

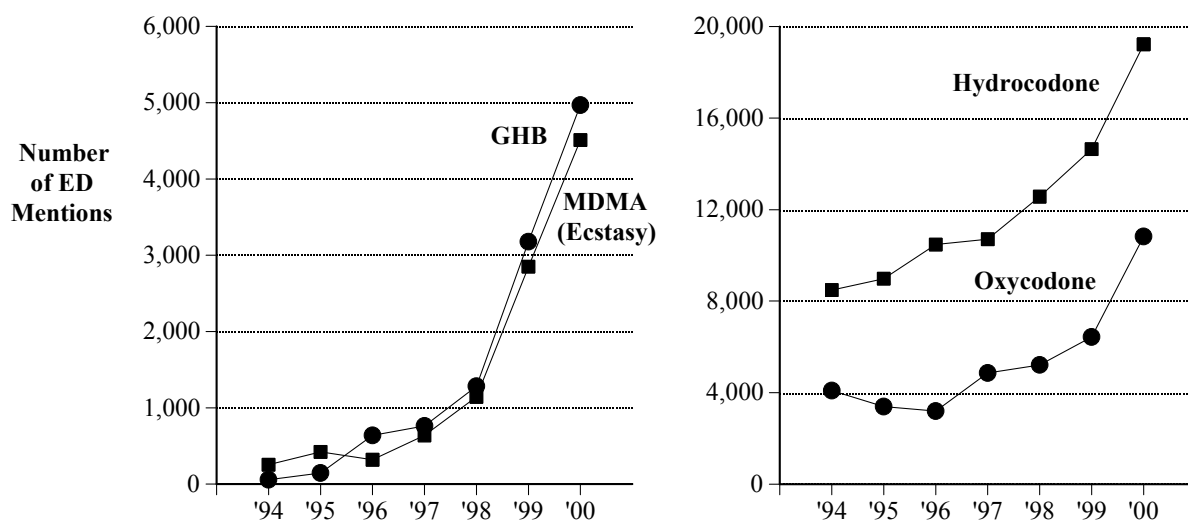
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *U.S. Emergency Department Episodes Involving GHB, MDMA, Hydrocodone, and Oxycodone Continue to Increase*

The number of emergency department (ED) episodes involving the club drugs GHB and MDMA and the narcotic analgesics oxycodone and hydrocodone continue to increase, according to data from the most recent Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) report. Since 1998, GHB- and MDMA-related ED episodes have nearly tripled.<sup>1</sup> ED episodes involving hydrocodone and oxycodone have also been on the rise, increasing 53 and 108 percent, respectively, from 1998 to 2000.<sup>2</sup> To put these increases in perspective, the total number of drug-related ED episodes increased 11 percent during this same period. While the occurrence of ED episodes involving GHB, MDMA, hydrocodone, or oxycodone is relatively infrequent, these dramatic increases may indicate an emerging problem and support other accounts of an increase in the abuse of these drugs.

**Number of U.S. Emergency Department Episodes Involving GHB, MDMA, Hydrocodone, and Oxycodone, 1994-2000**



<sup>1</sup>The number of GHB-related ED episodes increased from 1,282 in 1998 to 4,969 in 2000. The number of MDMA-related ED episodes increased from 1,143 in 1998 to 4,511 in 2000.

<sup>2</sup>The number of hydrocodone-related ED episodes increased from 12,568 in 1998 to 19,221 in 2000. The number of oxycodone-related ED episodes increased from 5,211 in 1998 to 10,825 in 2000.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Year-End 2000 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, July 2001. Available online at [www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/2000yrend.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/2000yrend.pdf).