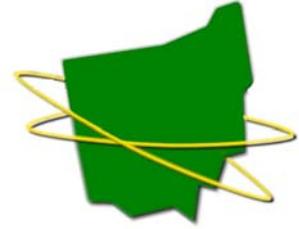




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: June 2004

DATELINE: Ohio

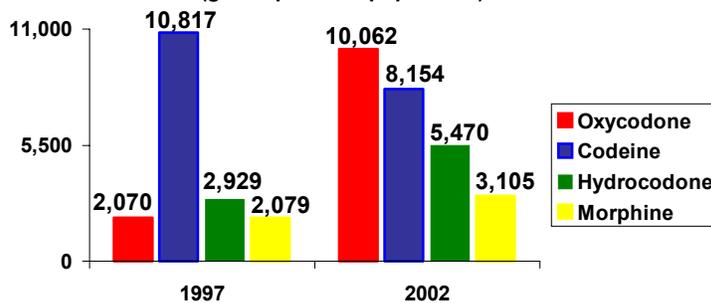


Wright State University
The University of Akron

First Reports of Generic OxyContin® Abuse in Ohio

Since 2000, the OSAM Network has been reporting increasing abuse of OxyContin® (oxycodone controlled-release) across the state. On March 23, 2004, a generic form of OxyContin® was approved for distribution. Soon after this approval, the OSAM Network began receiving reports of generic OxyContin® abuse in the Cleveland area as well as from the Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center (DPIC) which serves several selected counties across the state. In April and May, 2004, Cincinnati DPIC received more than 200 calls related to generic OxyContin®. About 59% of these calls originated from the Cincinnati area, 20% from the Toledo area, 15% from the Akron area, and 6% from Kentucky.

Figure 1. Changes in Prescription Volume of Selected Opioids in Ohio
(grams per 100K population)



Data derived from the Drug Enforcement Agency Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System.

As data from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency show, oxycodone became the most commonly prescribed pharmaceutical opioid in Ohio, and this significant increase occurred after OxyContin® was approved by FDA in 1996 (Figure 1). The OSAM Network has identified OxyContin® abuse as one of the most troublesome drug abuse trends across the state. Since 2000, its abuse has been increasing among diverse populations of users, but

youth and young adults from suburban communities were described as one of the fastest growing groups. Abuse of OxyContin® and other pharmaceutical opioids has also been identified as a potential pathway to heroin abuse. A serious concern is that a generic form of OxyContin® could substantially increase the availability of this potent pharmaceutical opioid by lowering the price, and making it even more accessible to broader populations of abusers. The OSAM network will continue to monitor this trend.

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network. Informants located throughout the state use qualitative and quantitative data to provide semiannual monitoring of substance abuse trends. The OSAM Network is funded by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services by contract to Wright State University and by subcontract to the University of Akron. This OSAM-O-GRAM is based on the June 2004 OSAM Network meeting.

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