

New York City, New York

Des Moines, Iowa

Kansas City, Kansas

Phoenix, Arizona

San Francisco, California

A total of 3,598 records were reviewed and 935 drug abusers were interviewed.

Our analytic technique was first developed to describe the epidemic nature and spread of heroin in a community. The technique collects the year of first use of a drug and groups these experiences to determine if the event is occurring randomly or is the result of contagious transmission from one user to another. The following results and generalizations should be of special relevance to your current inquiry.

- 62% of all the drug abusers we interviewed had histories of abusing amphetamines. However, among drug abusers whose primary drug of abuse was not heroin, the prevalence of amphetamine abuse was as high as 85%. Of interest, 63% of all abusers of amphetamines had been introduced to the drugs by their friends or peers and only 23% had been introduced to amphetamines by a drug dealer.
- 15% of all the drug abusers we interviewed had histories of abusing phenmetrazine (Preludin). Not unexpectedly those who abuse phenmetrazine were most frequently introduced to the drug by their friends or peers.
- Amphetamine abuse in Miami has shown the epidemic characteristics since 1968. There is some evidence that the abuse of phenmetrazine (Preludin) and phentermine (Ionamin and Fastin) may be becoming popular substitutes