

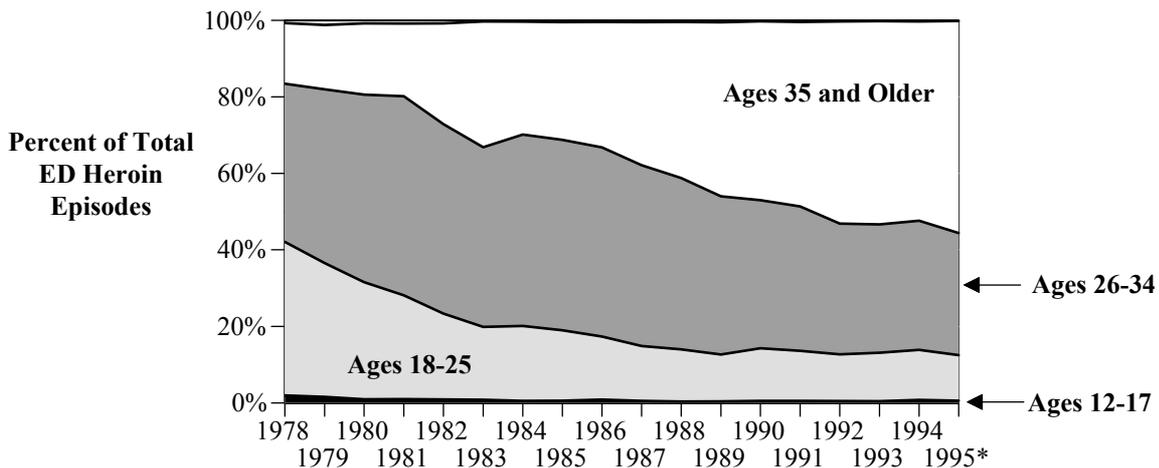
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

## *Majority of Heroin-Related Emergency Department Episodes in the U.S. Now Occur Among Persons 35 and Older*

Since 1978, the number of heroin-related emergency department (ED) episodes occurring among persons aged 35 and older has more than tripled, according to data from the national Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). In 1978, the majority of heroin-related ED episodes occurred among 26-34 year-olds (41%) and 18-25 year-olds (40%); only 16% of these episodes occurred among persons aged 35 and older. Preliminary data for 1995 show that this age group (35 and older) now accounts for over one-half (55%) of all heroin-related ED episodes, reflecting an aging population of drug abusers treated at emergency departments.

### **Age Distribution of U. S. Emergency Department (ED) Heroin-Related Episodes 1978-1995**



\*Data for 1995 are preliminary.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Historical Estimates from the Drug Abuse Warning Network," Advance Report Number 16 and "Mid-Year Preliminary Estimates From the 1996 Drug Abuse Warning Network," Drug Abuse Warning Network Series D-2, July 1997. For more information, contact SAMHSA at 301-443-7980.

### **Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Conference to be Held in Baltimore, MD**

A conference on "Integrated Approaches to Co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse" will be held September 21-23, 1997 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD. For more information, contact Colleen Dunne by phone (215-842-4380) or e-mail (dunne@auhs.edu).

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•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu (e-mail) ••