

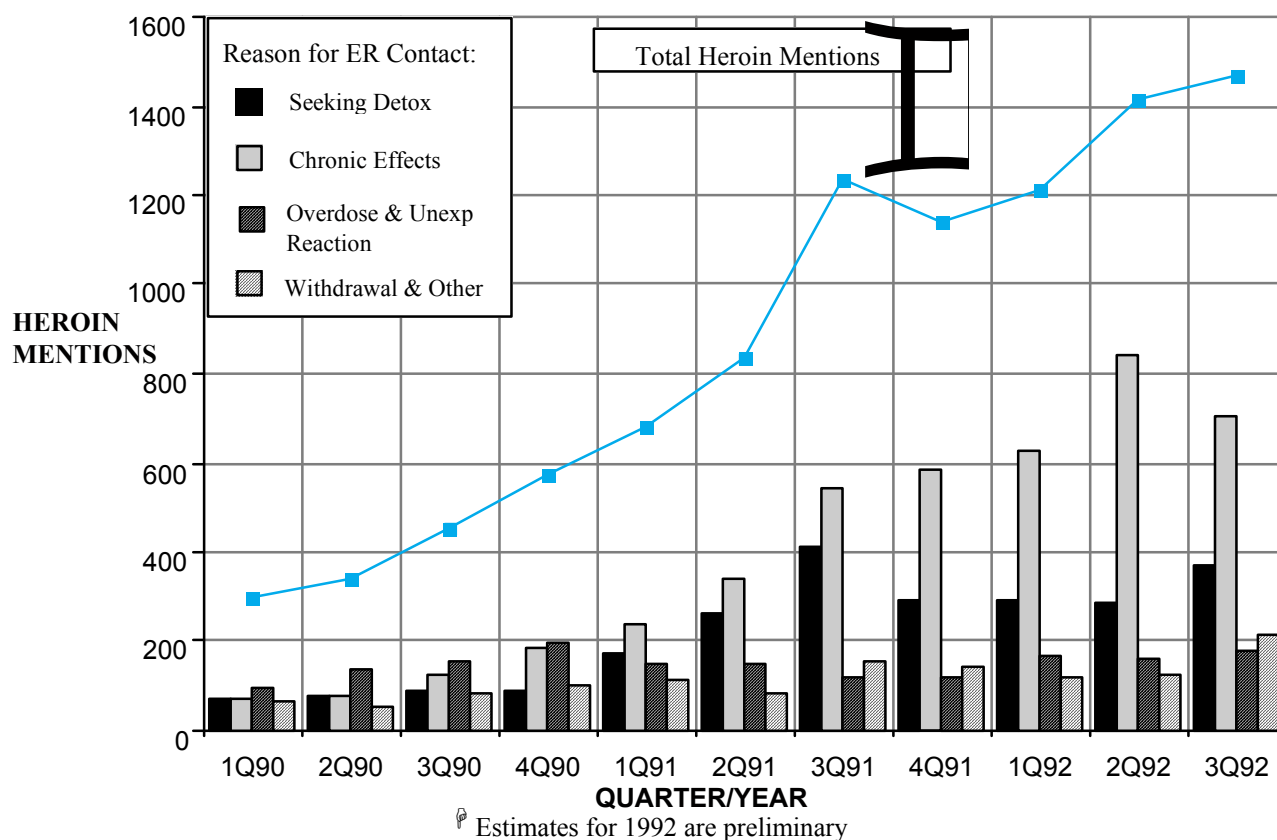
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

Increases in Baltimore Area Heroin Emergencies Driven Primarily by Rise in People Seeking Care for Chronic Effects

Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) show that heroin-related emergency room (ER) episodes in Baltimore have increased from 298 in the 1st quarter of 1990 to 1,469 in the third quarter of 1992. Drug *overdose* and *unexpected reactions* were the most frequently coded reasons for the ER episodes until 1991. Since 1991, ER episodes due to the *chronic effects* of habitual drug use and to persons *seeking detox* have become more prevalent and account for most of the rise in total heroin-related ER episodes. ER contacts because of *overdose*, *unexpected reactions*, *withdrawal*, and for *other/unknown* reasons have remained relatively stable at lower levels.

**Estimates of Heroin Related Emergency Room (ER) Mentions for
Baltimore Metro Area, By Reason for Contact**
(First Quarter, 1990 to Third Quarter, 1992[†])



SOURCE: Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

CALL THE *NEW* CESAR BOARD NOW!

(301) 403-8343 or 1-800-84-CESAR toll-free for Maryland callers only!

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.