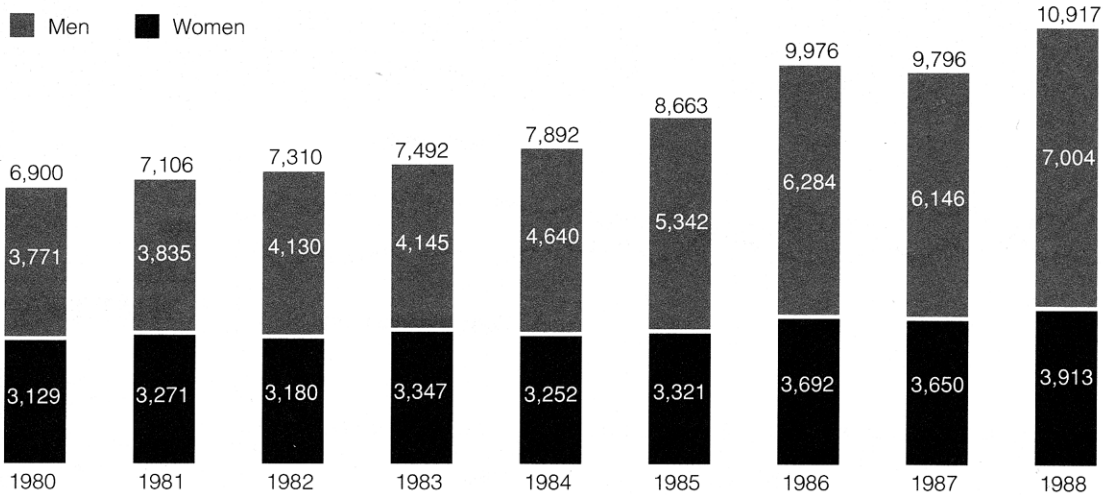


DRUGS AND DEATH

The upsurge in drug use that began with the arrival of crack in the mid-1980s has had deadly results. Drugs kill a great many people directly—through overdoses, psychoses, and related effects. Drugs and alcohol also kill many thousands indirectly by contributing to accidents and long-term health effects and by fostering criminal violence.

Deaths from drug overdoses and other causes directly related to drug abuse



Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics.

Estimated influence of drug and alcohol abuse on certain leading causes of death

Cause of death	Total number of deaths, 1989	Increment potentially attributable to drug and alcohol abuse
Accidents	94,780	32,000-38,000
Cirrhosis and liver disease	26,380	18,000-19,000
Cancers	497,220	17,000-19,000
Homicide	23,020	13,000-16,000
Suicide	31,210	11,000-14,000
Cerebrovascular diseases	147,470	10,000-12,000
AIDS	21,360	6,000- 7,000
Infant mortality	18,540	3,000- 6,000

Source: Editor's estimates from various public health studies.