

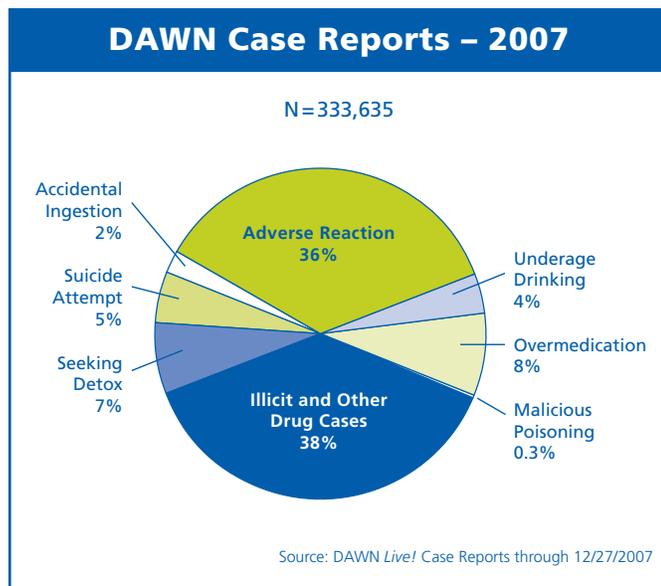
WHAT IS DAWN

DAWN is a national public health surveillance system. DAWN works with more than 250 hospitals nationwide, gathering data on adverse health events resulting from drug use, misuse, and abuse.

DAWN began in 1972 – more than 35 years ago – as one of the first national data systems to monitor the impact of drug abuse on health. In 2003, its focus was expanded to include the health consequences of all drug-related emergencies. DAWN is not just drug abuse.

Specifically, DAWN tracks drug-related emergency department (ED) visits, which include *adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals, nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, illegal drug use, suicide attempts, underage alcohol use, and accidental poisonings.*

As the pie chart shows, in 2007, the two leading causes of drug-related ED visits were adverse reactions (36%) and illicit and other drug cases (38%).



MONITORING IMPACT OF DRUG USE

“...DAWN...not only provides information on drug abuse related events, but on other safety aspects of marketed pharmaceutical products such as adverse reactions and overmedication.”

Director, Controlled Substances Staff, FDA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has used DAWN data for many years to assess the abuse potential of prescription drugs such as opioids and to guide scheduling and labeling. Now, with issues ranging from arthritis medicines with unexpected cardiovascular effects to psychotherapeutic drugs associated with teen suicide risk, DAWN data are an important resource for FDA’s post-marketing surveillance. In the event of a national flu epidemic, EDs would be the first to feel the impact of potential adverse reactions to the flu

“...To help prepare for and respond to future influenza outbreaks...we will be using DAWN data to help monitor adverse effects of influenza vaccines and antiviral medications.”

Director, CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

vaccine and the medications used to treat flu. For that reason, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is looking to DAWN to help measure these problems so it can develop appropriate interventions. DAWN’s ability to measure impact in real time makes it a valuable monitor for such events.

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MEASURING ED IMPACT

Hospitals that participate in DAWN are given “almost instant” access to their own de-identified data through *DAWN Live!*—an online query system. Using *DAWN Live!*, designated hospital staff can answer many questions about their ED cases: reasons for the ED visit, drugs involved, disposition, and populations affected. Staff can compare their hospital’s data with other hospitals in the area and across the country. DAWN can also provide management information on staffing and patient disposition, as well as in-service training needs.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Comparing My Hospital

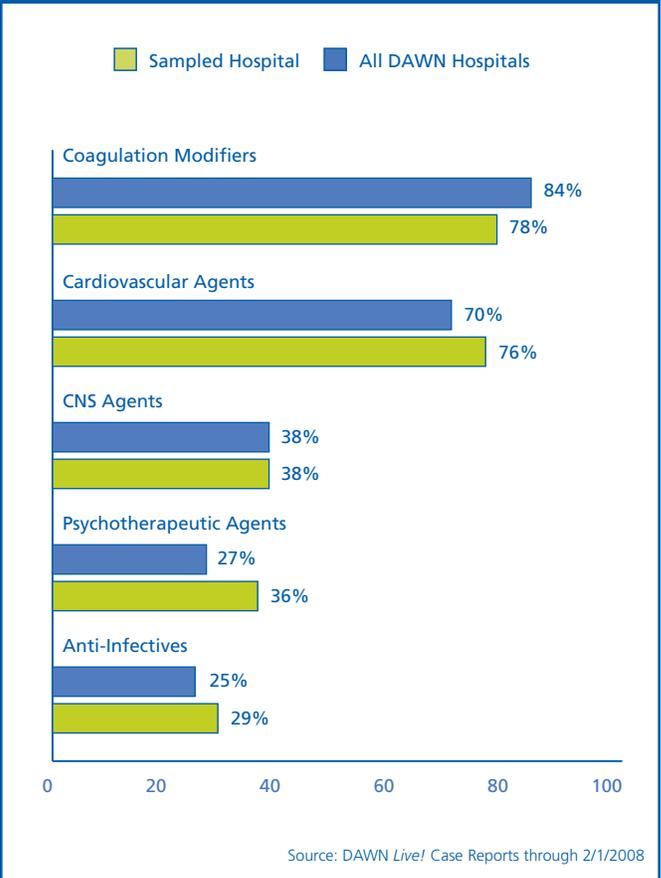
How do the drug-related ED cases in my hospital compare to other DAWN hospitals?

- Are the number of ED visits that are related to side effects from medications stable or changing?
- Are there more cases of underage drinking because there is a university nearby?
- Are seniors experiencing more problems with the use and misuse of prescription medications?

Management Issues

- *How can DAWN data help me improve staff training?*
Data can identify new populations at risk for misuse of particular medicines, unexpected side effects of newly marketed drugs, or the abuse of OTC medications. This information can be valuable for in-service training to help prepare ED staff to recognize and treat such patients.
- *How many of my patients are being admitted?*
In addition to providing the total number of drug-related patients admitted to the ED, DAWN provides the number admitted to specific units, such as ICU/critical care.

Seniors and Adverse Reactions – 2007 (Top 5 Drug Categories)



DAWN RESOURCES

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), DAWN’s sponsoring agency, makes data available to the public through publications and the DAWN website. For member hospitals, Federal partners, and other designated users, SAMHSA makes DAWN data available through *DAWN Live!*, a secure, Internet-based system.

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>.