

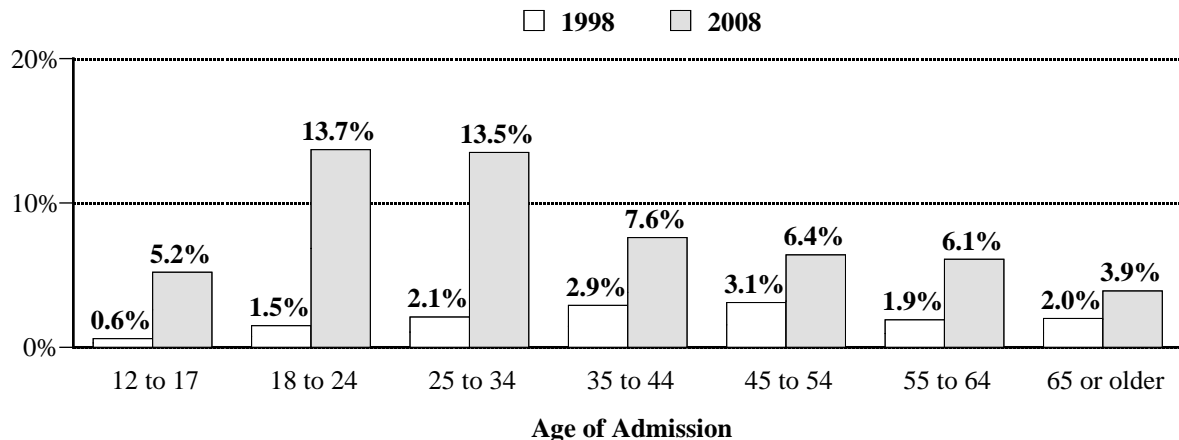
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Percentage of U.S. Treatment Admissions Involving Pain Reliever Abuse Increased More Than Fourfold from 1998 to 2008*

The percentage of admissions to state-funded substance abuse treatment programs involving pain reliever abuse increased from 2.2% in 1998 to 9.8% in 2008, according to recently released data from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). While increases were seen across all age groups, some of the largest increases occurred among adults 18 to 24 years old and 25 to 34 years old, resulting in treatment admissions for these age groups becoming the most likely to involve pain reliever abuse (see figure below). According to the authors, “early identification of pain reliever abuse, outreach to abusers, and provision of appropriate and effective treatment services, including relapse prevention, will be important for helping abusers of prescription pain relievers—and especially those in younger age groups—make long-term productive contributions to society” (p. 5). Similar increases have been seen among emergency department visits involving pain relievers (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 19, Issue 27).

### **Percentage of U.S. Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions That Reported Any Pain Reliever Abuse, by Age Group, 1998 and 2008\***



\*Data are from treatment admissions of persons ages 12 or older where the primary, secondary, or tertiary substance of abuse that led to the treatment episode was prescription pain relievers. Prescription pain relievers refer to drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, and other drugs with morphine-like effects and excludes heroin and nonprescription methadone.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Involving Abuse of Pain Relievers: 1998 and 2008,” *The TEDS Report*, July 15, 2010. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/230/230PainRelvr2k10.cfm>.

### **Lectures by Renowned Drug Scientists Available**

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website ([www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu)) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.