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## Maryland Trauma Center Admissions Data Reveal Changes in Cocaine and Opiate Test Results

Toxicology results from almost 9,865 victims of violence treated at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center between 1985 and 1998 reveal significant increases in the use of cocaine and opiates in the 80s and a leveling off in the 90s (see figure below). In contrast, the number of victims of violence testing positive for alcohol on admission has decreased since 1990 (Soderstrom et al, 1999). The trauma center serves central Maryland and the urban communities surrounding the Medical Center in Baltimore. Alcohol and other drug testing is routinely performed on admissions to the center for clinical reasons.



Alcohol/Cocaine/Opiate Positives Among Violence Victims Treated in the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, 1985-1998

- Note: Analyses were conducted at the National Study Center (NSC) for Trauma and EMS of the University of Maryland (Baltimore), which maintains a confidential clinical toxicology database for Shock Trauma patients. For additional information contact Dr. Carl Soderstrom at 410-328-5537.
- Source: Soderstrom CA, M Tandon, PC Dischinger, TJ Kerns, JA Kufera, and TM Scalea, "An Assessment of Alcohol/Drug Testing Results Among 42,981 Patients Treated at a Level I Trauma Center Documenting Epidemic Increases in Cocaine and Opiate Use: 1984-1998." Poster presentation, 59th Meeting of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, Boston, MA, September 16-17, 1999.

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