

Safe Med LA

Los Angeles County Prescription Drug Abuse Coalition



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Pharmacy Practice Action Team

SafeMedLA

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Safe Prescribing Pharmacy Practice Action Team

- Focuses:
 - Provide **education for pharmacists about their critical responsibility and role in the dispensing of opioid pain relievers**, particularly when prescribing practices are inconsistent with recommended safe prescribing practices.
 - **Education and training for the furnishing of naloxone**, which can be provided by pharmacists in CA without a prescription (per regulations adopted by the CA State Board of Pharmacy effective January 2016).



Getting To Know You



Goals for this section

- Present state of the opioid crisis
- Corresponding Responsibility
- CURES 2.0
- “Drug Take Back” Programs



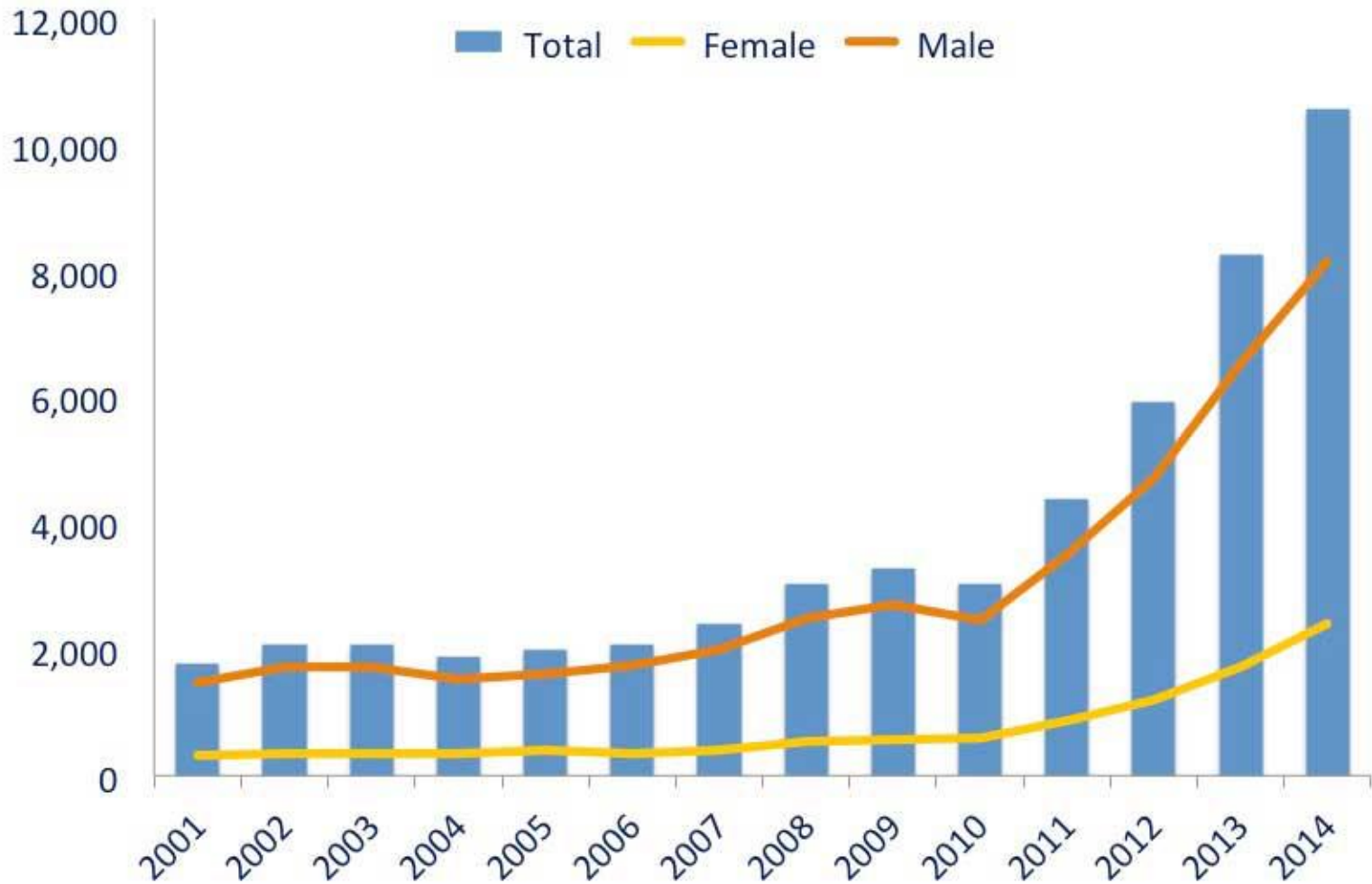
Present state of the opioid crisis

- Opiate related deaths are gaining a lot of attention nationwide
- <http://www.nhmagazine.com/September-2015/Drug-Abuse-Is-a-Primary-Issue-in-NH/>
- A Call to Candidates on opiate abuse, San Francisco Chronicle, Feb 8, 2016 <http://sfchron.cl/1S5ZL3j>
- Pharmacists sued for wrongful death; elder abuse



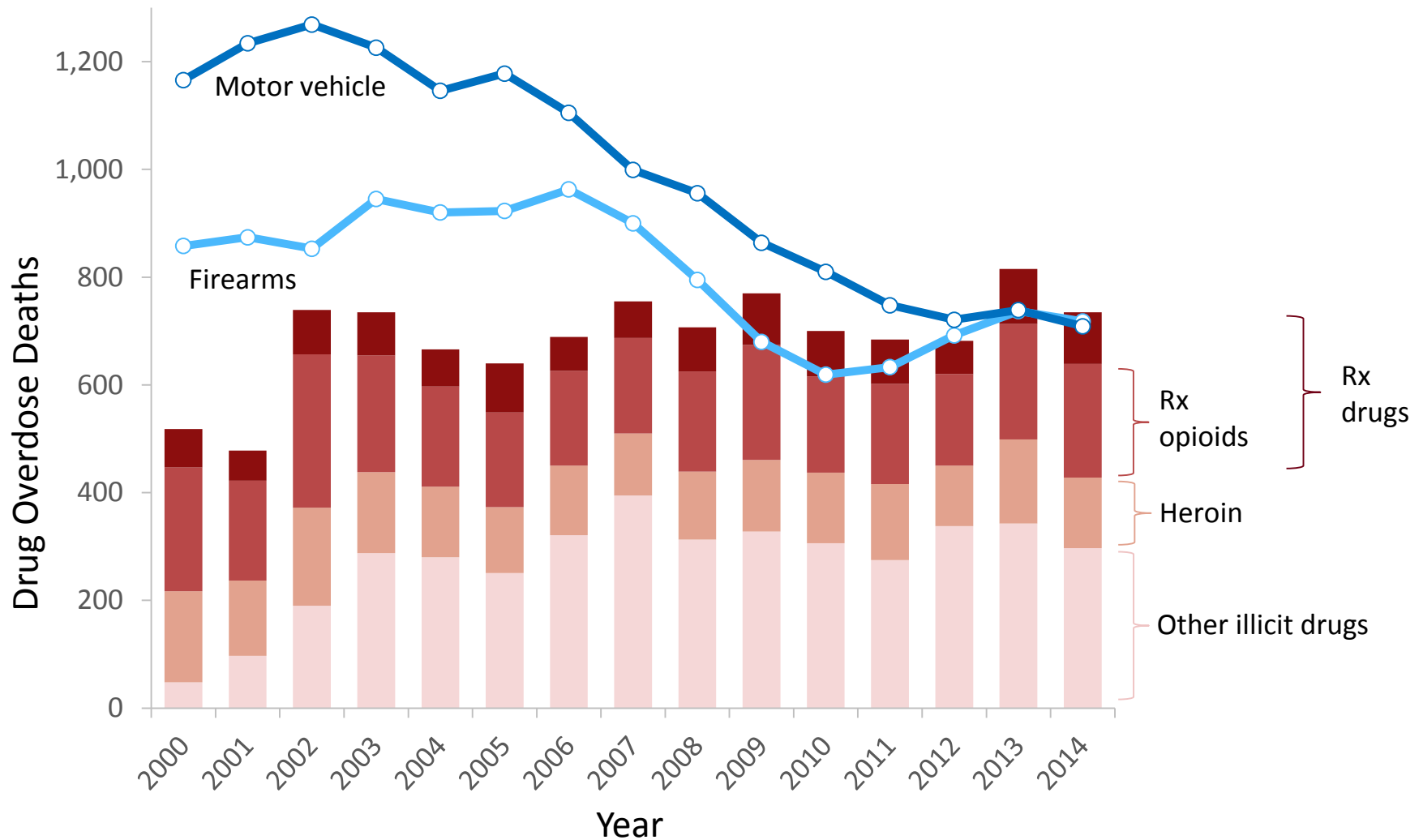
National Overdose Deaths

Number of Deaths from Heroin

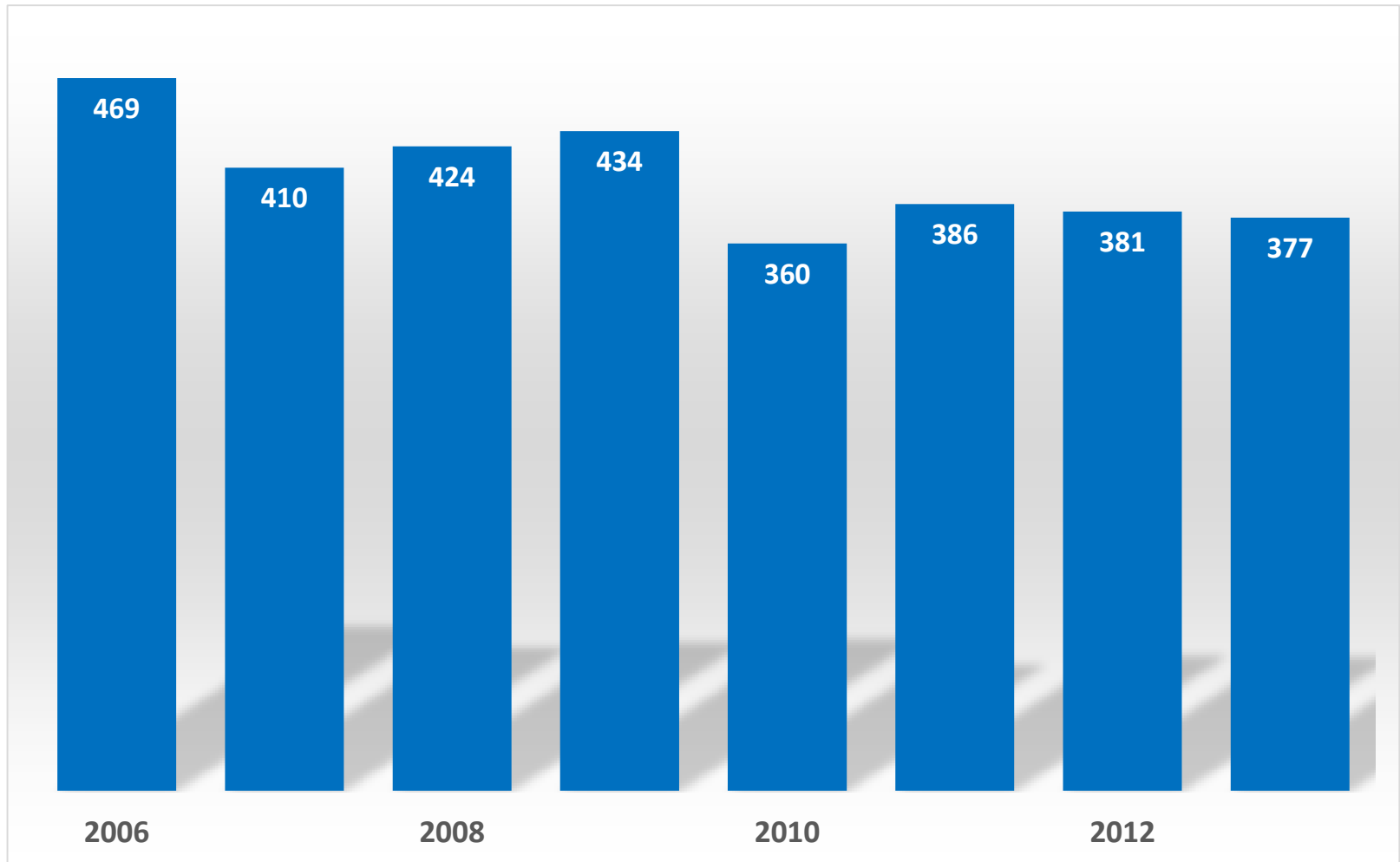


Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

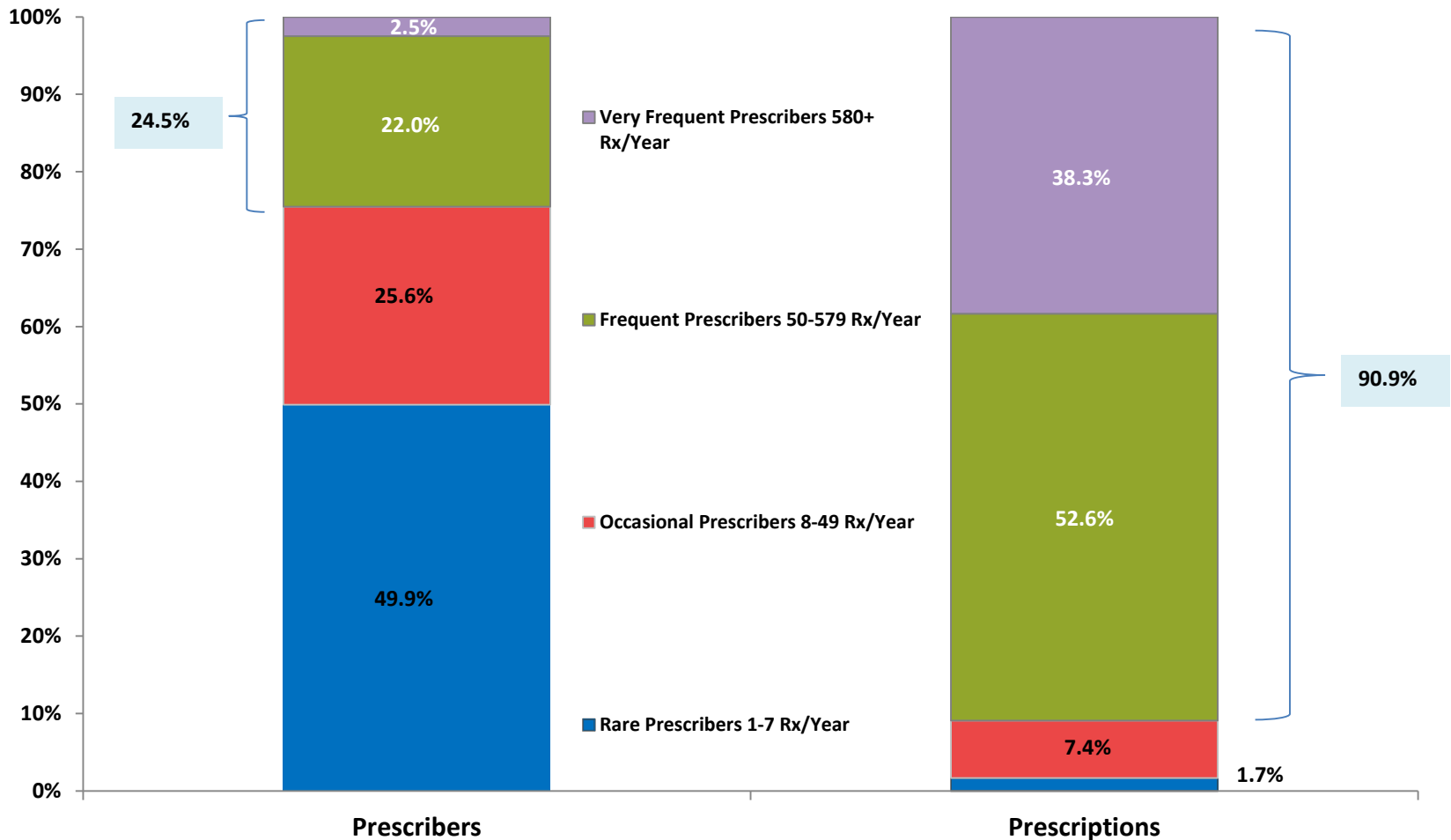
Drug overdose, motor vehicle, and firearm injury deaths in Los Angeles County (LAC), 2000-2014



Opioid-Related Deaths in LAC, 2006-2013



25% of LAC prescribers wrote 91% of opioid prescriptions, 2012 (N = 4,142,662)



Corresponding Responsibility

- “corresponding responsibility” a pharmacy/pharmacist owes under California law to determine the legitimate medical purpose of controlled substance prescriptions before dispensing, under Health and Safety Code section 11153, subdivision (a).

Corresponding Responsibility

- Red Flags: The precedential decision included a list of some of the “red flags” that warn pharmacists there could be a problem with the prescription. A pharmacist must also rely on his or her professional judgment to discern when a prescription seems suspicious.
- Precedential Decision Against Pacifica Pharmacy and Thang Tran:
<http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/enforcement/fy1011/ac103802.pdf>

Corresponding Responsibility Red Flags

- ► Irregularities on the face of the prescription itself
- ► Cash payments
- ► Requests for early refills of prescriptions
- ► Prescriptions written for an unusually large quantity of drugs

Corresponding Responsibility

- Nervous patient demeanor
- ▶ Age or presentation of patient (e.g., youthful patients seeking chronic pain medications) ▶ Multiple patients all with the same address ▶ Multiple prescribers for the same patient for duplicate therapy

Corresponding Responsibility

- Prescriptions written for duplicative drug therapy
- ▶ Initial prescriptions written for strong opiates
- ▶ Long distances traveled from the patient's home to the prescriber's office or to the pharmacy
- ▶ Irregularities in the prescriber's qualifications in relation to the type of medication(s) prescribed

Corresponding Responsibility

- ► Prescriptions that are written outside of the prescriber's medical specialty
- ► Prescriptions for medications with no logical connection to an illness or condition

CURES 2.0

- Established by CA Health & Safety Code section 11165
- CURES registration is REQUIRED, but utilization is voluntary.
- It's impossible to exercise corresponding responsibility without checking CURES
- <http://www.chcf.org/events/2016/webinar-cures-20>

1. <https://cures.doj.ca.gov/registration/confirmEmailPnDRegistration.xhtml>

2. <https://oag.ca.gov/cures/faqs#>

3. <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/pdmp/cures-2.0-user-guide.pdf>

CURES 2.0 ALERTS

- Alerts are presented at the following therapy thresholds:
 1. Patient is currently prescribed more than 100 morphine milligram equivalents per day
 2. Patient has obtained prescriptions from 6 or more prescribers or 6 or more pharmacies during last 6 months
 3. Patient is currently prescribed more than 40 morphine milligram equivalents of methadone daily
 4. Patient is currently prescribed opioids more than 90 consecutive days
 5. Patient is currently prescribed both benzodiazepines and opioids

CURES 2.0

- California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) webinar on what the busy clinician needs to know about CURES 2.0:
<http://www.chcf.org/events/2016/webinar-cures-20>
- CHCF webinar: Use of Buprenorphine for pain:
<http://www.chcf.org/events/2016/webinar-opioid-safety-coalitions-buprenorphine>

Drug Take Back Programs

- DEA currently allows registrants who become authorized collectors to NOW operate drug disposal kiosks and mail back programs
- http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2014/2014-20926.pdf
- http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/dear_practitioner_pharm_waste_101714.pdf

Drug Take Back Programs

- Counties which have Extended Producer Responsibility(EPR) Programs
- <http://calpsc.org/products/pharmaceuticals/>
 - Marin
 - San Mateo
 - Alameda
 - Santa Clara
 - San Francisco (and the city of SF)

Drug Take Back Program: CA Board of Pharmacy

- Proposal to add new Article 9.1 of Division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations and a new Article title as follows:
Article 9.1. Prescription Drug Take-Back Programs as discussed at BOP mtg on July 27, 2016
- http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/meetings/agendas/2016/16_jul_rx_take_back.pdf

Drug Take Back Program: Los Angeles County Proposed Ordinance

- L.A. County supervisors roll back plans for a drug take-back program (at June 14 L.A. County Board of Supervisor's meeting)
- LA County Sheriff's drop off sites available 24/7:
<http://ladpw.org/epd/hhw/pdf/SheriffsSites.pdf>

Safe Medication Disposal Bin

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160725005180/en/Walgreens-Safe-Medication-Disposal-Kiosks-300-Pharmacies>



Thank you!



Questions or interested in joining Safe Med LA?

www.SafeMedLA.org

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Important Links

- Sternberg case decision:
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/enforcement/fy1516/sternberg_lexis.pdf
- Precedential Decision Against Pacifica Pharmacy and Thang Tran:
<http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/enforcement/fy1011/ac103802.pdf>
- SafeMedLA: <http://www.safemedla.org/>
- Board of Pharmacy CURES 2.0 page:
www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/cures.shtml
- Pharmacy Law Book California:
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/laws_regs/lawbook.pdf
- Corresponding Responsibility video on CA BOP website:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdeQ0GeJjAM&feature=youtu.be>
- California Health Care Foundation website:
<http://www.chcf.org/topics/opioid-safety>

Important Links

- Current CDC opiate prescribing guidelines:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>
- LA County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/>
- Los Angeles County Addiction Treatment Centers:
http://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/registration/providerlocator/provide_rdirectory2.aspx
- Los Angeles Substance Use Disorder system of care, this link provides a quick survey of the current philosophy of addiction treatment:
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PolicyBrief/TransformationLA_CSUDSystemCare012616.pdf