

Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), 2010

United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

DAWN Case Report



is sponsored by



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration www.samhsa.gov

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Definitions

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Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

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A person or organization that participates in a research study. A research subject may also be called a respondent. A respondent is generally a survey respondent or informant, experimental or observational subject, focus group participant, or any other person providing information to a study.

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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive

SAMHSA

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Summary

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) is a nationally representative public health surveillance system that has monitored drug related emergency department (ED) visits to hospitals since the early 1970s. First administered by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the responsibility for DAWN now rests with SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ). Over the years, the exact survey methodology has been adjusted to improve the quality, reliability, and generalizability of the information produced by DAWN. The current approach was first fully implemented in the 2004 data collection year.

DAWN relies on a longitudinal probability sample of hospitals located throughout the United States. To be eligible for selection into the DAWN sample, a hospital must be a non-Federal, short-stay, general surgical and medical hospital located in the United States, with at least one 24-hour ED. DAWN cases are identified by the systematic review of ED medical records in participating hospitals. The unit of analysis is any ED visit involving recent drug use. DAWN captures both ED visits that are directly caused by drugs and those in which drugs are a contributing factor but not the direct cause of the ED visit. The reason a patient used a drug is not part of the criteria for considering a visit to be drug related. Therefore, all types of drug-related events are included: drug misuse or abuse, accidental drug ingestion, drug-related suicide attempts, malicious drug poisonings, and adverse reactions. DAWN does not report current medications (i.e., medications and pharmaceuticals taken regularly by the patient as prescribed or indicated) that are unrelated to the ED visit.

The DAWN public-use dataset provides information for all types of drugs, including illegal drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, dietary supplements, anesthetic gases, substances that have psychoactive effects when inhaled, alcohol when used in combination with other drugs (all ages), and alcohol alone (only for patients aged 20 or younger). Public-use dataset variables describe and categorize up to 16 drugs contributing to the ED visit, including toxicology confirmation and route of administration. Administrative variables specify the type of case, case disposition, categorized episode time of day, and quarter of year. Metropolitan area is included for represented metropolitan areas. Created variables include the number of unique drugs reported and case-level indicators for alcohol, non-alcohol illicit, any pharmaceutical, non-medical use of pharmaceuticals, and all misuse and abuse. Demographic items include age category, sex, and race/ethnicity. Complex sample design and weighting variables are included to calculate various estimates of drug-related ED visits for the Nation as a whole, as well as for specific metropolitan areas, from the ED visits classified as DAWN cases in the selected hospitals.



Emergency Department Case Report

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

1. Facility					
2. Date of Visit MONTH DAY YEAR	3. Time of Visit HOUR MINUTE □ a.m. □ p.m. □ military	4. Age □ Less than 1 year □ Not documented			
5. Patient's Home ZIP Code	6. Sex	7. Race/Ethnicity			
	🗆 Male	Select one or more:			
	Female	□ White			
Otherwise, select one response:	Not documented	Black or African American			
\Box No fixed address (e.g. homeless)		Hispanic or Latino			
□ Institution (e.g. shelter/jail/hospital)		□ Asian			
Outside U.S.		American Indian or Alaska Native			
Not documented		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander			
		□ Not documented			

8. Case Description The case description must explain why this is a DAWN case, that is, how the drug(s) were related to the ED visit. Copy verbatim from the patient's chart when possible.

9. Substance(s) Involved Using available documentation, list all substances that caused or contributed to the ED visit. Record substances as specifically as possible (i.e., brand [trade] name preferred over generic name preferred over chemical name, etc.). Do not record the same substance by two different names. Do not record current medications unrelated to the visit.	Route of Ad Selec Mark if confirmed by toxicology test	min t On	istra e	atio	Shed shike u	Transie and Shore	Other Day 19	Mor or	^{-0CUMBATEON}
Alcohol involved? Yes No/Not documented									
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

10.	Diagnosis	List up to 4 diag	noses noted in	n the patient's ch	hart. Do not list	ICD codes.

1.	3.
2.	4.

11. Type of Case

Using the Decision Tree, select the first category that applies: □ Suicide attempt □ Seeking detox \Box Alcohol only (age <21) □ Adverse reaction □ Overmedication □ Malicious poisoning □ Accidental ingestion Other

12. Disposition Select one:

- Treated and released:
- □ Discharged home
- □ Released to police/jail □ Referred to detox/
 - treatment
- Admitted to this hospital: □ ICU/Critical care □ Surgery

 - □ Chemical dependency/detox
 - □ Psychiatric unit
 - □ Other inpatient unit
- Other □ Not documented

□ Left against medical advice

Other disposition:

□ Transferred

🗆 Died

13. Comments Enter here any questions or issues you have about this case. Do not include information that could identify the patient.

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DAWN is operated by the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, as required in Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa-4). DAWN is used to monitor trends in the adverse health consequences associated with drug use. Section 501(n) of the Public Health Service Act prohibits SAMHSA from using or disclosing DAWN data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected.

Public reporting burden for DAWN emergency departments is estimated at 113 minutes per case. This includes time for reviewing ED charts and completing case report and activity report forms. Send comments regarding burden to SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer, Paperwork Reduction Project 0930-0078, 1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 7-1044, Rockville, MD 20857. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0930-0078.

DAWN Decision Tree

