

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

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Arrest Rate for Drug Abuse Violations Decreases for Fifth Year in a Row*

The arrest rate for drug abuse violations has decreased for five years in a row, according to data from the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In 2011, there were 491 arrests per 100,000 U.S. residents for drug abuse violations (i.e., selling, manufacturing, or possessing drugs), a 22% decrease from the peak of 633 arrests in 2006. Eighteen percent of drug abuse violation arrests in 2011 were for sales or manufacturing, while 82% were for possession. It is difficult to determine whether the most recent decrease is the result of a shift in policing and enforcement practices or an actual shift in the occurrence of drug sales and possession.

### Arrest Rate for U.S. Drug Abuse Violations, 1980 to 2011



NOTE: 1980 to 2010 rates are from the BJS Arrest Data Analysis Tool. The 2011 rates were calculated using the Census Bureau's 2011 population estimates of 311,587,816.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Snyder, H. and Mulako-Wangota, J., "Arrest in the United States, 1980-2010, Bureau of Justice Statistics Arrest Data Analysis Tool, October 2012. Available online at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm> (accessed 3/26/13); and U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2011, 2012*. Available online at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/persons-arrested/persons-arrested> (accessed 3/26/13).

### **CESAR FAX Buprenorphine Series Updated Regularly and Available Online**

While research indicates that buprenorphine is an effective drug for treating opioid dependence, we feel that the potential for its nonmedical use and related unintended consequences may be going unnoticed. CESAR has been closely following indicators of increased availability, diversion, and misuse of buprenorphine. The compilation of CESAR FAX issues related to buprenorphine is regularly updated as new issues are published and can be found online at [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu).