

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

***Thus Far in 2012 More Than One-Half of U.S. States Have Had Media Reports of Buprenorphine Misuse or Diversion***

There were a total of 186 media reports of buprenorphine misuse or diversion from January 1 to August 31, 2012, according to an update of an informal analysis first conducted by CESAR in 2011 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 33). The most common types of media reports were of persons possessing (56%) or selling (25%) buprenorphine, often along with other drugs such as prescription opioids and benzodiazepines, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine. There were also reports of smuggling into correctional institutions (14%), diversion by theft and fraud (8%), and use by children (3%). More than one-third (35%) of the media reports involved other drugs and approximately one-fifth (19%) involved other crimes, including trafficking of other drugs, burglary, and robbery. Massachusetts had the highest number of media reports (39), followed by New York (24), Maine (19), Pennsylvania (15), Kentucky (14), and New Hampshire (14). Below is a list of the 27 states and one territory that had at least one buprenorphine media report in the first eight months of 2012, the total number of media reports per state, and a brief description of one of the media reports. The full list of media reports is available online at [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu).

**Selected Articles from U.S. States Reporting on Buprenorphine Misuse or Diversion, January-August 2012**  
(*N=186 media reports in 27 States and 1 Territory*)

State	Total # of Articles	Example Article Subject	Example Article Description
AK	1	possession	Man arrested for possession of methadone, Xanax, and Suboxone. ("Alaska Department of Public Safety Issues Trooper Dispatches," <i>Targeted News Service</i> , 6/6/12)
AL	1	possession	Woman found in possession of Suboxone when arrested for distribution of methadone and hydrocodone to undercover officer. ("Woman Arrested on Drug Counts," <i>Chattanooga Times Free Press</i> , 1/21/12)
CA	5	possession	Two people found to be in possession of Suboxone pills after being arrested for felony drug sales. ("Meth, Pot, Heroin Found at Eureka Home Today," <i>Eureka Times Standard</i> , 4/11/12)
CO	1	death	Man died with cocaine, Xanax, Subutex and alcohol in his system; buddies drove around with him dead in car and used his credit cards. ("2 Colo. Men Get Probation in Real-Life 'Weekend at Bernie's' Case," <i>Gannett News Service</i> , 3/9/12)
CT	3	possession, selling	Man charged with possession of 40 grams of powdered cocaine, 4 oxycodone tablets, 1 Suboxone tablet, and 3 Suboxone strips. ("Drug Probe Leads to Arrest of West Haven Man," <i>New Haven Register</i> , 7/11/12)
DE	1	possession	Two men charged with possession of 125 grams of heroin, 10 Suboxone films, 40 hydroxyzine pills, 19 grams of marijuana, and three shotguns. ("Drug Arrests In Angola by The Bay," <i>Cape Gazette</i> , 6/1/12)
FL	1	use by child	Two persons charged with giving two children Buprenorphine. ("Two Charged with Giving Drugs to Children," <i>Northwest Florida Daily News</i> , 6/7/12)
IN	6	smuggling into jail/prison	Correctional officer smuggled 80 Suboxone strips and 280 grams of marijuana into prison. ("Prison Guard Catches Coworker Trying to Smuggle Drugs," <i>The Herald Bulletin</i> , 2/24/12)
KY	14	diversion	Home burglary in which a wallet, cell phone and Suboxone strips were stolen. ("Brief: Woman Reports Assaults, Thefts," <i>The Daily Independent</i> , 8/13/12)
MA	39	possession	Woman charged with drug trafficking and possession of marijuana, heroin, and Suboxone. ("DA: Falmouth Woman Deals Drugs with Baby in Car," <i>The Associated Press State &amp; Local Wire</i> , 2/7/12)

*Table continued on second page.*

SOURCE: CESAR search of LexisNexis Academic database for "All News" in the "United States" with the terms "buprenorphine," "Suboxone," "Subutex," "Butrans," or "Buprenex." Only articles describing misuse or diversion were included. Only one article per news report/incident was included. If two unrelated incidents were reported in one article (e.g., "Police Beat" articles), each incident was counted individually. The state listed is the state in which the incident occurred.

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Table Continued

State	Total # of Articles	Example Article Subject	Example Article Description
MD	3	selling	Man arrested for drug distribution; hundreds of pills found in home, including Suboxone, methadone, Xanax, and oxycodone. ("Police Beat," <i>The Capital</i> , 1/11/12)
ME	19	selling	Suboxone tablets, heroin, and drug paraphernalia found in home of man arrested for drug trafficking. ("Southwest Harbor Man Gets 9 Years for Dealing Drugs," <i>Bangor Daily News</i> , 6/7/12)
MN	1	possession	Woman charged with possession of 8 tablets of Suboxone and methamphetamine. ("Minneapolis Firefighter from Coon Rapids Sold Meth Out of Fire Station, Court Papers Say," <i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i> , 3/28/12)
MS	5	selling	Man sold Suboxone to an undercover police officer. ("Two Arrested for Separate Drug Sale Cases," <i>Picayune Item</i> , 3/28/12)
NC	1	possession, selling	Three women arrested on prostitution charges also charged with possession and selling of marijuana, morphine, alprazolam and Suboxone. ("Police Bring Prostitution Charges," <i>Times-News</i> , 5/14/12)
NH	14	selling	Man charged with sale of Suboxone. ("8 Arrests Made in Nashua Drug Sweep in Wake Of Probe," <i>The Union Leader</i> , 5/31/12)
NJ	2	possession	Man charged with possession of Suboxone and heroin after motor vehicle stop. ("Police Blotter," <i>Glen Rock Gazette</i> , 8/31/12)
NM	6	smuggling into jail/prison	Woman charged with attempting to smuggle 59 strips and 5 tablets of Suboxone to an incarcerated individual. ("Woman Charged with Attempt to Smuggle Drugs at Las Cruces Prison," <i>Las Cruces Sun-News</i> , 8/27/12)
NY	24	selling	Woman charged with selling Suboxone and oxymorphone, for which she was prescribed. ("Niagara Police & Courts," <i>Buffalo News</i> , 6/22/12)
OH	3	possession	Man in possession of 6 grams of marijuana, 11 Xanax pills and 1 Suboxone pill after intoxicated driving traffic stop. ("Police: Children, Drugs Inside Car During OVI Stop," <i>Dayton Daily News</i> , 7/28/12)
PA	15	possession, selling	Man arrested for possession and sale of Suboxone and DMT. ("Erie County Man Arrested Following Search of Suspected 'DMT' Drug Lab in Girard," <i>States News Service</i> , 1/11/12)
Puerto Rico	1	smuggling into jail/prison	Woman attempted to smuggle 30 Suboxone pills, 100 Suboxone strips, and 13 grams of marijuana into federal detention center. ("Visitor Arrested for Attempting to Smuggle Contraband into Metropolitan Detention Center," <i>Justice Department Documents and Publications</i> , 3/19/12)
RI	4	possession	Two charged with possession of Suboxone, as well as possession of heroin, marijuana, and receiving stolen goods. ("Detective Bureau," <i>US State News</i> , 3/9/12)
TN	2	diversion, selling	Woman charged with using TennCare benefits to purchase Suboxone and then selling to an undercover agent. ("Overton County Drug Round-Up Includes TennCare Fraud Charges," <i>States News Service</i> , 2/14/12)
VA	7	selling	Two charged with distribution of Suboxone and crack cocaine. ("Bristol, VA Grand Jury Returns More Than 100 Drug Charges," <i>Bristol Herald Courier</i> , 5/23/12)
VT	1	use by child	Man pled guilty to child cruelty after one-year-old daughter swallowed Suboxone pill that he had bought illegally. ("Vt. Dad Admits He Left Out Pill, Baby Swallowed It," <i>The Associated Press State &amp; Local Wire</i> , 3/12/12)
WA	3	possession	Man arrested on drug charges and trafficking in stolen property after his home was searched and police found Suboxone, heroin, marijuana, mushrooms, firearms and stolen property. ("Drug Trade Cleaned Up in S-W," <i>Skagit Valley Herald</i> , 3/23/12)
WV	3	possession	90 Suboxone pills found as part of seizure of more than 7,100 prescription pills. ("Officers Seize Cache of Pills: Drug Unit Detectives Nab More Than 7,100 Prescription Pills in Separate Traffic Stops," <i>Charleston Daily Mail</i> , 2/23/12)

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