

Data Spotlight

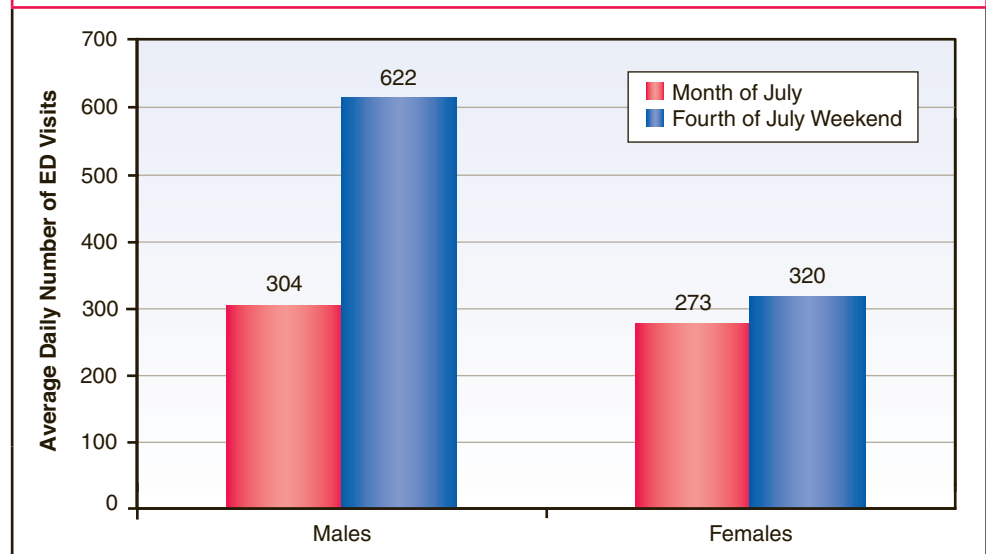
Drug Abuse Warning Network

June 30, 2011

Alcohol-Related Emergency Department Visits Double for Underage Males during Fourth of July Weekend

The Fourth of July is a time for celebrations, but it can also be a time of increased health risks for young people, particularly young men. Young men are more likely than females or older individuals to be injured by fireworks at holiday gatherings.¹ Moreover, underage males are also at higher risk than their female peers of having an alcohol-related emergency department (ED) visit over the Fourth of July weekend.

Underage Alcohol Use: Average Daily Number of Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Individuals Aged 12 to 20 during the Month of July versus during the Fourth of July Weekend, by Gender: 2009



During the holiday weekend of July 3-5, 2009, there was a daily average of 942 ED visits related to alcohol use by people younger than the legal drinking age of 21. Two thirds of these visits (622) were made by males. Although the number of ED visits for young females remained steady throughout the month, during the holiday weekend, the number of visits for young males doubled in relation to visits made on an average day in the month, and was nearly double that of visits made by their female counterparts (Figure).

SAMHSA's strategic initiative to prevent substance abuse offers many resources to combat underage alcohol use and its consequences. See <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/> for more information.

¹ Greene, M. A., Tu, Y., & Granados, D. V. (2010). *2009 Fireworks annual report: Fireworks-related deaths, emergency department-treated injuries, and enforcement activities during 2009*. Washington, DC: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. [Available as a PDF at <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/2009fwreport.pdf>]

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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