

WELCOME



NORTHERN REGION MANAGING PAIN SAFELY FORUM

MARYA CHOUDHRY

MAY 28, 2015

## OBJECTIVES

- To educate the audience regarding the impact of opioids in our communities
- To provide practical tools for communicating with patients and family members regarding opioid use
- To raise awareness regarding safe and at-risk prescribing behaviors
- To provide a vehicle for networking with other healthcare professionals and stakeholders regarding community efforts

# LOGISTICS

- Folders
  - Agenda
  - Presenter Biographies
  - Reference Materials
  - CURES Brochure
  - PHC Contact List
  - Evaluation
- CME Logistics
- Q&A Process



# HOUSEKEEPING



- Restroom Locations
- Electronic Devices
- WIFI Access: hgi2015
- Presentation Materials Online

<http://www.partnershiphp.org/Providers/HealthServices/Pages/Managing-Pain-Safely.aspx>

# GROUND RULES

- Begin and end on time
- Be open-minded – respect all ideas and opinions
- Use technology sparingly and place on silent
  - If you must take a call, please step out of the room
- Be engaged – participate
- **Have fun!!!**

LET'S GET STARTED

Let's get started ...





LET'S GET STARTED

ENJOY THE  
FORUM!







# PHC'S INITIATIVE TO REDUCE OPIOID OVERUSE

MARSHALL KUBOTA , MD

## TODAY'S E

- C

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For \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

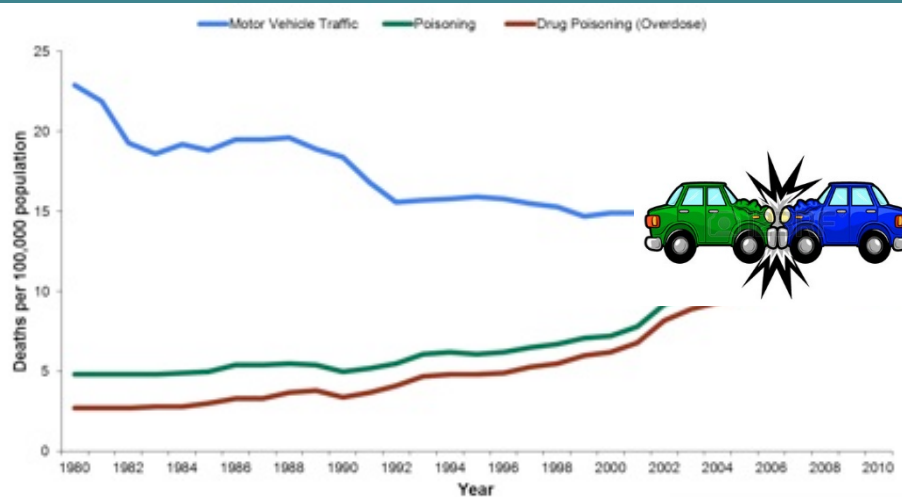
**Rx**

☐ Label  
Pills \_\_\_\_\_ mg \_\_\_\_\_ qd \_\_\_\_\_

Physician must write "Controlled Substance" or "C.S." on the prescription for abuse risk.

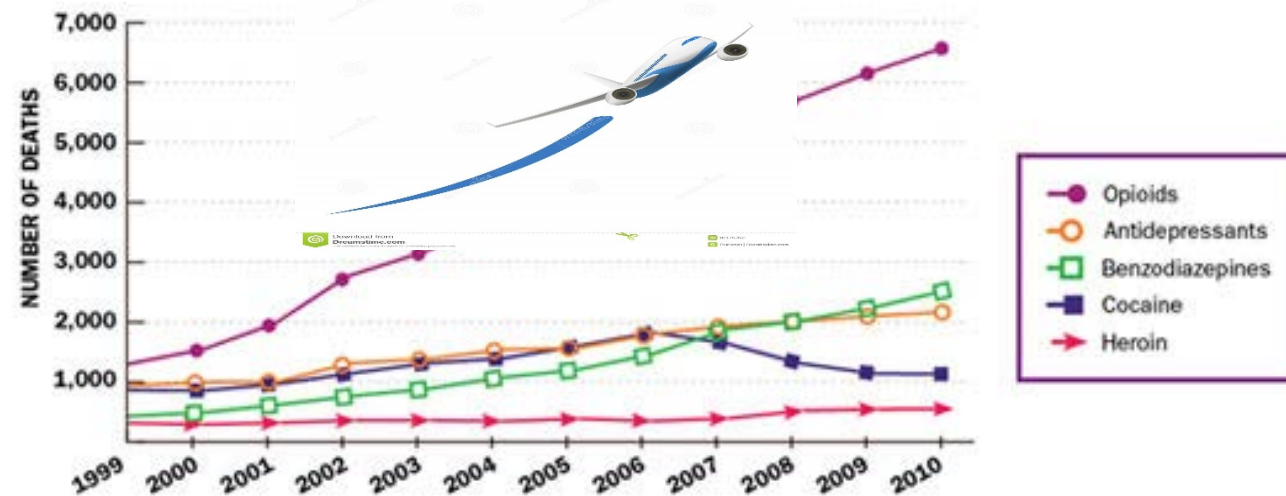
This document contains a permanent record, printed on durable, recycled paper,  
a valid prescription. When authorized, the word "only" appears, indicating a valid - valid only when the word

# DEATHS DUE TO PRESCRIPTION OPIOID OVERDOSE

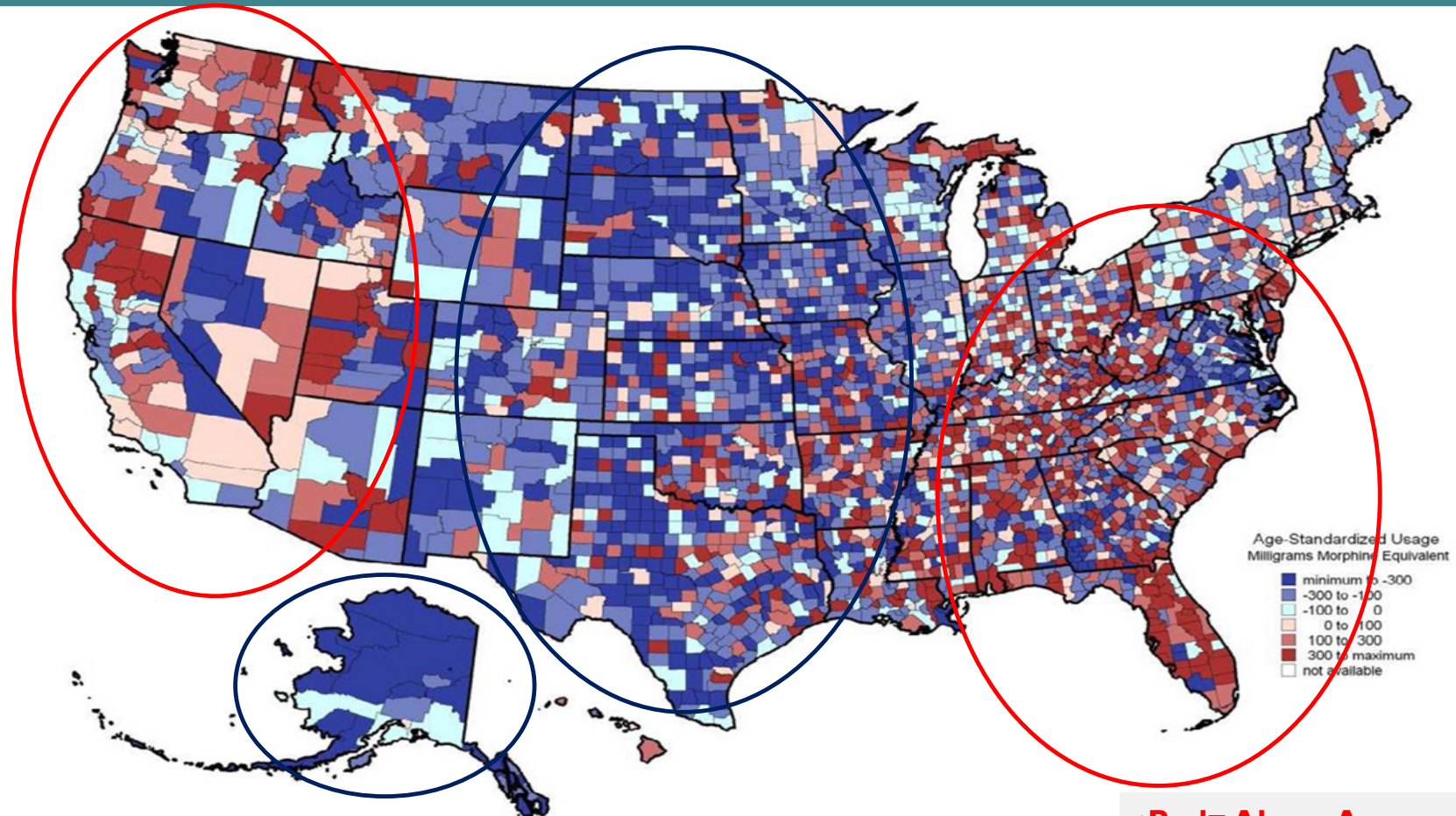


U.S. Drug Overdose deaths surpass Motor Vehicle deaths

Mortality Increase due to Opioids



# OPIOID DISPENSING BASED ON COUNTY



The Journal of Pain <http://www.jpain.org/content/covergallery>

- Red= Above Ave
- Blue = Below Ave
- Pink = US Ave

# CALIFORNIA OPIOID USE

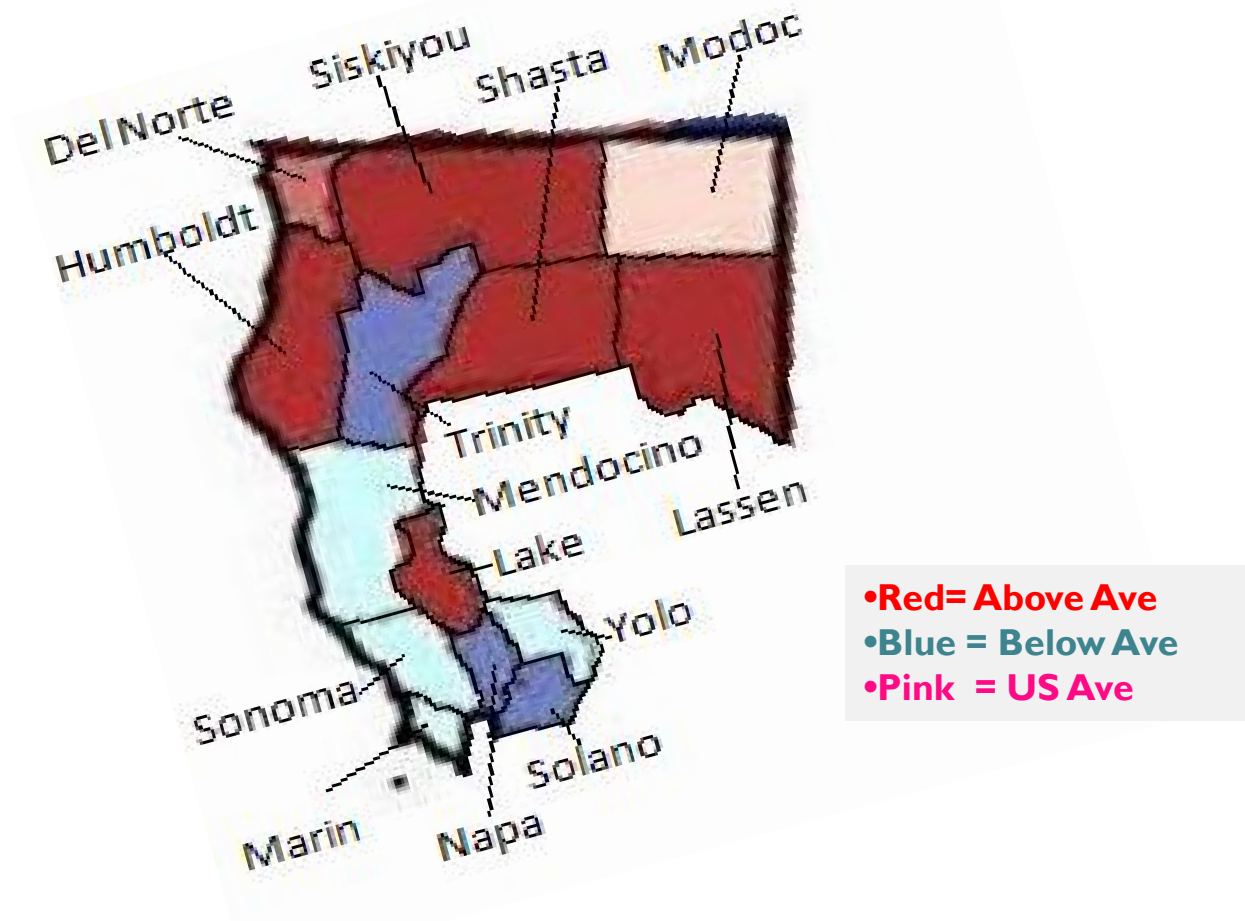
- As of 2008, California as a whole, dispensed only 68 percent of the national county average per resident
- However, variation in California is huge, with the highest rates being in Northern Californian Counties



- Red= Above Ave
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- Pink = US Ave



# PARTNERSHIP COUNTIES OPIOID USE



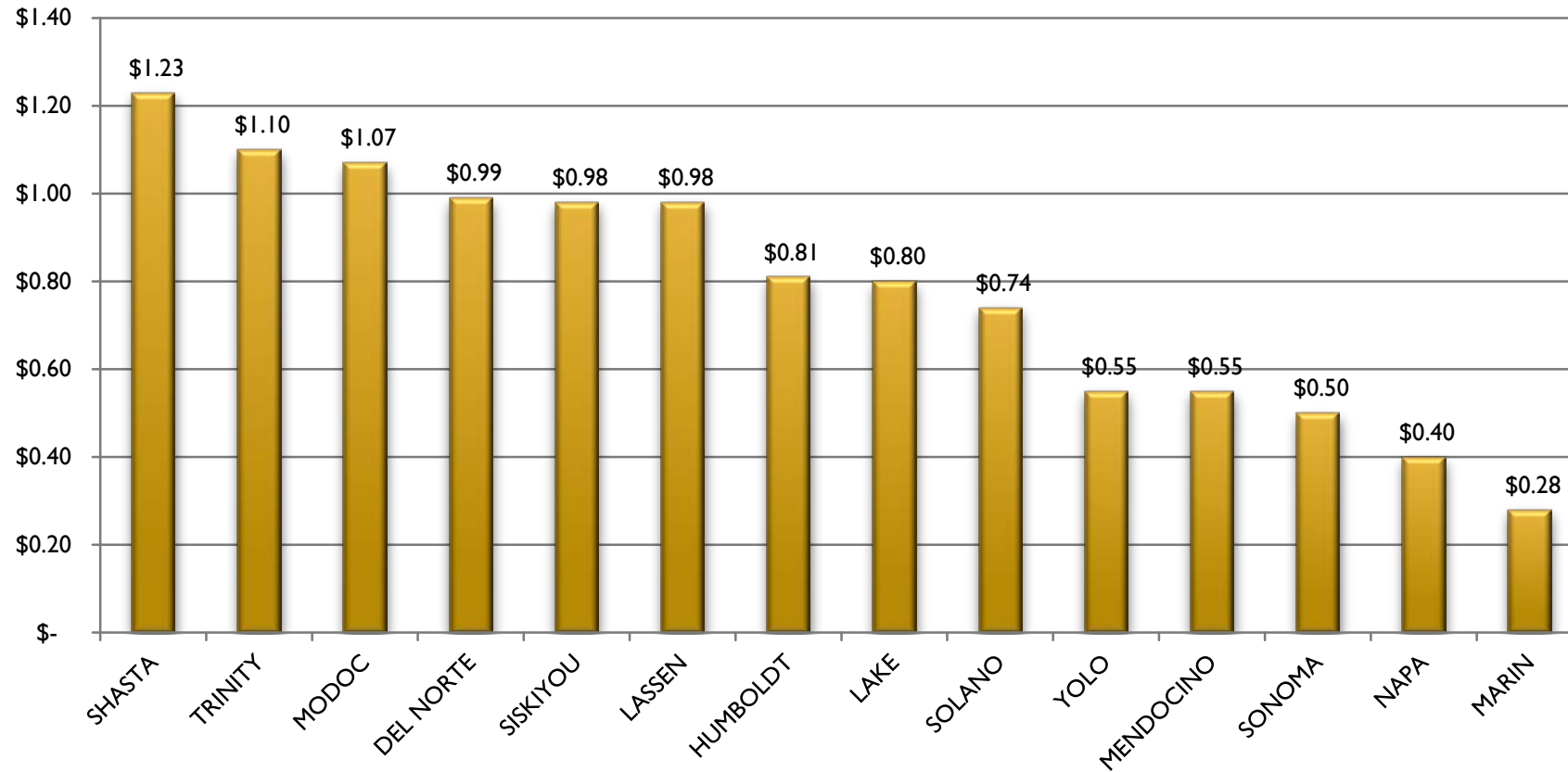
# THE CASE OF HYDROCODONE

- Brand name: Vicodin; also available in Generic
- Number 1 prescribed medication in the United States
- 95% of the world's hydrocodone consumed in the United States



# HIGH VOLUME USE - HYDROCODONE

Hydrocodone-Apap  
\$PMPM  
4Q2013



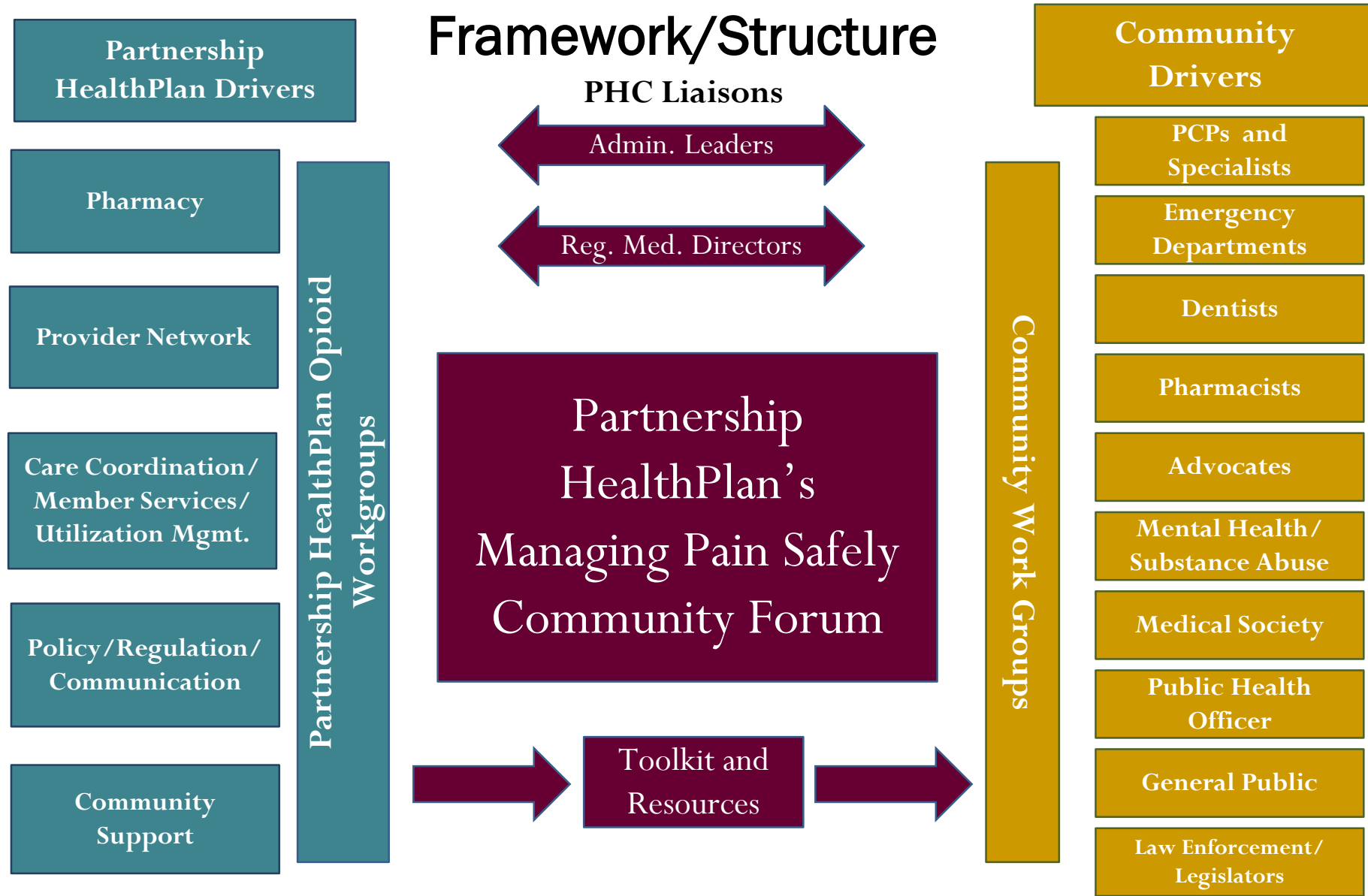


# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY

## A LOOK BACK AT 2014

- March, 2014 – Managing Pain Safely Initiative
  - Goal – To optimize the use of medication and other modalities so that pain is treated appropriately, depending on the needs of the patient, informed by current medical science
  - Developed PHC framework to tackle the problem
    - Steering Committee
    - 5 workgroups

# Managing Pain Safely Framework/Structure



# PHC'S FIVE WORKGROUPS

## Pharmacy

- Formulary Enhancements
  - TAR process to decrease inappropriate escalations
  - Identify medications to support tapering

## Provider Network

- Survey providers to assess needs
- Develop provider toolkit
- Develop and offer educational opportunities

## Care Coord./UM/ Memb. Svcs.

- Develop internal processes to support formulary changes
  - Care Coordination escalation team
  - Staff education (including process flow maps/scripts)

## Community Support

- Support established community initiatives
- Initiate new community efforts

## Policy/Regs./ Communication

- Serve as liaison to government representatives
- Coordinate opportunities for information sharing and raising awareness



# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY INTERVENTIONS

- Education
- Health Plan Pharmacy Prior Authorization Changes
- Additional options for treating pain
- Community Activation
- Aligned Incentives

# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY INITIATIVES

- Education
  - Prescribers
    - Concentrate on Primary Care Prescribers
    - Others may follow
  - Public health and health community
  - Internal education for PHC
  - Members (OUCH team- Outreach and Understanding Can Help)
  - Public and elected representatives

# KEY EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES

## ■ Categories of Opioid Use

### ■ New – because:

- 50% of patients hospitalized without surgery are prescribed opioids ; over half are discharged on them
- Of people prescribed opioids for 30 days, half were still on them 3 years later (CDC)

### ■ Escalating – “Not my fault, I got them that way”

- In a 6 month PHC survey of persons on > 120 MEDs, 30% got a dose increase

### ■ Continuing high-dose – safety, efficacy

## ■ Changing understanding of how to use opioids

- Former understanding: “no maximum dose”
- Chronic use of opioids can result in hyperalgesia and decreased functioning, overdose, death and diversion

# PCP PROVIDER EDUCATION

- Phcprimarycare.org blog postings
- Email dissemination to medical directors of health centers and groups to forward to front-line providers
- In person CME events
- Webinars
- Recorded videos of trainings
- Provider newsletters
- In person regional meetings with Medical Director leadership
- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes)
- Safe Use Now: Customized Provider Risk profiles and advice
- Toolkit on website:
  - <http://www.partnershiphp.org/Providers/HealthServices/Pages/Managing-Pain-Safely.aspx>

# HEALTH PLAN PHARMACY CHANGES

- Prior Authorization Changes: Implementation
  - Step I: Scrutinize justification for high doses of **expensive** opioids
  - Step II: Scrutinize **escalation** of high dose opioids (no matter what the price)
    - Request justification for dose escalation, pre-approve stable dose
    - Only approve escalating dose with acceptable medical justification
    - Peer-to-peer conversations when needed
  - Step III: Scrutinize all prescriptions for all **stable** high doses of Opioids
    - Request explanation for stable high dose
    - Difficult cases may require supporting documentation of mental health, pain specialist or pain medication oversight committee
    - Track responses with PHC-level registry of patients on high dose opioids



# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY INTERVENTIONS

- Additional options for treating pain
  - Expanded Benefits
    - Podiatry
    - Chiropractic and Acupuncture
      - To avoid initiating, escalating, or to assist with tapering opioids
  - Formulary Changes
    - Duloxetine made formulary
    - Reduce maximum dose of methadone approved
    - Encourage use of naloxone for safety (State carve out)
  - Behavioral Health
    - Smooth access to supportive behavioral health treatment
    - Mindfulness/Relaxation self help tools
  - Future considerations
    - Group classes
    - Biofeedback

# COMMUNITY ACTIVATION

- County Coalitions:
  - 8 of 14 PHC counties with active county coalitions
  - Goals
    - Agree upon and disseminate standards for use of opioids and other controlled substances
    - Nurture sense of urgency at local level
    - Developed shared commitment to making improvement, with mutual accountability
    - Ensure all parts of community work together towards a common purpose, instead of working at odds with each other
  - Essential elements: convening organization; local leader

# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY INTERVENTIONS

- Aligned Incentives

- Intrinsic Incentives

- Increases PCP access: decreased time on patients with chronic pain to have more time to care for other patients
    - Improved clinician satisfaction with profession
    - Stay on the right side of the Medical Board and Department of Justice

- Supplementary Financial Incentives

- Primary care pay for performance program (PCP QIP)
      - Use of drug screens
      - Incentivize increased availability of buprenorphine certification

# MANAGING PAIN SAFELY LOOKING AHEAD IN 2015

- April - December, 2015
  - Implementation of Safe Use Now
  - Support development of local Pain Management Oversight Committees
  - Develop a mechanism for categorizing patients on high doses of opioids for targeted treatments
  - Piloting support for interdisciplinary teams to support opioid tapering
  - Targeted interventions for patients newly prescribed opioids
  - Pilot provision of eConsult services for complex patients on high dose opioids
  - Continued offerings of educational opportunities
  - Education and coordination around addiction screening and treatment
  - Education of Hospitalists, Emergency Department prescribers, Pharmacies

# LONG TERM GOALS

- What have others achieved?
  - Multnomah County, Oregon: 75% decrease in opioid use, 40% decrease in opioid overdose deaths over a 3 year period
  - Kaiser: 91% decrease in high dose opioids for non-cancer, non-terminal pain over 3 years
- Other possibilities:
  - Reduction in neonatal abstinence syndrome
  - Decrease drug diversion

# HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN?

- Opioid Use:

- From January to December 2014:
  - 36% reduction in use of Long Acting Opioids
  - 14% reduction in overall opioid drug use
  - Saving about \$250,000 per month

- Health Outcomes:

- 2014 (preliminary data) compared to 2013 (state confirmed)
  - Reduced non-suicide drug/alcohol overdose deaths by 28-35% in counties where we have data.

# KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Communicate a compelling need
  - Rising overdose deaths (3 fold in last 15 years), surpassing automobile associated deaths
  - Increased drug abuse from diversion (5% of all adults)
  - Chronic opioids make chronic pain worse
  - 3 Fold increase in neonatal abstinence syndrome over last decade
  - PCP visits for patients taking chronic opioids crowding out other patients, contributing to decreased PCP access and decreasing job satisfaction of many PCPs
- Provide a picture of success
  - Case study: Multnomah County, Oregon
- Communicate the path to success
  - Disseminate best practices, customized to the audience
- Leadership commitment of energy and resources
- Add some aligned incentives

# Q&A



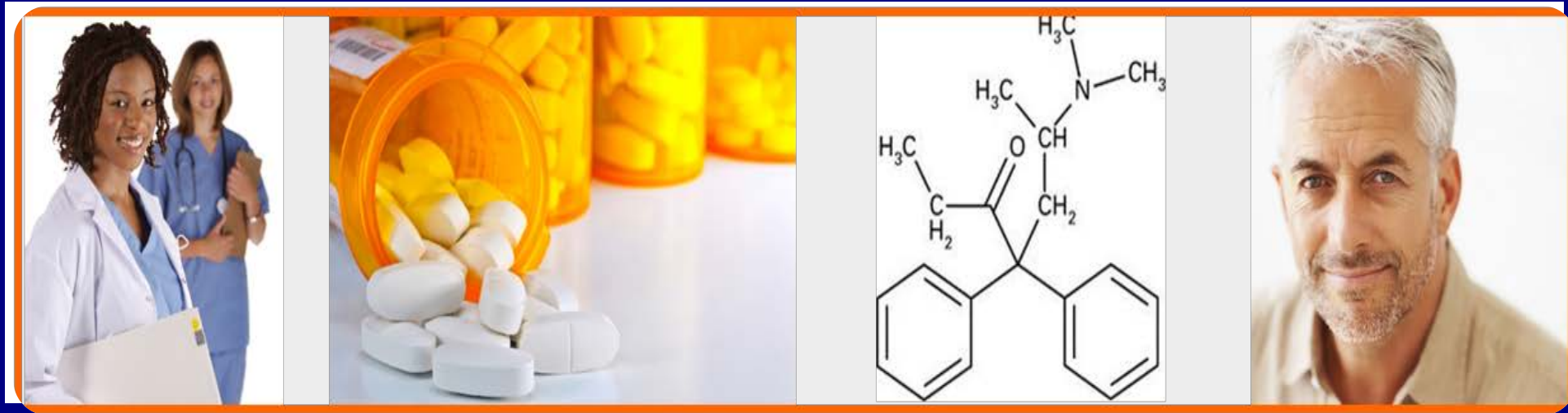
**Marshall Kubota, MD**

[mkubota@partnershiphp.org](mailto:mkubota@partnershiphp.org)





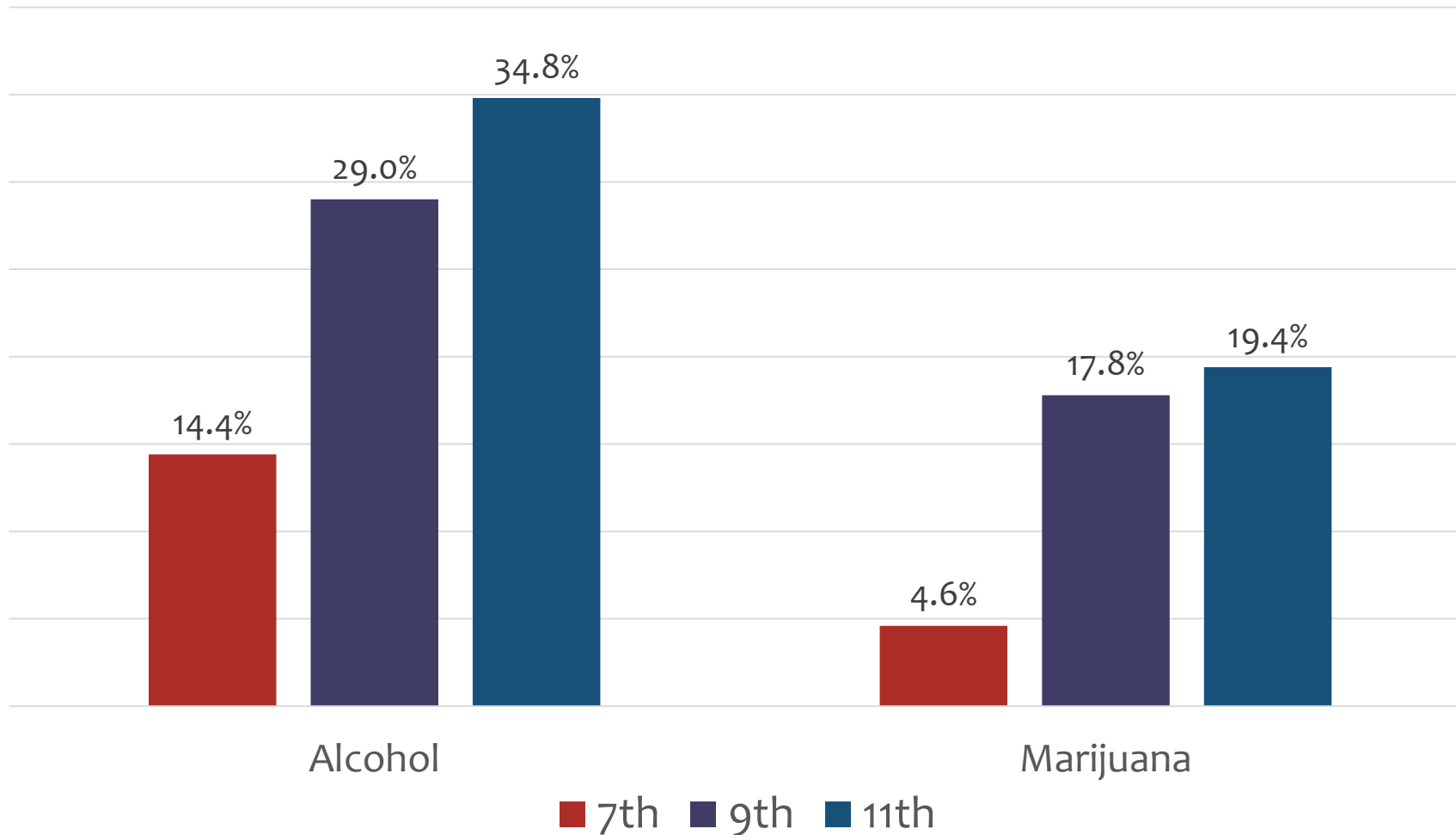
# Rx Opiate Abuse



**Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH,**  
Health Officer,  
Shasta County HHS—Public Health  
May 28, 2015

# Teen Substance Use is Prevalent in Shasta County

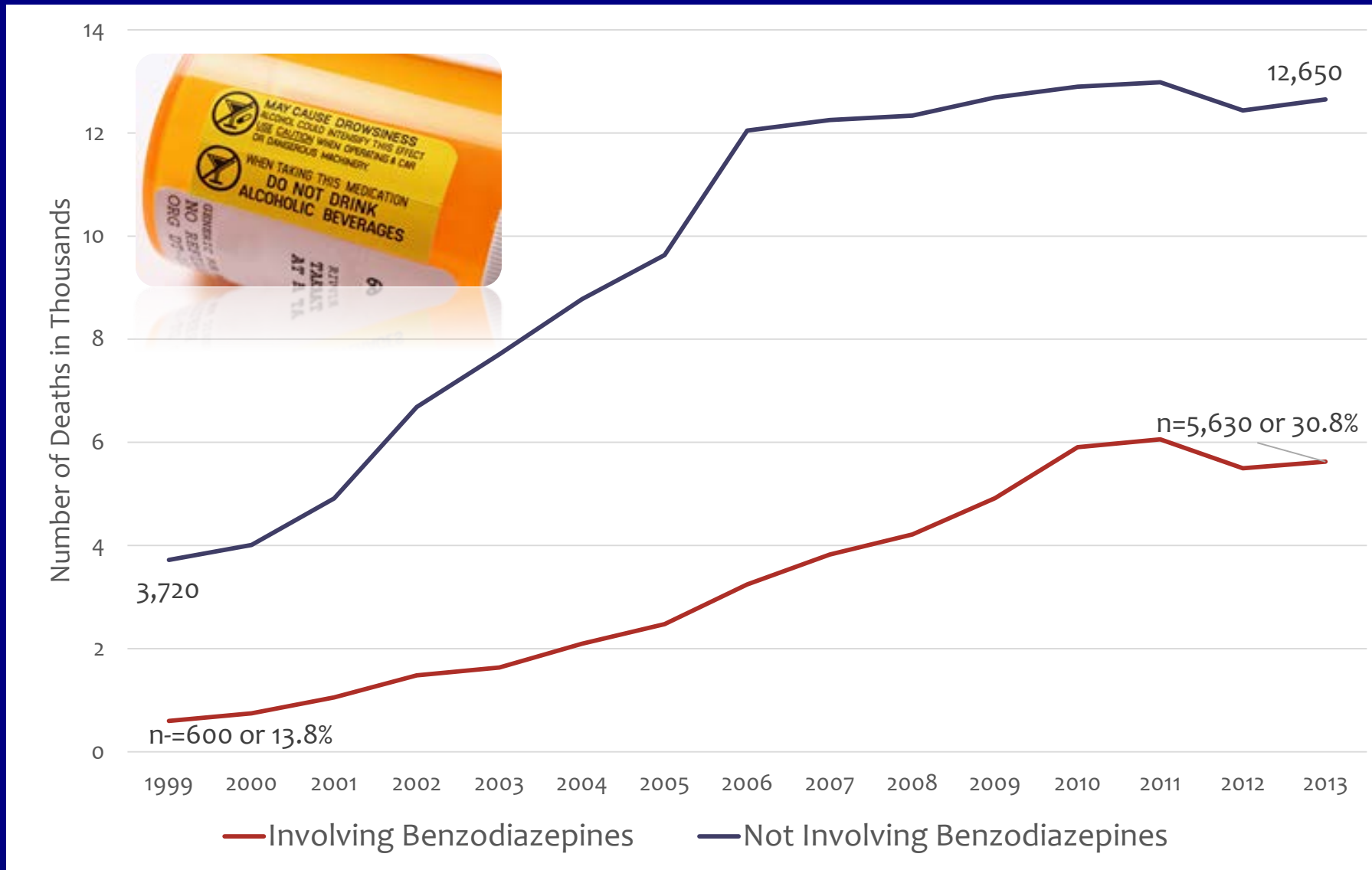
Past Month Alcohol And Marijuana Use by Grade



# Any Diagnosis of Cannabis Abuse or Dependence -- 2013

- 922 hospital admissions
  - Shasta County was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in CA for these marijuana-associated hospital admission rates
- 493 emergency department (ED) visits
  - Shasta County was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> highest in CA for these marijuana-associated ED visit rates

# Number of opioid-analgesic poisoning deaths, by involvement of benzodiazepines: U.S., 1999-2013



Source: CDC Wonder

ICD 10 Multiple Cause of Death codes: T40.2-T40.4 Opioids, T42.4 Benzodiazepines

# WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

## Illegal Drugs:

- Heroin

## Prescription (Rx) medications used to treat pain:

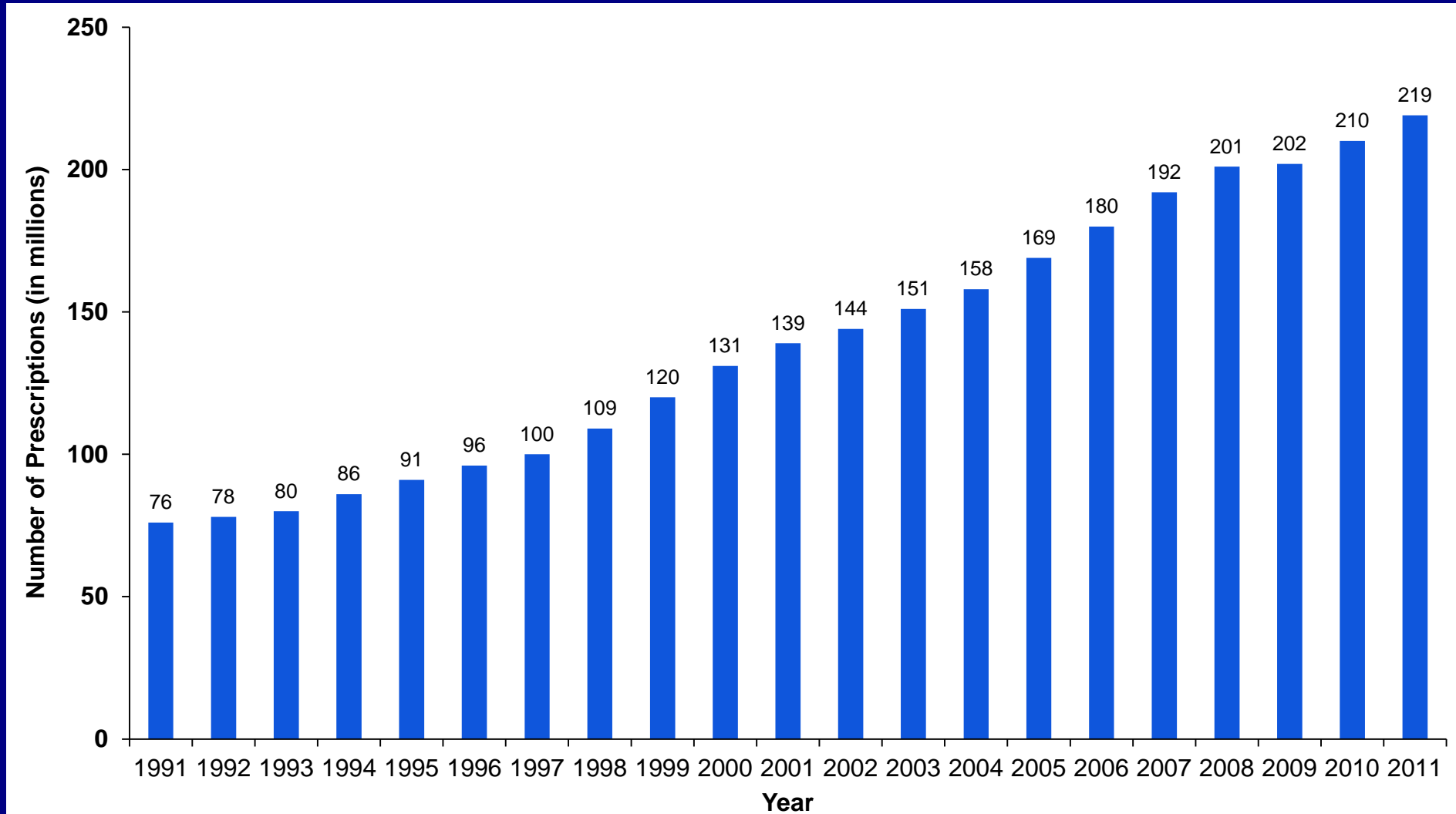
- Morphine
- Codeine
- Methadone
- Oxycodone (OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet)
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Norco)
- Fentanyl (Duragesic, Fentora)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Buprenorphine (Subutex, Suboxone)



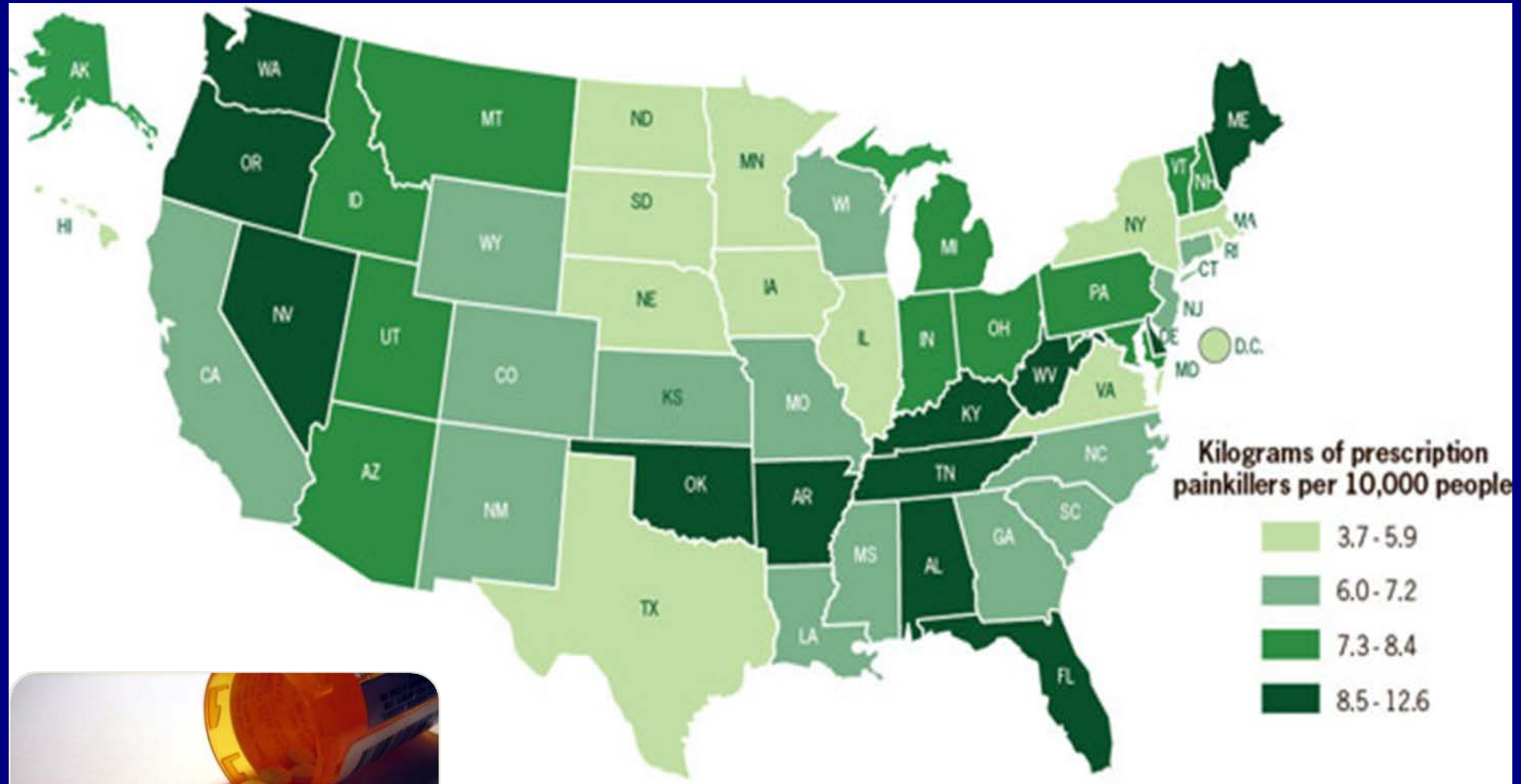
## Illegal Use of Rx Drugs

- RX opiates not prescribed to user
- RX drugs not used as prescribed, e.g. diversion (sold)

# Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed by Retail Pharmacies—U.S., 1991–2011

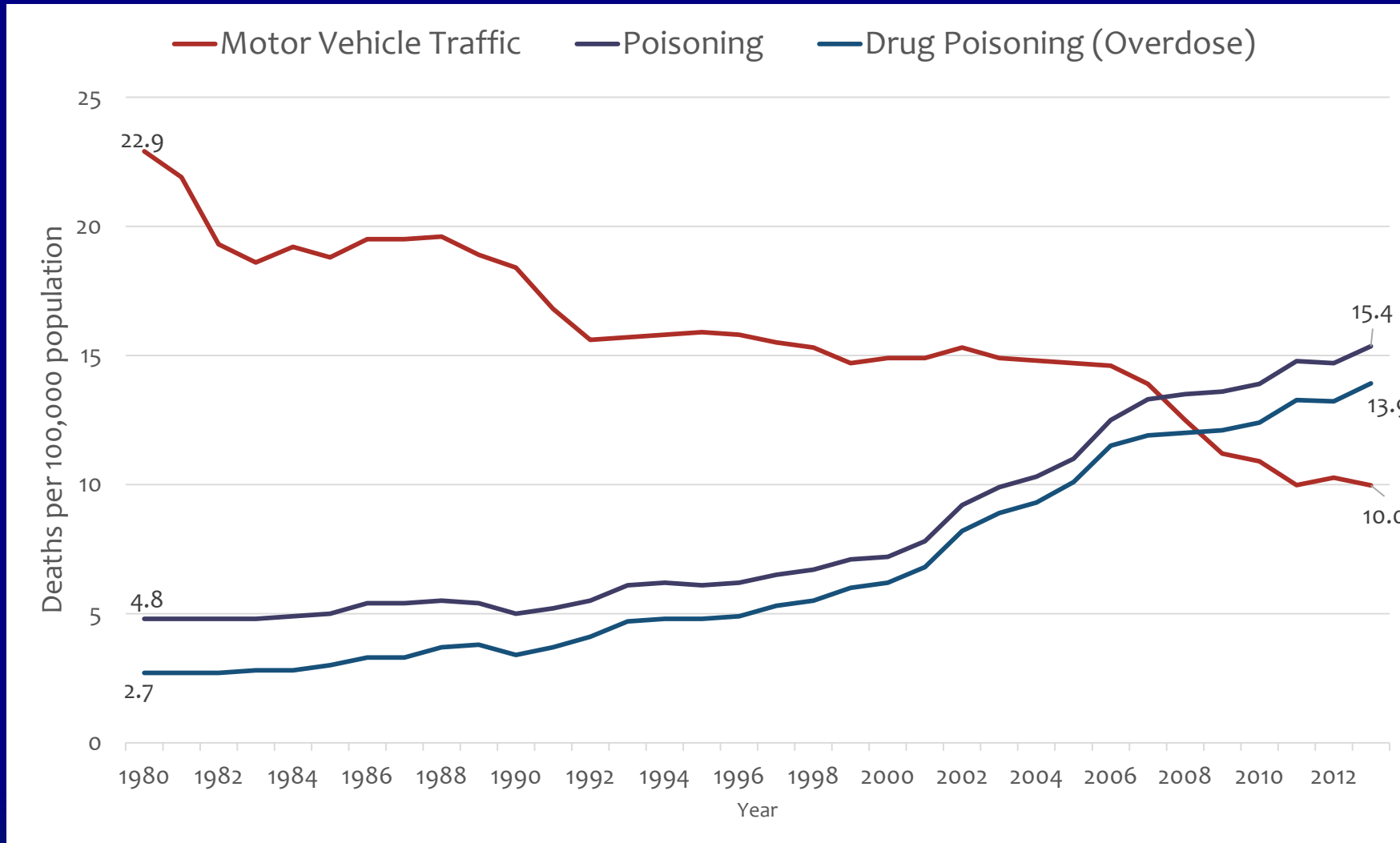


# Prescription painkillers sold by state

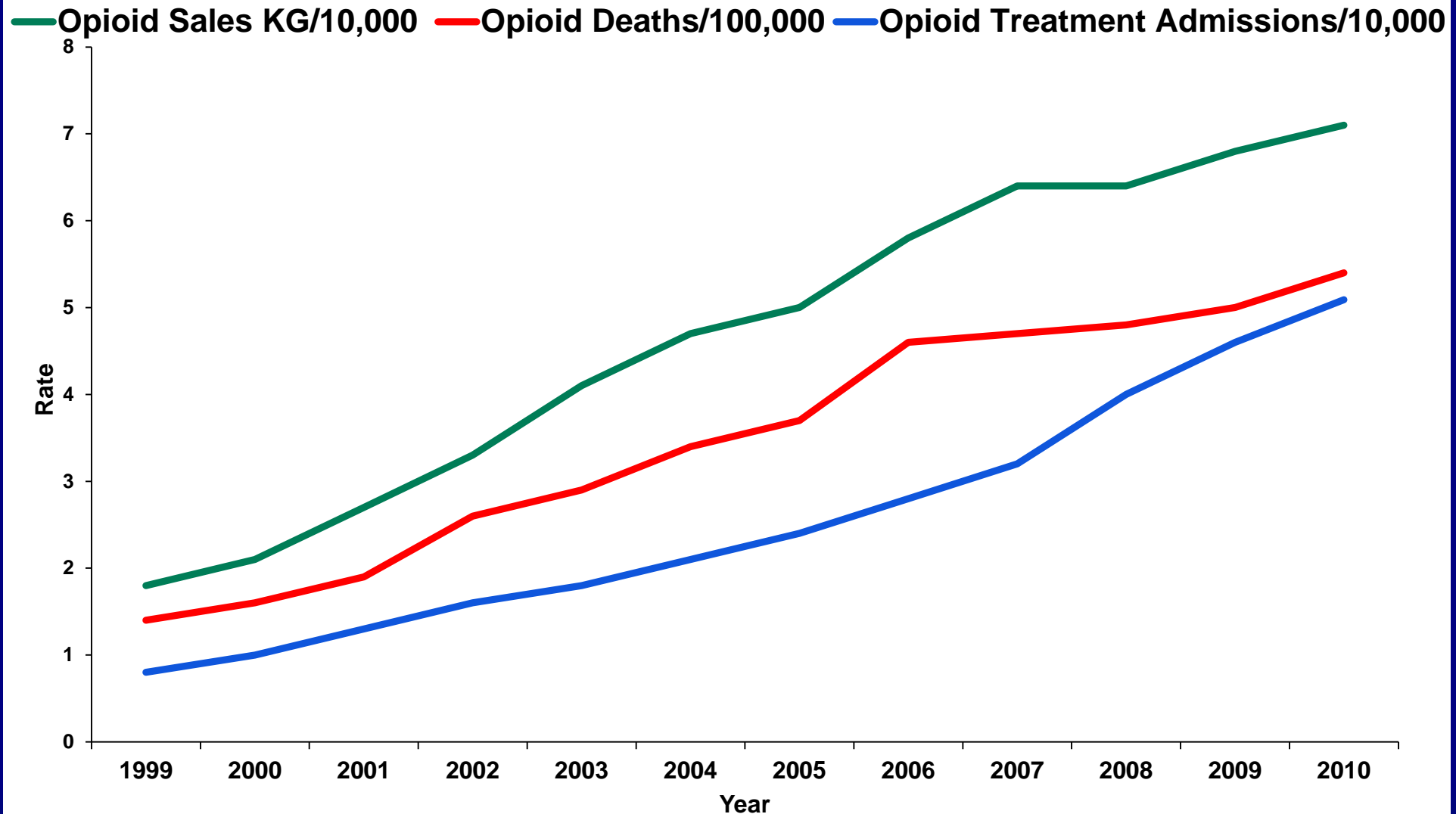




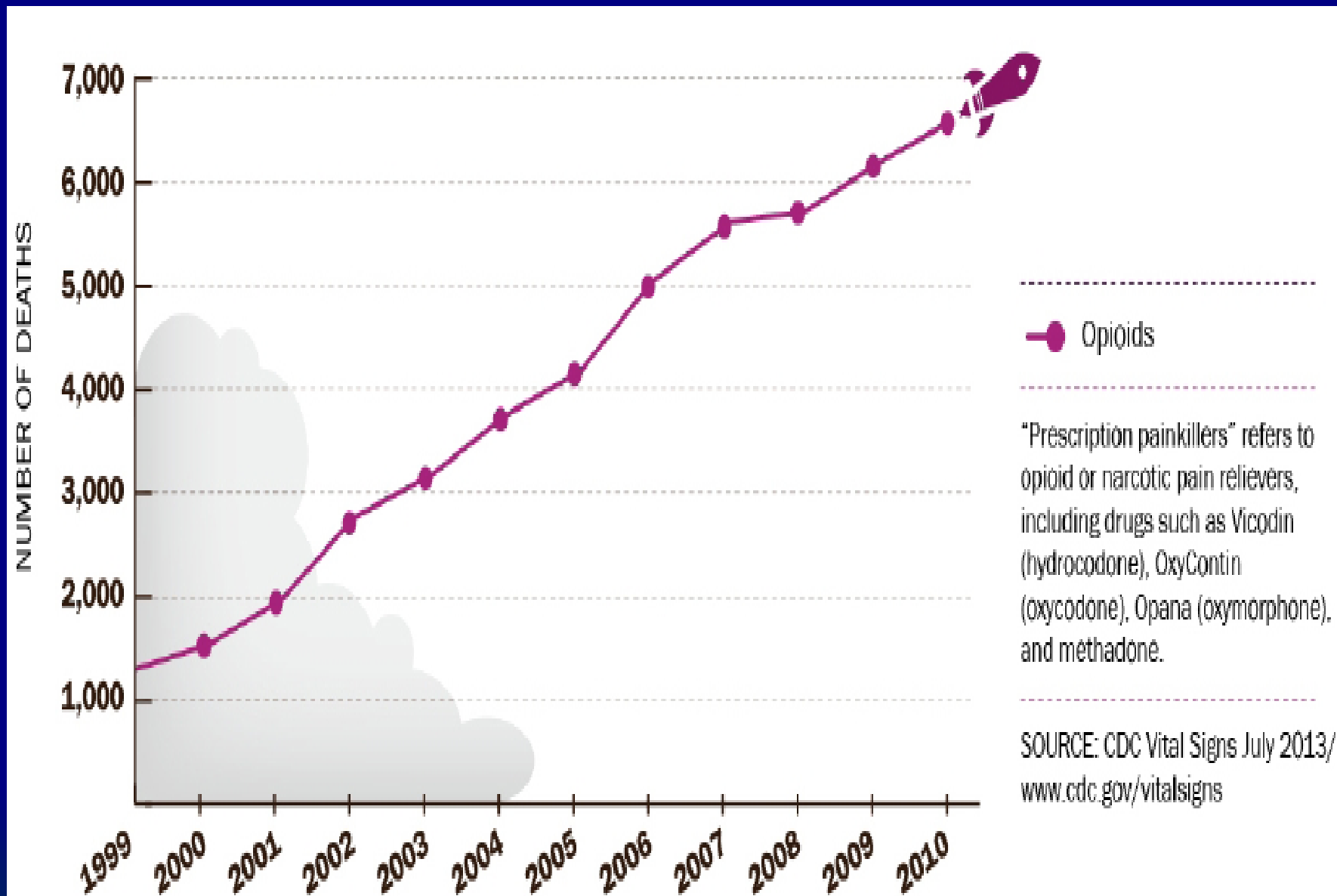
# Motor Vehicle Traffic, Poisoning, and Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Death Rates U.S., 1980–2013



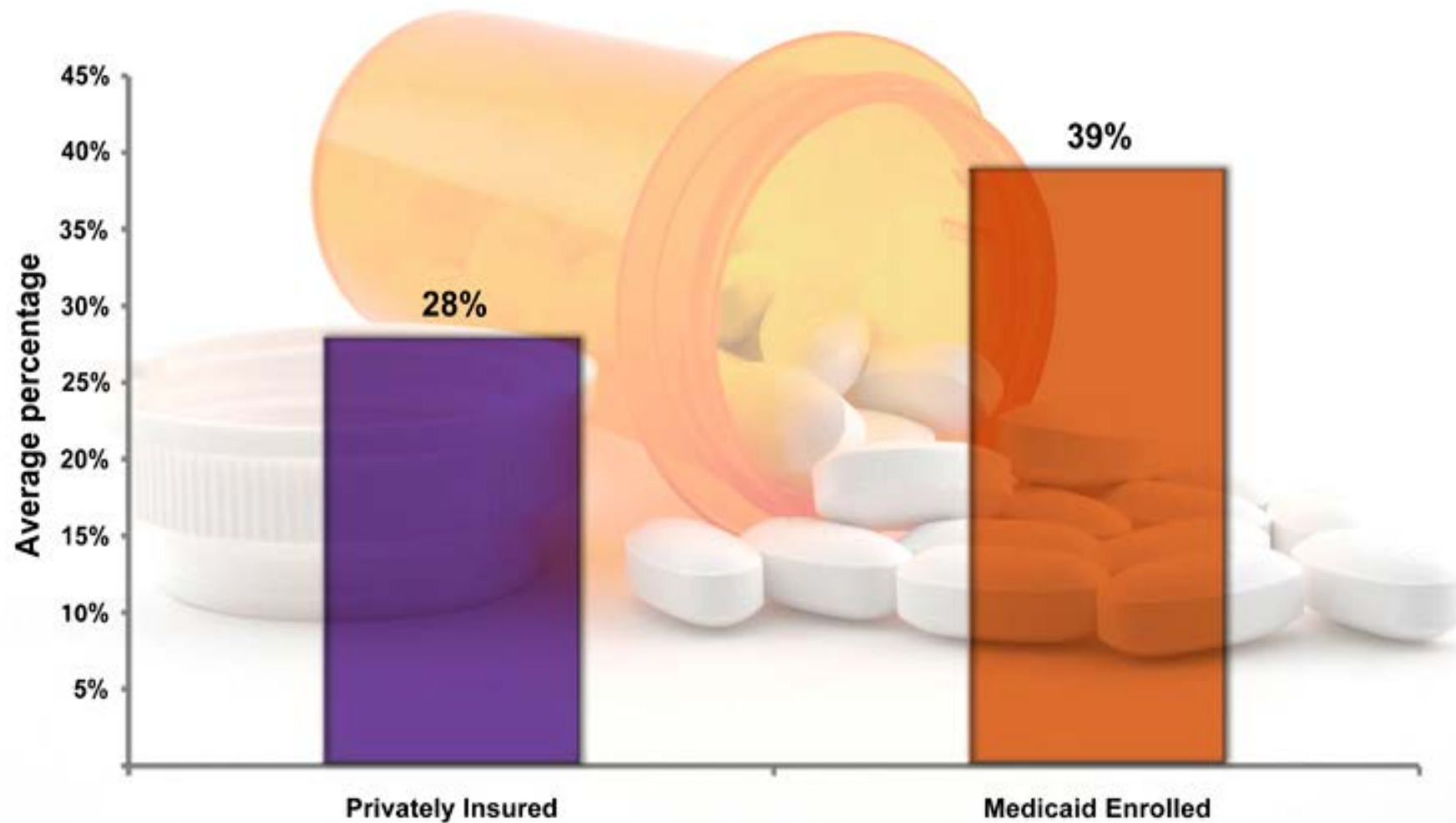
# Rates of Opioid Overdose Sales, Deaths and Treatment Admissions, U.S., 1999–2010



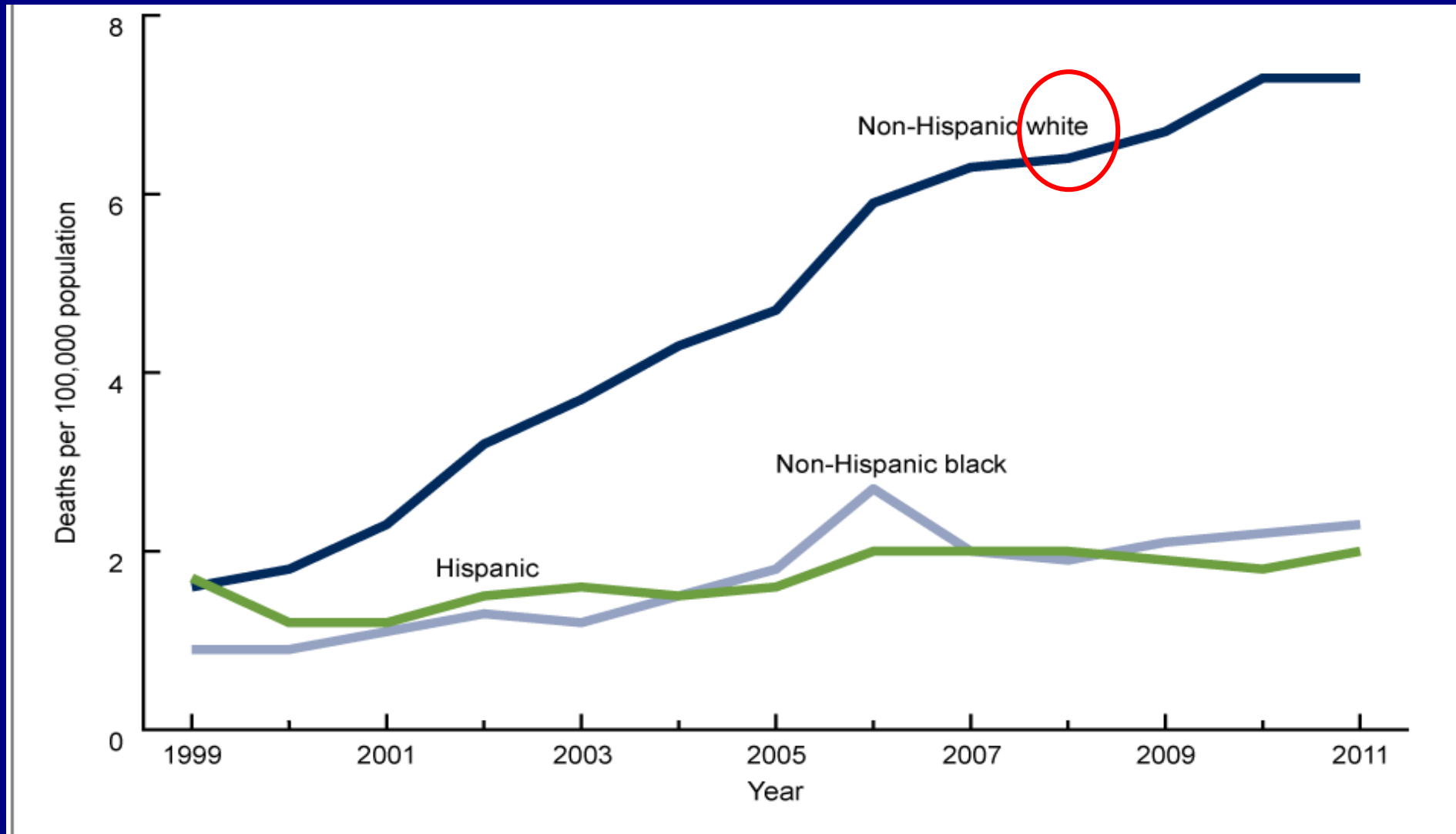
# Prescription painkiller deaths have skyrocketed in women since 1999



## Women aged 15-44 years who filled a prescription for an opioid medication, 2008-2012



# Age-adjusted opioid-analgesic poisoning death rates, by race and ethnicity: U.S., 1999-2011



NOTES: Deaths for Hispanic persons are underreported by about 5%. See "Deaths: Final Data for 2010." Access data table for Figure 5 at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db166\\_table.pdf#5](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db166_table.pdf#5).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality File.



# National Poll

## Methodology:

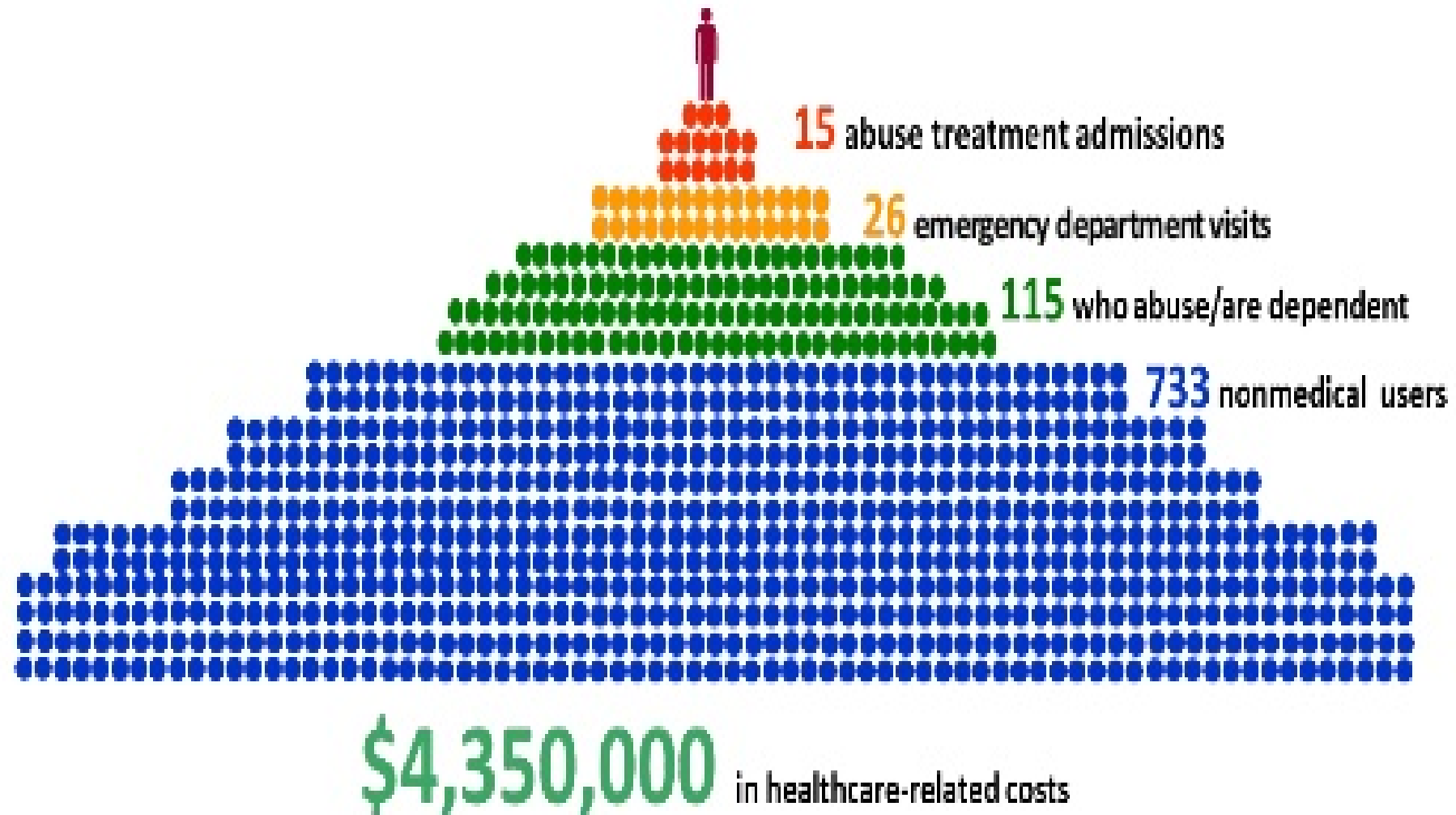
- Conducted an online survey with a nationally representative sample balanced to U.S. Census figures for gender, age geographic region, and ethnicity.
- To qualify for the study, respondents had to be 18 or older.
- Fieldwork was completed between January 30<sup>th</sup> thru February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## Key Takeaways:

- 1. Americans don't know their painkillers contain opioids, or that it is a felony to share them.**
- 2. Opioid users are unconcerned about addiction, but most have reason to worry.**
- 3. Opioid users overestimate the benefits of opioids and underestimate the risks of addiction or death.**



For every **1** prescription opioid overdose death in 2010 there were...



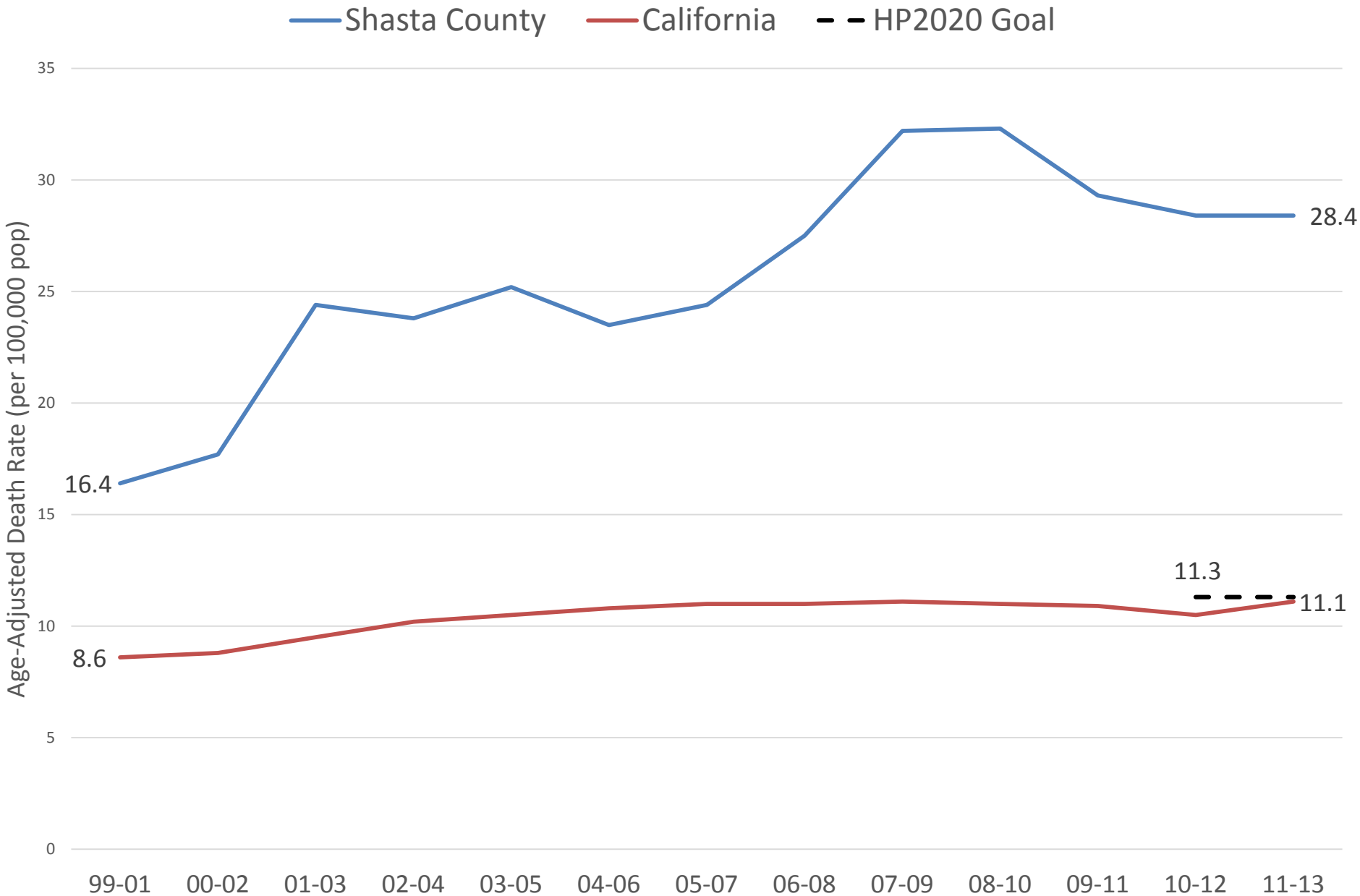
# Shasta County Estimates

- Based on 25 opiate-related deaths of Shasta County residents in 2013, there were an estimated:
  - 375 abuse tx admissions
  - 650 ED visits
  - 2,875 who abuse/are dependent
  - 18,325 non-medical users of Rx opiates
  - Many \$ in health care related and other costs

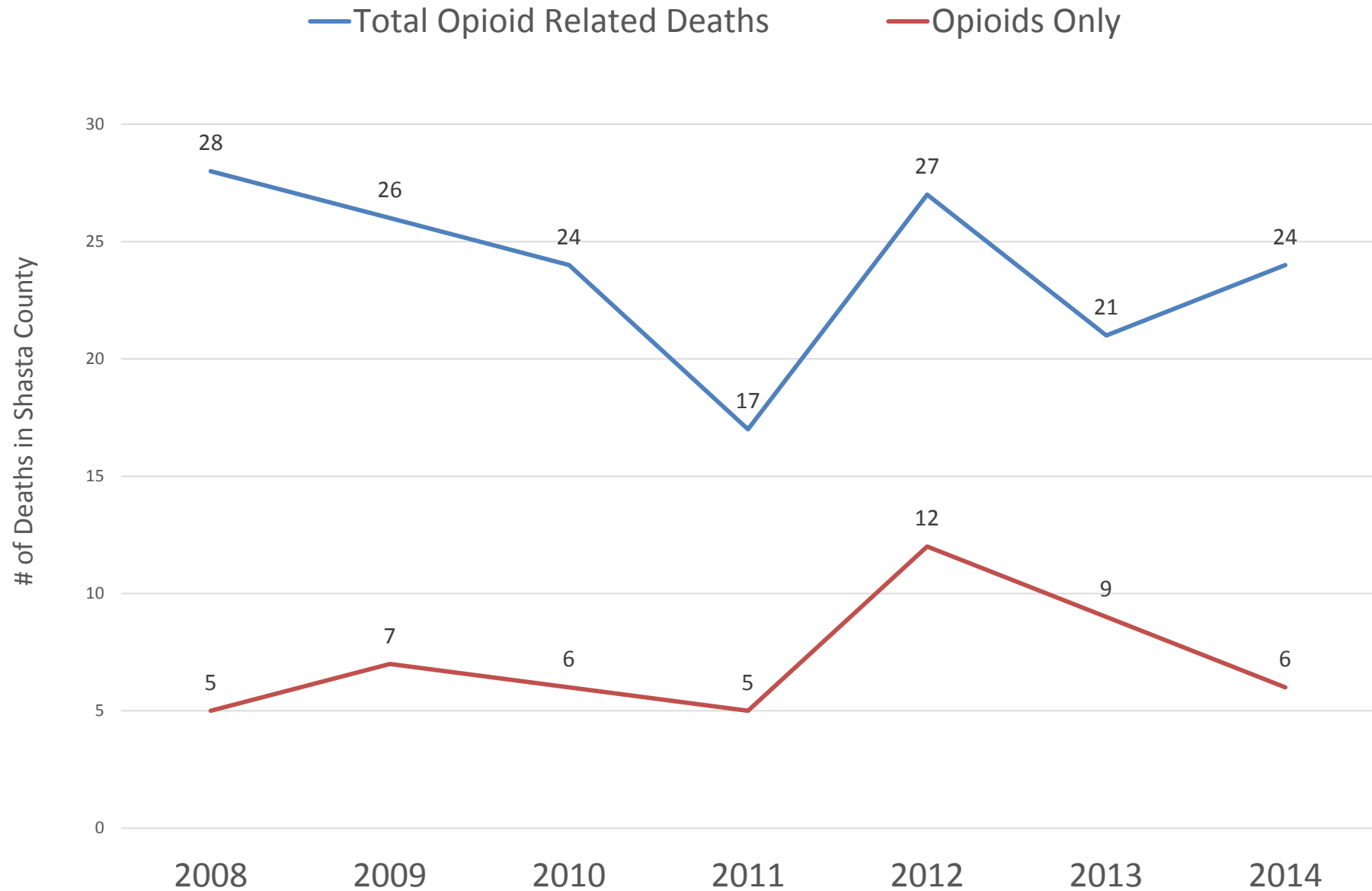


# Drug Related Death Rate

Data Source: *County Health Status Profiles*

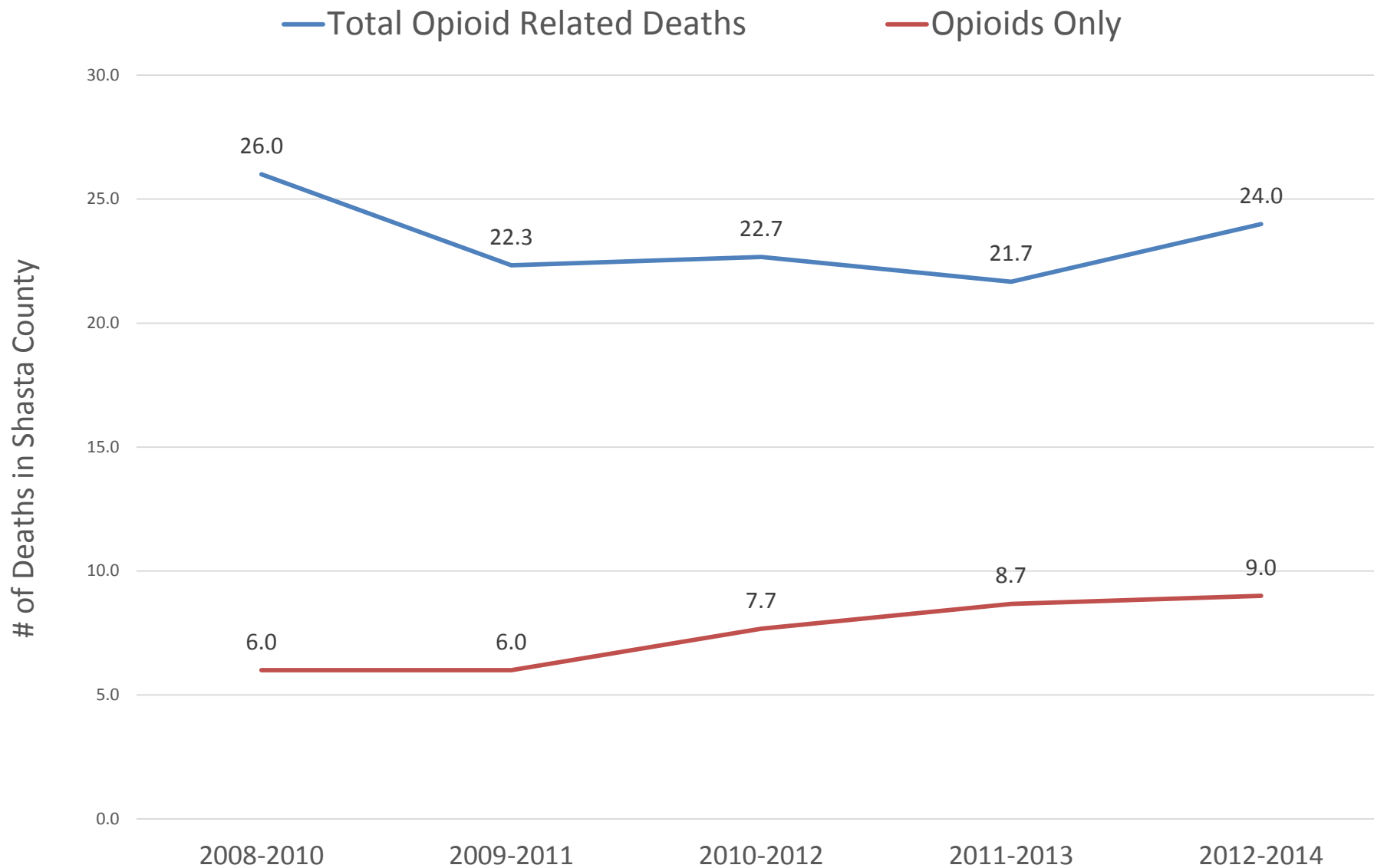


# # Opioid Related Deaths in Shasta County 2008 to 2014



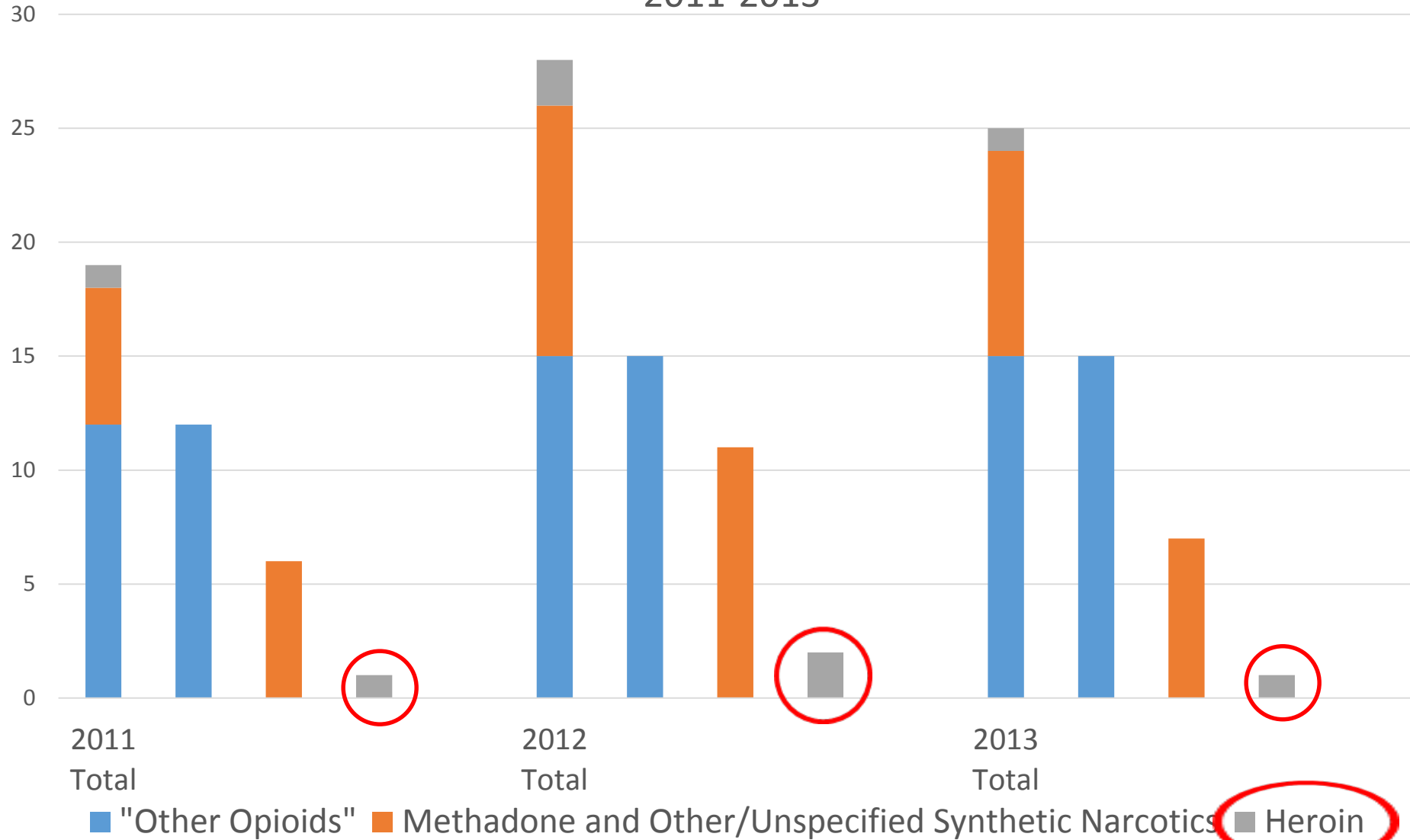
# 3-Year Average Annual Opioid-Related # Deaths

## Shasta County 2008 to 2014



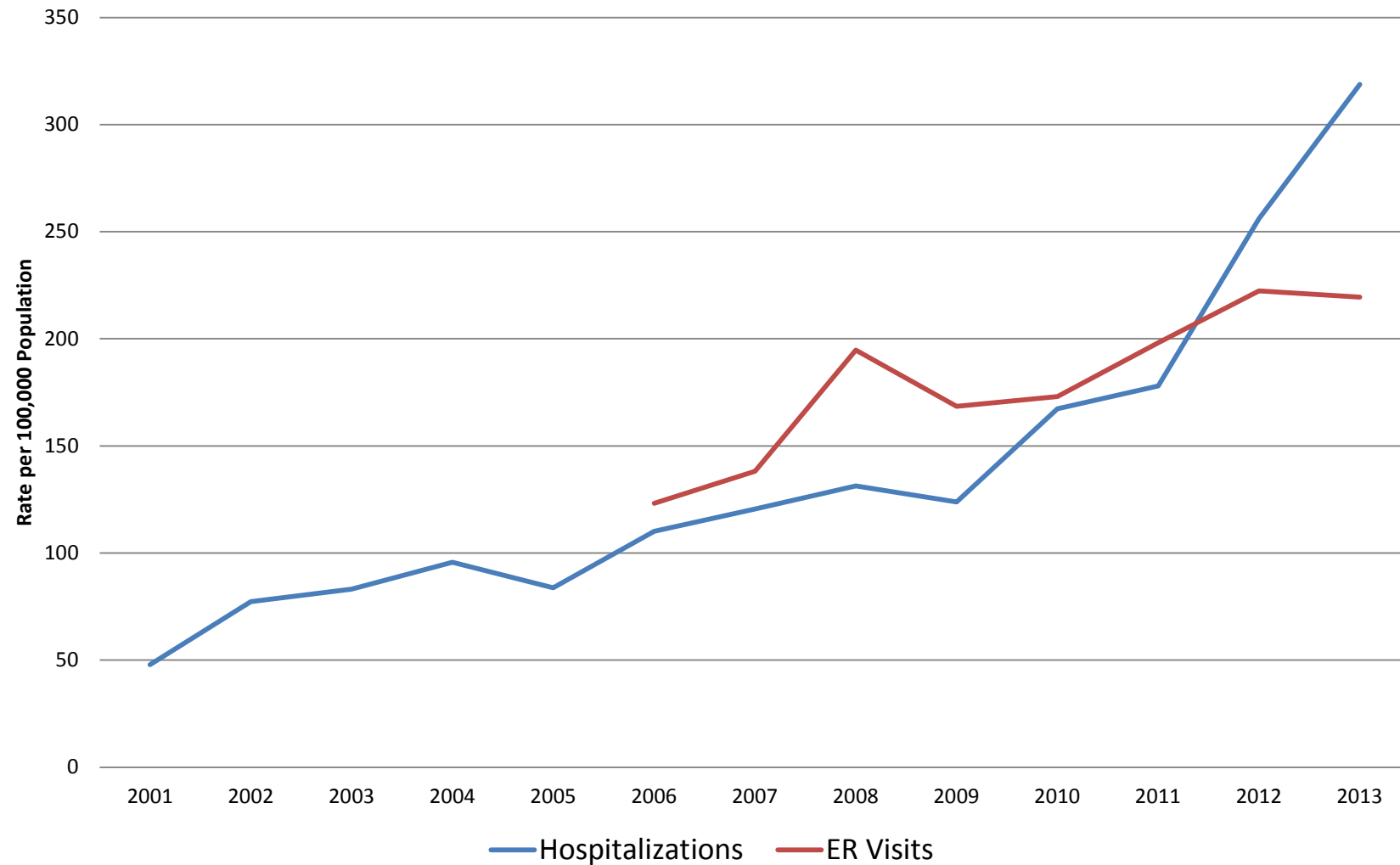
# Number of Opioid Deaths in Shasta County by Year

## 2011-2013



- Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Causes of Death
- ICD 10: T40.1-.4,.6

## ER visits and hospitalizations with a diagnosis\* of opioid dependence/abuse@, 2001-2013 among Shasta County residents

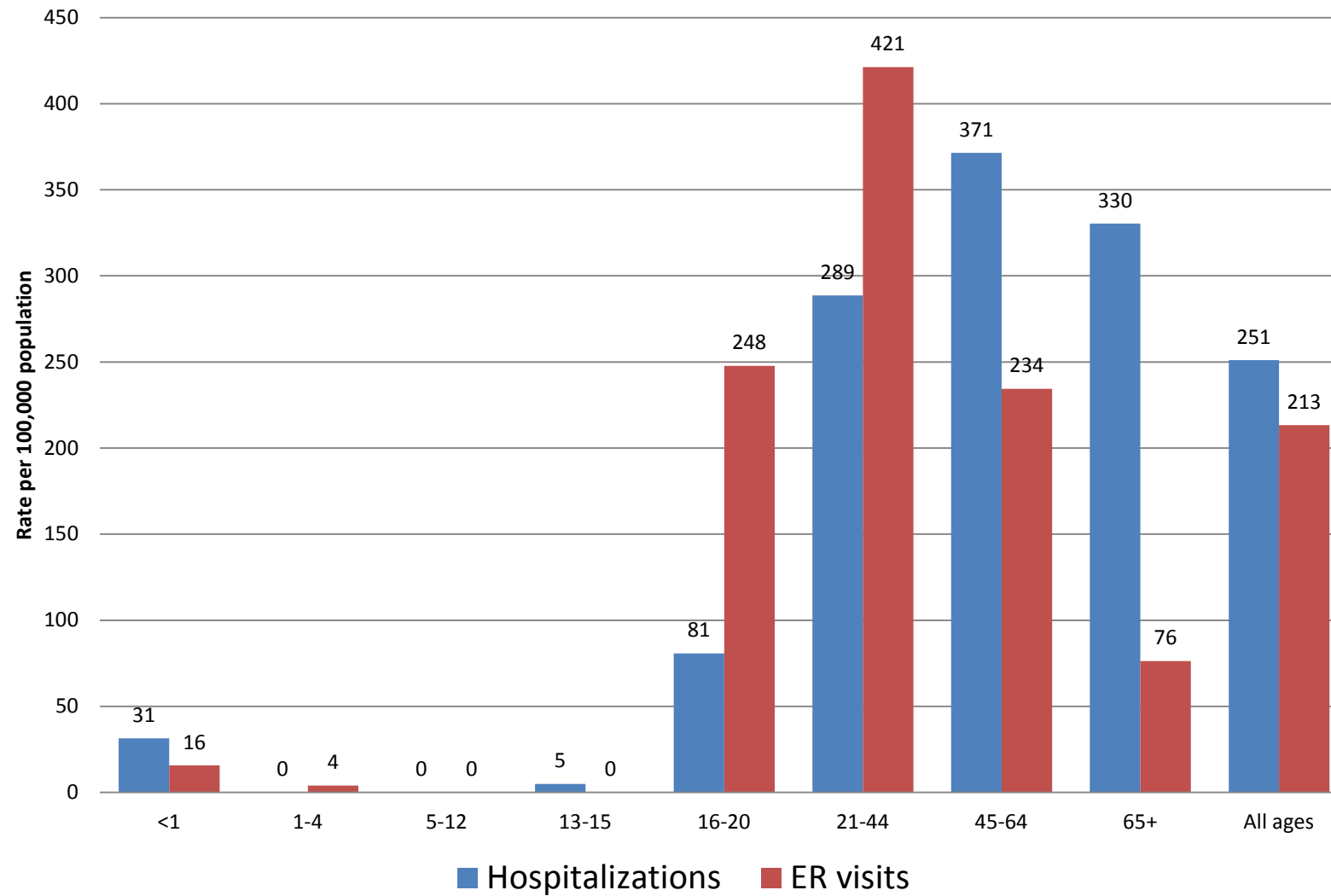


Data Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Patient Discharge and Emergency Department Datasets, 2001-2013; California Department of Finance

\*Primary or any Secondary Diagnosis

@Dependent and Nondependent Abuse: ICD codes 304.00-304.03, 34.70-304.73, and 305.50-305.53

# ER visits and hospitalizations with a diagnosis\* of opioid dependence/abuse@, 2011-2013 among Shasta County residents by age

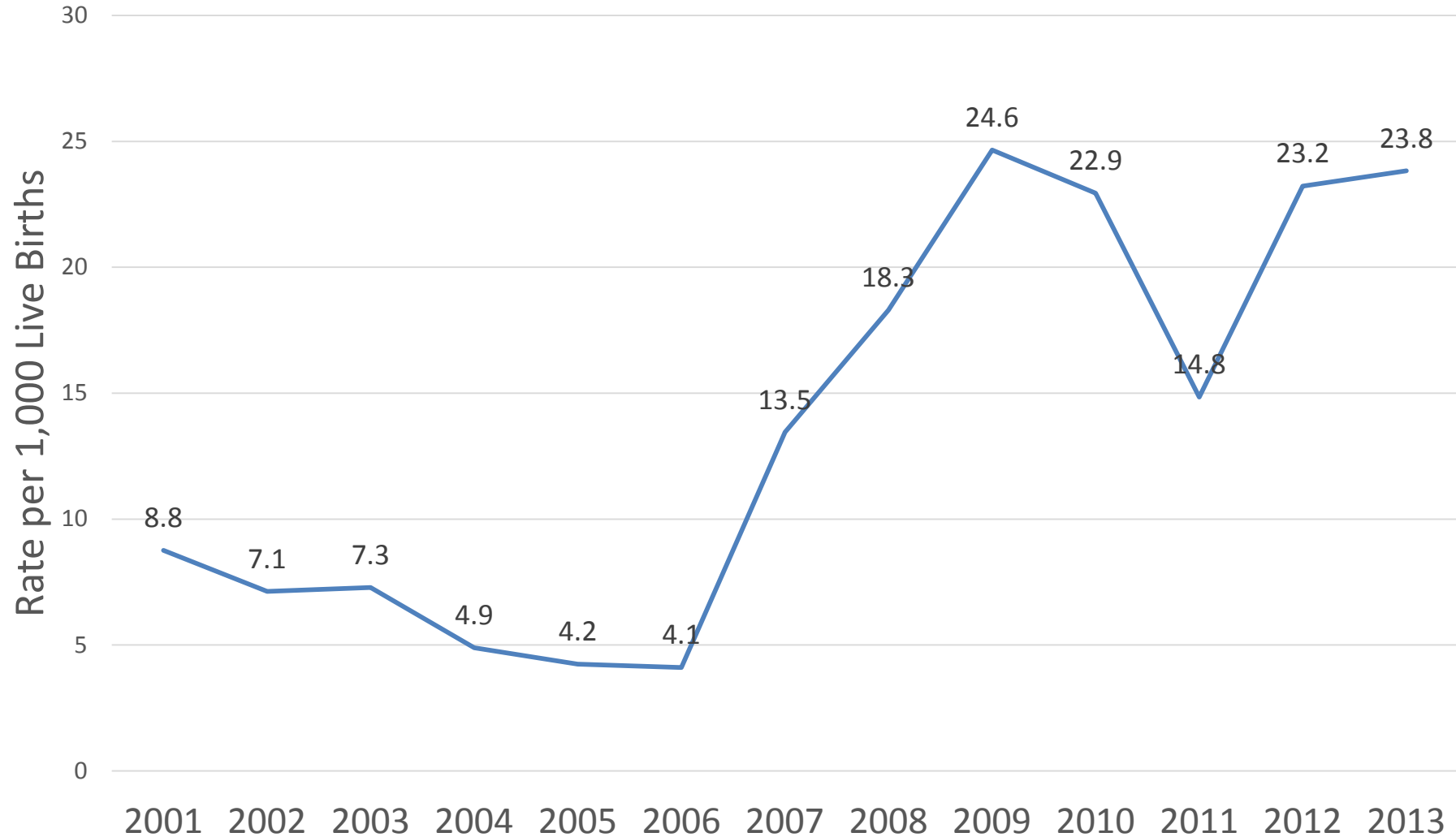


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# Rate of Shasta County Newborns with Narcotics

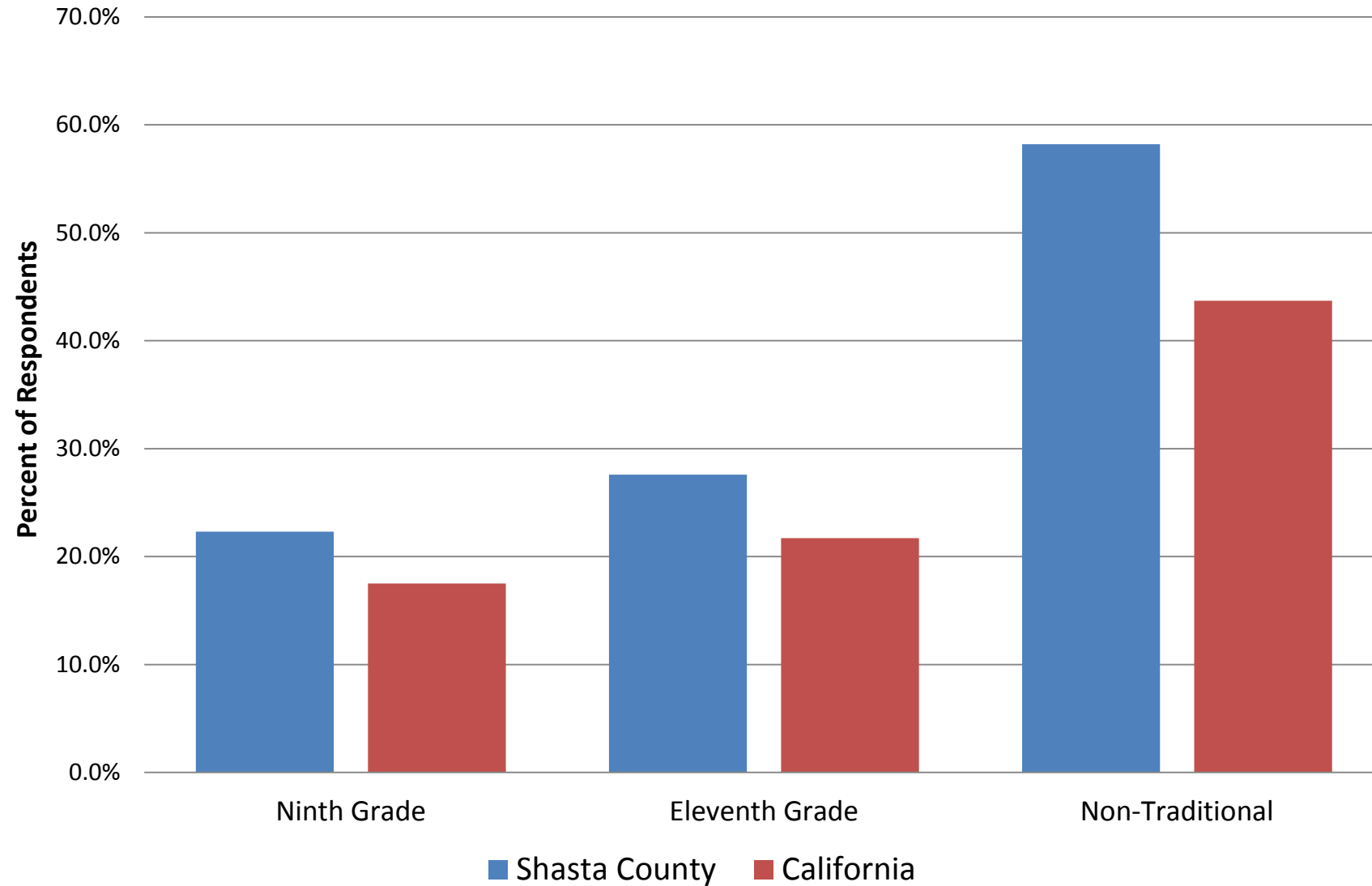


Source: OSHPD Hospitalizations

ICD 9: 7795 (Drug Withdrawal in Newborn) or

76072 (Narcotics affecting fetus or newborn via placenta or breast milk)

# Lifetime Recreational Use of Prescription Painkillers in Ninth and Eleventh Grade Students, 2008-2010



Data Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, California Department of Education (Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office) and WestEd (Health and Human Development Department).



# Economic Costs

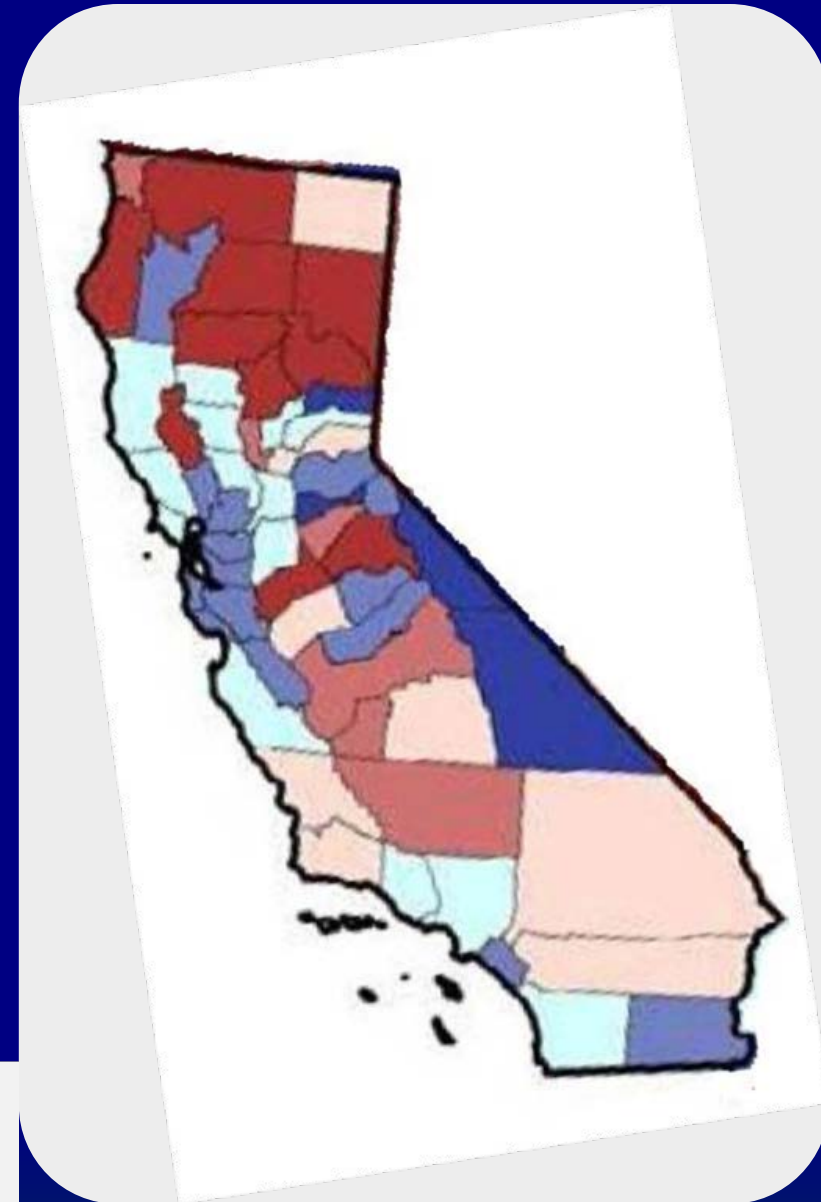
- **\$72.5 billion in health care costs<sup>1</sup>**
- **Opioid abusers generate, on average, annual direct health care costs 8.7 times higher than nonabusers<sup>2</sup>**



1. Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. Prescription for peril: how insurance fraud finances theft and abuse of addictive prescription drugs. Washington, DC: Coalition Against Insurance Fraud; 2007.  
2. White AG, Birnbaum, HG, Mareva MN, et al. Direct costs of opioid abuse in an insured population in the United States. *J Manag Care Pharm* 2005;11(6):469-479.

# California Opioid Use

- As of 2008, California as a whole, dispensed only 68% of the national county average of Rx opioids per resident
- However, variation in California is huge, with the highest rates being in far northern Californian counties



# Intervention Points

- Pill mills
- Problem prescribing
- EDs and hospitals
- Pharmacies
- Insurer and pharmacy benefit managers
- General patients & the public
- People at high risk of overdose
- Pharmaceutical opiate manufacturing and marketing practices



DRUG	RETAIL PRICE	STREET VALUE
Schedule II		
OxyContin 40mg	\$5.66/tablet	\$20–\$40/tablet
oxycodone 40mg	\$4.54/tablet	\$6–\$8/tablet
morphine 100mg	\$4.16/tablet	\$60/tablet
Actiq 400mg	\$26/lozenge	\$30–\$40/lozenge
fentanyl 50mcg	\$24/patch	\$25–\$40/patch
methadone	\$0.19–\$0.23/tablet	\$10–\$20/tablet
Ritalin	\$1.11/tablet	\$8–\$15/tablet
Adderall	\$4.23/tablet	\$5–\$7/tablet
Schedule III		
Vicodin	\$1.47/tablet	\$6–\$10/tablet
hydrocodone/APAP	\$0.43/tablet	\$6–\$10/tablet
Schedule IV		
Valium	\$3.30/tablet	\$4/tablet
diazepam	\$0.39/tablet	\$4/tablet
Adipex	\$2.13/tablet	\$3–\$6/tablet
(phentermine) Xanax 2mg	\$3.28/tablet	\$4/tablet
alprazolam	\$0.42/tablet	\$4/tablet
Schedule V		
promethazine with codeine	\$3.35/fl.oz.	\$7.50–\$10/fl.oz.

# Clinical Guidelines

- ❑ Improve prescribing and treatment
- ❑ Basis for standard of accepted medical practice for purposes of licensure board actions
- ❑ Several consensus guidelines available
- ❑ Common themes among guidelines

The Journal of Pain, Vol 10, No 2 (February), 2009; pp 113-130  
Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

**Opioid Treatment Guidelines**

**Clinical Guidelines for the Use of Chronic Opioid Therapy in Chronic Noncancer Pain**

Roger Chou,<sup>1</sup> Gilbert J. Fanciullo,<sup>2</sup> Perry G. Fine,<sup>3</sup> Jeremy A. Adler,<sup>4</sup> Jane C. Ballantyne,<sup>5</sup> Pamela Davies,<sup>6</sup> Marilee I. Donovan,<sup>7</sup> David A. Fohrman,<sup>8</sup> Kathy M. Foley,<sup>9</sup> Jeffrey Fudin,<sup>10</sup> Aaron M. Gilson,<sup>11</sup> Alexander Ketter,<sup>12</sup> Alexander Mauskop,<sup>13</sup> Patrick G. O'Connor,<sup>14</sup> Steven D. Passik,<sup>15</sup> Gavril W. Pasternak,<sup>16</sup> Russell K. Porteroy,<sup>17</sup> Ben A. Rich,<sup>18</sup> Richard G. Roberts,<sup>19</sup> Knox H. Todd,<sup>20</sup> and Christine Miskowski,<sup>21</sup> FOR THE AMERICAN PAIN SOCIETY—AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MEDICINE OPIOIDS GUIDELINES PANEL

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<sup>5</sup>Division of Pain Medicine, Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.  
<sup>6</sup>Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Seattle, Washington.  
<sup>7</sup>Pain Management Clinic, Kaiser Permanente Northwest, Portland, Oregon.  
<sup>8</sup>School of Medicine, Neurological Surgery and Anesthesiology, University of Miami, Miami, Florida.  
<sup>9</sup>Pain and Palliative Care Service, Department of Neurology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>10</sup>Samuel S. Stratton Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Albany, New York.  
<sup>11</sup>Pain and Policy Studies Group, Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison.  
<sup>12</sup>Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch, California Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California (retired 2005).  
<sup>13</sup>New York Headache Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>14</sup>Section of General Internal Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut.  
<sup>15</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>16</sup>Laboratory of Molecular Neuropharmacology, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Chemistry, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>17</sup>Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>18</sup>School of Medicine, Division of Bioethics, University of California Davis.  
<sup>19</sup>School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin, Madison.  
<sup>20</sup>Pain and Emergency Medicine Institute, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, New York.  
<sup>21</sup>Department of Physiological Nursing, University of California, San Francisco.

**Abstract:** Use of chronic opioid therapy for chronic noncancer pain has increased substantially. The American Pain Society and the American Academy of Pain Medicine commissioned a systematic review of the evidence on chronic opioid therapy for chronic noncancer pain and convened a multidisciplinary expert panel to review the evidence and formulate recommendations. Although evidence is limited, the expert panel concluded that chronic opioid therapy can be an effective therapy for

This article is based on research conducted at the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center with funding from the American Pain Society (APS). The authors are grateful to the APS for the use of their facilities and the American Pain Society for the use of their facilities. The authors are grateful to the APS for the use of their facilities and the American Pain Society for the use of their facilities. The authors are grateful to the APS for the use of their facilities and the American Pain Society for the use of their facilities.

1526-5909/09/\$10.00  
© 2009 by the American Pain Society  
doi:10.1016/j.jpain.2008.10.008

**AMDG**  
AGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTORS GROUP

**Interagency Guideline on Opioid Dosing for Chronic Non-cancer Pain:**

*An educational aid to improve care and safety with opioid therapy*

**2010 Update**

**What is New in this Revised Guideline**

- New data, including scientific evidence to support the 120mg MME dosing threshold
- Tools for calculating dosages of opioids during treatment and when tapering
- Validated screening tools for assessing substance abuse, mental health, and addiction
- Validated two-item scale for tracking function and pain
- Urine drug testing guidance and algorithm
- Information on access to mentoring and consultations (including reimbursement options)
- New patient education materials and resources
- Guidance on coordinating with emergency departments to reduce opioid abuse
- New clinical tools and resources to help streamline clinical care

You can find this guideline and related tools at the Washington State Agency Medical Directors' site at [www.agencymedicaldirectors.wa.gov](http://www.agencymedicaldirectors.wa.gov)

**City Health Information**

December 2011 The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Vol. 30(6):33-38

**PREVENTING MISUSE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DRUGS**

- Physicians and dentists can play a major role in reducing risks associated with opioid analgesics, particularly fatal drug overdose.
- For acute pain:
  - If opioids are warranted, prescribe only short-acting agents.
  - A 3-day supply is usually sufficient.
- For chronic noncancer pain:
  - Avoid prescribing opioids unless other approaches to analgesia have been demonstrated to be ineffective.
  - Avoid whenever possible prescribing opioids in patients taking benzodiazepines because of the risk of fatal respiratory depression.

The use of prescription opioids to manage pain has increased 10-fold over the past 20 years in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Although opioids are indicated and effective in the management of certain types of acute pain and cancer pain, their role in treating chronic noncancer pain is not well established.<sup>2</sup>

Concomitant with the growth in opioid prescribing, opioid-related health problems have increased. Between 2004 and 2009, the number of emergency department visits for opioid analgesic misuse and abuse in New York City (NYC) more than doubled, rising from approximately 4500 to more than 9000 visits.<sup>3</sup> In 2009, 1 in every 4 unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths in NYC involved prescription opioid analgesics, excluding methadone.<sup>4</sup> In NYC, one-third of unintentional drug poisoning overdose deaths involve a benzodiazepine<sup>5</sup>; the most common is alprazolam (Xanax).<sup>6</sup> Risks of unintentional poisoning may be increased when opioids are taken with benzodiazepines because both cause respiratory depression.<sup>7</sup>

The use of prescription opioids in manner other than prescribed and the use of these medications without prescriptions are serious public health problems.<sup>1</sup>

**TRENDS IN OPIOID ANALGESIC USE AND CONSEQUENCES, NEW YORK CITY, 2004-2010**

**Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions Filled**

Year	Hydrocodone	Oxycodone
2007	~400,000	~200,000
2008	~500,000	~300,000
2009	~600,000	~400,000
2010	~700,000	~500,000

**Emergency Department Visits for Opioid Misuse/Abuse**

Year	Number of Visits
2004	~4,500
2005	~5,500
2006	~6,500
2007	~7,500
2008	~8,500
2009	~9,500

**Unintentional Opioid Analgesic Poisoning Deaths**

Year	All opioid analgesics	Hydrocodone
2004	~100	~50
2005	~120	~60
2006	~140	~70
2007	~160	~80
2008	~180	~90
2009	~200	~100

Hydrocodone includes New York 1 opioid and the combination New York 1/390. Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Office of Vital Statistics, New York State Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Drug Abuse Warning Network Database.



# Pharmaceutical companies

Orange and Santa Clara counties and City of Chicago each sue 5 big pharma companies in 2014

“In order to expand the market for opioids and realize blockbuster profits, (big pharma) needed to create a sea-change in medical and public perception that would permit the use of opioids for long periods of time to treat more common aches and pains, like lower back pain, arthritis, and headaches.”



# Local Law Enforcement and Public Health Team up for Rx Drug Take Back

- The FDA recommends NOT disposing of most medications down the drain.
- Redding Police, Shasta Co Sheriff, Shasta HHSA-Public Health and federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- September 27, 2014- Mt. Shasta Mall – 412 lbs collected  
2010-2014 nine local take back events = 4, 141 lbs collected
- DEA new regs Oct. 2014:
  - Allow pharmacies, hospitals & clinics with pharmacies to run year-round unused medication drop-offs on-site.



# Changing Face of Heroin Use

- 1960s--80% of heroin users, who were mostly young city dwellers, initiated heroin first
- recent years--75% of heroin users started using heroin after getting into opioid painkillers first... Older, more suburban/rural

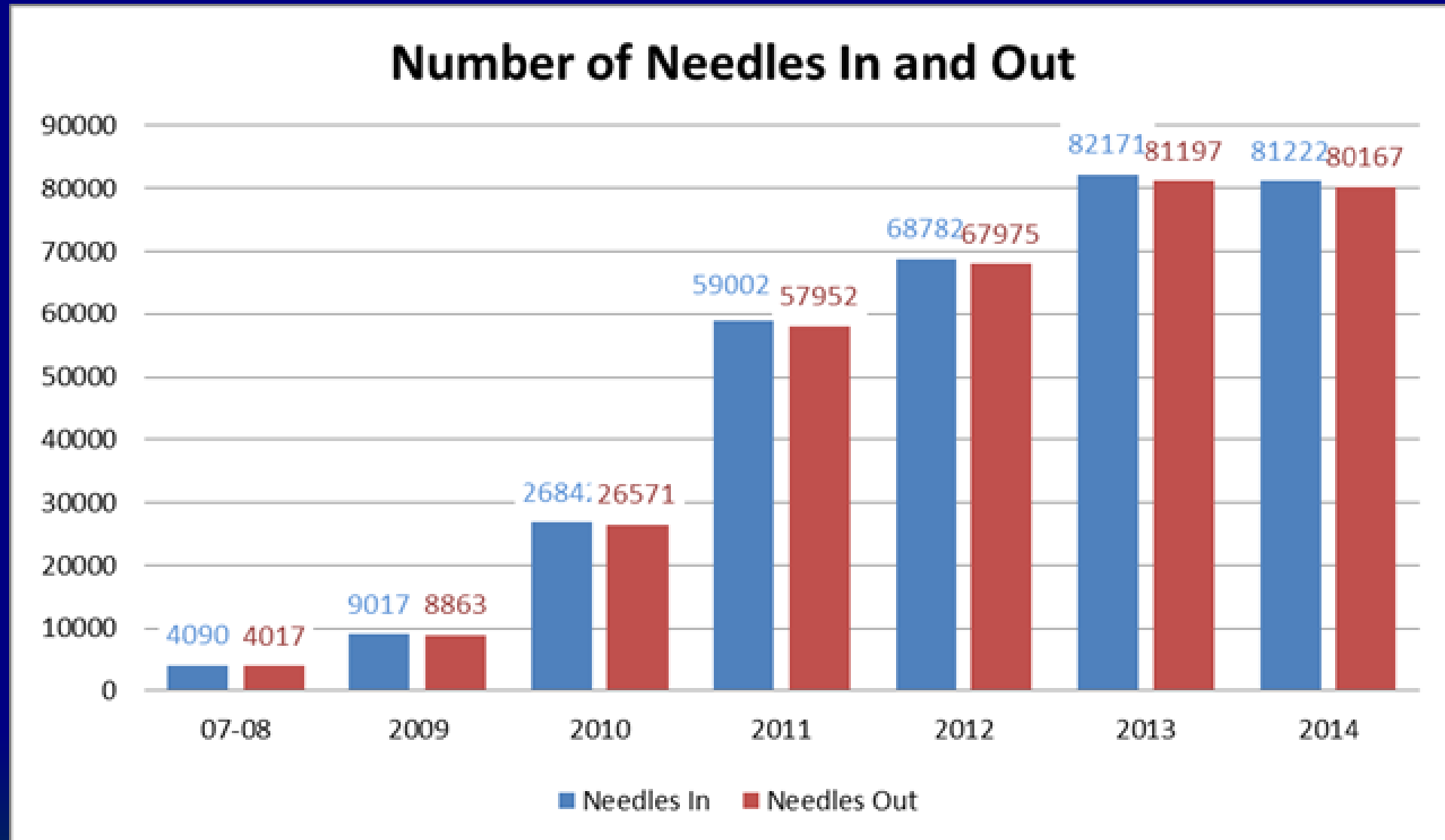


T. Cicero et al *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2014;71(7):821-826.  
doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.366

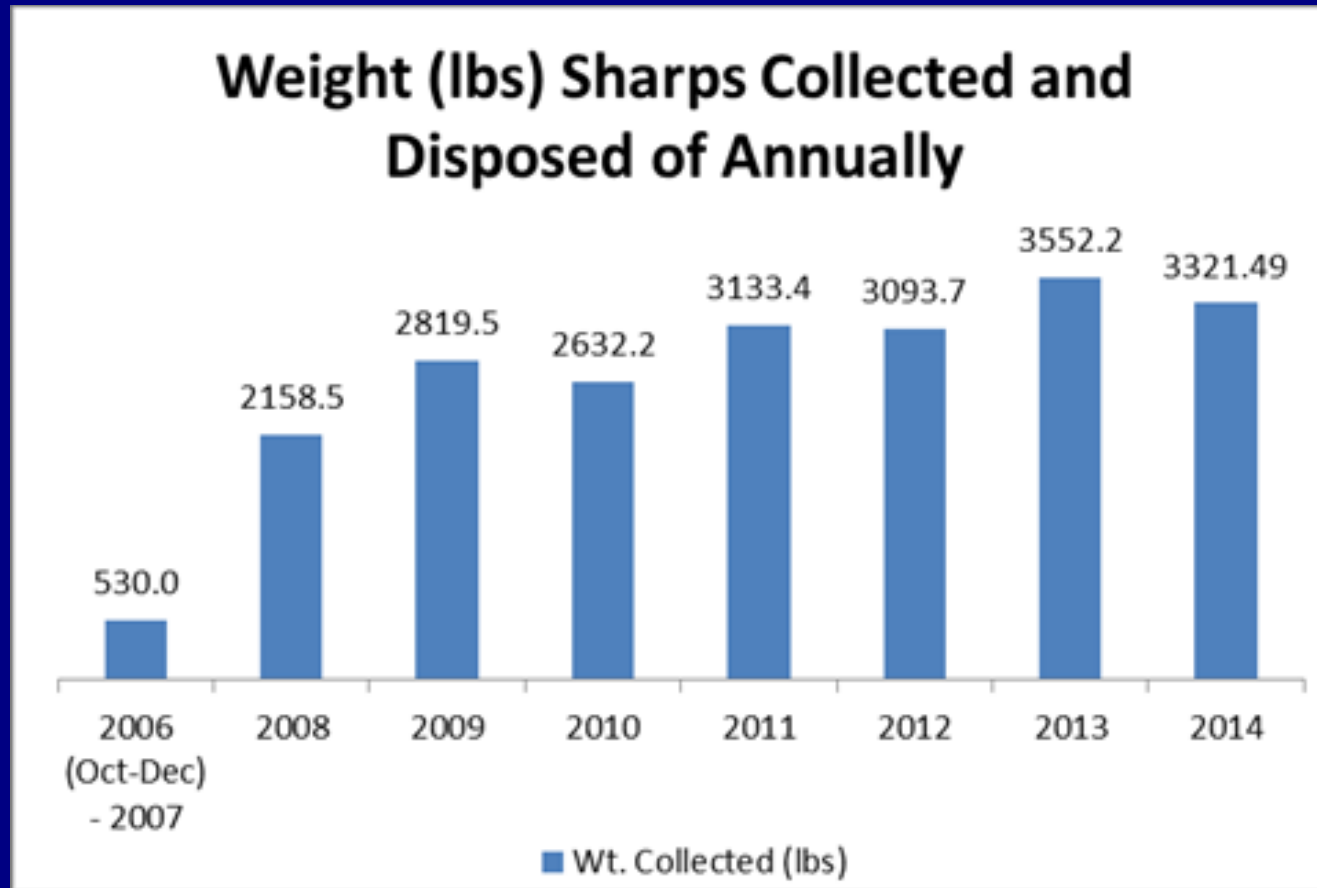


# Shasta Co Syringe Exchange Program

Total Syringes--In: 331,126 Out: 326,742



# Sharps Collection Stats



Total pounds collected  
Oct-06 through 2014 = 21,241.0 lbs

**For more information:**

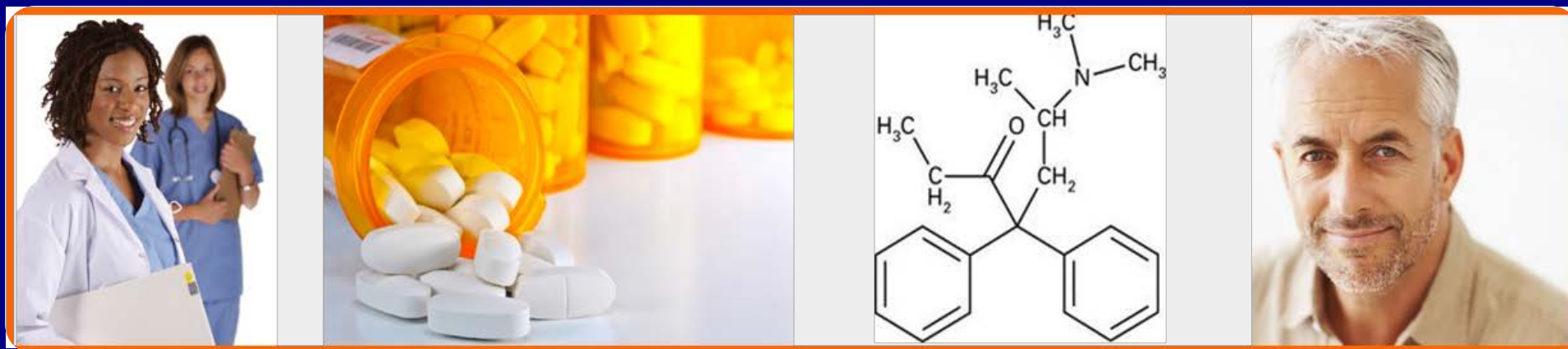
**Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH**

**530-225-5594**

**[adeckert@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:adeckert@co.shasta.ca.us)**

**or Wendy Millis 530-245-6858**

**[wmillis@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:wmillis@co.shasta.ca.us)**





# Abuse & Diversion of Rx Opioids

*Ivan Petrzela, PharmD, JD, MBA*

*NoRxAbuse.org*

# Disclosure

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I have no conflict of interest, whether real or apparent. I have no financial interest in any company, product, or services that may be mentioned in this presentation, including grants, gifts, stock holdings, and honoraria.



# Prescription Drug Abuse

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- Use without prescription
- Use in a manner other than prescribed
- Use to induce certain experience or feeling

Up to 30% of opioid users may be abusing Rx meds

CDC & NIDA

# Status Quo

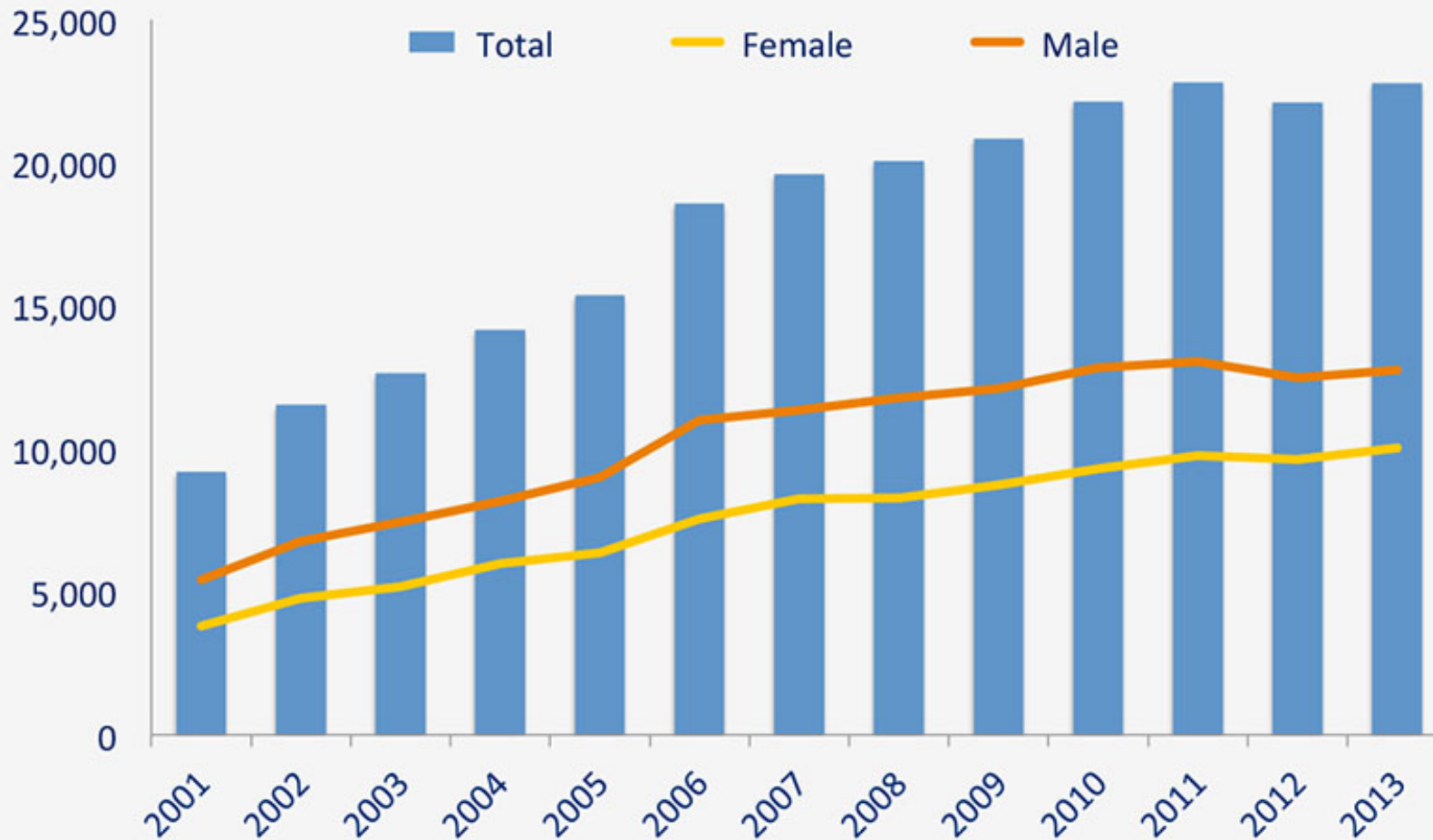
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- Prescription opioids are the fastest growing cause of death in the US
- CDC declared prescription drug abuse a “National Epidemic”
- Drug overdose deaths more than tripled since 1990
- The US consumes >90% of world’s production of Hydrocodone & >80% of Oxycodone



# National Overdose Deaths

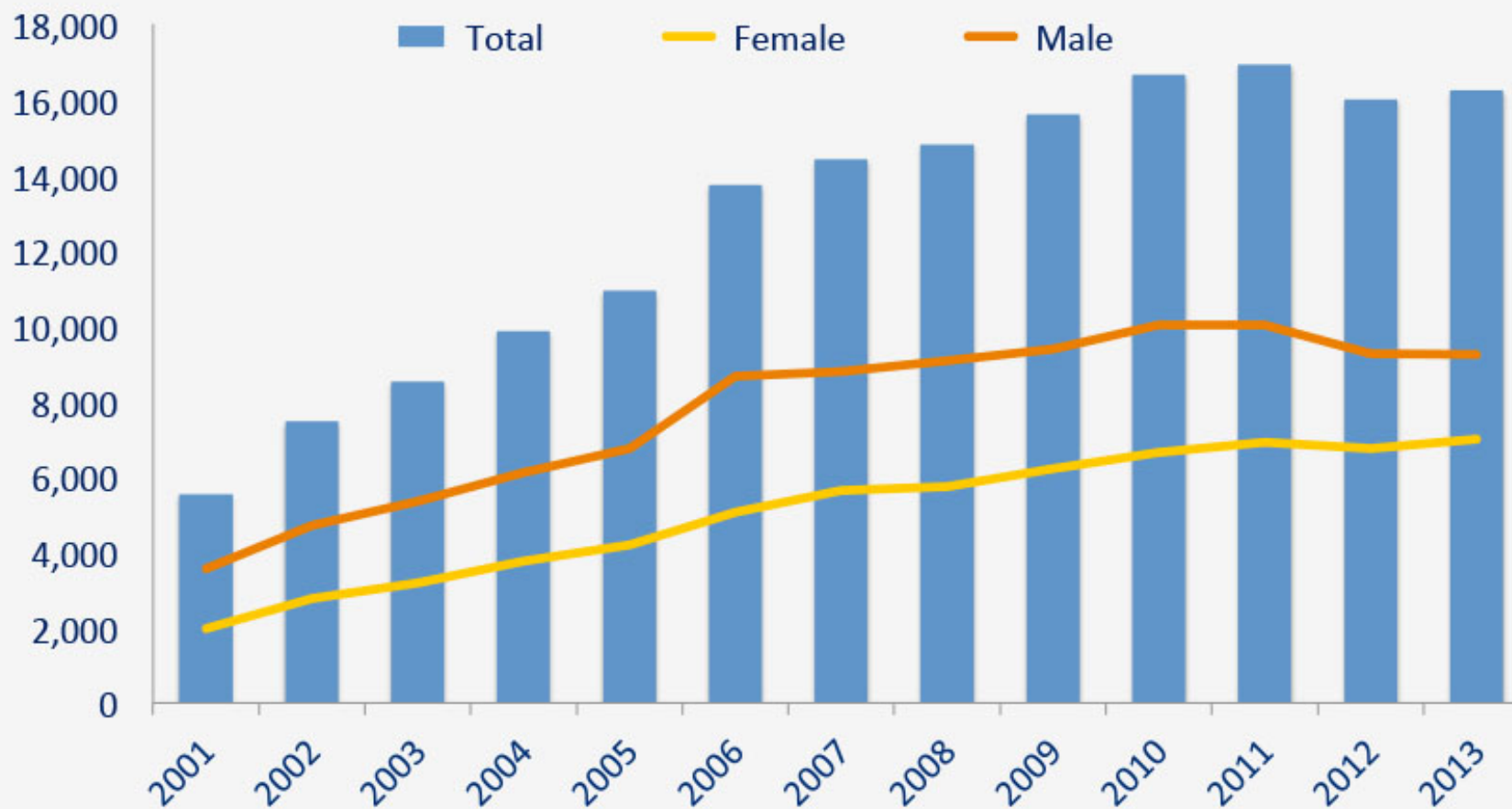
## Number of Deaths from Prescription Drugs



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

# National Overdose Deaths

## Number of Deaths from Rx Opioid Pain Relievers



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

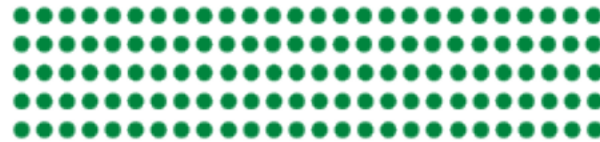
For every **1** death there are...



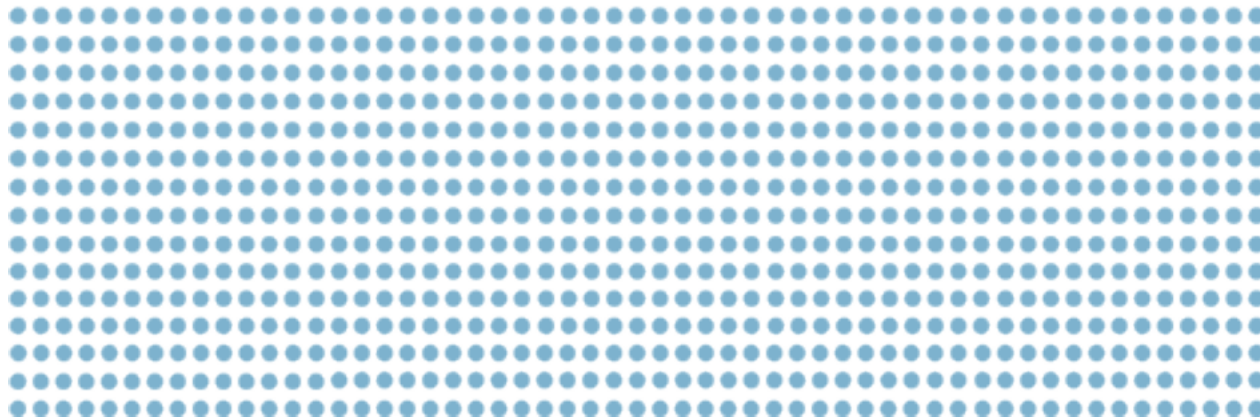
**10** treatment admissions for abuse<sup>9</sup>



**32** emergency dept visits for misuse or abuse<sup>6</sup>



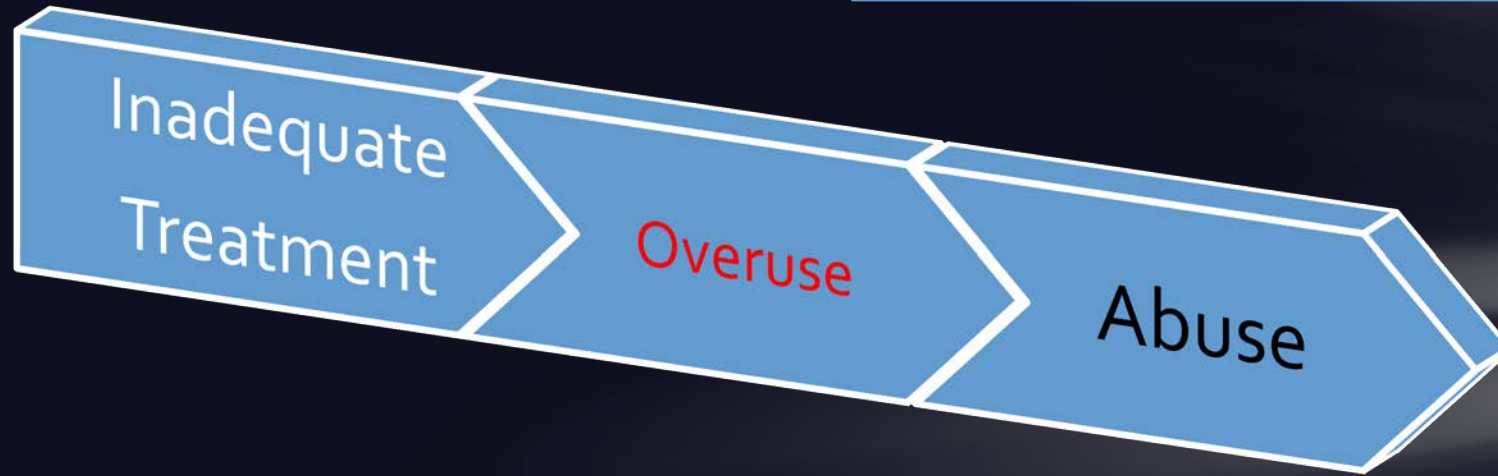
**130** people who abuse  
or are dependent<sup>7</sup>



**825**  
nonmedical  
users<sup>7</sup>

# How Did We Get Here?

---

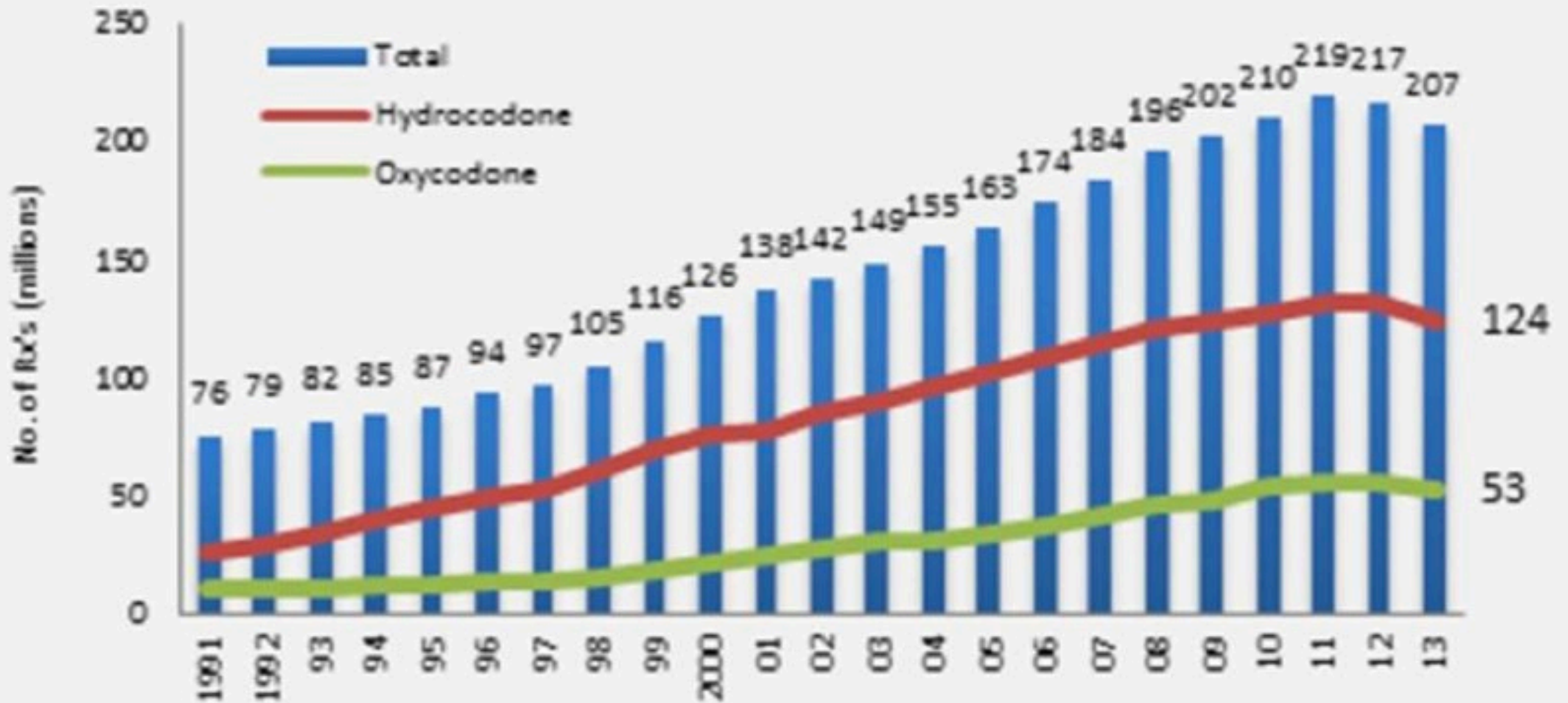


- OxyContin® introduction in 1996 – Purdue Pharma
- Pain as 5<sup>th</sup> Vital Sign initiative (VA 1999)
- Decade of Pain Control & Research 2001-2010 (HR3244)





# US Opioid Prescriptions 1991-2013 (retail)



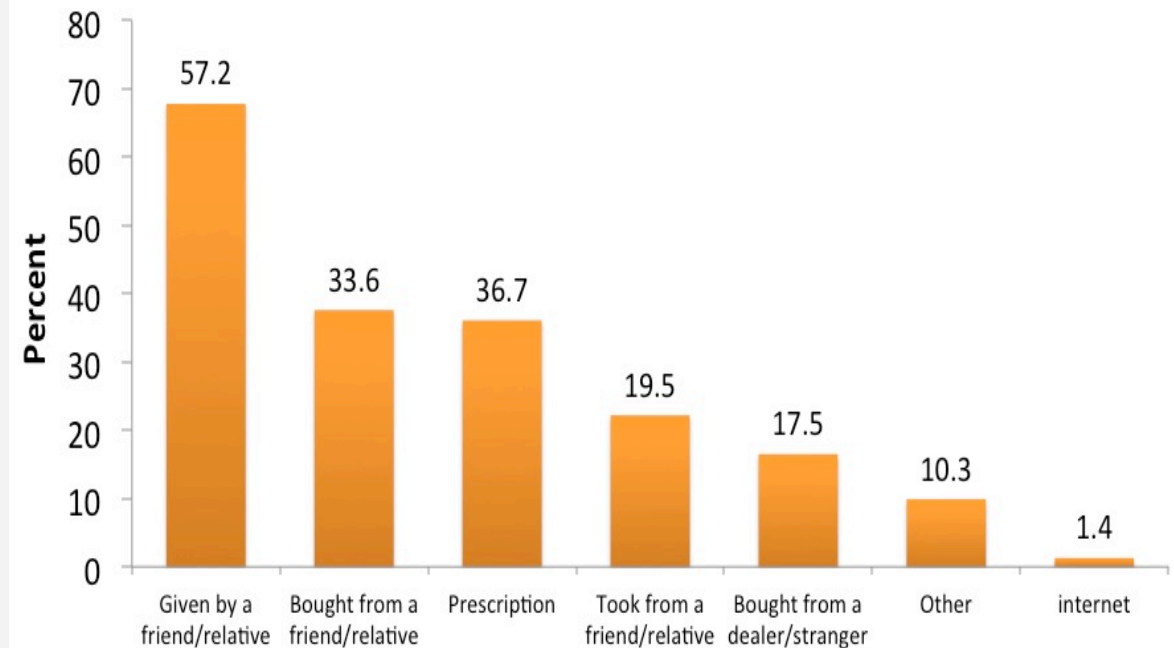
# Why Rx Drugs?

Accessibility

Perception of safety

Social Acceptability of Abuse

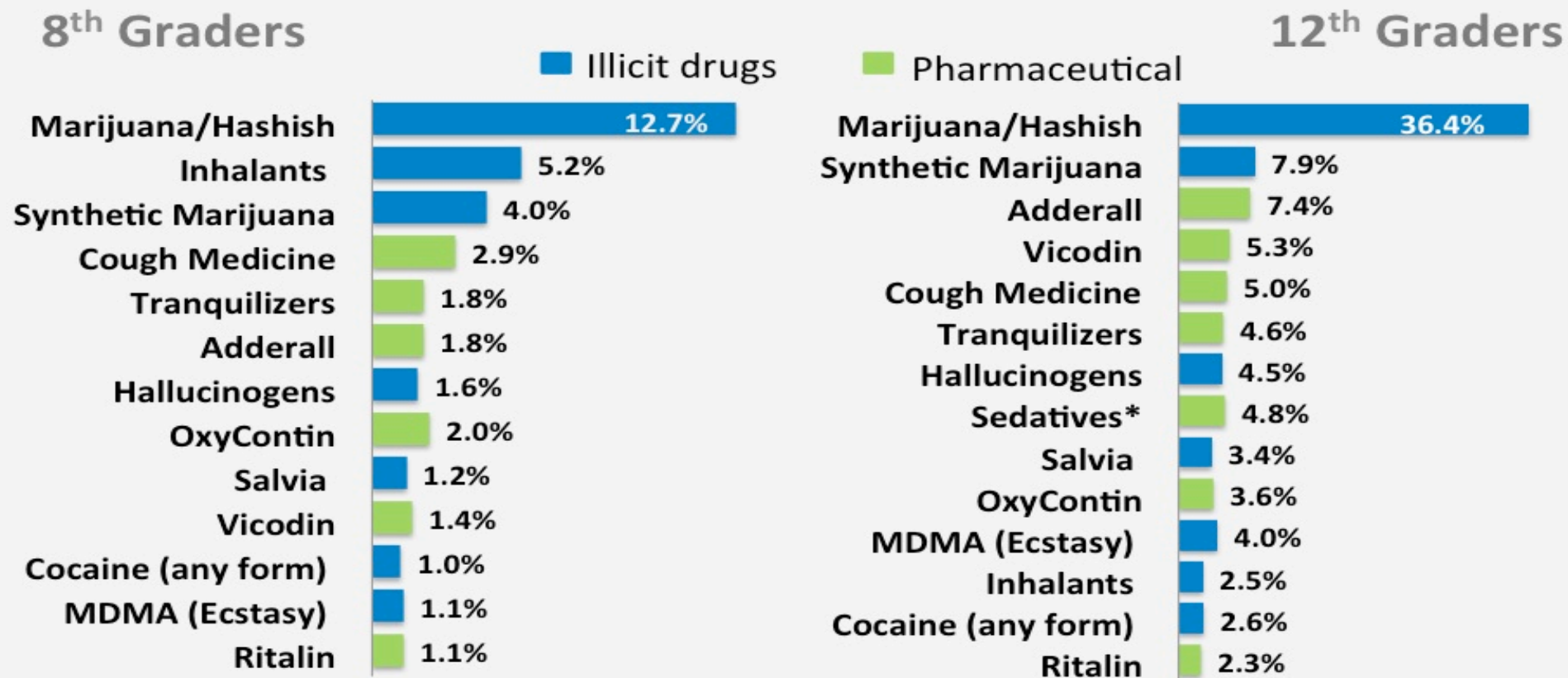
Source of Prescription Narcotics among Past Year  
Non-medical Users, 12th Grade<sup>§</sup>



<sup>§</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive

Source: University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring the Future Study

# Top Drugs among 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders, Past Year Use



\* Only 12<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed about sedatives use

Source: University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring the Future Study



# Frequently Abused Rx Drugs

---

- Opioids (IR preferred)

- Hydrocodone
- Oxycodone
- Methadone
- Hydromorphone
- Codeine

- Muscle Relaxants

- Carisoprodol
- Cyclobenzaprine
- Methocarbamol

- Benzodiazepines

- Alprazolam
- Diazepam

- Stimulants

- Methylphenidate
- Amphetamine Salts
- Dextroamphetamine

- Synthetic Opioids

- Tramadol

# Popular Cocktails

---

## “TRINITY”

- Hydrocodone
- Carisoprodol
- Alprazolam

## “HOLY TRINITY”

- Oxycodone
- Carisoprodol
- Alprazolam



# Regulatory Response

---

- **Focused on supply side of the problem, but no focus on demand side.**
- Increased scrutiny on all parties involved in CS distribution chain
- Increased enforcement efforts
- DEA fines up to \$10,000 per violation of some provisions of CSA
- Limits imposed on wholesalers & pharmacies – poorly articulated standards
- Mandatory CURES registration (01/2016)

# Shared Responsibility for Proper Prescribing & Dispensing of CS

---

- Rx for controlled substance must be issued for **legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of practice** [21 CFR §1306.04(a), HSC §11153]
- Prescriber is **primarily** responsible, but the RPh has **corresponding** responsibility for proper dispensing. [HSC §11153]
- RPh is **obligated to inquire** into legitimacy of Rx when appropriate. [In Re Pacifica Pharmacy, BOP precedential decision No. 2013-01]



# Unintended Consequences

---

- Limited access to pain meds for legitimate patients
- Adverse impact on Prescriber-Pharmacist relationship – AMA resolution- Pharmacy Intrusion into Medical Practice (2013)
- Various inconsistent legislative attempts to maintain patient access to pain management medications – conflict with regulatory agencies
- Increased use of Heroin

# Solutions

---

- **Educate your patients and caregivers**
- Evidence-based prescribing guidelines (MBC Nov 2014)
- Use non-opioids first
- Explore other treatment modalities (e.g., acupuncture, chiropractic manipulations, etc.) – payers need to get on board

EDUCATION IS MORE POWERFUL THAN REGULATION

# Thank You

[ipetrzelka@charter.net](mailto:ipetrzelka@charter.net)

[NoRxAbuse.org](http://NoRxAbuse.org)

[www.GeminiLawOffice.com](http://www.GeminiLawOffice.com)

# Resources

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- National Drug Threat Assessment Survey 2013 ([www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov))
- DEA Pharmacy Diversion Awareness Conferences (August 2013 & Sep. 2014)
- <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/testimony-to-congress/2014/americas-addiction-to-opioids-heroin-prescription-drug-abuse>
- [http://mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain_Guidelines.pdf)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse ([www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov))
- CDC Wonder – 2015 updated stats ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
- Brandeis University – PDMP Center of Excellence ([www.pdmpexcellence.org](http://www.pdmpexcellence.org))
- Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use: 1975-2014: Overview, key findings on adolescent drug use. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.
- 2013 AMA Conference (<http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/omss/a13-proceedings.pdf>)







# GROUP EXERCISE

MARYA CHOUDHRY  
PROJECT MANAGER  
PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA

## GROUP EXERCISE

- At your tables, take **10 minutes**:
  - Discuss greatest challenges regarding opioids
  - Rank your top 3



BREAK





# RATIONAL AND IRRATIONAL USE OF OPIOIDS

LEONARD SOLONIUK, MD  
PAIN SPECIALIST, REDDING, CA

## Rational and Irrational Use of Opioids

Leonard Soloniuk, MD

Leonard J. Soloniuk MD, Soloniuk Pain Center • Partnership HealthPlan's Northern Region Managing Pain Safety Forum • 28 May 2015

No Disclosures

No Off-Label Uses Discussed

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## Objectives

For Opioid Prescribing:

- Review irrational and rational decision making
- Discuss complications and co-morbidities
- Discuss patient work-up to optimize risk/benefit

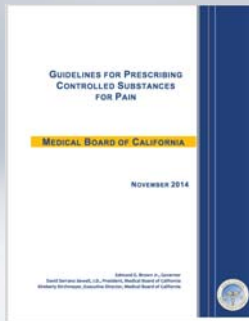
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## Rational and Irrational: Initiation of Therapy

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No documentation of presence of recognized medical indications</li> <li>• Not reviewing patient and family mental health and substance abuse history</li> <li>• Not sensitive to transition from acute to chronic</li> <li>• Using opioids in isolation</li> <li>• Not using opioids when appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate work-up with history, exam, testing, "establishing a diagnosis and medical necessity"</li> <li>• Risk stratification for addiction, medical co-morbidity, psych, meds</li> <li>• Re-evaluation when acute pain becomes chronic</li> <li>• Opioid therapy as part of a multi-modality program</li> <li>• Using opioids as part of care continuum</li> </ul>

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## Medical Board Standards



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## PATIENT EVALUATION AND RISK STRATIFICATION

The nature and extent of the clinical assessment includes:

- Completing a medical history and physical examination.
- Performing a psychological evaluation.
- Psychological assessment should include risk of addictive disorders.
- Establishing a diagnosis and medical necessity

Pain Management: Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain  
Medical Board of California, November 2014  
[http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain_Guidelines.pdf)

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## Indications

Conditions less likely to respond to opioid therapy

- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic headache
- Irritable bowel syndrome

Conditions more likely to respond to opioid therapy

- OA, RA
- Chronic spinal pain

**Addiction: not an appropriate without special licensing.**

Conventional Practice for Medical Conditions for Chronic Opioid Therapy. Smith HS. Pain Physician 2012; 15:531-537

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## Rational and Irrational: Initiation of Therapy

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not reviewing patient and family mental health and substance abuse history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk stratification for addiction, medical co-morbidity, psych, meds</li> </ul>

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### Risk Factors for Opioid Abuse

- Young age (45 or younger)
- Family history of substance abuse
- Past history of substance abuse
- History of DUI or drug charges
- Major mental disorders
- History of childhood sexual abuse (especially female patients)

Kraush D, Sullivan M, Ballantyne J What Are We Treating with Chronic Opioid Therapy? Curr Rheumatol Rep (2013) 15:311

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### Risk Assessment Tools: Examples

Tool	# of items	Administered
<b>Patients considered for long-term opioid therapy:</b>		
<b>ORT</b> Opioid Risk Tool	5	By patient
<b>SOAPP®</b> Screener & Opioid Assessment for Patients w/ Pain	24, 14, & 5	By patient
<b>DIRE</b> Diagnosis, Intractability, Risk, & Efficacy Score	7	By clinician
<b>Characterize misuse once opioid treatments begins:</b>		
<b>PMQ</b> Pain Medication Questionnaire	26	By patient
<b>COMM</b> Current Opioid Misuse Measure	17	By patient
<b>PDUQ</b> Prescription Drug Use Questionnaire	40	By clinician
<b>Not specific to pain populations:</b>		
<b>CAGE-AID</b> Cut Down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-Opener Tool, Adjusted to Include Drugs	4	By clinician
<b>RAFFT</b> Relax, Alone, Friends, Family, Trouble	5	By patient
<b>DAST</b> Drug Abuse Screening Test	28	By patient
<b>SBIRT</b> Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment	Varies	By clinician

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Collaborative for REMS Education

### Opioid Risk Tool (ORT)

Mark each box that applies	Female	Male
<b>1. Family Hx of substance abuse</b>		
Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Illegal drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Prescription drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
<b>2. Personal Hx of substance abuse</b>		
Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Illegal drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Prescription drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>3. Age between 16 &amp; 45 yrs</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
<b>4. Hx of preadolescent sexual abuse</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
<b>5. Psychologic disease</b>		
ADD, OCD, bipolar, schizophrenia	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1

Scoring Totals:

#### Administer

On initial visit

Prior to opioid therapy

#### Scoring (risk)

0-3: low

4-7: moderate

≥8: high

Webster LR, Webster RM. Pain Med. 2005;6:432-42.  
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### Example of Risk Benefit Analysis



Adapted from Rubenstein

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## Rational and Irrational: Initiation of Therapy

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using opioids in isolation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opioid therapy as part of a multi-modality program</li> </ul>

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## Treatments for Chronic Pain

The nature and extent of the clinical assessment...includes:

- Psychological therapies
- Physical therapies: PT, Chiropractic, massage, acupuncture
- Opioid and non-opioid medications.
- Injection and surgical therapies

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## Rational and Irrational: Initiation of Therapy

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not using opioids when appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using opioids as part of care continuum</li> </ul>

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## When to Consider a Trial of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain

- Pain is moderate to severe
- Failed to adequately respond to non-opioid & non-drug interventions
- Potential benefits are likely to outweigh risks
- No alternative therapy is likely to pose as favorable a balance of benefits to harms

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## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 1

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not monitoring response to therapy</li> <li>• Not assessing and treating sequelae of opioid therapy</li> <li>• Not monitoring PDMP (CURES)</li> <li>• Not monitoring UDT</li> <li>• Not reassessing when MED (morphine equivalent dose) &gt; 120</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the 4A's</li> <li>• "B.E.S.T." Work-up: Bone Density, EKG, Sleep Study, Testosterone</li> <li>• Monitoring CURES, frequency based on risk</li> <li>• Unannounced UDT, frequency based on risk</li> <li>• Re-assessing high dose opioid therapy</li> </ul>

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## 4 A's of Monitoring Opioid Therapy

- **Analgesia**
- **Activities** of daily living
- **Adverse** side effects
- **Aberrant** drug-taking behaviors
- (MBC adds **Affect**: the patient's behavior and mood are appropriate.)

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## 4 A's: Adverse Effects

- CNS: sedation
- Pysch: co-morbid mental disease
- GI: constipation, Narcotic Bowel Syndrome
- GU: urinary retention
- Endocrine: Opioid-induced hypogonadal state
- Pulmonary: respiratory depression
- Opioid-induced hyperalgesia


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## 4 A's of Monitoring Opioid Therapy

Courtesy of Dr. Danny Drew

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# Prior to Opioid Therapy: CURES / PDMP



Department of Justice - Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigative Services  
Controlled Substance Utilization Review & Evaluation System

07/15/2013 10:48

CONFIDENTIAL  
DOCUMENT

## PATIENT/CLIENT ACTIVITY - CONSOLIDATED REPORT

**Prescription Drug Transaction Details:**

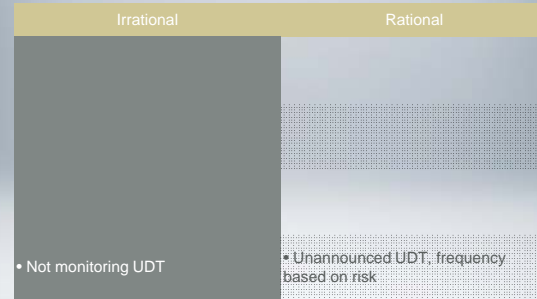
Number of Records: 42				Start Date: 07/15/2012		End Date: 07/15/2013						
Date Filled	First Name	Last Name	DOB	Address	Drug Name	Form	Qty	PKTY Name	PKTY DEA #	Dr's Name	PKTY	Refill
07/17/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
07/17/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
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08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB	10.000	333	00000000	43-100001	SCOTT, JAMES L.	07/15/12
08/09/12	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HYDROCODONE B.C.A.P.E.	TAB						

## When to Consider a Trial of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain

- Pain is moderate to severe
- Failed to adequately respond to non-opioid & non-drug interventions
- Potential benefits are likely to outweigh risks
- No alternative therapy is likely to pose as favorable a balance of benefits to harms

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## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 1



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## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Why test?

- Help to identify drug misuse/addiction
- Assist in assessing adherence during opioid therapy
- Support decision to refer
- Suggested by multiple guidelines
- **Goal:** Confirm presence of prescribed medications
- **Goal:** Confirm absence of non-prescribed medications

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## UDT: Types of Testing

- Point-of-care testing (POCT)
- Enzymatic/EIA testing
- GC/MS or LC/MS

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## PCT: Inadequate for Clinical Decision Making

### Pro

- Inexpensive
- Rapid results
- Screen for drug families
- Low complexity / CLIA waived

### Con

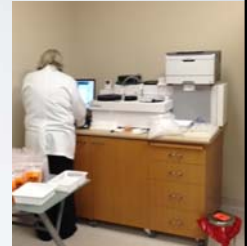
- High false positive and false negative rate
- Subject to cross-reactivity
- Limited compounds tested



SAMHSA. Clinical Drug Testing in Primary Care. Technical Assistance Publication (TAP) 12. IRIS Publication No. (DMA) 12-4668. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2012.

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Enzymatic/EIA testing

- Moderate or High Complexity
- Classify substance as present or absent according to cutoff
- Many do not identify individual drugs within a class
- Subject to cross-reactivity / false positives



Gourlay DL, et al. Urine Drug Testing in Clinical Practice. The Art & Science of Patient Care. 2010. Ed 4.

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) LC/MS or GC/MS

- Liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (**LC/MS**)
- Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (**GC/MS**)
- High Complexity
- “The gold standard”
- Allows quantitation
- Takes longer



Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15:ES119-ES13

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) What to Test

### The “RPD Standard”: $\geq 1:400$ unexpected

- Validity testing
- Prescribed controlled substances and metabolites
- Commonly abused substances in Shasta and Tehama Counties

Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15:ES119-ES13

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) What to Test, cont'd

- opioids / metabolites
- morphine
  - hydrocodone
  - hydromorphone
  - oxycodone
  - oxymorphone
  - codeine
  - 6-AM (Heroin metabolite)
  - fentanyl
  - buprenorphine
  - tapentadol
  - methadone
  - tramadol

Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15:ES119-ES13

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) What to Test, cont'd

- opioids
- benzodiazepines
- carisoprodol and meprobamate
- barbiturates
- amphetamine
- methamphetamine
- cocaine and metabolite (benzoecgonine)

Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15:ES119-ES13

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) What to Test, cont'd

- Shasta/Tehama County
- propoxyphene
  - ketamine
  - pregabalin
  - buprenorphine

Consider:

- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- LSD
- 3-4 methylene-dioxymethamphetamine/MDMA (ecstasy)



Nguyen N, Workman T, Soloniuk L. The Positive Inconsistent in Urine Drug Testing at a Community Specialty Pain Clinic. Poster session presented at: The Association for Mass Spectrometry Applications to the Clinical Lab. 7th Annual Conference; 2015 March 28- April 1; San Diego, CA.

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Difficult to detect

- Difficult to detect
- "Spice"
  - "Bath salts"
  - GHB
  - Volatiles: "huffers"
  - Sporadic use

Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15:ES119-ES13

## Urine Drug Testing (UDT) How Often to Test

- Initiation of opioid therapy
- Change of therapy
- Low risk: 2/year
- Moderate risk: quarterly
- High risk: Monthly

Owen GT et al. Urine Drug Testing: Current Recommendations and Best Practices Pain Physician 2012; 15(ES119-ES13)

## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 1

Irrational

Rational

- Not reassessing when MED (morphine equivalent dose) > 120

- Re-assessing high dose opioid therapy

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## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 2

Irrational

Rational

- Not considering Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia (OIH) in unresponsive patients

- Using methadone as a 1st or 2nd line opioid

- Not considering community risks associated with opioids

- Not assessing input from pharmacist, family and community

- Considering OIH in unresponsive pts: consider trials opioid rotation, tapering, alternate therapy

- Using methadone as a last resort

- Considering patient, clinic, and community impacts of prescribing

- Using info from outside sources

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## If inadequate analgesia, consider...

- Undertreatment
- Disease progression vs co-morbidity
- Drug diversion / abuse
- Tolerance
- **Opioid-induced hyperalgesia**

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### Opioid-induced Hyperalgesia (OIH)

- Paradoxical increase in pain with chronic opioid therapy
- Suspect OIH when opioid effect wanes with no disease progression
- Unexplained pain reports or diffuse allodynia
- Treatment: wean down/off opioids, supplementation with NMDA receptor modulators, opioid rotation

Marion Lee, MD, Sanford Silverman, MD, Hans Hansen, MD Vikram Patel, MD, and Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD  
A Comprehensive Review of Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia Pain Physician 2011; 14:145-161

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### Opioid Rotation Risks

- "the current paradigm used for opioid rotation can be dangerous and lead to potentially fatal outcomes"
- Use of current opioid equi-analgesic dose tables can be fatal

Webster LR, Fine PG "Overdose Deaths Demand a New Paradigm for Opioid Rotation" Pain Medicine 2012; 13: 571-574

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### Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 2

Irrational	Rational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using methadone as a 1st or 2nd line opioid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using methadone as a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> line opioid</li> </ul>

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### Root Cause Analysis for Opioid-Related Deaths

- physician error due to knowledge deficits
- patient non-adherence
- comorbidities, including substance use disorders
- presence of additional CNS-depressant drugs
- sleep-disordered breathing
- **methadone represented less than 5% of opioid prescriptions dispensed but implicated in one third of opioid-related deaths**

Webster LR et al An Analysis of the Root Causes for Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in the United States. Pain Medicine 2011; 12: S26-S35

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## Potential Risk Factors in Methadone Deaths

Risk factors: respiratory depression

- age
- Medically compromised
- Liver or pulmonary pathology
- Sleep apnea
- Polysubstance use
- Opioid-naïve/low tolerance
- High doses of methadone
- Rapid titration

Risk factors: TdP

- Female gender
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Liver or cardiac pathology
- Unexplained syncope or seizures
- Other drug and medication use especially those that impact QTc or inhibit CYP 3A4/28
- Prolonged QTc
- High doses of methadone

Vania Modesto-Lowe, MD, MPH, Donna Brooks, MS and Nancy Petry, Ph.D. Methadone Deaths: Risk Factors in Pain and Addicted Populations J Gen Intern Med. 2010 April; 25(4): 305-309.

## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 2

Irrational

Rational

- Not considering community risks associated with opioids

- Considering patient, clinic, and community impacts of prescribing

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## Rational and Irrational: Continuation, Part 2

Irrational

Rational

- Not assessing input from pharmacist, family and community

- Using info from outside sources

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## Rational and Irrational: Stopping

Irrational

Rational

- Considering withdrawal symptoms as dangerous

- Continuing if unsafe or no functional improvement or no analgesia

- Stopping when opioids are working

- Not being able to say "No"

- Re-evaluate and taper/detox when no improvement or unsafe use

- Re-evaluate and taper when no improvement or unsafe use

- Continuing opioid therapy when effective and reasonable risk/benefit

- Being able to discontinue therapy

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## Opioid Withdrawal

- Uncomfortable but not dangerous
- Contrast to risk with benzo/barbiturate withdrawal
- Special populations: pregnant women, neonates
- Risk/benefit calculation in patient with opioids on UDT
- Risk/benefit calculation in patient with aberrant behavior

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## Rational and Irrational: Stopping

Irrational

Rational

- Continuing if unsafe or no functional improvement or no analgesia

- Re-evaluate and taper when no improvement or unsafe use

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## Rational and Irrational: Stopping

Irrational

Rational

- Stopping when opioids are working

- Continuing opioid therapy when effective and reasonable risk/benefit

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## When to continue opioids:

*California Work Comp  
Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)*  
CHRONIC PAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES:

- If the patient has improved functioning and pain

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## Rational and Irrational: Stopping

Irrational

Rational

- Not being able to say "No"

- Being able to discontinue therapy

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## Resources

- Pain Management: Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain
- Medical Board of California. November 2014
- [http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain_Guidelines.pdf)
- Oregon Pain Guidance group (OPG)
- <http://www.southernoregonopioidmanagement.org/healthcare-professionals>
- Opioid Risk Tool
- [http://www.partnersagainstpain.com/printouts/Opioid\\_Risk\\_Tool.pdf](http://www.partnersagainstpain.com/printouts/Opioid_Risk_Tool.pdf)
- STOP BANG Questionnaire for sleep apnea
- <http://www.sleepapnea.org/assets/files/pdf/STOP-BANG%20Questionnaire.pdf>

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Thank You





# THE ART AND VERY LITTLE SCIENCE OF TAPERING

ANDREA RUBINSTEIN, MD (VIA VIDEO RECORDING)

CHIEF OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

KASIER PERMANENTE

# THE ART AND VERY LITTLE SCIENCE OF TAPERING

- The Art & Very Little Science of Tapering (42 min) [http://youtu.be/rj\\_fjlrHnVQ](http://youtu.be/rj_fjlrHnVQ)

# The Art and (very Little) Science of Tapering Opioid Medications

Who, Why, When and How

Andrea Rubinstein, MD  
Chief, Department of Chronic Pain  
Santa Rosa



# Objectives

Identify situations when tapering is appropriate

Learn to design most appropriate type of taper for particular patients

Gain skills at trouble shooting taper problems to avoid derailing

# Disclosure

All persons involved with the planning and presenting of this activity have not had any financial relationships in the past 12 months with any commercial interest or any proprietary entity producing health care goods or services that is relevant to this CME activity.

# Warning

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \sqrt{16 \cdot x} \\
 I = \frac{6 \times 10^3}{50T} = \frac{20^{\circ}}{T} \\
 m+n \quad E=mc^2 \quad \sum_N \int \frac{a^2 C_1}{3T} (Y+A) = \frac{2}{3} A \\
 \nabla \phi(x,y,z) = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} i + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} j + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} k \\
 \int \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} dx = \frac{x}{2} \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} + \frac{a^2}{2} \sin^{-1} \frac{x}{a} + C \\
 C = \pi r^2 \\
 ax + bx + c = 0 \quad \Delta = b^2 - 4ac \\
 a \neq 0 \quad f(x) = a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right) \quad \{a \leq b\} \\
 \log_b b \\
 y = uv
 \end{array}$$



# What is an Opioid Taper?

A opioid taper is a progressive decrease in the amount of opioid taken with a goal of leading to reduced risk and or opportunity for greater overall quality of life for the patient.

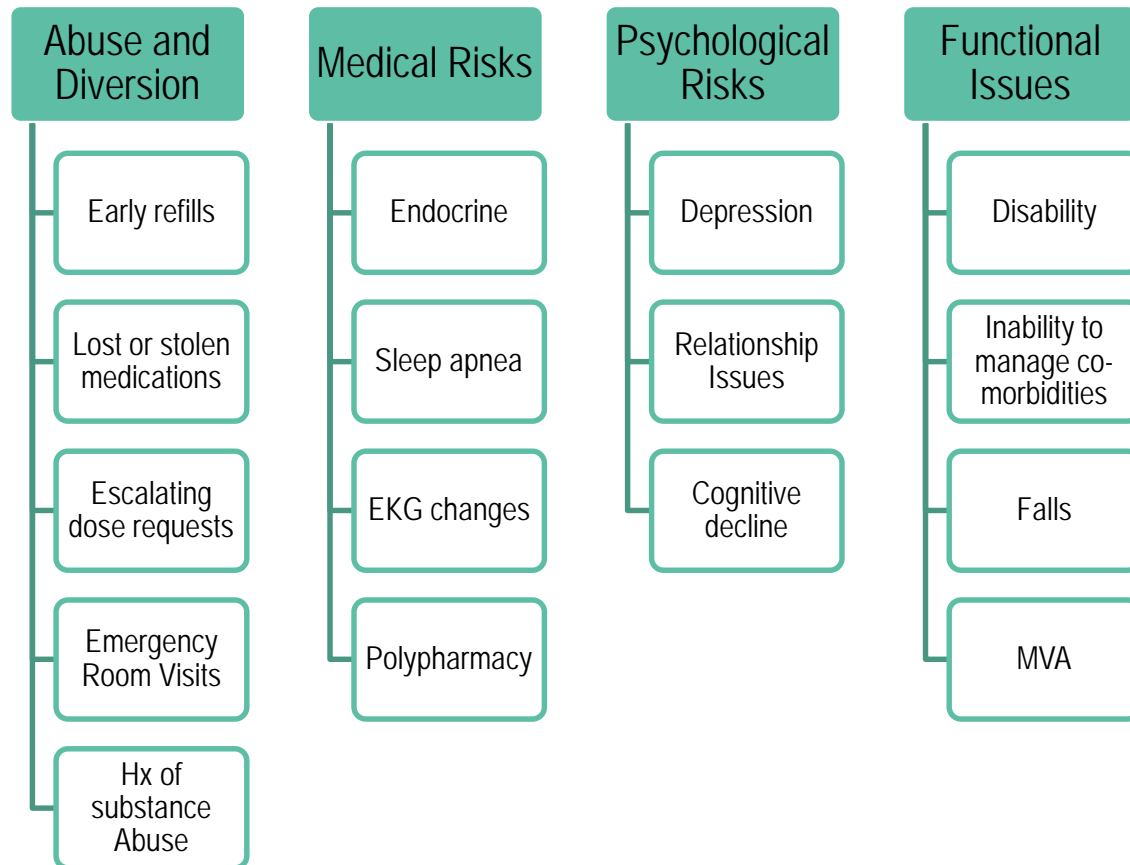
The Bottom Line:

**Do not start a medication  
you do not know how to  
stop.**

## When to Taper

When what the drug is  
doing TO the patient is  
more than what the drug  
is doing FOR the patient.

# Identifying Clinical Risk of Opioid Use



# Who to Consider for Taper

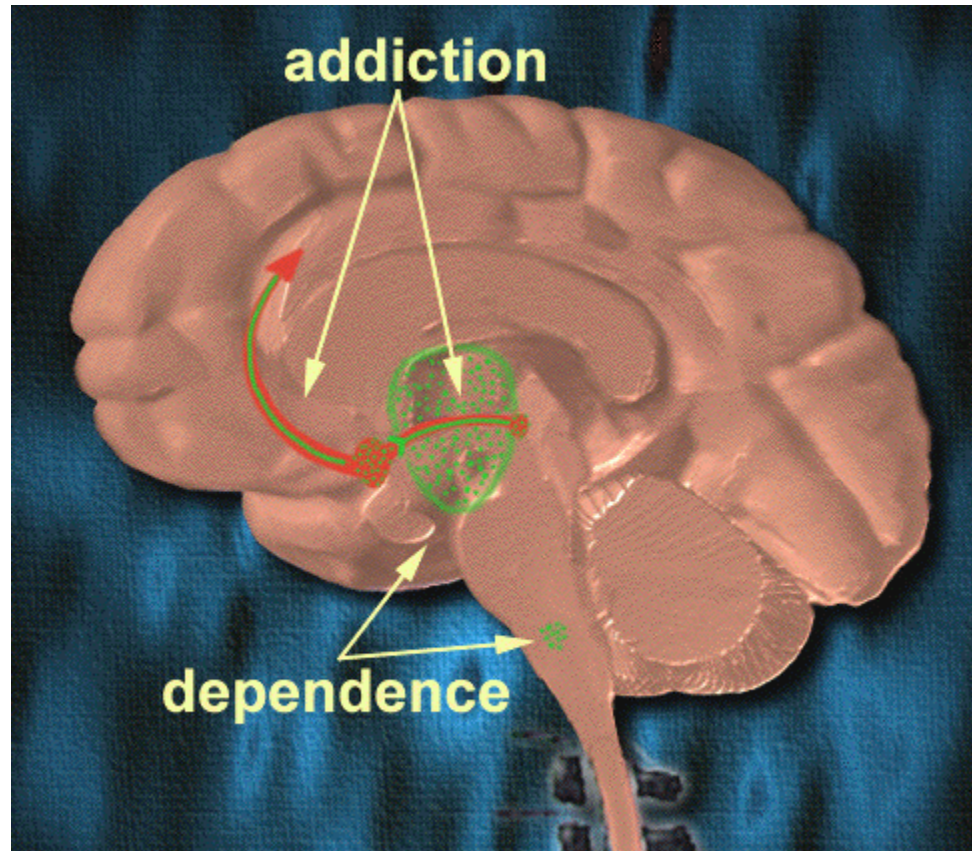
- Motivated patients
- Young patients
- Patients who say “it’s not working” or “it takes the edge off”
- Patients with diagnosable hyperalgesia
- Patients with declining function despite opioids
- Patients on opioids and complex polypharmacy
- Patients whose underlying pain issue may have resolved



# Who not to taper

- Addicted Patients
- Palliative Care Patients
- Psychiatrically fragile or unstable patients
- Pregnant patients

# Digression: Dependence vs. Addiction



National Institute of Drug Abuse 2007

# Reasons NOT to not taper

- “It takes the edge off....”
- “I have more pain when I skip a dose so I know it is doing something...”
- “I tried to stop before and my pain got out of control”
- “It is the only thing that lets me work 16 hours per day”
- “I cant figure skate competitively without this”

Opioids are not performance enhancing drugs

# Types of Tapers

- Physician Directed Taper
- Patient Directed Taper
- Rapid Taper
- Group Taper
- Inpatient Taper

# Rules of Thumb for Tapering

1. The longer on opioids the slower you go
2. Medications not used daily can be stopped without a taper
3. Use only one “small currency ” opioid
4. Down is easier than off
5. First 1/3 is easier than 2/3
6. Last 1/3 is hard and last 10% is really hard
7. Most patients tolerate 10% reductions
8. Virtually no one tolerates 25% reductions well
9. Going slowly is always better than stopping or giving up
10. The best taper is the one that works



## Tapering and Opioids

This factsheet accompanies the *Guidance for Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain*. It was created to aid with the tapering of opioids for Department of Defense (DoD) employees who utilize opioids throughout the course of care and patients of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) who are subject to applicable regulations and policies.

- **Methadone:**
  - Decrease dose by 20-50 percent per day until you reach 30 mg/day
  - Then decrease by 5 mg/day every two to five days
  - Then decrease by 2.5 mg/day every two to five days
- **Morphine SR/CR:**
  - Decrease dose by 20-50 percent per day until you reach 45 mg/day
  - Then decrease by 15 mg/day every two to five days
- **Oxycodone CR:**
  - Decrease dose by 20-50 percent per day until you reach 30 mg/day
  - Then decrease by 10 mg/day every two to five days



# Case 1 :

- SS is a 46 y.o. male with low back pain/failed back syndrome now with residual axial low back pain and sciatica type pain on the left.
- High dose opioids about 720 mg daily equivalent of morphine dose basically stable since 2007 but vague about his actual daily dose saying "well, it is more than that"
- Recent hospitalized for 11 days for pain control following a fall that broke several ribs. At that time he was also taking Demerol on a "prn" basis. (0-600 mg daily)

**Filtered:** Schedule Level (C-II High abuse potential; C-III Moderate dependence; C-IV Limited Depen

	Date	AMB/IP	Medication	▽	Order Detail
	2/6/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	2/27/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	3/23/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	4/18/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	5/14/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	6/8/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	7/2/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	7/26/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	8/21/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	8/21/2012 (O)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	9/14/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	9/14/2012 (O)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	10/9/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	10/31/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	11/27/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	12/19/2012 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	1/14/2013 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	1/15/2013 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	2/8/2013 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	3/4/2013 (S)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...
	3/22/2013 (O)	AMB	morphine (MSIR) 30 mg Oral Tab		Take 6 tablets orally 4 ...

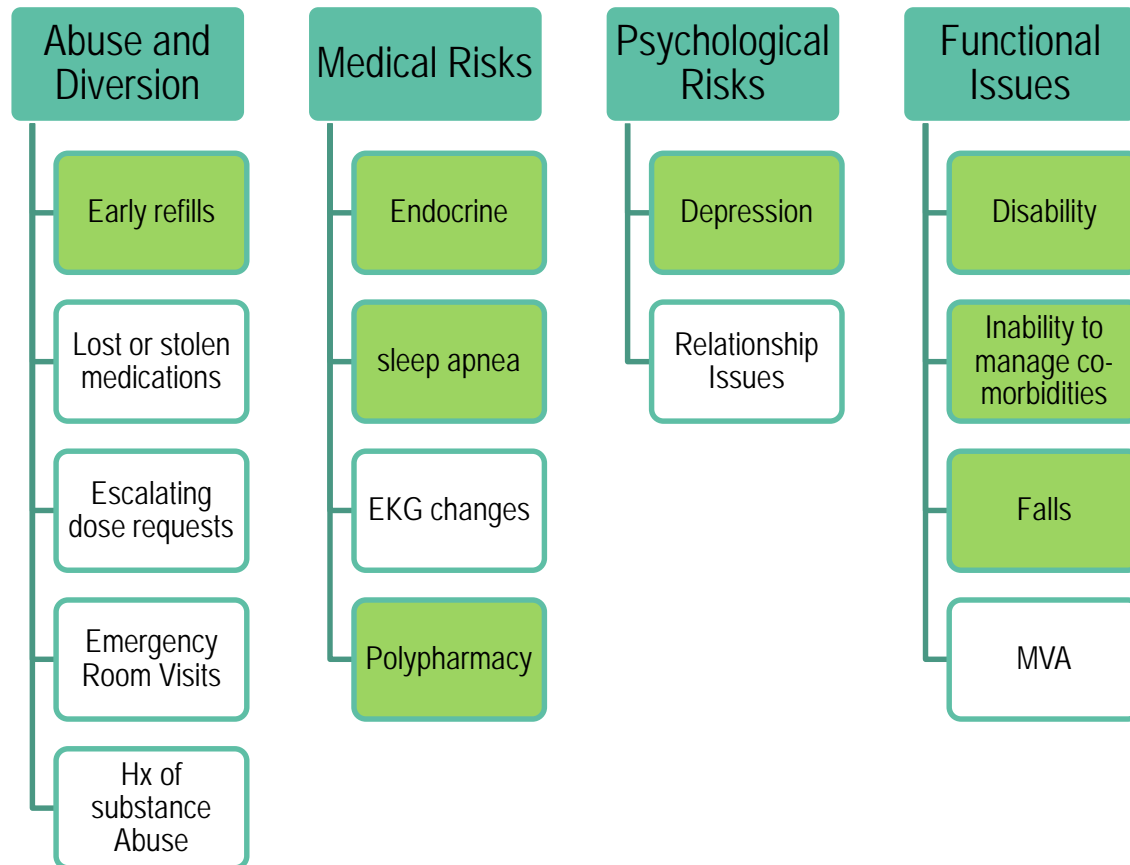


# Case 1 SS: risk > benefit

- Moderate obesity
- Function is poor "I just lay on the couch all day"
- Diabetes HgbA1c 9.3
- Testosterone 50ng/dl
- Moderate obstructive sleep apnea
  - Moderate Obstructive Sleep Apnea  
Average Oxygen Saturation: 93%  
Lowest Oxygen Saturation: 83%
- Uses Zolpidem for sleep prn
- Intermittent use of Promethazine or prochlorperazine for nausea of unknown etiology
- Depression on 120 mg daily of Cymbalta

Taper?  
Don't Taper?

# Identifying Clinical Risk of Opioid Use



# STEP 1: The Buy in

- **F**orwarn
- **O**ption to return
- **R**eassure
- **E**ducate and **E**ncourage
- **S**upport
- **T**reatment Plan in Writing

# Physician Directed Taper

Name: SS					Friday MORPHINE Taper Schedule for SS					
DRUG TO TAPER	PILLS SIZE	dosage	# TIMES DAILY	TOTAL DAILY DOSE	date	% drop	Daily mg	#/DAY	# RX	mg change
MORPHINE	30	8	4	960	5/3/2013	5	900.0	30.0	210	60.00
	15				5/10/2013	5	855.0	28.5	200	45.00
GOAL DOSE	INTERVAL	start date	% reduction min	% reduction maximum	5/17/2013	5	810.0	27.0	189	45.00
100	1	5/3/2013	5	15	5/24/2013	6	765.0	25.5	179	45.00
					5/31/2013	6	720.0	24.0	168	45.00
					6/7/2013	6	675.0	22.5	158	45.00
					6/14/2013	7	630.0	21.0	147	45.00
					6/21/2013	7	585.0	19.5	137	45.00
					6/28/2013	8	540.0	18.0	126	45.00
					7/5/2013	8	495.0	16.5	116	45.00
					7/12/2013	9	450.0	15.0	105	45.00
					7/19/2013	10	405.0	13.5	95	45.00
					7/26/2013	11	360	12.0	84	45.00
					8/2/2013	13	315	10.5	74	45.00
					8/9/2013	14	270	9.0	63	45.00
					8/16/2013	6	255	8.5	60	15.00
					8/23/2013	6	240	8.0	56	15.00
					8/30/2013	6	225	7.5	53	15.00
					9/6/2013	7	210	7.0	49	15.00
					9/13/2013	7	195	6.5	46	15.00
					9/20/2013	8	180	6.0	42	15.00
					9/27/2013	8	165	5.5	39	15.00
					10/4/2013	9	150	5.0	35	15.00
					10/11/2013	10	135	4.5	32	15.00
					10/18/2013	11	120	4.0	28	15.00
					10/25/2013	13	105	3.5	25	15.00
					11/1/2013	14	90	3.0	21	15.00
					11/8/2013	17	75	2.5	18	15.00

# Physician Directed Taper

[illegible]

# Case 1: The Plan

- Discontinue meperidine (no taper)
- Weekly check-ins with our medication nurse
- Taper morphine by 45 mg a week
  - MS IR 30 mg tablets
  - Taper: take 30 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)3/9
  - Taper: take 28.5 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)3/9
  - Taper: take 27 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)3/9
  - Taper: take 25.5 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)3/9
  - Taper: take 24 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)3/9

# Withdrawal





# Case 1: Follow up

- Seen in office recently on 540 mg Morphine daily (1/3)
- Having difficulty with last taper drop
- 8% dosage drop was hard
- Change dosage drop to 15 mg
- MS IR 30 mg tablets
- Taper: take 17 1/2 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)
- Taper: take 17 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)
- Taper: take 16 ½ tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)
- Taper: take 16 tablets daily in 6 divided doses x 7 days (TUESDAY)

Document so covering partners can follow

# Case 1


- Went through 7 days worth of medications in 3 days
- Offered buprenorphine
- Stabilized on buprenorphine 32 mg per day
- Moderate pain control but “overall I feel much better”

## Case 2:

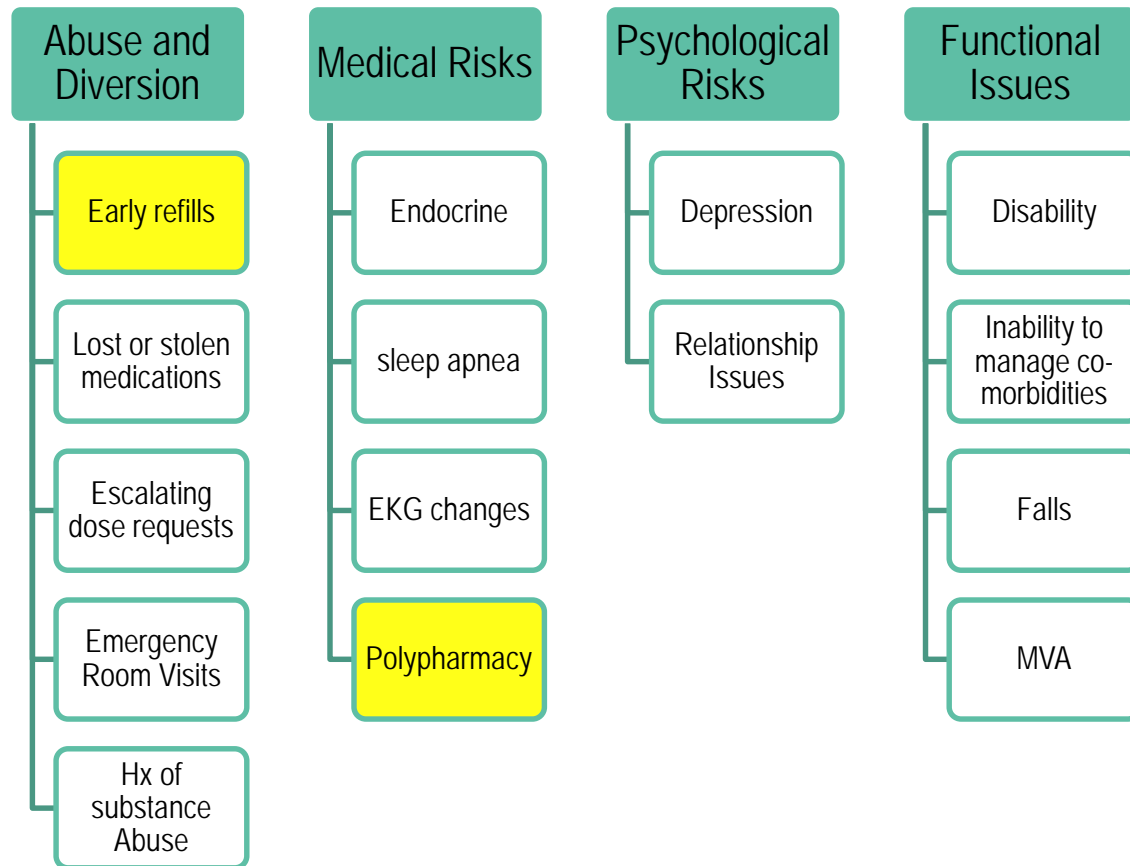
- KH 33 y.o. woman with deep achy pain from hips to knees. Symptoms began with “sciatica” type symptoms. High functioning, with good efficacy of medications. Now wants to get pregnant but VERY anxious about doing the taper
- Current regimen:
  - Oxycontin 40 BID (120MSE)
  - Norco 10/325 8 tablets daily (80 MSE)
  - Occasional Percocet
- Also uses nortryptiline, tizanidine, bentyl, miralax

# Refill History

**Filtered:** Schedule Level (C-II High abuse potential; C-III Moderate dependence; C-V Limited abuse potential)

Date	AMB/IP	Medication 	Order Detail
2/1/2013 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
12/31/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
12/6/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
11/3/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
10/2/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
9/6/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
8/8/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
7/11/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
6/10/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
5/17/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
4/19/2012 (O)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
4/19/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally 3 t...
3/21/2012 (S)	AMB	OXYCONTIN 40 mg Oral 12hr SR Tab	Take 1 tablet orally eve...

# Identifying Clinical Risk of Opioid Use



## Case 2: Patient Directed Taper

- Calculated her oxycodone equivalent
  - Morphine 200 mg =  $(200)(.75) = 150$  oxycodone
- Changed to Oxycodone IR 5 mg tablets
  - Eliminated OxyContin
  - Eliminated Hydrocodone
- Instructions to reduce from 30 tablets per day every few days as she tolerates.
- Weekly check-ins by email or phone
- After 60 days she is on 80 mg oxycodone (50%)
- After 6 months she is on 60 mg oxycodone (60%)
- Pain is the same

# Case 2

- Got pregnant
- Changed to buprenorphine
- Self tapered off buprenorphine during pregnancy
- Delivered healthy baby recently

# Troubleshooting the Taper

- Reassure Reassure Reassure
- Adjuvant medications
  - Clonidine
    - 0.1-0.2 mg BID or TID
  - Immodium
  - Benzodiazepines only at the last 7 days
- Hold or slow the taper at 1/3s
- Watch the clock
- The lower the dose the slower you go
- PAWS



# Buprenorphine

- *If a physician prescribes, dispenses or administers buprenorphine (Suboxone®/Subutex®) for the treatment of pain or for any other reason, a DEA registration is required because both products are Schedule III controlled substances. The DATA waiver specifically authorizes qualified practitioners to treat narcotic dependent patients, using FDA approved Schedule III-V narcotic controlled substances for maintenance and detoxification. The DATA waives the requirement for obtaining a separate DEA registration as a narcotic treatment program for physicians using the approved drugs for maintenance and detoxification; however, it does not apply to physicians using Suboxone® or Subutex® for the treatment of pain. A physician using Suboxone® or Subutex® for the treatment of pain would be required to register with DEA as practitioner with Schedule III privileges.*

*Sincerely, Patricia M. Good, Chief, Liaison and Policy Section, Office of      Diversion Control,  
Drug Enforcement Administration,  
U.S. Department of Justice*

# Summary

- The goal is to make the patient better
- Risk benefit assessment
- Design appropriate taper type
- Modify the taper as appropriate
- Goal is not always off
- Sometimes opioids are not the biggest problem

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707-571-3931





# GROUP EXERCISE

BARBARA SELIG  
PROJECT MANAGER II  
PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA

## GROUP EXERCISE

- At your tables, take **10 minutes**:
  - Discuss what tapering practices you can begin to adopt now (tomorrow, next week, next month, future)



BREAK







# INITIATING SUCCESSFUL PATIENT CONVERSATION

CANDY STOCKTON, MD  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
SHINGLETOWN MEDICAL CENTER





# GROUP EXERCISE

MARYA CHOUDHRY

MICHAEL VOVAKES, MD

PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA

## GROUP EXERCISE

- At your tables, take **10 minutes**:
  - Identify 1- 2 patients that you will initiate “successful conversations” with
  - What will you say and/or do differently?



# Safe Prescribing Committee

David Canton, D.O., M.P.H., JD.

Chief Medical Officer

Shasta Community Health Center

# The Start

- Pain Committee
- Primary Care guidelines
- Med Management Agreement
- Cross coverage

# The Committee

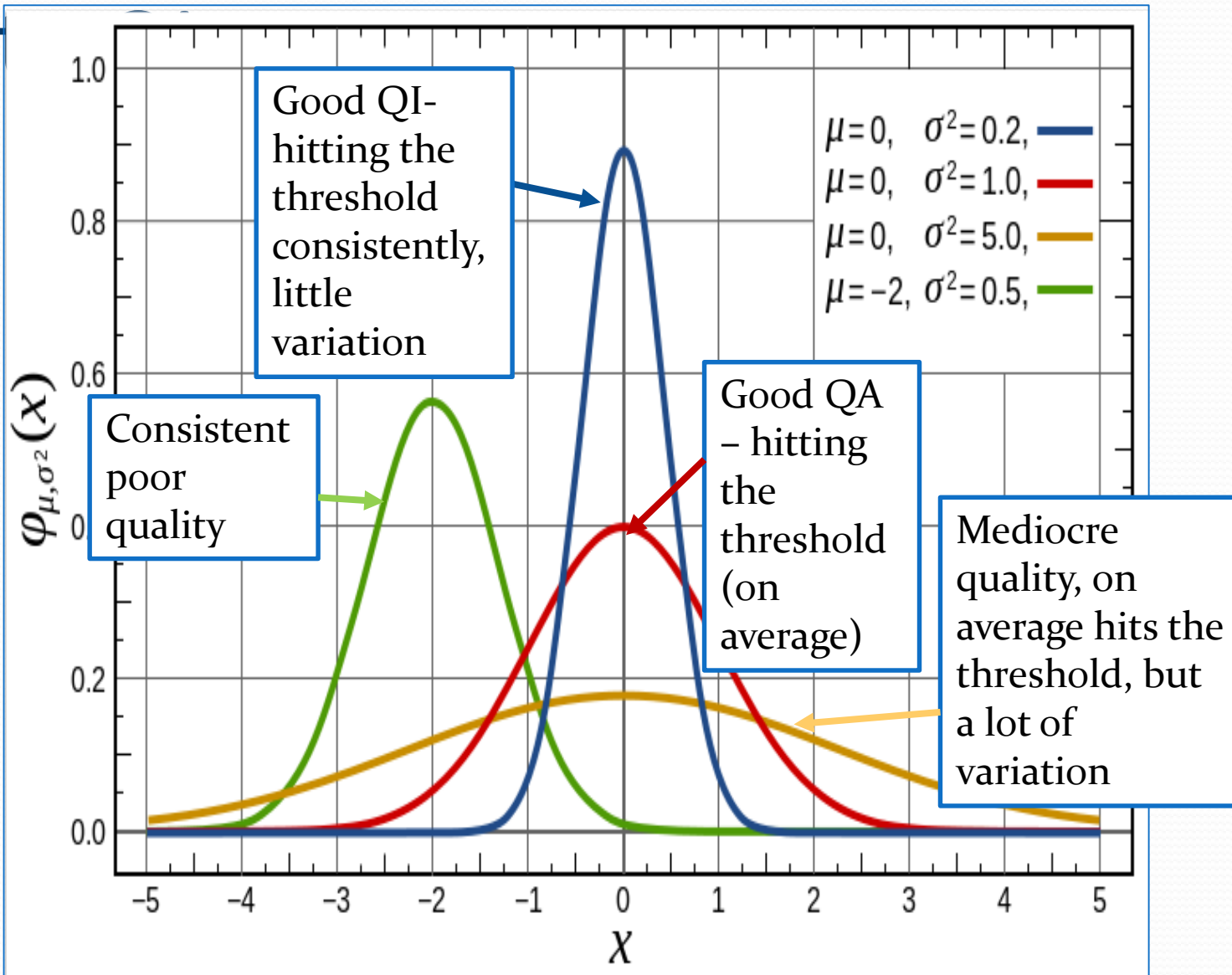
- Meetings
- Make up
- Authority



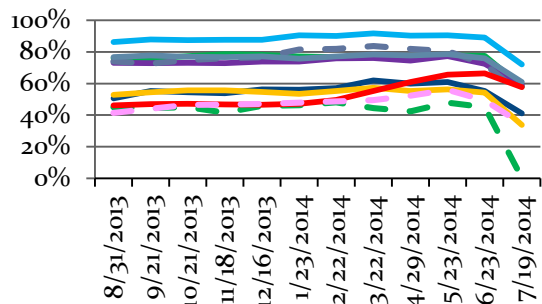
# Next Step

- Controlled substances
  - Benzo's and their cousins
  - Marijuana
- Med Manage Agreement
- Urine Tox

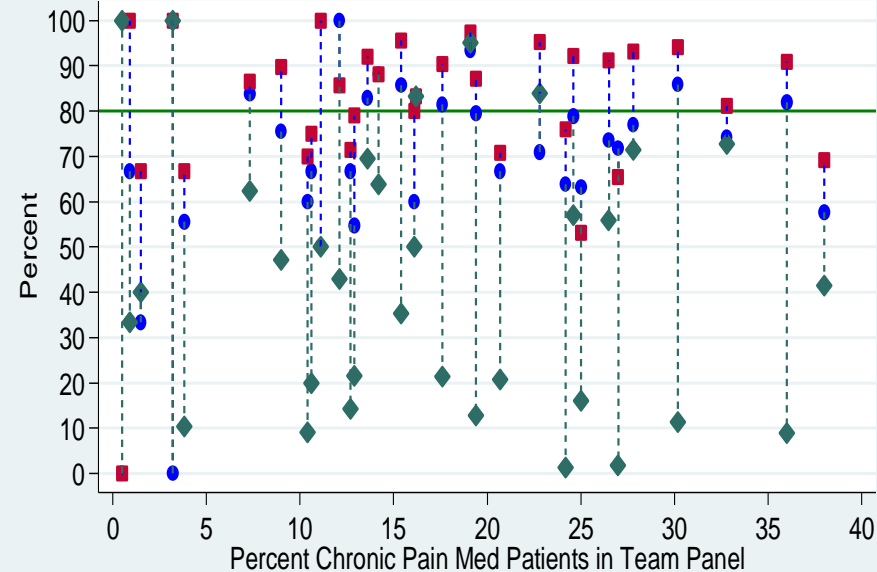
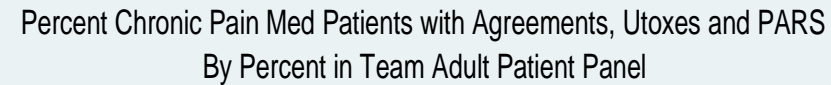
# A graphic look at moving from QA



# Numerous report formats “tested”



	As of June 23, 2014 (Established and No PCC)					As of July 19, 2014 (Established and No PCC)				
	Total PAIN Meds	PAIN-Has a Med Mgmt contract	PAIN-Had a utox	% PAIN-has a Med Mgmt contract	% PAIN-had a Utox	Total PAIN Meds	PAIN-Has a Med Mgmt contract	PAIN-Had a utox	% PAIN-has a Med Mgmt contract	% PAIN-had a Utox
Team										
Established	77	32	30	41.6%	39.0%	93	21	26	22.6%	28.0%
FP-Blue	87	48	44	55.2%	50.6%	107	44	49	41.1%	45.8%
FP-Gold	531	288	320	54.2%	60.3%	684	231	371	33.8%	54.2%
FP-Green	430	333	295	77.4%	68.6%	533	310	363	58.2%	68.1%
HOPE	20	9	12	45.0%	60.0%	5	0	1	0.0%	20.0%
HV	230	205	174	89.1%	75.7%	314	226	237	72.0%	75.5%
No PCC	84	26	18	31.0%	21.4%	162	23	24	14.2%	14.8%
PEDS	11	3	3	27.3%	27.3%	14	2	2	14.3%	14.3%
Purple	265	192	177	72.5%	66.8%	327	193	209	59.0%	63.9%
RES	494	356	339	72.1%	68.6%	601	319	393	53.1%	65.4%
SL	379	288	274	76.0%	72.3%	429	261	302	60.8%	70.4%
SPC	567	376	321	66.3%	56.6%	714	412	409	57.7%	57.3%
UC	223	110	67	49.3%	30.0%	269	92	79	34.2%	29.4%
Grand Total	3398	2266	2074	66.7%	61.0%	4252	2134	2465	50.2%	58.0%

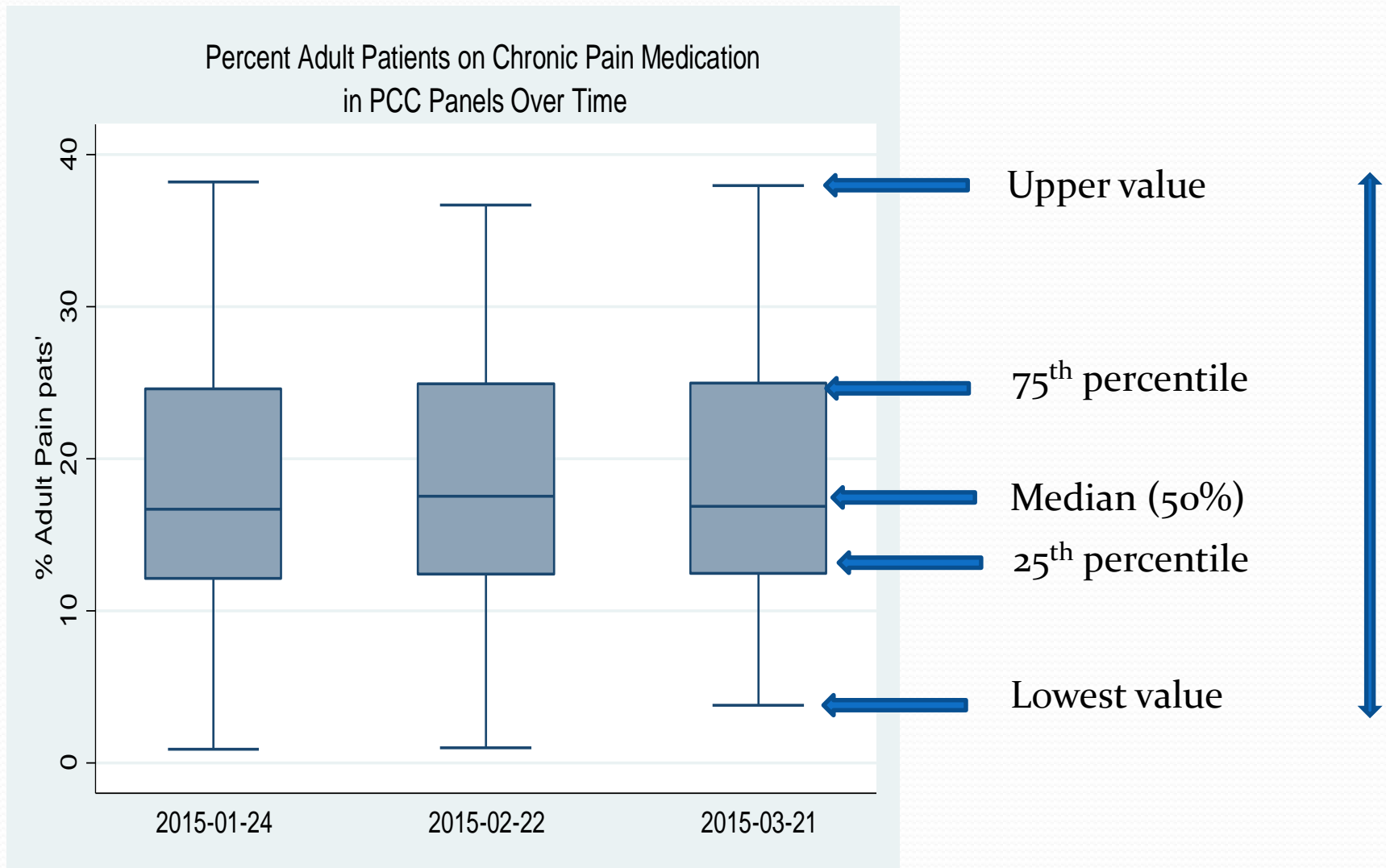


Mar 21 2015.

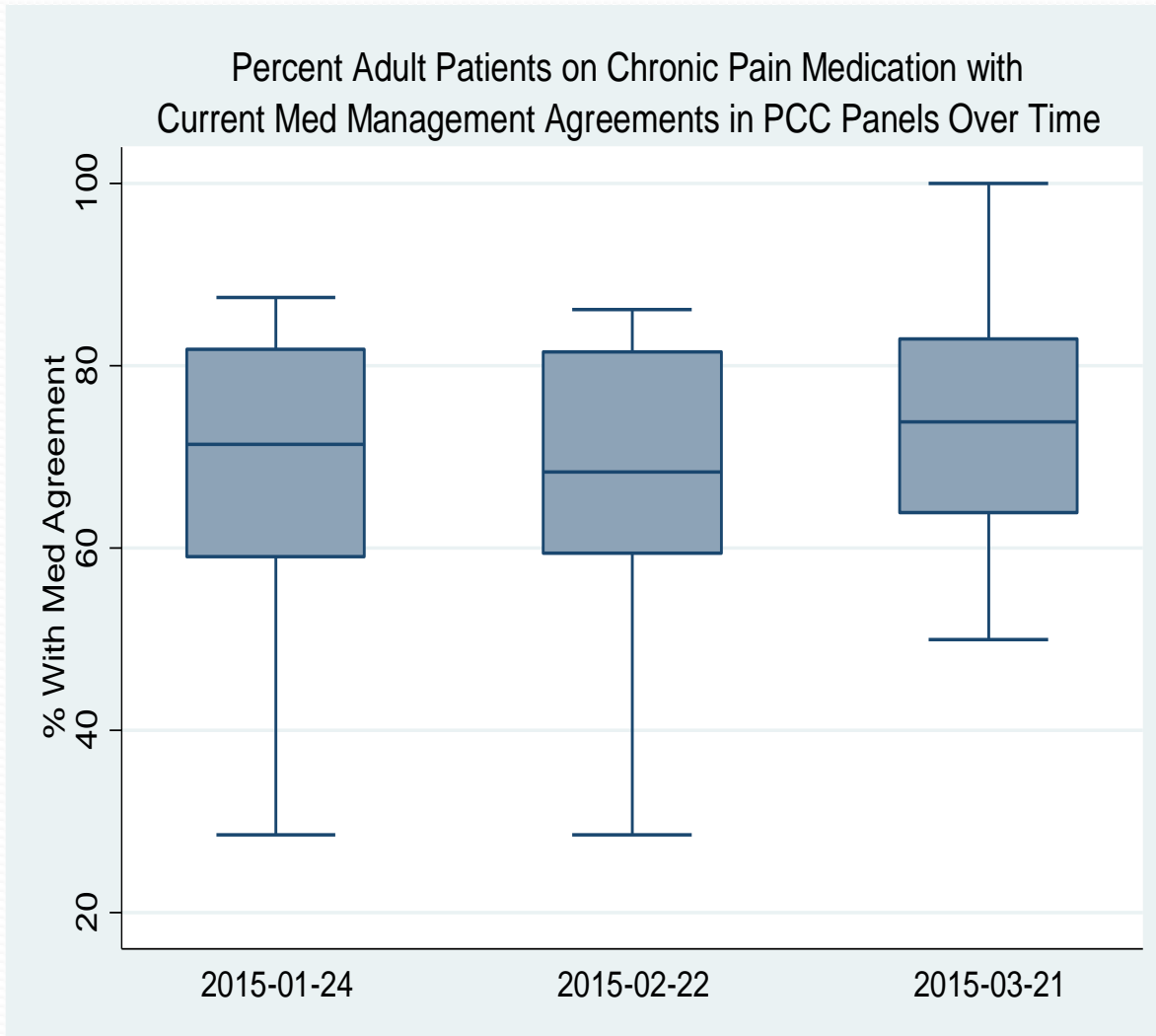
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# Are we making progress?

Proportion of patients on opioid medications has remained fairly stable

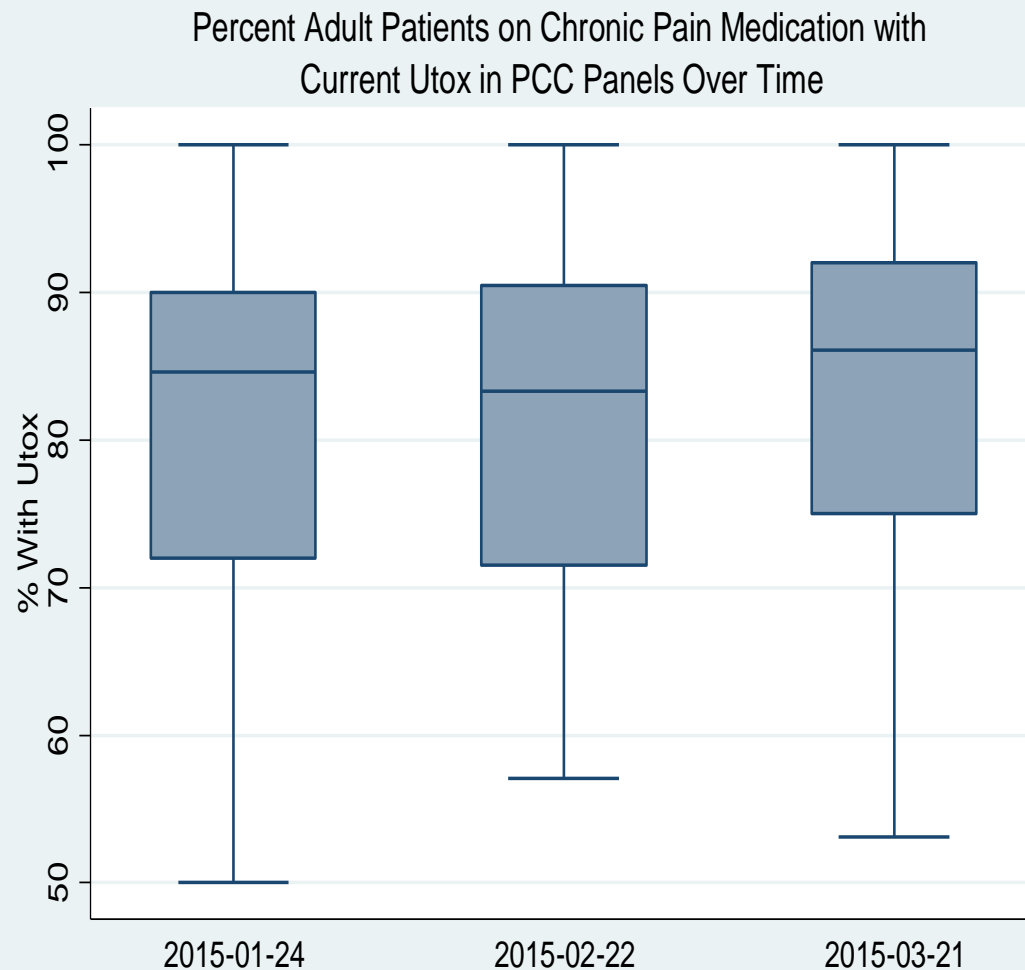


# Proportion of patients with current med management agreements is increasing



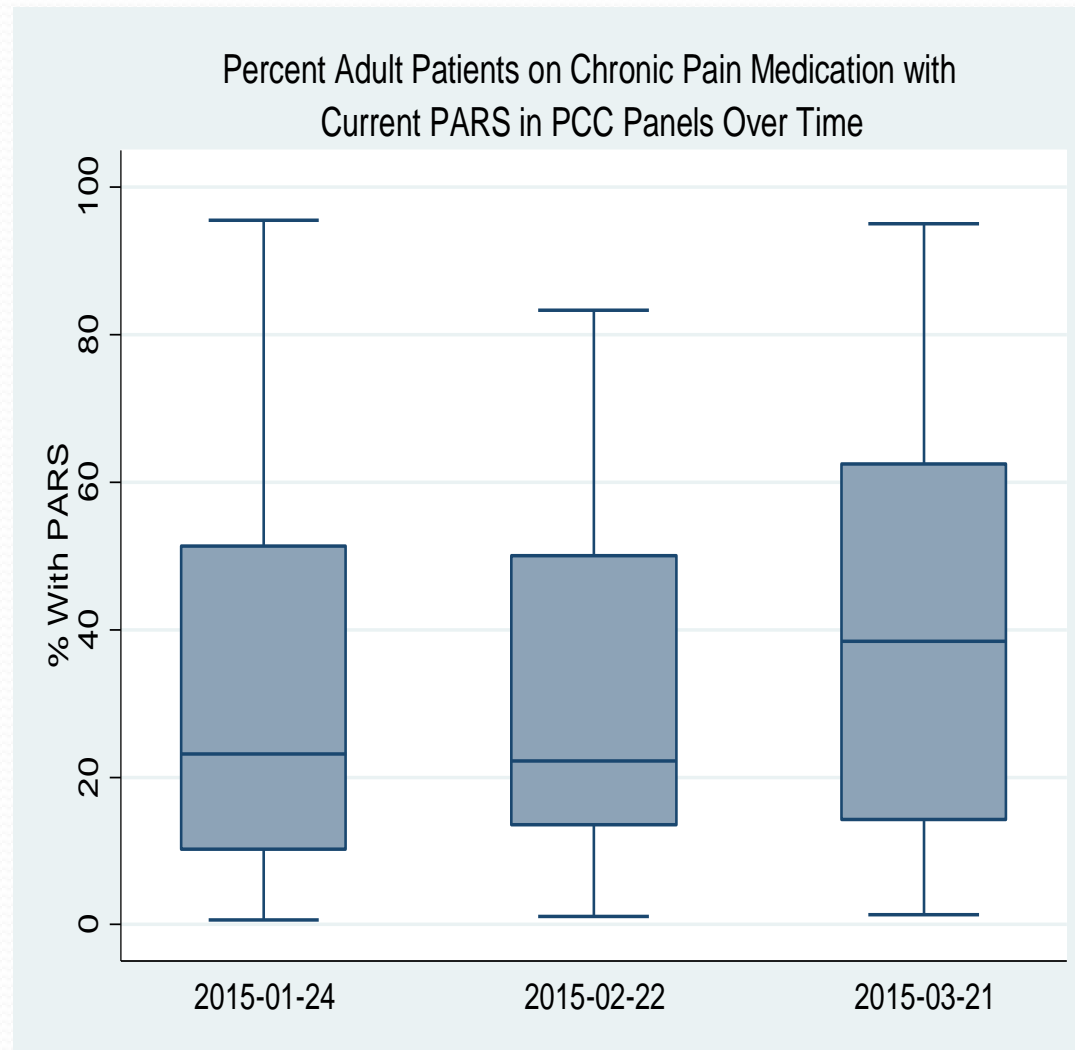
Less variation is good. Means that teams are more consistently getting/updating med management agreements.

# Proportion of patients with current utoxes is increasing



Less variation is good. Means that teams are more consistently doing utoxes.

# Proportion of patients with current PARS/CURES is increasing



More variation is good. Means that teams are getting PARS reports.

# Lessons Learned

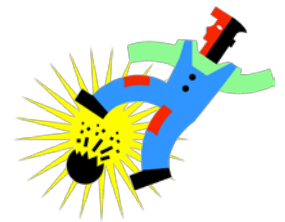
- Needed a clear (and repeated) articulation of policies and guidelines
- Provided patient information about the policy
- Try out different data presentations – not all will work, not all will work forever
- Enjoy the success





# Questions Comments

[dcanton@shastahealth.org](mailto:dcanton@shastahealth.org)





# Changing the Culture of Opiate Prescribing in your Office

Candy Stockton, M.D.  
Shingletown Medical Center

# Have a clear plan

- Make sure that all providers understand the plan; don't forget your support staff, administration, and boards.
- Your staff will be responding to phone calls, dealing with refill requests and patients who walk in, and managing patients who arrive for visits
- Your administration (and boards) may receive complaints from patients

# Keep your goals in mind

- Patient safety
- Compassionate Care
- Decreased legal and medical liability
- Less stressful work environment for staff
- Less frustration for your providers

# Have a clear policy in regards to marijuana

- “Don’t ask, don’t tell” is a terrible policy in patient care
- Be consistent
- Give a lead in time if your policy is a significant change for your patients

# Where to anticipate problems:

## Logistics

- 28 v. 30 day refills
- “It’s not my fault. I had to call for a refill, I couldn’t get an appointment on time”
- “I can’t afford the urine drug testing, I don’t have insurance”
- Know what your toxicology testing means and don’t be afraid to ask questions

# Where to anticipate problems:

## Early refills

- “I’m sure my prescription is due tomorrow, I filled my last one 30 (28) days ago”
- “I ran out of my medications early, you can’t make me go into withdrawal—you took an oath”
- “But I had to take more, I fell down the stairs; see my bruises”
- “But I’m going to be traveling to Oregon for two weeks to take care of my sick \_\_\_\_\_, so I need it early this time”



# Where to anticipate problems:

## Toxicology Screens

- “I can’t give a urine sample today, I went while I was waiting for my appointment”
- “Please don’t make me give a sample today, it will show marijuana, but I just used a little at a party”
- “I don’t know where the meth in my drug screen came from, someone must have put it in my drink”
- “Well, of course it doesn’t show my Norco, I don’t take it when I’m having a good day, only when I need it”

Where to anticipate problems:

## Coordinating with specialists

- “I need that xanax for my anxiety, and my psychiatrist says I can take it”
- “My back doctor said I could double up on my Morphine until my surgery”
- “I’m taking the Norco my orthopedist gave me for my knee surgery last week and the Vicodin you give me—because that’s for my back pain”

## Where to anticipate problems:

### Vacation coverage

- **Schedule your follow up's so you can accommodate this. Give an extra prescription, leave a prescription to be picked up, or leave a clear plan for your back-up provider.**
- **Train your staff to check refill dates on patients who are moved because a provider is out sick/unexpectedly.**

# Punishment ! ! !

- Remember that the “punishment” for breaking the rules is that “those patients” become yours. That’s worse than any discipline I can threaten my providers with.



# CLOSING REMARKS



MARSHALL KUBOTA MD  
PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA

# SUMMARY OF THE DAY



# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?







# POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS

- MAINTAIN GAINS
  - DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION
- CONTINUED EDUCATION
  - SUPPORTING PROJECT ECHO
  - OTHER CONFERENCES
  - TOOLKIT
- NEW TARGETS
  - BENZODIAZEPINES
  - CHRONIC HEADACHE
- NEW AND EXPANDED TREATMENT MODALITIES
  - BUPRENORPHINE
  - GROUP CLASSES
  - BIOFEEDBACK

# CLOSING HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Leave the following on your table or the registration desk:
  - Evaluation
  - Badge



# PRESENTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Marshall Kubota, M.D.
- Michael Vovakes, M.D.
- Andrew Deckert, M.D.
- Ivan Petrzela, PharmD, JD, MBA
- Leonard Soloniuk, M.D.
- Candy Stockton, M.D.
- David Canton, DO, MPH, JD
- Volunteers (Renee, Brooke, Monica)

