

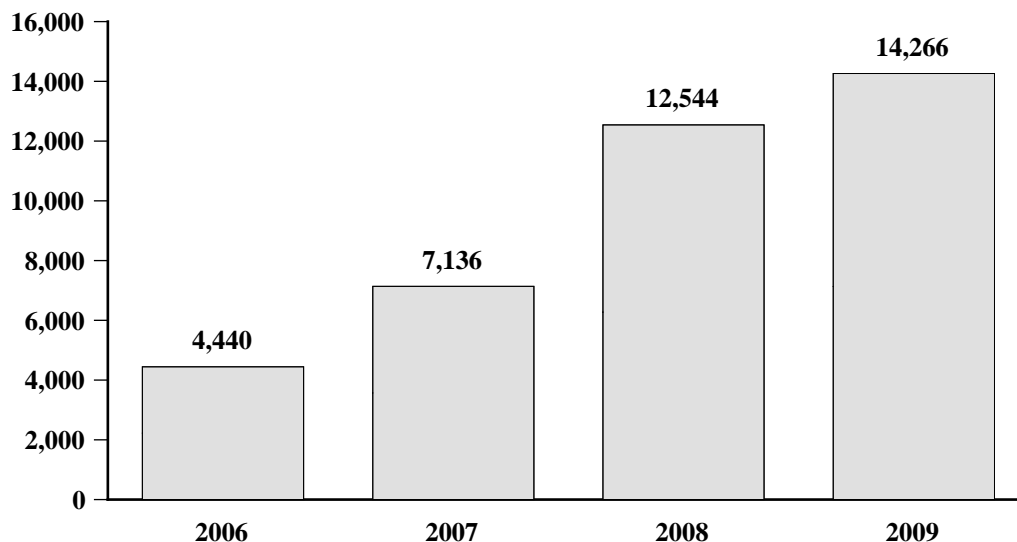
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Number of U.S. Emergency Department Visits Related to the Nonmedical Use of Buprenorphine More Than Triples Since 2006

The estimated number of emergency department visits related to the nonmedical use of buprenorphine more than tripled from 2006 to 2009, according to data from Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). In 2006, the nonmedical use of buprenorphine was involved as either a direct cause or a contributing factor in an estimated 4,440 emergency department visits, compared to 14,266 in 2009. These increases parallel increases in the number of law-enforcement-seized buprenorphine items analyzed by state and local forensic laboratories (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 24).

Estimated Number of U.S. Emergency Department Visits Related to the Nonmedical Use of Buprenorphine, 2006-2009



NOTES: Buprenorphine-related emergency department visits are those in which buprenorphine was involved as either a direct cause or a contributing factor to the visit. Nonmedical use of buprenorphine includes taking more than the prescribed dose; taking buprenorphine prescribed for another individual; deliberate poisoning with buprenorphine by another person; and documented misuse or abuse of buprenorphine.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), *National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2004-2009*, online at https://dawninfo.samhsa.gov/data/ed/Nation/Nation_2009_Illicit.xls (accessed 6/23/11).