

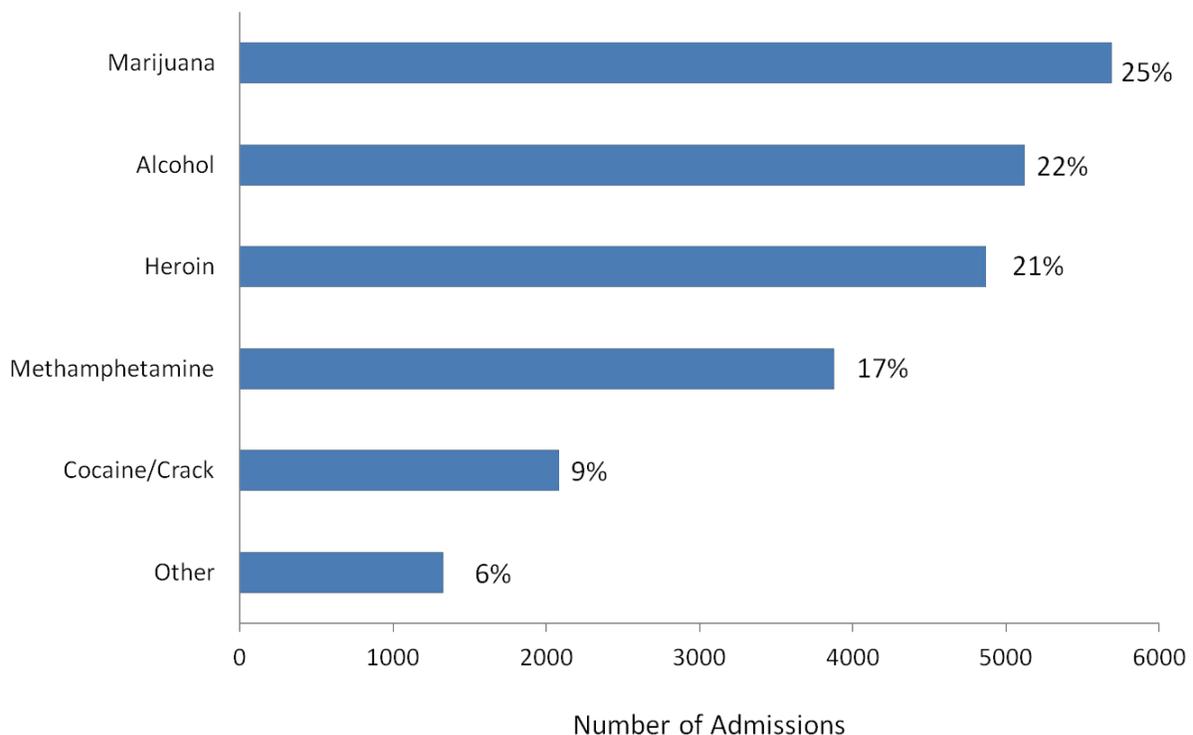
The LACES Brief

June
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An update on the Los Angeles County Evaluation System,
An Outcome Reporting Program

This Brief provides a snapshot of drug abuse patterns and emerging trends for Los Angeles County taken from the most recent National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG) report. The overall number of treatment admissions from January to June 2011 was similar to that of the corresponding 6-month period in 2010 ($n=22,957$ and $n=23,870$, respectively). The four primary substances accounting for the largest percentages of primary admissions were marijuana (25%), alcohol (22%), heroin (21%) and methamphetamine (17%), differing little from CY 2010 (24%, 23%, 20%, and 16%, respectively). In terms of illicit drugs, more than half (57%) of marijuana admissions were for adolescents younger than 18. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), a metabolite of cannabis, was identified in 14% of coroner toxicology cases, a small increase from the 2010 percentage (12%). There was little change in admissions for heroin use from 2010 to 2011 and heroin/morphine was present in 15 percent of coroner toxicology cases in 2011, continuing a decreasing trend in percentages (from 20% in 2009 and 16% in 2010). Females represented higher proportions of admissions to treatment for methamphetamine (49%) than for all other major substances. Hispanics had high representation (57%) among methamphetamine admissions, similar to their percentage among marijuana admissions. Cocaine accounted for 9% of Los Angeles County treatment admissions in the first half of 2011, continuing a downward trend (from 13% in CY 2009 and 10% in 2010). African-Americans represented an increasing majority of cocaine treatment admissions, at 65% of cocaine admissions, up from 63% and 62% during CY 2010, 2009 respectively.

**Chart 1: Number and Percent of Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug
January - June 2011 (N=22,957)**



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