MISSION STATEMENT

The Charlotte Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) mission is to reduce the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals in its defined geographical area of responsibility thru a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that will include a robust enforcement program; extensive state and local cooperation; enhance liaison with industry stakeholders; and improved public awareness and education.
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

• Investigate, arrest and prosecute DEA registrants & non-registrants who are involved in the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals.

• Remove the ability of DEA registrants to prescribe controlled substance, where arrest and prosecution is not a viable solution.

• Decrease in the availability of illicit pharmaceuticals in the illegal market.

• Reduce the number of overdose deaths linked to pharmaceutical use and abuse.
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Prescription drug abuse is a global problem
- Rx abuse has surpassed all illicit drugs with the exception of Marijuana
- Pharmaceutical overdose deaths have exceeded deaths related to illicit drugs
- Pharmaceutical overdose deaths surpassed deaths related to auto accidents

(Source: Pharmacy Times, April 2007/September 2007)
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Doctor Shoppers - Patient visits multiple physicians & obtain same or similar drugs from each practitioner - **Hard to detect - Rx are legitimate on face value**

- Fraudulent RX – (Stolen and/or Manufactured)

- Lack of verification on questionable Rx
STRATEGY
ENHANCED LIAISON WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

• Direct outreach to the gatekeepers - Pharmacists

• Periodic discussion forums with Manufactures, Prescribers; Distributors, State medical oversight authorities.
Presentation and distribution of educational materials relative to the perils of priority prescription drug abuse targeting the risk population.
Remember the Closed System of Distribution

- Raw Material
- Manufacturer
- Importer / Exporter
- Distributor
- Dispenser
- End User
The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription.
An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research is not a prescription within the meaning and intent of Section 309 of the Act (21 U.S.C. 829) and the person knowingly filling such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of law relating to controlled substances.
**Questionable Rx?**

- Call the medical practice phone number in the pharmacy’s database if possible for verification.

- If Rx is fraudulent & safety an issue?
  - Delay filling Prescription
  - Notify law enforcement immediately

- Obtain copy of license

- Alert other pharmacies of the attempted transaction
North Carolina Unintentional Poisonings/Overdose Deaths (Top seven counties)

CY2011 Total: 1172
CY2012 Total: 1159

Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
Vital Statistics - State Center for Health Statistics
## North Carolina Unintentional Poisoning / Overdose Deaths (Top seven counties by Drug Class)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMBERLAND</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASTON</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILFORD</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECKLENBURG</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW HANOVER</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAKE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Vital Statistics - State Center for Health Statistics
MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

• Increase in the number of federal and state prosecutions of DEA registrants involved in the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals.

• Increase in the number of temporary / permanent suspension of DEA registrations to prescribe control substances.

• Decrease in the availability of illicit pharmaceuticals in the illegal market.

• Reduce in the number of overdose death linked to pharmaceutical use and abuse.
RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov
- www.dea.gov
- www.usdoj.gov

Charlotte Tactical Diversion Unit (Criminal)
  - GS Christopher Fletcher (704) 770-2050

Greensboro Resident Office (Regulatory)
  - 336-856-7856
  - 336-547-4209 (fax)