Charles Whitson
Tennessee DOH
Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation
DEA / HIDTA
Methadone “Alert” Conference
November 13 – 14
Nashville, Tennessee
What is the Problem?
• 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) Propoxphene
  4) Lunesta
  5) Oxcodone

Source: Tennessee Controlled Substance Monitoring Database
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.

• 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)¹

¹ 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

Source: DEA Office of Diversion Control
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

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

Tablets/Diskettes
406,647 grams
90%

Powder
3,913 grams
1%

Liquids
40,330 grams
9%

Source: DEA Diversion Control
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)

- MD: 11,200 (70%)
- DO: 300 (2%)
- PA: 600 (4%)
- APN: 6,800 (24%)

Source: TN DOH Health Related Boards
As of: July 31, 2008

Drug Product: METHADONE

Prescriber State: TN

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Prescriber Name</th>
<th>Office Zip</th>
<th>Scripts Filled</th>
<th>Cash Scripts Filled</th>
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<td>Nashville-372</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>XXXXXXXX</td>
<td>Nashville-374</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Tennessee Prescription Drug Monitoring Database
• 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.
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

Source: TN DOH Health Statistics

* 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.
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
2006

Source: Division of Health Statistics
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
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
STOP METHADONE DEATHS
Questions?