

# Pharmaceutical Industry Conference

October 14-15, 2009

Portland, Oregon

Denise Curry  
Deputy Director  
Office of Diversion Control  
Drug Enforcement Administration



# Anna Nicole Smith



# Michael Jackson

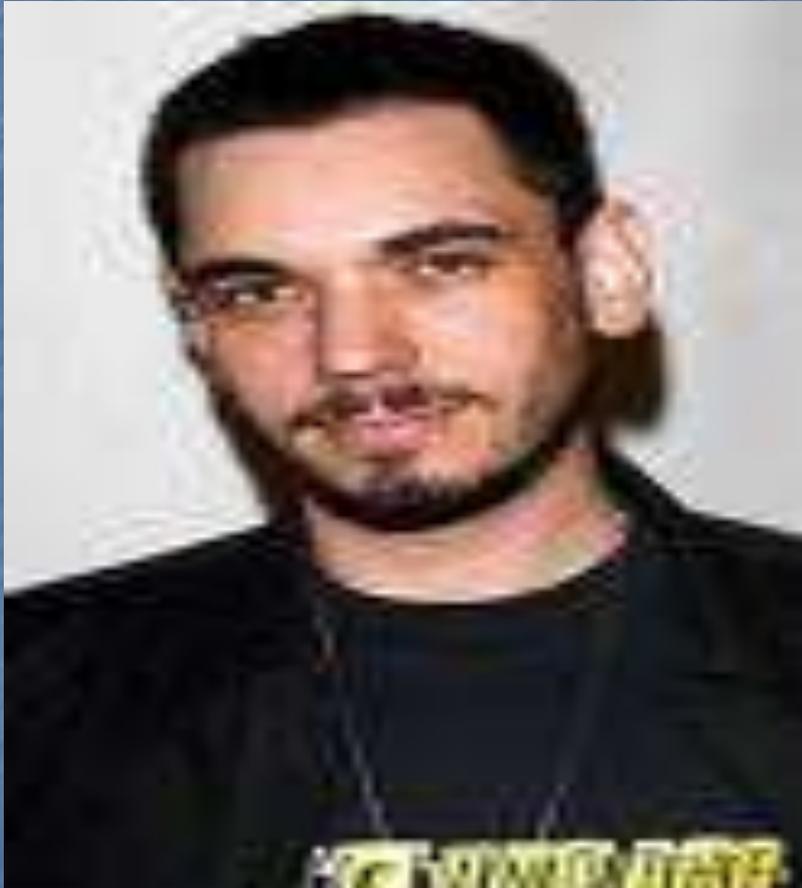


- Xanax
- Propofol
- Dilaudid
- Fentanyl
- Vicodin
- Valium
- Ambien

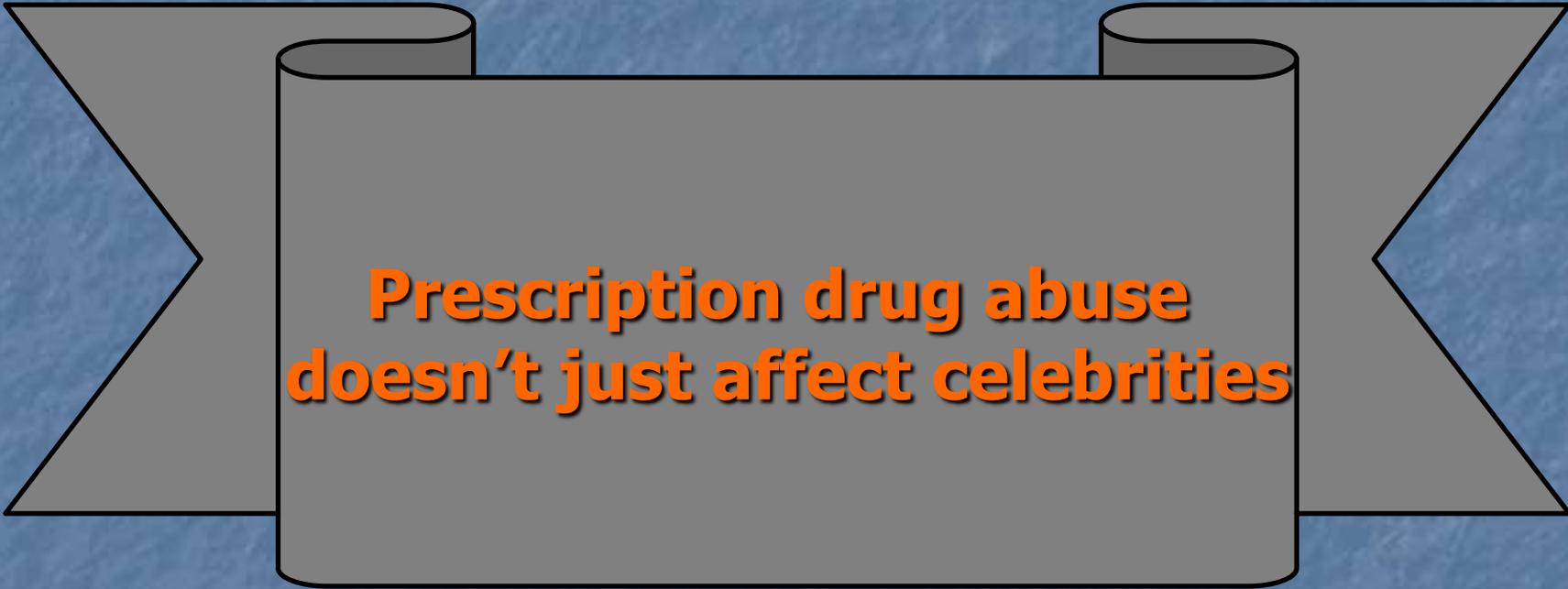
# Heath Ledger



# DJ AM



- Toxicology report revealed a laundry list of cocaine, oxycontin, hydrocodone, xanax, ativan, klonopin, benadryl, and levamisole.



**Prescription drug abuse  
doesn't just affect celebrities**

# What is the Impact of Untreated Pain??

- 40 Million Americans have Arthritis
- 26 Million experience frequent back pain
- 70% of cancer patients experience pain
- 25 Million Americans suffer migraine headaches
- 20 Million Americans experience TMJ
- 4 Million Americans suffer with Fibromyalgia
- 1/2 of all hospitalized patients experience pain during the last days of their lives.

# AMERICAN PAIN SOCIETY: NEWS

May 26, 2009

**“AMERICAN PAIN SOCIETY  
WARNS FDA OF UNINTENDED  
IMPACT OF FUTURE PAIN  
MEDICATION CONTROLS”**

# Increase in Opioid Associated Deaths Resulting from a Combination of Factors

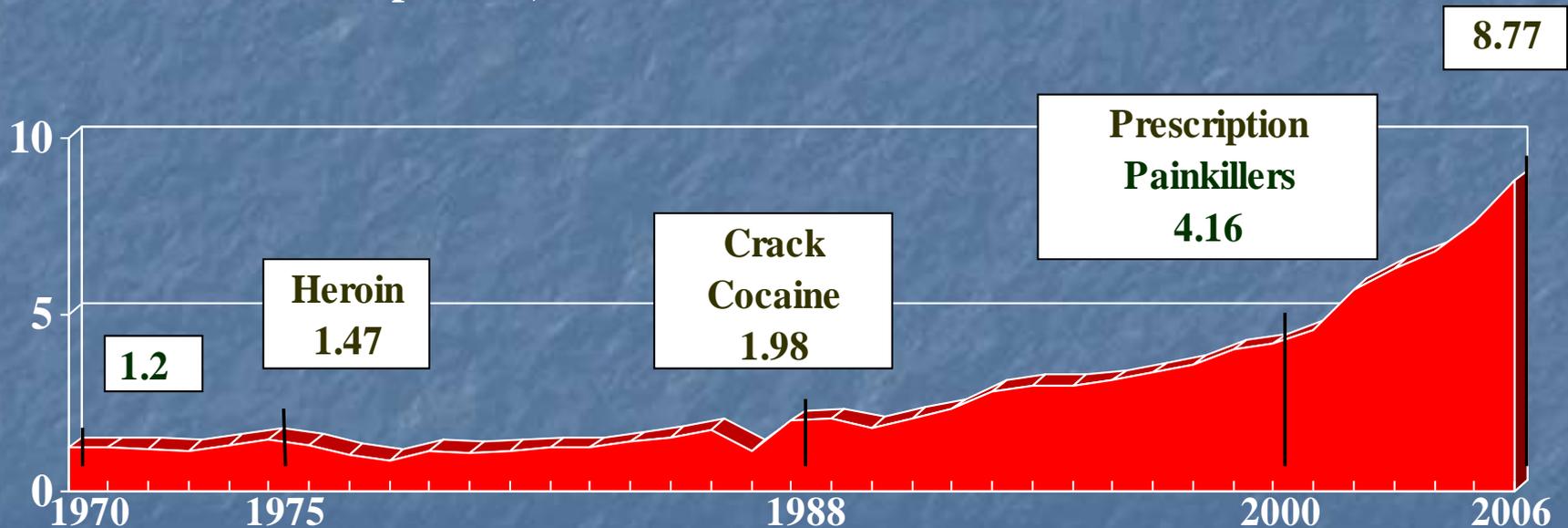
- Increased Use of Opioids
- Inadequate Knowledge of Therapeutic Effects
- Inappropriate Prescribing Practices
- Over identification of opioids as the cause of death.
- Differences in pharmacologic mechanisms

# Opioid Analgesics Fatal Overdoses

## Fatal Overdoses

Big spikes in drug overdose rates have coincided with the proliferation of new types of street drugs – such as black tar heroin in 1975 and crack cocaine in 1988 – as well as the increasing abuse of prescription painkillers in the late 1990s.

Fatal overdose rate per 100,000



# Opioid Analgesics

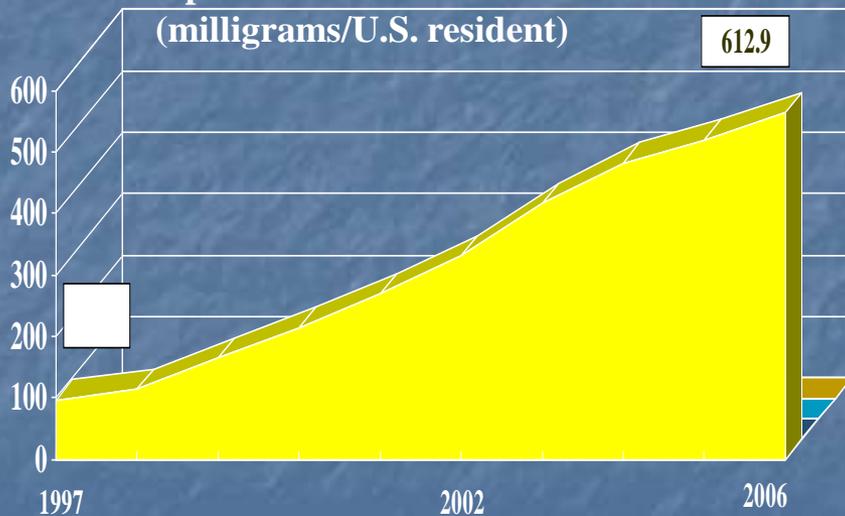
## Opioid Sales / Overdose Deaths

### More Pills, More Deaths

The recent increase in fatal overdoses is due largely to rising use of opioid painkillers. The rising mortality rates from drug overdoses parallels the growth in annual sales of opioid painkillers.

Opioid Sales

(milligrams/U.S. resident)

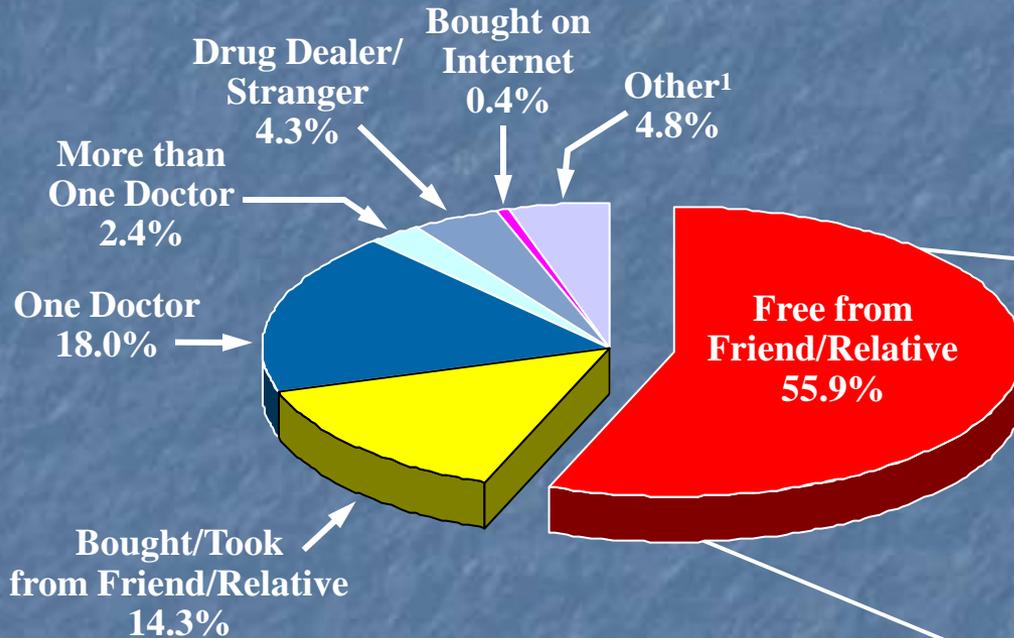


Overdose Deaths

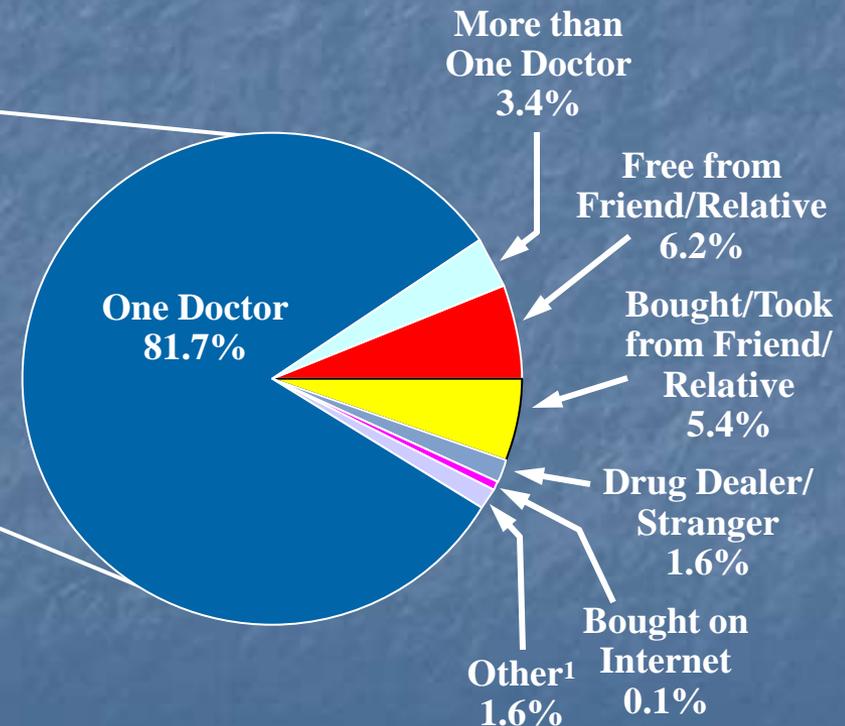


# Source Where Pain Relievers Were Obtained for Most Recent Nonmedical Use among Past Year Users Aged 12 or Older: 2007-2008

## Source Where Respondent Obtained



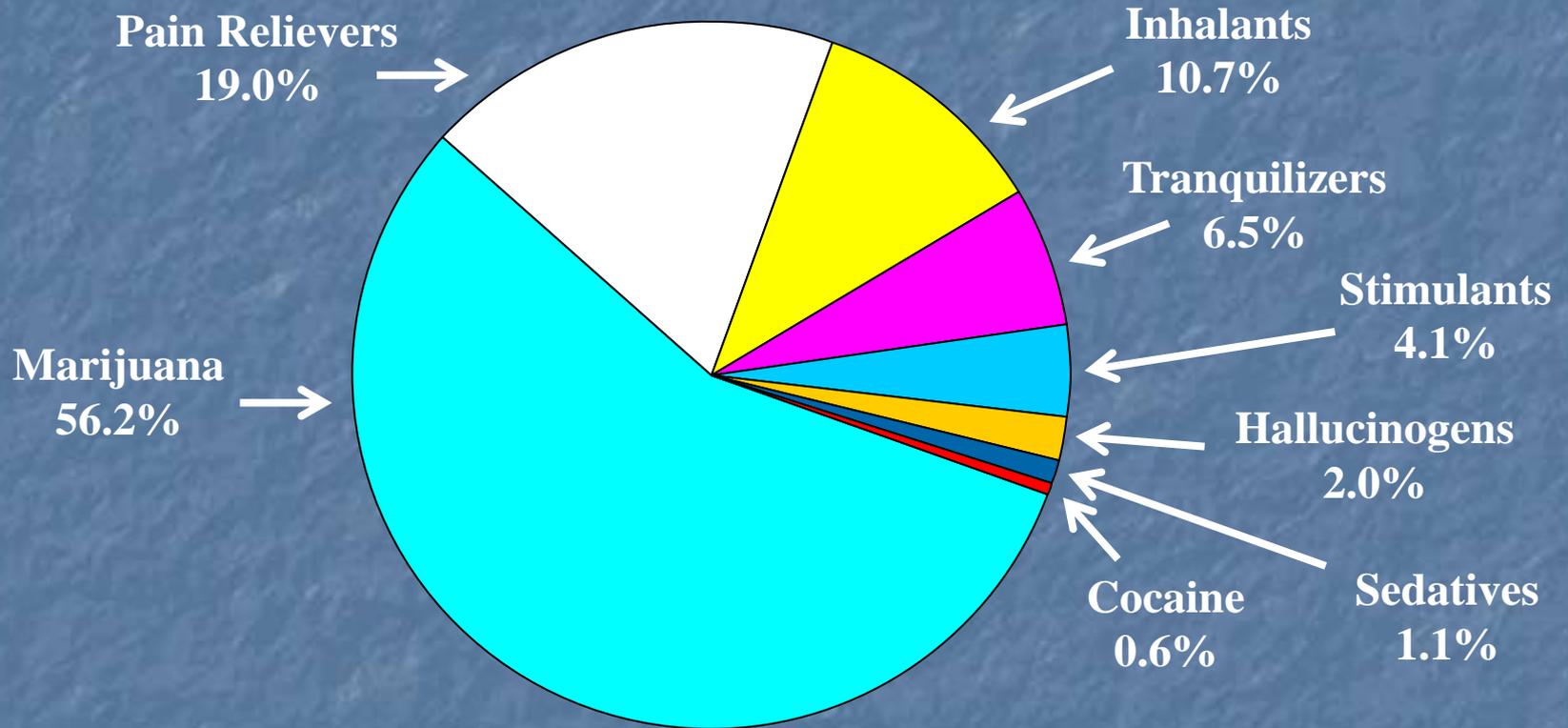
## Source Where Friend/Relative Obtained



Note: Totals may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding or because suppressed estimates are not shown.

<sup>1</sup>The Other category includes the sources "Wrote Fake Prescription," "Stole from Doctor's Office/Clinic/Hospital/Pharmacy," and "Some Other Way."

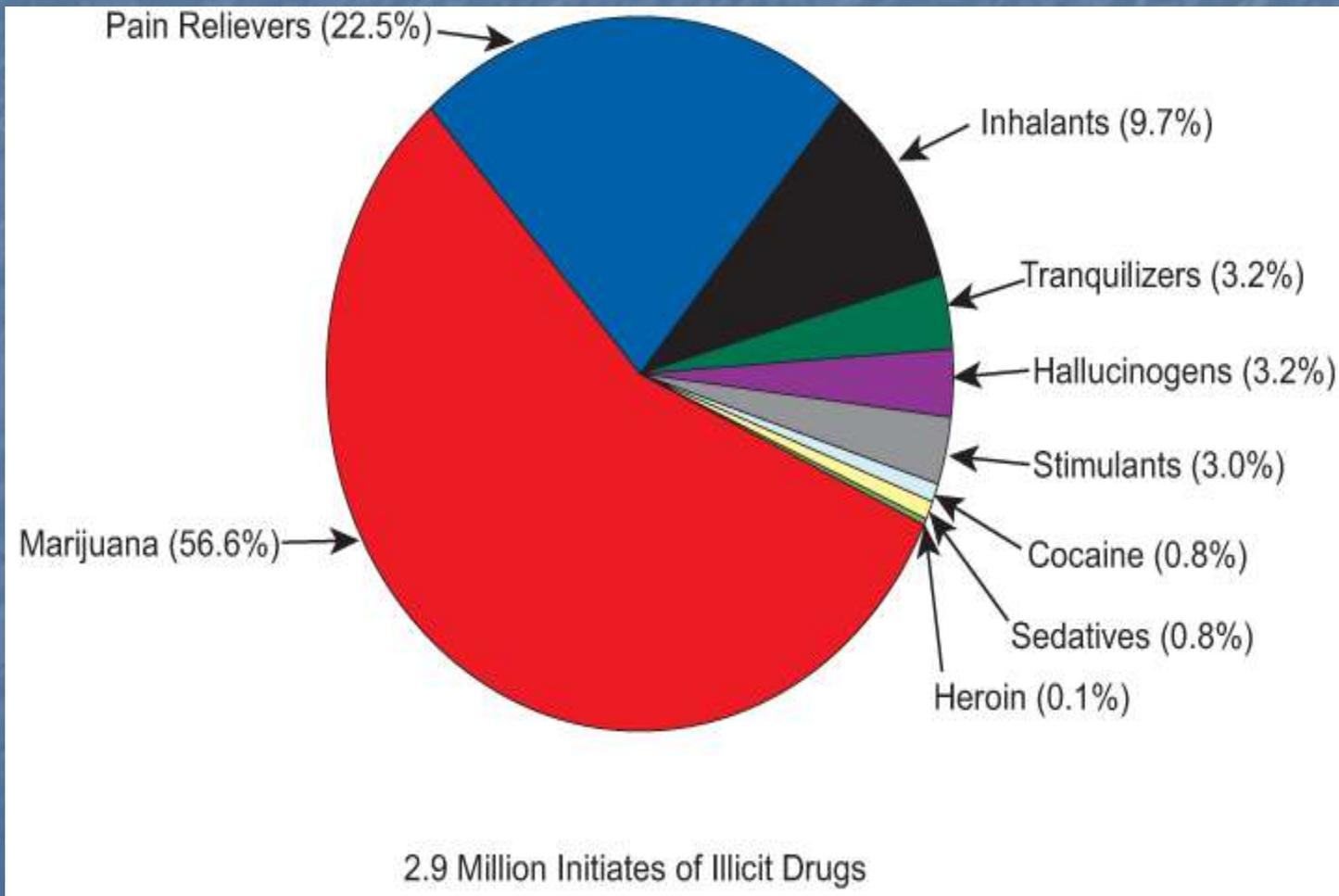
# Fig. Specific Drug Used When Initiating Illicit Drug Use among Past Year Initiates of Illicit Drugs Aged 12 or Older: 2007



2.7 Million Initiates of Illicit Drugs

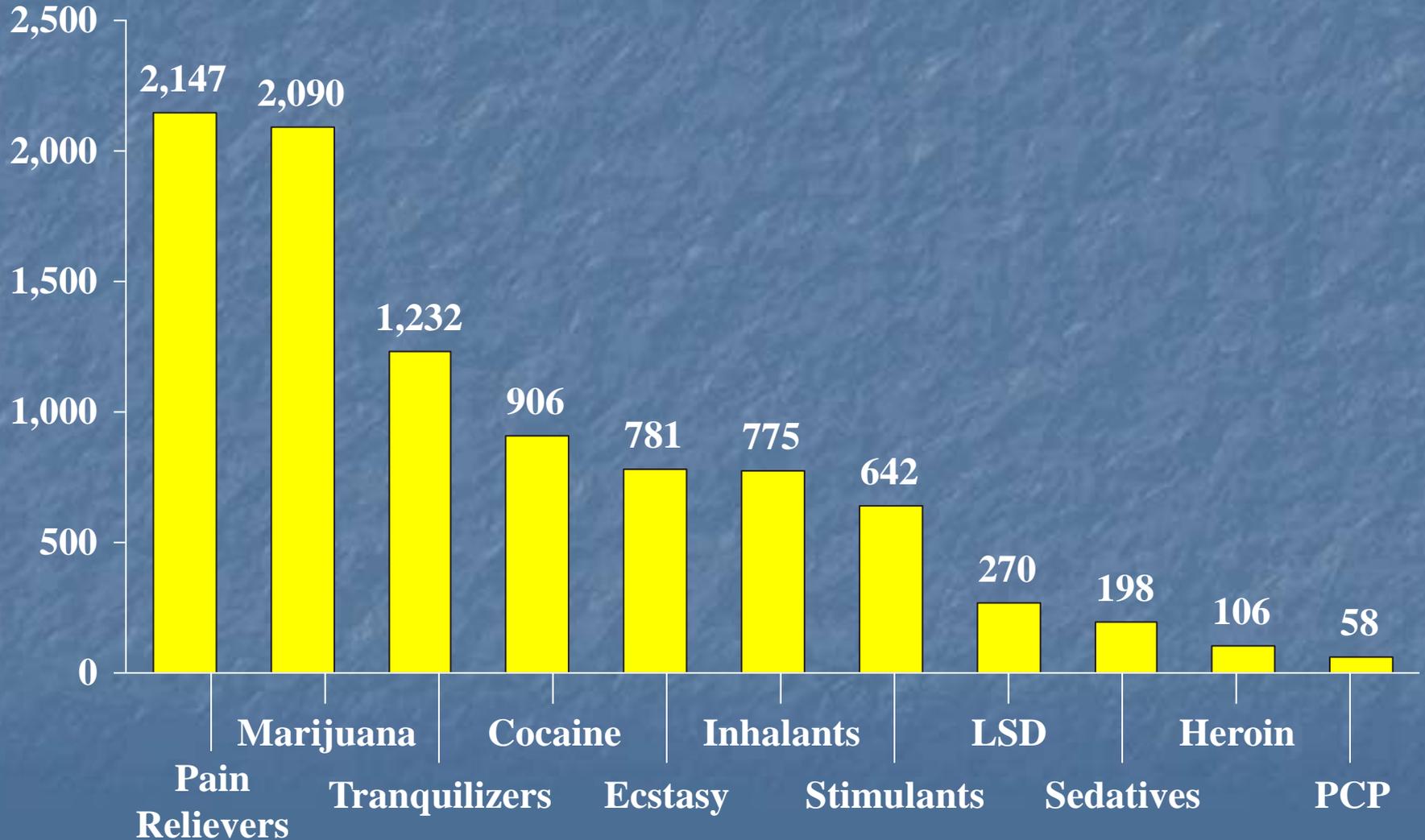
Note: The percentages add to greater than 100 percent because of a small number of respondents initiating multiple drugs on the same day.

# Specific Drug Used When Initiating Illicit Drug Use among Past Year Initiates of Illicit Drugs Aged 12 or Older: 2008

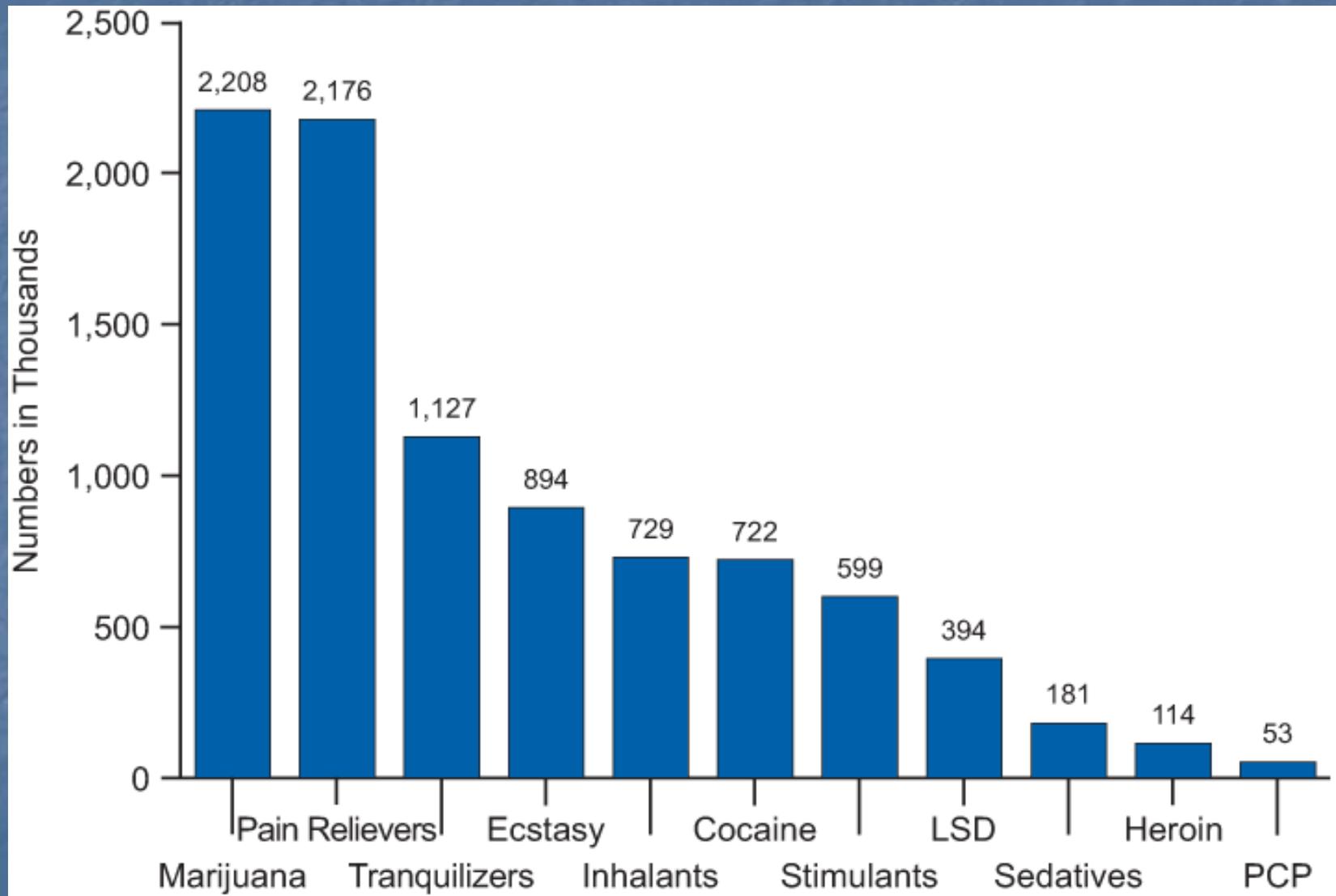


**Fig 5.2** Past Year Initiates for Specific Illicit Drugs among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2007

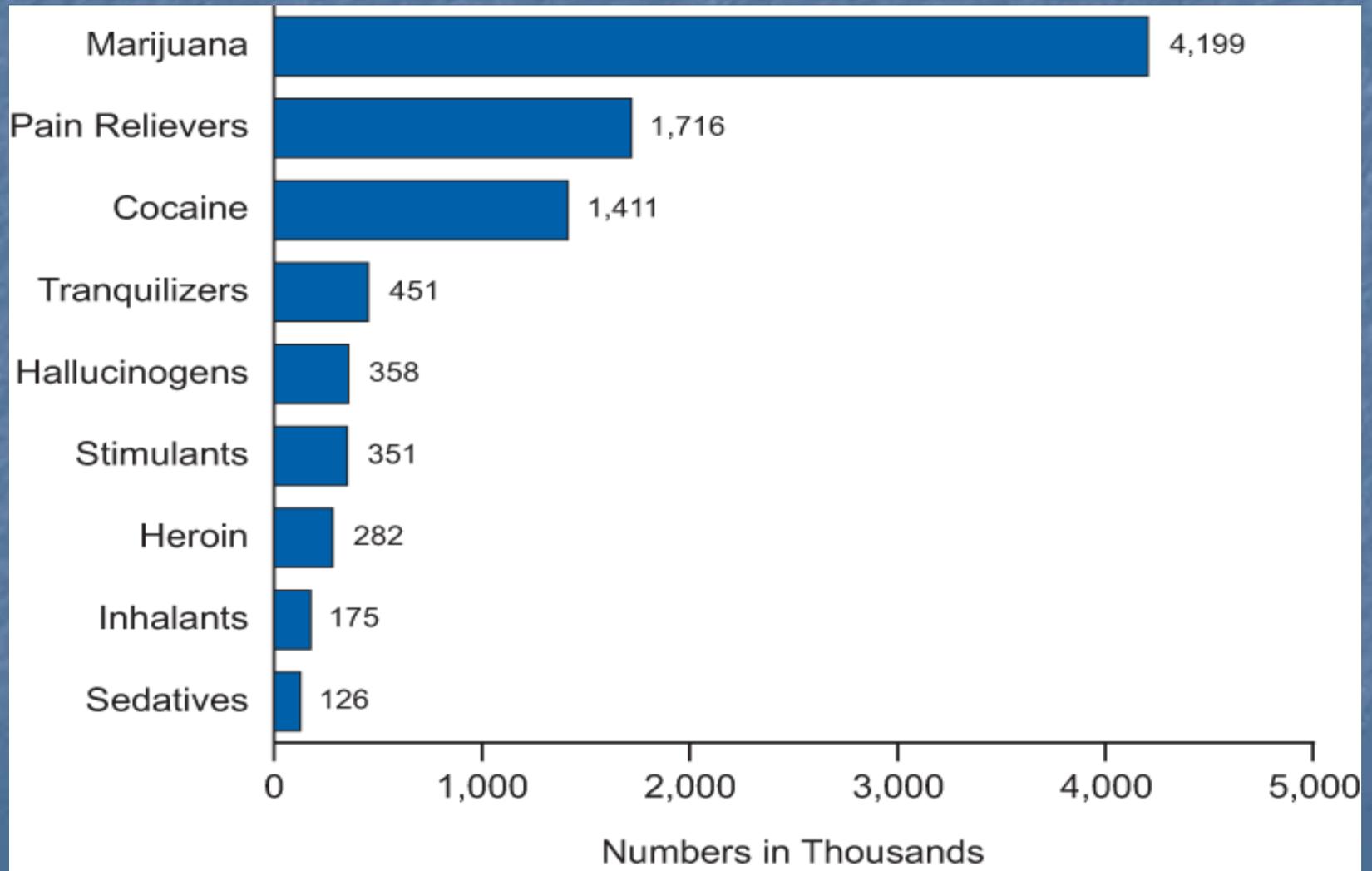
Numbers in Thousands



# Past Year Initiates for Specific Illicit Drugs among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2008



# Dependence on or Abuse of Specific Illicit Drugs in the Past Year among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2008



# Methadone deaths surpass traffic deaths in NH

**\*Trend continues:**  
Pain killer involved in more than half of fatal overdoses.

**CONCORD (AP)** — More people are dying of drug overdoses in New Hampshire than in car crashes, with methadone the leading cause of death in one of two cases.

The number of overdoses has surpassed traffic deaths for the last two years, according to the state medical examiner, Dr. Thomas Andrew. That's bizarre, Andrew said. "That's crazy."

The state had 129 traffic deaths

and 168 overdose deaths in 2007. Methadone was to blame in 57 percent of the drug deaths. In 2006, there were 177 traffic deaths and 142 drug overdose deaths, with methadone involved in 76 percent.

Those using figures are in keeping with a trend recently reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which says New Hampshire is tied for fourth in the nation in methadone-related deaths based on statistics from 2005.

Methadone is prescribed to help addicts overcome heroin addiction and as a pain killer. Officials say it is not the liquid methadone dispensed in needles at clinics that is causing the overdose deaths but the tablets prescribed by doctors to relieve pain.

In Concord, Police Chief Mi-

chael Meyer has created a task force with the Belknap County Sheriff's department to investigate unsolved methadone cases and conduct education and outreach programs in local schools. He says the drug has devastated families.

"We've been seeing drug suicides, unfortunately," he said. "We had eight people die in Concord in the last year."

Prescribing people who willfully sell methadone is difficult, said Senior Assistant Attorney General Jane Young, who works with the New Hampshire Drug Task Force.

"It's been challenging to prosecute these cases because here are all of our multiple drugs in a person's system," she said.

Also, the overdose cases don't seem usually involve a person giving away rather than selling methadone pills, Young said.

"From this office, we have not seen the trafficking of it, although we know it's there," she said.

Methadone in pill form is less expensive than other prescribed painkillers, such as OxyContin and Vicodin. For example, it can cost \$2 to 50 per OxyContin pill in a 30-day prescription. Drug dealers may sell those for \$40 each, Andrew said.

A 5 milligram methadone tablet, however, can cost 55 cents each in a typical prescription, and often are sold for \$10 each on the street, Andrew said.

Ray McGarty, executive director of Southeastern New Hampshire Services at the Seaford County complex in Dover, said methadone pills have become part of society's "gutting part" of drugs, alongside cocaine, heroin and marijuana. Southeastern is a residential substance abuse treatment center.

He said methadone is a synthetic narcotic that will not get someone as high as heroin. But people can get a similar high by taking methadone while drinking alcohol and taking other drugs, McGarty said.

Andrew and Meyer said they believe New Hampshire should create an electronic prescription monitoring program that would prevent people from getting multiple methadone prescriptions from different doctors and having them filled at various pharmacies. While it would not be a panacea, "it would be a step in the right direction," Andrew said.

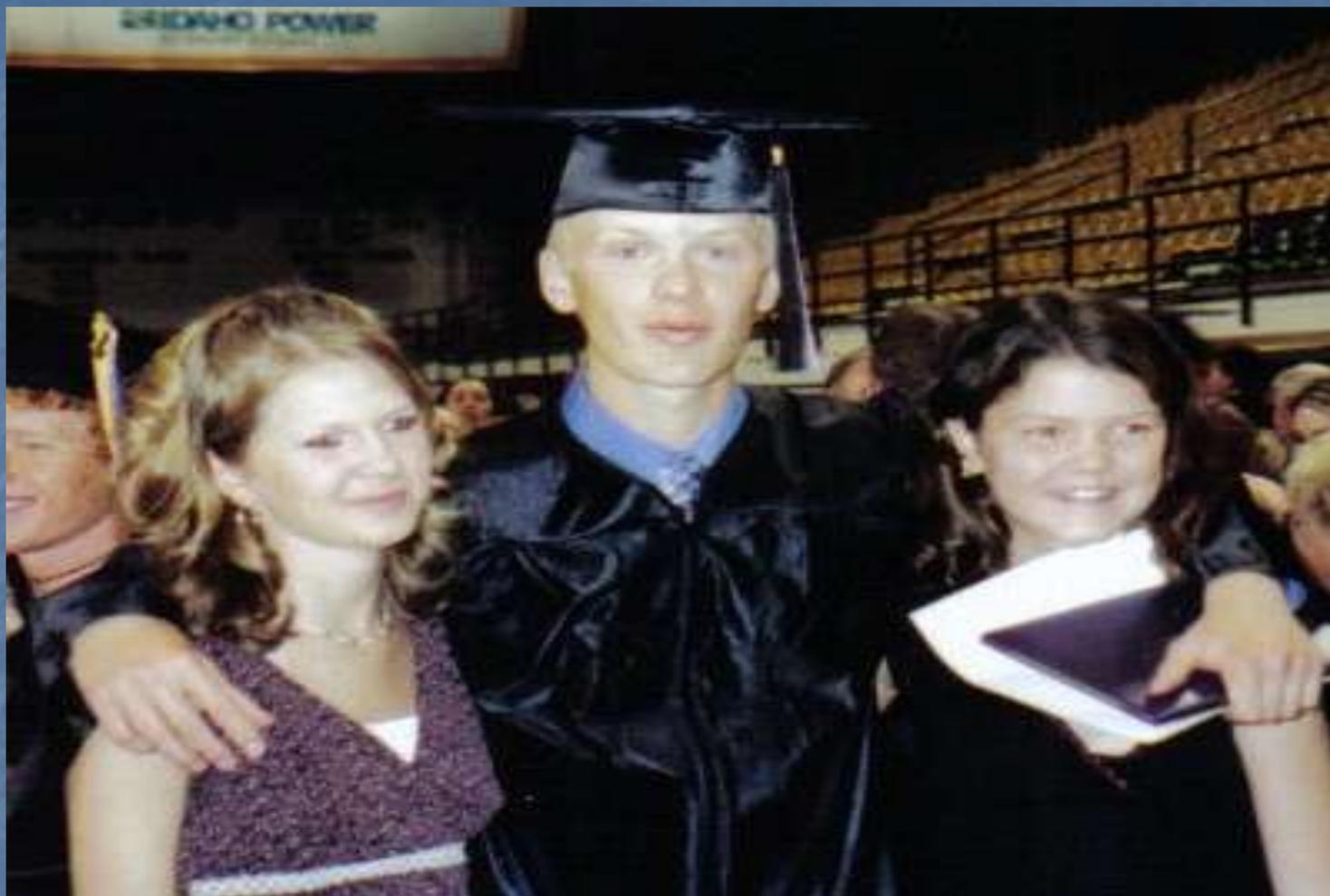
Attempts to pass such a bill in the state Legislature have stalled because some lawmakers have cited privacy concerns, he said. But Andrew said the information already is stored at pharmacies and doctors' offices.

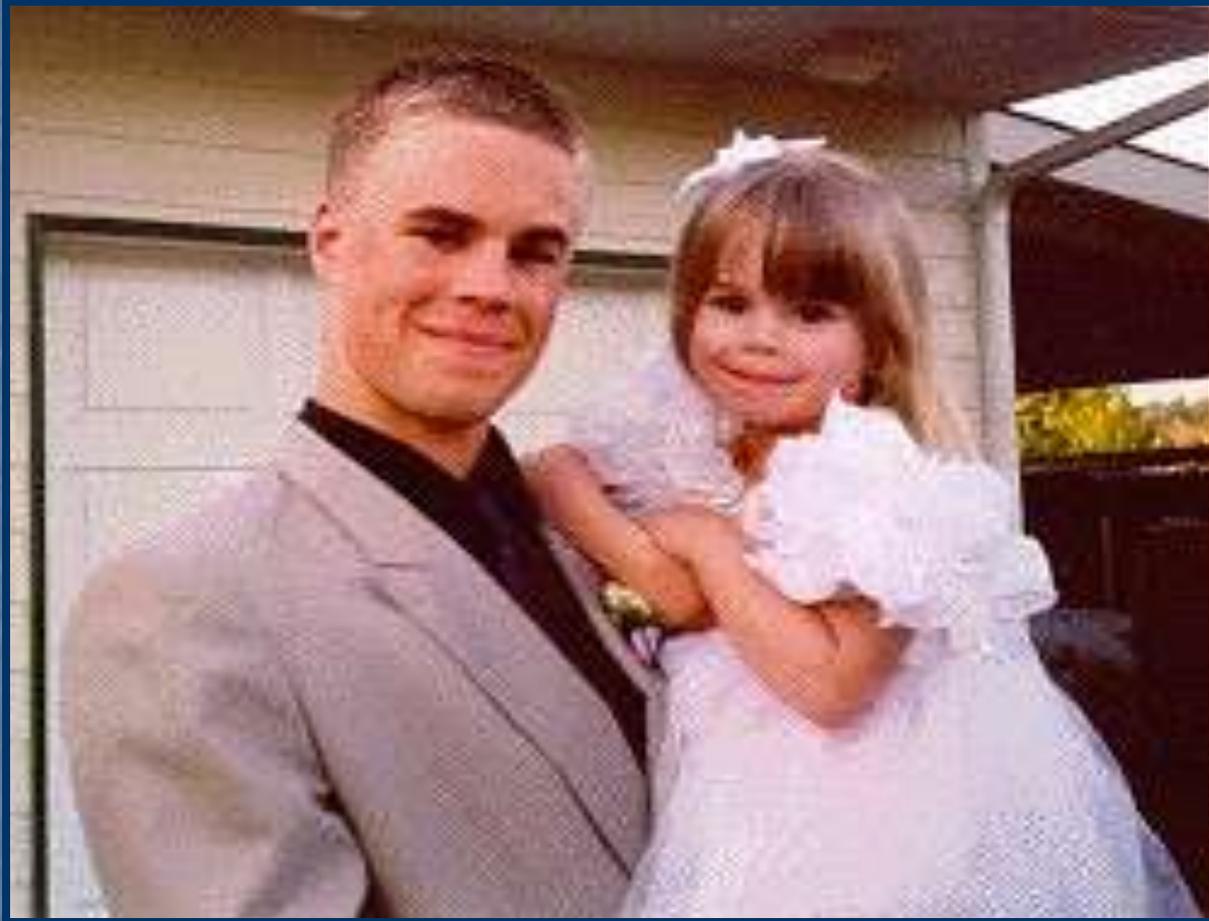
## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

By Rev. Fr. Michael J. Kelly

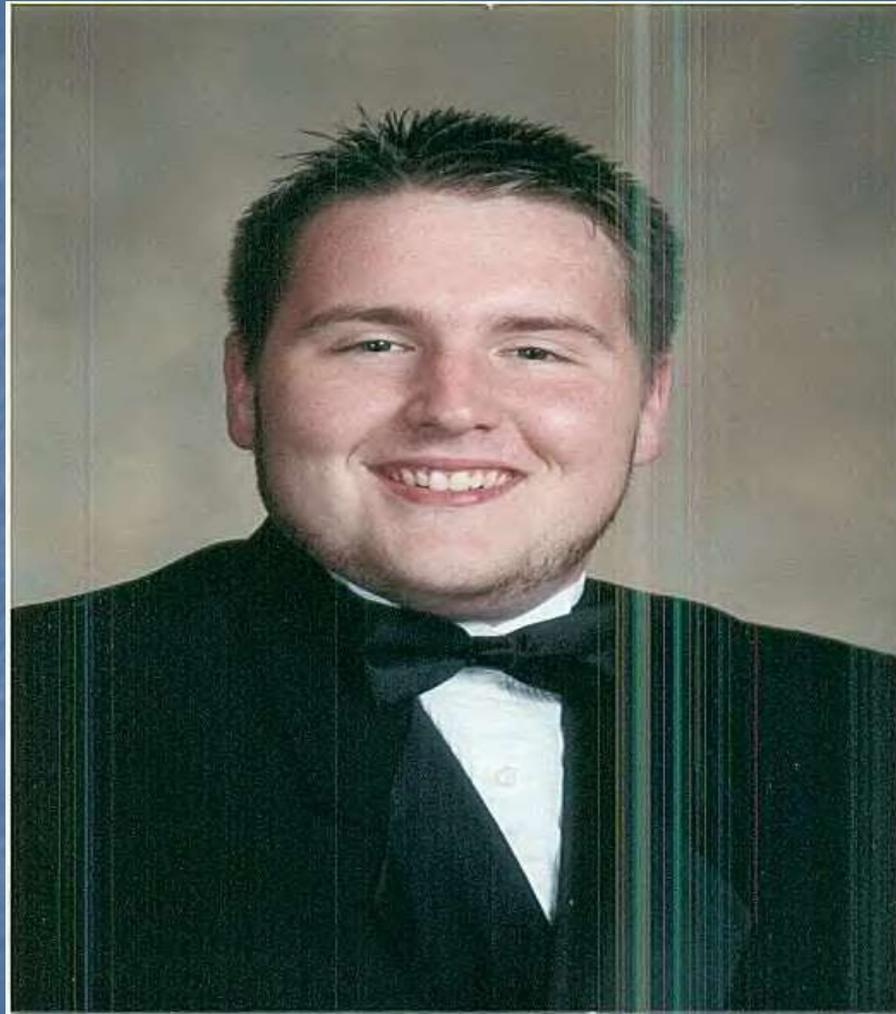
Dear God, I have a heart full of love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of God. I pray for her intercession for all of us, and for the souls in purgatory. Help me to love her and to follow her example of faith and charity. Amen.

© 2008 by the Rev. Fr. Michael J. Kelly









**Chicago  
Tribune**

Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL  
October 26, 2003

# **Prescription Drug Abuse on the Rise in America**

# The Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008: The Ryan Haight Act



- Amends the CSA to prohibit the delivery, distribution or dispensing of controlled substances over the Internet without a “valid” prescription.

# Rising methadone deaths

**Our view:** Baltimore public health officials are trying to find out if treatment for chronic pain sufferers accounts for increase in methadone overdoses

**T**HE JUNE LETTER FROM THE BALTIMORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT alerted physicians, nurses and other providers to a significant increase in methadone-related overdose deaths. The letter from Dr. Laura Herrera, a deputy city health commissioner, raised the possibility that the overdoses involved prescriptions for pain. It was a cautionary reminder that health care providers should educate their patients about the proper use of methadone and the lethal risks of taking extra doses.

Dr. Herrera was right to be concerned: Methadone-overdose deaths of city residents have risen from seven in 1995 to 74 in 2007. In 2007, the last year for which statistics are available, there was a 23 percent increase in such deaths over the previous year. The city deaths coincide with a similarly disturbing fivefold increase in methadone-related deaths nationally between 1999 and 2005. But proving that the use of methadone as a pain reliever caused these deaths isn't easy — no one tracks how many physicians prescribe methadone to relieve chronic pain from cancer or arthritis, for example.

Prescribing methadone has been an accepted form of treatment for chronic pain for some time, according to pain specialists at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical Center. They add that they have seen no methadone-related deaths among their patients. Methadone used for pain treatment is prescribed in pill form; its risk stems from the drug's potency and its lingering presence in the body once its pain-relieving function has ceased. An extra dose could slow down a patient's breathing, resulting in coma or death.

To identify the extent of the problem and the patients most at risk, the city Health Department has reviewed data from the medical examiner's office. It also has asked the quasi-public city agency that oversees drug treatment in Baltimore to cross check methadone overdose victims against its patient rosters. That's a critical aspect of the review because it could uncover misuse, abuse or diversion of methadone



Methadone tablets in a cup. BALTIMORE SUN PHOTO: JED WIRSCHING

from drug treatment centers. Or it could lend credence to the prevailing view that more training is required for private physicians who prescribe methadone for pain.

At least 29 states have prescription monitoring programs that would identify indiscriminate prescribing, doctor-shopping and other abuses. A task force established this year in Maryland is studying the possibility of establishing a similar tracking system for methadone and other controlled substances.

Until then, Dr. Herrera and her colleagues at the Health Department have moved expeditiously and forthrightly to unravel this mystery. The results of their findings are the key to understanding and reversing this disturbing trend.



## **MISSION TIMES COURIER**

**San Diego, CA**

**September 25, 2009**

**A scourge is threatening the lives of every high school age student throughout San Diego county. It is a small, round, lime-green tablet with the "80" inscribed on one-side and "OC" on the other.**

# The Boston Globe



sarah gilbert

## A New Choice in Drug Abuse Teens Turn to Prescriptions January 29, 2006

“Teenagers are experimenting with Vicodin and Klonopin even before they try traditional gateway drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.”

-Dr. John Knight, Director for the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Children's Hospital.

➤ **Health Buzz: ADHD Prescription Drug Abuse**

➤ **Accidental Poisoning Deaths Spike Upward**  
**September 2, 2009**

➤ **Drug Deaths Outpace Car Crashes in More States**  
*Prescription Painkiller Overdoses Triple, Sept. 30, 2009*

U.S. NEWS and World Report

Wednesday, August 24, 2009





**The Sydney Morning  
Herald, Feb. 15, 2008**

***Mother Found  
Guilty of Girl's  
Methadone Death.***

# Bluefield Daily Telegraph

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"Then he answered and spake to him, saying, What is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, said the LORD of hosts."

(Zechariah 4:6 ARJV)

## Overdose deaths Prescription drugs take deadly toll in WV

**A**n alarming new study has found that prescription drugs killed more people in West Virginia in 2010 than illegal drugs. According to the report, nine out of the 10 accidental overdose deaths reported in the Mountain State involved prescription drugs. Researchers in a joint state-federal study came to the troubling conclusion after studying 432 accidental overdose autopsy reports, excluding suicides and overdoses, the Associated Press reported.

The report found that one-third of the prescription drugs taken during the fatal incidents were being used as a result of a prescription issued by a doctor within the last 30 days. The report found fewer than one in four of the deaths involved illegal narcotics.

Ann Hall, a Centers for Disease Control Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, said there is a perception among some citizens that just because narcotics are legal and prescribed drugs, they are somehow safer.

The report found that methadone contributed to one of three deaths, or more than any other prescription drug. However, the report found that only 10 of the overdose victims were enrolled in a methadone clinic for drug-abuse treatment.

The report found that other opioid drugs frequently linked to accidental overdose deaths included hydrocodone

□ □ □

*We must take steps now to educate citizens of the growing number of accidental overdose deaths in the state associated with the misuse of legally prescribed drugs.*

and oxycodone. The two narcotics contributed to one in five deaths. Morphine contributed to about one in seven deaths, the report found. Anti-anxiety drugs were found in 43 percent of the deaths.

While law enforcement officials have been fighting the illegal drug scourge in our region for years, accidental overdose deaths associated with the misuse of prescription narcotics now represents an emerging epidemic for the Mountain State.

The alarming new study from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources should be viewed as a call to action for our community. We must take steps now to educate citizens of the growing number of accidental overdose deaths in the state associated with the misuse of legally prescribed drugs.

We must act now to educate our community. If we fail to act, the number of accidental overdose deaths in the state and the region could continue to rise. It will take a combined effort of public education and law enforcement cooperation to reduce these alarming statistics.









skatems.com photo: tate nations



*Miss Glamour Shots*

