

The DAWN Report

JUNE 2003

Trends in Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits, 1994-2001 At a Glance

This issue of *The DAWN Report* provides a handy reference to the most recent trends in emergency department (ED) visits related to drug abuse. The tables inside present 8-year trends from 1994 to 2001 for selected individual drugs and drug categories. Included are the drugs reported most frequently in ED visits related to drug abuse and less frequently reported drugs of interest because of their potential for abuse.

In each table, the 3 columns on the right show percent changes between the years noted for differences that were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). Estimates in this publication pertain to the continental U.S. (48 States).

The major illicit drugs are classified as **Major Substances of Abuse** (see page 2), along with non-pharmaceutical inhalants and alcohol, which are reported to DAWN only when present in combination with another reportable drug.

Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications and dietary supplements are classified as **Other Substances of Abuse** (pages 2-3). Selected **Psychotherapeutic Agents** (pages 4-5) and **Analgesics (pain relievers, page 6)** are summarized in separate tables because of their frequency.

Prescription and OTC drugs are classified by therapeutic category,¹ regardless of the effect of the drug when abused. All drugs are classified by generic, not brand names. An index that maps brand to generic names is provided with ED publications on the DAWN website.

For all drugs, the unit of measurement is the “drug mention.” A “mention” is an instance of a drug being reported (“mentioned”) in an ED visit related to drug abuse. As many as 4 drugs plus alcohol can be mentioned for a single ED visit.

In Brief

- In 2001, there were over 638,000 ED visits related to drug abuse in the coterminous U.S. This translates to 252 visits per 100,000 population or 0.6 percent of all ED visits.
- Seven categories of drugs accounted for 85 percent of ED drug mentions in 2001. The ED visits related to drug abuse most frequently involved alcohol (34% of mentions), cocaine (30%), marijuana (17%), benzodiazepines (16%), narcotic analgesics/combinations (16%), heroin (15%), other analgesics/combinations (12%), and antidepressants (10%).
- From 2000 to 2001, there were significant increases in ED mentions of marijuana (15%, from 96,426 to 110,512) and cocaine (10%, from 174,881 to 193,034). Mentions of most other major substances of abuse were unchanged from 2000 to 2001.
- ED mentions of benzodiazepines increased 14 percent from 2000 to 2001 (from 91,078 to 103,972), as did the top 2 benzodiazepines, alprazolam (up 16%) and benzodiazepines-NOS (up 35%). The latter includes benzodiazepines not identified by name.
- ED mentions of narcotic analgesics/combinations rose 21 percent (from 82,373 to 99,317) from 2000 to 2001.
- Narcotic analgesics not identified by name were mentioned most frequently (narcotic analgesics-NOS, 32,196 mentions, up 24% from 2000 to 2001), followed by those containing hydrocodone (21,567), oxycodone (18,409, up 70%), and methadone (10,725, up 37%). Narcotic analgesics/combinations containing propoxyphene (5,361), codeine (3,720, down 30%), and morphine (3,403) were much less frequent and not increasing.

¹ This classification of drugs is derived from the Multum *Lexicon*, Copyright ©2002, Multum Information Services, Inc. The Multum Licensing Agreement governing use of the *Lexicon* can be found on the Internet at www.multum.com and is reproduced in many DAWN publications.

ED mentions for drug categories and selected drugs, total ED visits related to drug abuse, total drug mentions, and total ED visits: 1994-2001

Drug category and selected drugs ¹	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2000	Total 2001	% change ² 1994, 2001	% change ² 1999, 2001	% change ² 2000, 2001
TOTAL DRUG ABUSE ED VISITS	518,880	513,519	513,933	526,818	542,432	554,767	601,563	638,484	23.1	15.1	6.1
TOTAL DRUG ABUSE MENTIONS	899,600	900,287	906,366	942,382	981,764	1,014,243	1,099,306	1,165,367	29.5	14.9	6.0
TOTAL ED VISITS (in 1,000s)	89,697	88,548	91,189	89,720	89,683	91,100	96,163	100,518	12.1	10.3	4.5
MAJOR SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE	449,964	458,083	478,676	511,038	549,060	575,718	624,390	669,559	48.8	16.3	
Alcohol-in-combination.....	160,798	166,907	166,172	171,963	184,991	196,222	204,510	218,005	35.6		
Cocaine.....	143,337	135,711	152,420	161,083	172,011	168,751	174,881	193,034	34.7	14.4	10.4
Heroin.....	63,158	69,556	72,980	70,712	75,688	82,192	94,804	93,064	47.4		
Marijuana.....	40,034	45,259	53,770	64,720	76,842	87,068	96,426	110,512	176.0		14.6
Amphetamines.....	10,118	9,581	9,772	10,496	12,183	12,496	17,134	18,555	83.4	48.5	
Methamphetamine.....	17,537	15,933	11,002	17,154	11,486	10,447	13,505	14,923			
MDMA (Ecstasy).....	253	421	319	637	1,143	2,850	4,511	5,542	2,090.5	94.5	
Ketamine.....	19	...	81	...	209	396	263	679	3,473.7		
LSD.....	5,158	5,682	4,569	5,219	4,982	5,126	4,016	2,821	-45.3	-45.0	
PCP.....	5,899	5,963	3,441	3,626	3,436	3,663	5,404	6,102		66.6	
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	1,577	1,463	1,600	1,629	1,849	1,533	1,849	1,788			
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol).....	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GHB.....	56	145	638	762	1,282	3,178	4,969	3,340	5,864.3		
Inhalants.....	1,511	1,036	1,313	2,225	2,211	1,162	1,522	676	-55.3		-55.6
Combinations NTA.....	495	163	383	201	125	94	127	298			
OTHER SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE	449,636	442,204	427,691	431,344	432,704	438,525	474,916	495,808		13.1	
PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS	190,467	190,270	193,219	191,512	193,095	196,299	204,527	220,289	15.7		7.7
Antidepressants											
Antipsychotics											
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics											
CNS stimulants											
CNS AGENTS	165,657	168,222	166,219	170,602	174,120	171,208	203,572	210,685	27.2	23.1	
Analgesics											
Anorexiant	2,354	2,489	2,655	2,349	1,552	1,436	1,540	953	-59.5		
phenylpropanolamine.....	1,487	1,366	1,312	770	545	647	725	129	-91.3	-80.1	-82.2
anorexiant-NOS.....	677	774	1,065	524	398	425	754	596			
Anticonvulsants	9,358	10,455	11,496	12,193	13,990	14,938	16,849	14,642	56.5		
carbamazepine.....	3,879	3,633	3,743	3,473	3,221	3,113	2,276	1,827	-52.9		
divalproex sodium.....	1,762	2,550	4,099	5,155	6,228	5,984	6,235	5,365	204.5		
gabapentin.....	...	20	...	296	1,002	2,395	4,465	3,461	...		
phenytoin.....	3,266	3,573	2,923	2,426	2,974	2,766	2,239	1,795	-45.0		
topiramate.....	0	0	0	0	...	...	540	621			
valproic acid.....	279	449	598	618	263	357	916	...			

See pages 4-5

See page 6

Drug category and selected drugs ¹	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2000	Total 2001	% change ² 1994, 2001	% change ² 1999, 2001	% change ² 2000, 2001
CNS AGENTS (continued)											
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	1,263	849	865	786	1,134	1,003	1,139	526	-58.4		
Antiparkinson agents	3,519	3,463	3,039	2,564	1,895	1,264	755	985	-72.0		
benztropine.....	2,790	2,787	2,363	2,055	1,713	1,036	658	735	-73.7		
General anesthetics	2	2	...	6	10	...	...	10	400.0		
Muscle relaxants	12,223	13,733	13,520	12,318	13,612	13,717	15,914	19,001	55.5	38.5	19.4
carisoprodol.....	6,569	7,771	7,279	6,133	8,454	8,829	9,520	11,239	71.1		
chlorzoxazone.....	535	338	512	...	27	...	...	23	-95.7		
cyclobenzaprine.....	3,133	2,924	3,599	3,626	2,967	2,761	3,975	4,191		51.8	
metaxalone.....	17	...	235	266	246	359	527	909	5,247.1		
methocarbamol.....	1,127	1,053	682	1,054	977	719	689	597	-47.0		
tizanidine.....	0	0	0	0	0	...	358	350		...	
Miscellaneous CNS agents	0	0	0	1	0	...	...	...
RESPIRATORY AGENTS											
Antihistamines	15,747	13,915	12,856	11,593	11,258	8,749	11,521	12,238	-22.3	39.9	
Bronchodilators	3,021	2,739	2,222	2,770	2,470	3,047	3,265	4,112			
Bronchodilators	2,805	2,063	1,354	1,084	843	955	419	422	-85.0		
Decongestants	2,198	2,000	1,629	1,797	1,554	609	1,049	859	-60.9		
Expectorants	456	402	634	658	1,016	544	775	476			
Upper respiratory combinations	6,849	6,232	6,742	5,111	5,064	3,398	5,676	5,697		67.7	
Respiratory agents NTA	419	478	275	173	...	195	337	672		244.6	
CARDIOVASCULAR AGENTS											
Antiadrenergic agents, centrally acting	12,939	12,016	10,242	8,423	8,473	9,548	9,348	9,984			
clonidine.....	1,259	1,291	1,412	1,603	1,003	1,401	1,156	1,852			60.2
clonidine.....	1,108	1,202	1,200	1,360	859	1,377	1,093	1,781			62.9
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	2,827	2,598	2,339	2,250	2,255	2,334	1,956	2,382			
atenolol.....	825	394	931	702	594	830	858	1,238			
propranolol.....	1,424	1,639	1,232	968	1,011	925	737	521	-63.4		
Calcium channel blocking agents	2,658	3,095	1,931	1,511	1,406	1,330	1,525	1,386	-47.9		
Diuretics	1,105	1,209	1,035	878	668	787	1,049	821			
Cardiovascular agents NTA	5,090	3,823	3,525	2,182	3,141	3,696	3,662	3,543	-30.4		
ephedrine.....	1,992	1,265	1,366	481	726	692	749	728	-63.5		
OTHER SUBSTANCES											
Drug unknown	64,825	57,781	45,156	49,214	45,758	52,721	45,948	42,611	-34.3		
Drug unknown	34,167	27,412	20,271	26,221	23,704	32,804	25,698	23,923	-30.0		

¹ This classification of drugs is derived from the *Multum Lexicon*, Copyright © 2002, Multum Information Services, Inc. The classification has been modified to meet DAWN's unique requirements (2002). The Multum Licensing Agreement governing use of the *Lexicon* is provided in an appendix to other DAWN publications and can be found on the Internet at www.multum.com.

² This column denotes statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) increases and decreases between estimates for the periods noted.

NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals with 24-hour EDs in the coterminous U.S. Dots (...) indicate that an estimate with a relative standard error greater than 50 percent has been suppressed. For the Atlanta contribution to the national estimates, data for January-June 2001 were imputed for Atlanta nonrespondents based on actual data from January-June 2000. These estimates have been published already in *ED Trends From DAWN* and in the *Detailed ED Tables, 2001*, which are available online at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>.

CNS = central nervous system, ED = emergency department, GHB = gamma hydroxy butyrate, LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide, MAO = monoamine oxidase, MDMA = methylenedioxymethamphetamine, NOS = not otherwise specified, NTA = not tabulated above, PCP = phencyclidine, SSRI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2001 (03/2002 update).

Psychotherapeutic agents: ED mentions for drug categories and selected drugs: 1994-2001

Drug category and selected drugs ¹	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2000	Total 2001	% change ² 1994, 2001	% change ² 1999, 2001	% change ² 2000, 2001
PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS	190,467	190,270	193,219	191,512	193,095	196,299	204,527	220,289	15.7		7.7
Antidepressants	54,442	53,764	55,886	54,138	54,382	58,964	60,576	61,012			
MAO inhibitors	405	303	...	291	28	14	...	...	...
SSRI antidepressants	20,402	21,585	23,651	24,317	24,768	24,882	26,715	26,972	32.2		
citalopram	0	0	0	0	0	1,563	3,458	4,474		186.2	
fluoxetine	9,110	9,506	9,598	10,502	9,813	9,381	7,939	6,362	-30.2	-32.2	
fluvoxamine	0	271	591	638	421	471	629	227			
paroxetine	3,914	5,656	5,990	7,180	7,646	7,256	8,020	8,923	128.0		
sertraline	7,377	6,150	7,472	5,997	6,887	6,210	6,670	6,932			
Tricyclic antidepressants	24,625	19,429	18,962	16,223	13,130	13,526	11,838	12,447	-49.5		
amitriptyline	11,266	8,897	8,874	8,445	6,710	5,716	6,444	4,673	-58.5		-27.5
desipramine	1,240	735	755	401	238	219	...	236	-81.0		
doxepin	4,272	2,726	2,402	2,091	1,537	1,552	1,123	772	-81.9	-50.3	
imipramine	2,757	2,483	1,838	1,383	718	748	563	390	-85.9		
nortriptyline	2,707	2,350	2,244	1,301	1,275	888	663	658	-75.7		
tricyclic antidepressants-NOS	1,301	1,819	2,224	2,326	2,427	4,259	2,623	5,515	323.9		110.3
Miscellaneous antidepressants	9,011	12,447	13,155	13,307	16,455	20,542	21,953	21,459	138.1		
bupropion	757	1,249	964	1,529	2,681	3,859	3,809	4,145	447.6		
mirtazapine	0	0	0	...	606	1,420	2,416	1,898			
nefazodone	0	234	1,103	673	1,552	1,800	1,608	1,494			
trazodone	7,285	9,455	9,210	8,733	9,674	9,853	9,798	9,347			
venlafaxine	341	1,235	1,606	1,632	1,629	3,209	3,722	3,994	1,071.3		
antidepressants-NOS	516	144	268	729	261	343	599	581			
Antipsychotics	25,012	21,902	18,947	16,983	16,270	15,223	20,097	20,182	-19.3	32.6	
Phenothiazine antipsychotics	11,899	9,125	7,743	5,332	4,310	2,088	2,107	1,359	-88.6	-34.9	
chlorpromazine	2,607	2,202	2,154	1,198	870	567	613	636	-75.6		
fluphenazine	1,475	792	884	501	424	207	89	47	-96.8		
perphenazine	2,212	1,896	1,452	764	813	...	168	...	...
prochlorperazine	302	555	307	284	400	272	311	207			
thioridazine	3,189	2,566	2,243	1,725	1,227	478	782	201	-93.7		-74.3
trifluoperazine	1,391	736	397	454	370	119	49	...	...
Psychotherapeutic combinations	617	522	369	283	...	...	...	...	...
Thioxanthenes	1,781	1,176	531	828	299	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous antipsychotic agents	10,715	11,079	10,304	10,540	11,402	12,771	17,661	18,542	73.0	45.2	
clozapine	418	214	184	63	...	...	191	214			
haloperidol	3,014	2,718	3,311	2,306	2,130	1,183	1,167	1,016	-66.3		
lithium	5,964	6,707	4,678	4,864	3,480	3,867	3,720	3,410	-42.8		
olanzapine	0	0	0	1,449	2,759	3,285	5,454	5,217		58.8	
quetiapine	0	0	0	0	484	896	3,009	4,346		385.0	
risperidone	588	1,024	1,848	1,616	2,154	3,352	3,899	4,046	588.1		

Drug category and selected drugs ¹	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2000	Total 2001	% change ² 1994, 2001	% change ² 1999, 2001	% change ² 2000, 2001
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	106,421	108,881	112,847	114,228	118,352	118,467	120,519	135,949	27.7	14.8	12.8
Barbiturates	5,887	6,793	7,129	7,039	8,760	7,777	7,102	9,506	61.5		33.8
phenobarbital	2,479	2,897	2,338	1,832	2,546	1,601	1,798	1,117	-54.9		
barbiturates-NOS	2,852	3,610	4,220	4,927	6,031	5,753	4,848	7,209	152.8		48.7
Benzodiazepines	74,637	76,548	78,640	82,621	88,808	90,539	91,078	103,972	39.3	14.8	14.2
alprazolam	17,168	17,082	16,655	17,468	17,833	20,484	22,105	25,644	49.4	25.2	16.0
chlordiazepoxide	2,563	2,661	2,074	1,155	1,516	1,184	1,384	953	-62.8		
clonazepam	12,165	12,802	13,375	14,597	17,450	16,584	18,005	19,117	57.1		
clorazepate	725	1,047	1,342	959	1,011	374	383	574			
diazepam	13,560	14,249	13,601	13,366	12,758	11,406	12,090	11,447			
flurazepam	1,497	1,407	1,498	729	884	538	463	603	-59.7		
lorazepam	12,226	11,256	10,035	10,818	10,472	10,692	10,671	11,902			
oxazepam	475	342	697	395	670	317	307	452			
temazepam	3,739	2,888	2,699	2,731	3,104	2,694	2,742	2,637			
triazolam	991	776	727	322	537	560	363	235	-76.3		
benzodiazepines-NOS	9,139	11,587	15,363	19,979	22,507	25,520	22,376	30,302	231.6		35.4
Misc. anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	25,898	25,541	27,078	24,569	20,784	20,151	22,339	22,472			
buspirone	1,358	1,682	1,316	1,510	1,190	2,086	2,299	1,280		-38.6	-44.3
chloral hydrate	477	381	475	152	45	...	37	...	...
diphenhydramine	13,958	11,953	13,008	11,122	8,058	6,771	7,440	7,670	-45.0		
doxylamine	2,024	1,933	2,034	1,269	1,435	1,230	1,433	1,310			
hydroxyzine	3,150	2,680	2,776	2,168	1,713	2,525	1,921	1,458	-53.7		
zolpidem	1,410	4,037	5,250	5,624	5,637	5,267	6,810	8,289	487.9	57.4	
anxiolytics, sedatives and hypnotics-NOS	2,808	2,153	1,917	2,433	2,326	1,587	2,086	1,685	-40.0		
CNS stimulants	4,592	5,723	5,539	6,162	4,091	3,645	3,336	3,146	-31.5		
caffeine	3,176	3,562	3,116	3,146	2,120	2,070	1,674	1,834	-42.3		
methylphenidate	1,190	1,860	1,904	2,474	1,728	1,478	1,487	1,279			

¹ This classification of drugs is derived from the *Multum Lexicon*, Copyright © 2002, Multum Information Services, Inc. The classification has been modified to meet DAWN's unique requirements (2002). The Multum Licensing Agreement governing use of the *Lexicon* is provided in an appendix to other DAWN publications and can be found on the Internet at www.multum.com.

² This column denotes statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) increases and decreases between estimates for the periods noted.

NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals with 24-hour EDs in the coterminous U.S. Dots (...) indicate that an estimate with a relative standard error greater than 50 percent has been suppressed. For the Atlanta contribution to the national estimates, data for January-June 2001 were imputed for Atlanta nonrespondents based on actual data from January-June 2000. These estimates have been published already in *ED Trends From DAWN* and in the *Detailed ED Tables, 2001*, which are available online at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>.

CNS = central nervous system, ED = emergency department, GHB = gamma hydroxy butyrate, LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide, MAO = monoamine oxidase, MDMA = methylenedioxymethamphetamine, NOS = not otherwise specified, NTA = not tabulated above, PCP = phencyclidine, SSRI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2001 (03/2002 update).

Analgesics: ED mentions for drug categories and selected drugs: 1994-2001

Drug category and selected drugs ¹	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2000	Total 2001	% change ² 1994, 2001	% change ² 1999, 2001	% change ² 2000, 2001
Analgesics	136,939	137,231	134,638	140,385	141,929	138,736	167,194	174,500	27.4	25.8	
Antimigraine agents	549	844	603	798	507	671	502	660			
Cox-2 inhibitors	0	0	0	0	0	...	1,002	1,314		...	
Narcotic analgesics/combinations ...	44,518	45,254	46,941	54,116	58,946	69,011	82,373	99,317	123.1	43.9	20.6
codeine/combinations	9,439	8,732	7,594	7,869	6,620	4,974	5,295	3,720	-60.6	-25.2	-29.7
dihydrocodeine/combinations .....	...	...	3	2	...	...	3	...			
fentanyl/combinations	28	22	34	203	286	337	576	710	2,435.7	110.7	
hydrocodone/combinations	9,320	9,686	11,419	11,570	13,611	15,252	20,098	21,567	131.4	41.4	
hydromorphone/combinations	887	569	609	604	937	1,313	...	...	
meperidine/combinations	925	1,045	876	864	730	882	1,085	665			
methadone	3,252	4,247	4,129	3,832	4,810	5,426	7,819	10,725	229.8	97.7	37.2
morphine/combinations	1,099	1,283	864	1,300	1,955	2,217	2,483	3,403	209.6		
opium/combinations .....	...	...	30	49	24	...	167	96			
oxycodone/combinations	4,069	3,393	3,190	5,012	5,211	6,429	10,825	18,409	352.4	186.3	70.1
pentazocine/combinations	289	153	196	202	329	262	...	247			
phenacetin/combinations .....	...	0	0	...	1	0	1	0			-100.0
propoxyphene/combinations	6,731	6,294	5,889	6,502	5,826	5,632	5,485	5,361			
narcotic analgesics-NOS	8,307	9,562	11,855	15,893	18,495	25,946	25,935	32,196	287.6		24.1
all other narcotic analgesics/ combinations NTA	59	...	253	211	...	124	392	...			
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents	28,742	30,401	25,295	26,441	25,695	21,631	24,793	22,663	-21.2		
ibuprofen	19,588	21,754	17,350	17,647	17,567	14,696	18,338	17,123			
naproxen	4,302	5,253	4,546	5,330	5,549	4,610	5,080	4,270			
Salicylates/combinations	18,990	17,153	15,717	14,699	15,106	11,376	13,784	8,499	-55.2	-25.3	-38.3
aspirin/combinations	16,875	15,443	13,382	13,173	13,472	10,288	12,710	7,235	-57.1	-29.7	-43.1
salicylates-NOS	1,772	1,299	1,781	1,221	1,439	1,046	931	1,197			
Miscellaneous analgesics/ combinations	44,119	43,499	46,002	44,129	41,601	35,926	44,667	42,044		17.0	
acetaminophen/combinations	43,637	42,428	44,297	41,706	38,648	34,137	42,066	39,165		14.7	
tramadol	0	645	1,290	1,418	1,972	1,113	1,810	2,329		109.3	
analgesics-NOS	478	415	407	1,001	975	588	785	544			
Analgesic combinations NTA	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

¹ This classification of drugs is derived from the *Multum Lexicon*, Copyright © 2002, Multum Information Services, Inc. The classification has been modified to meet DAWN's unique requirements (2002). The Multum Licensing Agreement governing use of the *Lexicon* is provided in an appendix to other DAWN publications and can be found on the Internet at www.multum.com.

² This column denotes statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) increases and decreases between estimates for the periods noted.

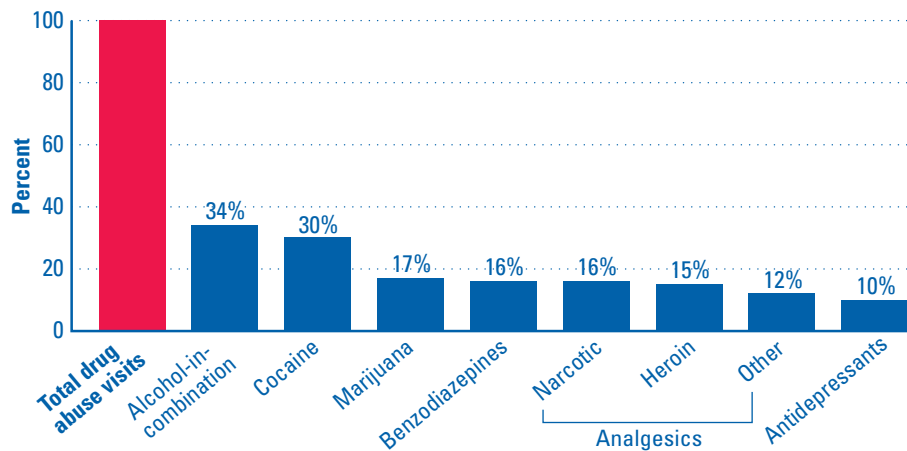
NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals with 24-hour EDs in the coterminous U.S. Dots (...) indicate that an estimate with a relative standard error greater than 50 percent has been suppressed. For the Atlanta contribution to the national estimates, data for January-June 2001 were imputed for Atlanta nonrespondents based on actual data from January-June 2000. These estimates have been published already in *ED Trends From DAWN* and in the *Detailed ED Tables, 2001*, which are available online at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>.

CNS = central nervous system, ED = emergency department, GHB = gamma hydroxy butyrate, LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide, MAO = monoamine oxidase, MDMA = methylenedioxymethamphetamine, NOS = not otherwise specified, NTA = not tabulated above, PCP = phencyclidine, SSRI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2001 (03/2002 update).

Most frequent drugs mentioned in ED visits related to drug abuse: 2001

In 2001, 85 percent of ED drug mentions came from only 7 categories: alcohol-in-combination, cocaine, marijuana, benzodiazepines, analgesics, heroin, and antidepressants. Because they are illicit drugs, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana are well known, long-standing problems that receive much attention from many data systems. Yet, benzodiazepines, analgesics, and antidepressants together represented nearly 30 percent (339,484) of total ED drug mentions in 2001. DAWN data help to focus greater attention to the abuse potential of these drugs.



Other DAWN Publications

This report summarizes only major drug categories and selected drugs for the coterminous U.S. This information has been extracted from more detailed DAWN publications that are available online at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>. Thousands of drugs are reported in ED visits to DAWN each year and estimates are available not only for the U.S. but also for 21 major metropolitan areas.

In addition to greater drug and geographic detail, other DAWN publications include:

- Descriptions of the hospital ED sample, response rates, population estimates, and data collection methods.
- Estimates for each of 21 metropolitan areas, demographic characteristics of patients, and characteristics of the ED visits themselves.

- Extensive drug detail, including street terms for the major substances of abuse, and the component drugs among the psychotherapeutic, central nervous system (CNS), respiratory, and cardiovascular agents.
- Estimated rates per 100,000 population, which are essential for making comparisons across age, gender, or geographic subgroups of differing sizes.
- Relative standard errors for all published estimates.
- An index of generic and brand (trade) names for prescription and OTC pharmaceuticals.

DAWN publications:

1. *The DAWN Report* focuses on topics of special interest in a brief and accessible format. Topics for *The DAWN Report* are frequently the result of consumer input.

2. *Emergency Department Trends From DAWN* is published twice each year. The first publication includes preliminary estimates developed from the first half-year of data (January-June). The second, more extensive publication presents final estimates for the full year with statistical comparisons to prior years.
3. *Detailed ED Tables* are published annually on the Internet and contain cross-tabulations of estimates for specific data items for the most recent year along with extensive information on the drugs reported in combination, with an emphasis on the most frequently occurring patterns.
4. *Mortality Data From DAWN*, published annually, presents data on drug abuse deaths reported to DAWN by medical examiners and coroners from selected metropolitan areas.

All publications are available online and free printed copies may be ordered.

The DAWN Report is published periodically by the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This issue was written by Dr. Wendy Kissin (Westat) and Dr. Judy Ball (SAMHSA/OAS Project Officer). All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission from SAMHSA. Citation of the source is appreciated.

About DAWN

The **Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)** is a national surveillance system that collects data on drug-related visits to emergency departments (EDs) and drug-related deaths reviewed by medical examiners and coroners. Data on ED visits are collected from a national probability sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals, with oversampling in 21 major metropolitan areas. Data from the sample are used to generate estimates for the coterminous U.S. and the 21 metropolitan areas.

ED visits are reportable to DAWN if a patient between the ages of 6 and 97 was treated for a condition associated with intentional drug abuse, including recreational use, dependence, or suicide attempt. Visits involving chronic health conditions resulting from drug abuse are reportable. Abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications is reportable. Adverse reactions associated with appropriate use of these drugs and accidental ingestion or inhalation of any drug are not reportable.

DAWN ED Data Collection Areas

This map shows the 21 metropolitan areas where EDs are oversampled by DAWN. Estimates from each of the metropolitan areas are pooled with estimates from the National Panel (a sample of hospitals outside of the 21 areas) to produce national estimates of drug abuse-related ED visits for the coterminous U.S.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Office of Applied Studies
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 16-105
Rockville, MD 20857

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

**FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
SAMHSA
PERMIT NO. G-283**