

Emergency Department Visits for Substance Abuse

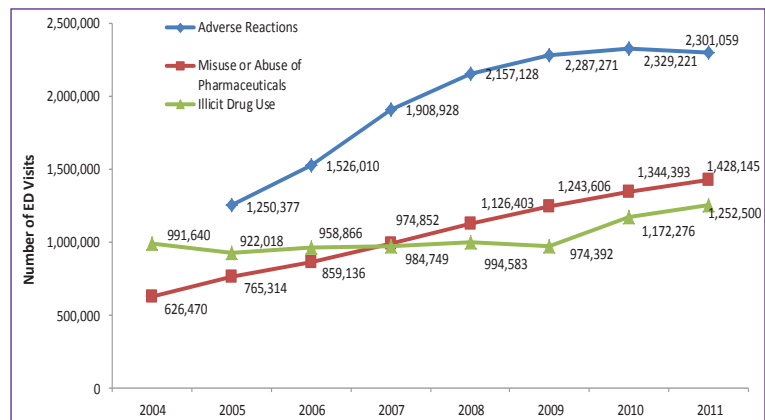
The National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) collects information on emergency department (ED) visits in the United States, including those resulting from substance misuse or abuse, adverse reactions to medications taken as prescribed or directed, accidental ingestion of drugs, and drug-related suicide attempts. These data are used in many ways such as to help guide the development of substance abuse policy and the evaluation of programs targeted at the prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use and abuse. The charts shown below use data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) which has been integrated into the NHCS. These data illustrate ways in which your hospital’s participation in the NHCS can help impact policy and improve public health.

All Drugs

ED visits involving misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals more than doubled from 2004 through 2011, while ED visits involving adverse reactions remained level during the past few years after increasing about 80 percent from 2005 through 2009. ED visits involving use of illicit drugs were relatively stable from 2004 through 2009, but increased about 25 percent from 2009 through 2011.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2004-2011

Trends in Drug-related Emergency Department Visits by Type: United States, 2004–2011

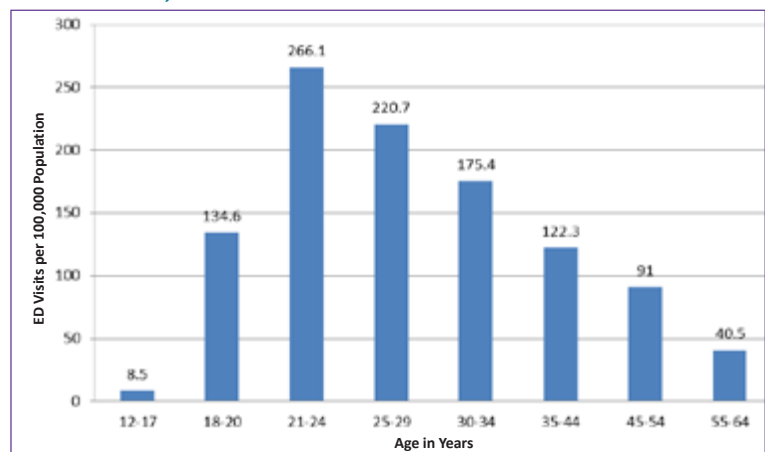


Heroin

Heroin-related ED visit rates were most commonly made by young adults aged 21-24 years. Rates peaked among this age group and declined steadily for older age groups.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2011

Heroin-related Emergency Department Visit Rates by Age: United States, 2011

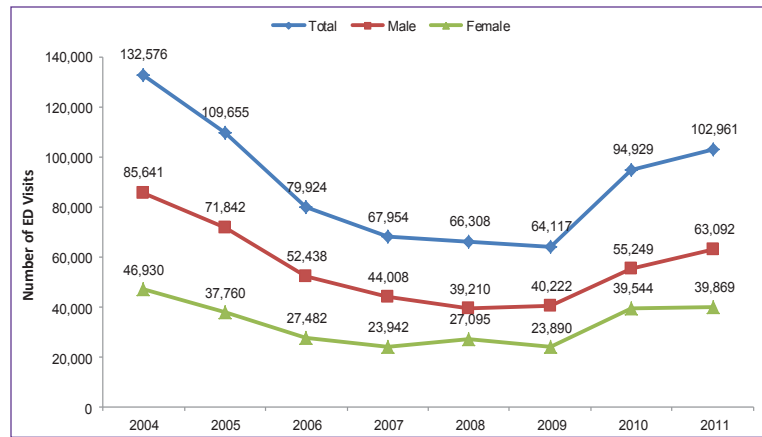


Methamphetamine

From 2004 through 2009, methamphetamine-related ED visits declined 52 percent overall, with a 53 percent decrease for males and a 49 percent decrease for females. From 2009 through 2011, methamphetamine-related visits increased 61 percent overall, with a 57 percent increase for males and a 67 percent increase for females.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2004-2011

Trends in Methamphetamine-related Emergency Department Visits by Sex: United States, 2004–2011



Marijuana

The number of marijuana-related ED visits for adolescents aged 15–17 years was 61% higher in 2011 than in 2005. Visits among males increased 65 percent, while visits among females increased 53 percent. In both 2005 and 2011, the number of marijuana-related ED visits made by males was higher than those made by females.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2005 and 2011

Marijuana-related Emergency Department Visits among Adolescents Aged 15–17 Years by Sex: United States, 2005 and 2011

