

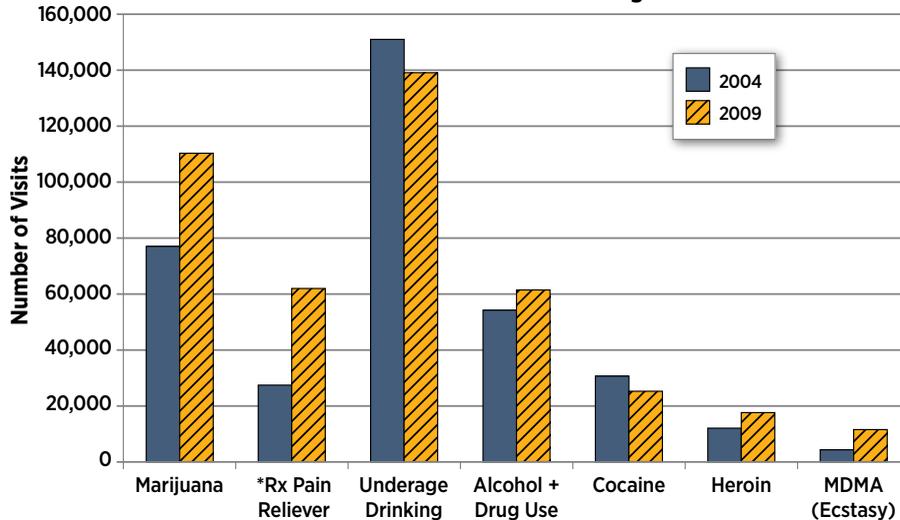
ACTIVITY 4

Drugs + SOCIETY: Emergency Room Visits



The following graph compares the number of emergency room visits due to alcohol and drug abuse nationwide for people under 21 in the years 2004 and 2009. Use the information from the graph to answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Drug- and Alcohol-Related Emergency Department Visits by Drug Type
Persons Under 21 Years of Age



*Rx = prescription; includes pain relievers such as codeine or oxycodone, not over-the-counter relievers such as Tylenol® or Advil®

Source: Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2009: Selected Tables of National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA, 2010. www.samhsa.gov/data/Dawn.aspx

Questions

1. In both 2004 and 2009, which drug contributed to the most emergency room visits by people under 21?

2. For which drugs did emergency room visits **increase** from 2004 to 2009? _____

3. For which drugs did emergency room visits **decrease** from 2004 to 2009? _____

4. Which two drugs showed the biggest increase in emergency room visits from 2004 to 2009?

5. Overall, did drug-related visits to the emergency room increase or decrease from 2004 to 2009?

Looking at the Big Picture (use separate paper as necessary):

1. What are some reasons why drug abuse can cause a person to visit the emergency room? Do research as necessary to support your answer. _____

2. What are some possible outcomes or costs to society that may result from drug- and alcohol-related emergency room visits? _____