



**Charles Whitson  
Tennessee DOH  
Bureau  
of  
Health Licensure and Regulation**



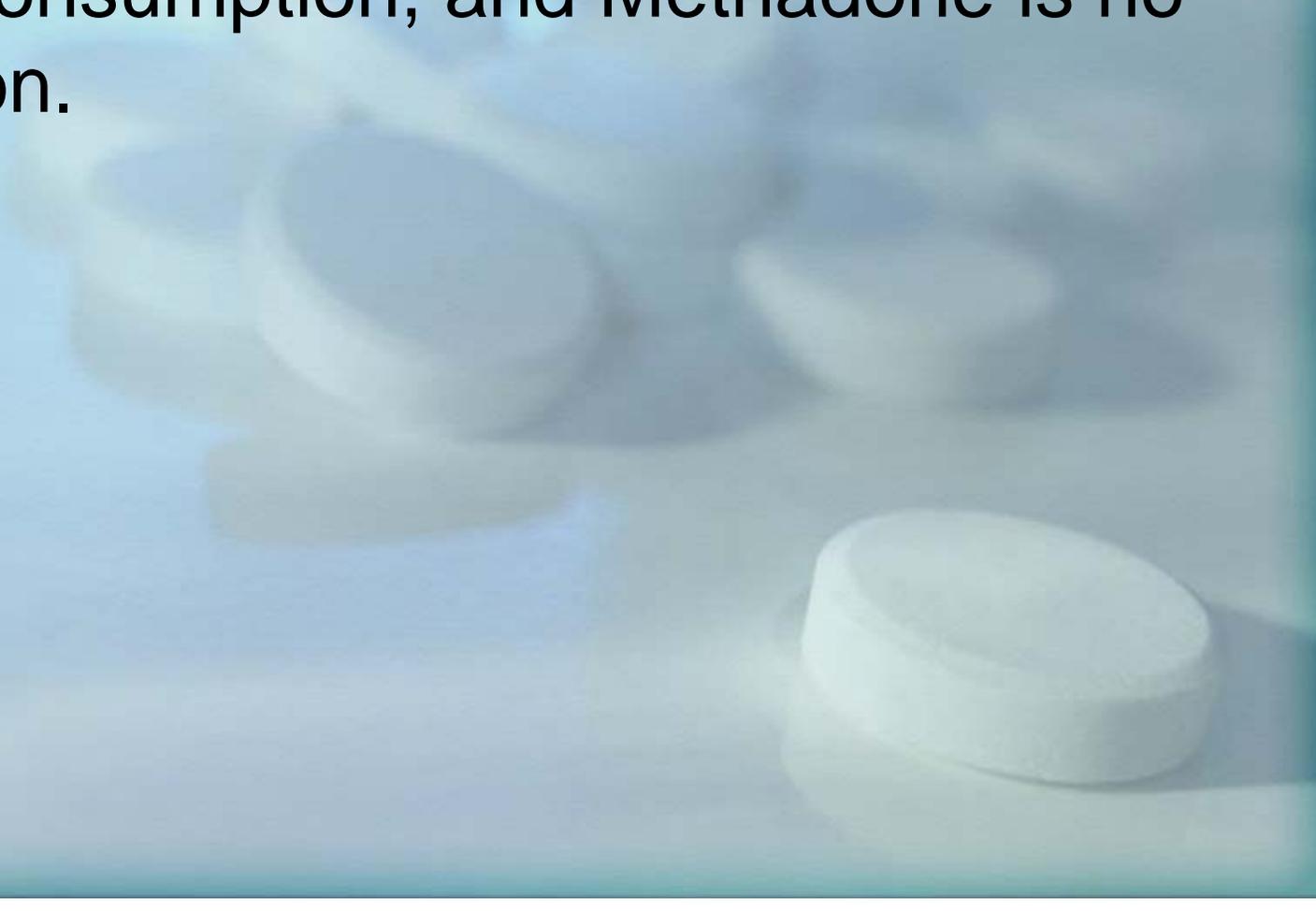
**DEA / HIDTA  
Methadone “Alert” Conference  
November 13 – 14  
Nashville, Tennessee**



What is the Problem?

# Background

- Tennessee has a well known affinity for opiate consumption, and Methadone is no exception.



# 2006 Tennessee Statistics

- Between December 2006 and December 2007 15.7 million controlled prescriptions were written in Tennessee, for a population of roughly 5.7 million people.
- The top 5 controlled drugs prescribed in Tennessee in 2006 were:
  - 1) Hydrocodone
  - 2) Ambien
  - 3) Propoxyphene
  - 4) Lunesta
  - 5) Oxycodone

Source: Tennessee Controlled Substance Monitoring Database

# 2006 Tennessee Statistics, cont'd

- Tennessee was # 1 in prescriptions per capita, with a rate 1.5 times the national average.

Source: Novartis Pharmacy Benefits Report, Facts and Figures 2006

- Tennessee's prescription drug overdose rate is 26 percent above the national average.

Source: Singleton et al. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 53, no. 11.

## 2006 Tennessee Statistics, cont'd

- Deaths from prescription drug overdoses increased 53 percent in Tennessee between 2002 and 2006.
- In 2006, 323 people died from prescription drug overdoses in Tennessee, far outpacing similar deaths from illicit drugs (73).

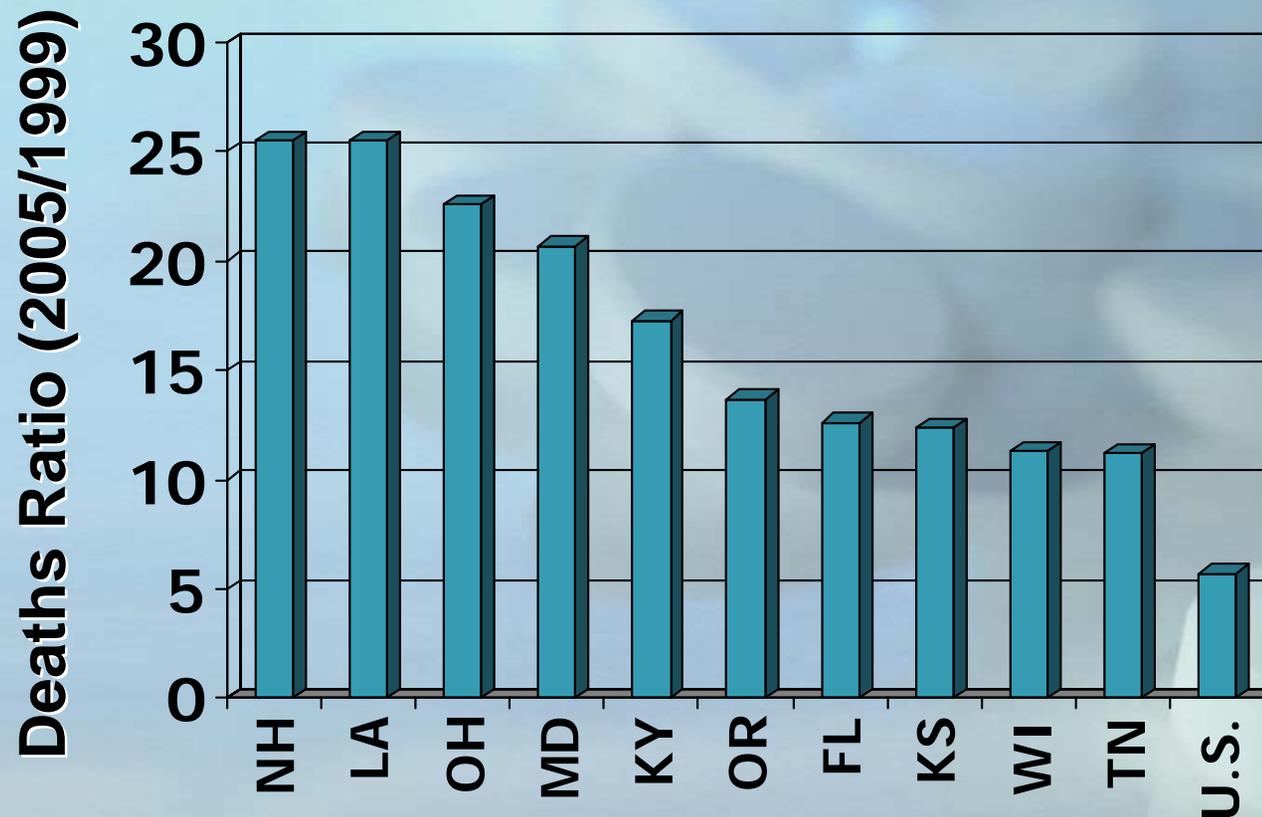


# Tennessee Statistics, cont'd

- IN 2006, the top 10 prescription drugs listed on Death Certificates in Tennessee were:
  - Methadone
  - Morphine
  - Alprazolam
  - Valium
  - Hydrocodone
  - Oxycodone
  - Fentanyl
  - Soma
  - Propoxyphene
  - Amitriptyline

Source: Tennessee State Medical Examiner's Office

# Methadone related deaths - Top 10 States with largest rate of increase (1999-2005)<sup>1</sup>

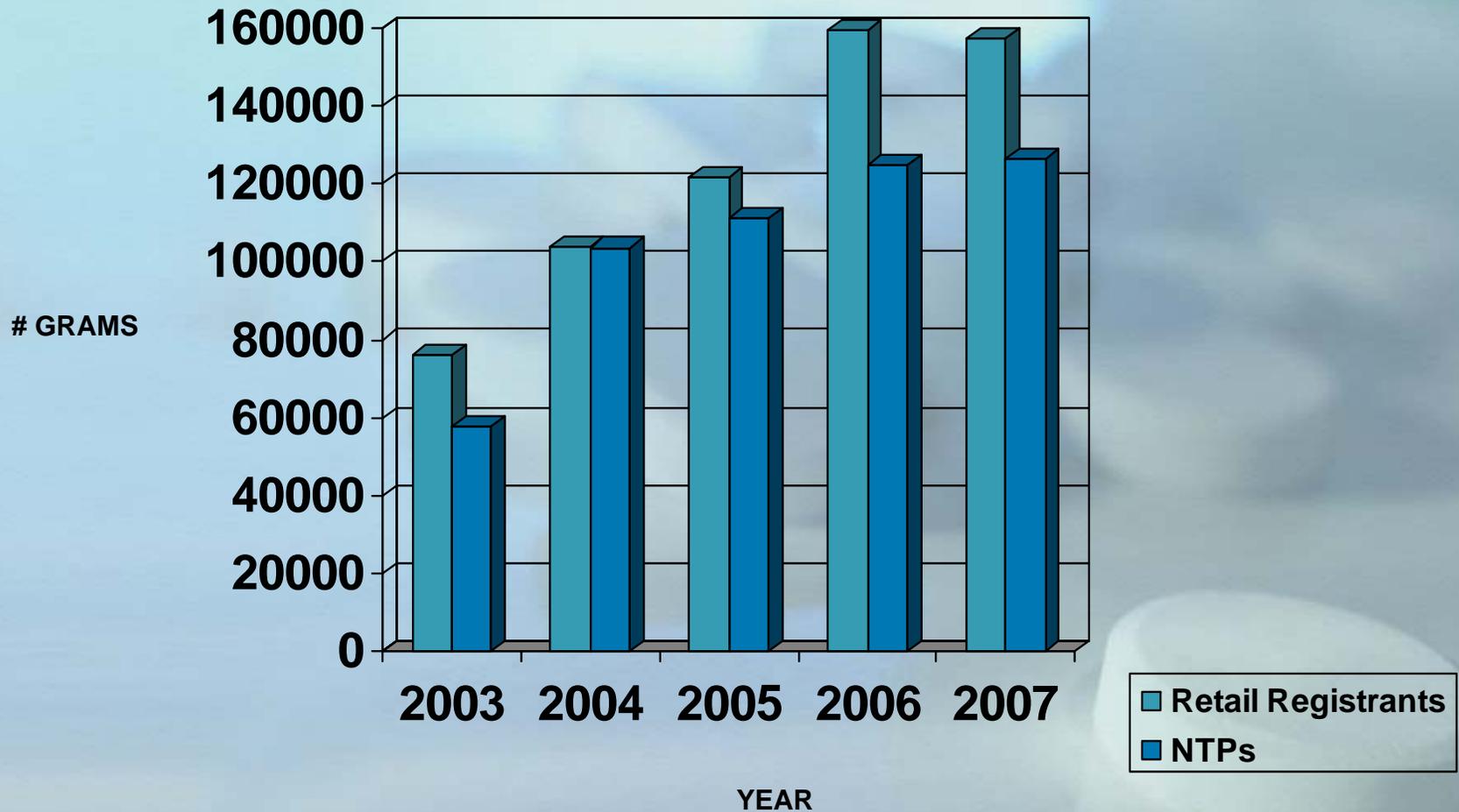


<sup>1</sup> In 2004, West Virginia topped the list. The 2005 data for WV is still pending due to classification problems

# Purchases

- Purchases by **Retail Registrants** increased **107%** between 2003 and 2007.
- Purchases by **Narcotic Treatment Programs** increased **119%** between 2003 and 2007.

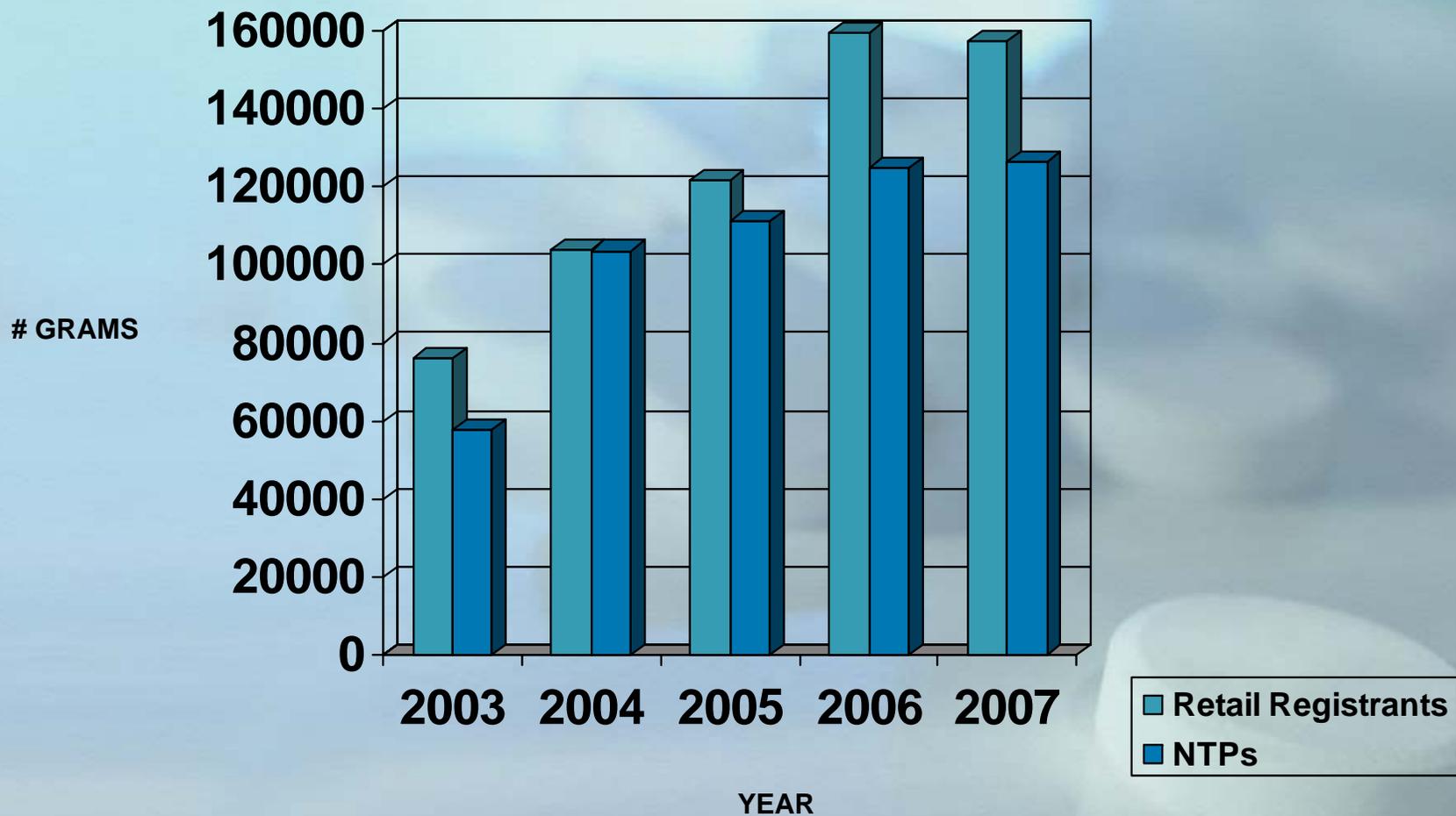
# Purchases



# Purchases

- The largest single year increase in purchases by **Narcotic Treatment Programs** was **79%** and occurred between **2003** and **2004**.
- The largest single year increase in purchases by **Retail Registrants** was **32%** and occurred **2005** and **2006**.

# Purchases



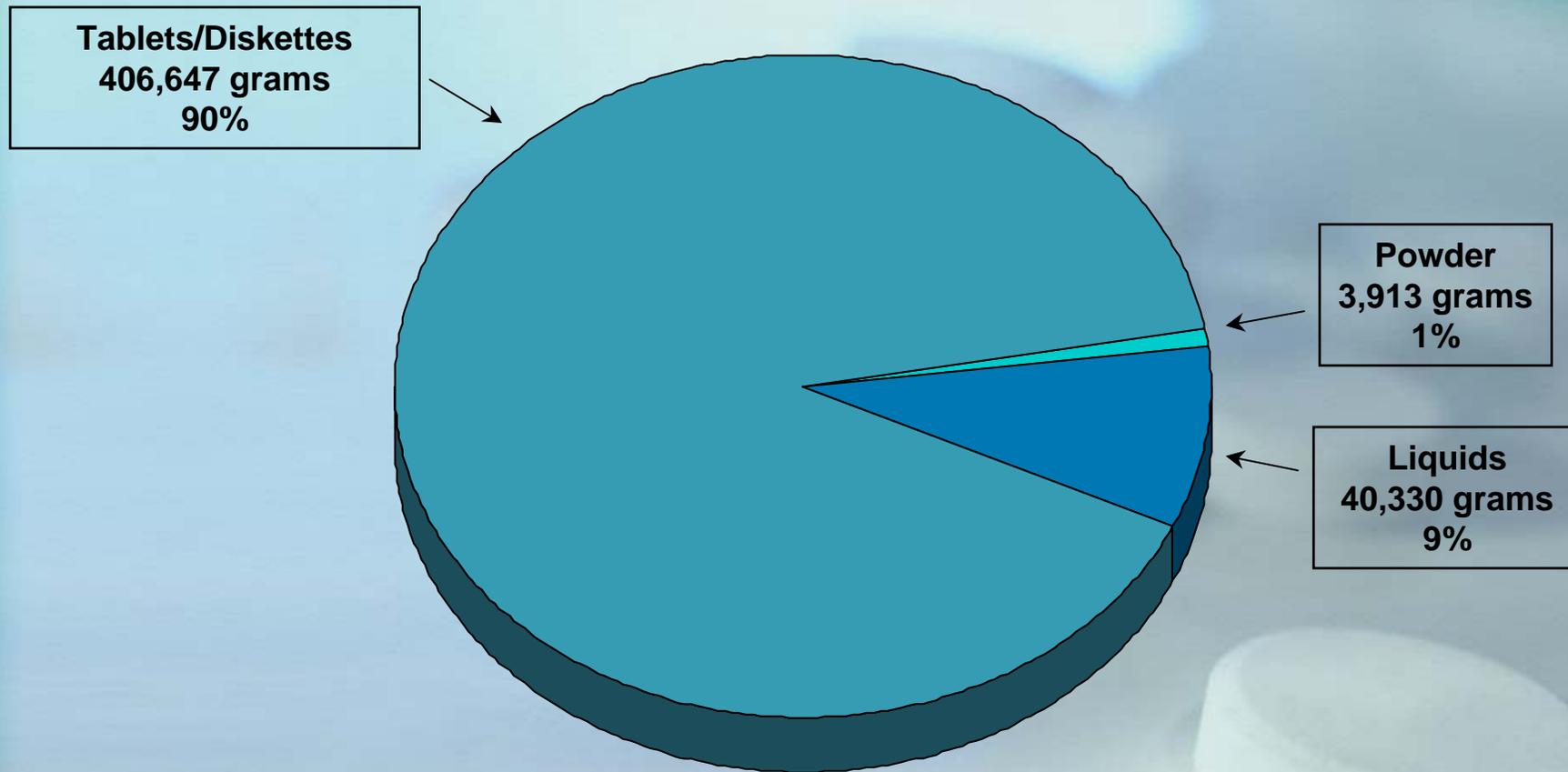
# Purchases

January 1, 2007- August 31, 2008:

- **90%** of purchases were **Tablets/Diskettes**.
- **10%** of purchases were **Powder/Liquids**.

# Purchases

## January 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008



# Prescribers (In-State)

18,900 Total

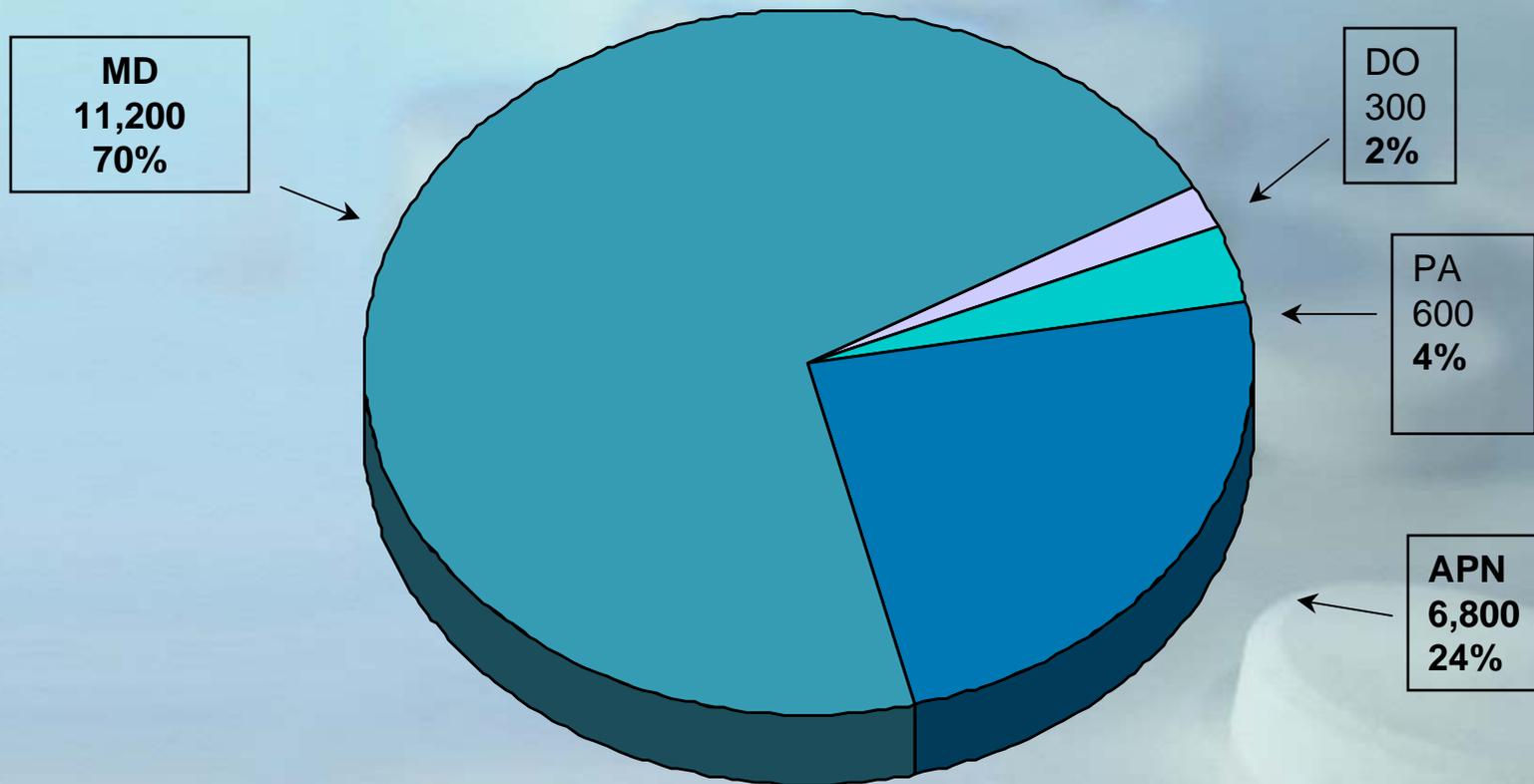
- 11,200 Medical Doctors (MD's) (70%)
- 6,800 Advance Practice Nurse (APN's) (24%)
- 600 Physicians Assistant (PA's) (4%)
- 300 Doctor of Osteopathy (DO's) (2%)

# Prescribers (In-State)

The top 10 Prescribers as of July 31, 2008:

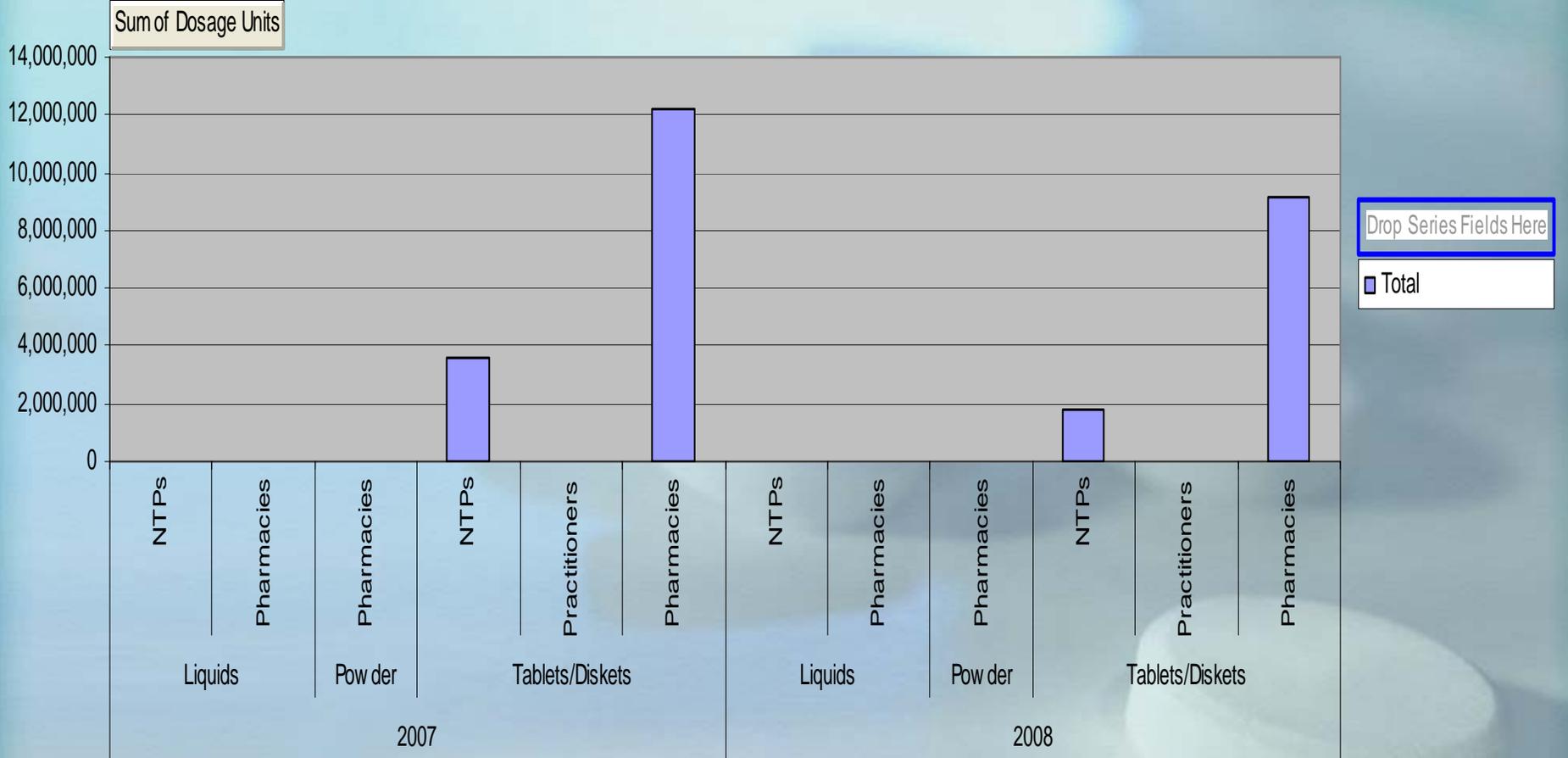
- 2 are APN's
  - 1 is #1 prescriber
  - 1 is located in a rural area
- 8 are MD's
  - 4 are Anesthesiologists
  - 2 are Family Practitioners
  - 1 is a Neurologist
  - 1 is a Psychiatrist

# Prescribers (In-State)



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Total



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Year  Dosage Form  Bus. Act.

As of: July 31, 2008

Drug Product: METHADONE

Prescriber State: TN

Rank	Prescriber Name	Office Zip	Scripts Filled	Cash Scripts Filled
1	XXXXXX	Nashville-372	33	16
2	XXXXXX	Nashville-372	32	32
3	XXXXXX	Nashville-372	29	11
4	XXXXXX	Nashville-372	29	27
5	XXXXXX	Nashville-381	18	5
16	XXXXXX	Nashville-374	10	10

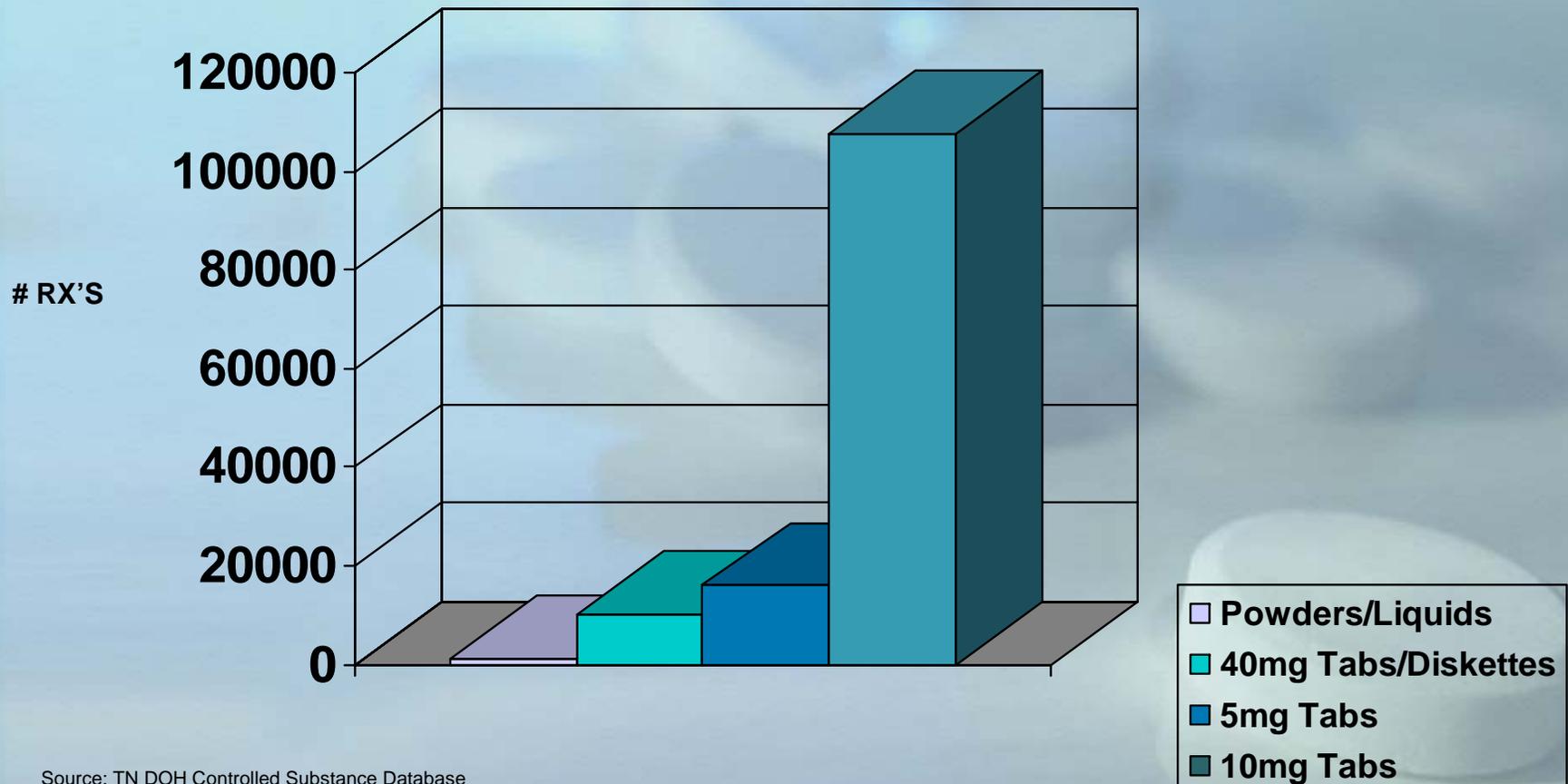
# Prescribing

**January 1, 2007 - October 1, 2008**

- 964 Rxs for 296,465 dosage units of powders/liquids.
  - 10,120 Rxs for 815,994 dosage units of 40mg tablets/diskettes.
  - 15,961 RXs for 1.3 million dosage units of 5mg tablets.
  - **107,611 Rxs for 17.2 million dosage units of 10mg tablets.**
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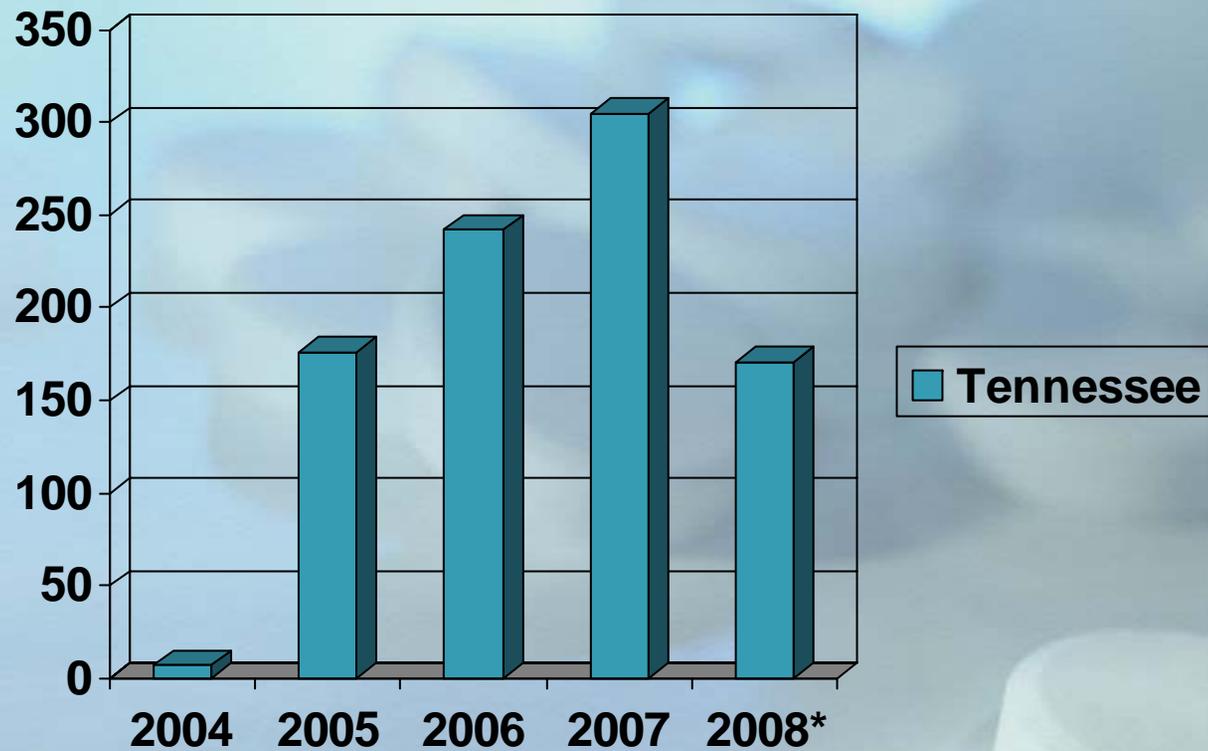
# Prescribing

## January 1, 2007 - October 1, 2008



Source: TN DOH Controlled Substance Database

# Tennessee Methadone Seizures

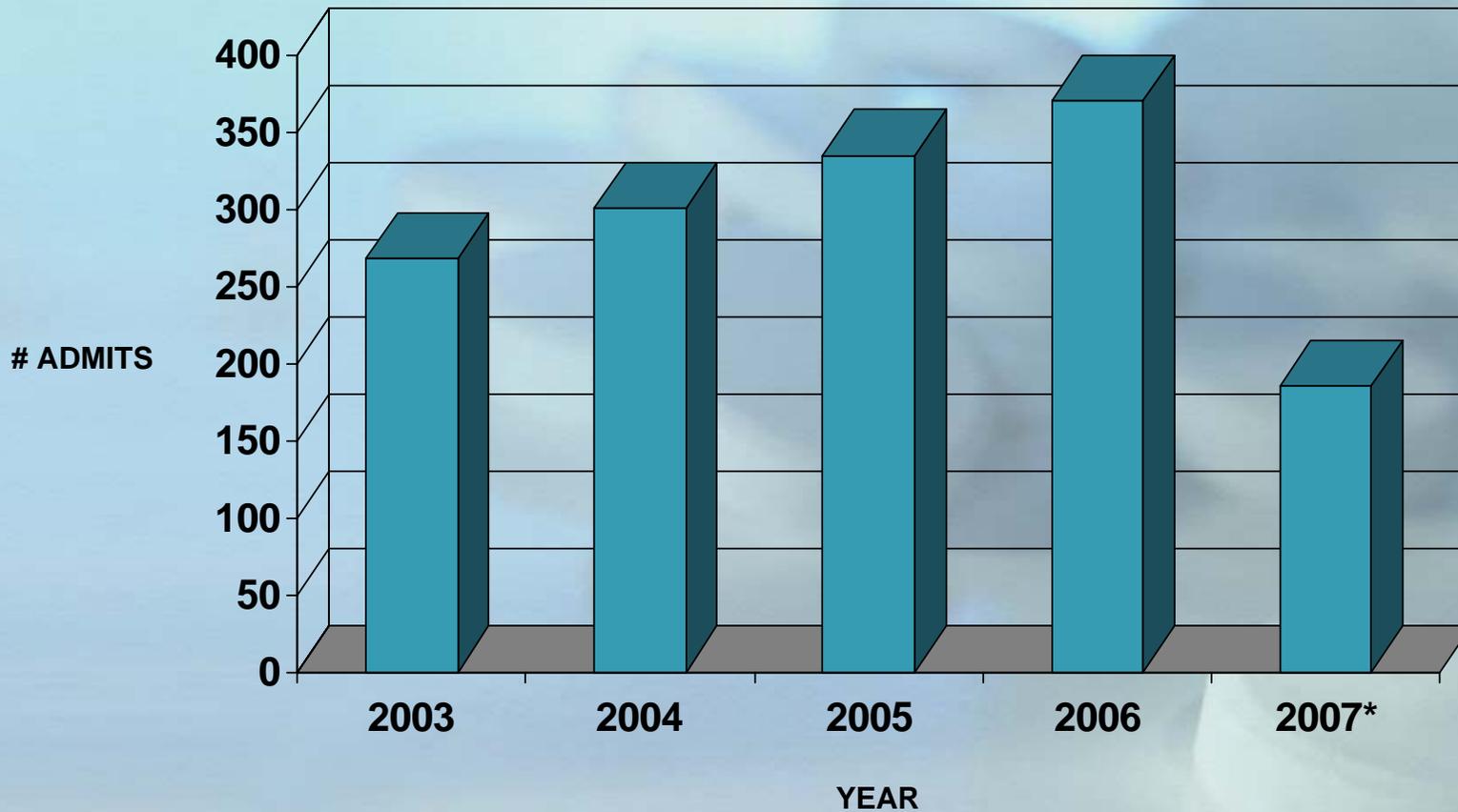


2008\* - Provisional

# ER Admissions

- Associated **Admissions** increased **38%** between 2003 and 2006.

# ER Admissions



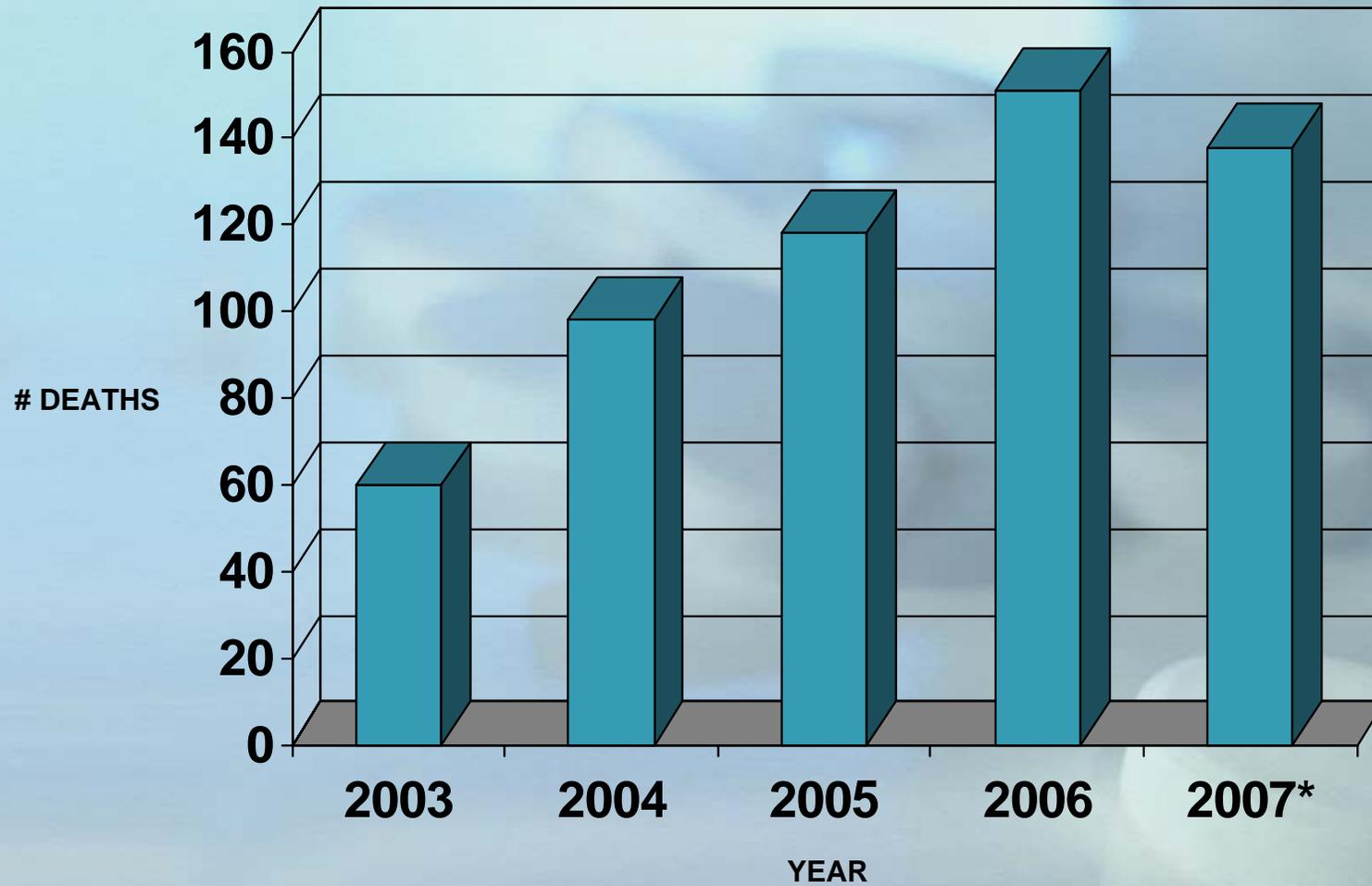
\* Provisional Data

# Deaths

- Associated **Deaths** increased **160%** between 2003 and 2006.
- It was the **# 1** drug listed on death certificates between 2003 and 2006, far outpacing any other drug.

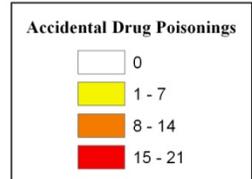
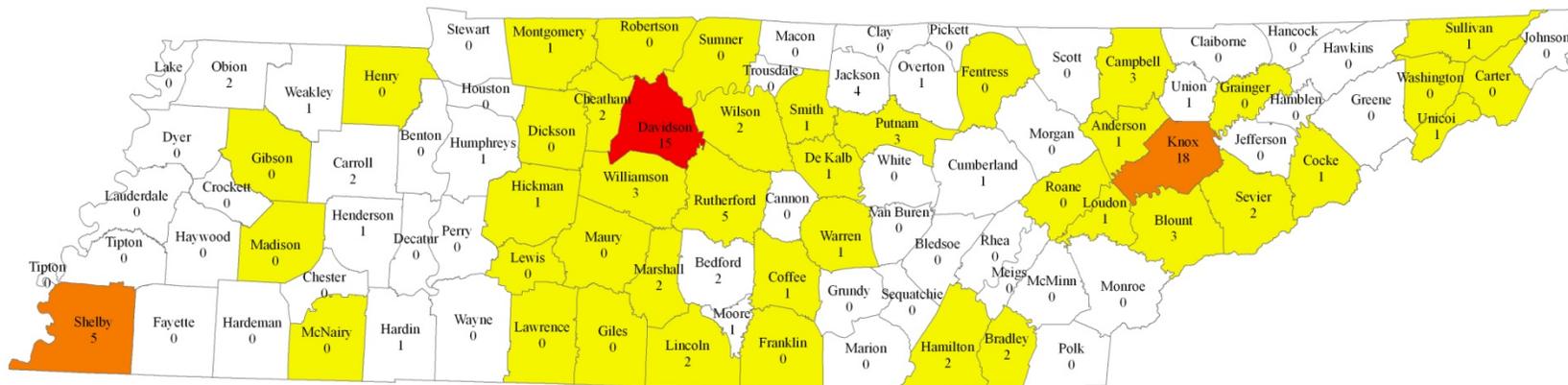


# Deaths





# Number of Accidental Drug Poisonings with Methadone Mentioned on Death Certificate 2005

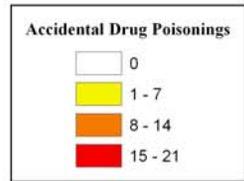
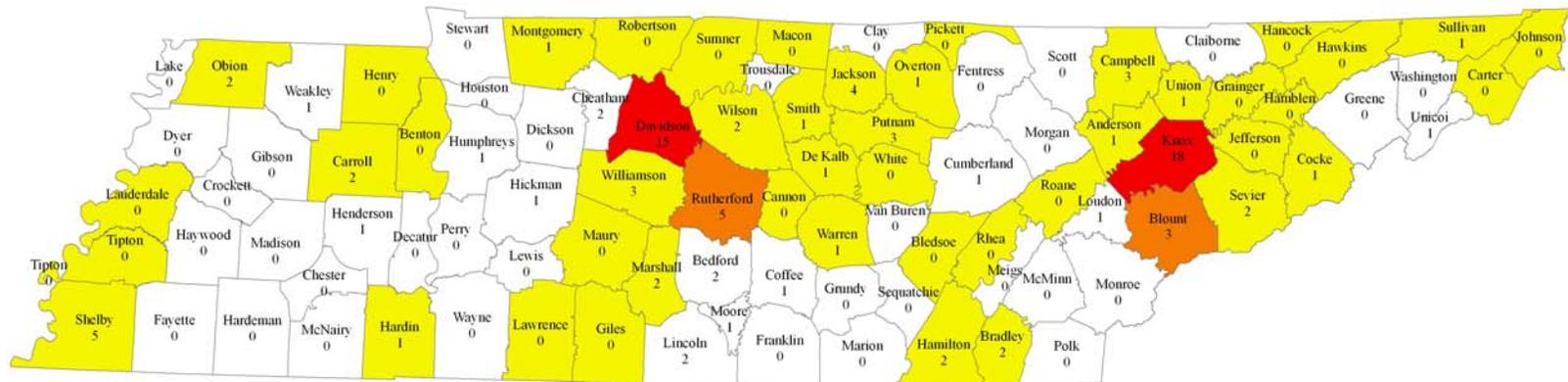


Source: Division of Health Statistics  
Tennessee Department of Health





# Number of Accidental Drug Poisonings with Methadone Mentioned on Death Certificate 2007\*



Source: Division of Health Statistics  
Tennessee Department of Health  
\* Provisional

# Barriers

- Used in Pain Management vs. Addiction Maintenance
  - Uneducated Consumers / Prescribers who do not understand Methadone's unique pharmacology (each person metabolizes differently – up to 60 hour half-life) This is the cumulative problem / affect
  - Accurate reporting / monitoring
  - Lack or inability to share Information
  - No Comprehensive / Multidiscipline coordinated approach
- 
- A stack of several white, round, oval-shaped pills is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide. The pills are stacked on top of each other, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

# Response

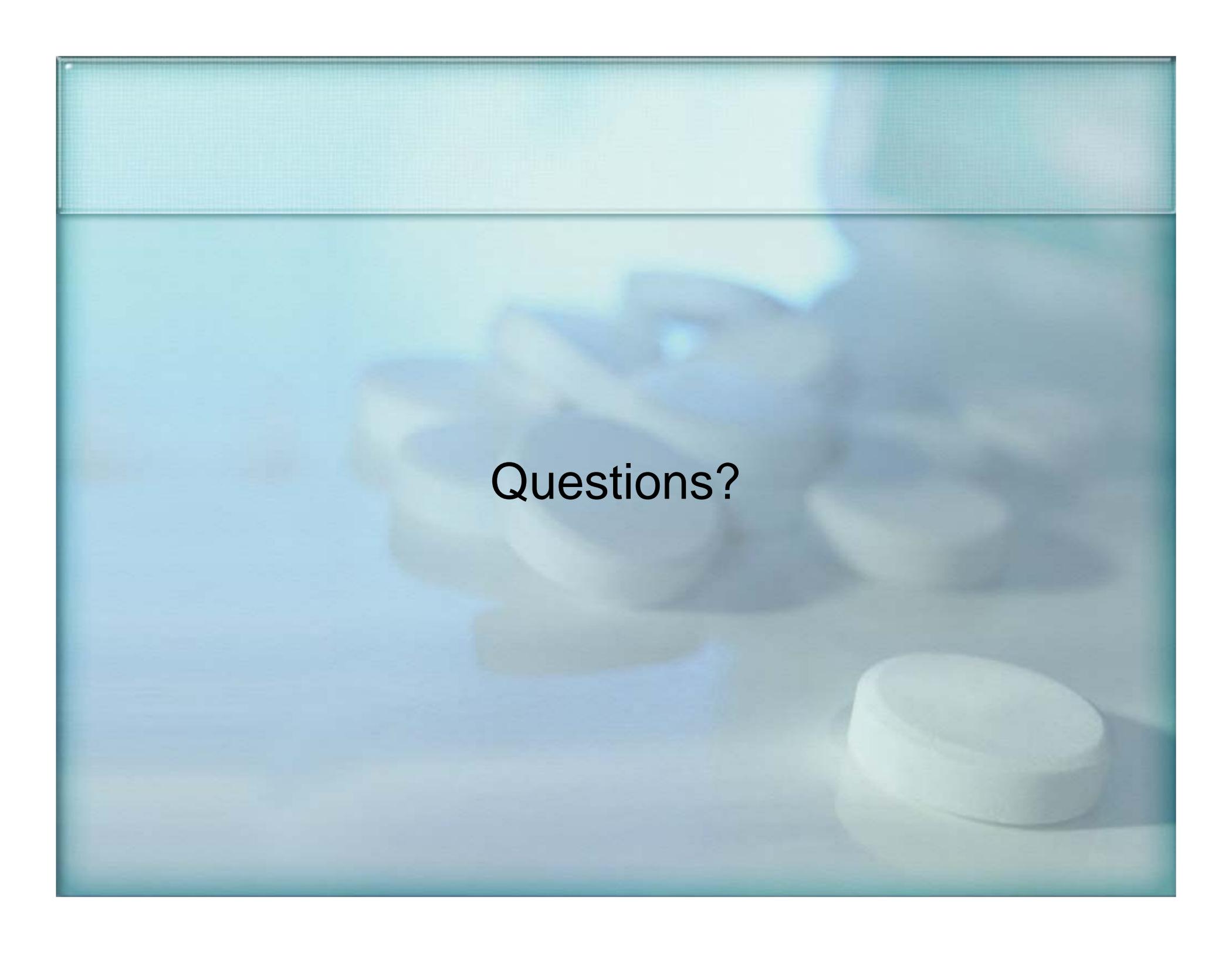
- **Comprehensive multidiscipline approach by Federal, State and Local law enforcement, health care providers, child protective services, social services, educators, civic organizations, medical association and pharmaceutical industries to address:**
- **Educate the Public**
- **Train Law Enforcement, Physicians, Pharmacist, Practitioners, etc.**
- **Uniform Incident Reporting**
  - **Easy and Accurate**
- **Target unlawful Distributors, Seekers and Health Care Providers**
- **Overtime Reimbursement**
- **Information Sharing**
- **Support**
  - **Goals, Investigation, coordination, legislation, etc.**

# **METHADONE #1 Killer Of Prescription Narcotics**

[www.txt2pic.com](http://www.txt2pic.com)



**STOP  
METHADONE  
DEATHS**



Questions?

