



# **DRUGS, DRUGS, & MORE DRUGS**

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# Duties of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy

- Licensing/Administrative Agency
- Law Enforcement Agency

## Enforcement Responsibility – ORC Chapters

2925. – Criminal Drug Laws

3715. – Food & Drug Laws

3719. – Controlled Substance Laws

4729. – Pharmacy/Dangerous Drug Laws

# PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss R.Ph. duties & responsibilities when presented with an RX for dispensing
2. Discuss the problem with drugs from an individual state perspective





# PRE-TEST ?????? #1

1. A Pharmacist must:
  - a. Fill any RX presented w/o question
  - b. Use independent judgment on **EVERY** RX presented
  - c. Question only those RXs where a definite allergy or overdose exists





## PRE-TEST ?????? #2

2. A prescription for oxycodone 30mg #240 written yesterday in Nashville, TN for a patient from Pittsburg who drove to Philadelphia to pick up the RX is obviously for a legitimate medical purpose and should not be questioned:
- a. True
  - b. False



## PRE-TEST ?????? #3

**3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed to one person**

- a. True**
- b. False**



# PHARMACY'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR PRACTICE



MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR  
PRACTICE

**ALWAYS, ALWAYS,**  
**ALWAYS** ACT IN  
THE BEST  
INTERESTS OF  
YOUR PATIENT





# MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR PRACTICE

## ALWAYS ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PATIENT

Sometimes, that means  
saying “NO”



AND RULE #2 IS?

# **4729-5-21 OAC & 1306.04 CFR**

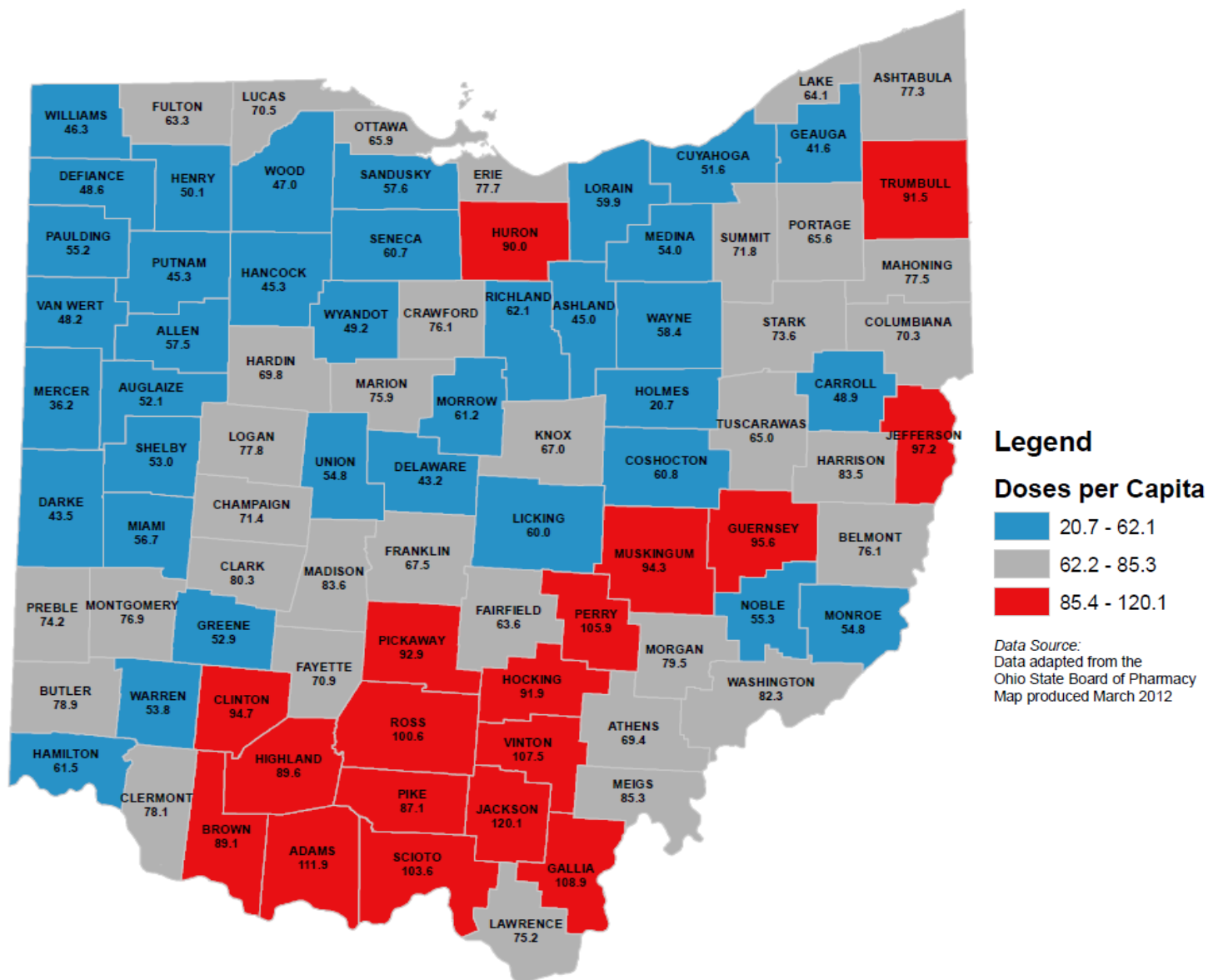
**(A) A prescription, to be valid, must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual prescriber acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of bona fide treatment of a patient is not a prescription and the person knowingly dispensing such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties of law.**

# IS THERE STILL A PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROBLEM?

YOU BE THE JUDGE -



# Prescription Opioid Doses Per Capita - 2011







# Top Ten Drugs in OARRS 2013

Drug Class	Number of Solid Doses
Hydrocodone & Comb.	280,443,578
Oxycodone & Comb.	256,055,057
Tramadol	188,354,820
Alprazolam	128,373,214
Lorazepam	74,285,513
Clonazepam	66,893,093
Pregabalin	66,405,099
Amphetamine & Comb.	58,421,539
Zolpidem Tartrate	47,350,681
Methylphenidate	42,927,110

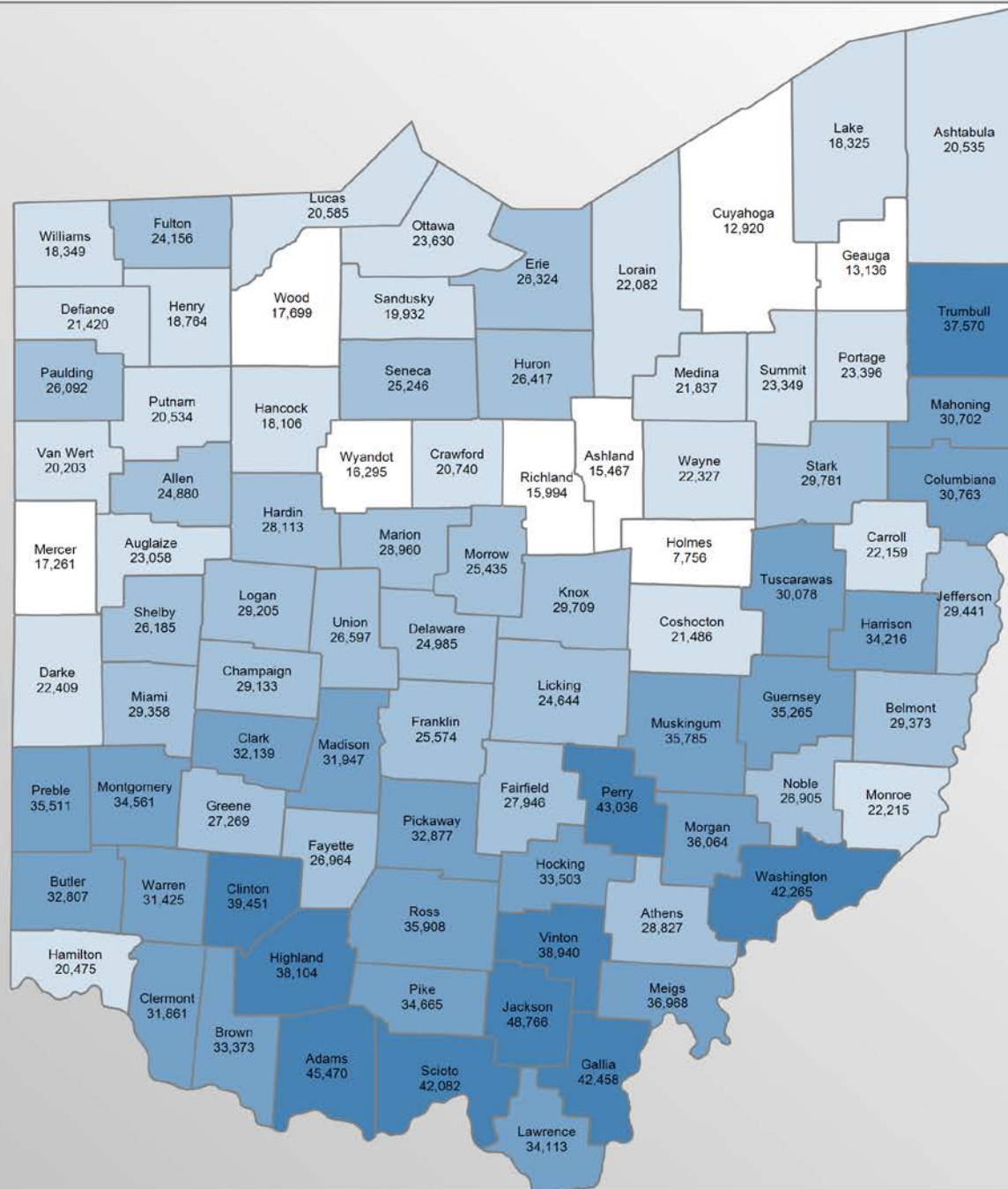
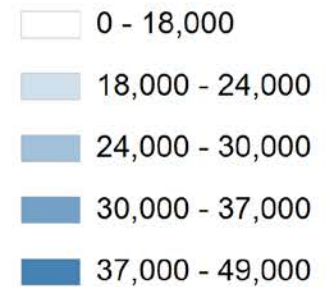


# Top Ten Drugs in OARRS 2013

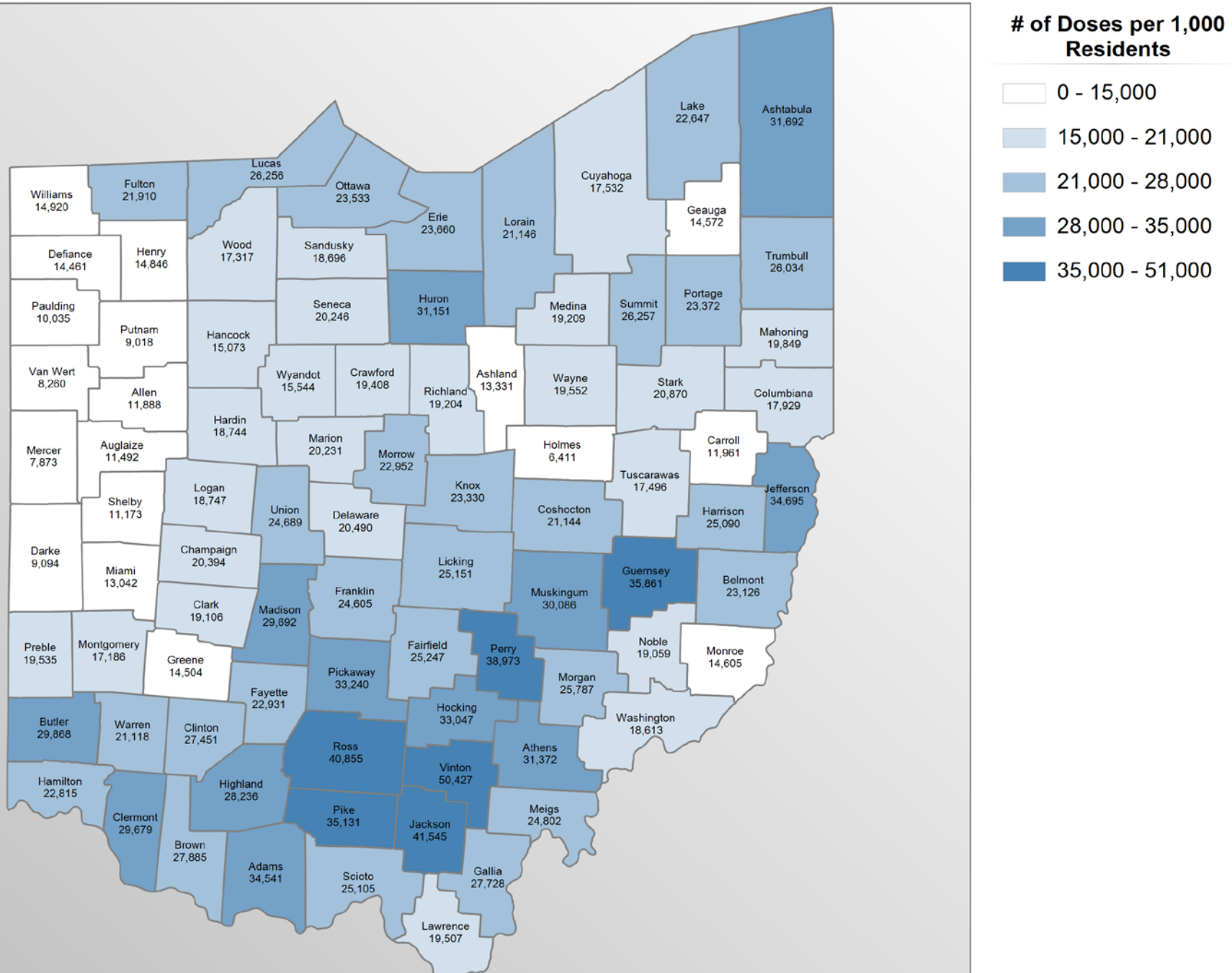
Drug Class	Number of Solid Doses	% Change Since 2012
Hydrocodone & Comb.	280,443,578	-3.5%
Oxycodone & Comb.	256,055,057	-1.7%
Tramadol	188,354,820	9.7%
Alprazolam	128,373,214	-0.3%
Lorazepam	74,285,513	0.6%
Clonazepam	66,893,093	3.7%
Pregabalin	66,405,099	-7.5%
Amphetamine & Comb.	58,421,539	4.9%
Zolpidem Tartrate	47,350,681	-3.4%
Methylphenidate	42,927,110	-4.6%

# 2013 Hydrocodone Doses per 1,000 County Residents

# of Doses per 1,000 Residents

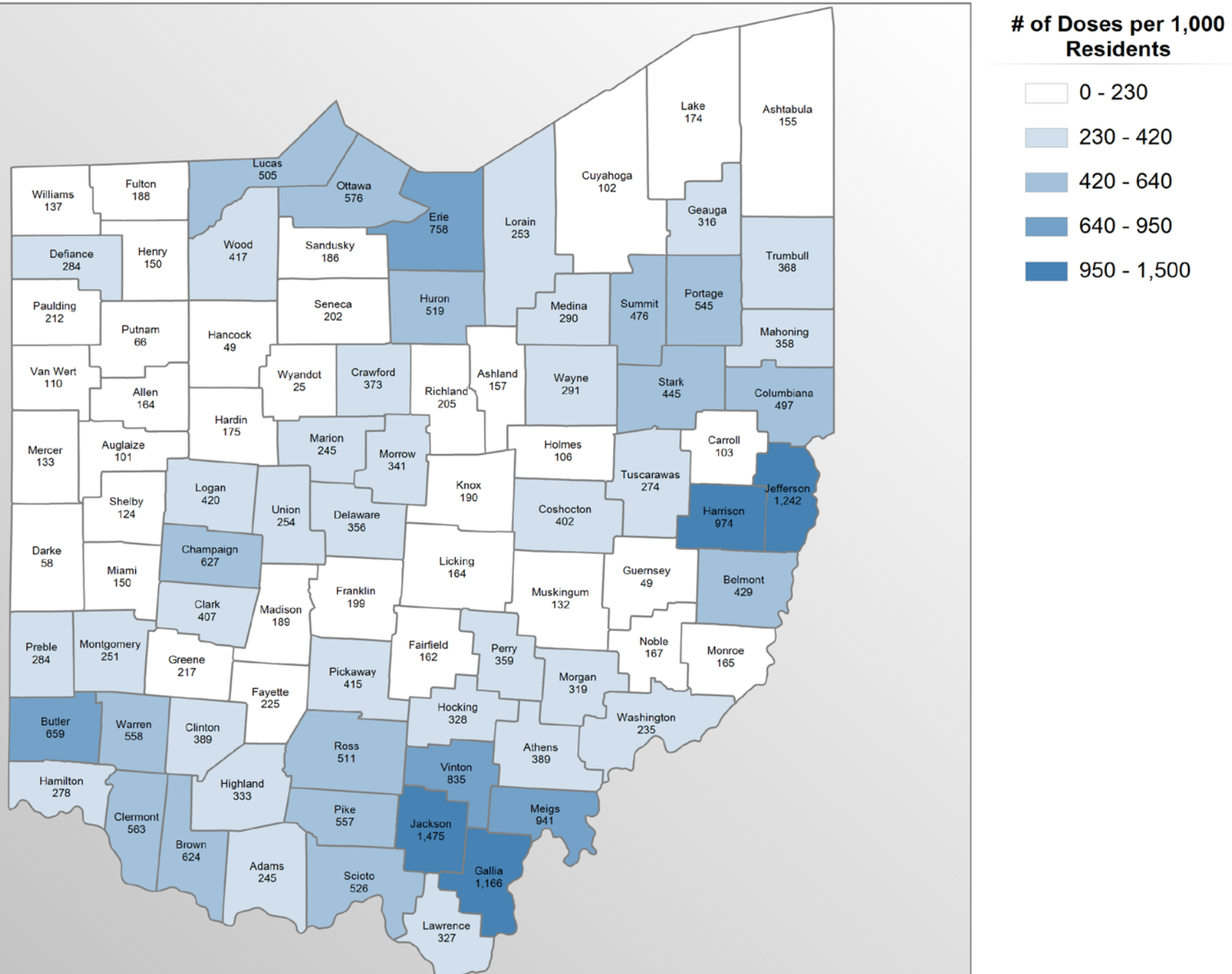


# 2013 Oxycodone Doses per 1,000 County Residents



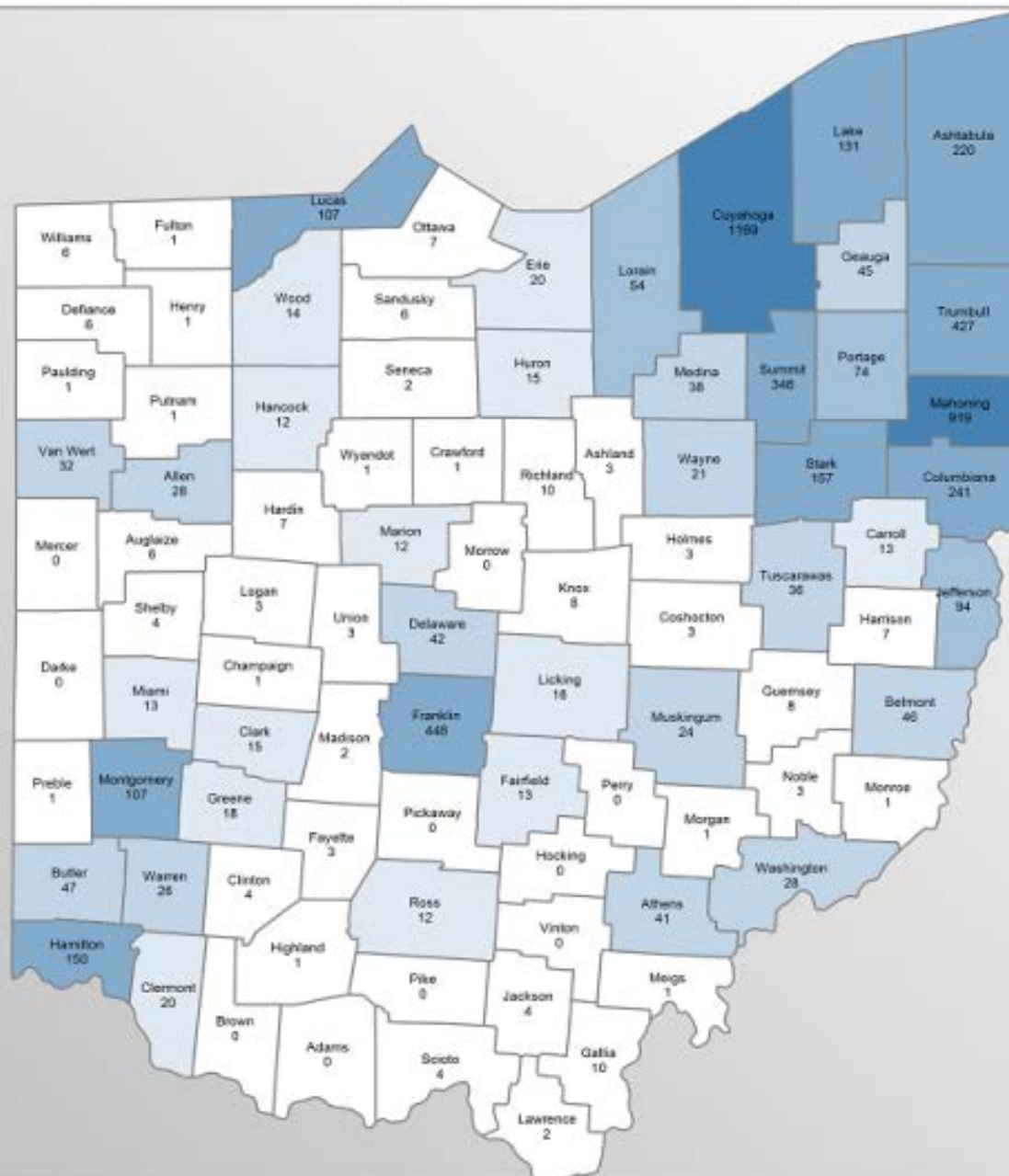


# 2013 Oxymorphone Doses per 1,000 County Residents

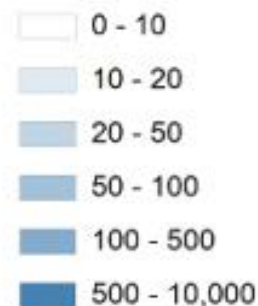




# 2013 Patients with Pennsylvania Prescriber by Patient County



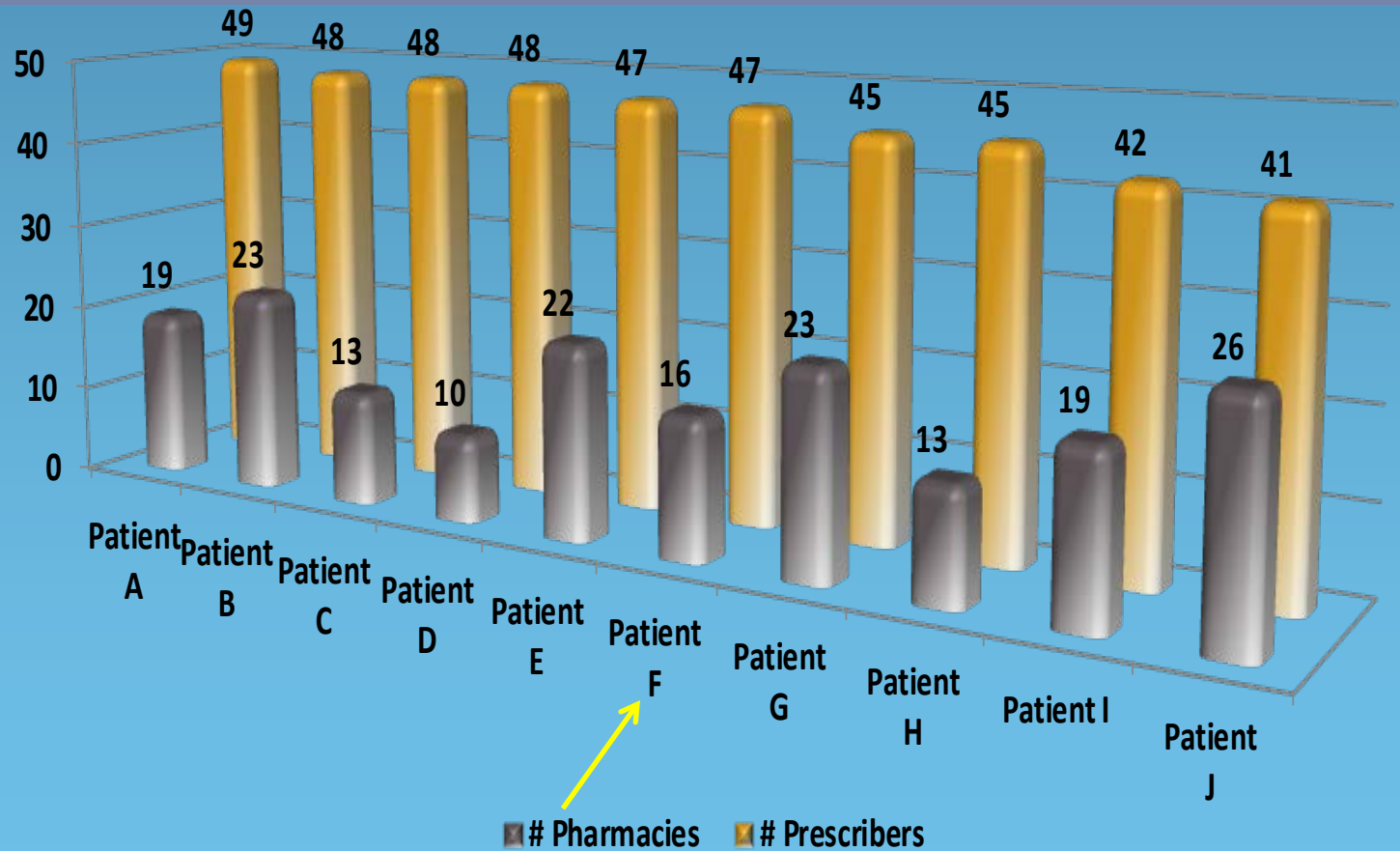
# of Patients



**OARS**

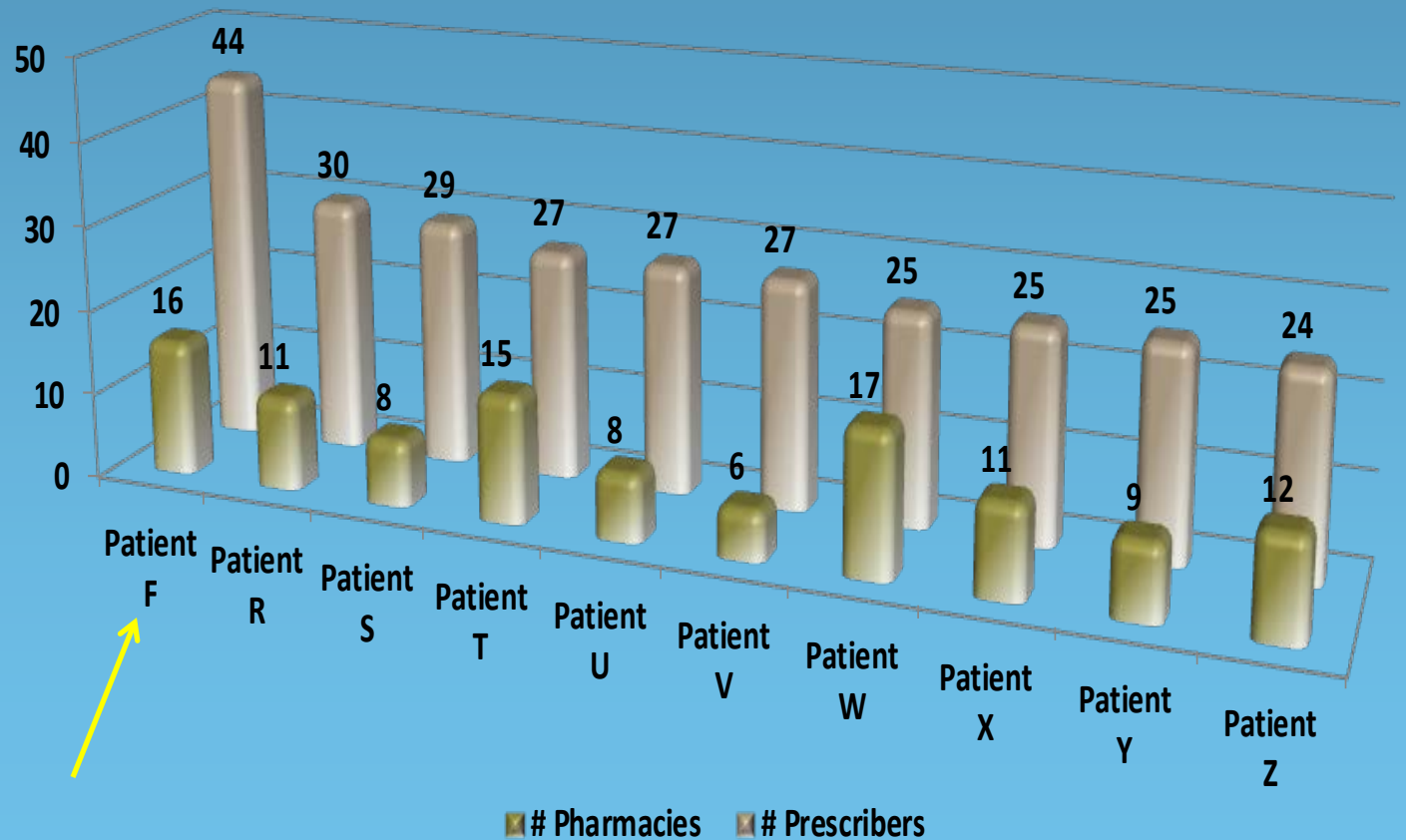
Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System

# Top Ten Doctor Shoppers 2013



# Top Ten Doctor Shoppers

## 2013 – CII Only





# WHAT ABOUT THE “TRINITY”

- Is there any legitimate reason to prescribe/dispense an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to one individual?
- Not if you know their indications and metabolism, there isn't!



# PILL MILLS –OHIO

Case study about an Ohio doctor:





# PILL MILLS – FLORIDA, GEORGIA, & OHIO

Case study about an Ohio drug ring  
and their trips to Florida





# **E-MAIL TO ALL OHIO LICENSED PHARMACISTS**

**On March 24, 2009, the Ohio  
State Board of Pharmacy sent  
out the following e-mail to  
every pharmacist licensed by  
the Board:**



## 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy has noticed a significant volume of prescriptions from physicians in Florida and is seeking more information. The physicians are primarily located in Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, or Hollywood, Florida, but they are prescribing for patients from Ohio and Kentucky. Several, but not all, of the physicians are associated with the “American Pain Clinic LLC.”



# 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

The prescriptions are written for oxycodone 15 or 30 mg, Roxicodone 15 or 30 mg, Xanax 2 mg, Soma 350 mg, and Percocet 10/325 mg. These patients are generally 20-55 years old and usually pay cash.





## 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

If you see any of these prescriptions for individuals other than those few “snowbirds” who are part of your regular patient base, please contact Agent Bill Padgett at (###-###) as soon as possible.





## 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

**Remember, before filling any prescription, the pharmacist must take into consideration 4729-5-30, OAC, Manner of issuance of a prescription; and 4729-5-21, OAC, Manner of processing of a prescription. These rules state, in part:**



# 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

A prescription to be valid must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual prescriber in the usual course of his/her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of bona fide treatment of a patient is not a prescription and the person knowingly dispensing such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties of law.



## 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

- In many of these cases, we are wondering how the term “legitimate medical purpose” applies when a patient who is supposedly in severe pain can ride to Florida and back to receive treatment when we have excellent facilities in Ohio.



# 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

If you decide in your professional judgment not to fill the prescription and are comfortable keeping the original prescription, please do so if you can. Advise the individuals that they must contact Agent Padgett regarding their prescriptions and provide them with his telephone number. If you are not comfortable keeping the prescription, then at a minimum, please copy the prescription, return it to the individual, and contact Agent Padgett ASAP.





## 3/24/2009 E-MAIL

**If you have already filled such prescriptions, please contact Agent Padgett at (e-mail) or (###-###). Based on some of the cases we have already found, this may be a coordinated effort to obtain drugs and we are trying to develop a list of the people involved.**





# RESULTS?

- **Overwhelming!**
- **In the first three days after the e-mail, over 300 calls, faxes, and e-mails BURIED the one agent noted on the Board's e-mail.**
- **AND THEY CONTINUED TO COME IN!**



# RESULTS?

- One day, he got a call from a pharmacy in his hometown, telling him that a Florida RX had just been presented.
- He immediately went to the pharmacy, interviewed the “patient” who ended up telling the whole story.



# HAPPY ENDING?

- 6 people (including a police officer) ended up pleading guilty to multiple felonies, including drug trafficking.
- They all went to prison for varying lengths of time.
- The group **CLEARED** around \$50,000 per month by selling their drugs.

# HAPPY ENDING?

- 44 yo wm – leader  
43 yo wf  
38 yo wf  
46 yo wf  
47 yo wf  
46 yo wm (brother of “leader”)
- It started in Florida. It’s happening in PA as well.





# WHO DECIDES THE VALIDITY OF PRESCRIPTIONS?

**DISPENSING PHARMACISTS NEED  
TO REMEMBER THAT THEY, NOT  
THEIR DISTRICT SUPERVISORS,  
HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE  
“CORRESPONDING  
RESPONSIBILITY”!!!**



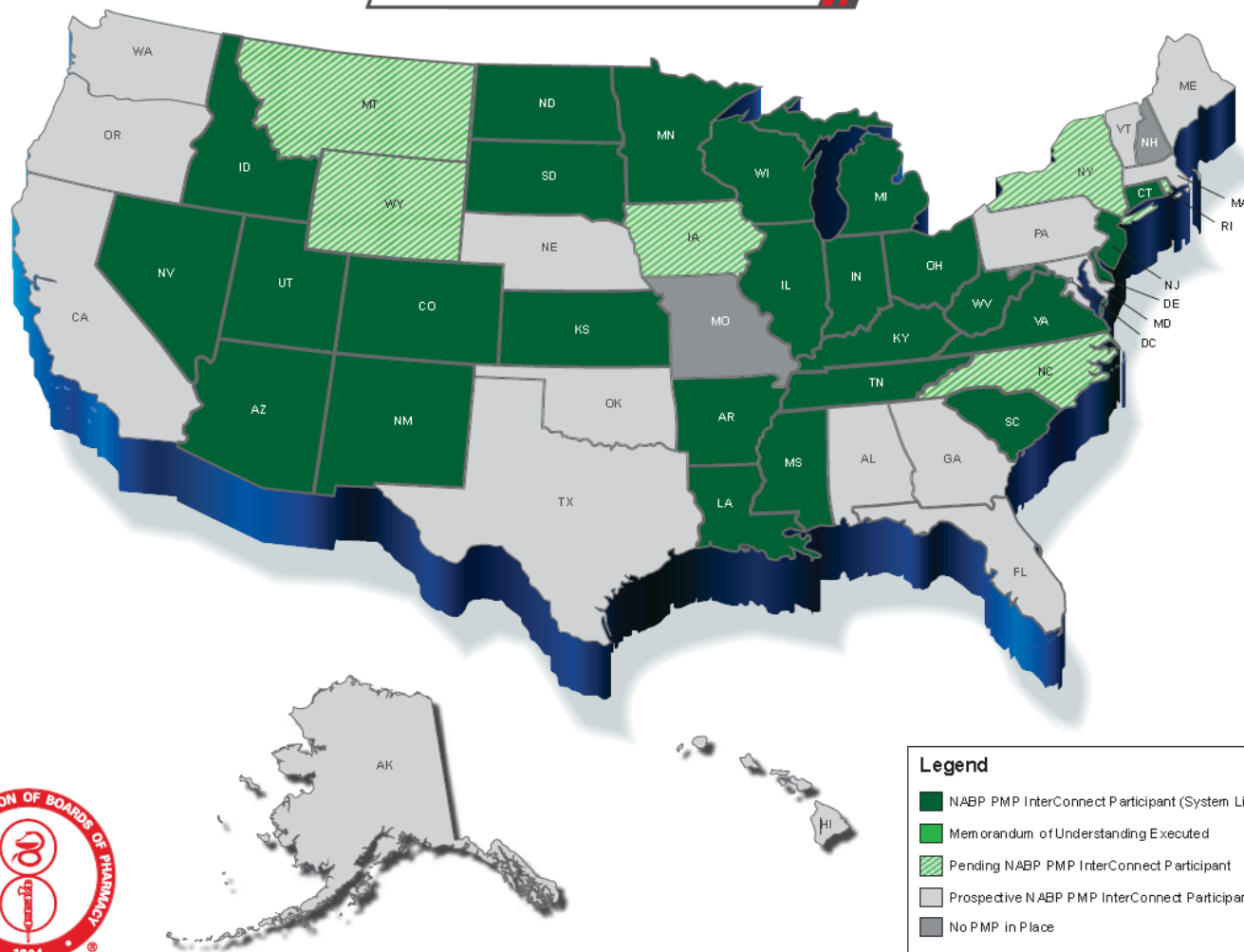
# HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO?

- IF THE PATIENT IS NOT FROM YOUR AREA, QUESTION WHY THEY ARE THERE. IT MAY BE LEGITIMATE – BUT.....
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS
- USE YOUR STATE PMP (IF IT EVER GETS FIXED!) AND THERE'S SOMETHING EXTRA THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM NABP (I HOPE!)





- 26 PMPs are actively sharing data: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.
- 6 states and 1 jurisdiction have the agreement under review



Current as of July 26, 2014



**FINAL  
REMINDER-**



# MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR PRACTICE

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Sometimes, that means  
saying “NO”



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# POST-TEST ????? #3

**3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed to one person**

- a. True**
- b. False**

# I'M DONE!

