

Table 3.85

Drug abuse-related emergency department episodes

By patient and episode characteristics, United States, 1994^a

Episode characteristics	Patient characteristics													
	Total ^b	Sex		Race, ethnicity				Age group (in years)						
		Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other ^c	6 to 11	12 to 17	18 to 25	26 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 and older
Total number of episodes ^b	518,521	263,334	250,333	279,312	141,171	50,438	6,050	1,005	60,472	112,262	151,195	132,118	41,918	16,110
Number of drugs														
Single-drug episode	48.7%	46.3%	51.3%	47.4%	47.0%	55.4%	55.5%	85.2%	62.6%	51.3%	45.0%	44.3%	45.9%	49.9%
Multi-drug episode	51.3	53.7	48.7	52.6	53.0	44.6	44.5	14.8	37.4	48.7	55.0	55.7	54.1	50.1
Drug use motive														
Psychic effects	16.5	17.5	15.4	17.8	13.7	20.3	17.3	37.3	23.0	22.1	14.6	13.1	11.9	13.4
Recreational use	8.5	11.3	5.4	8.0	7.5	14.0	9.6	B	12.3	12.3	7.8	6.3	4.6	2.4
Other psychic effects	8.0	6.1	10.0	9.8	6.2	6.3	7.7	29.5	10.7	9.8	6.7	6.8	7.3	10.9
Dependence	31.9	42.3	21.2	20.7	53.0	35.9	14.9	1.6	4.2	21.7	40.9	43.2	37.3	22.0
Suicide	38.5	25.2	52.5	49.3	19.4	29.8	52.9	31.2	60.7	43.4	31.4	30.4	38.3	49.5
Other ^d	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.9	B	1.3	1.7	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.7	2.9
Unknown/no response	11.9	14.1	9.7	10.9	13.2	13.1	12.3	28.6	10.4	11.5	12.5	12.4	11.8	12.2
Reason for emergency department contact														
Unexpected reaction	12.8	16.4	9.1	8.7	20.1	15.4	13.1	3.3	9.3	15.6	14.0	12.8	9.2	8.3
Overdose	52.0	39.2	65.3	65.7	26.7	47.9	67.9	75.1	75.6	57.8	43.3	43.6	52.9	66.1
Chronic effects	10.8	14.3	7.2	5.3	17.8	16.0	5.5	B	0.9	5.2	12.3	16.8	16.9	10.1
Withdrawal	2.7	3.3	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.9	B	B	0.3	2.1	3.4	3.1	4.0	3.5
Seeking detoxification	10.1	13.5	6.4	7.4	18.4	5.2	2.0	B	1.8	8.0	14.4	11.8	8.8	4.5
Accident/injury	3.1	4.3	1.9	2.1	5.4	2.9	2.2	B	1.1	2.9	3.9	3.9	2.3	1.6
Other	4.2	4.4	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.9	5.0	6.0	4.3	4.3	3.8	2.7	3.5
Unknown/no response	4.3	4.5	4.0	3.9	4.7	5.6	3.9	B	4.9	4.1	4.4	4.1	3.2	2.4
Patient disposition														
Treated and released	46.9	52.0	41.7	39.7	55.5	58.3	43.8	64.8	48.5	50.3	49.7	45.2	39.4	33.2
Admitted to hospital	49.9	44.4	55.6	57.2	41.7	37.6	52.9	34.7	50.1	46.5	46.7	51.4	56.4	65.0
Left against medical advice	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.6	0.8	B	0.6	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.9	1.4
Died	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	B	B	(e)	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3
Unknown/no response	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.3	B	B	0.8	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.2

Note: See Note, table 3.81. For information on methodology, estimation procedures, and data limitations, see Appendix 10.

^dIncludes self-medication for physical ailment, to prevent pregnancy or induce abortion, accident, used unknowingly, etc.

^eLess than 0.05%.

^aDetail may not add to total because of rounding.

^bIncludes episodes for which sex, race, ethnicity, and age were unknown or not reported.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Annual Emergency Department Data 1994*, Statistical Series I, Number 14-A (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996), pp. 20, 24. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.