

The DAWN Report

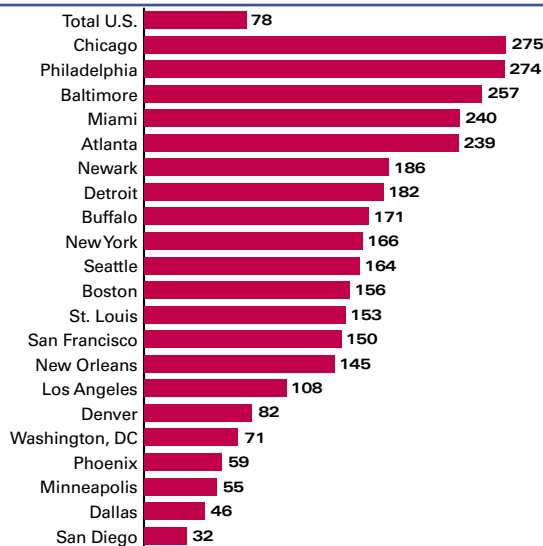
MAY 2004

Major Drugs of Abuse in ED Visits, 2002 Update

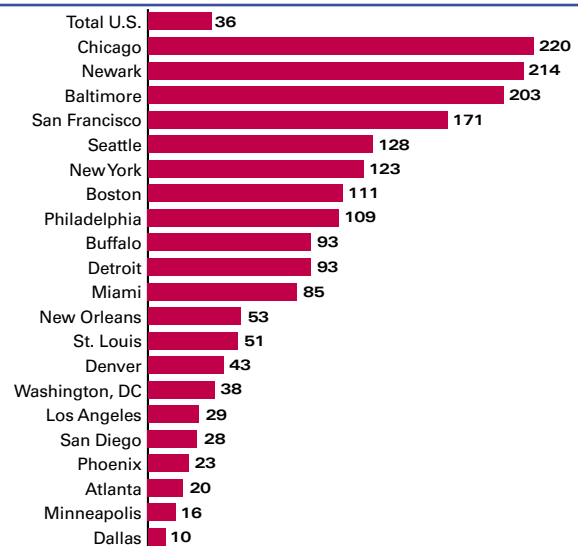
This issue of *The DAWN Report* examines geographic variation¹ in emergency department (ED) visits related to 4 drugs²—cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine. The map (inside) displays the rates of drug abuse-related ED visits per 100,000 population for these 4 drugs for the

21 metropolitan areas³ oversampled by the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) and for the coterminous U.S. To allow for easier comparisons across metropolitan areas for a particular drug, the bar charts shown below rank the metropolitan areas for each of the 4 drugs.

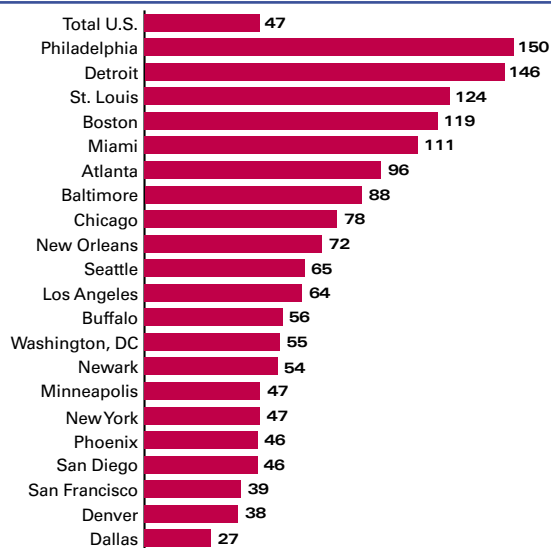
Cocaine ED visits
per 100,000 population



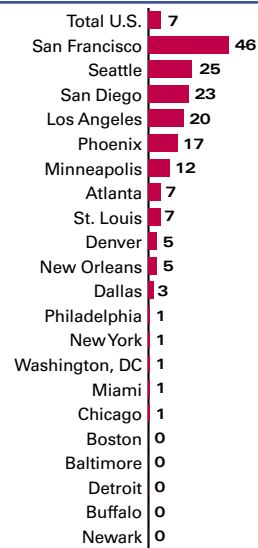
Heroin ED visits
per 100,000 population



Marijuana ED visits
per 100,000 population



Methamphetamine ED visits
per 100,000 population



About DAWN

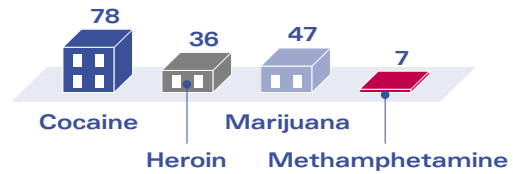
The **Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)** is a national public health surveillance system that collects data on drug abuse-related visits to emergency departments (EDs) and drug abuse-related deaths reviewed by medical examiners and coroners. Data on ED visits are collected from a national probability 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 recreation use, dependence, or a 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.

In DAWN, drugs are described by their generic names. An index linking brand (trade) names with generic drug names is available at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov/>.

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Rates of ED visits per 100,000 for the coterminous U.S., 2002



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