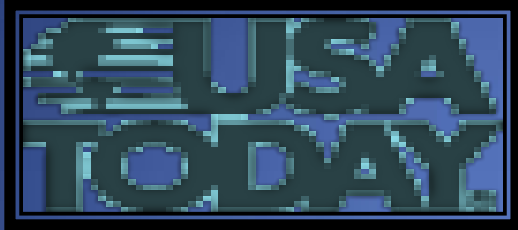


Prescription Drug Abuse: Action Plan

Office of National Drug Control Policy



Gil Kerlikowske, Director



**U.S.' new drug czar targets prescription abuse as priority
5/21/2009**

By Donna Leinwand, USA TODAY

NASHVILLE — Drug czar Gil Kerlikowske says one of his top priorities is curtailing abuse of prescription drugs — such as the addictive painkiller OxyContin — which are readily available in the U.S.

"We get overly concerned about drugs coming in, but the pharmaceuticals are here already," he said in an interview Wednesday with USA TODAY.

Each year, the equivalent of a baseball stadium full of people die from unintentional drug poisonings.



The Salt Lake Tribune

Prescription drug abuse increase
in Utah

By R. Gil Kerlikowske

THE HILLS
Congress Blog

Where lawmakers come to blog

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR

**Prescription drug abuse surged 400
percent in past decade**

abc NEWS

Pain Med Addiction Up 400 Percent in Last Decade Numbers
of Addicts Seeking Rehab Spikes, ABC News Medical Unit

TULSA WORLD

Federal officials warn of rising prescription
drug abuse problem

Portland Press Herald

[State gets a partner in fighting pill abuse](#)

**A new national focus may boost programs in
Maine, where more people die from ODs than
car crashes**

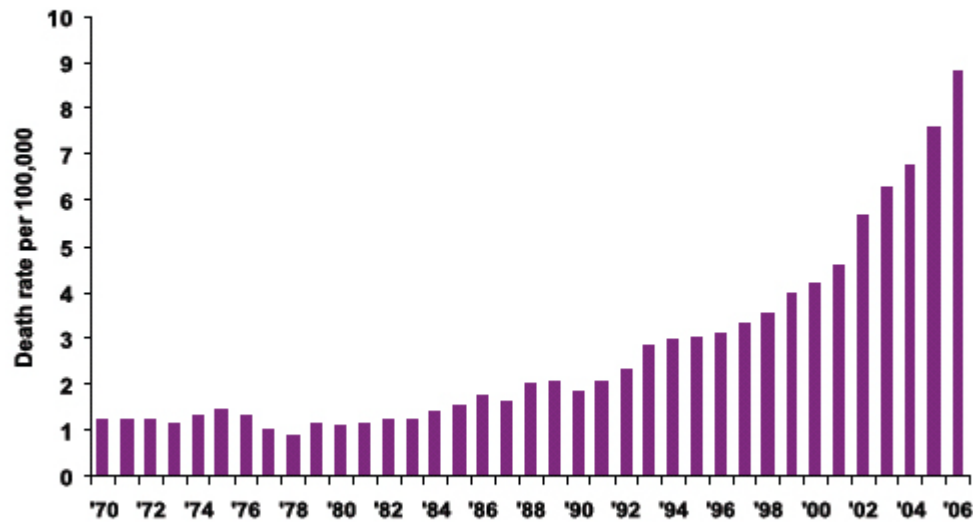
Newsweek

Prescription Nation

Why we should worry
about the quiet
epidemic of painkiller
abuse.

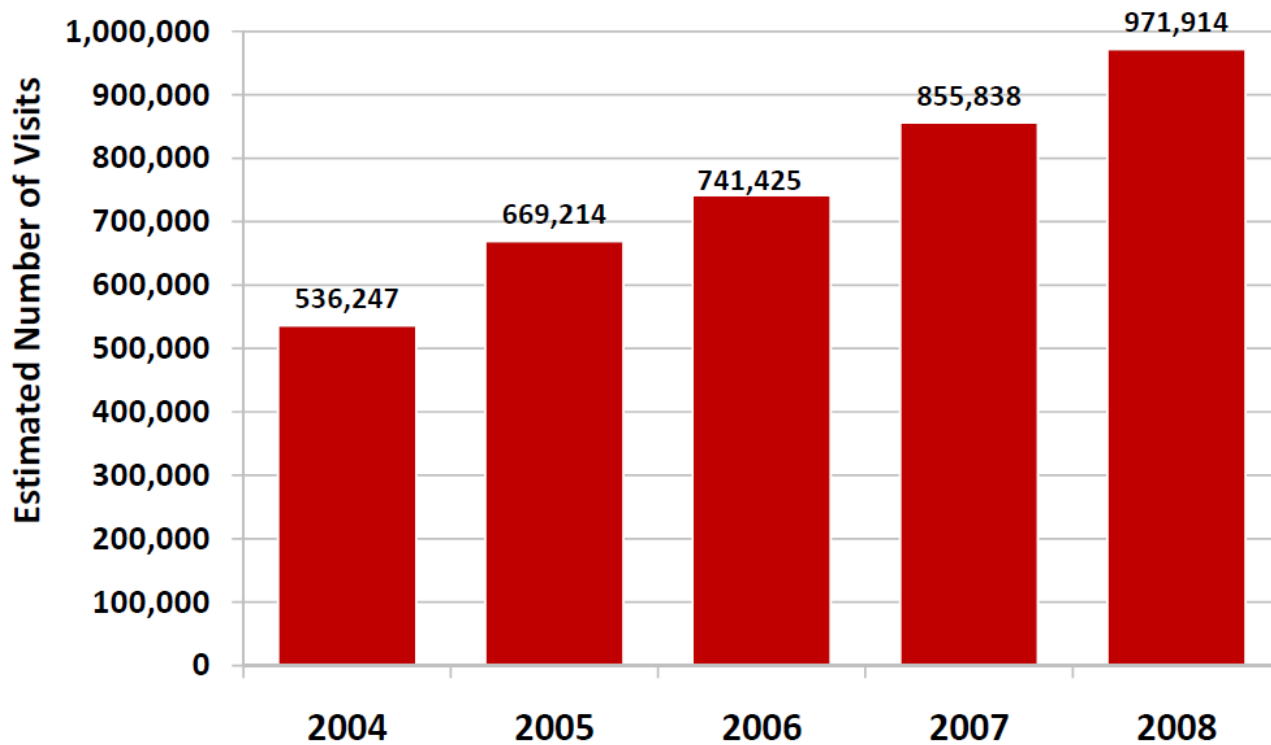
US Drug Overdose Deaths

Figure 1: Rate of unintentional drug overdose death in the United States, 1970-2006



Source: National Vital Statistics System

Emergency Department Visits Involving Nonmedical Use of Pharmaceuticals, 2004-2008



Prescription Drug Abuse and the Military

- 2008 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors among Active Duty Military Personnel, prescription drug misuse was reported by *one in nine* personnel in the past month and nearly *one in five* in the past year.
- The percentage of men and women reporting prescription drug misuse in all military services combined (11.5 percent) was more than twice that of the civilian population in the age group 18-64 (4.4 percent).

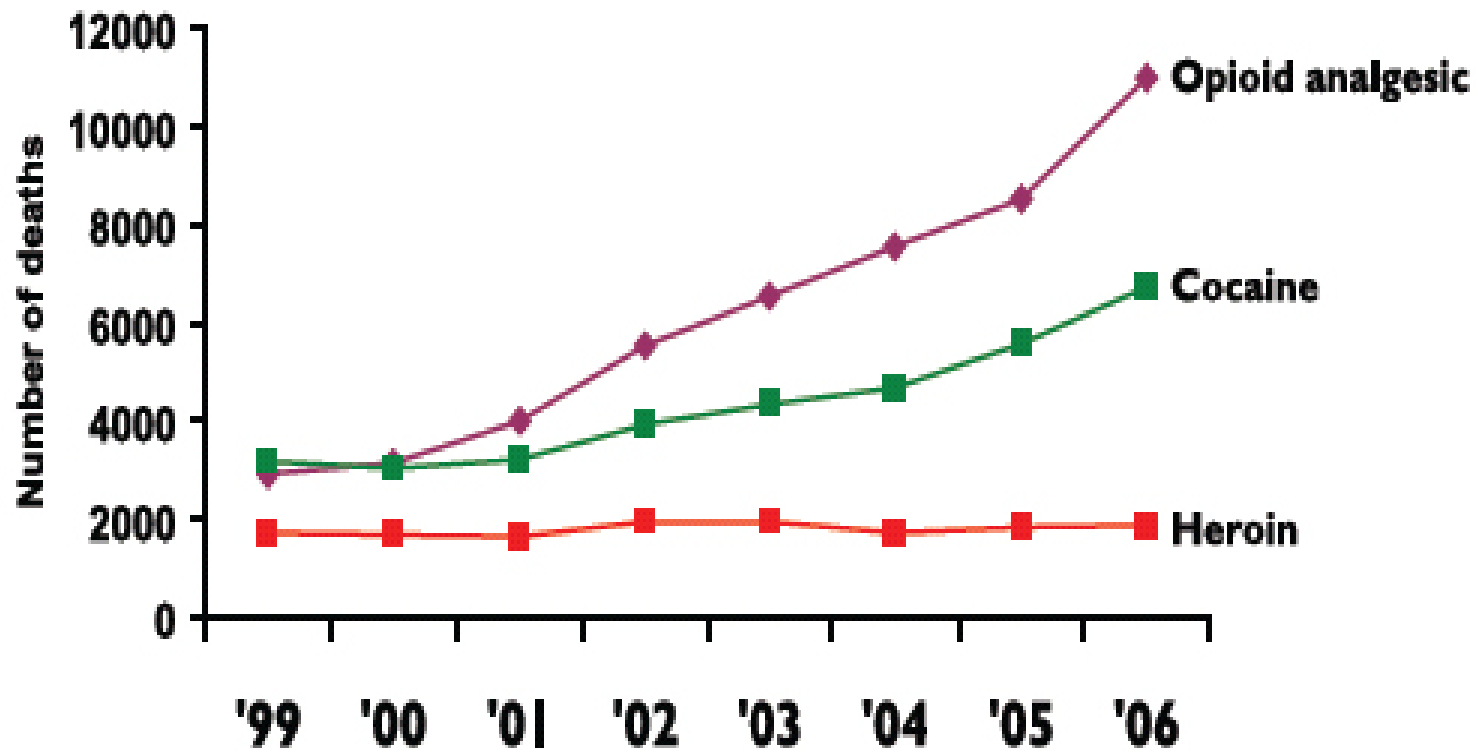
Causes?

Increased medical use of opioid painkillers over the last 15 years, effort to more aggressively manage pain.

Easily available.

Misconception that they are safer than illegal drugs.

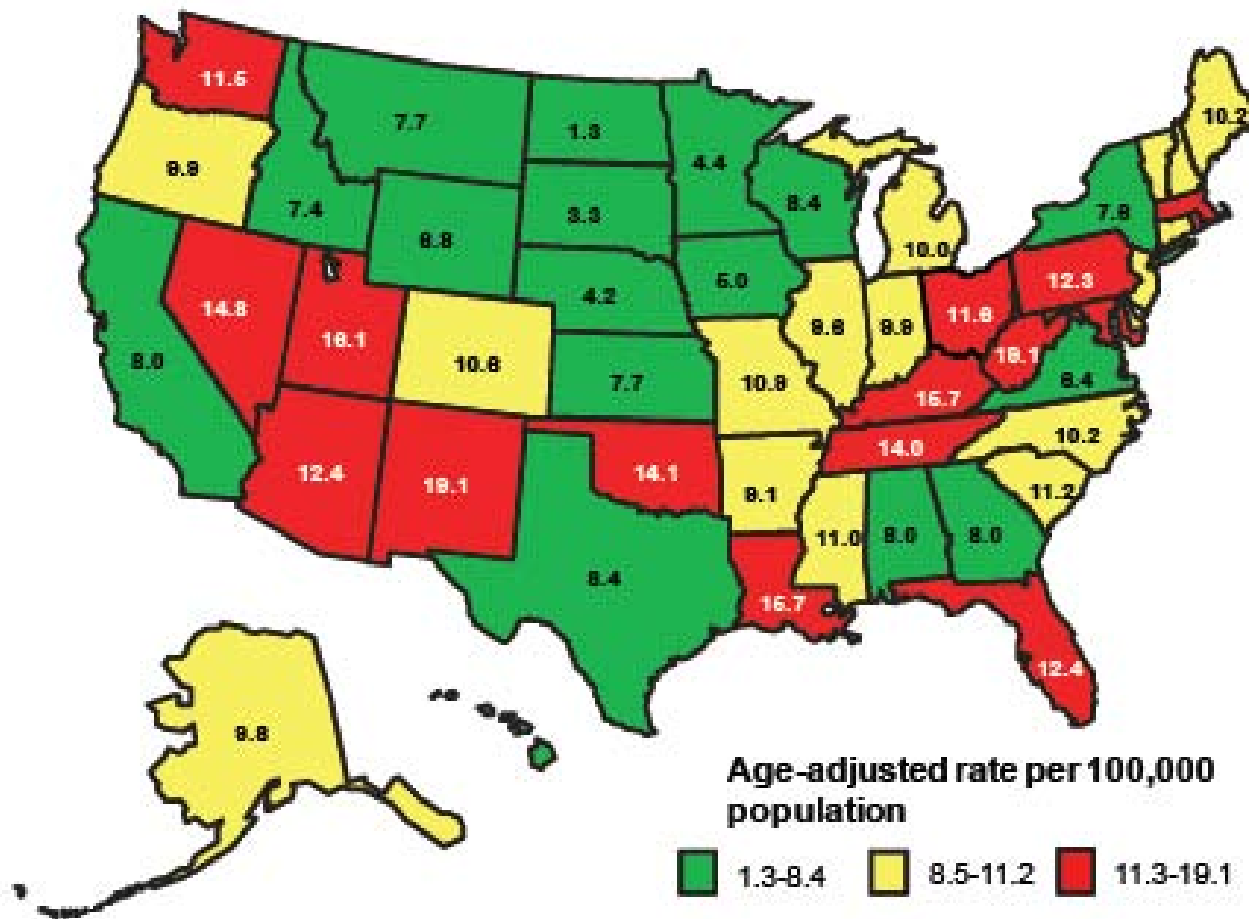
Figure 2: Unintentional drug overdose deaths by major type of drug, United States, 1999-2006



Source: National Vital Statistics System



Figure 3: Drug Overdose Death Rates by State, 2006



Source: National Vital Statistics System



Prescription Drug Action Plan

- Education
 - Parents
 - Prescribers
 - Patients
- Monitoring
 - Expand and Enhance PDMPs
- Disposal
 - Increase take-backs
- Enforcement
 - Pill mills

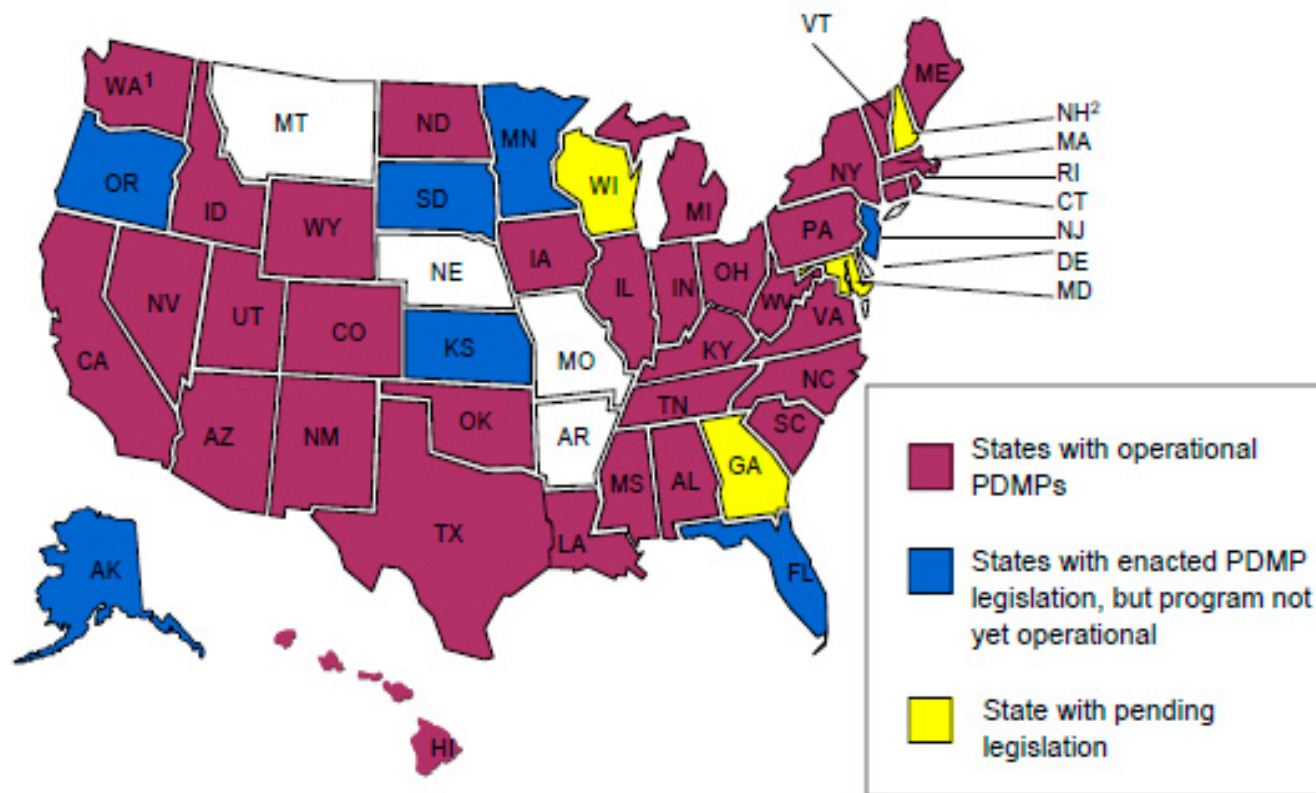


Specific Steps:

- Reauthorize NASPER, include VA in PDMPs.
- Fully fund PDMPs.
- Pass take back legislation.
- Require prescriber education.
- Increase cooperative agreements between states to share PDMP information.
- Bully pulpit to continue education.



Status of State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)



¹Washington has temporarily suspended its PMP operations due to budgetary constraints. However, a bill has been proposed in the Legislature that would allow for the statewide operation of a privately funded PMP.

²The proposed New Hampshire PMP bill failed to pass a committee vote and is unlikely to become law this session.

© 2009 Research is current as of March 15, 2010. In order to ensure that the information contained herein is as current as possible, research is conducted using both nationwide legal database software and individual state legislative websites. Please contact Sarah Kelsey at 703-836-6100, ext. 119 or at skelsey@namsdl.org with any additional updates or information that may be relevant to this document. Headquarters Office: THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS (NAMSDL), 1414 Prince St. Suite 312, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For More Information:

www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov

