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
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
- ½ of all hospitalized patients experience pain during the last days of their lives.
“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

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

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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

- One Doctor: 18.0%
- Bought/Took from Friend/Relative: 14.3%
- Drug Dealer/Stranger: 4.3%
- More than One Doctor: 2.4%
- Bought on Internet: 0.4%
- Other: 4.8%
- Free from Friend/Relative: 55.9%

Source Where Friend/Relative Obtained

- One Doctor: 81.7%
- Bought/Took from Friend/Relative: 5.4%
- Drug Dealer/Stranger: 1.6%
- More than One Doctor: 3.4%
- Bought on Internet: 0.1%
- Other: 1.6%
- Free from Friend/Relative: 6.2%

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

1 The Other category includes the sources “Wrote Fake Prescription,” “Stole from Doctor’s Office/Clinic/Hospital/Pharmacy,” and “Some Other Way.”
Specific Drug Used When Initiating Illicit Drug Use among Past Year Initiates of Illicit Drugs Aged 12 or Older: 2007

- Marijuana: 56.2%
- Pain Relievers: 19.0%
- Inhalants: 10.7%
- Tranquilizers: 6.5%
- Hallucinogens: 2.0%
- Stimulants: 4.1%
- Sedatives: 1.1%
- Cocaine: 0.6%

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

- Marijuana (56.6%)
- Pain Relievers (22.5%)
- Hallucinogens (3.2%)
- Inhalants (9.7%)
- Tranquilizers (3.2%)
- Stimulants (3.0%)
- Cocaine (0.8%)
- Sedatives (0.8%)
- Heroin (0.1%)

2.9 Million Initiates of Illicit Drugs
Past Year Initiates for Specific Illicit Drugs among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Initiates in Thousands</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain Relievers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
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<td>Tranquilizers</td>
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<td>Cocaine</td>
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<td>Inhalants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedatives</td>
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<td>Heroin</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>PCP</td>
<td>58</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Numbers in Thousands

Fig 5.2
Past Year Initiates for Specific Illicit Drugs among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2008

- Marijuana: 2,208
- Tranquilizers: 2,176
- Ecstasy: 1,127
- Inhalants: 894
- Cocaine: 729
- Stimulants: 722
- LSD: 599
- Sedatives: 394
- Heroin: 181
- PCP: 114
- Others: 53
Dependence on or Abuse of Specific Illicit Drugs in the Past Year among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2008

- Marijuana: 4,199
- Pain Relievers: 1,716
- Cocaine: 1,411
- Tranquilizers: 451
- Hallucinogens: 358
- Stimulants: 351
- Heroin: 282
- Inhalants: 175
- Sedatives: 126

Numbers in Thousands
Methadone deaths surpass traffic deaths in NH

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

CONCORD, N.H. — More people are dying of drug overdoses in New Hampshire than in car crashes, with methadone the leading cause of death in more than half of the cases.

The number of overdose deaths has surpassed traffic deaths for the last two years, according to the state medical examiner. Dr. James Andrew, whose name is less familiar to non-medical folk, said, “That's scary.”

The state had 79 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 52 percent.

These rising figures are in keeping with a trend recently reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which says New Hampshire is fourth in the nation in methadone-related deaths based on preliminary data.

Methadone is prescribed to help addicted people maintain sobriety and as a pain killer. Officials say it is not the liquid methadone dispensed by doctors but the tablets prescribed by doctors to relieve pain.

Praying, Pastoral Chief Michael Moyer has created a task force with the Lebanon County Sheriff’s department to investigate involved methadone cases and conduct education and outreach programs in local schools. He says the drug has detrimental effects.

“We've been seeing dramatic increases, unfortunately,” he said. “We had eight people die in Lebanon in the last year.”

Praying people who sell drugs, in contrast, said Lebanon Assistant Sheriff General Mark Young, who works with the New Hampshire Drug Task Force.

“It’s been challenging to prosecute these cases because there are often multiple drugs in a person’s system,” he said.

Also, the overdose cases often involve a person giving away, rather than selling, methadone pills, Young said.

From this office, we have not seen the thinking that's going on, although we are aware of it,” he said.

Methadone in pill form is less expensive than other prescribed painkillers such as Oxycodone and Vicodin. For example, it can cost $50 per day for the pill in an 80-milligram prescription.

“He’s going to be a problem,” Dr. Andrew said.

Andrew and Moyer said they believe New Hampshire should enact an alarmingly prescription monitoring program that would prevent people from getting multiple medications prescribed by 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, which is being considered by the state legislature, have run aground because some lawmakers have voted against it.
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 suffers accounts for increase in methadone overdoses

The 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 said 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 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.
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.
A New Choice in Drug Abuse
Teens Turn to Prescriptions
January 29, 2006

“Teenagers are experimenting with Vicodin and Klonipin 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

The Sydney Morning Herald, Feb. 15, 2008

Mother Found Guilty of Girl’s Methadone Death.
Overdose deaths
Prescription drugs take deadly toll in WV

An alarming new study has found that prescription drugs killed more people in West Virginia in 2018 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 732 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 five of the deaths involved illegal narcotics.

Aran Hall, a Center 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 or 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 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 42 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.