



TACTICAL DIVERSION SQUAD CHARLOTTE DISTRICT OFFICE





MISSION STATEMENT

The **Charlotte Tactical Diversion Squad** (TDS) mission is to reduce the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals in its defined geographical area of responsibility thru a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that will include a robust enforcement program; extensive state and local cooperation; enhance liaison with industry stakeholders; and improved public awareness and education.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE



- Investigate, arrest and prosecute DEA registrants & non-registrants who are involved in the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals.
- Remove the ability of DEA registrants to prescribe controlled substance, where arrest and prosecution is not a viable solution.
- Decrease in the availability of illicit pharmaceuticals in the illegal market.
- Reduce the number of overdose deaths linked to pharmaceutical use and abuse.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- ⦿ Prescription drug abuse is a global problem
- ⦿ Rx abuse has surpassed all illicit drugs with the exception of Marijuana
- ⦿ Pharmaceutical overdose deaths have exceeded deaths related to illicit drugs
- ⦿ Pharmaceutical overdose deaths surpassed deaths related to auto accidents

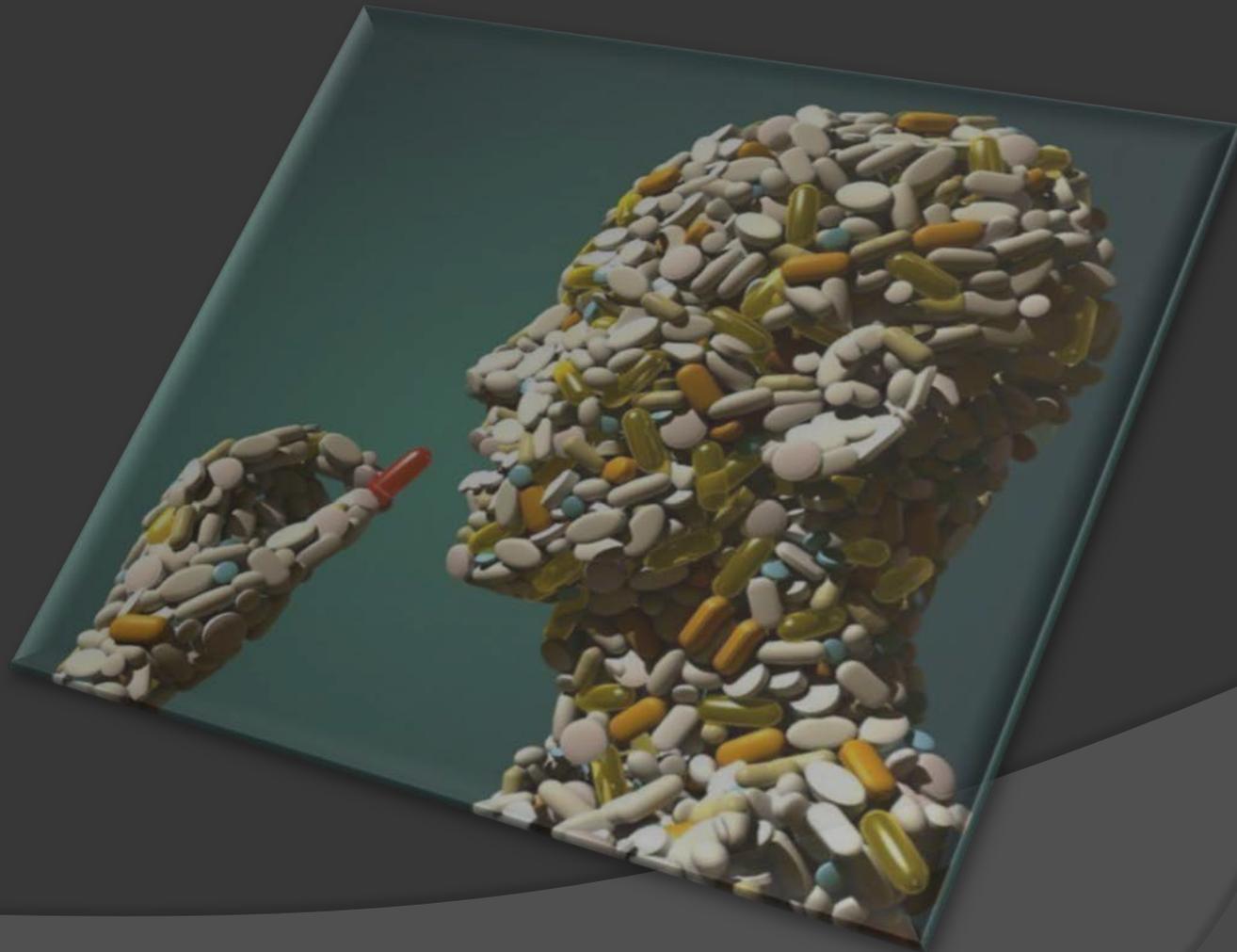
(Source: Pharmacy Times, April 2007/September 2007)

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- ⦿ Doctor Shoppers - Patient visits multiple physicians & obtain same or similar drugs from each practitioner - **Hard to detect - Rx are legitimate on face value**
- ⦿ Fraudulent RX – (Stolen and/or Manufactured)
- ⦿ Lack of verification on questionable Rx



STRATEGY





ENHANCED LIAISON WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

- Direct outreach to the gatekeepers - Pharmacists
- Periodic discussion forums with Manufactures, Prescribers; Distributors, State medical oversight authorities.

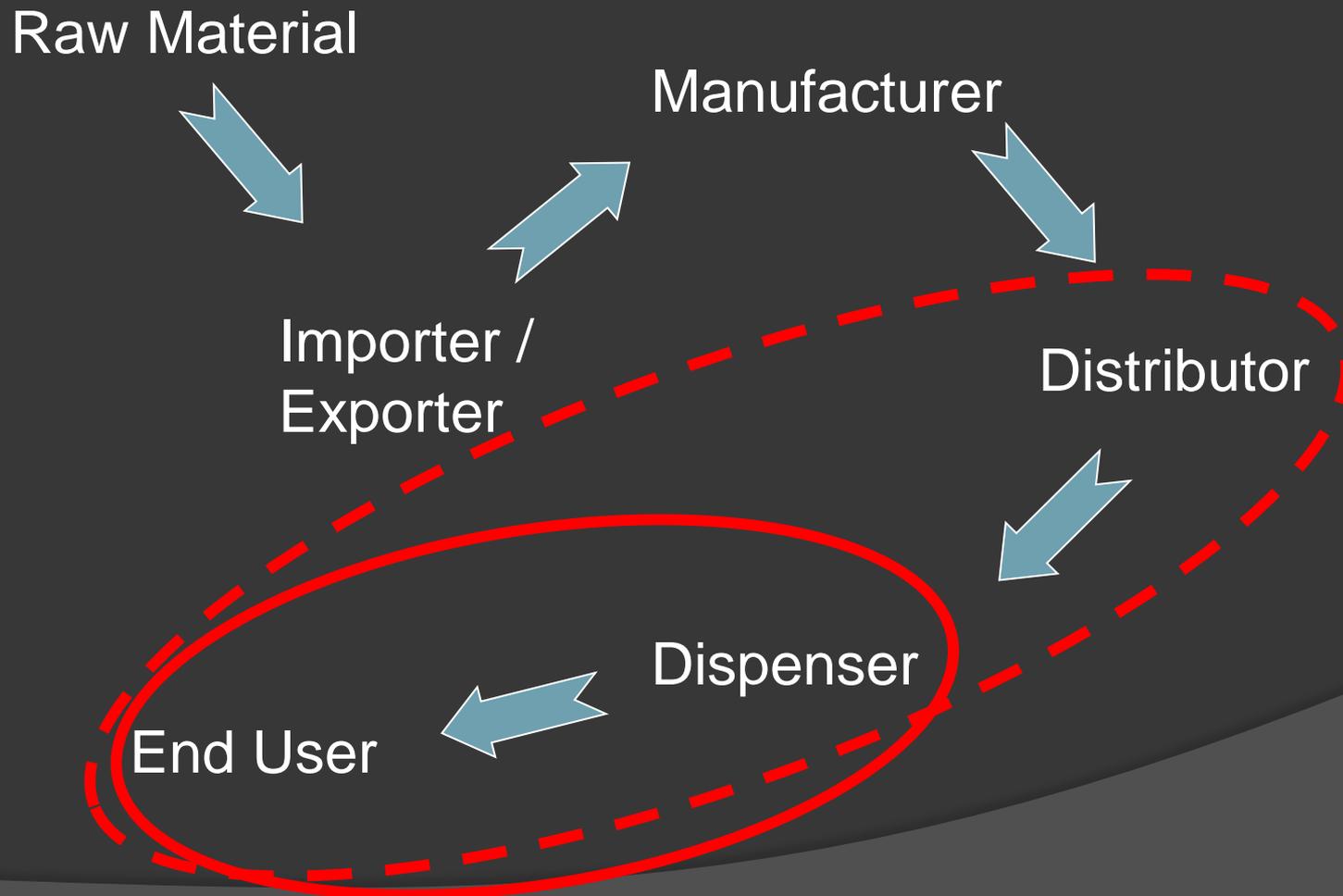


IMPROVED PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION



- Presentation and distribution of educational materials relative to the perils of priority prescription drug abuse targeting the risk population.

Remember the Closed System of Distribution



Remember Your Corresponding Responsibility

The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription.

Corresponding Responsibility

An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research is not a prescription within the meaning and intent of Section 309 of the Act (21 U.S.C. 829) and the person knowingly filling such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of law relating to controlled substances.

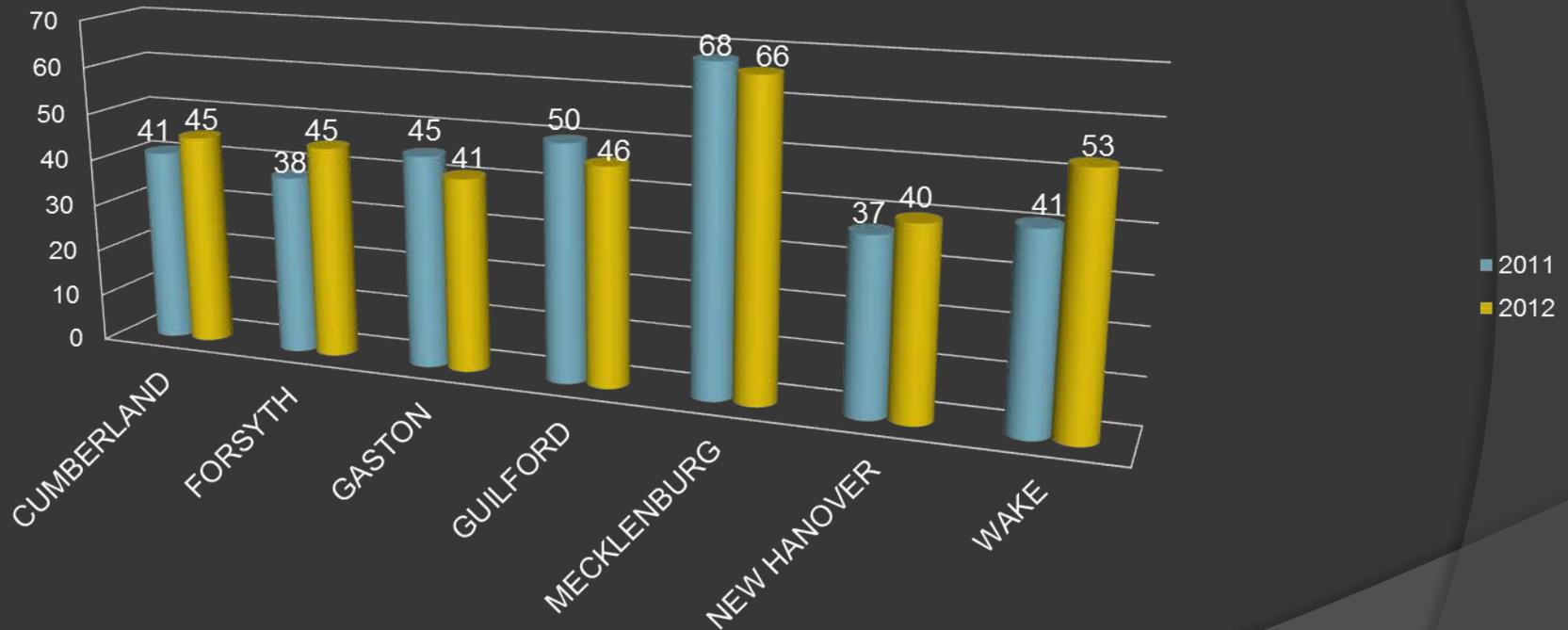
Questionable Rx?

- ⦿ Call the medical practice phone number in the pharmacy's database if possible for verification
- ⦿ If Rx is fraudulent & safety an issue?
 - Delay filling Prescription
 - Notify law enforcement immediately
- ⦿ Obtain copy of license
- ⦿ Alert other pharmacies of the attempted transaction

North Carolina Unintentional Poisonings/ Overdose Deaths (Top seven counties)

CY2011 Total: 1172

CY2012 Total: 1159



North Carolina Unintentional Poisonings / Overdose Deaths (Top seven counties by Drug Class)

AREA	Other opioids 2011	Other opioids 2012	Methadone 2011	Methadone 2012	Benzodiazepines 2011	Benzodiazepines 2012
NORTH CAROLINA	379	348	194	175	140	128
CUMBERLAND	13	9	6	4	5	2
FORSYTH	16	14	5	3	2	4
GASTON	14	15	8	9	1	4
GUILFORD	11	18	4	3	11	6
MECKLENBURG	23	21	3	3	8	9
NEW HANOVER	13	9	12	5	3	3
WAKE	18	10	6	5	9	2

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS



- Increase in the number of federal and state prosecutions of DEA registrants involved in the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals.
- Increase in the number of temporary / permanent suspension of DEA registrations to prescribe control substances.
- Decrease in the availability of illicit pharmaceuticals in the illegal market.
- Reduce in the number of overdose death linked to pharmaceutical use and abuse.

RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- ◎ www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov
- ◎ www.dea.gov
- ◎ www.usdoj.gov
- ◎ Charlotte Tactical Diversion Unit (Criminal)
 - GS Christopher Fletcher (704) 770-2050
- ◎ Greensboro Resident Office (Regulatory)
 - 336-856-7856
 - 336-547-4209 (fax)



Drug Enforcement Administration
Charlotte District Office
Tactical Diversion Squad
ASAC William F. Baxley Jr.
GS Christopher Fletcher