Addressing the Issues

- Pain Management Since 1997
- Two Studies of Overdose
- Physician Response
- Government Response
1997  Three societies issued guidelines:
- “expanded use of opioids;”
- “more compassionate care”

By 2008
- Opioids are most prescribed medications
- Pain Management Clinics  + 350%
- Methadone  +1,000%
- Oxycodone  + 878%

Sources – Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System.
By 2008

- Physician Arrests + 250%
- Opioid Overdose Reports + 110%
- Opioid Overdose Deaths + 90%

Overdose now #2 Cause of Death

Sources – Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System.; CDC/MWR
Drugged Driving

NHTSA Roadside Survey 2007
1. 2007 National Roadside Survey by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

2. Random *voluntary* samples of drivers - both day and nighttime.

3. For the first time, oral fluids/blood samples were taken
2007 Results

~ 6,000 Drivers Tested

• + Illegal Drugs 11%
• + Medications 5%

Total 16%

Most Common Medication - Opioids
Two Studies of Opioid Overdose

Hall et al. *JAMA*, 2008

Study 1 - Hall et al. JAMA 2008

- Prescription Drug Use and Abuse Among Unintentional Overdose Fatalities
  - West Virginia had 550% increase in OD’s 1999 - 2004
  - Study of 332 overdose deaths in 2006
  - Examined case histories and prescription records

- Death Rate of 18 / 100,000
  - Predictors = Male; 35-54; Low SES; MH/SA; OD history; Bz script; <10 days after script.

- Only 36% had been prescribed.
  - Drug abuse and “Doctor Shopping” prevalent
• Prescription Drug Overdose Within a Managed Care Environment
  – Group Health study of overdose incidents and deaths
  – 3,000 overdose reports in 2008
  – Examined case histories and prescription records

• Death Rate of 11 / 100,000
  – Male; 35-54; MH/SA; Low SES = significant predictors
  – Predictors = Male; 30-50; Low SES; MH/SA; OD history; Bz script; <10 days after script.

• 27% of reports had prior OD incident
Society and State Guidelines for Pain Management

Federation of State Medical Boards. Model policy for the use of controlled substances for the treatment of pain.


1. **Screening** for & discussing substance use
2. **Patient contract** – Single doc & pharmacy
3. **Patient & family education** on safe storage of medications
4. **Urine Screening** pre and during prescribing (expanded test panel)
5. **Use of Prescription Monitoring System** (if available)
What are Feds Doing?

1. DOJ & HHS Testing PDMPs
2. ONDCP working with HHS and DOJ to harmonize systems
3. ONDCP prioritizing Physician Involvement in Demand Reduction Strategy
ONDCP Response

Four Policy Priorities

1. National Prevention System
2. Engage Primary Care
3. Close Addiction Tx Gap
4. Special Care for Offenders