

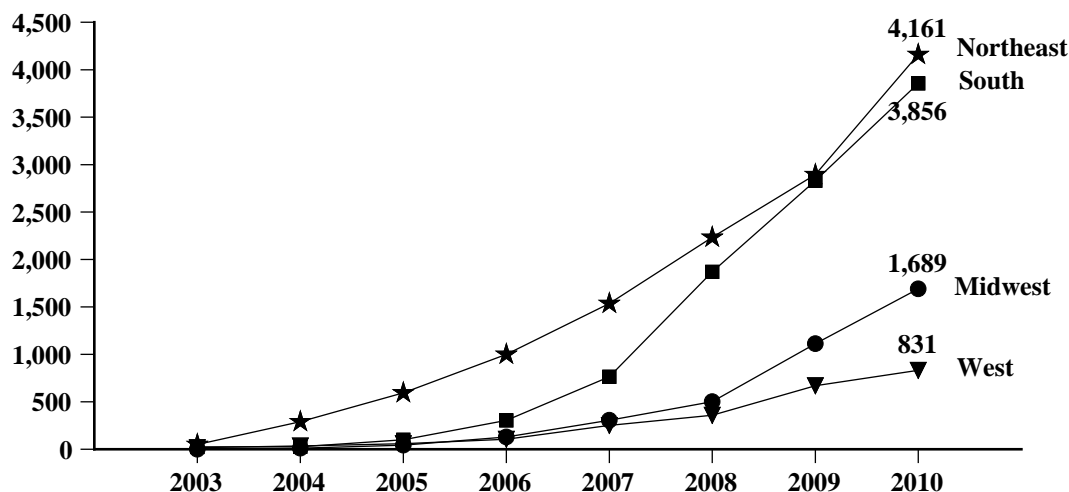
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Northeastern and Southern Regions of Country Account for Largest Increases in Buprenorphine Found in Law Enforcement Drug Seizures*

Since 2003, the amount of U.S. law enforcement-seized buprenorphine analyzed by state and local laboratories has increased dramatically, surpassing that of methadone (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 21, Issue 13). According to data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), the largest increases have occurred in the Northeast (from 49 in 2003 to 4,161 in 2010) and the South\* (from 25 to 3,856). The estimated number of buprenorphine reports in the Midwest and West have also increased, but at a slower pace and at lower levels. In 2010, there were an estimated 1,689 buprenorphine reports in the Midwest and 831 in the West.

**Estimated Number of Buprenorphine Reports,  
U.S. Law Enforcement-Seized Drug Exhibits Analyzed by Forensic Laboratories,  
by U.S. Census Region\*, 2003-2010**



\*Northeast: CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

South: AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA WV

Midwest: IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI

West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

Buprenorphine estimates for the South and West regions do not meet the DEA's standard of precision and reliability.

**NOTES:** Estimates are calculated using the National Estimates Based on All Reports (NEAR) methodology (see [www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/Reports.aspx](http://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/Reports.aspx)). Annual data are based on drugs submitted to State and local laboratories during the calendar year and analyzed within three months of the end of the calendar year. Up to three drugs can be reported for each drug item or exhibit analyzed by a laboratory. State and local policies related to the enforcement and prosecution of specific drugs may affect drug evidence submissions to laboratories for analysis. Laboratory policies and procedures for handling drug evidence may also vary. For example, some analyze all evidence submitted, while others analyze only selected items.

**SOURCES:** Adapted by CESAR from data provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of Diversion Control, Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section, Data Analysis Unit on 3/21/2012.