

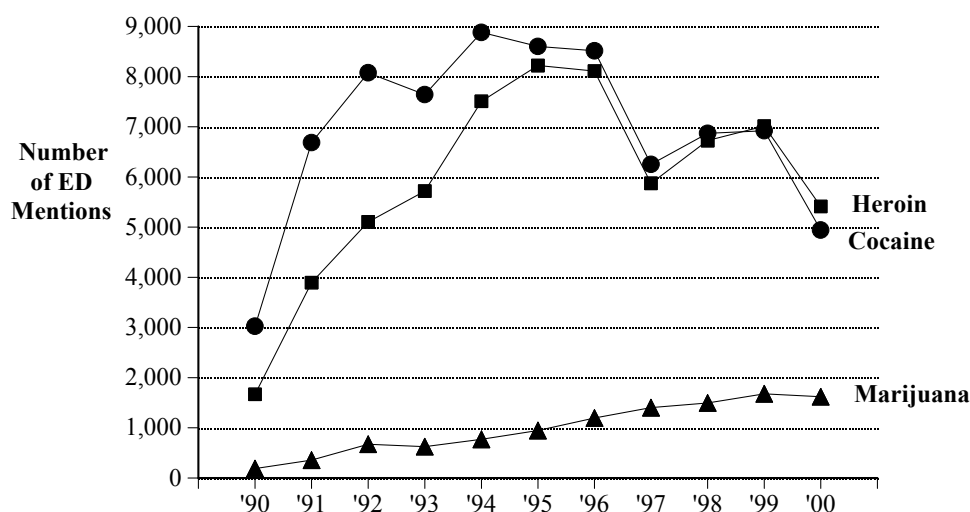
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Baltimore Experiences Decreases in Cocaine- and Heroin-Related Emergency Department Episodes

Drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes decreased 19% in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area from 1999 to 2000, according to the most recent Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) report. The number of cocaine-related ED episodes decreased 29%, from 6,921 in 1999 to 4,943 in 2000. Significant decreases were also seen in heroin-related episodes (from 7,013 to 5,414). During much of the last decade, Baltimore had the highest rates of ED episodes involving cocaine and heroin (of the 21 metropolitan areas oversampled in DAWN). In 2000, Baltimore ranked second in heroin-related ED episodes and fifth in cocaine-related episodes. While the reasons for this change are unclear, “these figures suggest that the significant declines observed from 1999 to 2000 in drug episodes, cocaine, and heroin/morphine may be consistent with a downward trend that began in the mid-1990s” (p. 32).

Number of Baltimore Metropolitan Area Emergency Department Episodes Involving Cocaine, Heroin, or Marijuana, 1990-2000



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Year-End 2000 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, July 2001. Available online at www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/2000yrend.pdf.