

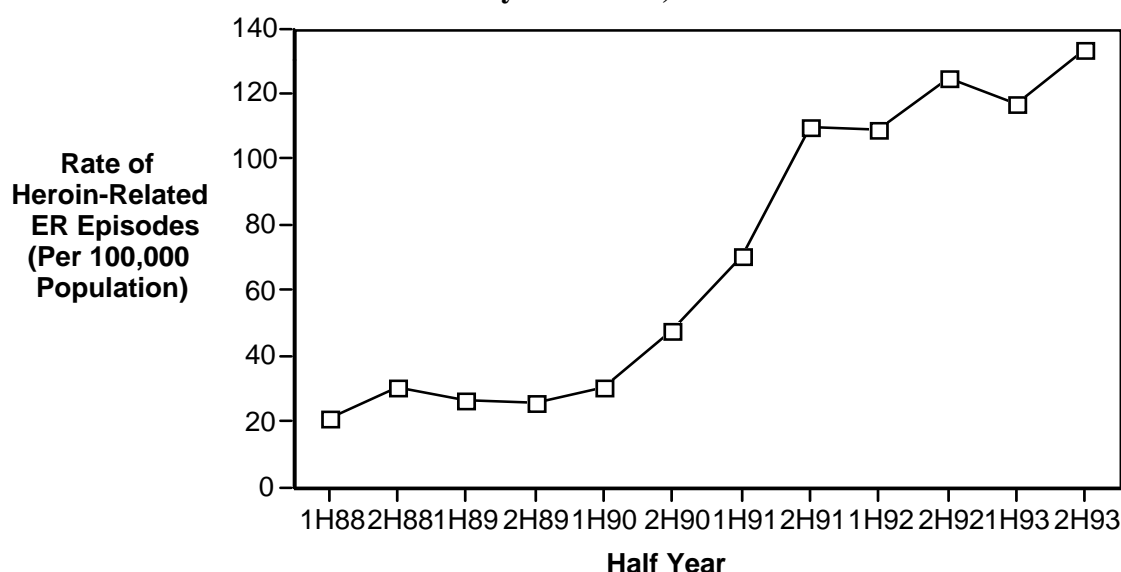
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park *

Heroin-Related ER Episodes Continue to Rise in Baltimore

Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) show that estimated rates of heroin-related emergency room (ER) visits continue to rise in the Baltimore metropolitan area. In the first half of 1990, the estimated rate of heroin-related ER episodes in Baltimore was 30.1 per 100,000 population. By the end of 1993 this rate had increased to 133.1 per 100,000 population. This increase may be related to the increasing purity of heroin available in Baltimore. According to Dr. Shiv Soni, supervisor of the Baltimore City Police Department Drug Analysis Unit, the purity of street-level heroin has been increasing since 1990, as has the availability of very high quality, snortable heroin (with an average purity of 60-70%).

**Estimated Rate of Heroin-Related ER Episodes
in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area,
By Half Year, 1988 - 1993**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Preliminary Estimates From the Drug Abuse Warning Network," Advance Report Number 8, December 1994; Baltimore City Police Department; and the Maryland Statewide Epidemiology Work Group, November 1993 Proceedings.

How Many Marylanders Believe Heroin Is Being Sold In Their Neighborhood?

To find out the answer to this and other questions asked of Maryland householders, call CESAR and request a complimentary copy of the "Spring 1994 Maryland Household Opinion Poll." A text version of the summary findings of the 1994 Maryland Poll is also available on CESAR's electronic bulletin board. Call the board at 800-842-3727 (toll free from Maryland) or 301-403-8343 and access the "BBMDPOLL" file under the "PRODUCTS" conference.

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