. The authors suggest that, “the infectious complications associated with injection drug use and the medical risks associated with greater cigarette use and alcoholism may contribute to a higher frequency of infectious diseases, chronic lung disease, and alcohol-related liver disease in rural than urban methamphetamine users”(p. 83).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, *Treatment Episode Dataset (TEDS) Highlights—2005, National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services, 2007*. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm#teds2>.