

Table 3.81

## Type of drug mentioned in drug abuse-related emergency department episodes

By patient and episode characteristics, United States, 1993, 1994, and 1995

Patient and episode characteristics	Type of drug									
	Marijuana/hashish			Heroin/morphine			Cocaine <sup>a</sup>			
	1993	1994	1995 <sup>b</sup>	1993	1994	1995 <sup>b</sup>	1993	1994	1995 <sup>b</sup>	
Total number of drug mentions <sup>c</sup>	28,873	40,183	47,069	63,232	64,013	76,023	123,423	142,878	142,494	
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	20,241	28,053	32,651	44,672	44,000	52,842	82,687	96,125	94,502	
Female	8,368	11,762	13,608	18,159	19,515	22,276	39,936	45,663	46,544	
<b>Age</b>										
12 to 17 years	4,247	6,539	8,230	280	507	433	1,570	2,054	2,000	
18 to 25 years	9,545	13,860	15,313	8,019	8,370	9,052	22,159	25,392	21,834	
26 to 34 years	9,278	11,452	13,187	21,203	21,618	24,256	52,658	60,500	57,718	
35 years and older	5,624	8,277	10,207	33,613	33,359	42,184	46,614	54,238	60,604	
<b>Race, ethnicity</b>										
White	13,483	18,882	21,857	23,027	23,383	29,397	32,718	40,843	41,700	
Black	10,104	15,053	17,765	23,347	25,989	28,787	68,706	76,984	77,201	
Hispanic	2,690	3,109	3,627	11,327	9,452	9,802	12,713	13,373	11,581	
Other race <sup>d</sup>	202	302	426	699	282	429	561	890	614	
Race unknown	2,394	2,837	3,394	4,831	4,906	7,608	8,724	10,788	11,398	
<b>Drug use motive</b>										
Recreational use	7,339	10,515	12,496	5,337	4,154	5,487	14,006	16,113	16,587	
Dependence	10,780	15,014	18,901	47,911	50,505	59,399	77,892	91,265	91,271	
Suicide	2,367	3,934	4,579	2,115	2,282	2,759	9,397	11,718	12,426	
Other/unknown motive <sup>e</sup>	8,387	10,719	11,093	7,869	7,071	8,378	22,068	23,782	22,210	
<b>Reason for emergency department contact</b>										
Unexpected reaction	8,846	11,484	12,353	6,848	6,306	6,492	27,852	33,762	26,546	
Overdose	4,708	7,059	8,016	16,557	13,752	17,134	18,991	22,191	22,063	
Chronic effects	2,553	4,185	6,850	14,280	16,532	19,853	22,944	27,029	33,474	
Seeking detoxification	5,382	6,185	7,636	14,396	14,831	17,128	31,801	35,687	35,682	
Withdrawal	360	612	449	5,559	6,933	8,699	3,071	3,355	3,598	
Other/unknown reason	7,023	10,658	11,766	5,591	5,659	6,718	18,764	20,854	21,130	

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 hospitals 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.

For 1993, there was an estimated total of 460,910 drug abuse-related emergency department episodes involving 796,762 drug mentions; for 1994, an estimated total of 518,521 episodes involving 900,317 drug mentions; and for 1995, an estimated total of 531,827 episodes involving 931,550 drug mentions. A "drug mention" refers to a substance that was mentioned during a drug-related emergency department episode. In addition to alcohol-in-combination, up to four substances may be reported for each emergency department drug abuse episode; thus, the total number of mentions exceeds the number of total episodes. It should be noted that a particular drug mention may or may not be the confirmed "cause" of the episode in multiple-drug abuse cases. Even when only one substance is reported for an episode, allowance should still be made for reportable drugs not mentioned or for other contributory factors. (Source, p. 21.)

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 10.

<sup>a</sup>Includes crack.

<sup>b</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>c</sup>Total includes patients whose sex or age was unknown.

<sup>d</sup>Includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and other racial/ethnic groups.

<sup>e</sup>Includes self-medication for physical ailment, to prevent pregnancy, induce abortion, accident, used unknowingly, etc.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Preliminary Estimates from the Drug Abuse Warning Network: 1995 Preliminary Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Episodes*, Advance Report Number 17 (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, August 1996), pp. 47, 49, 51. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.