



# County of San Diego

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## Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee September, 2012

**Congratulations to Jim Dunford.** He received the CAL/ACEP EMS Achievement Award at the spring Scientific Assembly. This honor reflects Jim's achievements and contributions, not only here in San Diego, but nationwide. CAL/ACEP is the California chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. The award was presented at the President's Gala. A richly deserved award.

**Good medical care protects patient privacy.** This was always true, but more complicated after HIPAA. Recently, EMS personnel took photographs of an ED tracking board, compromising patient privacy. This was done for fun, and not malicious, but still caused a significant problem for the hospital. Remember—no photographs of patients or identifying information. Thanks for your help with this.

**Stroke questions help make important,** time-dependent decisions about stroke care. Asking three questions in the field will help expedite patient care. One, get the time of onset of the stroke symptoms. This time is when symptoms were first noticed. Second, get the last time the patient was normal. If the patient was asleep it is not when they awoke, but earlier. Third, bring a witness or companion of the patient to the hospital if they can provide the pertinent history especially to answer questions about the onset, times, etc. If the companion cannot go to the hospital, get a telephone number so the hospital staff can communicate with them.

**Influenza vaccine is available.** The recommendation for vaccination is now any person 6 months of age or older. Immunization of EMS personnel is particularly important. EMS workers are healthcare workers who are in contact with patients who may be weakened or debilitated. Healthcare workers may infect other persons before the healthcare worker is really symptomatic or ill.

Vaccination also helps prevent illness at a time of year when staffing is difficult. Vaccination helps prevent serious or life-threatening complications of influenza. It helps prevent transmission to family members. Influenza vaccine is safe. Influenza vaccination of persons

with a history of egg allergy is changing. Persons who experienced only hives after exposure to eggs should receive influenza vaccine, with some additional safety measures, including 30 minutes of observation after vaccination. Those who report egg reactions with symptoms/signs of angioedema or anaphylaxis should be referred to an appropriate physician for further risk assessment.

**The San Diego Emergency Care Summit 2012** will be held October 25th. Registration information is available. The Summit will include a presentation by a physician from Joplin, review this year's emergency department experience, a prehospital panel, pediatric and burn surge, narcotic prescribing, psychiatric holds, and licensing updates.

**Remember, there is no psychiatric bypass category** in our destinations and on the QA Net.

**Palomar Hospital moved** into its new Palomar Medical Center facility. The move was smooth after much planning. An urgent care is at the Palomar Downtown campus (the old facility), along with labor and delivery, pediatrics and behavioral health services.

**The 2010 Trauma Report** is now available on the EMS website. The report includes extensive information on the system and patients.

**This year's statewide drill** will have an earthquake scenario. It will take place on November 15, and this year, occur on the evening shift for hospitals from 7 pm to 11 pm.

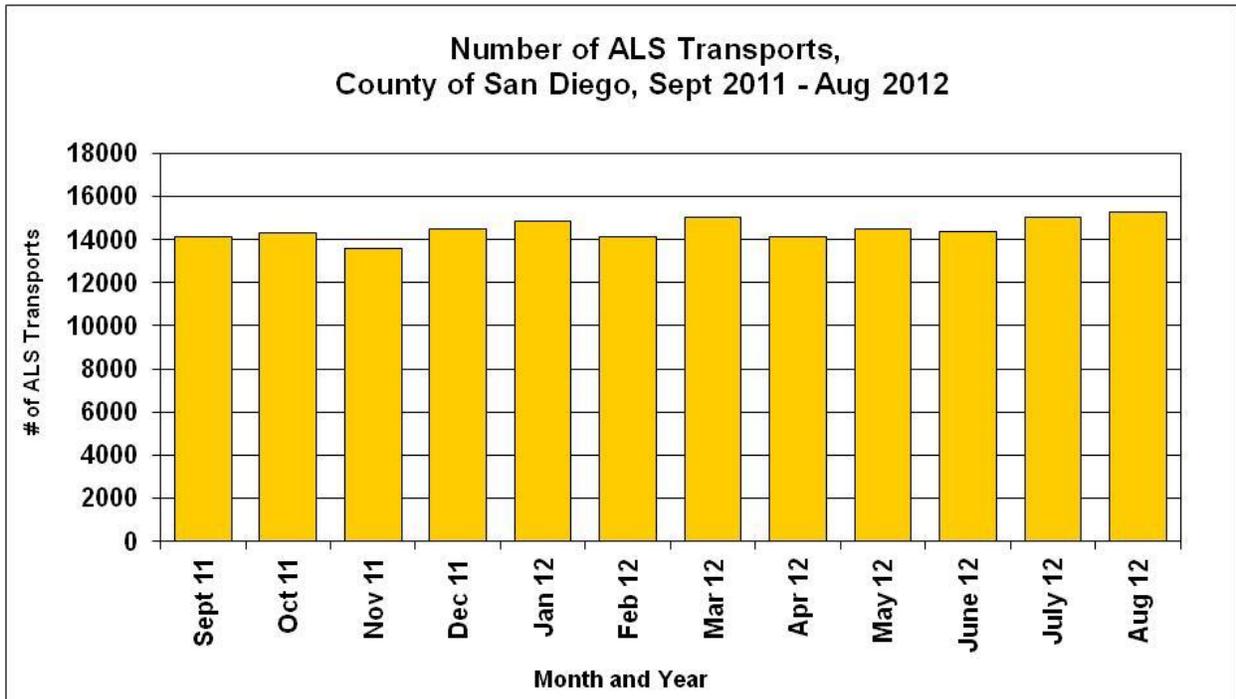
**This year will be the protocol review year.** If you have suggestions for changes let us know.

**The Joint Commission has certified** Primary Stroke Centers for some time, and is now developing Comprehensive Stroke Centers. These hospitals would have ability to perform invasive procedures such as intra arterial thrombolysis and clot extraction. These hospitals would have additional personnel requirements. The integration of these facilities into our stroke system will be part of the development of the stroke system under new state regulations expected in the near future.

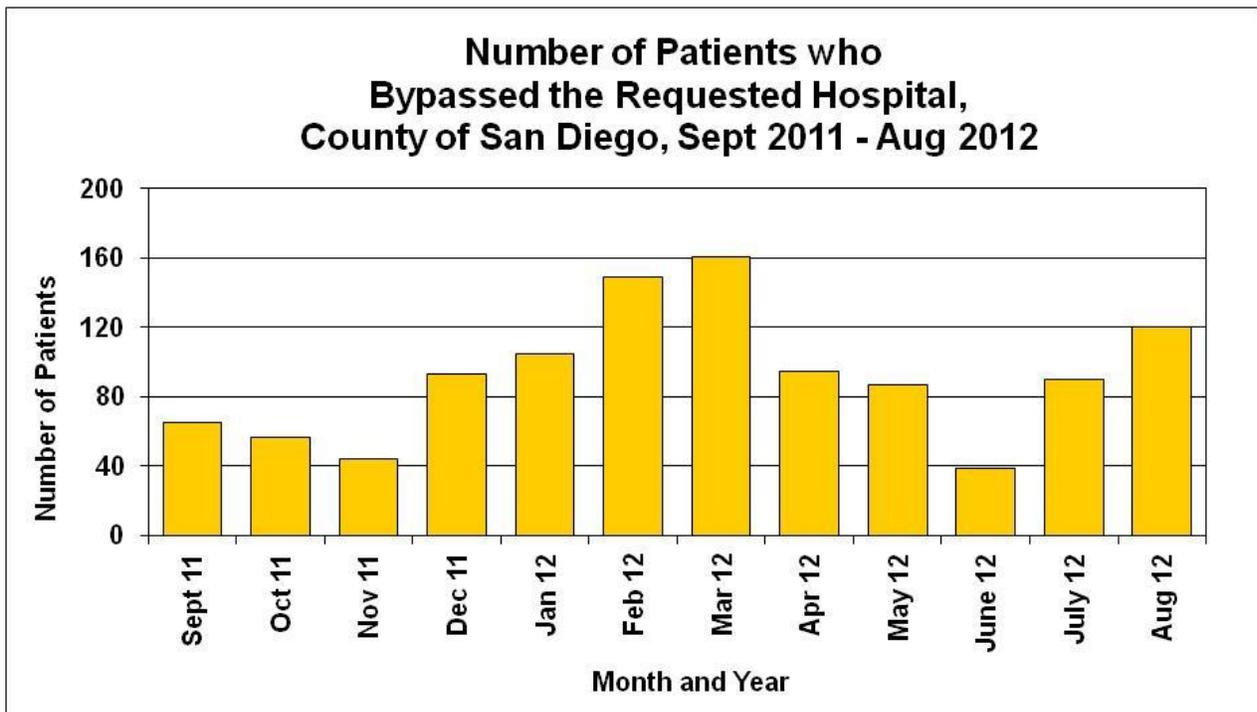
**The state released the anticipated EMS** for Children regulations. These would define 4 levels of receiving hospitals, along with data collection requirements, personnel requirements, quality improvement standards and other features. Comments are due October 2.

**iQCS training** is underway.

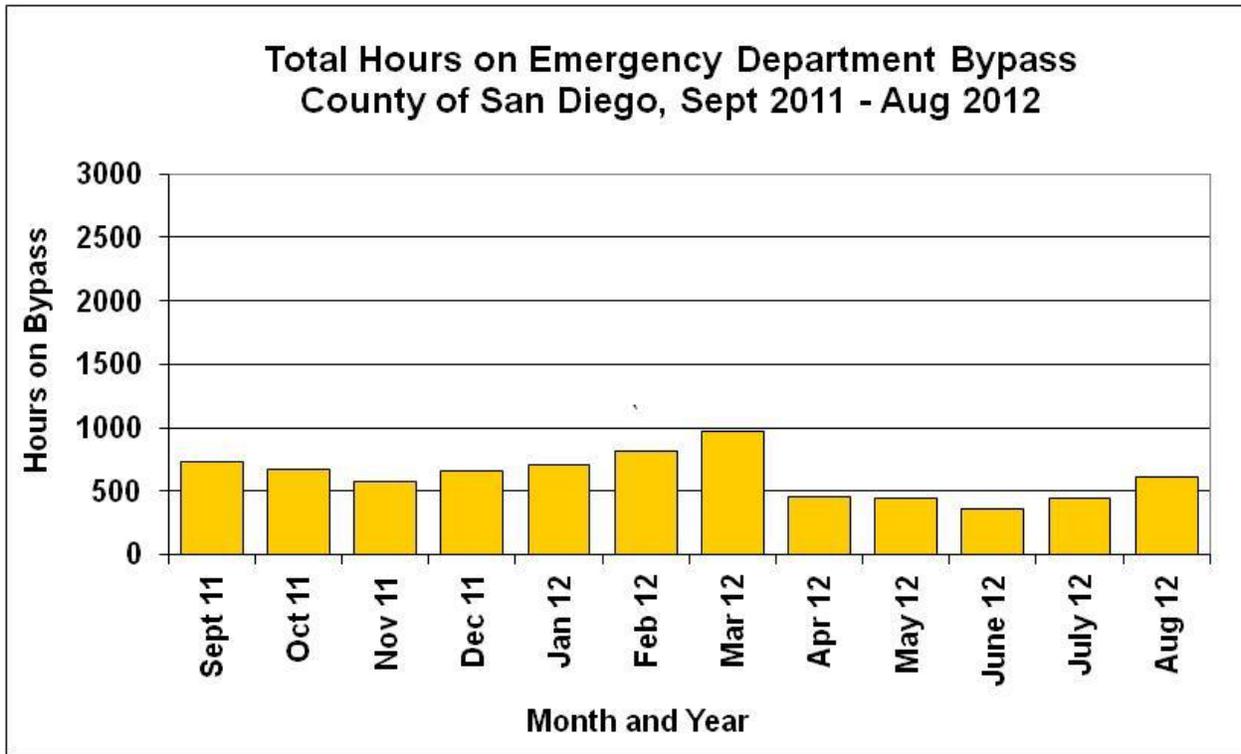
**CAHAN underwent an update** that required users to change their password. We encourage anyone on CAHAN to do so, so they can continue to receive messages.



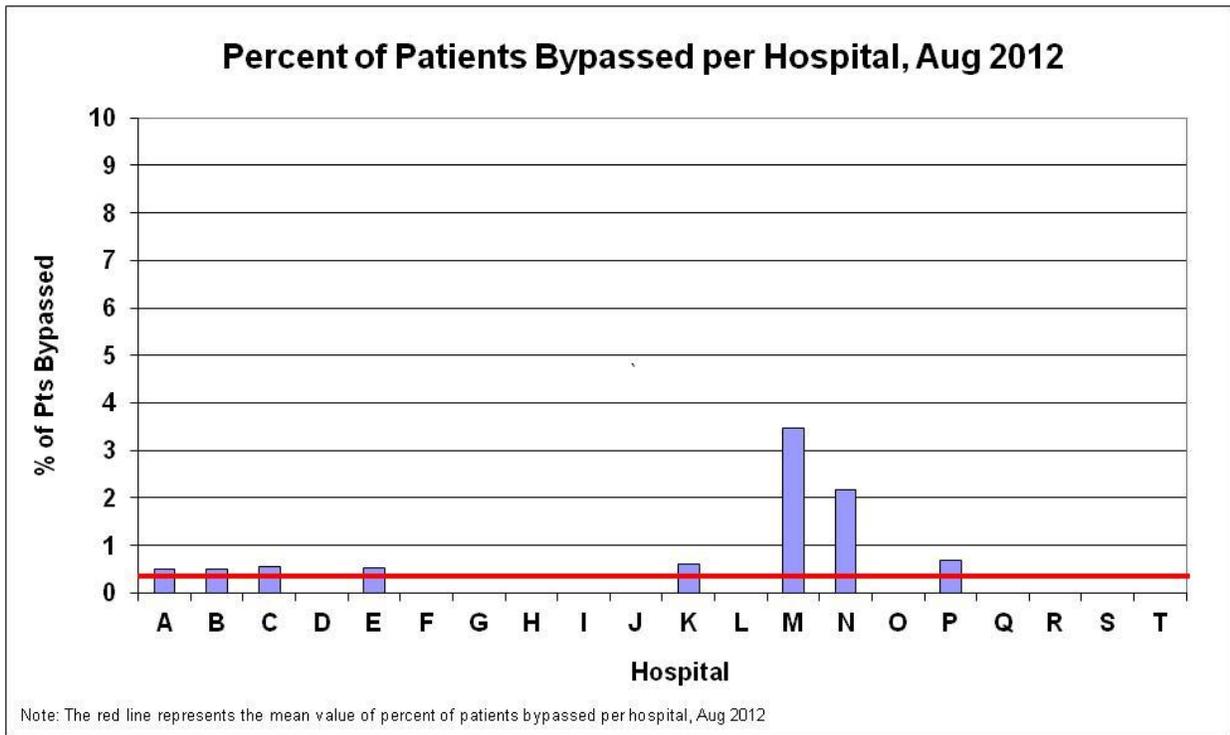
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Sept 2011 – Aug 2012 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



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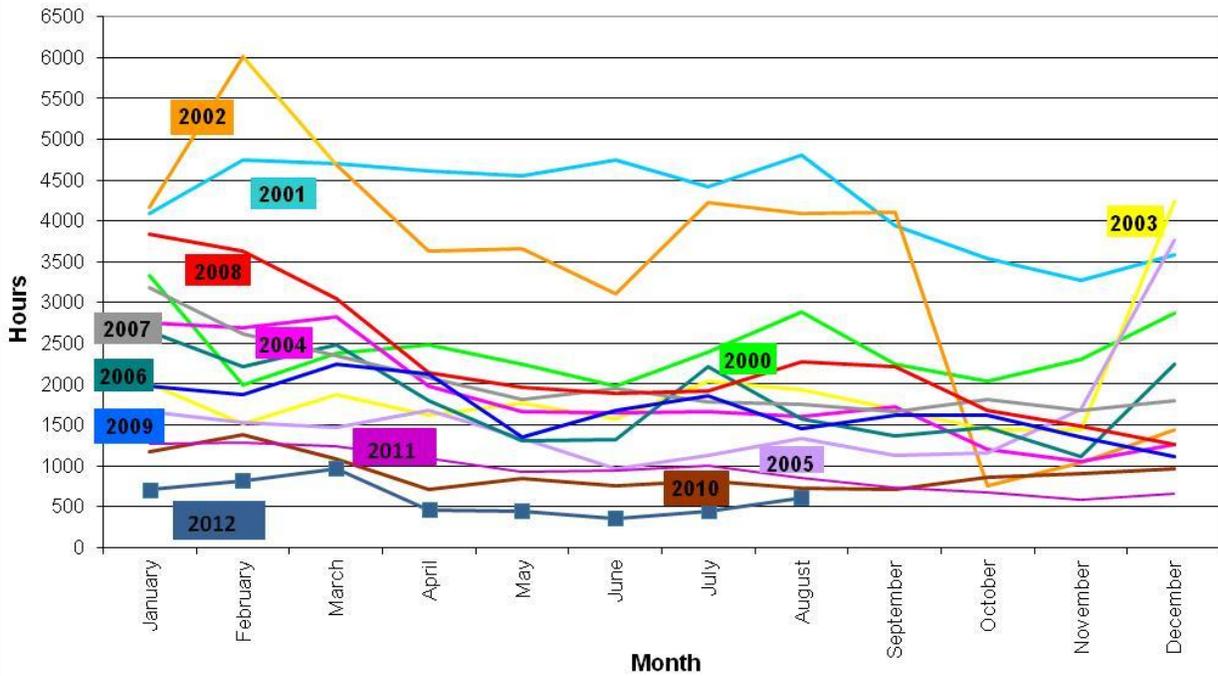


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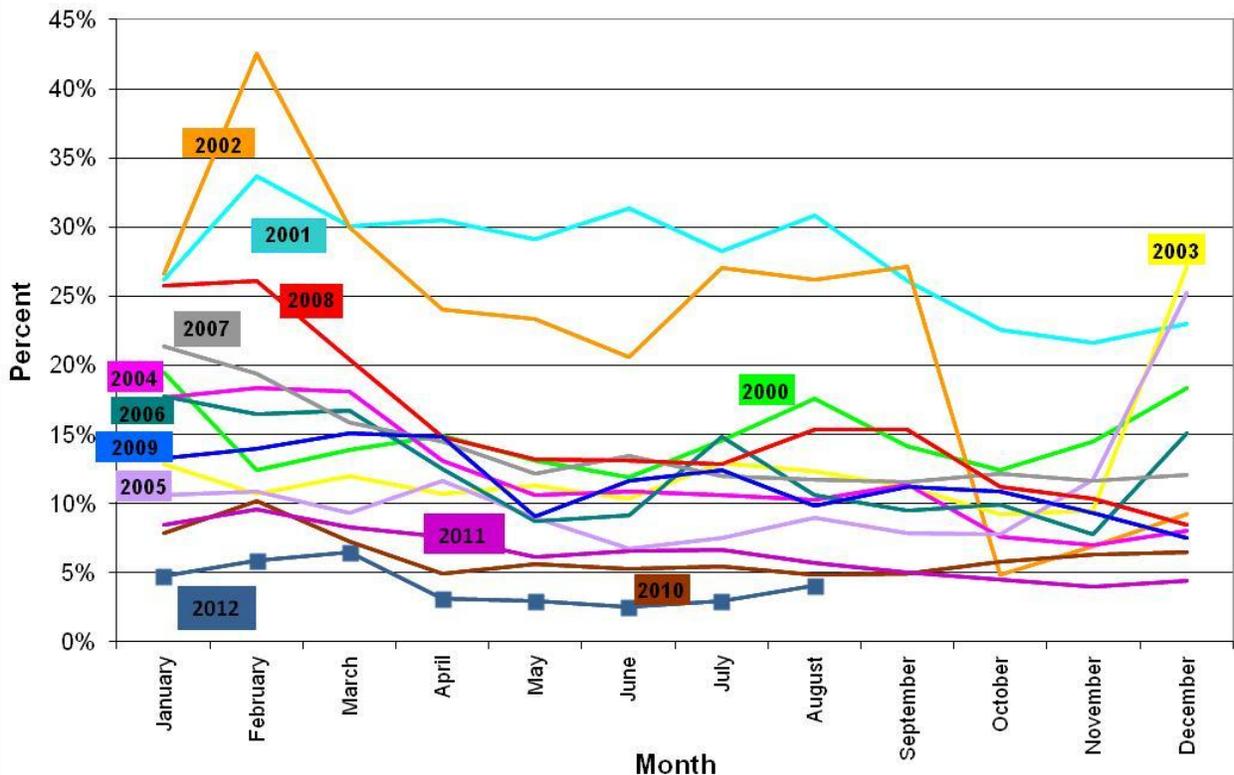
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Aug 2012  
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### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Month and Year, San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Aug 2012



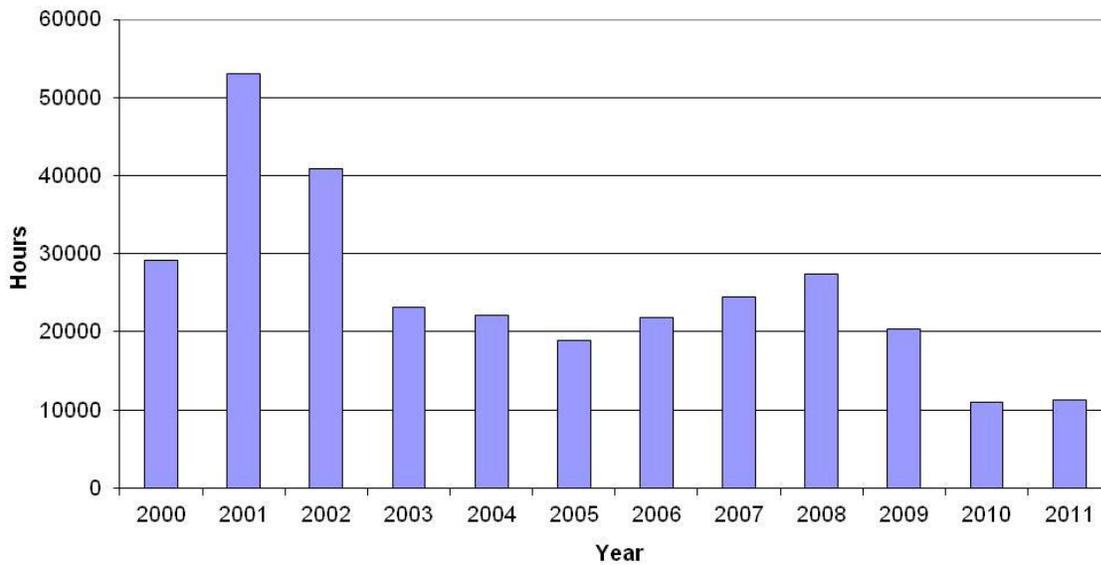
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Aug 2012

### Overall Percent Hours on ED Sat Per Month San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Aug 2012



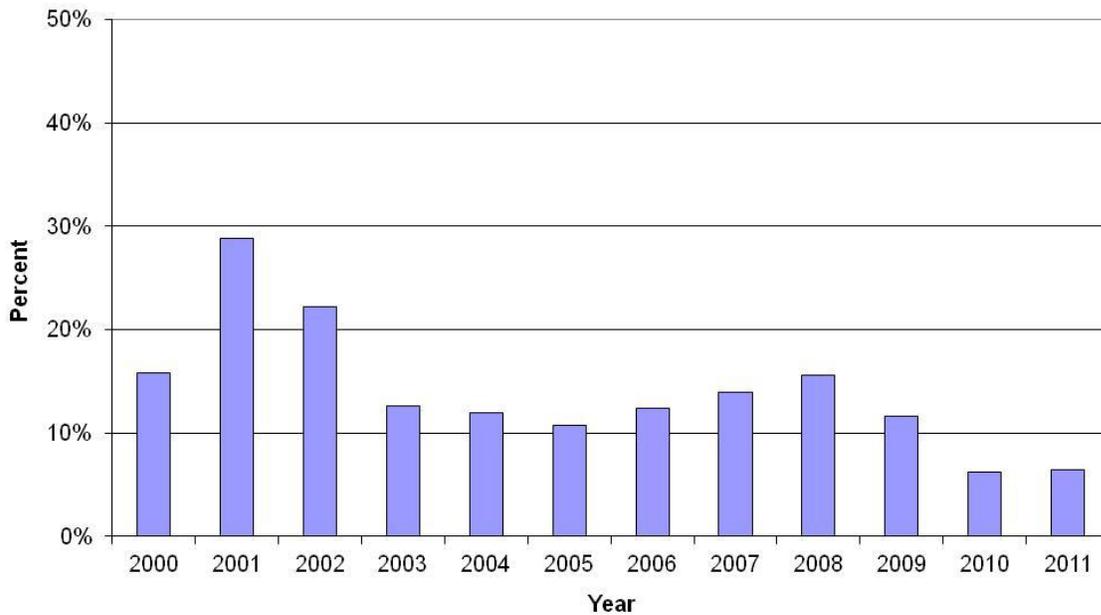
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Aug 2012

### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2011



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2011

### Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2011



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2011