

## Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)

<http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>

## DAWN Methods

- Stratified probability sample of hospitals
  - Short-term, general, nonFederal hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments (EDs)
  - Oversample areas
  - Remainder area } Entire U.S.
- National estimates account for:
  - Sample design
  - Unit nonresponse
  - Partial nonresponse in responding hospital

## DAWN Survey

- ~ 550 hospitals eligible in the sample
- ~ 225 responding hospitals
- ~ 40% response rate
- 12 Metropolitan areas
  - 162 hospitals
- Remainder area for other parts of U.S.
  - 45 hospitals
  - Urban and rural populations

## National Estimates



## DAWN Population Coverage

- DAWN metropolitan areas
  - Most populous areas selected by design
  - Total 52 million persons
  - Range 17-95 million persons per metro
  - 22,000-43,000 population coverage/hospital
- Remainder area for other parts of U.S.
  - 45 hospitals
  - Urban and rural populations

## Emergency Department Visits

- 115 million total ED visits in U.S.
- 10 million ED records reviewed by DAWN
  - ~3.5% substance misuse and abuse cases
  - 4 million estimated drug-related ED visits
  - 6.2 million estimated drug reports
  - Average of 1-2 drugs per visit on ED chart

## Internal Uses of DAWN

- Statistical Reports of findings
- Respond to inquiries from Congress, DHHS, constituents, and the public
- Interagency initiatives, e.g., underage drinking
- Presentations, speeches by SAMHSA Administrator, Center Directors, and staff
- Data for Matrix Workgroups
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

## ED visits involving drug misuse/abuse

Of 1,742,887 ED visits were associated with drug misuse or abuse, in 2006

- 31% involved illicit drugs only,
- 28% involved pharmaceuticals only,
- 7% involved alcohol only in patients under the age of 21,
- 13% involved illicit drugs with alcohol,
- 10% involved alcohol with pharmaceuticals,
- 8% involved illicit drugs with pharmaceuticals, and
- 3% involved illicit drugs with pharmaceuticals and alcohol.

Source: DAWN National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits

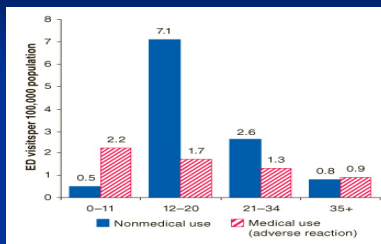
## Uses of DAWN Metropolitan Data

- Represent the local picture
- Local surveillance for emerging drug trends
- Community epidemiology work groups and coalitions
- Monitor impact of community drug initiatives
- Determine local program needs
- Support community grants
- Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)

## External Uses of DAWN Data

- FDA—New drug approvals and postmarket surveillance
- Pharmaceutical companies for monitoring adverse events
- NIDA—Epidemiological studies
- CDC-NCHS—Healthy People objectives and monitoring indicators of pandemic flu
- ONDCP—National Drug Control Strategy
- Universities, others to analyze data files for research and policy studies

Figure 1. Rates of ED visits for nonmedical and medical use of DXM, by age



## Outline for Today

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- Data Access
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## National Analytic Center

- All analyses performed on existing data
- NAC activities include:
  - Short Reports: 3-6 page published reports highlighting specific data points
  - Ad hoc/Rapid Turn Around Requests
  - Analytic Reports: in depth analyses of data
  - Statistical Consultation including Block Grant Calculations

## Outline for Today

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- Analysis and Dissemination
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## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive: SAMHDA

- Purpose: a) to disseminate OAS public-use datasets (TEDS, NSSATS, NSDUH) and b) to provide access to other data sets on substance abuse and mental health for use by analysts and policy makers in order to promote data-driven scientific decision making.
- Resources: data files in multiple formats, on-line analysis, variable search functions, help desk, etc.
- Users: substance abuse and mental health researchers, policy makers, students and the media.
- Monthly use statistics: 198,000 page hits, 15,000 file downloads, 18,000 online analysis pages

## Questions?

## Outline for Today

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- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive
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