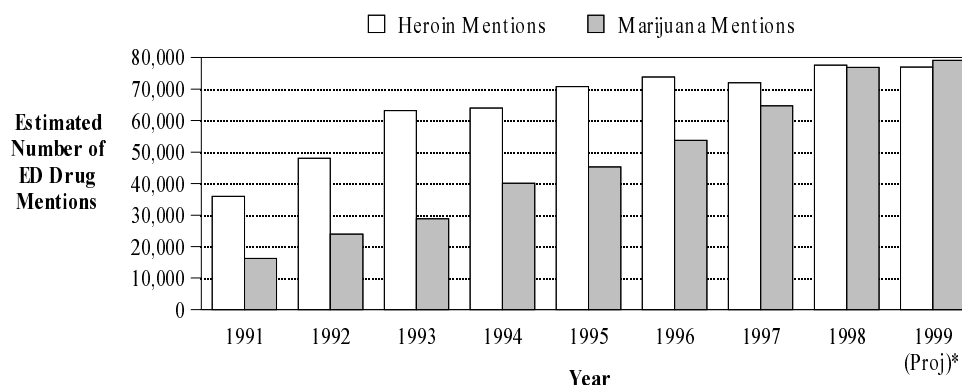


Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Visits Now as Common as Heroin-Related

Marijuana-related visits to hospital emergency departments (EDs) have risen steadily during the 1990s, from an estimated 16,251 visits in 1991 to 76,870 in 1998. Since 1998, the number of marijuana mentions during an ED visit have been approximately equal to the number of heroin mentions. According to projections for 1999, marijuana was mentioned in an estimated 79,088 drug-related ED visits, compared to an estimated 77,009 heroin mentions. Cocaine continues to be the illicit drug responsible for the most emergency department visits, accounting for a projected 154,956 visits in 1999.

Estimated Number of Emergency Department Drug Mentions, 1991-1999*



* 1999 figures are projected based on estimates from the first half of 1999.

NOTES: A drug mention is defined as a substance that was mentioned in a drug-related episode. In addition to alcohol-in-combination, up to 4 substances can be reported for each drug-related episode. A drug-related episode is an emergency department visit that was induced by or related to the use of an illegal drug(s) or the nonmedical use of a legal drug for patients age 6 years and older. These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments in the coterminous U.S.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, March 2000, Rockville, MD: SAMHSA. Available online at http://www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/DawnMidYr99mid_year.pdf.

Research Assistant Needed for CESAR FAX Project

CESAR is seeking a part-time research assistant to help in writing, formatting, and transmitting the CESAR FAX. Applicants should be familiar with the substance abuse field, possess clear and concise writing skills, be detail-oriented, and be experienced with computers. Graduate assistantship a possibility. Interested applicants should send cover letter and resume to Wanda Hauser at whauser@cesar.umd.edu.

•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••

CESAR FAX is supported by grants from the University of Maryland and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.