

Data Spotlight

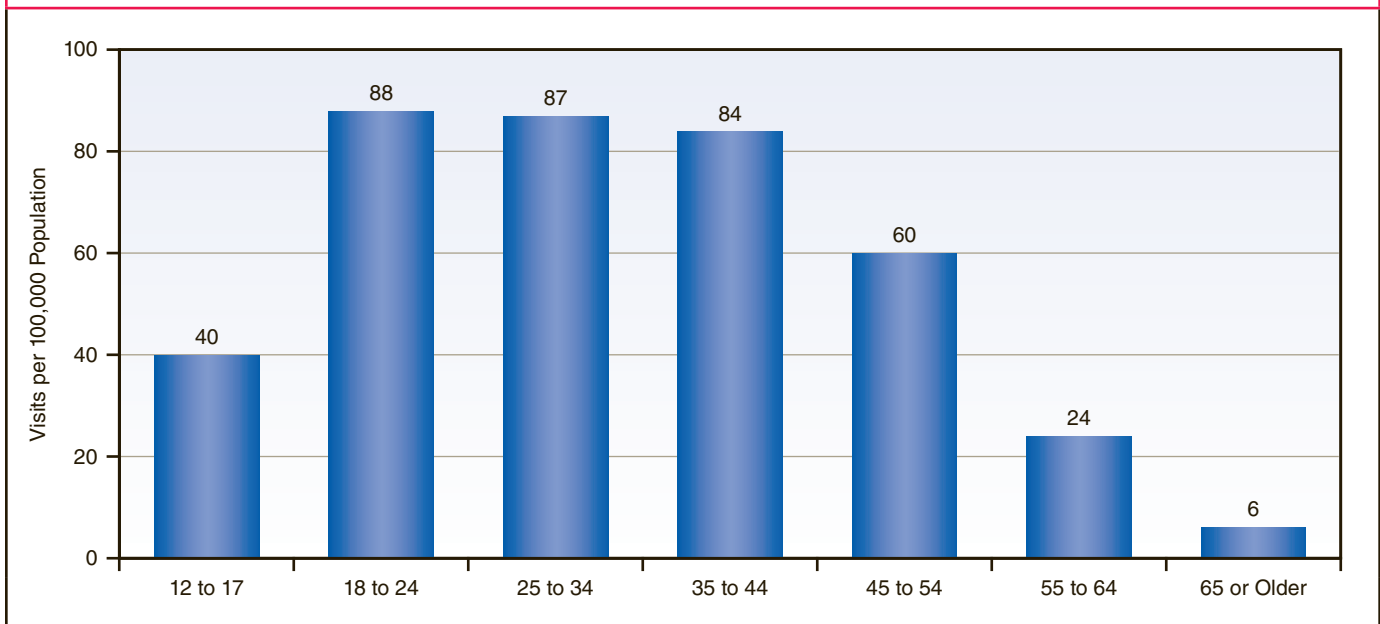
Drug Abuse Warning Network

June 14, 2012

Emergency Department Visits for Drug-Related Suicide Attempts among Males: 2004 to 2009

Suicide attempts are strong predictors of subsequent suicide fatalities.¹ Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) suggest that the rate of emergency department (ED) visits for drug-related suicide attempts² by males peaks in young and midadulthood (Figure). The ED is a critical nexus for brief interventions to refer patients who attempted suicide, for drug-related or other reasons, to appropriate mental health care services. For additional information about suicide screening and prevention, see the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force publication *Screening for Suicide Risk: Recommendation and Rationale* at the following site: <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/3rduspstf/suicide/suiciderr.htm>.

Average Annual Rate of Emergency Department Visits from Drug-Related Suicide Attempts by Males, by Age Group: 2004 to 2009



¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2009). *Addressing suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Part 3: A review of the literature* (Treatment Improvement Protocol [TIP] Series 50). Retrieved from http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/tips/pdf/TIP50_LitRev.pdf

² Although DAWN includes only suicide attempts that involve drugs, these attempts are not limited to drug overdoses. If there is drug involvement in a suicide attempt by other means (e.g., if a patient cuts his or her wrists while under the influence of marijuana), the case is included as drug related.

Source: The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) is a public health surveillance system that monitors drug-related hospital emergency department (ED) visits and drug-related deaths to track the impact of drug use, misuse, and abuse in the United States.

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