



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

BRUCE E. HAYNES, M.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
HEALTH SERVICES COMPLEX

3851 Rosecrans Street
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 542-4170 FAX (619) 542-4186

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 285-6429 Fax: (619) 285-6531

Border Health
California Children Services
Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
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Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee July, 2013

The State EMS Authority just released its report on Community Paramedicine (CP). The report says CP programs may lead to more appropriate use of emergency care services, increase access to primary care for medical underserved areas, and enhance EMS personnel skills.

The need may be driven by significantly increased demand for health care services, driven by population growth and aging, rising prevalence of chronic diseases, and increased health care coverage consequent to the Affordable Care Act. At the same time the health workforce is shrinking.

Based on programs in other areas, the report focuses on several areas of community paramedicine services.

Prehospital Services including 1) Transport patients with specified conditions not needing emergency care to alternate, non-emergency department locations. 2) After assessing and treating as needed, determine whether it is appropriate to refer or release an individual at the scene of an emergency response rather than transporting them to a hospital emergency department. 3) Address the needs of frequent 911 callers or frequent visitors to emergency departments by helping them access primary care and other social services.

Post-Hospital or Community Health Services including 1) Provide follow-up care for persons recently discharged from the hospital and at increased risk of a return visit to the emergency department or readmission to the hospital. 2) Provide support for persons with diabetes, asthma, congestive heart failure, or multiple chronic conditions. 3) Partner with community health workers and primary care providers in underserved areas to provide preventive care.

The opportunities and challenges of each of these areas were laid out. Several case studies were presented, one of which was the San Diego Fire RAP program.

The authors also interviewed a cross section of EMS stakeholders in the state from 37 different organizations. This provided additional needs and challenges for CP.

Another area of review was barriers to CP program implementation posed by EMS regulations and statutes, along with other barriers. Examples were required transport to an ED, locations of practice (eg, field, IFT, etc), and scope of practice. Payment for services related to transport was also discussed.

The authors recommend that further development of CP be done through pilot or demonstration projects to evaluate the various and significant issues presented. These would likely be best done through the Health Workforce Pilot Projects Program through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). An alternative could be consequent to new legislation authorizing CP demonstration projects. They thought 10-12 projects would be appropriate. The report did not recommend changing EMS statutes and regulations at this time, but believed that more information is needed to determine the appropriate role of these programs. The authors believe that CP has considerable promise.

The state will release information on letters of interest for those who would like to submit an application for a demonstration project. This should be any day. Let us know if you have an interest.

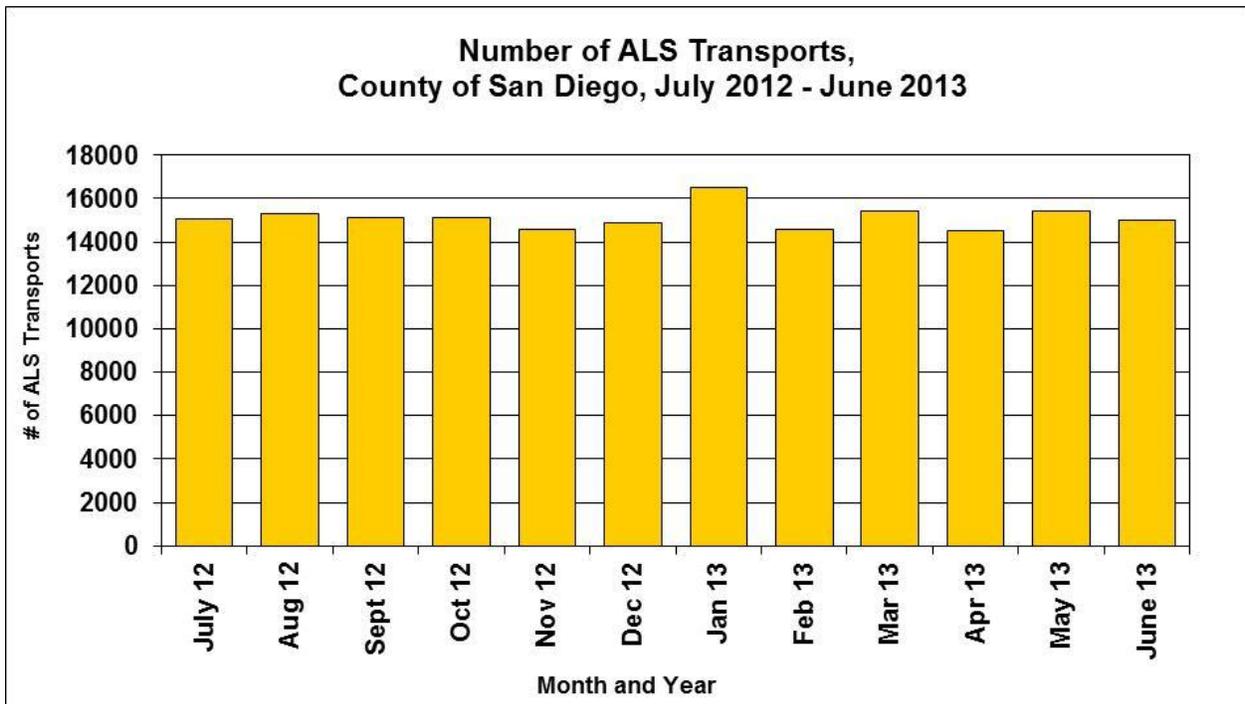
EMOC's 8th Annual Emergency Care Summit will be Thursday, November 7th. Registration is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013ECSummitRegistration>. Register early.

Chula Vista Fire will begin as the county's newest ALS first responder agency this month. Congratulations to them.

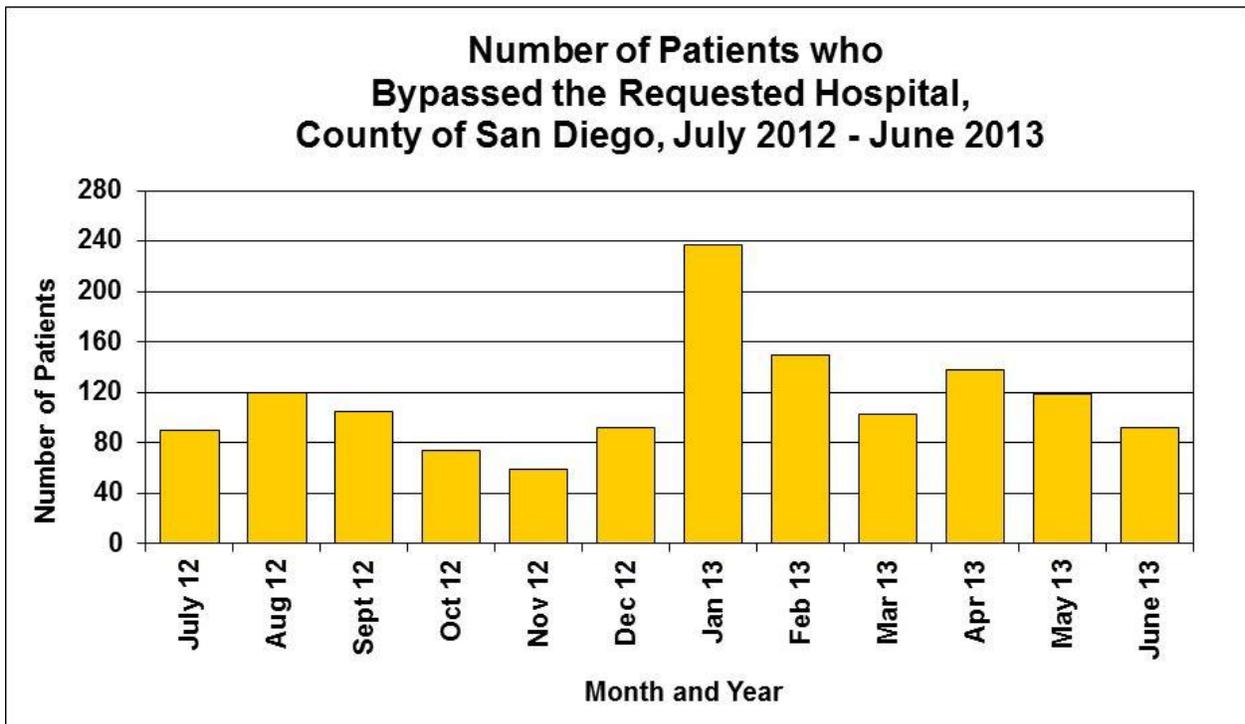
Influenza season is on its way. Agencies should be obtaining supplies. Vaccination is important to maintaining an adequate workforce and preventing transmission to family members. More importantly, it helps prevent transmission from field personnel to their patients, especially the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. This is an important issue for us.

The new 2013 protocols are in place. Let us know if you have observations or see issues for correction.

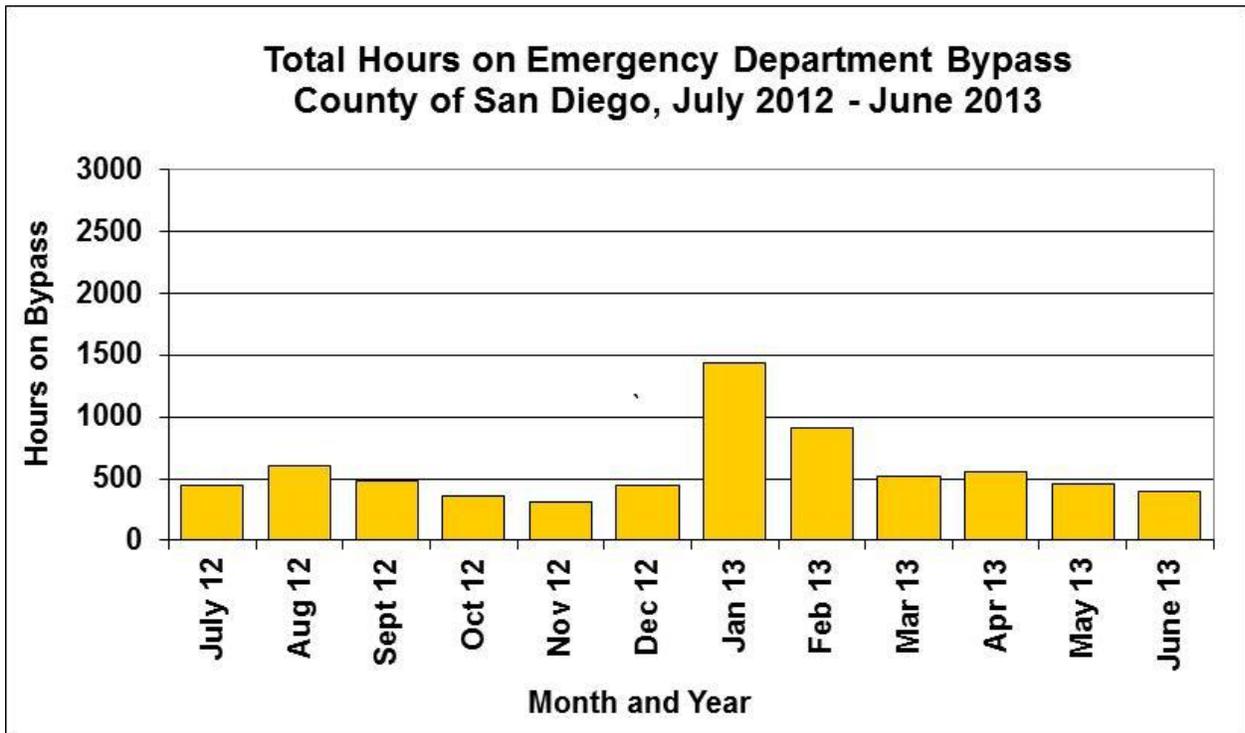
Temecula Valley Hospital is a new facility opening in Temecula in September.



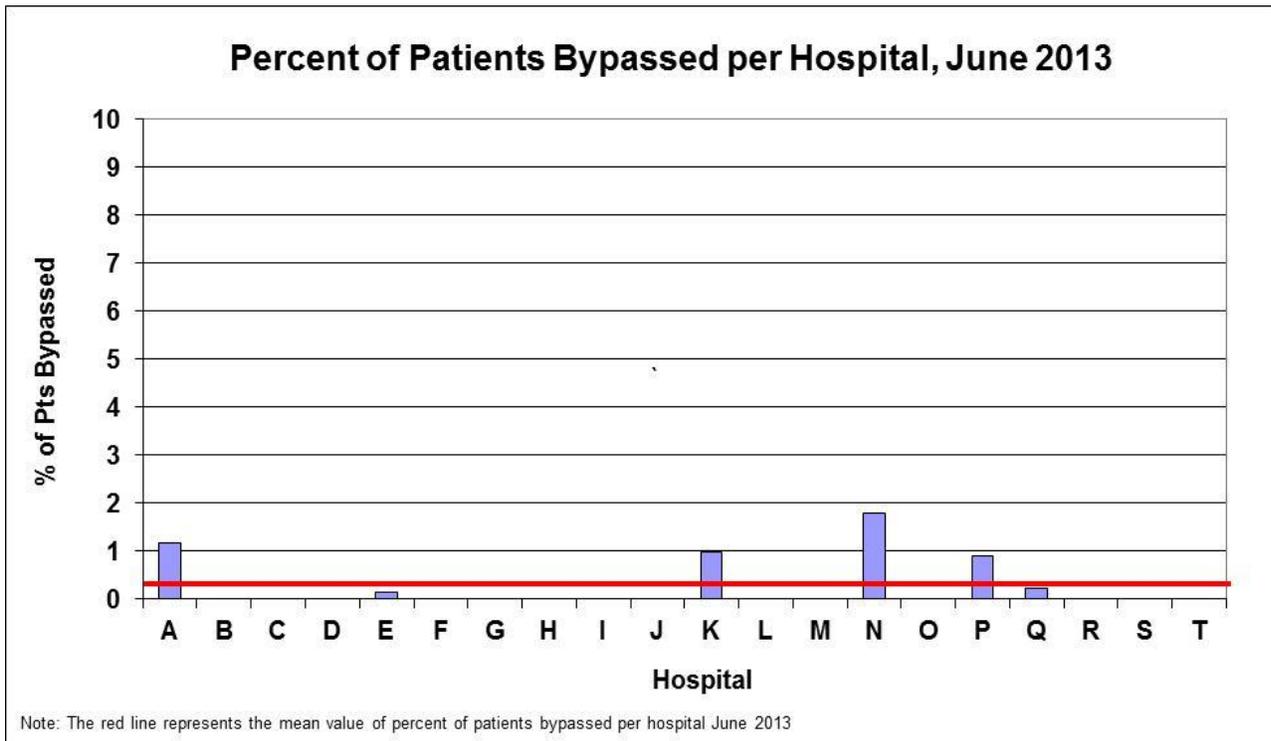
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, July 2012 – June 2013 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



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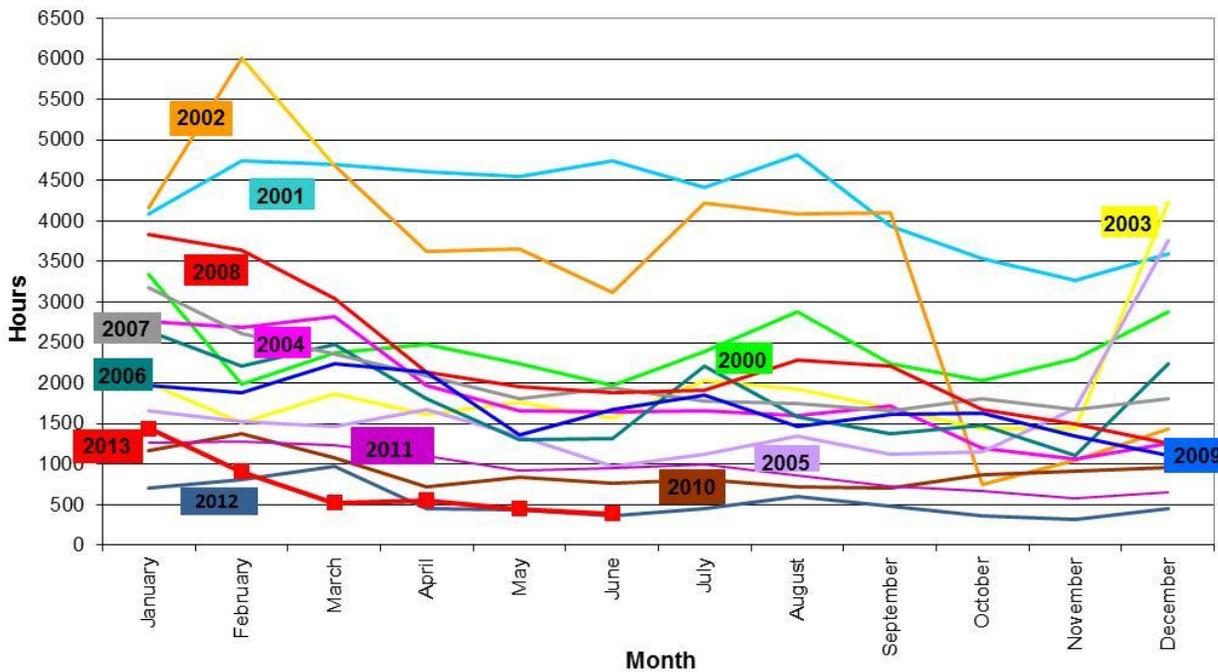


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, July 2012 – June 2013



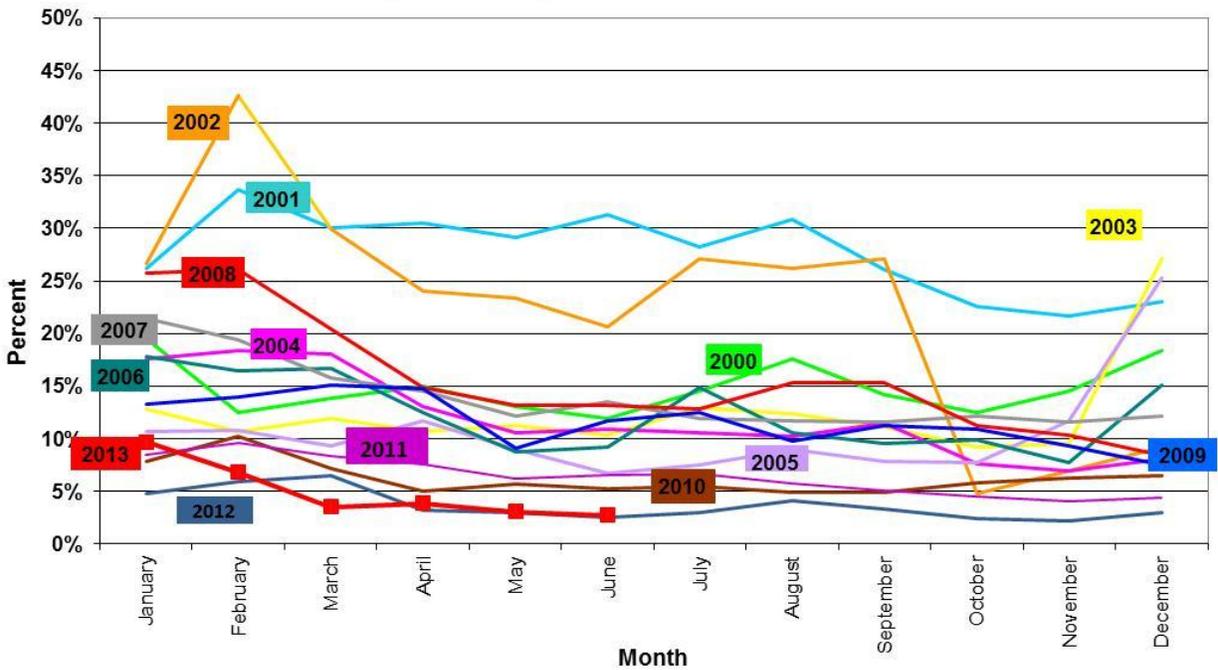
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, June 2013
 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

Total Hours on ED Saturation by Month and Year, San Diego County, Jan 2000 - June 2013



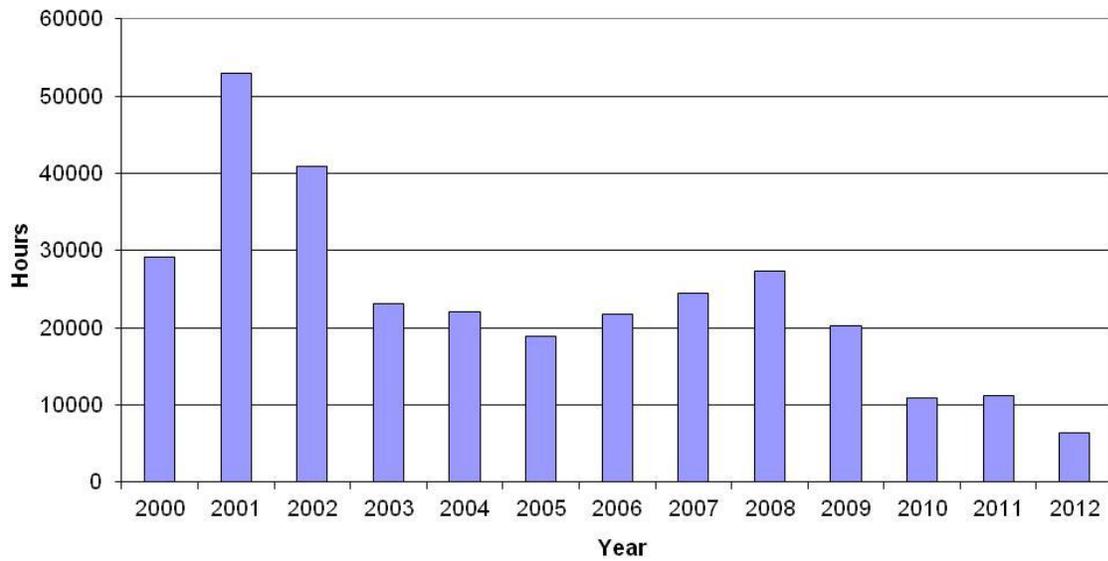
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 –June 2013

Overall Percent Hours on ED Sat Per Month San Diego County, Jan 2000 - June 2013



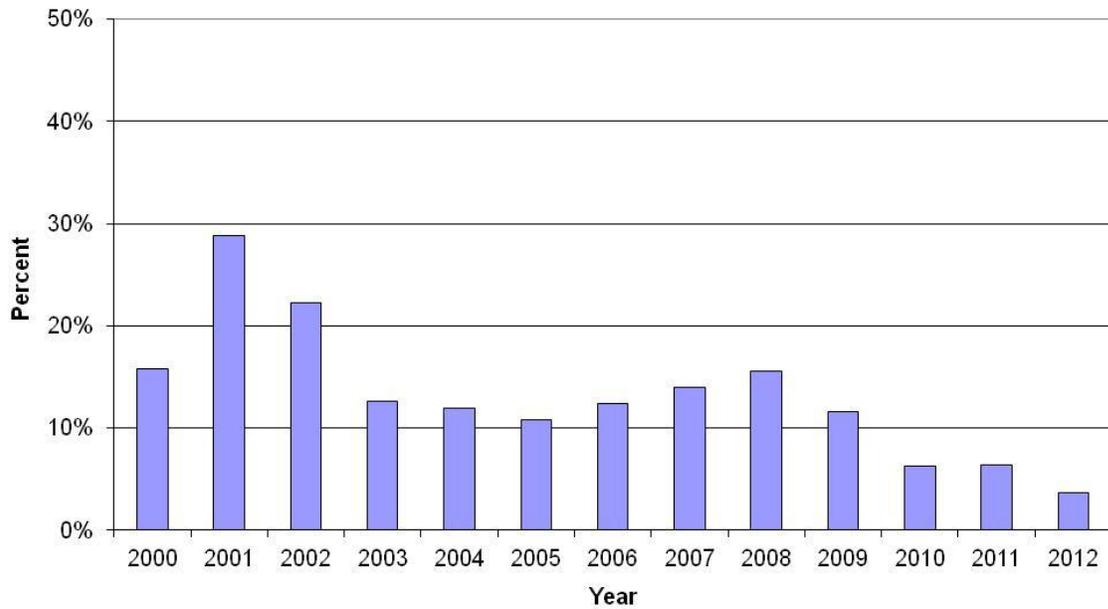
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 –June 2013

Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2012



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2012

Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2012



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2012