

Table 3.92

Drug abuse-related emergency department episodes

By patient and episode characteristics, United States, 1994-2002

Patient and episode characteristics	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total number of drug episodes	518,880	513,429	513,841	526,671	542,250	554,570	601,392	638,345	670,307
Rate per 100,000 population	225	221	218	221	225	228	243	252	261
Sex									
Male	263,823	255,968	257,472	269,845	281,195	291,943	309,520	333,239	355,155
Female	250,182	252,128	250,753	251,963	256,098	257,860	281,712	296,305	308,098
Unknown	4,875	5,333	5,616	4,863	4,956	4,766	10,160	8,800	7,054
Race, ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	278,747	277,460	273,611	283,886	295,178	309,909	334,675	351,110	372,727
Black, non-Hispanic	141,351	139,386	135,295	134,894	136,471	132,901	133,727	139,371	142,974
Hispanic	50,368	47,350	55,024	52,695	57,162	56,783	68,272	79,517	79,098
Other race ^a	6,038	5,533	6,017	6,094	5,379	5,584	5,160	5,209	4,499
Unknown	42,377	43,699	43,895	49,102	48,060	49,394	59,559	63,138	71,008
Age									
6 to 17 years	61,294	62,215	64,986	63,157	59,875	53,810	64,460	62,704	64,142
18 to 25 years	112,273	103,699	98,611	104,549	103,367	109,562	123,294	127,110	140,475
26 to 34 years	151,419	143,922	139,530	138,882	138,467	131,183	135,460	145,408	145,806
35 years and older	190,446	202,214	209,857	218,364	239,132	259,206	277,139	301,721	318,799
Unknown	B	1,379	857	1,719	1,410	809	1,038	1,401	1,084
Drug use motive									
Psychic effect	85,656	90,996	97,175	94,329	97,389	105,366	118,686	129,007	132,711
Dependence	165,961	163,988	167,370	178,556	189,091	202,690	217,118	228,994	239,653
Suicide	199,554	200,944	191,090	191,112	189,634	174,786	192,861	194,185	189,198
Other	5,530	4,747	5,060	5,686	5,482	7,503	8,406	10,273	9,178
Unknown motive	62,180	52,754	53,145	56,987	60,653	64,225	64,321	75,886	99,567
Reason for emergency department contact									
Unexpected reaction	66,529	57,371	61,899	68,677	71,168	78,336	92,497	108,309	131,315
Overdose	269,442	271,546	252,636	244,553	244,894	232,123	264,036	263,951	258,931
Chronic effects	56,307	60,165	53,382	49,273	50,110	49,884	52,164	53,256	57,047
Withdrawal	14,051	15,127	15,009	15,176	17,978	25,910	22,497	24,603	29,229
Seeking detoxification	52,329	50,479	59,921	67,886	73,042	72,959	90,623	99,126	103,674
Accident, injury	16,452	16,184	17,991	20,399	19,016	20,537	16,072	18,469	19,706
Other	21,602	23,902	27,278	28,001	37,568	47,666	36,183	38,607	36,310
Unknown reason	22,168	18,656	25,726	32,706	28,475	27,155	27,321	32,025	34,094
Patient disposition									
Treated and released	NA	237,696	242,646	254,084	255,768	259,267	274,725	299,835	319,378
Admitted to hospital	NA	258,239	255,955	253,850	268,964	276,316	306,064	319,077	331,240
Left against medical advice	NA	10,770	8,940	11,243	9,907	10,998	12,330	12,273	13,974
Died	NA	1,359	1,122	932	1,368	1,270	1,541	1,258	1,618
Unknown	NA	5,366	5,177	6,563	6,242	6,719	6,732	5,902	4,097

Note: These data were collected through the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The data are weighted estimates representing all drug abuse-related emergency department episodes from a stratified random sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, and 21 metropolitan areas. These data are estimates derived from a sample and therefore subject to sampling variation. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For information on methodology, estimation procedures, and data limitations, see [Appendix 9](#).

^aIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and other racial/ethnic groups.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, Preliminary Estimates January-June 2001 with Revised Estimates 1994-2000*, Drug Abuse Warning Network Series: D-20, pp. T-103, T-137, T-173; *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, Final Estimates 1995-2002*, Drug Abuse Warning Network Series: D-24, pp. T-161, T-217, T-275 (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.