

# How Hospitals Join DAWN

## WHAT IS DAWN

DAWN is a network of over 250 hospitals that provide data on drug-related emergency department (ED) visits to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), DAWN's sponsoring agency. DAWN tracks *all* types of drug-related ED visits, including those related to *adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals, nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter medications, illegal drug use, suicide attempts, underage alcohol use, and accidental poisonings*. Westat, a research firm based in Rockville, MD, collects the data on behalf of SAMHSA.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible hospitals are non-federal, acute care facilities with 24-hour EDs. DAWN relies on a sample of hospitals statistically selected from across the Nation and in certain large metropolitan areas. The data from these hospitals allow DAWN to provide estimates on drug use, misuse, and abuse at the national and local levels.

Your hospital, as part of this sample, represents not only your hospital, but others like yours, and contributes to a complete picture of drug-related emergencies in your area. That is why your participation is so important.

## WHY HOSPITALS JOIN

Hospital EDs participate in DAWN because they see the benefits to themselves, their patients, and their communities. The following are some of the benefits:

### Payments for Participation

Each hospital receives an annual payment of \$1,000 per ED for participating in DAWN and providing access to medical records. Hospitals using their own staff to collect the data may receive additional payments.

### Operational Support

Participating hospitals receive guidance from a Westat Operations team that assists in data collection with minimal disruption to the hospital's patient care goals. This support includes:

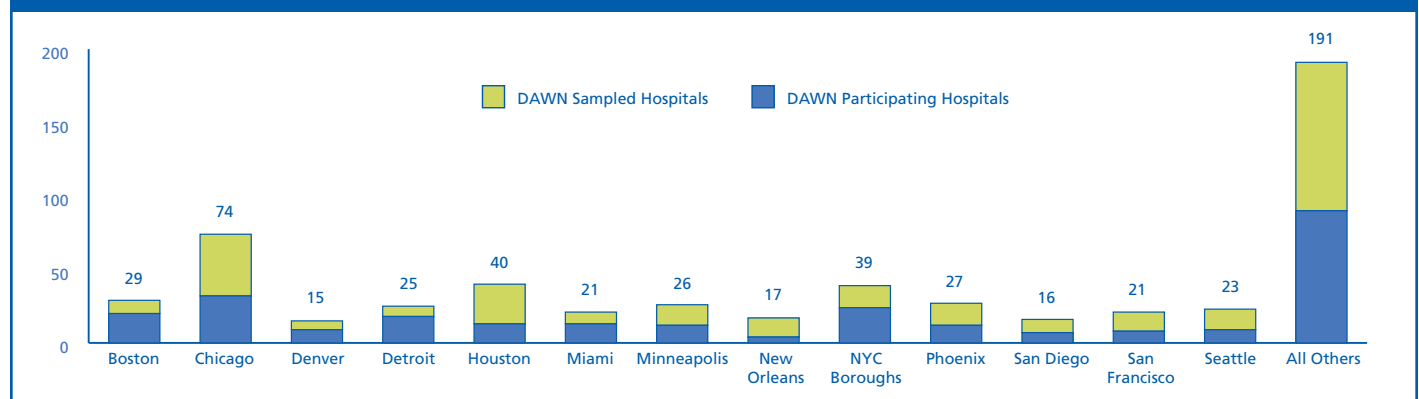
- Reporter training, including on-site training and feedback, and a toll-free help line, and
- Equipment and supplies, including laptop computers if needed.

### Access to Your Data Helps EDs, Patients, and Communities

Participating in DAWN gives hospital staff real-time access to the hospital's own ED data. With DAWN Live!, a secure, Internet-based query system, staff can monitor the data from their hospital reported to DAWN, and can also compare their hospital with others in the area and across the country.

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## DAWN HOSPITALS – JANUARY 2008



## ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

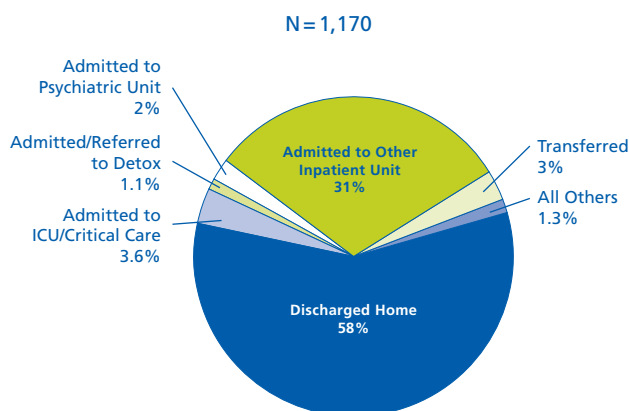
### On Patient Care

- *Will I be able to identify new drugs that are being misused or abused?* Regular monitoring of the data can alert you to changes in drug use and abuse.
- *What are the causes of the drug-related ED visits?* DAWN can help you identify ED visits related to side effects from medications, underage drinking, misuse of prescriptions, and illicit drug use, to name a few.
- *Who are the patients affected?* Differences by age and gender will help you see whether any demographic groups are over-represented.

### On Management

- *How many patients are admitted and to which units?* DAWN provides a total number of ED drug-related patients admitted, as well as the number admitted to specific units, such as the ICU/Critical care, surgery, psychiatric, and detox units.
- *What happens after patients are released?* Data are available on the disposition of patients released from the ED including the number of ED patients referred to detox, admitted to psychiatric unit, or discharged home.

### SAMPLED HOSPITAL PATIENT DISPOSITION – 2007



Source: DAWN Live! Case Reports through 2/4/2008

## HOW YOU CAN JOIN

### Participation

Participation begins with a signed agreement. As a selected hospital, you will receive a written invitation to participate in DAWN. The Westat Facility Liaison is available to meet in person to coordinate your hospital's enrollment in DAWN and work with you to develop your data collection approach.

- **Participation agreement.** This agreement covers the responsibilities of the hospital and Westat, including access payments, confidentiality protections, staff training, and the procedures for data collection.

### Data Collection

Each ED chart is reviewed by the DAWN Reporter to identify DAWN cases. **A DAWN case is any ED visit related to recent drug use.**

The Facility Liaison works with the staff at the hospital to identify the most convenient and efficient reporting method. The options include:

- **Hospital Staff Reporter.** Hospital staff collect DAWN data on hospital time. This option works best when staff are already reviewing every record for billing or quality assurance. Westat pays the hospital based on the volume of charts reviewed and the number of DAWN cases submitted.
- **Westat Field Reporter.** With the hospital's approval, Westat provides a person to review charts and submit DAWN cases on site. Westat hires, supervises, and pays these reporters directly.
- **Westat Remote Reporter.** For hospitals with electronic medical records that can be accessed online, Westat can review charts and submit DAWN cases from its secure data center in Maryland.

## DAWN RESOURCES

SAMHSA makes data available to the public through publications and the DAWN web site. Member hospitals receive periodic mailings of publications and other information from DAWN and other statistical data systems operated by SAMHSA.

**For more information:** If you have questions, please call Westat at **800-FYI-DAWN**. Information about DAWN is also available online at <http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>.