

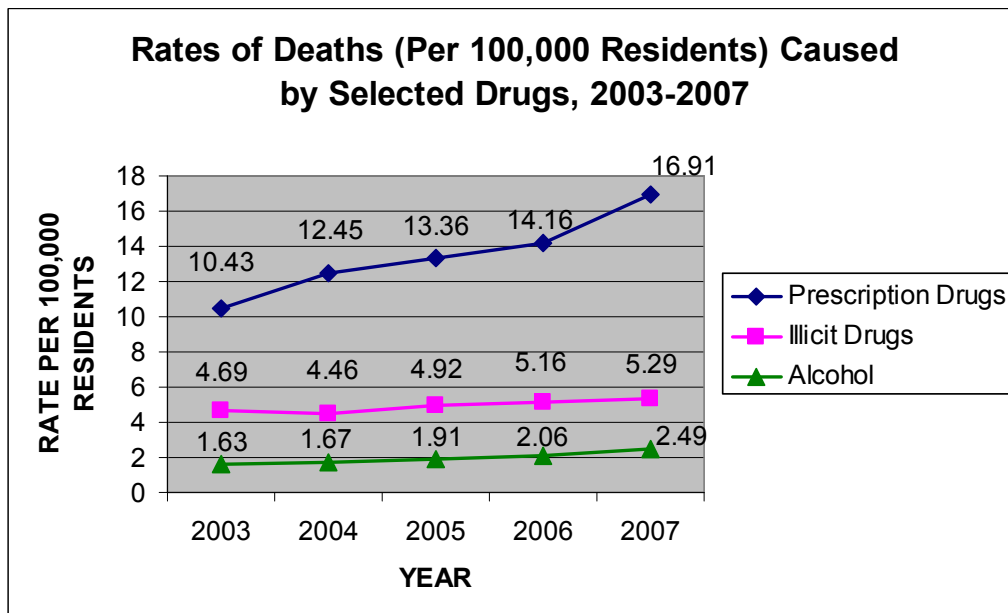
# Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

## Talking Points

### September 29, 2008

#### The Problem

- Most Commonly Diverted / Abused Classes of Prescription Drugs:
  - Opioids, such as OxyContin and Vicodin, which are most often prescribed to treat pain;
  - Central nervous system (CNS) depressants, such as Valium and Xanax, which are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders; and
  - Stimulants, which are prescribed to treat certain sleep disorders and attend deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and include drugs such as Ritalin and Adderall.
- Prescription drug diversion costs lives, increases crime and misery from drug addiction, and accelerates costs connected to treatment, medical expenses and Medicaid fraud.
- In Florida, drug-related deaths continue to increase:
  - 2007: 8,620
  - 2006: 7,741
  - 2005: 7,573
  - 2004: 7,128
  - 2003: 6,676
- In 2007, prescription drugs accounted for 8,735 occurrences (occurrence refers to the presence of a drug in the decedent, regardless of whether or not it is indicated as the cause of death). When alcohol is excluded, prescription drugs account for 69% of all drug occurrences in the Medical Examiners Report.
- The rate of deaths (per 100,000 residents) caused by prescription drugs is over *three times as high* as the rate of deaths caused by all illicit drugs combined:



- Prescription drug deaths are those caused by benzodiazepines, carisoprodol/meprobamate, and all opiates except heroin.
- The rate of deaths caused by prescription drugs is also increasing over *five times as fast* as the rate of deaths caused by all illicit drugs.
- According to the 2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, among Florida's 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the past 30-day prevalence rates for abuse of depressants and prescription pain relievers are greater than for all other illegal drugs, excluding marijuana:

<b>Percentages of Florida's 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting Past 30-day Use of Illegal Substances (Excluding Marijuana)</b>	
<u>Illegal Substance</u>	<u>Past 30-Day Prevalence Rate</u>
<i>Prescription Pain Relievers</i>	<b>4.5%</b>
<i>Depressants (Like Xanax)</i>	<b>3.8%</b>
Ecstasy	2.1%
<i>Prescription Amphetamines</i>	<b>1.9%</b>
Cocaine	1.9%
Inhalants	1.9%
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	1.8%
LSD or PCP	1.2%
Methamphetamine	0.5%
Rohypnol	0.5%
GHB	0.3%
Ketamine	0.2%
Heroin	0.2%

- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA):
  - From between 1992 and 2003, prescription drug abuse increased 94%;
  - Alarming, use among youth (12-17 year olds) increased 212%
  - Prescriptions drugs now 4<sup>th</sup> most abused substances in America (behind only marijuana, alcohol and tobacco).
  - Abuse of prescription drugs among 12 to 13 year-olds now exceeds marijuana use.
- How do individuals obtain prescription drugs for abuse?
  - Doctor and pharmacy shopping
  - Illegal purchases without a prescription over the Internet
  - Unscrupulous doctors who, knowingly (at worst) or carelessly (at best) over-prescribe
  - Prescription drugs are readily diverted to the black market due to the lack of controls that would be mandated by a prescription drug monitoring program.
  - From family medicine cabinets and friends
  - Much prescription drug diversion begins with a stolen, forged, counterfeit, or altered prescription form
- Why do people abuse prescription drugs?
  - They can produce euphoria and ease pain, depression and anxiety.
  - Curious or risk-seeking youth realize they can alter consciousness.
  - Many mistakenly believe prescription drugs are safer because they have legitimate legal uses.
  - They are relatively easy to obtain from friends and family.
  - They have become dependent or addicted.

**The Legislation:**

- Creates the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).
- Reduces the time for pharmacies to report from 35 to 15 days.
- Requires a PDMP Implementation and Compliance Workgroup.
- Requires an annual plan to Governor Crist, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding implementation and compliance.

**Why we need this legislation to:**

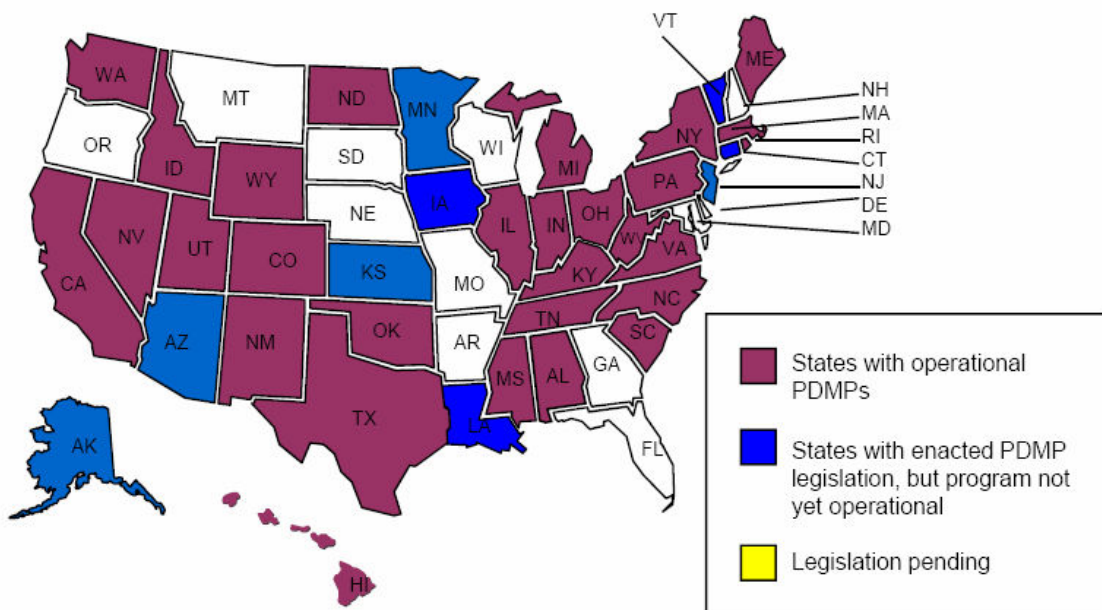
- Ensure availability of controlled prescription drugs for legitimate reasons (e.g. treatment of chronic pain)
- Assist physicians in the proper treatment of patients:

- Doctors can access the database and see exactly what the patient has been prescribed by other physicians in the past
- Assist pharmacies who suspect that a patient is presenting an invalid prescription
- Protect patient who otherwise might receive unnecessary, illegal prescription.
  - Anyone accessing this information is tracked in the database
  - Patients can determine who is accessing information about his/her prescriptions because an audit trail is created
- Assist law enforcement in initiating and conducting investigations.
- Reduce “doctor and pharmacy shopping”
- Help eliminate forgery and counterfeiting of prescription forms
- Reduce the number of deaths that are prescription-drug-related
- Reduce criminal activity associated with addiction and diversion
- Reduce suffering and addiction caused by misuse and abuse
- Reap substantial cost savings from treatment, Medicaid fraud, and intensive law enforcement investigations

### **Pertinent Information**

- At least 38 states have created a prescription drug monitoring program or enacted enabling legislation to create one (see attachments).
- Florida is now the most populous state without a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and is seen as a key state in preventing drug abuse; our legislative efforts are having national impact.
- We are receiving reports that drug dealers from Alabama (which has a monitoring program) are coming to Florida to obtain prescription drugs because they are not controlled.
- States using the program are receiving positive satisfaction ratings by doctors (Kentucky- 81%).
- The Office of National Drug Control (ONDCP) strongly supports the prescription drug monitoring programs.
- The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER) passed in 2005. NASPER is a nationwide prescription controlled substances monitoring system.
  - It creates a federal grant program to help establish or improve state-run prescription drug monitoring programs.
  - It provides grant incentives for states with monitoring programs. Florida could lose grant funding by 2009 if we do not have a law.

### **Status of State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)**



SOURCE: National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL). Research is current as of 7/1/2008.

## Status of State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

States	PMP	Status of Enabling Legislation
Alabama	Operational	Enacted
Alaska		Enacted
Arizona		Enacted
Arkansas		
California	Operational	Enacted
Colorado	Operational	Enacted
Connecticut		Enacted
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii	Operational	Enacted
Idaho	Operational	Enacted
Illinois	Operational	Enacted
Indiana	Operational	Enacted
Iowa		Enacted
Kansas		Enacted
Kentucky	Operational	Enacted
Louisiana		Enacted
Maine	Operational	Enacted
Maryland		
Massachusetts	Operational	Enacted
Michigan	Operational	Enacted
Minnesota		Enacted
Mississippi	Operational	Enacted
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada	Operational	Enacted
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		Enacted
New Mexico	Operational	Enacted
New York	Operational	Enacted
North Carolina	Operational	Enacted
North Dakota	Operational	Enacted
Ohio	Operational	Enacted
Oklahoma	Operational	Enacted
Oregon		
Pennsylvania	Operational	Enacted
Rhode Island	Operational	Enacted
South Carolina	Operational	Enacted
South Dakota		
Tennessee	Operational	Enacted
Texas	Operational	Enacted
Utah	Operational	Enacted
Vermont		Enacted
Virginia	Operational	Enacted
Washington	Operational	Enacted
West Virginia	Operational	Enacted
Wisconsin		
Wyoming	Operational	Enacted

NOTE: The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) defines an “operational” Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as a program that is currently collecting prescription data and can respond to requests for reports by those authorized to make these requests. Research is current as of July 1, 2008.