



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2011

I23 Major Drugs of Abuse: Comparative Analysis of Indicators From National and Local Data Sources

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After attending this presentation, attendees will: (1) gain a better understanding of various indicators used to track the drug abuse culture in the United States; (2) will understand different aspects based on comparative analysis of data and information from law enforcement activities control drug availability; and, (3) will better understand drug demand and attitude toward drug misuse/abuse, drug adverse effects, and drug addiction treatment.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by serving as an essential aspect of various indicators that measure the drug abuse situation in the United States, and will provide key information to support the drug policy that effects public health and well being.

Multiple data and information sources have been used to determine new and changing drugs of abuse and drug-related health and social problems, help determine priorities for government action, and identify areas for collaboration and monitor progress in achieving reductions in those problems as various policies and practices are implemented.

The national data infrastructure including measurements of morbidity and mortality such as the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), Emergency Department (ED) and Medical Examiner (ME) components, and Nation Vital Statistics Data (NVSD); drug testing programs such as Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring system (ADAM) and Quest Drug Testing Index, self reporting surveys including National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Monitoring the Future (MTF), and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBSS); drug treatment programs such as Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), and Nation Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Service (N-SSATS); and drug interdiction information such as National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), System To Retrieve Information on Drug Evidence (STRIDE), Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS), National Seizure System (NSS), and Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

In order to understand the drug abuse situation, effectively combat the continuously escalating and changing drug problem that plague our communities, assess progress following implementation of an initiative or policy; various indicators and measurements should be intergraded and analyzed consistently and systematically to derivate conclusions. A study of various comparative data analyses utilizing practical tools and

techniques for major drugs of abuse including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine will be presented.

Drug Abuse Indicators, Drug Databases, Drug Seizures