

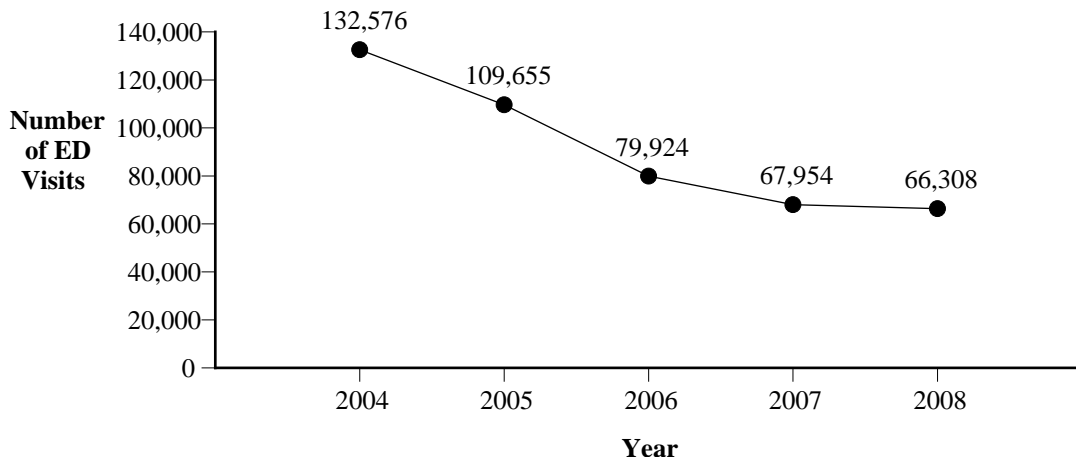
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Estimated Number of Emergency Department Visits Involving Methamphetamine Decreased by One-Half in Four-Year Period*

The estimated number of U.S. emergency department visits involving methamphetamine has decreased by one-half, according to data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). In 2004, there were an estimated 132,576 emergency department visits related to methamphetamine use—8.2% of all drug misuse or abuse visits. By 2008, this number had decreased dramatically to 66,308 visits, representing only 3.3% of all drug misuse or abuse visits. These trends reflect those of national treatment admissions for methamphetamine abuse (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 19, Issue 19). However, the authors note that “although overall methamphetamine use has decreased nationally, many people continue to use this highly addictive drug so that it remains a serious health concern among particular subpopulations and in certain regions of the country (e.g., the West Coast)” (p. 3).

#### **Estimated Number of U.S. Emergency Department Visits Involving Methamphetamine, 2004 to 2008**



NOTES: DAWN uses a probability sample of hospitals to produce estimates of drug-related emergency department visits for the United States annually. Any ED visit related to recent drug use is included in DAWN. More than one-fourth (27.6%) of the methamphetamine-related ED visits during 2008 involved methamphetamine combined with one other drug (alcohol, other illicit drugs, or pharmaceutical drugs) and 34.2% involved methamphetamine combined with two or more other drugs.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Emergency Department Visits Involving Methamphetamine: 2004 to 2008,” *The DAWN Report*, August 24, 2010. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/DAWN017/Meth.cfm>.

#### **VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned 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.