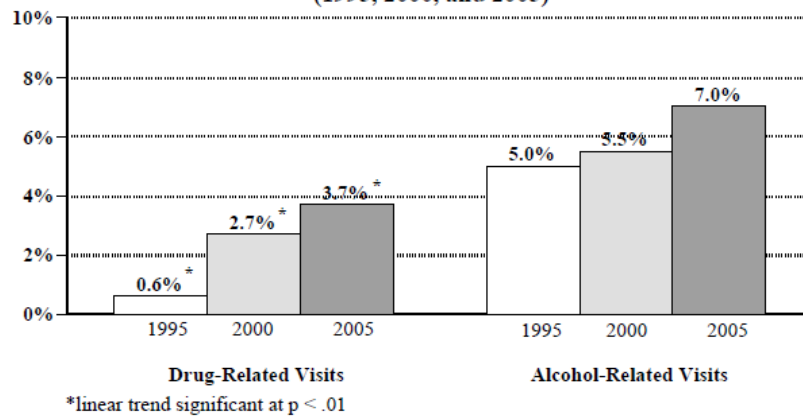


## CESAR FAX: March 2, 2009 (Vol. 18, Issue 8)

### *U.S. Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits by Adults Increased Significantly Since 1995; Alcohol-Related Visits Stable*

“Drug-related ED visits have significantly increased over the last decade,” according to a recent analysis of data from the National Alcohol Surveys. In 1995, less than one percent (0.6%) of adults reported obtaining ED treatment for an illness or injury for which they reported drug use within 6 hours of the event, compared to 3.7% in 2005. Alcohol-related ED visits, however, did not change significantly, ranging between 5% and 7% over the period. According to the authors, these data suggest that “ED continues to be an important site for initiating screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment for both alcohol- and drug-related problems” and that the “Healthy People 2010 objectives which call for a reduction in alcohol and drug-related ED visits may not be reached” (p. 582).

#### Percentage of U.S. Adults Reporting Drug- and Alcohol-Related Emergency Department Visits (1995, 2000, and 2005)



NOTES: Drugs are defined as illicit or nonprescription psychoactive drugs.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Cherpitel, C.J. and Ye, Y. “Trends in Alcohol- and Drug-Related ED and Primary Care Visits: Data from Three U.S. National Surveys (1995-2005),” *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse* 34(5):576-583, 2008. For more information, contact Cheryl Cherpitel at [ccherpitel@arg.org](mailto:ccherpitel@arg.org).