



County of San Diego

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Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee **May, 2015**

Kudos to Robert Odom and Wes Womack working AMR 413. They were transporting a patient when an individual knocked on their unit's door at a stop sign. He told them he was having severe chest pain radiating down both arms, associated with dyspnea. The medics recognized the patient looked "terrible" so rather than call backup so close to the hospital they put him in the unit with the first patient and called in report to the base. An EKG showed a STEMI, and they treated him with ASA and nitrates. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient went into ventricular fibrillation, was shocked, went to the cath lab for intervention and survived.

Great work showing ingenuity in an unusual situation. Congratulations to Odom and Womack.

We have been plagued by wall time, or off load delays recently. Transports are at record levels, and the hospitals have been busy. If you experience significant off load delays (over 30 minutes) please talk to the ED charge nurse. This also applies if it appears there will be a delay, one sign being multiple units waiting. If the ED staff appears unable to help, call the EMS duty officer at that time. The duty officer can make sure the hospital is addressing the problem and get the help of hospital administration. Other options are being explored and we are working with committees reviewing the off load toolkit.

The Medical Audit Committee (MAC) has seen several cases where designated trauma patients do not go to the trauma center for that catchment area. This may be when the patient expresses a choice of hospital. Please remember designated trauma patients go to the trauma center for that catchment area. MAC feels strongly that maintaining the system depends on adherence to destination policies.

MAC is revising the guidelines for management of injured patients taking anticoagulant and anti-platelet agents in non-trauma hospitals. This will address new reversal agents.

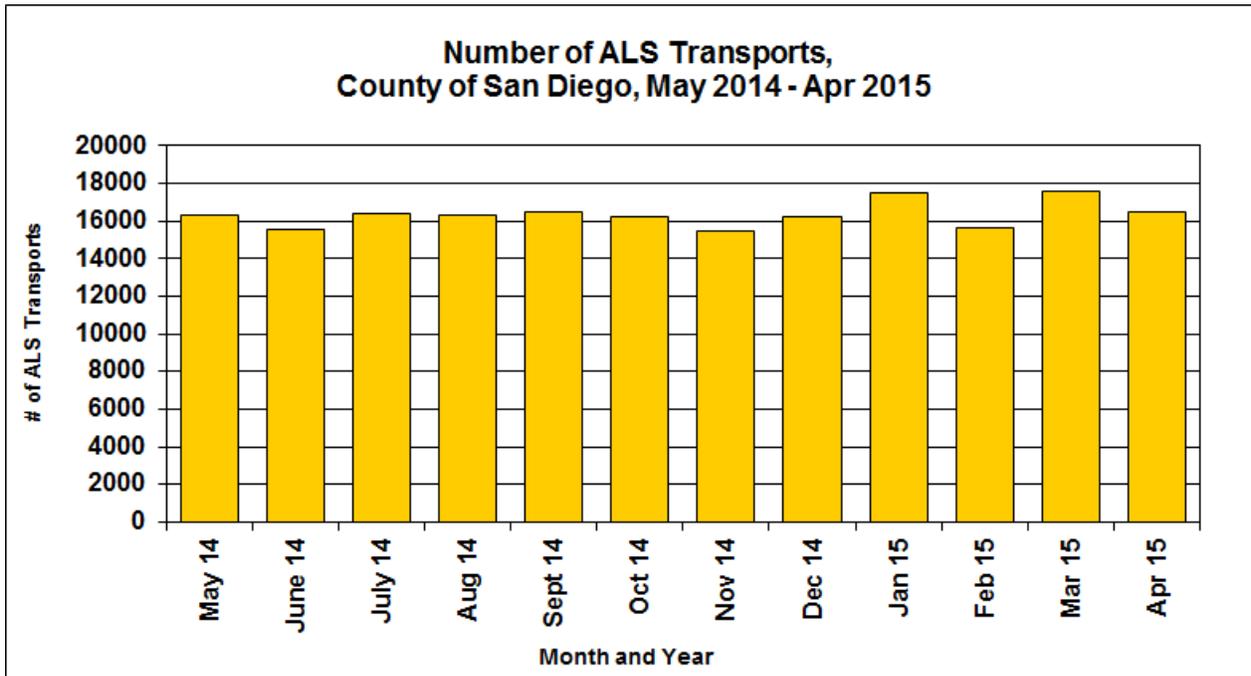
All six trauma centers underwent review by the American College of Surgeons for re-verification and are designated as trauma centers in San Diego County. Thanks to the staff of the centers for all their hard work. The trauma system continues as one of the finest in the United States.

Protocols for the coming year are being finalized now. Thanks to everyone who participated. A review of pain medication in the field and spinal stabilization are among topics discussed.

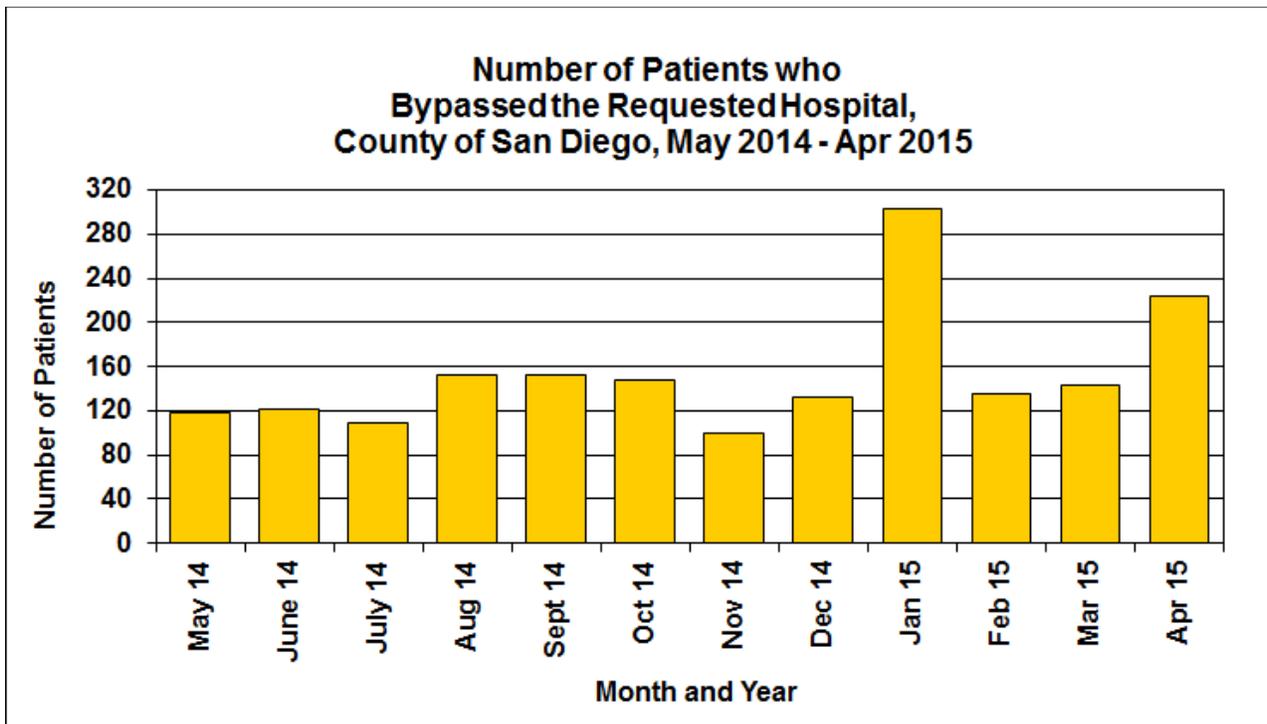
The prehospital patient care record is an important part of the medical record. In all parts of medicine documentation of care is critical, as is transmission of that information to the next team who will care for the patient. If the patient record is completed and transmitted hours after the patient care, it is of little help. Prehospital care is important and a verbal report upon arrival is not adequate. The patient care record should be completed immediately after patient turnover.

It may be that some temporary form is needed, such as completion of bubble forms. This might bring its own set of issues, but might be considered.

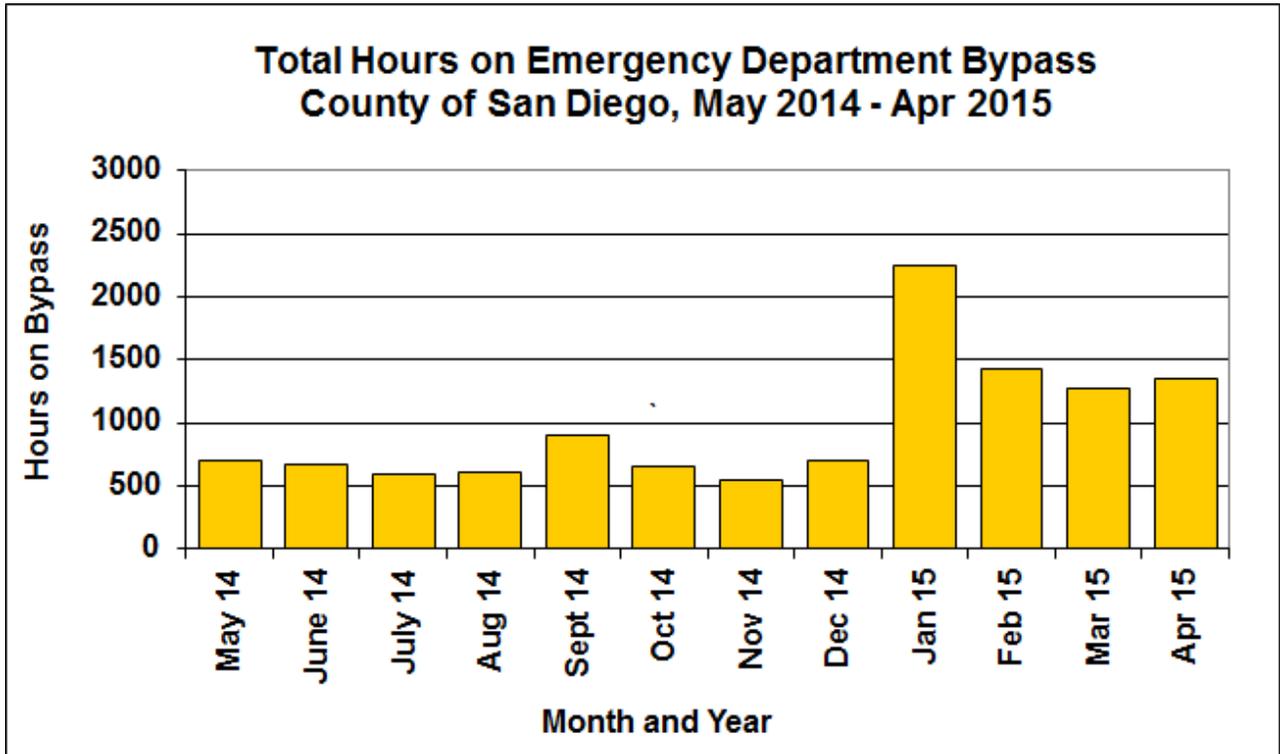
PulsePoint is the new app that alerts user if a cardiac arrest occurs in their vicinity. It also has the capability to give the user the location of a nearby AED. There have been several responses to cardiac arrests that might have been alerted by PulsePoint. More information should be out soon.



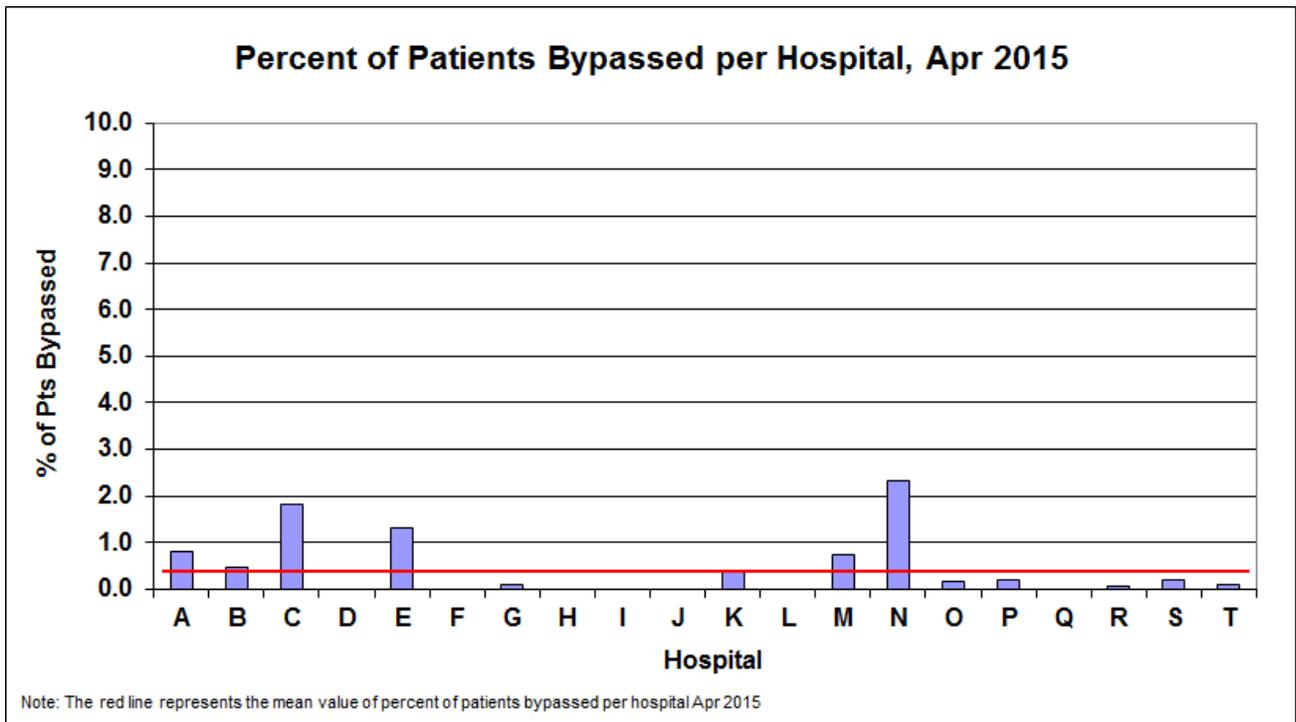
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, May 2014 –Apr 2015 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



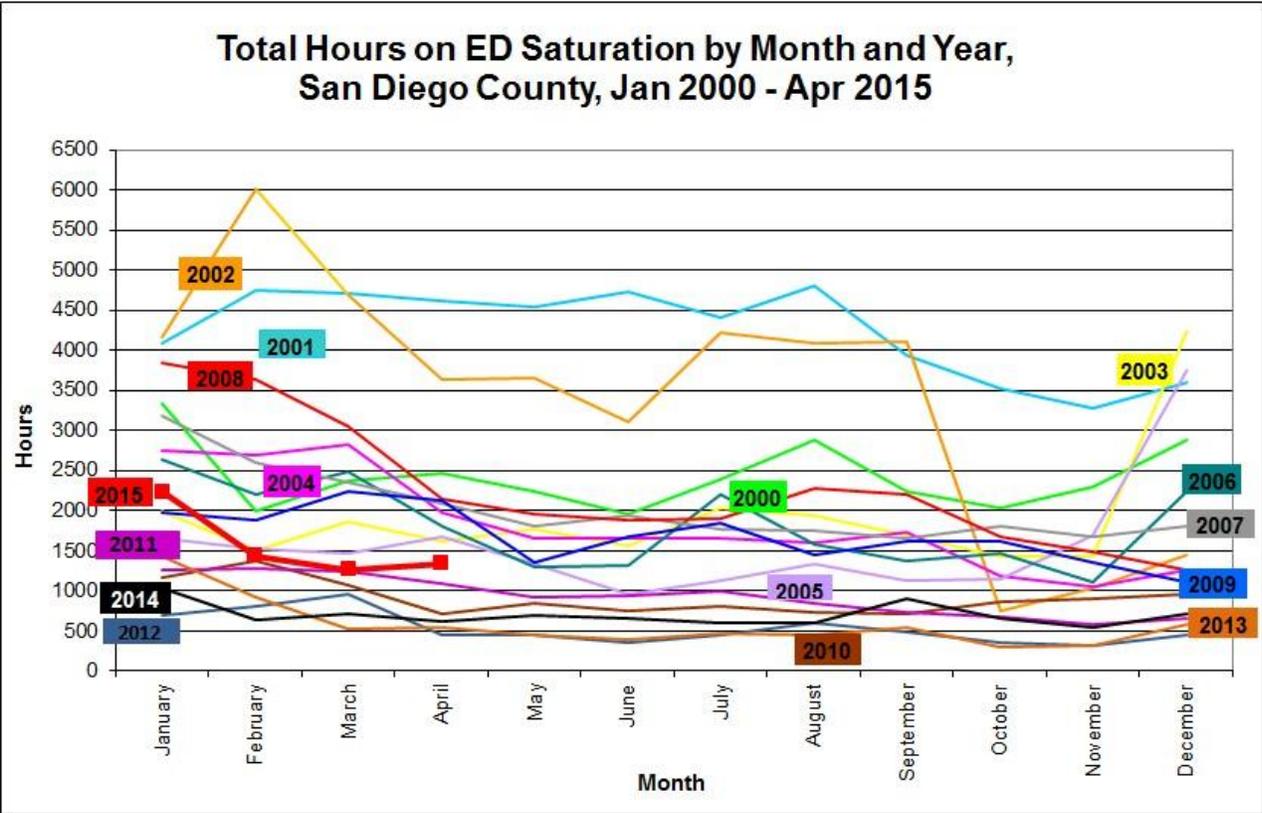
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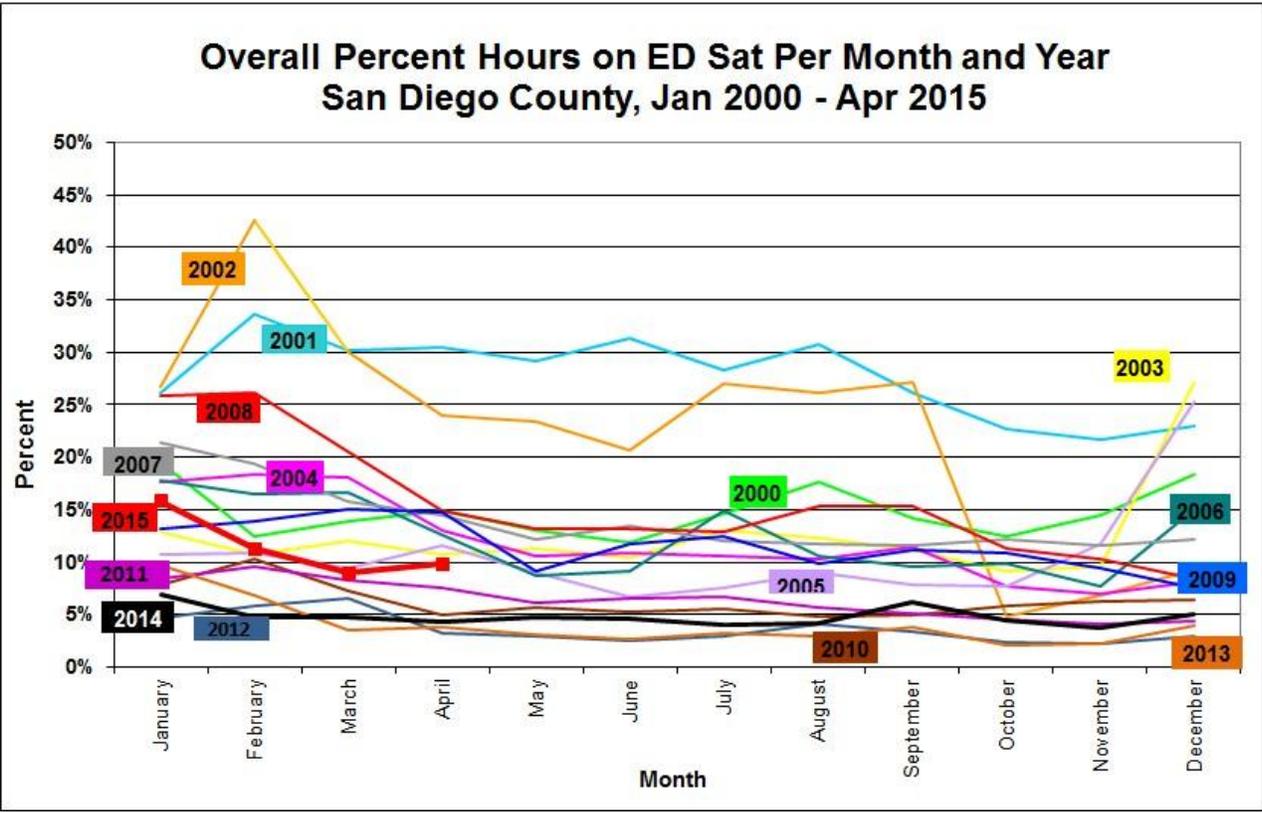
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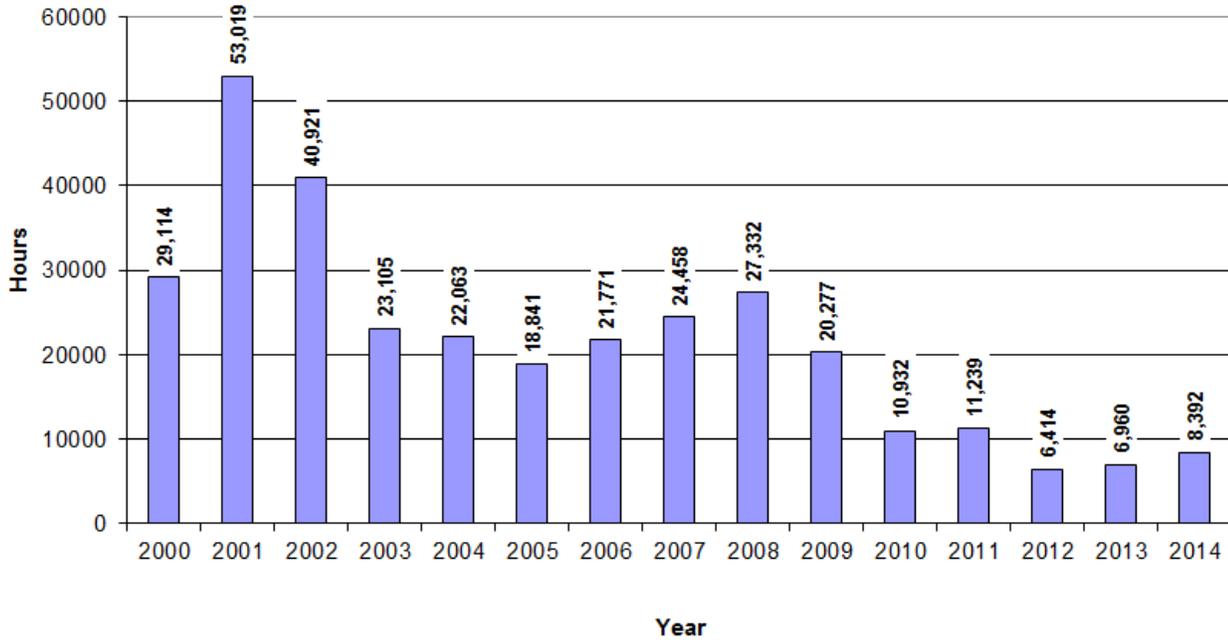


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 –Apr 2015



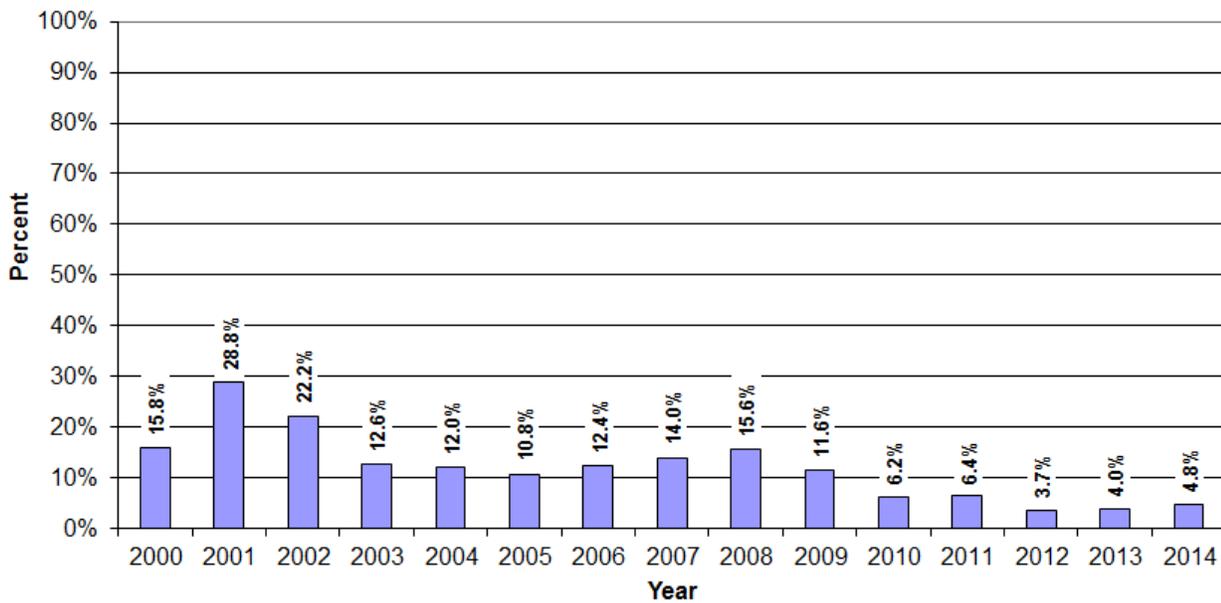
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 –Apr 2015

Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2014



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2014

Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2014



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2014