

# E•QUAL | EMERGENCY QUALITY NETWORK

Opioid Initiative Wave I  
*History & Pharmacology*




## Presenter



Jeanmarie Perrone, MD, FACMT

# The Evolving Opioid Epidemic: History and Pharmacology

Jeanmarie Perrone, MD, FACMT  
Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Director, Division of Medical Toxicology  
University of Pennsylvania  
@JMPerroneMD 

# What is The Epidemic?

**Prescription  
Drugs**

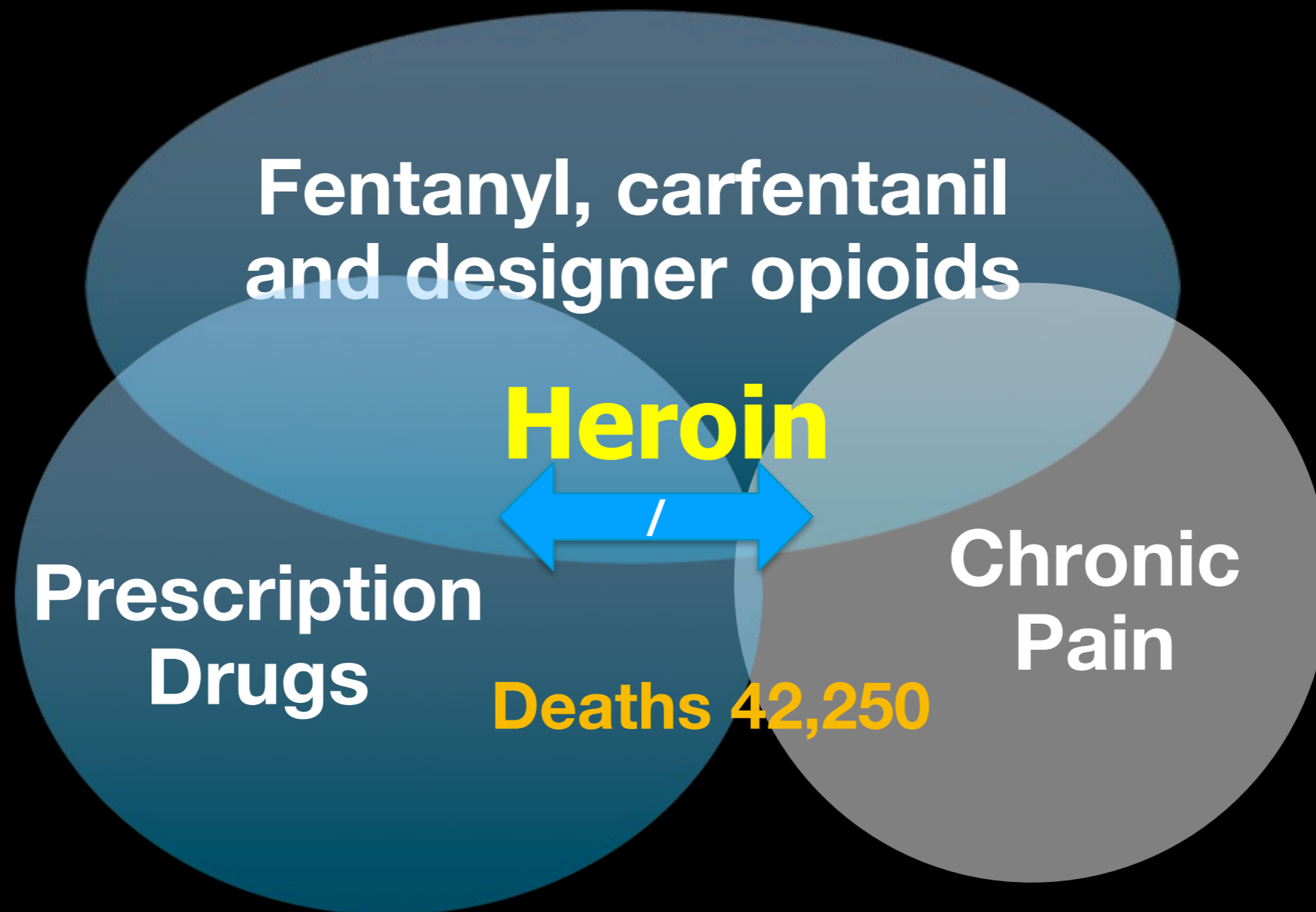


**Chronic Pain**

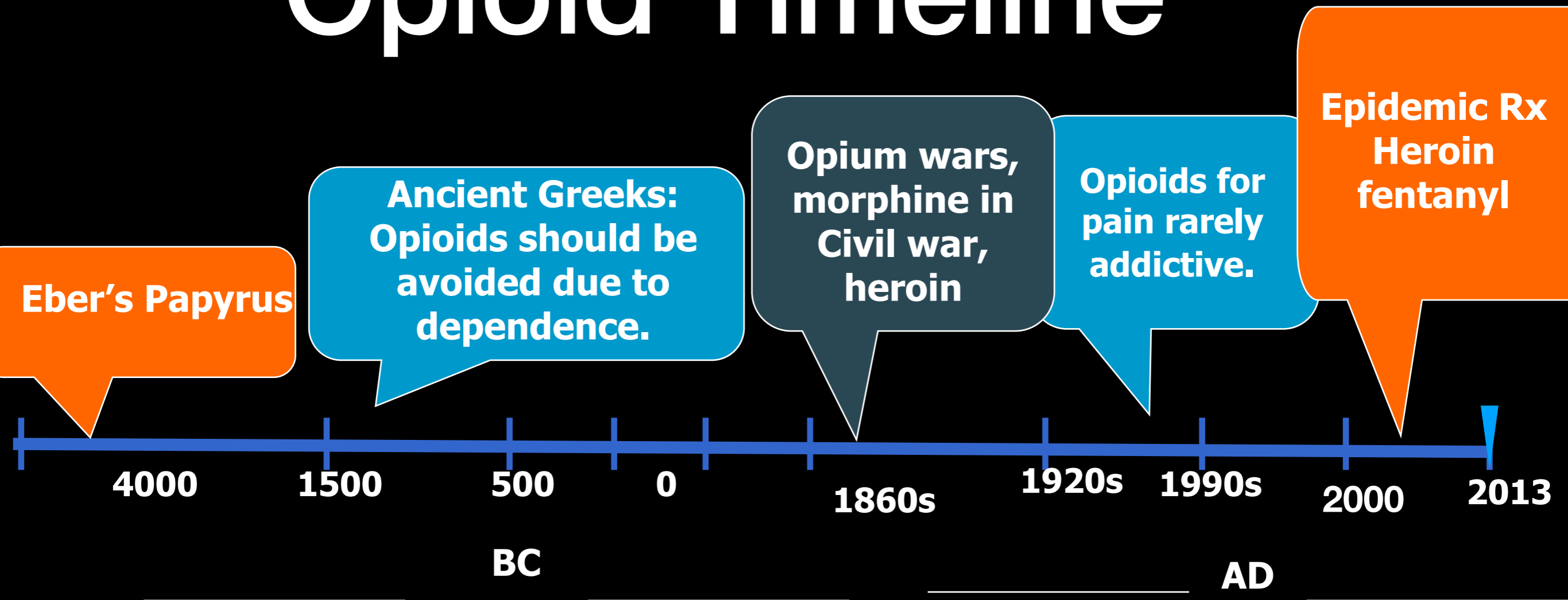
**Deaths (27,000)  
Addiction  
534 billion dollars**

**100 million**

# The Epidemic Now



# Opioid Timeline



## 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<sup>1</sup> who were monitored consecutively. Although there were 11,882 patients who received at least one narcotic preparation, there were only four cases of reasonably well documented addiction in patients who had no history of addiction. The addiction was considered major in only one instance. The drugs implicated were meperidine in two patients,<sup>2</sup> Percodan in one, and hydromorphone in one. 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.

JANE PORTER  
HERSHEL JICK, M.D.  
Boston Collaborative Drug  
Surveillance Program  
Boston University Medical Center

Waltham, MA 02154

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.
-

# Video on Webinar Recording



CORRESPONDENCE



A 1980 Letter on the Risk of Opioid Addiction

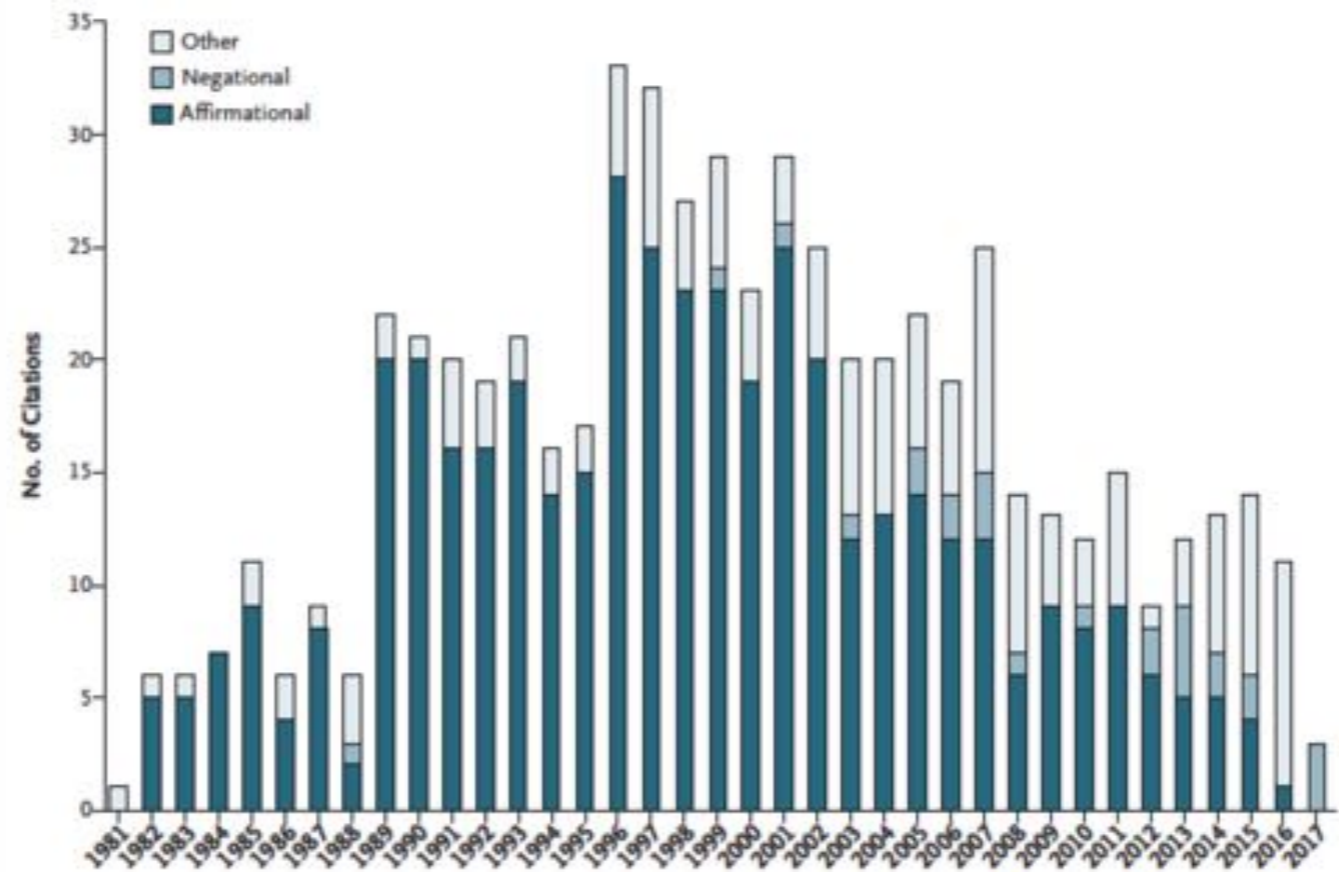


Figure 1. Number and Type of Citations of the 1980 Letter, According to Year.

Leung, Juurlink NEJM 2017; 376:2194-2195 June 1, 2017

# Factor 1

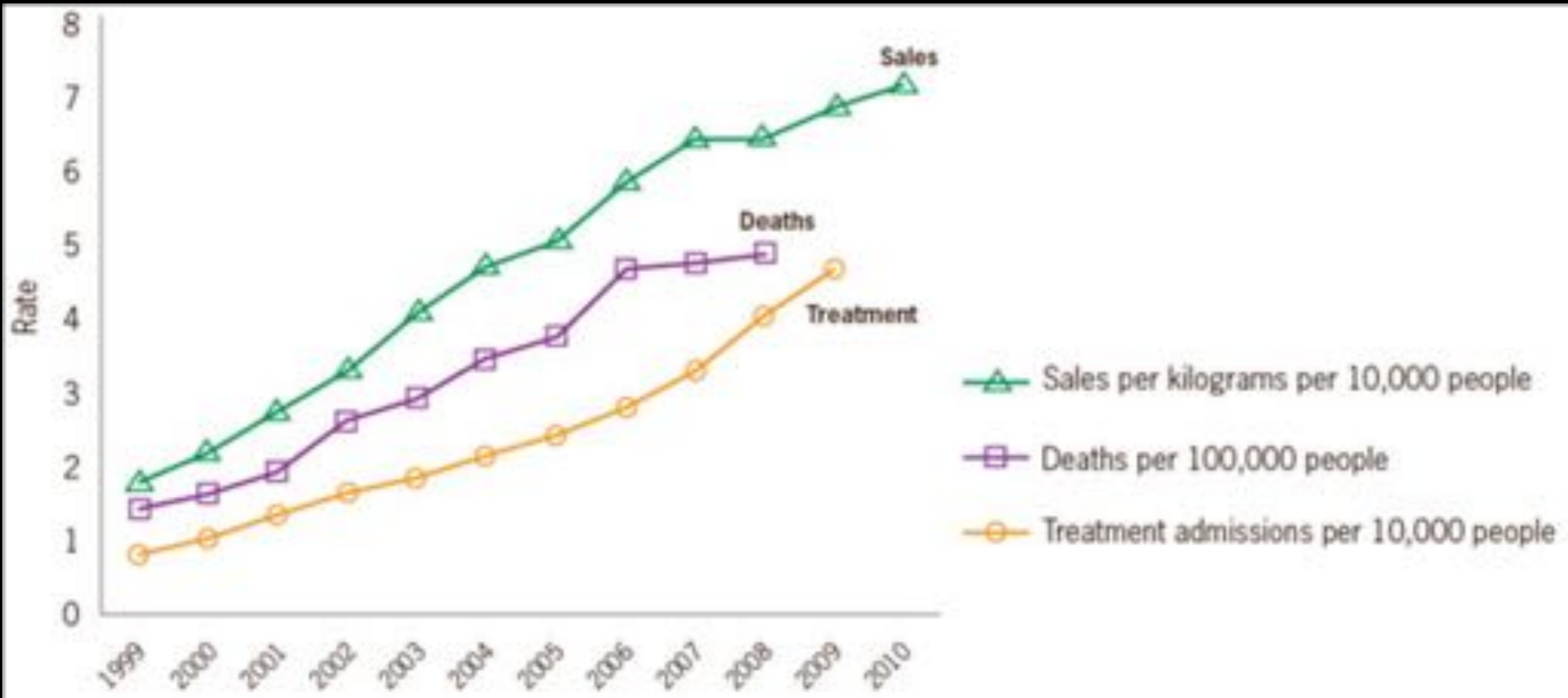
Prescribing increased as physicians were convinced  
addiction risk low

Nearly 100% develop tolerance

5-26% of patient on chronic opioid therapy

**Boscarino JA. Addiction 2010;105:1776-1782**

# Opioid sales quadrupled 1999-2010



# Factor 2: Pain scores

VIEWPOINT

**JAMA**<sup>®</sup>

The Journal of the American Medical Association

## Patient Satisfaction, Prescription Drug Abuse, and Potential Unintended Consequences

Aleksandra Zgierska, MD, PhD

Michael Miller, MD

David Rabago, MD

**P**ATIENT-CENTERED CARE CAN IMPROVE TREATMENT outcomes, and its implementation has become the focus of national and local efforts to optimize health and health care delivery. Patients' satisfaction with care is one of the pillars of patient-centered care.<sup>1</sup> As such, results from patient satisfaction surveys (ie, patient experience of care measures) can be a driving force behind changes in health care delivery—with institutions and individual clinicians hoping for and actively seeking optimal survey scores. Although such initiatives generally promote improvements in practice that are responsive to patients' expressed needs, they may paradoxically promote prescribing of opioids and other addictive medications.

Medical quality committees and even licensure boards can determine that care is substandard if clinicians exclude these components. Before prescribing opioids, clinicians may be expected to recommend nonopioid interventions and refer patients to consultants even if what the patient wants is an opioid prescription. Combined with overall poor treatment outcomes in chronic pain and difficulties reported by most clinicians regarding issues surrounding prescription drug abuse, it is not surprising that clinicians' satisfaction and comfort level with management of care for patients with opioid-treated chronic pain are low.<sup>7</sup> This general picture sets a stage for the following considerations.

First, office visits in primary care are brief, and the pressure on clinicians to maximize "through-put" to meet patient volume benchmarks has intensified. In the context of these time pressures, how should a clinician respond to the patient's request for inappropriate opioid pain medication? Guidelines<sup>3</sup> suggest discussion of treatment alterna-

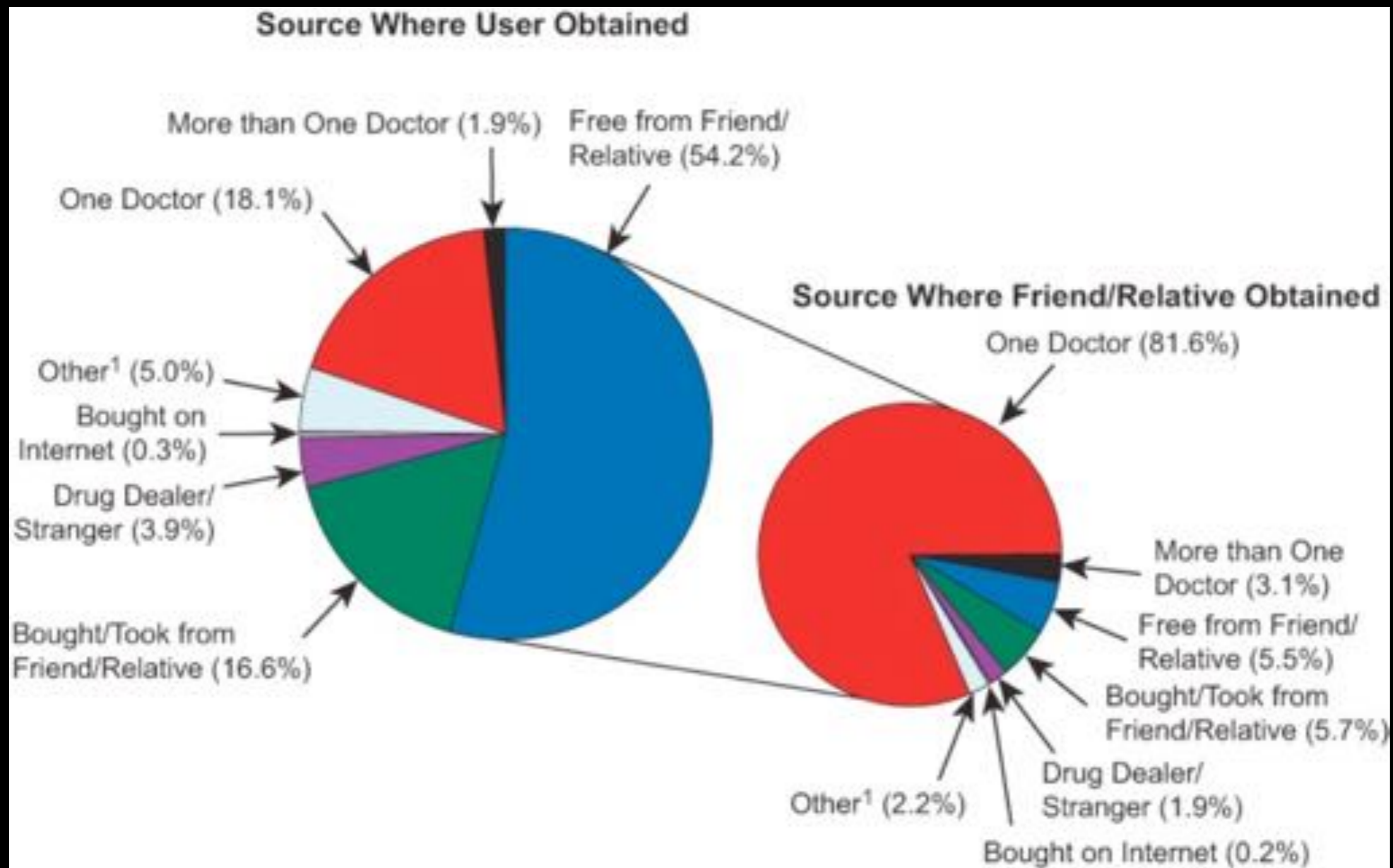
# Factor 3

## Escalating doses

As prescribing increased, patients were prescribed these drugs RTC for chronic pain; dependence and tolerance occurred so **escalating doses** became the norm...



# More drugs for diversion



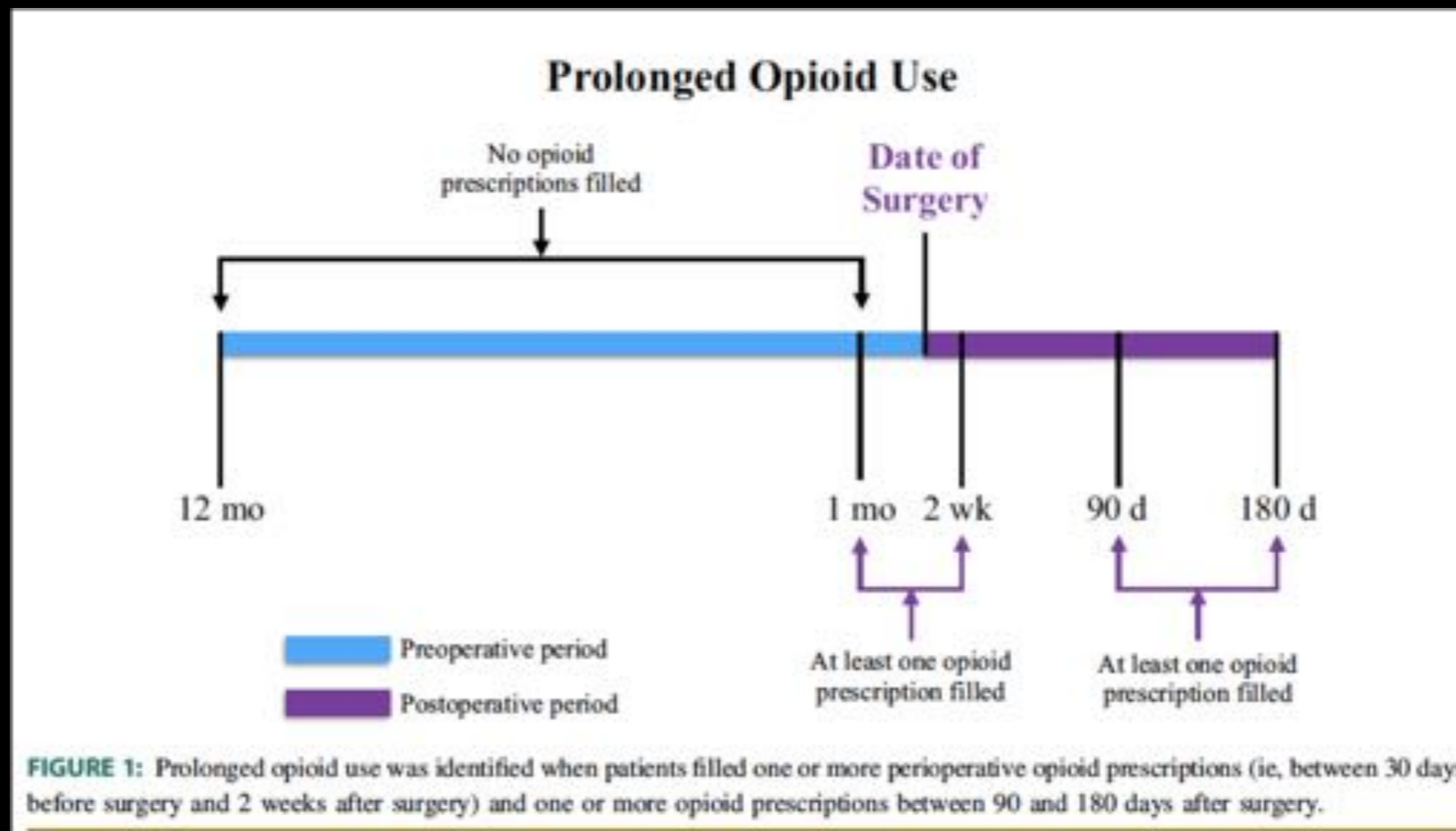
**National Household Survey Drug Use Health SAMHSA**

# Factor 4

Once initiated, opioids are hard to stop...

# Risk of Prolonged Opioid Use Among Opioid-Naïve Patients Following Common Hand Surgery Procedures

Shepard P. Johnson, MBBS,\* Kevin C. Chung, MD, MS,† Lin Zhong, MD, MPH,†



**13% of opioid-naïve patients *continue* to fill opioid Rx 90-180 days**

**J Hand Surg Am. 2016;41:947e957.**



Health & Science

# Doctors prescribed me pain meds but couldn't help me get off them

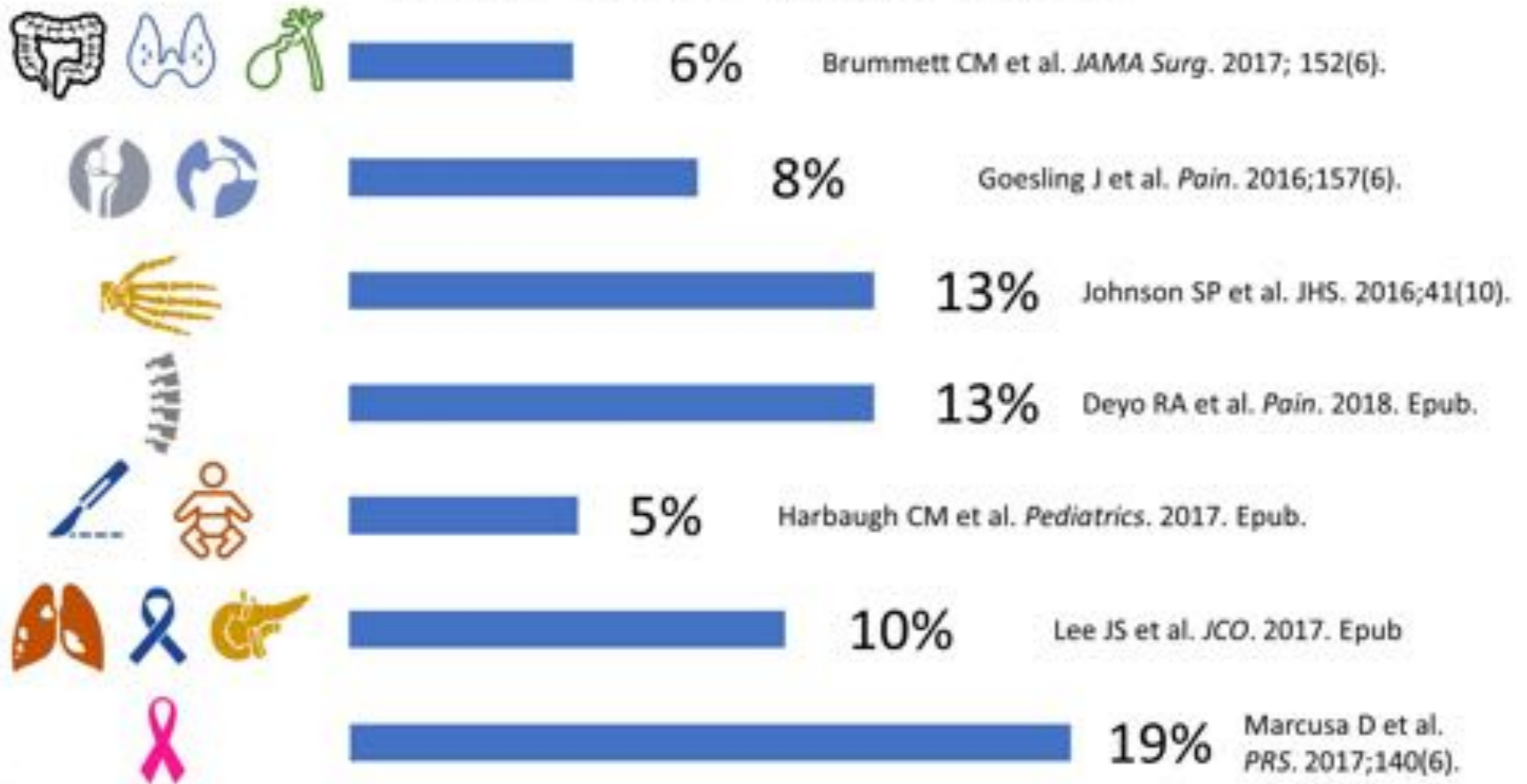


(Brett Ryder/Courtesy of Health Affairs)

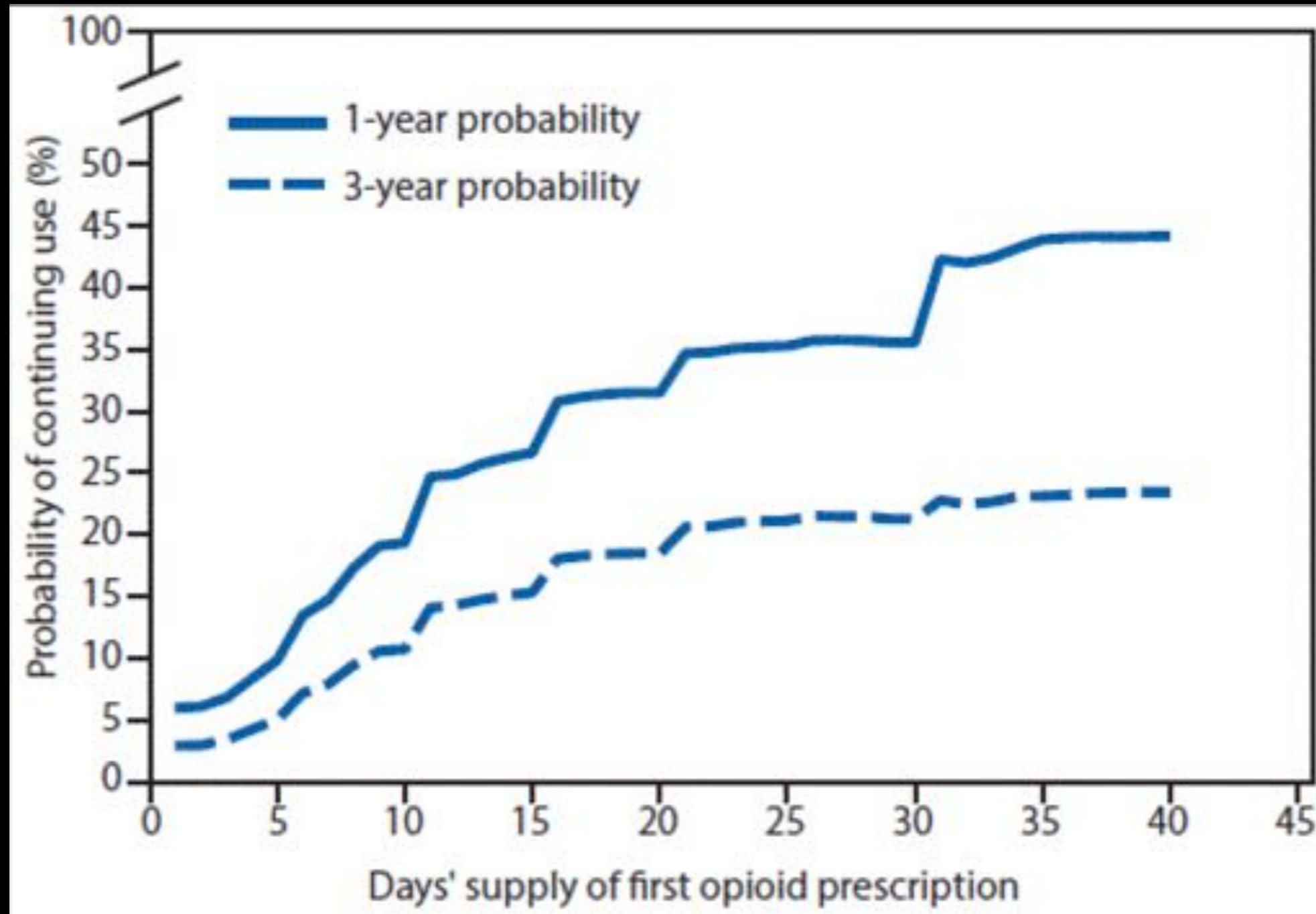
By **Travis N. Rieder** January 22, 2017

# Post op opioid prescribing

## New Persistent Opioid Use



# Characteristics of Initial Prescription Episodes and Likelihood of Long-Term Opioid Use — United States, 2006–2015



**MMWR: 66;265–269. March 17, 2017**

# Opioid Prescribing After Nonfatal Overdose and Association With Repeated Overdose

## A Cohort Study

Marc R. Larochelle, MD, MPH; Jane M. Liebschutz, MD, MPH; Fang Zhang, PhD; Dennis Ross-Degnan, ScD; and J. Frank Wharam, MB, BCh, BAO, MPH

**Over a median follow-up of 299 days, opioids were dispensed to 91% of patients after an overdose.**

**7% (n = 212) had a repeated opioid overdose.  
17% cumulative incidence of repeated overdose**

**Ann Intern Med. 2016;164:1-9.**



*"You should just feel a tiny prick, and then a  
lifetime of morphine addiction."*

Kanin  
CN  
COLLECTION

# Opioid induced **hyperalgesia**

A heightened perception of pain in the absence of disease progression or opioid withdrawal.

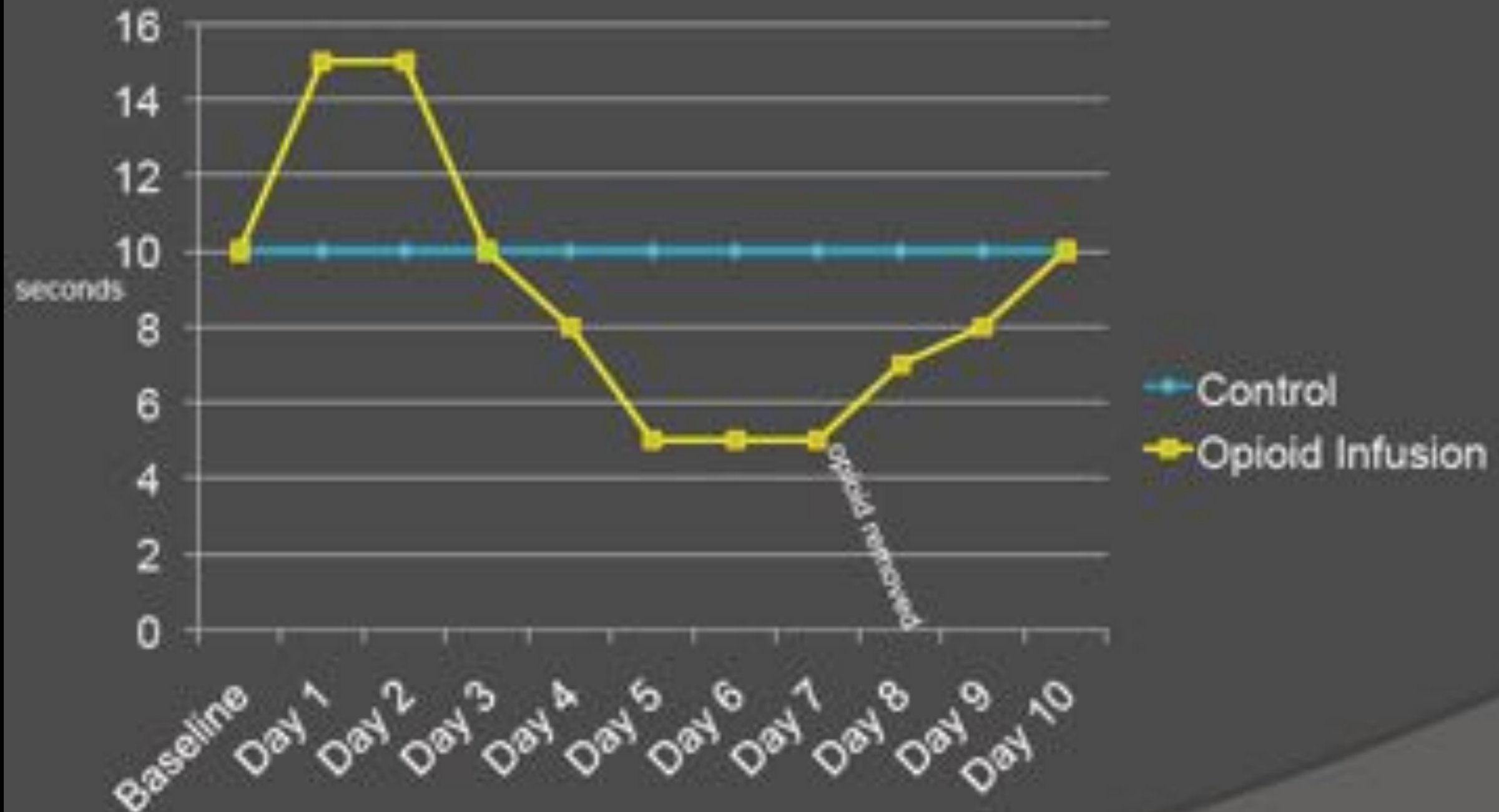


# Hyperalgesia: Animal model

The paw withdrawal test

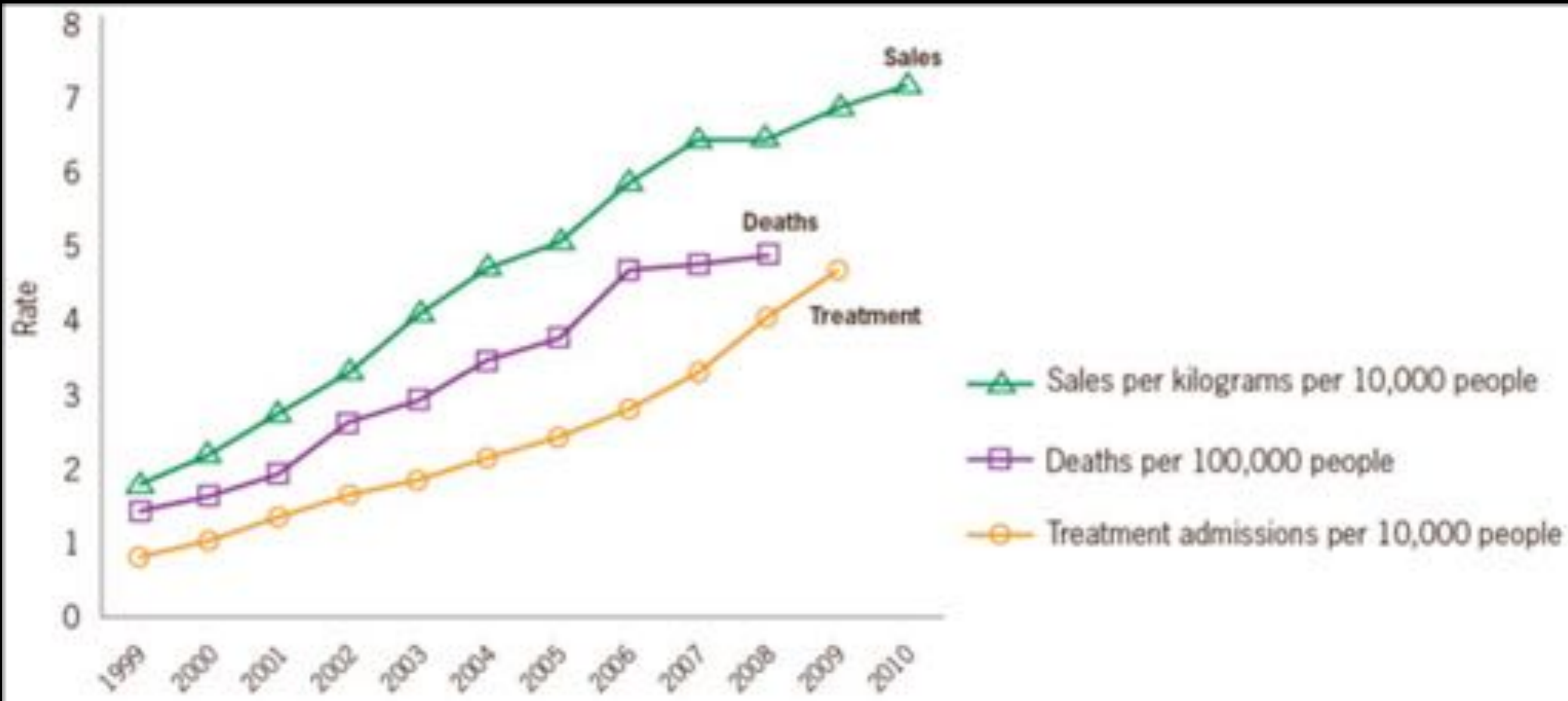


# Paw Withdrawal Latency

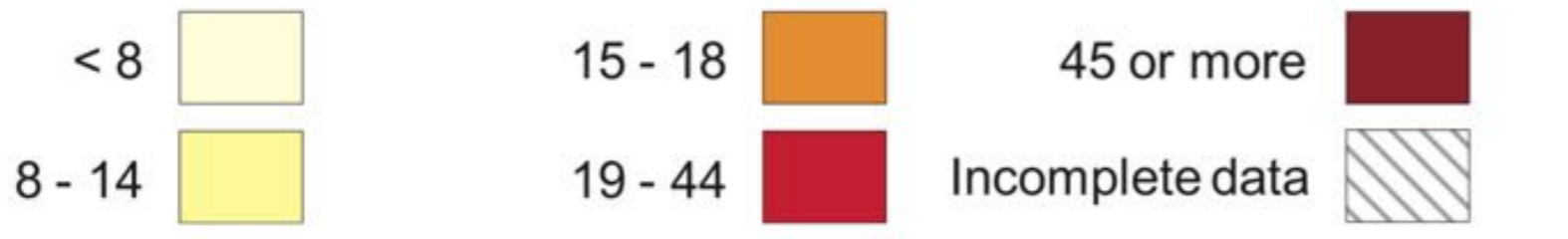
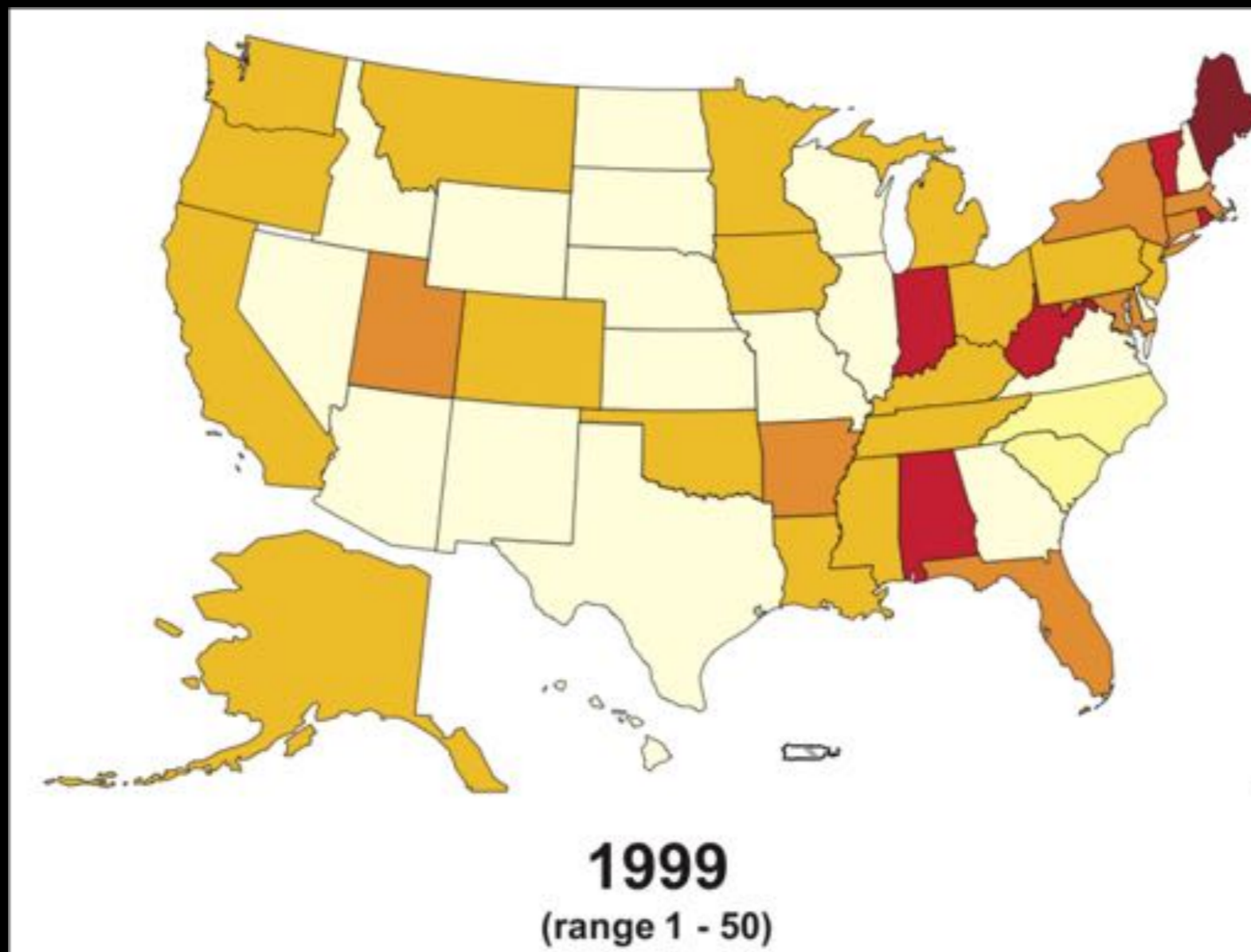




# Opioid sales quadrupled 1999-2010

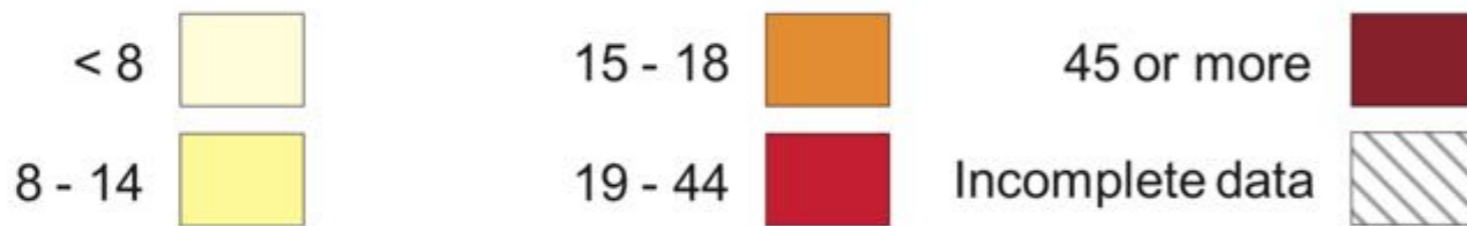
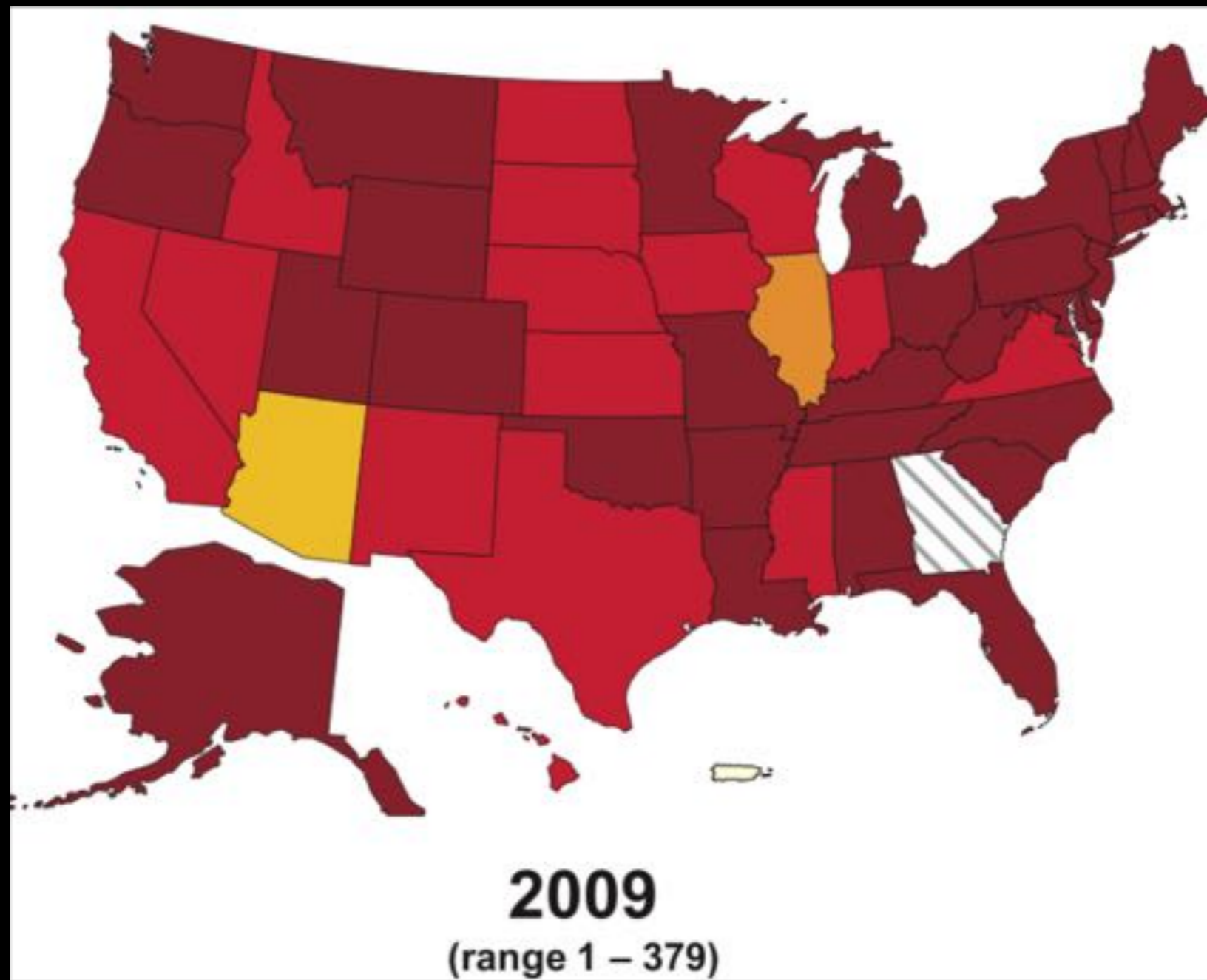


# Primary non-heroin opiates/synthetics admission rates, by State (per 100,000 population aged 12 and over)



SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Data received through 11.03.10.

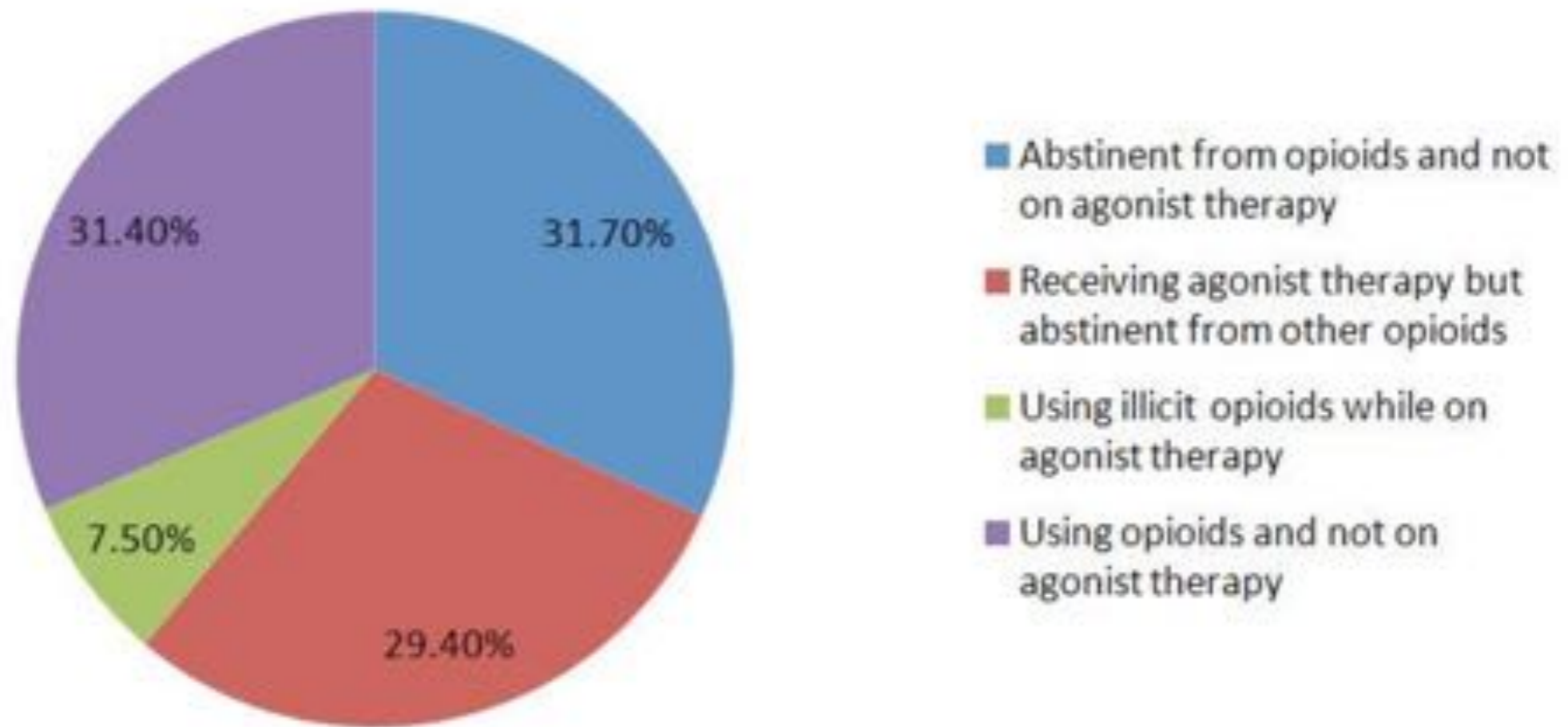
# Primary non-heroin opiates/synthetics admission rates, by State (per 100,000 population aged 12 and over)



SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Data received through 11.03.10.

# Treatment Success

Opioid use status at 42 months



**Weiss RD: Long-term outcomes from the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network Prescription Opioid Addiction Treatment Study 2015. Drug Alcohol Depend, 150, 112-119.**





**Jeanmarie Perrone MD** @JMPerrone... 6d

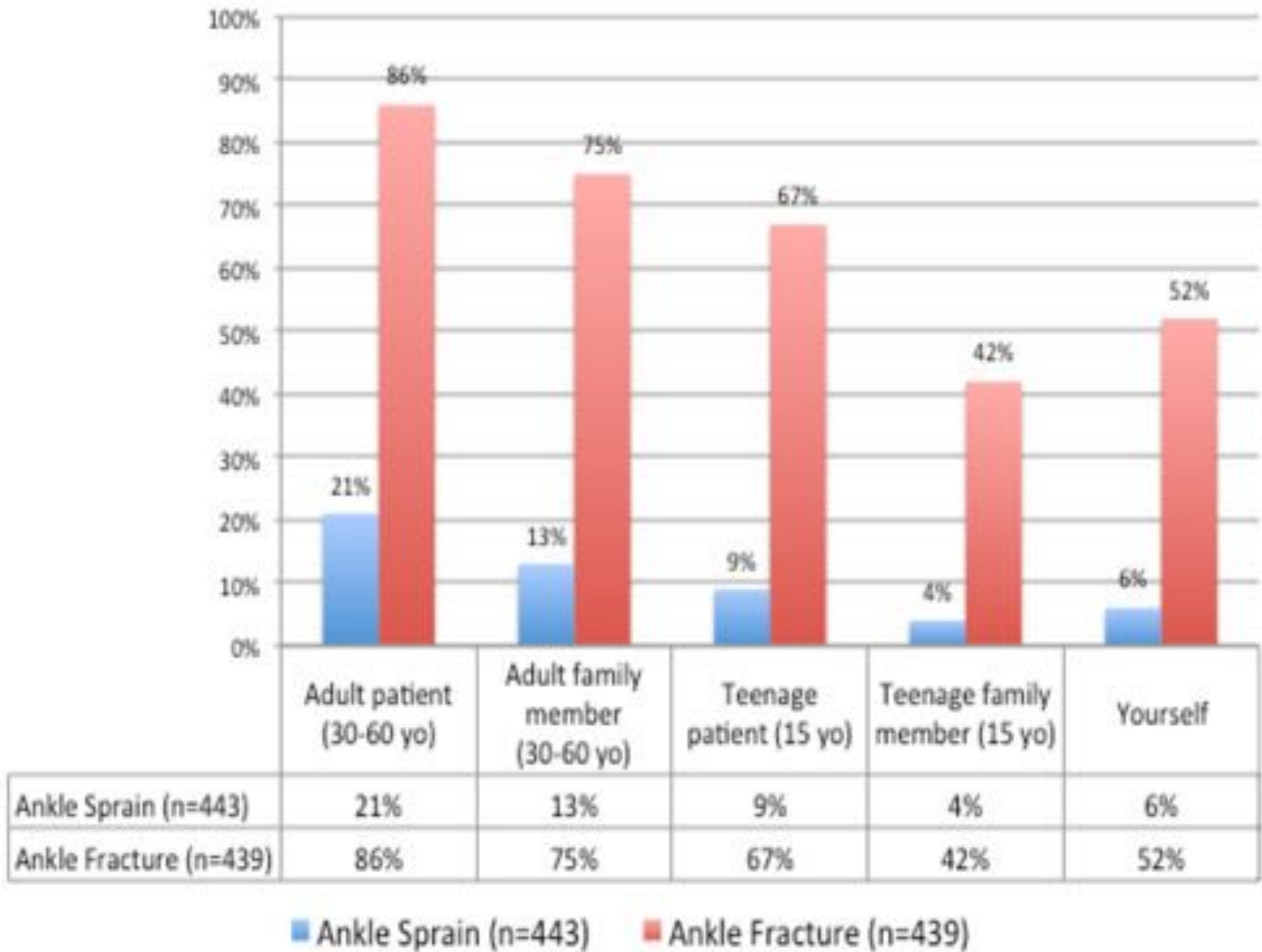
When considering analgesic Rx "Keep  
opioid naive patients opioid naive"

**October 2015**

**JAMA Addressing the Opioid Epidemic**

**Lewis S. Nelson, MD; David N. Juurlink, MD, PhD;**

**Jeanmarie Perrone, MD**



**Pomerleau A, Perrone J, Nelson L: West J E Med 2016; 17:791.**



**How do we scale back?**

# CDC Guidelines





# How Do Physicians Adopt and Apply Opioid Prescription Guidelines in the Emergency Department? A Qualitative Study

Austin S. Kilaru, MD; Sarah M. Gadsden, BA; Jeanmarie Perrone, MD; Breah Paciotti, MPH;  
Frances K. Barg, PhD; Zachary F. Meisel, MD, MSc\*



**Kilaru, Perrone, Meisel: Ann Emerg Med 2014 64:482**





# NON Opioid interventions

Gabapentin

Topicals

NSAIDs

Capsaicin cream

Lidoderm patch

Trigger point injections

Haloperidol

IV lidocaine

US guided regional anesthesia

Cognitive therapy

Heating pads and massage

Ice, Elevation

## Alternative Ways to Manage Pain

Providers should consider alternative ways of managing chronic pain, outside of prescription opioids, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some options that might work better, with fewer risks, include:



### PAIN RELIEVERS

Non-opioid pain pills such as Tylenol, Motrin or Naprosyn



### ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND ANTICONVULSANTS

Certain medications that also have benefits for treating depression and seizures



### EXERCISE

Physical therapy and exercise have been shown to lessen pain symptoms



### COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY

Changing thoughts and behaviors related to pain

# What else can we do?

Oral preferable to IV

Treat patients with lower risk drugs

Hydrocodone better than oxy

Morphine preferable to hydromorphone

**Engage patients and families in risk  
discussion**

What is the oral opioid with the lowest risk of adverse effects?



**Which opioid to Rx?**



# Most Prescribed Opioids 2013\*

Total Dispensed Scripts



# Codeine

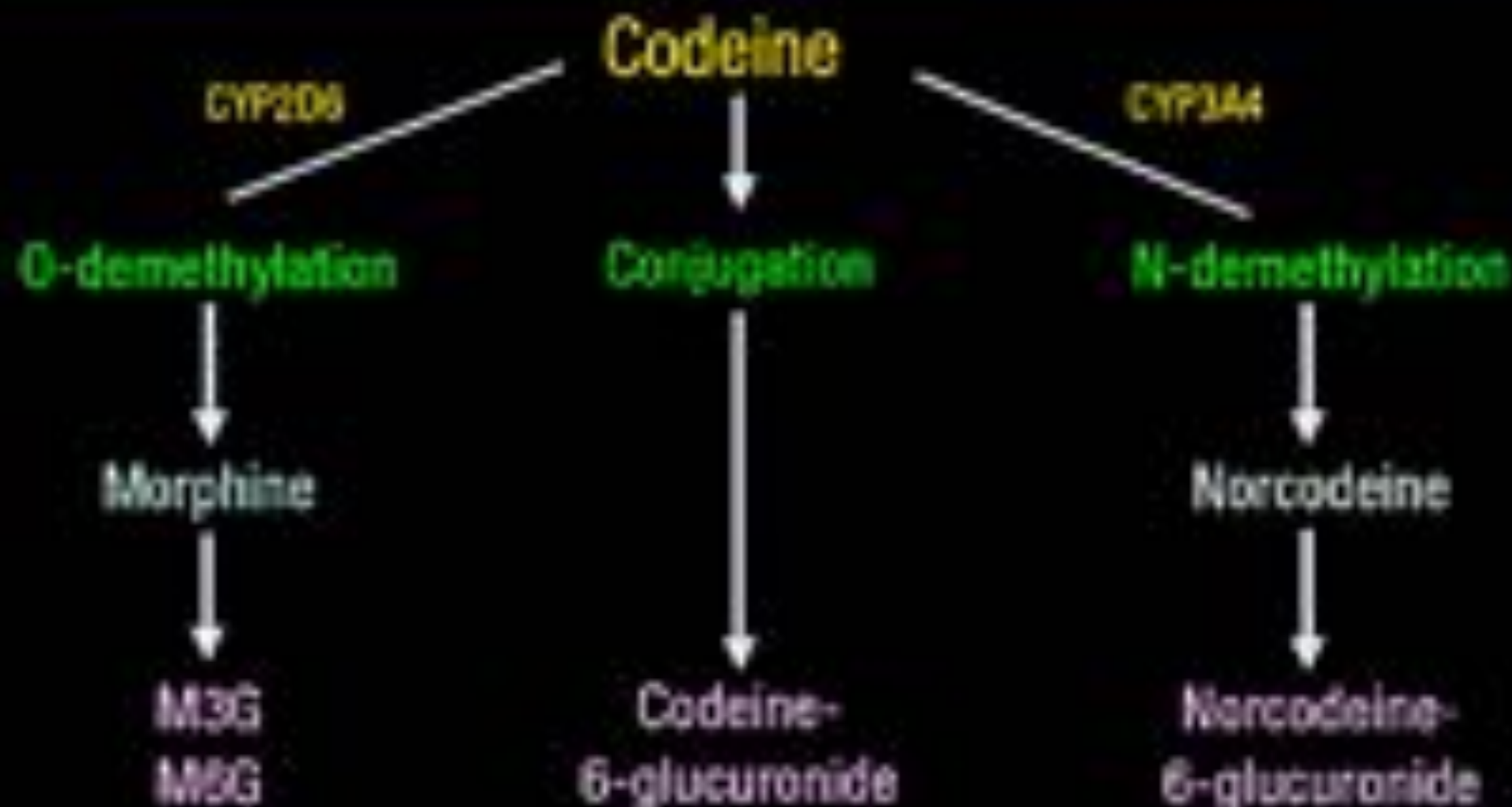
- codeine available in 15, 30 and 60mg with APAP and as syrup
- codeine OTC in AZ and some other states
- CYP 2D6 metabolism recognized in children undergoing tonsillectomy





# Codeine: Metabolic Pathways

---



# Tramadol is unpredictable

- Tramadol is a codeine derivative-CYP 2D6
- SNRI mechanism leads to increased risk of toxicity
- Small risk of hypoglycemia



# Morphine sulfate

- some dysphoria w euphoria
- Can be difficult to fill Rx in some regions
- Rx liquid for lowest dosing



**oxycodone/APAP vs  
hydrocodone/APAP?**

# Morphine Mg Equivalent

- codeine 15mg
- hydrocodone 1 x 5mg
- tramadol 0.1 x 50mg
- morphine sulfate 15mg

Calculating morphine milligram equivalents (MME)

OPIOID (doses in mg/day except where noted)	CONVERSION FACTOR
Codeine	0.15
Fentanyl transdermal (in mcg/hr)	2.4
Hydrocodone	1
Hydromorphone	4
Methadone	
1-20 mg/day	4
21-40 mg/day	8
41-60 mg/day	10
≥ 61-80 mg/day	12
Morphine	1
Oxycodone	1.5
Oxymorphone	3

*These dose conversions are estimated and cannot account for all individual differences in genetics and pharmacokinetics.*



## Factors influencing the selection of hydrocodone and oxycodone as primary opioids in substance abusers seeking treatment in the United States

Theodore J. Cicero<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matthew S. Ellis<sup>a</sup>, Hilary L. Surratt<sup>b</sup>, Steven P. Kurtz<sup>b</sup>

**Self reported drug use in 3500 patients admitted to 160 treatment centers + qualitative interviews.**

Factors influencing the selection of hydrocodone and oxycodone as primary opioids in substance abusers seeking treatment in the United States

Theodore J. Cicero<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matthew S. Ellis<sup>a</sup>, Hilary L. Surratt<sup>b</sup>, Steven P. Kurtz<sup>b</sup>

**Oxycodone was the choice of significantly more users (44.7%) than hydrocodone (29.4%)**

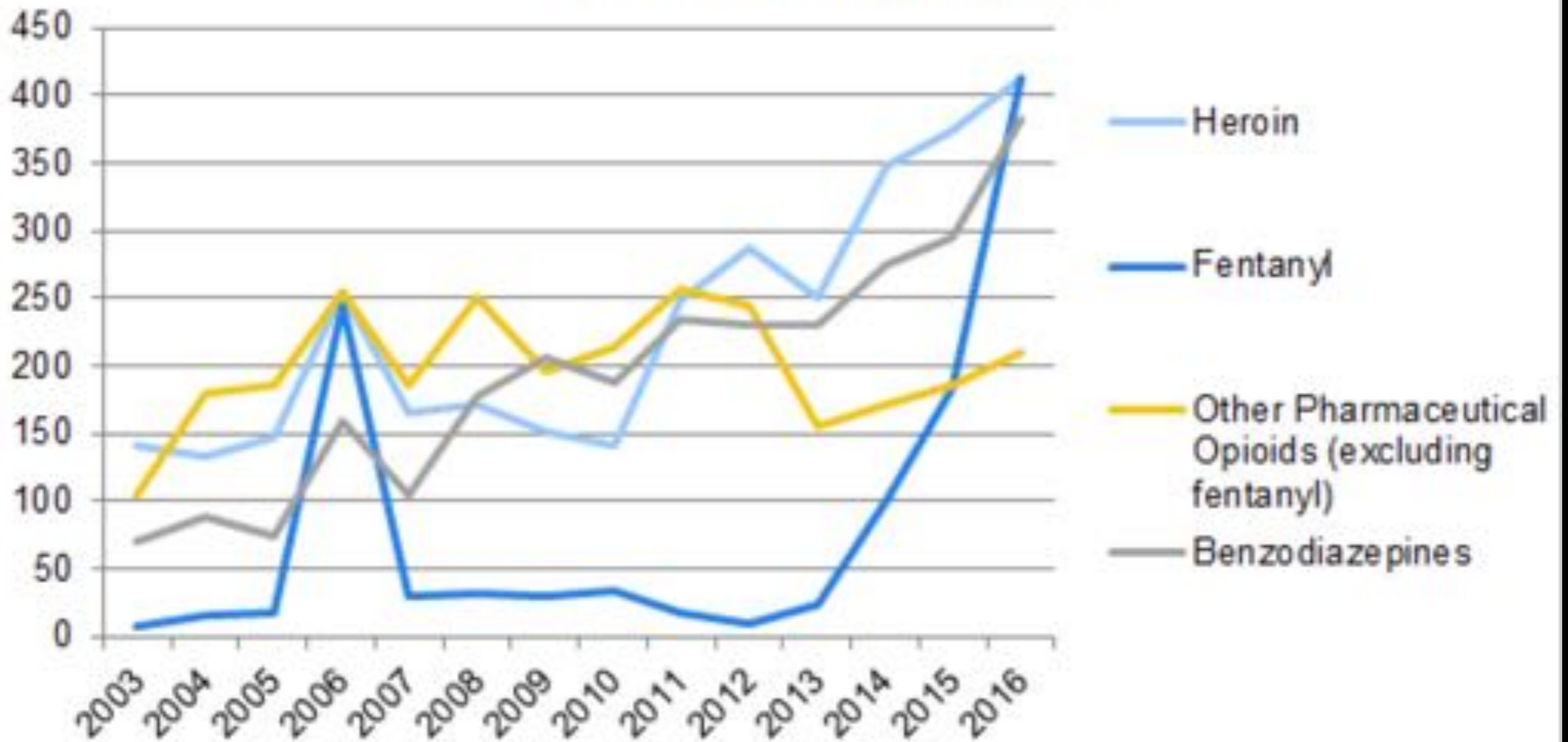
**Reasons cited “quality of the high” was reported to be much better 54% vs 20% (oxy vs hydro)**

A close-up, profile photograph of Prince. He is looking to the right, with his hand resting against his chin. He is wearing a dark red velvet jacket and a large, ornate earring. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Prince's Addiction and an Intervention Too Late



## Overdose Deaths in Philadelphia



**Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health, Medical Examiner's Office**



Comparing the size of lethal doses of heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil. The vials here contain an artificial sweetener for illustration. (New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory)



# Boston Globe Nov 1, 2017

**10 percent revived by Narcan in Mass. died within year, study says**



**Wiener: ACEP Research Forum 2017**



# Take home naloxone?

**Walley, et al. Opioid overdose rates and implementation of overdose education and nasal naloxone distribution in Massachusetts: interrupted time series analysis. BMJ. 2013;346:f174.**

# JAMA October 12, 2017

JAMA<sup>®</sup> Journals

 **New Online** Views 6,943 | Citations 0 | Altmetric 161

 **Viewpoint** ONLINE FIRST FREE

 October 12, 2017

[More](#) ▾ **Ten Steps the Federal Government Should Take Now to Reverse the Opioid Addiction Epidemic**

Andrew Kolodny, MD<sup>1</sup>; Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH<sup>2</sup>

[➤ Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA. Published online October 12, 2017. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.14567

**“Warm handoff”**

**Treatment access from the ED**

**D’Onofrio: Emergency Department-Initiated Buprenorphine/Naloxone Treatment for Opioid Dependence: A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA 2015**

# Goals



Be good stewards of opioid use in the future.

Explain risks of opioids with every prescription

Use lowest potency drugs for shortest duration.

Don't swing the pendulum too far...





[perronej@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:perronej@uphs.upenn.edu)

@JMPerroneMD



## For More Information

- E-QUAL Website
  - ▶ [www.acep.org/equal](http://www.acep.org/equal)
  - ▶ [equal@acep.org](mailto:equal@acep.org)
- Contacts:
  - ▶ Nalani Tarrant: (Senior Project Manager)  
[ntarrant@acep.org](mailto:ntarrant@acep.org)
  - ▶ Dhruv Sharma: (Project Manager)  
[dsharma@acep.org](mailto:dsharma@acep.org)



The guidelines, measures, education and quality improvement activities and related data specifications developed by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Emergency Quality Network are intended to facilitate quality improvement activities by physicians. The materials are intended to provide information and assist physicians in enhancing quality of care. The materials do not establish a standard of medical care, and have not been tested for all potential applications and therefore should not be used as a substitute for clinical or medical judgment. Materials are subject to review and may be revised or rescinded at any time by ACEP. The materials may not be altered without prior written approval from ACEP. The materials, while copyrighted, can be reproduced and distributed, without modification, for noncommercial purposes (e.g., use by health care providers in connection with their practices).

The E-QUAL Opioid Initiative is funded by the Addiction Policy Forum. The sponsor had no role in the development of this content or quality improvement offering, and the views expressed are of the speaker.