

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

Baltimore Heroin-Related ER Admissions More Likely to Be Chronic Users or Seeking Detox

Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) show that almost three-fourths of heroin-related emergency room (ER) episodes in Baltimore in 1992 were due to the chronic effects of habitual drug use (50%) and to persons seeking detoxification (24%). Nationally, only 47% of heroin-related ER episodes were for the treatment of chronic effects and detoxification. In addition, heroin-related ER episodes in Baltimore are three time less likely to be the result of an overdose. The reasons for these differences remain unclear.

1992 Heroin-Related Emergency Room Episodes, By Reason for Visit and Site

HEROIN-RELATED REASON FOR ER VISIT	1992 ER VISITS	
	Baltimore (N=5,106)	National (N=48,003)
Overdose	8%	26%
Unexpected Reaction	5%	11%
Chronic Effects	50%	28%
Seeking Detox	24%	19%
Withdrawal	5%	7%
Other/Unknown	8%	9%
	100%	100%

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

DRUG PRICE AND PURITY DATA NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CESAR BOARD!

Data on drug price and purity, just released for 1992 and 1993 by the Maryland State Police, are now available on CESAR's electronic bulletin board. These data can be viewed or downloaded from the STAT conference, Bulletin #30.

**Call the CESAR Board at 301-403-8343 or 1-800-84-CESAR
(toll-free for Maryland callers only)**

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

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