

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE: THE NEW EPIDEMIC

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

48,000,000 Americans have taken prescription drugs for non-medical use in their lifetime.

❖ 20% of the population



2003 Survey on Drug Use and Health

6.3 million Americans older than 12 used prescription drugs non-medically for the first time

- ❖ 4.7 million - opiates
- ❖ 2.1 million - sedatives
- ❖ 1.2 million - stimulants



The Referral Center, Oklahoma City

**Dr. Hal Vorse reports 40% admissions
currently are for detoxification from
prescription medicine.**



DEFINITION: non-medical use of a prescribed drug of escalating use – not necessarily *DSM IV* criteria for abuse and dependence.



Drugs of Abuse

-- any medication, but primarily psychoactive drug

1.Sedatives – benzodiazepines, Xanax, Ativan, Valium, Klonopin, Ambien

2.Opiates – narcotics, morphine, Oxycodone, Vicodin, Oxycontin, methadone, opium derivation

3.Stimulants – amphetamine, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Adderall



Oklahoma – 2007

Substances most diverted:

Vicodin

Lortab

Diazepam

Alprazolam

Fentanyl

Codeine-based cough syrups

Methadone



87,000 Oklahomans who obtain
drugs from the medical community
sell them or use them for
non-medical reasons.



The Problem is Global

- ❖ transcends age groups
- ❖ pediatric disease
- ❖ middle school to elderly
- ❖ women and elderly more frequently victimized
- ❖ socioeconomic status bias



Tolerance and Withdrawal

- ❖ Alcohol – 10-15 years
- ❖ Opiates -- 2 years
- ❖ Benzodiazepines -- months



Deaths in Oklahoma – 2006

Chief Medical Officer

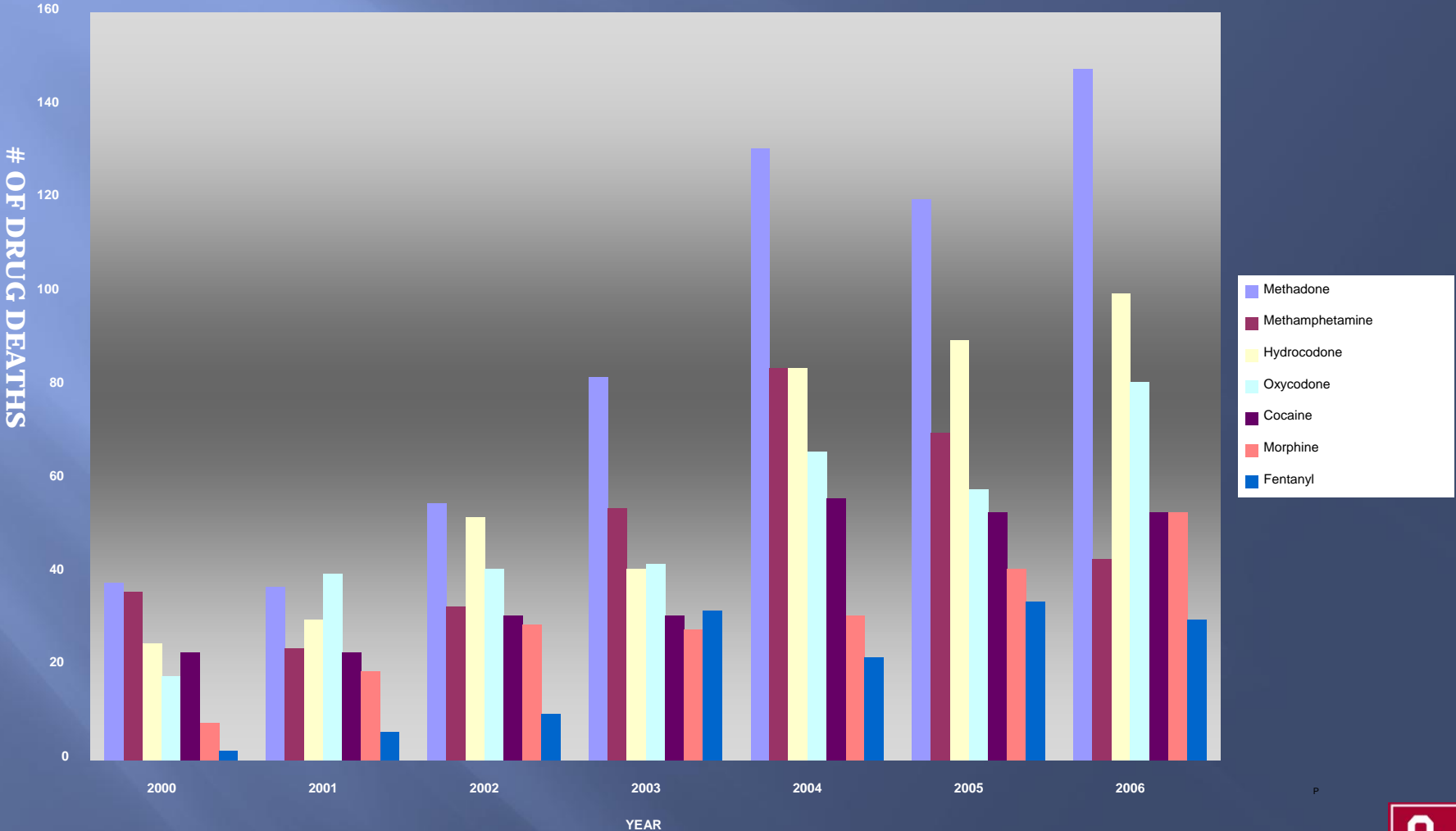
1,098 accidental deaths

487 drugs or poisoning (44%)

544 deaths by suicide – 84 (15%) drugs



STATE OF OKLAHOMA



Problem with Methadone

- ❖ Increased deaths
- ❖ More frequently prescribed for chronic pain



Problem with Methadone

2002 – 2006

- ❖ 138.4% increase in deaths for methadone
- ❖ 81% increase for oxycodone
- ❖ 104% increase for hydrocodone



Monitoring

Oklahoma State Bureau of Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics
Establishing Oklahoma Schedule II Abuse Reduction Act
(OSTAR) in 1990

Only monitored Schedule II drugs

Ritalin

Some narcotics

Frequently abused drugs are Class III

Hydrocodone, Codeine, Alprazolam, Lorazepam,
Diazepam, Klonopin



July 1, 2006 – Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)

Pharmacies must report all prescriptions for drugs in Schedule II-V to OBNDD.



PMP Programs

October 2006 to September 2007

5,172 patients used 5-9 physicians for
controlled substances

144 used more than 10 physicians

1,516 patients used 5-9 pharmacies

59 patient used more than 10 pharmacies



Drug Treatment in Oklahoma

ODMHSAS – steady increase in numbers of admissions
for treatment of prescription drug abuse

Private prescription – data not available, resources
limited



Life-Threatening Withdrawal

Alcohol
Benzodiazepines
Barbiturates

Opiates*



Medication Treatment

Alcohol - Antabuse
 Revia
 Vivitrol
 Campral

Opiates - Methadone
 Buprenorphine



Admissions by drug of choice for individuals receiving substance dependence treatment or detoxification treatment from all Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services facilities.

Drug of Choice	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Opiates and Synthetics	228	266	343	373	559	709	788	939
Benzodiazepine, Sedatives and Hypnotics	107	106	106	178	137	174	191	249



Drug Screening

20-50% hospital psychiatric patients
15-30% patients seen in primary care

- ❖ underdiagnosed
- ❖ undertreated



Chemical Dependency Treatment

- ❖ Detoxification
- ❖ Formal Treatment Program



Goals

- ❖ Increase awareness of problem of prescription drugs in the public sector
- ❖ Alter culture of less than conservative prescribing

