The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration cite a doubling of misuses/overdose cases presenting to EDs between 2004 and 2008 for a total of 1 million cases. That is the same estimated ED caseload for illicit drug abuse. And yet, according to that same 2012 *HealthLeaders* study, only one third of respondents said they have programs in place that focus on specific conditions to divert patients from the ED!

**Figure 9.1**

Meds Gone Wrong

While ED cases for illicit drugs have remained stable from 2004 to 2008, prescription drug abuse has doubled in five years and is on the rise compared to street drugs. In fact, estimated ED visits for non-medical opioid use have increased 111 percent while visits for non-medical benzodiazepine use have increased 89 percent.