

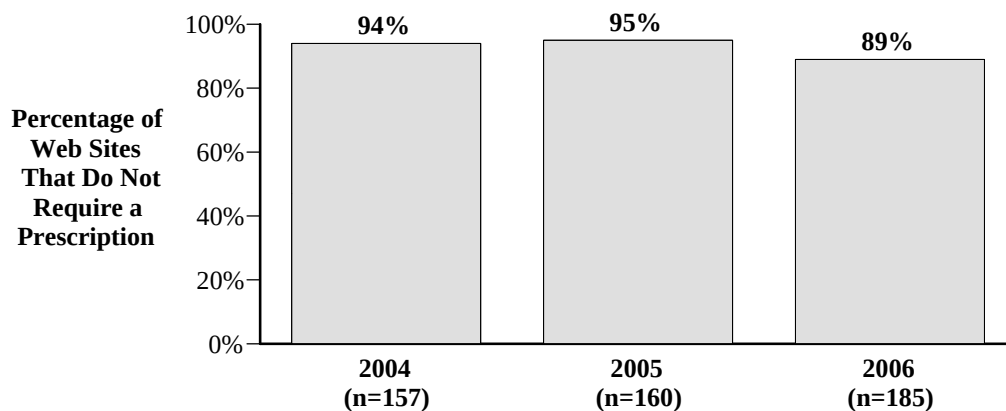
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Prescription Still Not Required: Study Finds Controlled
Prescription Drugs Continue to Be Available Online***

The majority of web sites selling controlled prescription drugs still do not require prescriptions, according to a study tracking the availability of such drugs on the internet since 2004. One week each year, the number of internet sites dispensing opioid, depressant, and stimulant prescription drugs were documented and dispensing patterns were identified. In 2006, there were 185 internet sites selling such drugs, compared to 160 in 2005 and 157 in 2004. Of the internet sites selling controlled prescription drugs in 2006, 165 (89%) did not require a valid prescription, only slightly less than in previous years. Only 20 sites (11%) required that a prescription be faxed or mailed or that the patient's doctor be contacted for the prescription. There was no evidence of any mechanisms in place to block children from purchasing prescription drugs online. As in past years (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 13, Issue 17), benzodiazepines such as Xanax[®] and Valium[®] were the drugs most frequently offered on the internet, followed by pain killers (e.g. fentanyl, hydrocodone). Among the author's recommendations are that federal law be clarified to "prohibit sale or purchase of controlled prescription drugs on the Internet without an original copy of a prescription issued by a licensed, DEA-certified physician" (p. 7).

**Percentage of Web Sites Selling Controlled Prescription Drugs
Without a Prescription, 2004–2006**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 'You've Got Drugs!' Prescription Drug Pushers on the Internet: 2006 Update, June 2006. It's available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/supportcasa/item.asp?cID=12&PID=147>.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••
CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.