

### Rx Abuse & Diversion Current Trends



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### Federal Response

- All attention was focused on traditional street drugs
- Caught off guard when the **Prescription Drug Epidemic** hit
- Scattered and needed to regroup
- Thought they could treat the approach the same as traditional drug cases
- Began various Studies
- Approached the Drug and NOT the Intervention/Rehabilitation

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### Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion

*attacks our communities in much the same manner as traditional street level drugs such as: cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana*

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*By presenting itself in...*

- Illegal Sales
- Robberies
- Burglaries
- Homicides
- Frauds
- Thefts
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Overdoses, and many other ways...




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*The Impact to our Communities is Enormous and Financially Taxing*

- Healthcare: Hospitals, Doctor's Offices, Pharmacies, EMT's, Rehab Centers
- Legal System: Law Enforcement Resources, Drug Courts, Jails, Medical Examiners
- Insurance Industry: Health, Property & Casualty, Auto (Fraud & Loss Payouts)
- Community Coalitions: Churches, Schools, Families, Counseling Centers

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SOURCE OF DIVERTED DRUGS

- Forged and Altered Prescriptions
- "Doctor Shoppers"
- Health Facility Diversion
- College Campuses
- Pill Mills
- Internet
- Pharmacy Robbery & Burglary

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DOCTOR SHOPPERS

**Keith Simmons**

- 28 years old
- Blanchard, Oklahoma
- obtained 4,533 dosages of pain Rx
- 195 different OK health care professionals
- 105 separate OK pharmacies
- Investigated and prosecuted by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement
- How much state incarceration?

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ULTIMATE DOCTOR SHOPPER

**Stephen M. Young**

- 32 years old
- Anchorage, Alaska
- Husband of Federal Postal employee
- 313 different physicians/dentists/nurse practitioners
- 62 different pharmacies
- Medical claims over \$600,000
- Investigated and prosecuted federally
- How much federal incarceration?

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Pharmacy Crime  
A National Wake-up Call and Response

- The theft of prescription narcotics from pharmacies is a problem that has grown over the past 30 years, gaining national attention in 2010 with the declaration by the CDC that the prescription drug abuse had reached epidemic proportions.
- Driven by a change in how health care was delivered, the trend shifted from a focus on treatment to one of prescriptions.
- Within that first decade, the number of people abusing prescription drugs jumped from 3.8 million to 7 million from 2000 to 2010 (DEA).

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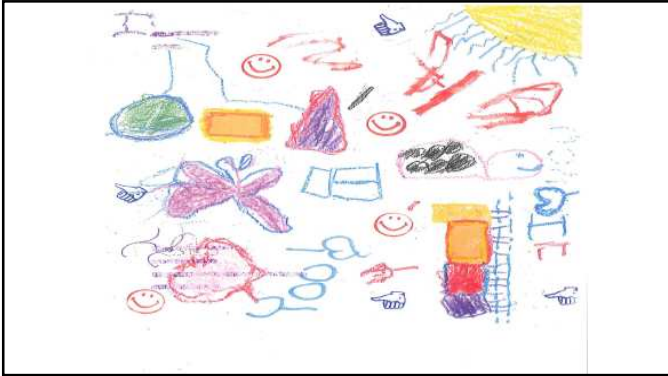
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### Counterfeit Xanax Pills – Alprazolam & Fentanyl

- The Pinellas County Forensic Lab has identified (4) separate cases of the Alprazolam "G3722" (Xanax) counterfeit pills that also contain Fentanyl. The counterfeit white rectangle pill which bear the "G3722" imprint are slightly thinner and flat on the surface compared to the authentic "G3722" pill which have a raised beveled edge.



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### Counterfeit Oxycodone Pills – Fentanyl

- The Pinellas County Forensic Lab has identified several Oxycodone Hydrochloride "A 215" – 30mg counterfeit pills that contain only Fentanyl. The counterfeit pills are indistinguishable to the authentic pills.



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### Craigslist: Possible Venue for the Sale of Prescription and Street Drugs

- FBI Philadelphia uncovered a Craigslist advertisement soliciting buyers for prescription and street drugs. On the surface, the ad appears to be for bicycle components. Randomly inserted between the narrative are pseudonyms for both scheduled and street drugs.
- "I have 2 Adderall cranks for a mountain bike...roxy blue"
- "They both have triple chain rings...roxies, black, Coke, Molly, Nembutal and much more, syrups"
- "See pics.norcos, peck, fent, roxy, dope, heroin oxy, tar, weed, kush with great strains..."

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### Pharmacy Crime A National Wake-up Call and Response

- Diversion of narcotics to feed the national addiction was occurring at every step of the process, from drug design, to manufacturer and how the end user obtained and used the narcotics.
- *On the front lines of the problem were the pharmacies who felt the ramifications in break-ins, armed robberies, diversion by employees, and administrative costs required to deal with ensuing regulatory requirements.* (Pharmacists Mutual)

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### Pharmacy Crime A National Wake-up Call and Response

- In some parts of the country, heroin use has replaced prescription drugs. However, in most parts of the country those looking for prescription narcotics continue to turn to pharmacies.
- Rather than legitimate prescriptions, the need is often filled:
  - by taking the drugs *forcefully* by breaking in when the store is closed (burglary), by threat of physical harm to employees and customers when the store is open (robbery), or through employee diversion (theft).
  - Unfortunately, suspicious circumstances surrounding burglaries are often tied to employee involvement. (Pharmacists Mutual)

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Pharmacy Crime  
A National Wake-up Call and Response

- Costs to the pharmacy can be significant.
- Nationally, costs associated with *burglaries and robberies are in the tens of millions annually.*
- Beyond what the pharmacy pays in deductibles and potentially higher premiums, pharmacies must often invest thousands in improved security.

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Pharmacy Robberies January – October 2016

RANK	STATE	TOTAL	RANK	STATE	TOTAL	RANK	STATE	TOTAL	RANK	STATE	TOTAL	RANK	STATE	TOTAL	RANK	STATE	TOTAL
1	CA	118	12	NJ	18	23	MI	8	34	DE	4	45					
2	IN	71	13	TN	18	24	NY	8	35	WI	4	46					
3	MD	32	14	NC	16	25	AL	6	36	AR	3	47					
4	OH	27	15	AZ	15	26	KY	6	37	CT	3	48					
5	PA	26	16	IL	14	27	NM	6	38	LA	3	49					
6	TX	23	17	NV	14	28	OK	6	39	NE	3	50					
7	FL	20	18	MA	12	29	DC	5	40	MS	2	51					
8	CO	19	19	WA	11	30	IA	5	41	NH	2	52					
9	GA	19	20	MO	10	31	SC	5	42	VT	2	53					
10	VA	19	21	OR	9	32	UT	5	43	AK	1	54					
11	MN	18	22	KS	8	33	WV	5	44	ID	1	55					

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TOP Rx DRUGS OF ABUSE (street prices Virginia State Police)

- **HYDROCODONE** (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet) \$6- \$8
- **OXYCODONE** (Percocet, Percodan, Tylox) \$6 - \$8  
(OxyContin- reformulated August 2010) (Oxycodone IR- \$1 mg.)
- **ALPRAZOLAM** (Xanax) \$3
- **METHADONE** (\$10-\$40 per dose)
- **OXYMORPHONE** (Opana/Opana ER) \$40+
- **METHYLPHENIDATE** (Ritalin – Adderall - Concerta) \$10 - \$12

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OTHER SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS

- **Buprenorphine** (Suboxone) \$1 mg.
- **Tramadol** (Ultram) \$1 - \$2
- **Diazepam** (Valium) \$1 - \$2
- **Fentanyl** (Duragesic/Actiq) \$40 - \$100

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Gauging the Issue



America's  
**PRESCRIPTION PAIN  
PILL EPIDEMIC**

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Current Facts on Overdoses

- Opioids (including prescription opioids and heroin) killed more than 33,000 people in 2015, more than any year on record.
- Nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid.
- From 2000 to 2015 nearly half a million persons in the US have died from drug OD's

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Each day, more than **1,000 PEOPLE** are treated in **emergency departments** for not using prescription opioids as directed.



**Most Commonly Overdosed Opioids**  
The most common drugs involved in prescription opioid overdose deaths include:

- Methadone
- Oxycodone (such as OxyContin®)
- Hydrocodone (such as Vicodin®)

**Overdose Deaths**  
Among those who died from prescription opioid overdose between 1999 and 2014:

- Overdose rates were highest among people aged 25 to 54 years.
- Overdose rates were higher among non-Hispanic whites and American Indian or Alaska Natives, compared to non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics.
- Men were more likely to die from overdose, but the mortality gap between men and women is closing.<sup>5</sup>

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**91 AMERICANS** die every day from an **opioid overdose** (that includes prescription opioids and heroin).

According to the CDC...

Overdoses from prescription opioids are a driving factor in the 15-year increase in opioid overdose deaths.

Since 1999:  
The number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and heroin) quadrupled.  
The amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. nearly quadrupled.

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### Abuse of Prescription (Rx) Drugs Affects Young Adults Most

Young adults (age 18 to 25) are the biggest abusers of prescription (Rx) opioid pain relievers, ADHD stimulants, and anti-anxiety drugs. They do it for all kinds of reasons, including to get high or because they think Rx stimulants will help them study better. But Rx abuse is dangerous. In 2014, more than 1,700 young adults died from prescription drug (mainly opioid) overdoses—more than died from overdoses of any other drug, including heroin and cocaine combined—and many more needed emergency treatment.<sup>1</sup>




**PAST-YEAR USE**

Age Group	Percentage
12 to 17	6%
18 to 25	12%
26 and Older	5%

In 2014, the nonmedical use of prescription drugs was highest among young adults.<sup>2</sup>

**MOTIVATIONS FOR USE**  
Most young adults say they use Rx drugs to<sup>3,4,5</sup>



Word cloud terms: feel better, lose weight, study, relieve pain, deal with problems, increase alertness, experiment, high, relax, concentrate, have a good time with friends.

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### Statistically Significant Increases

CDC Advises that:

- Significant increases in drug **overdose death rates from 2014 to 2015 were primarily seen in the Northeast and South Census Regions.**
- States with statistically significant increases in drug overdose death rates from 2014 to 2015 included Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, **Maryland**, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia.

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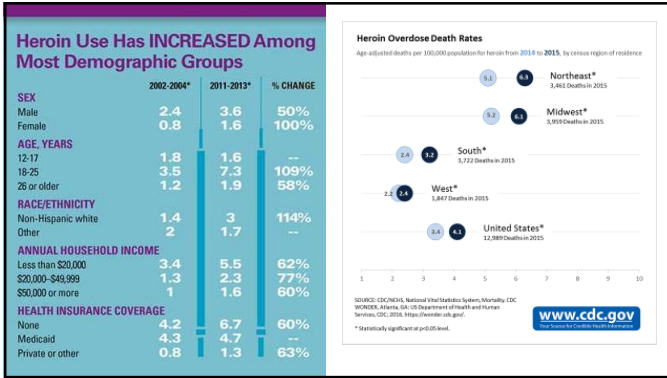
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### Rx Opioids to Heroin?

- Natural and semisynthetic opioids, such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, continue to be involved in more OD deaths than any other opioid type.
- Although this category of opioid drug OD death had declined in 2012 compared with 2011, and had held steady in 2013, there was a 9% increase in 2014.
- Drug OD deaths involving heroin continued to climb sharply
- Heroin OD more than tripled over 4 years

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### Heroin Surge

- This increase mirrors large increases in heroin use across the country
- Has been closely tied to opioid pain reliever misuse and dependence.
- Past misuse of Rx opioids is the strongest risk factor for heroin initiation and use
- The increased availability of heroin, combined with its relatively low price and high purity appear to be major drivers of the upward trend in heroin use and OD

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## In Summary

- There is a need for continued action to prevent opioid abuse, dependence, and death, improve treatment capacity for opioid use disorders, and reduce the supply of illicit opioids, particularly heroin and illicit fentanyl!

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**THANK YOU**

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