The New Dynamics of Heroin/Opioid Trafficking & Abuse
Prescription Drug Abuse: Is there really a problem?

The misuse of prescription drugs is more prevalent than the use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA, and PCP... COMBINED!
Popular Prescription Drugs of Abuse

- Oxycodone: OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan
- Oxymorphone: Opana
- Amphetamine-based: Adderall
- Hydrocodone: Vicodin, Norco, Lortab
- Alprazolam: Xanax
- Suboxone
- Valium
Present Day Reality

Every Demographic Susceptible

5% of World Population
99% of Hydrocodone Consumed
85% of Oxycodone Consumed

80% of New Heroin Abusers Start with Opioids
Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs

Can someone die from abusing prescription drugs?  

**YES**

Deaths from prescription drugs have outpaced deaths from heroin and cocaine combined…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Heroin Deaths</th>
<th>Prescription Opioid Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8,260</td>
<td>16,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>10,574</td>
<td>18,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prescription Drugs: Abuse Leading to Addiction

• 41% of teenagers regard prescription drugs as “much safer” than traditional drugs of abuse like heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine
• Almost 4 in 10 Teens (38%) who have abused a prescription drug obtained it from their parent’s medicine cabinet
• Nearly 3/4s of teens (73%) indicate that it’s easy to get prescription drugs from their parent’s medicine cabinet
• Over half of parents (55%) say that anyone can access their medicine cabinet
• High school students who legitimately take prescription opioids are 1/3 more likely to misuse the drug by age 23 than those with no history of the prescription
Where are these drugs coming from?

Practitioner Diversion

Internet

RX Fraud

Pain Clinics

Doctor Shopping

Medicine Cabinet

Friends
DRUG OVERDOSES CAUSED MORE DEATHS IN 2015 THAN FIREARMS OR VEHICLE CRASHES

Firearm deaths

36,252

Vehicle crash deaths

38,300¹

Drug overdose deaths

Heroin & Opioids

33,091

52,404

¹ – estimate

SOURCE National Safety Council and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Daily Crisis: By the Numbers

All Overdose Deaths (144 per Day)

- Opioids & Heroin: 63%
- All Others: 37%

Epidemic Fueled by Demand: Opioid Cycle that Leads to Heroin
Supply: Mexican Cartels to Violent Gang Distribution Networks

Heroin/Prescription Opioid Overdose Epidemic:
- 144 Drug overdose deaths per day
- 63% of those deaths are pharmaceutical opioids or heroin related

Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)
National Overdose Deaths
Number of Deaths from Opioid Drugs

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder
Opioid Epidemic: Historical Perspective

The graph illustrates the trend of OD (Overdose) deaths associated with drug epidemics over the years. The x-axis represents the years from 1970 to 2004, and the y-axis represents the crude rate per 100,000 population.

The graph shows a significant increase in OD deaths from 1996 onwards, particularly for opioids. The rates for crack cocaine also show an increase, but the opioid trend is more pronounced.

Key points:
- The crude rate for OD deaths/Drug Epidemic shows a steady increase from 1970 to 2004.
- The opioid trend is more significant compared to crack cocaine.
- The year 1996 marks a notable rise in opioid-related OD deaths.
South Carolina: Prescription Opioid Disbursement (2014)

• 272,818,351
• 56 Per Person
Local Stats (Opioids & Heroin): Tri-County Charleston

Charleston County
OD Death Rate: 70% higher than the national average (2016)
Opioids Dispensed: 15,676,050 (2014)
Population: 381,015 Per Person: 41

Dorchester County
OD Death Rate: 182% higher than NA (2015)
Opioids Dispensed: 7,431,890 (2014)
Population: 148,469 Per Person: 50

Berkeley County
OD Death Rate: 200% higher than NA
Opioids Dispensed: 10,521,904 (2014)
Population: 198,205 Per Person: 53
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>OD Death Rate</th>
<th>Opioids Dispensed</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon County</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>2,146,402 (2014)</td>
<td>34,113</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee County</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>996,511 (2014)</td>
<td>18,343</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter County</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>4,395,821 (2014)</td>
<td>107,919</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsburg County</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>2,044,885 (2014)</td>
<td>32,695</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Local Stats (Opioids & Heroin): What’s the Effect?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Opioids Dispensed:</th>
<th>Per Person:</th>
<th>OD Death Rate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasper County</td>
<td>843,484 (2014)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>5,064,396 (2014)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland County</td>
<td>12,234,250 (2014)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington County</td>
<td>7,431,890 (2014)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Starts with a low-level hydrocodone narcotic prescription, e.g. Vicodin, Lortab, or Lorcet

• Once addiction and tolerance occur, stronger narcotic is preferred such as Oxycodone-based drugs, e.g. Percocet or Percodan

• Eventually, an even more potent prescription drug, e.g. OxyContin, whose effect can last up to 12 hours at a cost of $25-$80 (street value) per pill is sought

• Due to high cost of OxyContin, a cheaper alternative “heroin” can be bought at $10 per dosage unit
Heroin: A Primary Drug of Concern

- Increased demand largely being driven by prescription drug abusers switching to heroin which is cheaper and more readily available
- Some OxyContin abusers switched to heroin after reformulation made it more difficult to abuse
- States, cities, and communities report increasing heroin overdose deaths
- Heroin highly addictive both psychologically and physically
- Heroin effects: slows breathing → respiratory failure
- Chronic use → collapsed veins, heart lining and valves infection, liver and kidney disease, abscesses
Heroin Overdose Deaths

From 2010 to 2015
Heroin death rate nearly quadrupled!!!!!
Powerful Opioids

- Marketed as “heroin”
- Cutting agent of “heroin”
- Multiple cases of “immediate” death
- “Death Drives Up Demand”
- Drugs Are Prolifically Available in SC

OPIN POTENCY

Carfentanil
Pink
Fentanyl
Grey Death
Heroin: Sources of Supply

- Mexican Cartels – Fortune 500 Enterprises, Market Analysis, Supply Meets Demand
- Traditional Local Drug Suppliers Expanding Product Line
- The Internet – Small Quantities, Easily Purchased, Difficult to Track
- The Dark Web – Readily Available, Difficult to Infiltrate
- Unscrupulous Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists
(U) United States: Areas of Influence of Major Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations

FDO - Field Division | DO - District Office | RO - Resident Office

(U) Cartel presence is measured by active Consolidated Priority Organization Target cases in FY16 and levels of influence are weighted based on the number of cases against population density. Source: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), current as of February 2016.
Fentanyl Investigations

- Transdermal transmission
- False positives for any powdery substance
- Danger to Police
  - K-9 units → 9 deaths nationwide
  - Police personnel → respiratory arrest
- Require Level A-4 Suit
Solutions: Cutting Off the Source of Supply
Community & Professional Partnerships: Critical Piece for Success

- Law Enforcement unable to solve problem alone
- Diversion control plays a role
- Community & Professional Outreach
  - Educate & Inform
  - Bring behaviors in line with gravity and reality
  - Treatment and support of existing addicts
Questions?

Thank You!

Jason Sandoval
(843) 308-6660
Jason.J.Sandoval@usdoj.gov