

The Rise in Stimulant Prescribing

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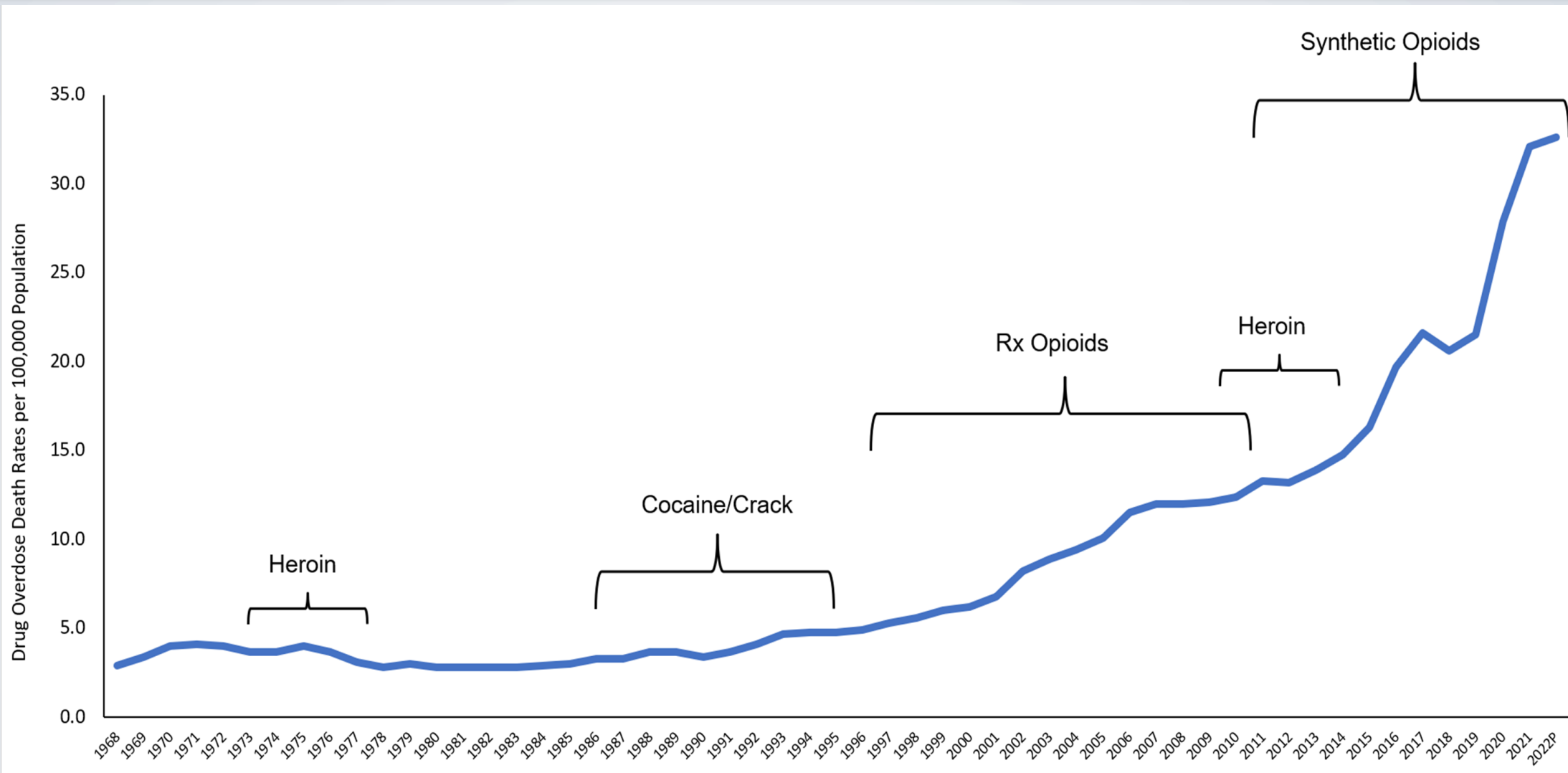


Virtually all U.S. regions have experienced rising overdose death rates over the past two decades.

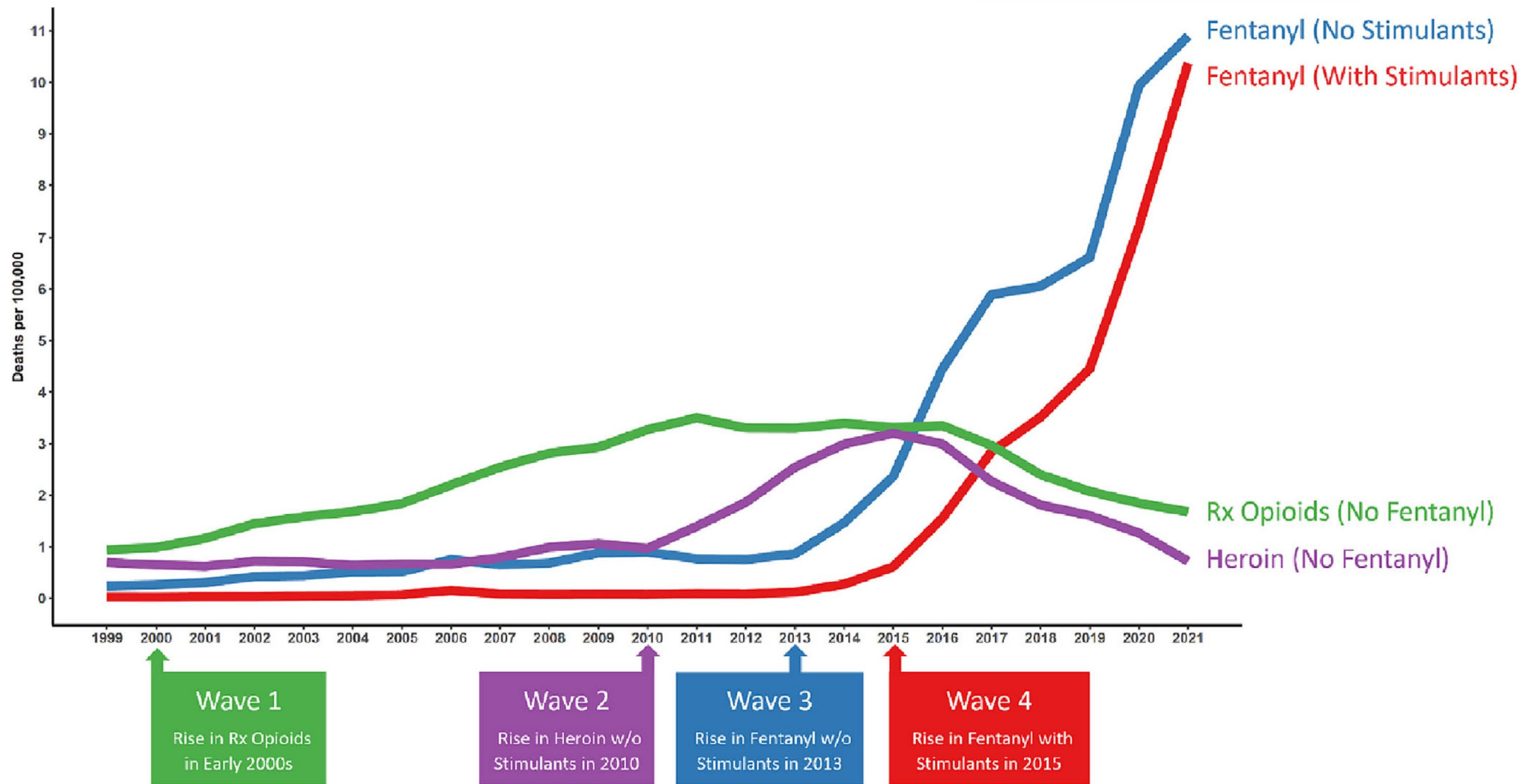
- 107,543 reported deaths in 2023
- 82,000 from opioids (prescription and illicit)
- 87,000 predicted deaths (October 2023 – September 2024)*

* CDC Press Release, February 25, 2025

TRAJECTORY OF THE U.S. OVERDOSE CRISIS



CHARTING THE FOURTH WAVE: POLYSUBSTANCE TRENDS



HOW DID WE GET HERE? 1980



Vol. 302 No. 2

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDICTION RARE IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH NARCOTICS

To the Editor: Recently, we examined our current files to determine the incidence of narcotic addiction in 39,946 hospitalized medical patients' who were monitored consecutively. Although there were 11,882 patients with a history of addiction.

We conclude that despite widespread use of narcotic drugs in hospitals, the development of addiction is rare in medical patients with no history of addiction.

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1. Jick H, Miettinen OS, Shapiro S, Lewis GP, Siskind Y, Slone D. Comprehensive drug surveillance. *JAMA*. 1970; 213:1455-60.
2. Miller RR, Jick H. Clinical effects of meperidine in hospitalized medical patients. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 1978; 18:180-8.

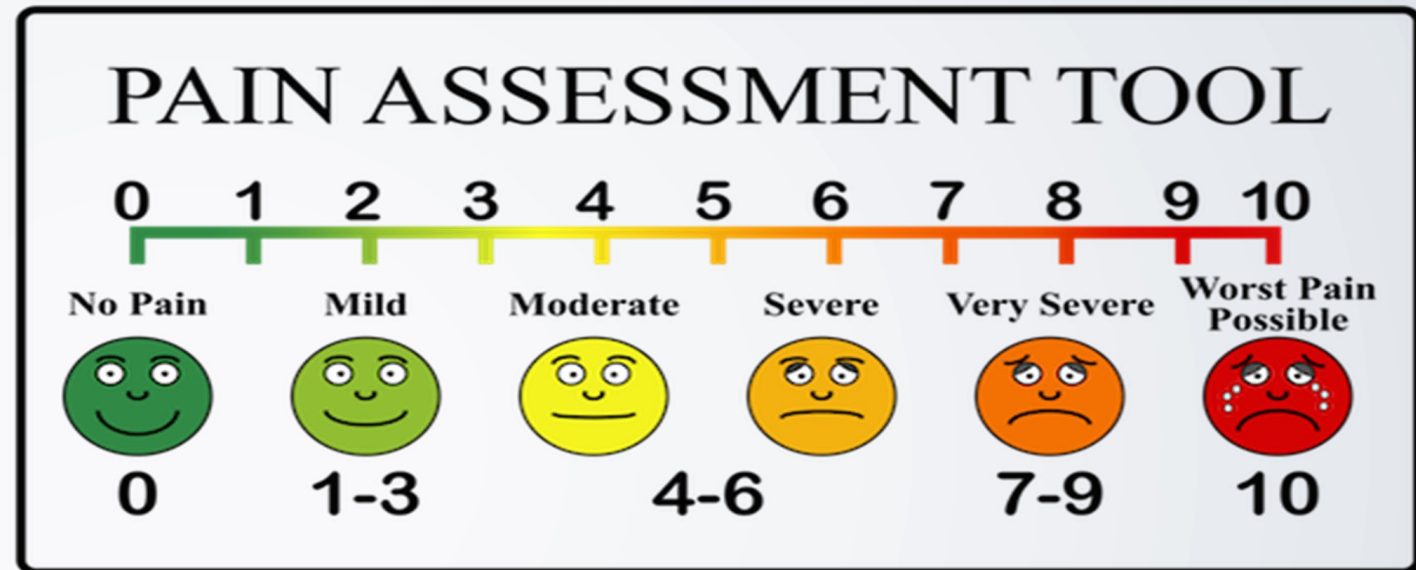
THE FIFTH VITAL SIGN



1990 – Initiated by the American Pain Society

2001 – Joint Commission (JCAHO) introduced standards to improve the care of patients in pain

1. Temperature
2. Heart Rate
3. Blood Pressure
4. Respiration
5. Pain



EXPLOITATION OF THE INTERNET - 2005



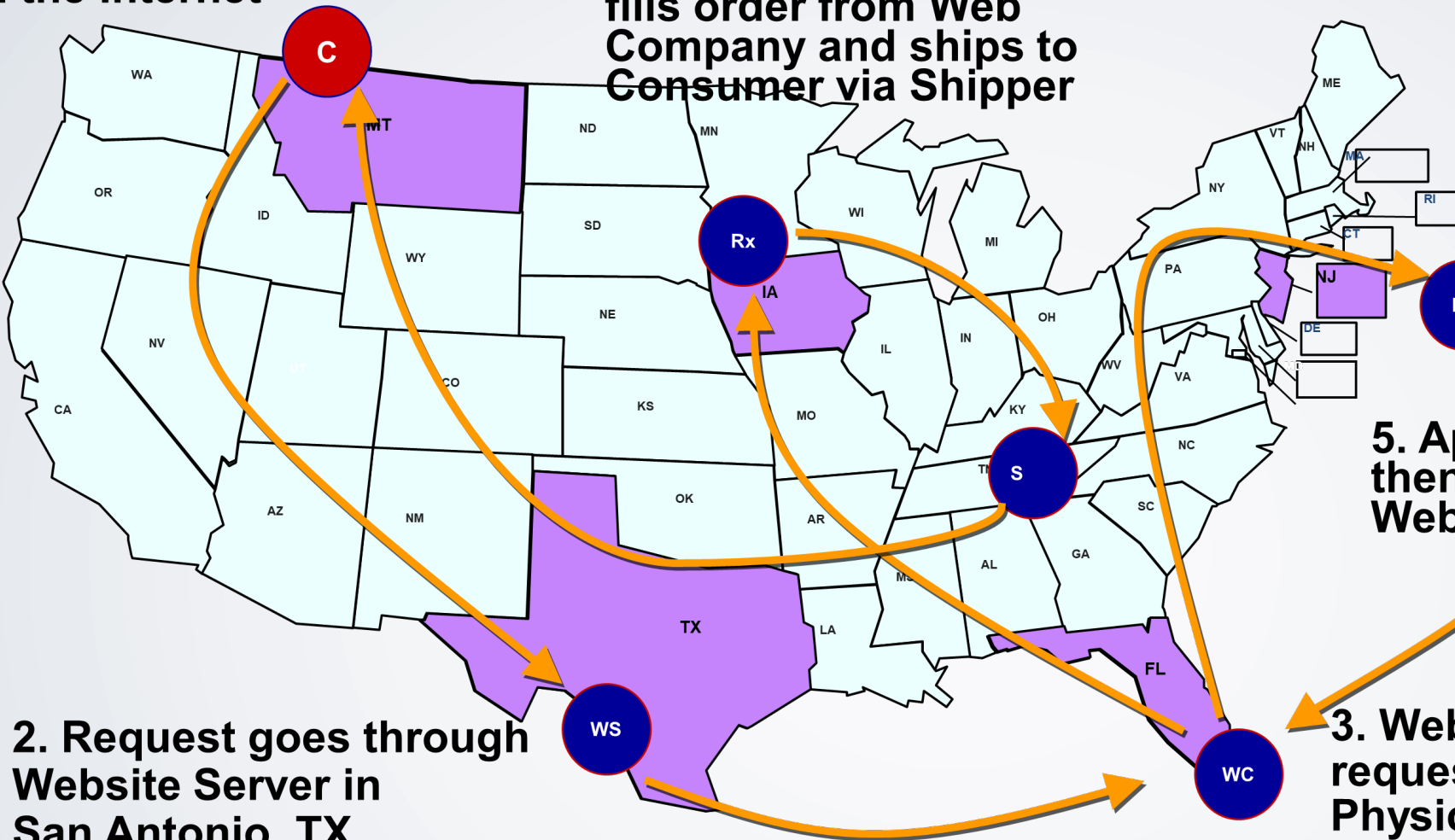
1. Consumer in Montana orders hydrocodone on the Internet

6. Pharmacy in Iowa fills order from Web Company and ships to Consumer via Shipper

4. Order is approved by Physician in New Jersey

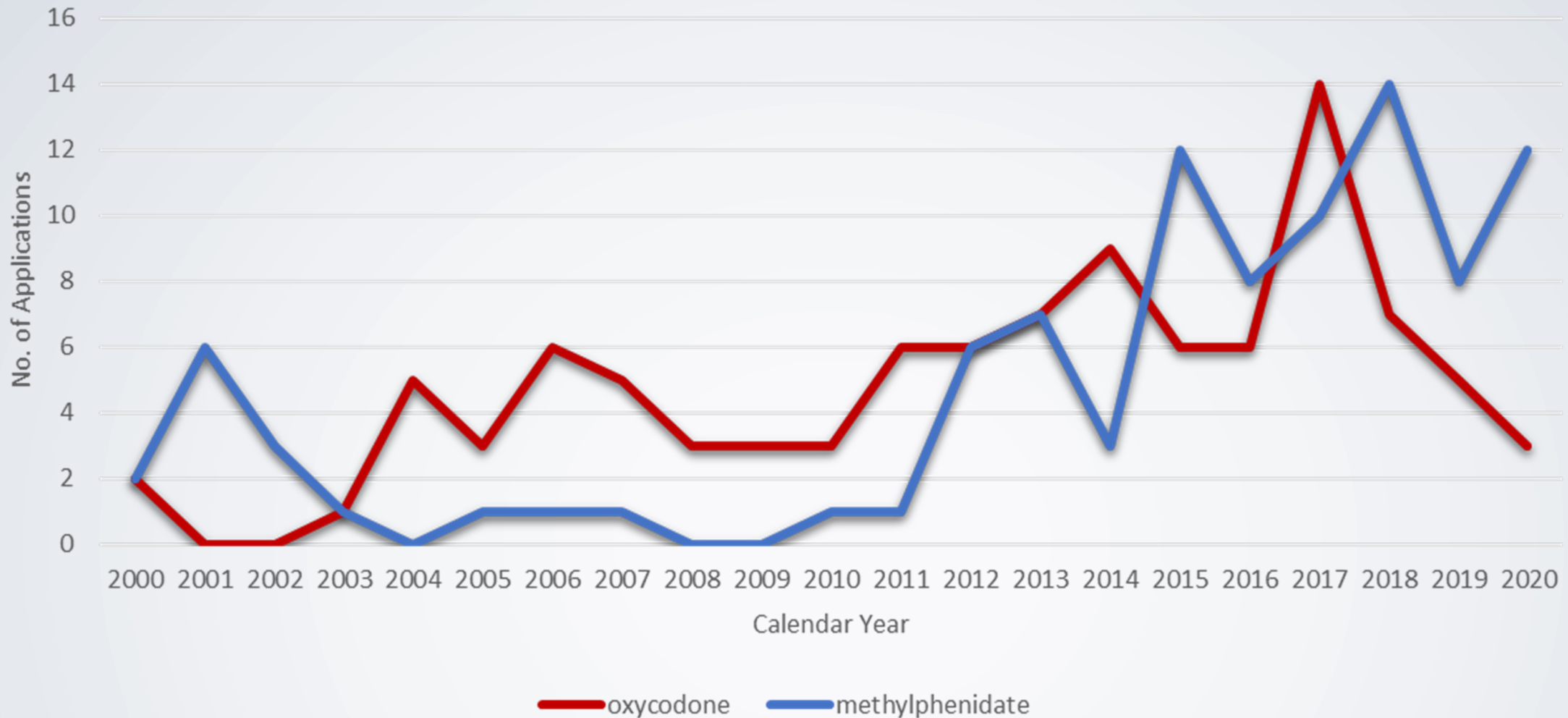
5. Approved order then sent back to the Web Company

3. Web Company adds request to queue for Physician approval



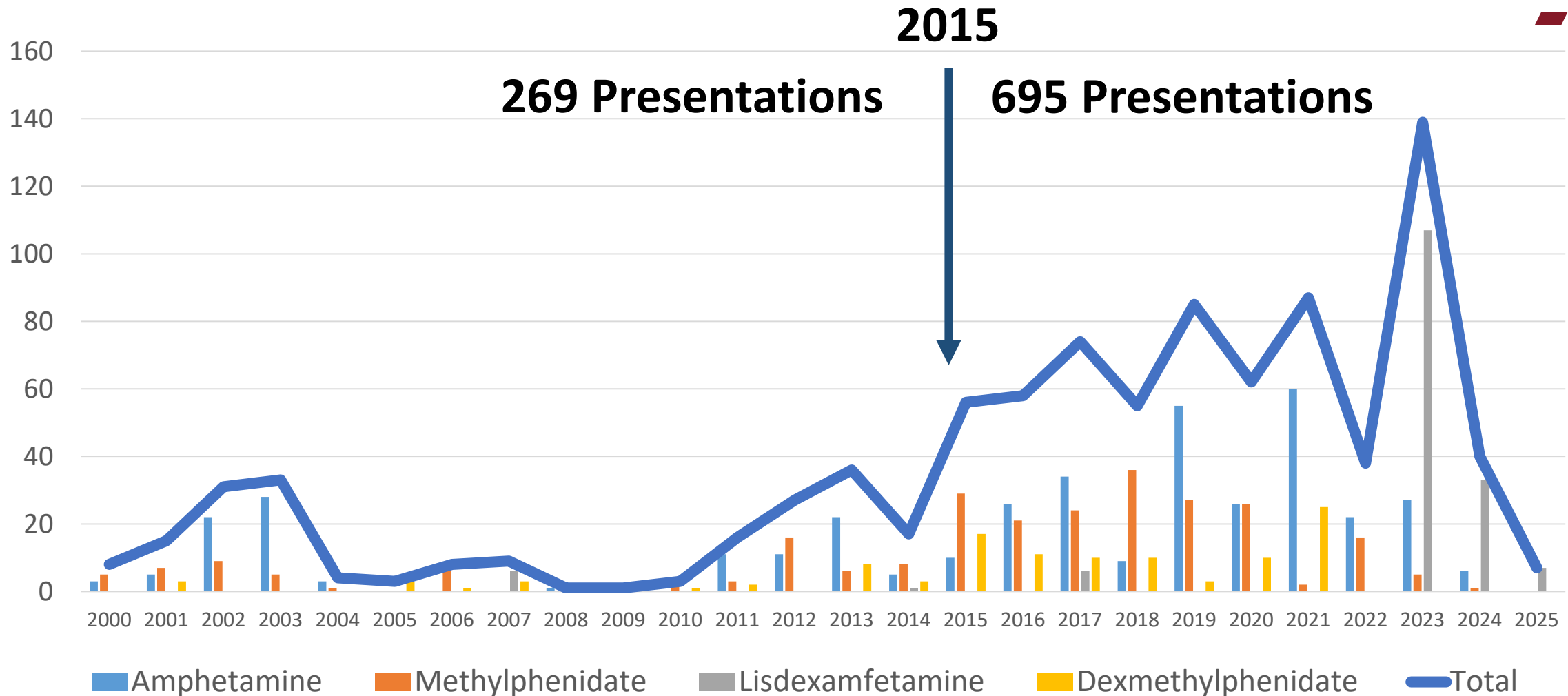
2. Request goes through Website Server in San Antonio, TX

COMPETITION – FDA DRUG APPROVALS



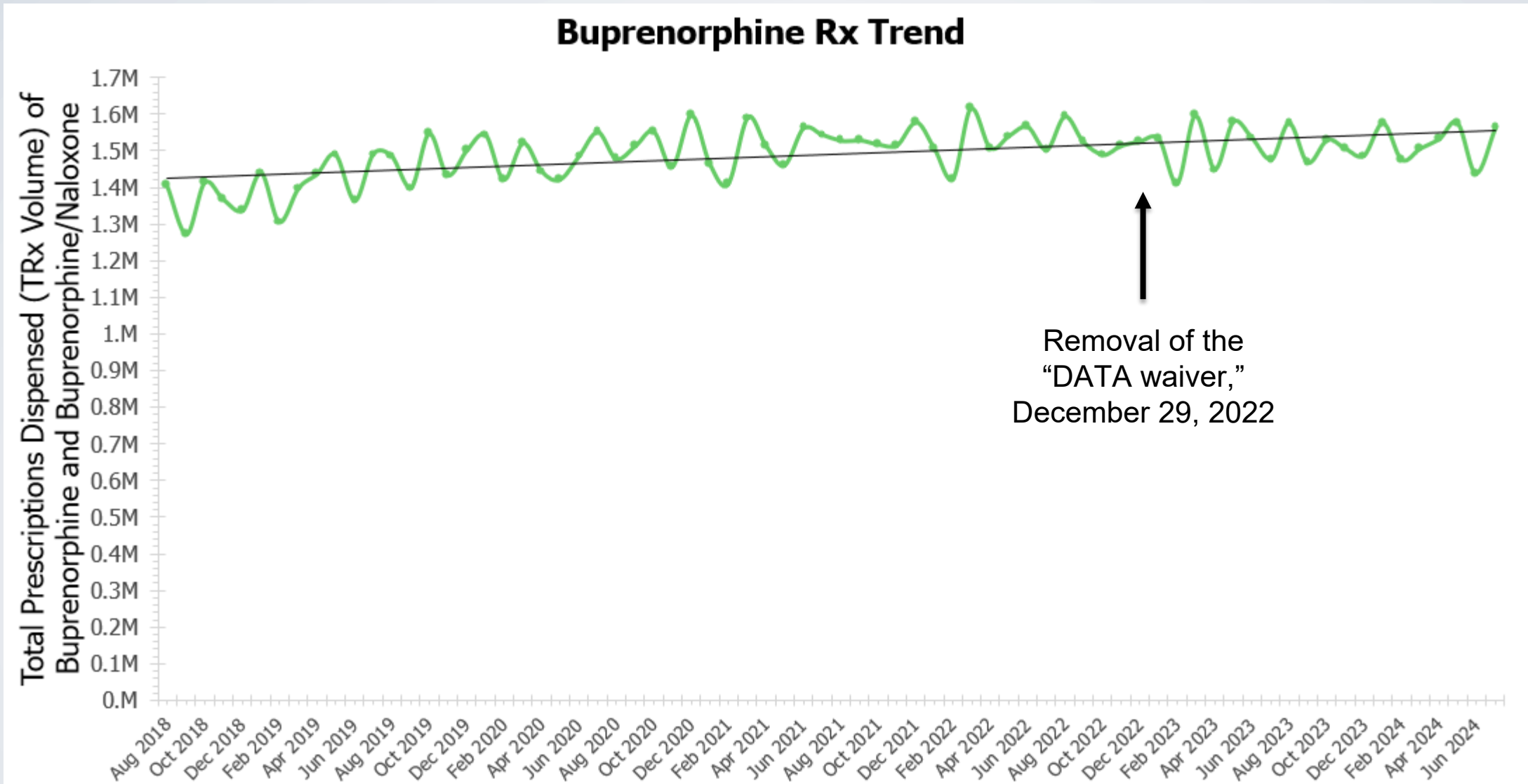
Source: FDA Orange Book, retrieved March 10, 2021

FDA DRUG APPROVALS

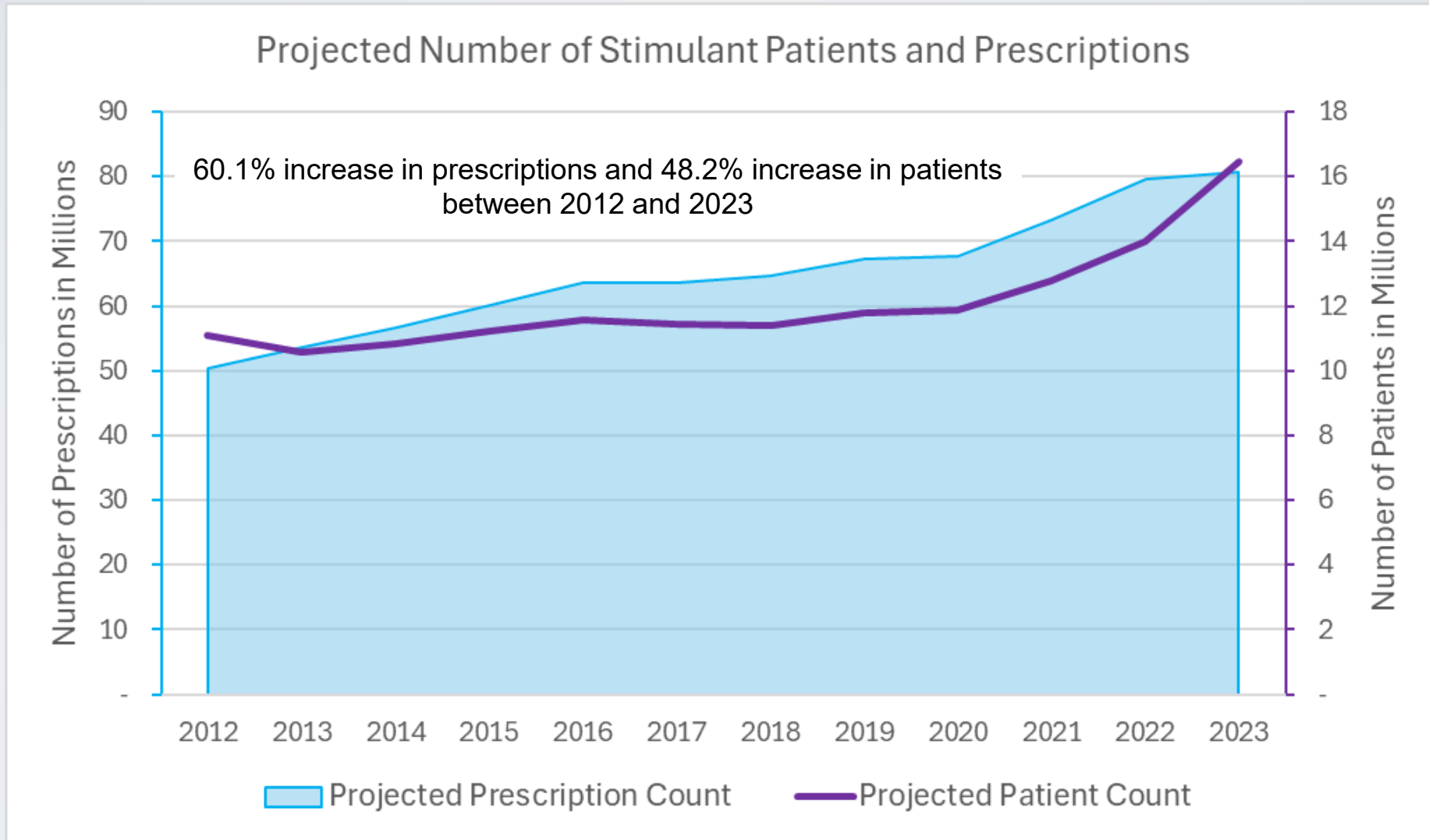


Source: FDA Orange Book, retrieved March 13, 2025

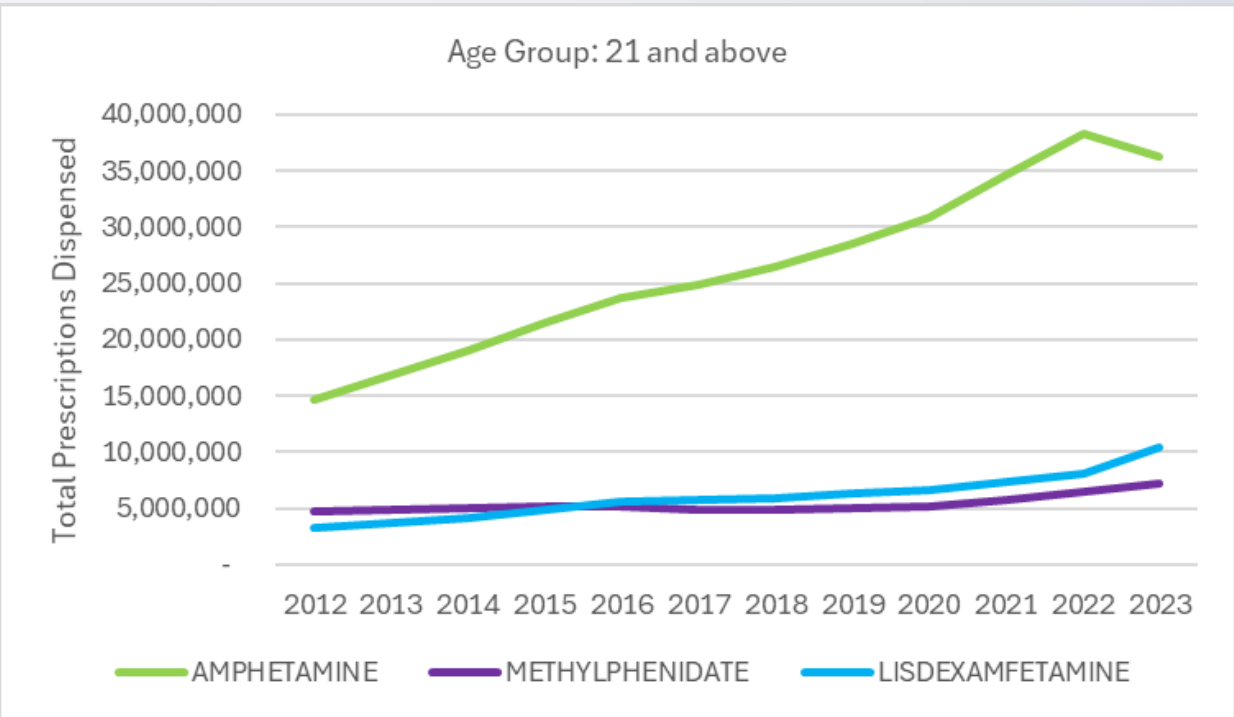
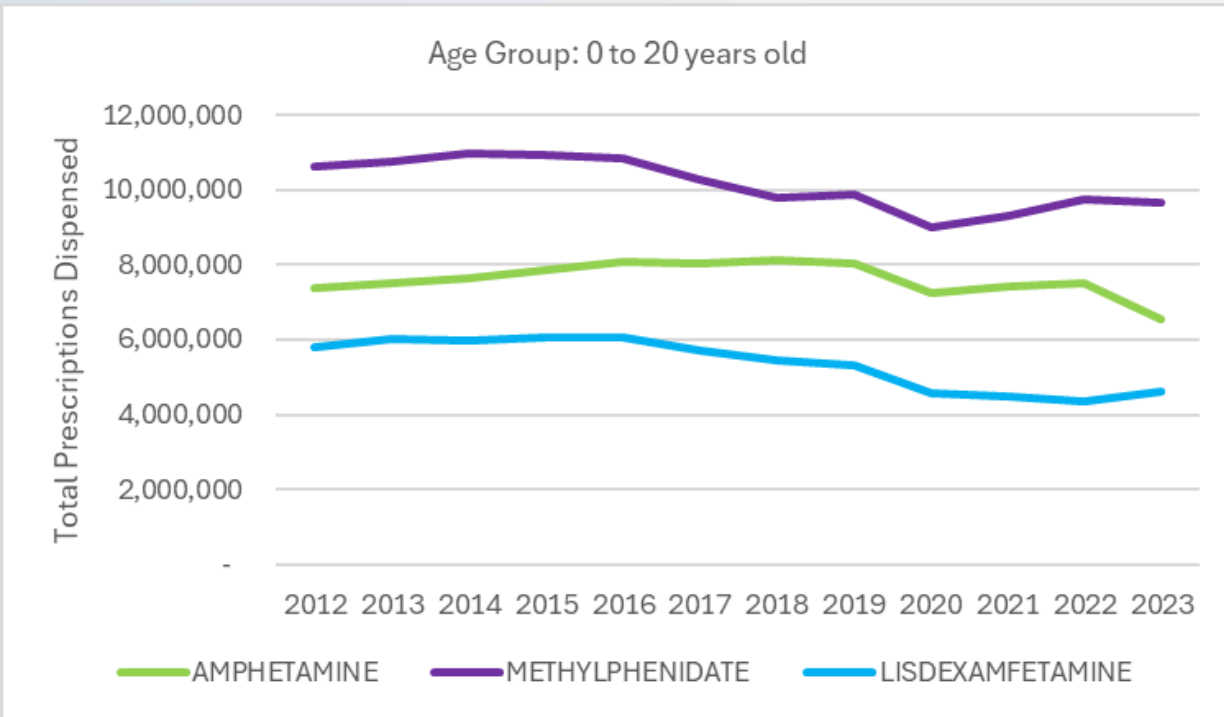
TREATMENT - BUPRENORPHINE



STIMULANT USE



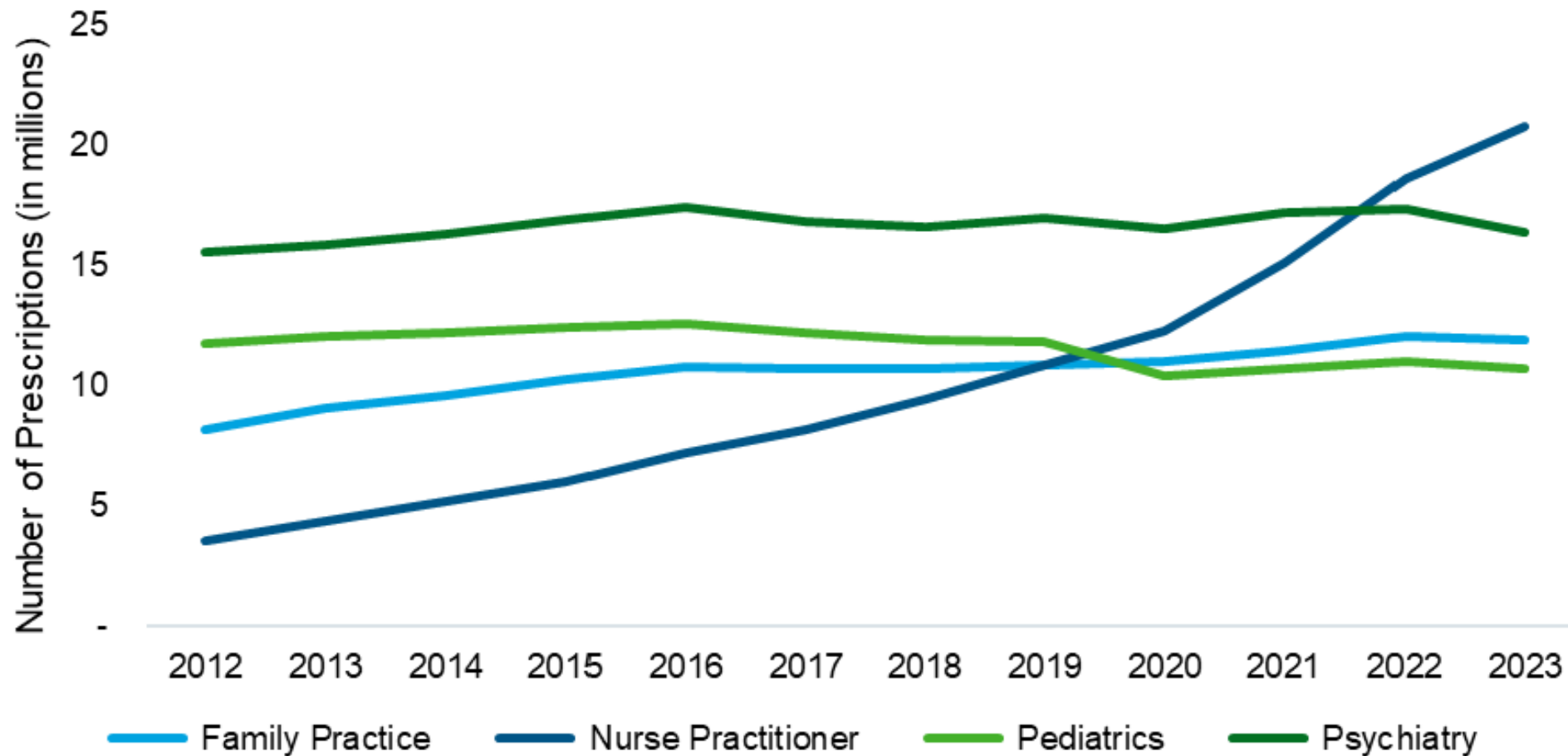
STIMULANT PRESCRIBING IN ADULTS



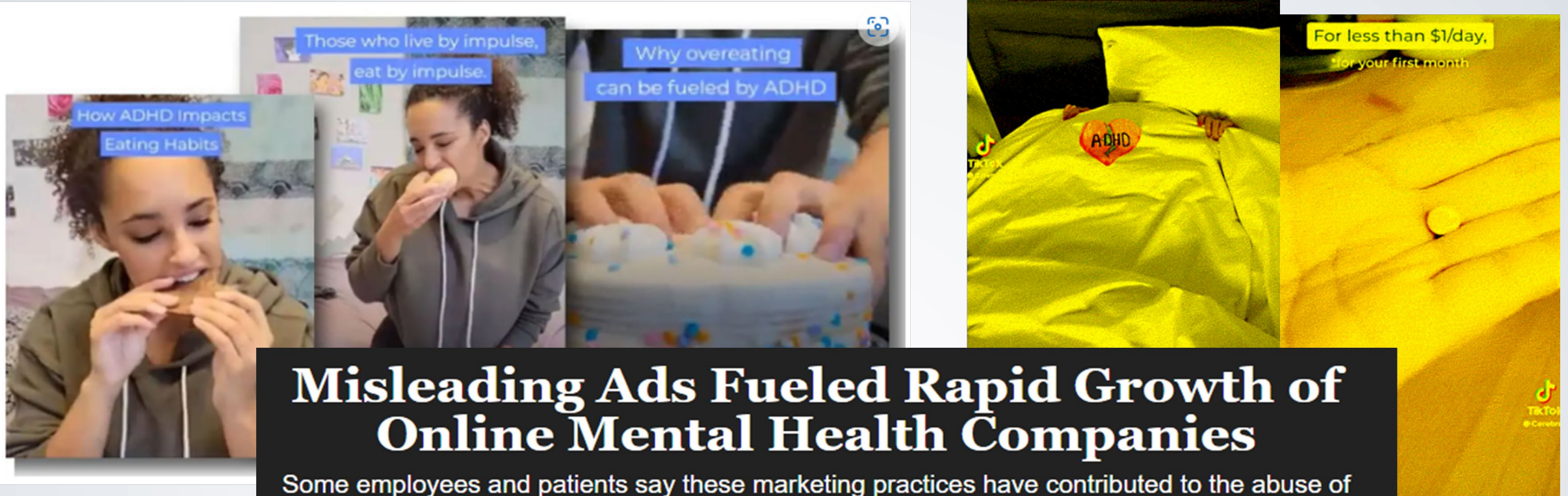
STIMULANT PRESCRIBERS BY SPECIALTY



Figure 4. Projected Stimulant Prescriptions by Top Prescriber Specialties (2012 – 2023)



DTC MARKETING – SOCIAL MEDIA



Misleading Ads Fueled Rapid Growth of Online Mental Health Companies

Some employees and patients say these marketing practices have contributed to the abuse of controlled substances

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

EASY ACCESS VIA TELEMEDICINE



Brightside Health

Individual Therapy
Medication Management

Treatment for anxiety, depression,
& insomnia

\$95 - \$349 monthly

Insurance Accepted

Video or Phone Sessions
Texting between sessions

Medication Prescribed

Cerebral

Individual Therapy
Medication Management

Treatment for anxiety,
depression, ADHD,
insomnia, addictions, & more




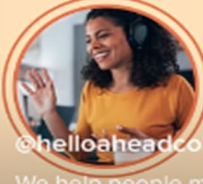

\$99 - \$325 monthly

Insurance Accepted


Video or Phone Sessions
Texting between sessions

Medication Prescribed

< With *ahead* there's a Simplified Treatment

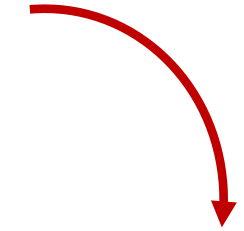
-  **1** Fill Out An Online Form
-  **2** Prescriptions Delivered 
5779
-  **3** Appointments are online 
396

@helloaheadco · 2/17
We help people manage ADHD. Get started now!
Promoted Music Pro

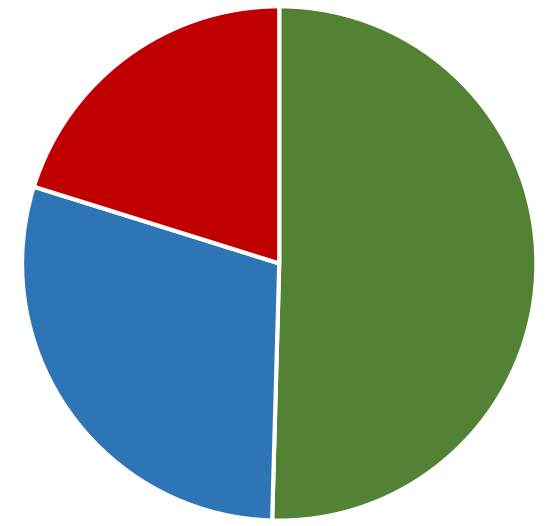


Drug Shortages for Controlled Substances

	March 2024	March 2025
Total Presentations	1894	1944
Total CS Presentations	396 (21%)	443 (23%)
Lisdexamfetamine	87	100
Amphetamine	73	73
Methylphenidate	39	55
Morphine	29	29
Hydromorphone	22	27
Fentanyl	20	30
Remifentanil	9	9
Sufentanil	4	4
Oxycodone	3	
Methamphetamine	2	2



Schedule II Stimulants



■ Available ■ Limited ■ Unavailable ■

80% of schedule II stimulants listed as being in Shortage are either:


- available
- limited availability

TIME AND SPACE FOR CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS




Top Ten Pill Imprints Seen As Counterfeits by Pill Count

(Select Image to View Stats for the Imprint)

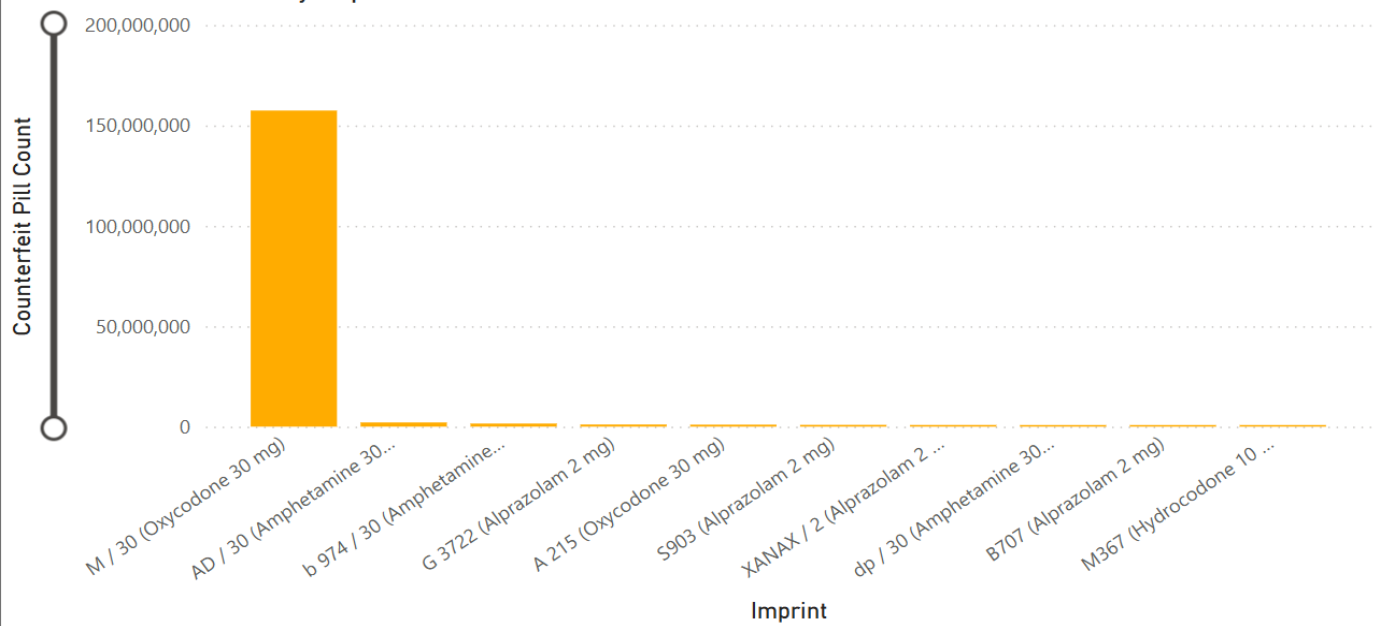
 M / 30 (Oxycodone 30 mg)	 S903 (Alprazolam 2 mg)
 AD / 30 (Amphetamine 30 mg)	 XANAX / 2 (Alprazolam 2 mg)
 b 974 / 30 (Amphetamine 30 mg)	 dp / 30 (Amphetamine 30 mg)
 G 3722 (Alprazolam 2 mg)	 B707 (Alprazolam 2 mg)
 A 215 (Oxycodone 30 mg)	 M367 (Hydrocodone 10 mg/Acetar)

<p>168,856,886</p> <p>Counterfeit Pill Count</p>	<p>36,184</p> <p>Counterfeit Exhibit Count</p>
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Reset All Filters

Counterfeit Pill Count by Imprint



Source: DEA, extracted August 26, 2025

HALLMARKS OF A DRUG OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC



- ✓ Public Health Concern - undertreatment of pain
- ✓ Free market forces – competition, DTC advertising, social media
- ✓ Prescription growth, expansion
- ✓ Intervention – Public Health and Public Safety Officials – limits supply; drug shortages; expanding treatment options
- ✓ Transnational Criminal Organization Exploitation – counterfeiting
- ✓ Lagging Use of Treatment Medications – especially when they are controlled substances

Thank You