

# Pharmacotherapy of Pain in Infants and Children

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# Overview

- Maturation of pain responses and analgesic actions.
- Scope of pediatric acute, recurrent and chronic pain and palliative care.
- Analgesics commonly prescribed in pediatrics.
- Risk-benefit considerations and roles for opioids in pediatrics acute and chronic pain management.

# My Background and Clinical Focus

- MD and PhD in Biophysics at Stanford
- Residencies in pediatrics and anesthesiology
- Fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology
- 30 year clinical practice at Boston Children's Hospital in pediatric anesthesiology, pediatric critical care, pediatric palliative care, and pediatric acute and chronic pain management

# My Academic and Research Focus

- Chief of the Division of Pain Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital; Professor at Harvard Medical School
- Research areas: pediatric acute and chronic pain management, clinical pharmacology, rehabilitative treatment of pediatric chronic pain, infant animal models for pharmacology of anesthetics and analgesics, development of novel local anesthetics

# Most Infants and Children are Healthy and Experience Brief Pain Episodes



This child has a severe right supracondylar humerus fracture with complete displacement of the fracture fragments.



# Some Have Severely Painful Diseases.

Epidermolysis Bullosa



Osteogenesis Imperfecta



Cancer



Metabolic /Neurologic Diseases



# Sickle Cell Disease: Vaso-Occlusion and Its Painful Consequences From Infancy to Adult Life



# Development of Pain in Neonates

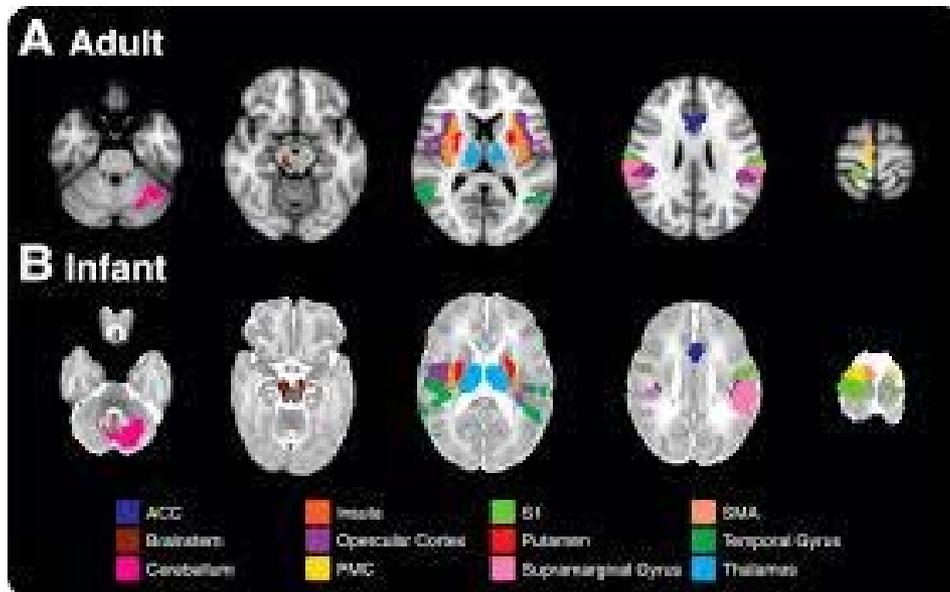
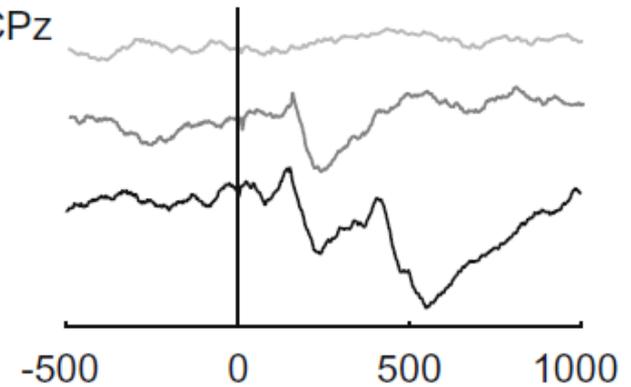
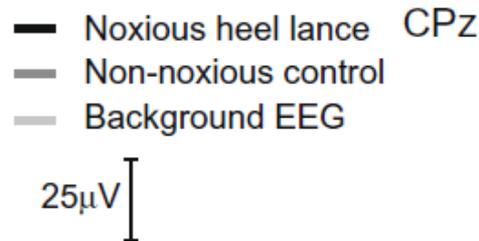
- Maturation during third trimester.
- Responses are less localized, lower threshold
- Behavior: facial expression, limb posture
- Autonomic responses, hormonal-metabolic responses.



Facial expression of physical distress and pain in the infant

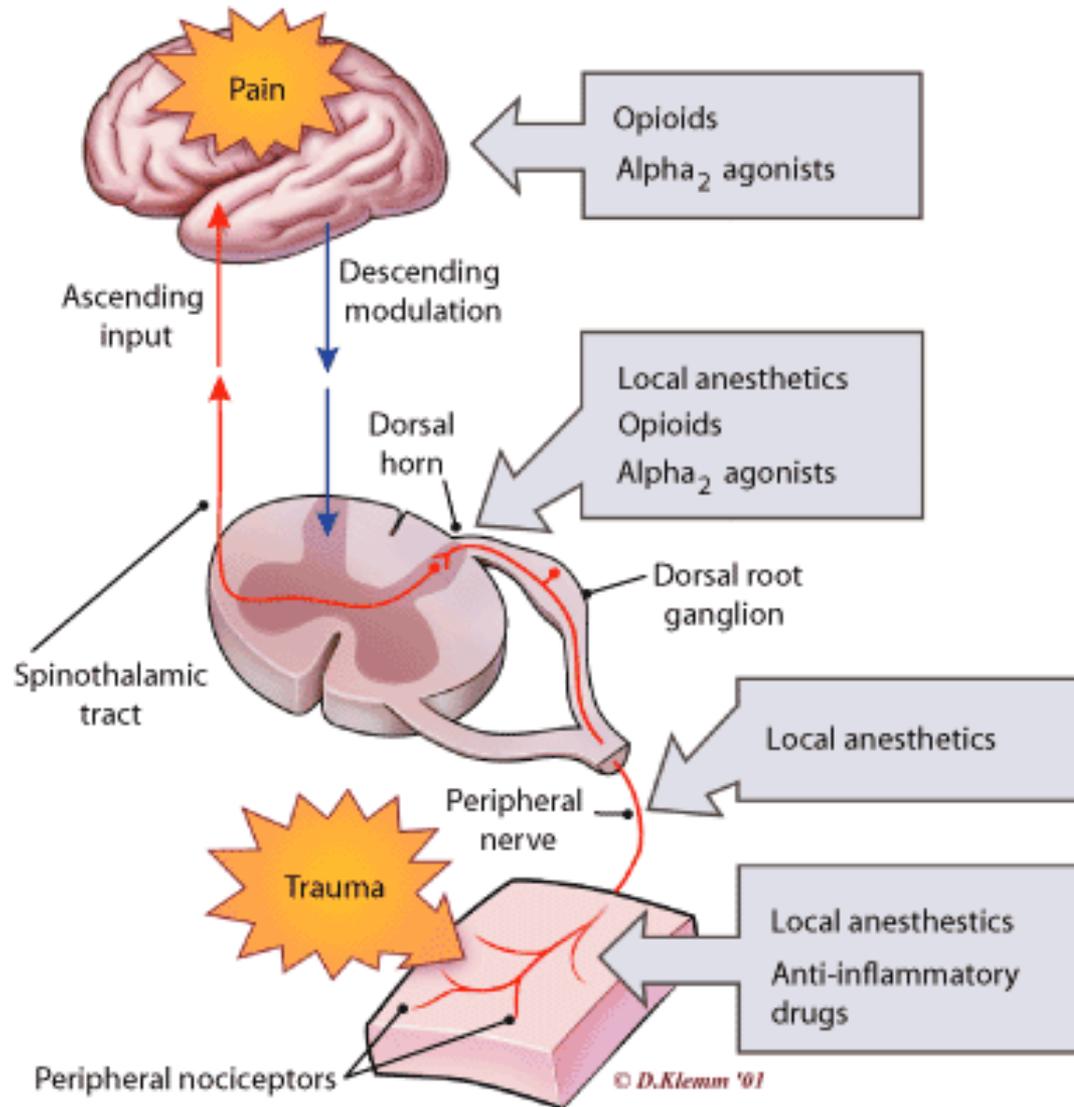
Reprinted with permission from Hoag J, Dale DC, Wang and Vitale's  
Clinical Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Vol 5, 2000, Article 34, Lippincott

# Non-Invasive Studies of Brain Responses to Clinically Required Heelsticks in Neonates (EEG, EP, MRI)



Goksan et al  
eLife 2015;4:e06356

# Developmental Changes in Analgesic Receptors and Pathways Influence Efficacy, Safety and Side-Effects.



# Ontogeny of Analgesic Actions:

- Efficacy:

  - Are receptors present?

  - Are receptors coupled?

  - Are pathways connected?

- Safety

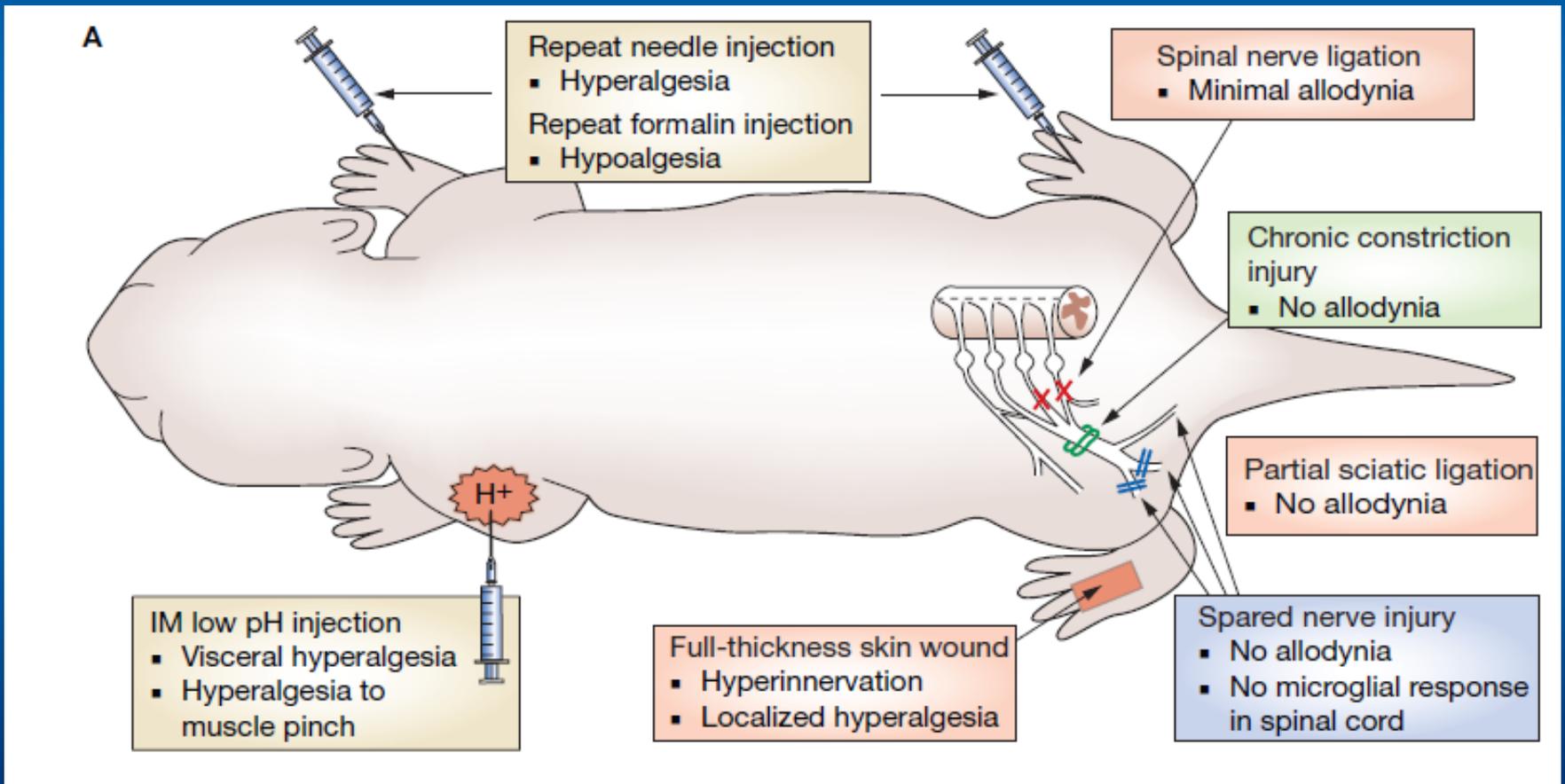
  - Age-specific toxicities?

  - Immediate or late? Common or rare?

  - Predicted by infant animal models?

  - Examples: general anesthetics, opioids,  
local anesthetics

# Infant Rat Models for Pain, Analgesia, and Anesthesia



# Specific Classes of Analgesics

- Acetaminophen
- NSAIDs
- Local Anesthetics
- Opioids
- Medications for neuropathic pain  
(e.g. anticonvulsants)

# Acetaminophen

- Most widely prescribed
- Mechanism remains unknown.
- PK and some safety data at all ages
- Positive efficacy trial in postoperative infants
- Low side-effect profile
- Controversies: asthma, 5HT-3 antagonists
- Overall, very good safety track record, but can cause acute hepatic failure

# Morphine Sparing Increases with Acetaminophen Dose

(Korpela et al Anesthesiology 1999)

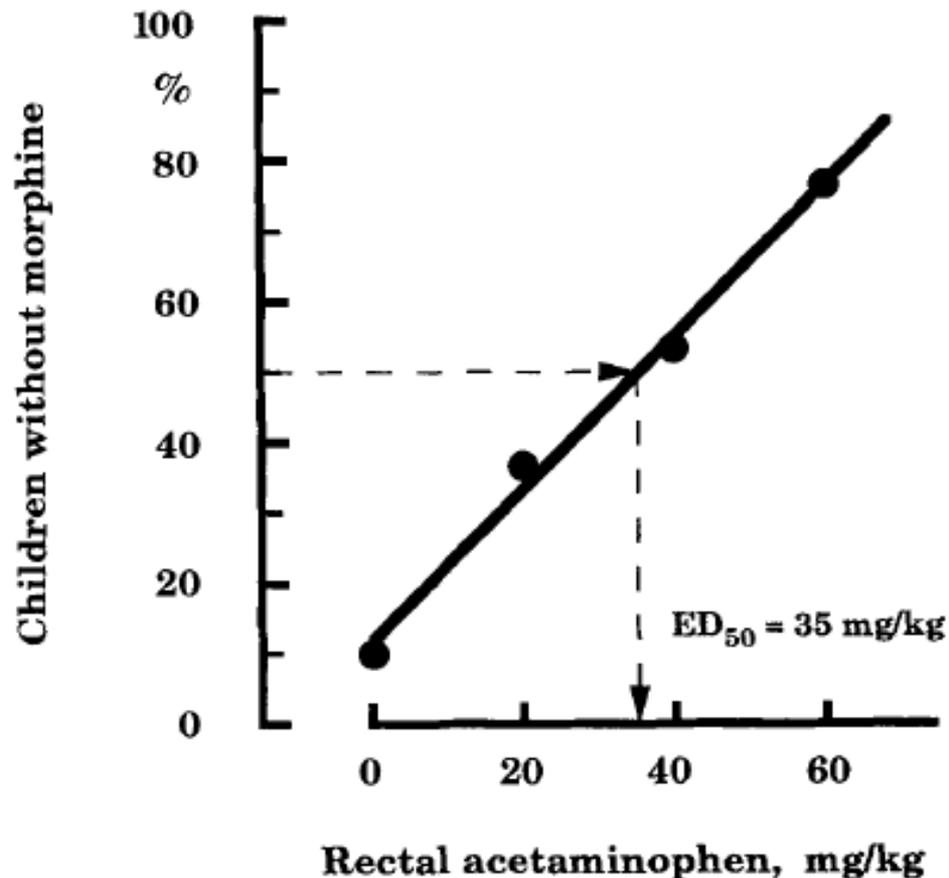
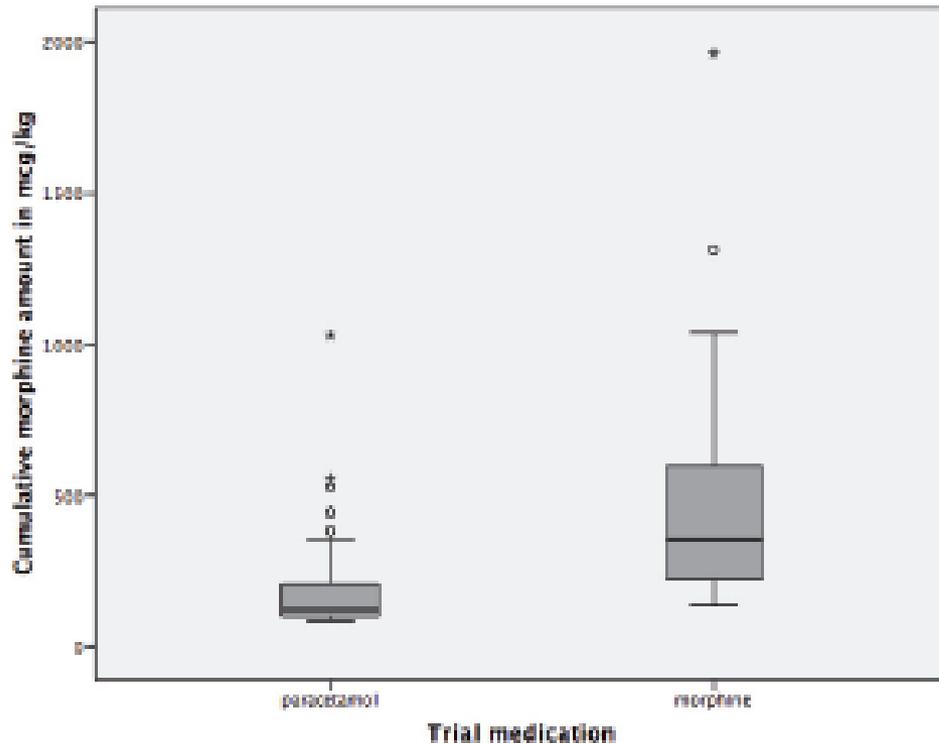


Fig. 1. Correlation between the dose of rectal acetaminophen in a pediatric day-case surgery and the percentage of children who did not need postoperative rescue morphine.

# IV Acetaminophen in Postoperative Infants: Morphine-Sparing



From I. Ceelie,  
PhD Thesis  
Erasmus University

**FIGURE 3.** Cumulative morphine dose for both morphine and paracetamol study groups over 48 hours postoperative. Asterisks depict outliers, in the paracetamol group we identified two: the first a boy, 68 days old, who underwent surgery for a long gap esophageal atresia and subsequently needed a chest tube for a pneumothorax. The second is a boy, newborn, with a gastroschisis for which a silo was placed. In the morphine group one outlier is identified, a girl, 355 days old, who underwent surgery for a recurrence of a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH).

# Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

- Efficacy in over 300 pediatric clinical trials.
- Effective by oral, rectal, or intravenous routes.
- In general, they improve pain scores and reduce opioid requirements by 30-40%
- No NSAID is uniquely “stronger”.
- Short-term safety in healthy children (Lesko and Mitchell, ...)
- Extensive PK for children, limited PK for neonates (ibuprofen, indomethacin)

# NSAIDs: Controversies/Unknowns

- Efficacy for newborns
- Risks (GI, renal...) with chronic use in children, especially with risk-factors
- Effect on bleeding after tonsillectomy  
(Riggin et al 2013 38: 115-129 Clinical Otolaryngology largest meta-analysis: reassuring conclusion)
- Bone formation in orthopedic surgeries  
(laboratory vs. clinical relevance, depends on clinical context) Dodwell et al 2010; Pountos et al 2012

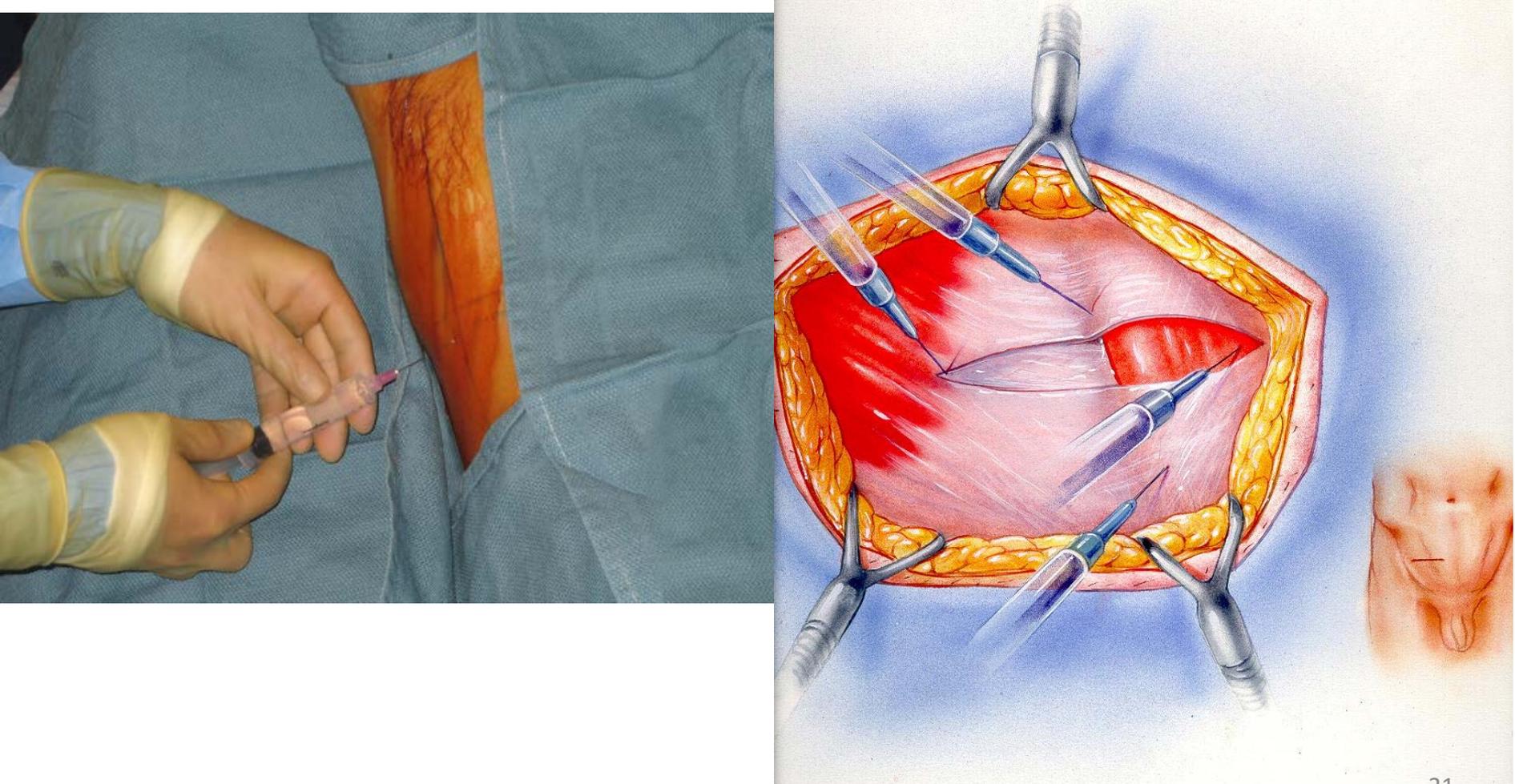
# Local Anesthetics in Pediatrics

- Topical and Mucosal Analgesia
- Infiltration for Procedures
- Regional Anesthesia and Wound Infiltration for Surgery and Postoperative Analgesia

# Local Anesthetics: PK and Safety

- Amino-amides are cleared very slowly in neonates.
- Bupivacaine  $t_{1/2}$  neonates: 8-12 hours.
- Chloroprocaine is cleared rapidly, even in preterm neonates.
- Topical local anesthetics show excellent safety for infant needle procedures.
- Pediatric Regional Anesthesia Network (PRAN) Multi-center database, > 100,000 cases: overall very good safety.

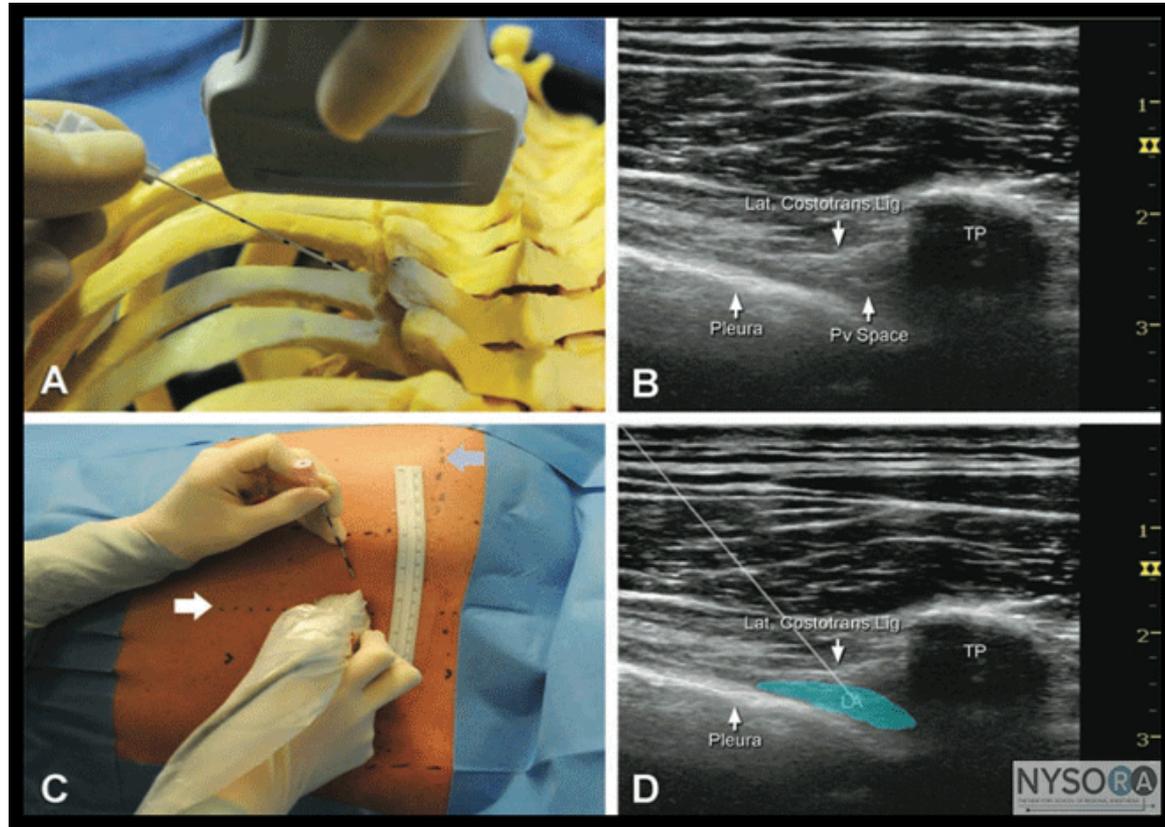
# Wound Infiltration During Surgery



# Pediatric Regional Anesthesia:

- Peripheral and plexus blocks and epidural analgesia produce excellent analgesia and favorable impact on postoperative recovery.
- Requires pediatric-specific technical expertise, knowledge of pediatric local anesthetic pharmacology, protocols, and systematic approaches to postoperative management.

# Ultrasound-Guidance Has Revolutionized Regional Anesthesia: Paravertebral Blockade for Infant Thoracotomy



# Multi-modal Opioid-Sparing Approach to Pediatric Postop Analgesia

- Regional anesthesia wherever feasible
- Additives or systemic adjuncts to prolong regional anesthesia.
- Round the clock acetaminophen + NSAID  
(**not** prn)
- Opioid as rescue, less as primary analgesic

Walther-Larsen et al Pediatric Anesthesia 2016; 26: 151-7

Chalkiadis and Berde Pediatric Anesthesia 2016; 26: 120-1

# Is it Effective or Safe to Combine Acetaminophen and NSAIDs?

- Adults: Ong et al *Anesthesia and Analgesia* 2010; 110: 1170-9
- Systematic Review of 21 studies, 1909 patients
- 85% of studies show significantly improved analgesia compared to acetaminophen alone, 65% of studies show significantly improved analgesia compared to NSAID alone

## Opioids Have Essential Uses in Pediatrics.

- Cancer pain (mucositis and tumor-related)
- Life-limiting illnesses/end of life care,  
for pain and dyspnea
- Post-operative pain
- Sickle cell acute vaso-occlusive episodes
- Critical illness and mechanical ventilation

# Opioid Pharmacokinetics in Infants

- Newborns: hepatic and renal immaturity, accumulation of parent drug and metabolites
- Newborns: increased brain entry
- Maturation over the first 6 – 12 months
- Morphine infusion postoperative dosing guidelines established for all age groups (mg/kg/hr)
  - Older infants and children 0.03
  - 1 month – 3 months . 0.015
  - Term – 1 month 0.01
  - < 36 weeks PCA 0.005

# Postoperative Opioids in Infants

- GI side-effects are relatively common.
- Apnea risk varies with age and disease status.
- Which opioid???
- What to give infants receiving mechanical ventilation?
- What constitutes a “monitored setting”?
- Which infants can receive opioids and go home after ambulatory surgery?

# Reasons to Avoid Prescribing Codeine

- Codeine is a pro-drug, inert by itself.
- Poor analgesia: Slow-metabolizing variant or drugs that block CYP2D6 Many other drugs block CYP2D6, rendering codeine inert.
- Overdose and death: ultra-rapid CYP2D6 variant
- Lexus-Nexus (legal) databases, pediatric tonsillectomy:
  - > 28 opioid-related deaths from 1984 – 2010

# Recurrent Pain in Community Pediatrics

- Recurrent episodic pain is very common; daily persistent pain is less common.
- Headaches (tension, migraine), abdominal pains, chest pain and limb pains affect 5-20% of children.
- Diagnostic evaluation guided by Hx and PE
- Pain-related disability: school absence
- Episodic school absence is common, dropping out of school for pain is less common.
- Estimate: 20% of missed school days are due to headaches and abdominal pain.

# Recurrent Pain in Community Pediatrics: Treatment

- Robust evidence for cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), lifestyle changes, exercise, impact on measures of pain
- Major goal: keeping kids in school
- Circumscribed role for analgesics.

# Neuropathic Pain

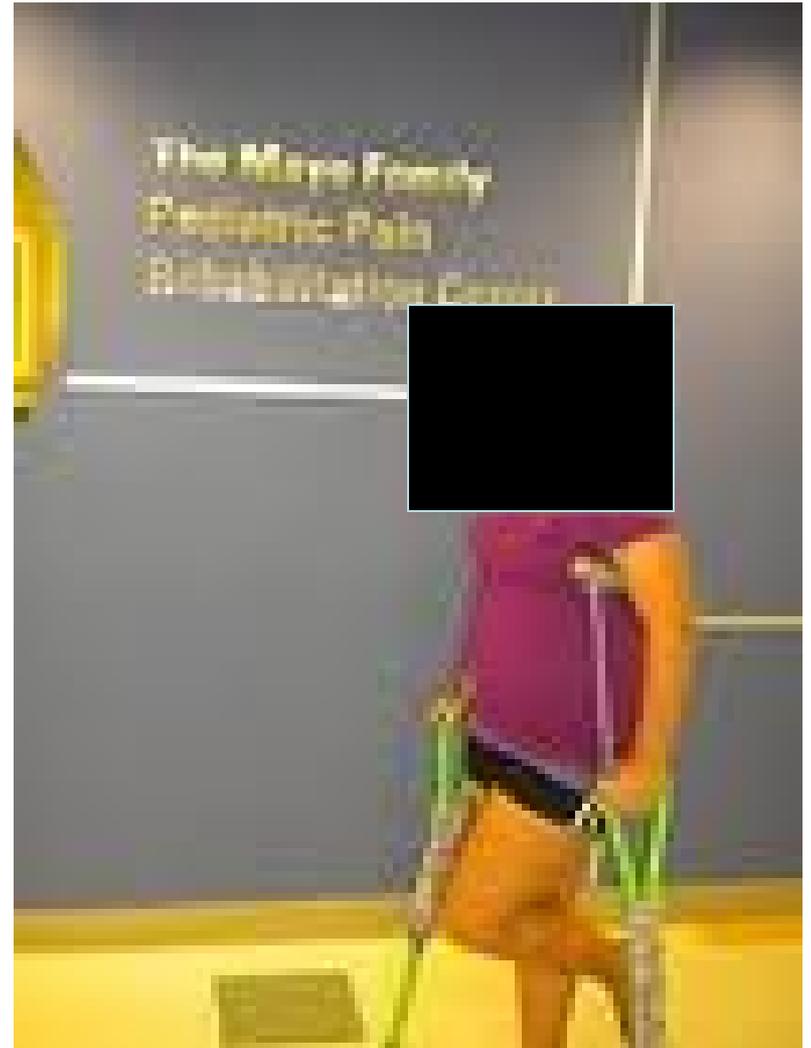
- Pain associated with injuries to nerves or abnormal excitability in the nervous system.
- Biology and incidence are very age-dependent.
- Pediatrics: peripheral nerve trauma, post-surgical, post-amputation pain, complex regional pain syndromes (see next slide)...

# Complex Regional Pain Syndromes (CRPS), Two Adolescent Girls with Extreme Pain With Light Touch (Allodynia)



# Rehabilitative Treatment of Pediatric CRPS

- Most patients improve with a regimen of intense physical and occupational therapy, intense exercise, and cognitive-behavioral therapy.
- MRI evidence for brain structural and functional abnormalities that partially improve with rehabilitative treatment.
- Similar rehabilitative treatment benefits several other types of chronic pain (fibromyalgia, widespread musculoskeletal pain).



# Medications for Neuropathic Pain

- Adults: Several anticonvulsants and antidepressants have partial efficacy, with frequent side-effects.
- Children: Very sparse data, mostly extrapolated from:
  - adult trials for chronic pain
  - pediatric trials for epilepsy and mood

# Opioids for Children with Advanced Cancer

- Several case series and a small number of clinical trials indicate good effectiveness.
- Most frequent side-effects: constipation, fatigue, mental clouding.
- Some via oral route, some parenteral (IV, subcutaneous, transdermal).
- Many children need switching among opioids, most dosing is extrapolated from adults or from pediatric short-term studies.

# Opioid Tolerance and Hyperalgesia: The downside of neuroplasticity

- Tolerance: larger doses are required to achieve the same analgesic effect.
- Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia: chronic opioid dosing resets pain responsiveness. Everything hurts more.
- Tolerance and hyperalgesia develop more rapidly in younger animal and younger humans compared to older animals and older humans, respectively.

# Opioid Tolerance and Hyperalgesia in Pediatrics

- Profound opioid tolerance and withdrawal syndromes in critically ill infants and children in the NICU and PICU.
- Children with advanced cancer: a subset show profound opioid tolerance/resistance Collins et al J Pediatrics 1996

# Chronic Prescribing of Opioids for Pain in Non-Life-Limiting Conditions

- Adults with Low Back Pain: Studies generally show lack of long-term benefit on pain, function or disability
- Pediatrics: Additional concerns:
  - effects on cognition, mood, and endocrine development,
  - tolerance and opioid-induced hyperalgesia

# What is a Life-Limiting Disease?

Example: Changes in Prognosis for Cystic Fibrosis

<u>Year</u>	<u>Median Age at Death (years)</u>
1980	19
2016	> 40





Example:  
Radiograph from a  
30 Year old Woman,  
treated at Age 3  
for Ewing's Sarcoma.  
Tumor-free.

Note the missing  
hemi-pelvis on the  
right.

Daily pain for 27 years.

# Conclusions

- Acute and chronic pain in pediatrics has important differences from adults in epidemiology and biology.
- Evidence supports safe and effective prescribing of several analgesics in pediatrics, but there are major information gaps.
- Pediatric clinical trials are needed to improve how we prescribe analgesics in the overall care of children with acute and chronic pain.

# Ethical Framework for Considering Pediatric Opioid Policy

Chris Feudtner, MD PhD MPH  
Director, Department of Medical Ethics  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Professor, Pediatrics, Medical Ethics & Health Policy  
The University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

# Introduction

- I am Chris Feudtner, MD PhD MPH
- Pediatrician who cares for children with complex conditions, providing when needed palliative care
- I have spoken previously about the role of opioids in pediatric palliative care
- I am also a pediatric ethicist
- I speak today focusing on the ethical issues raised by our response to the opioid misuse epidemic

Let me briefly reiterate several points I made last time, as they are ethically relevant

# Two Groups in Desperate Need

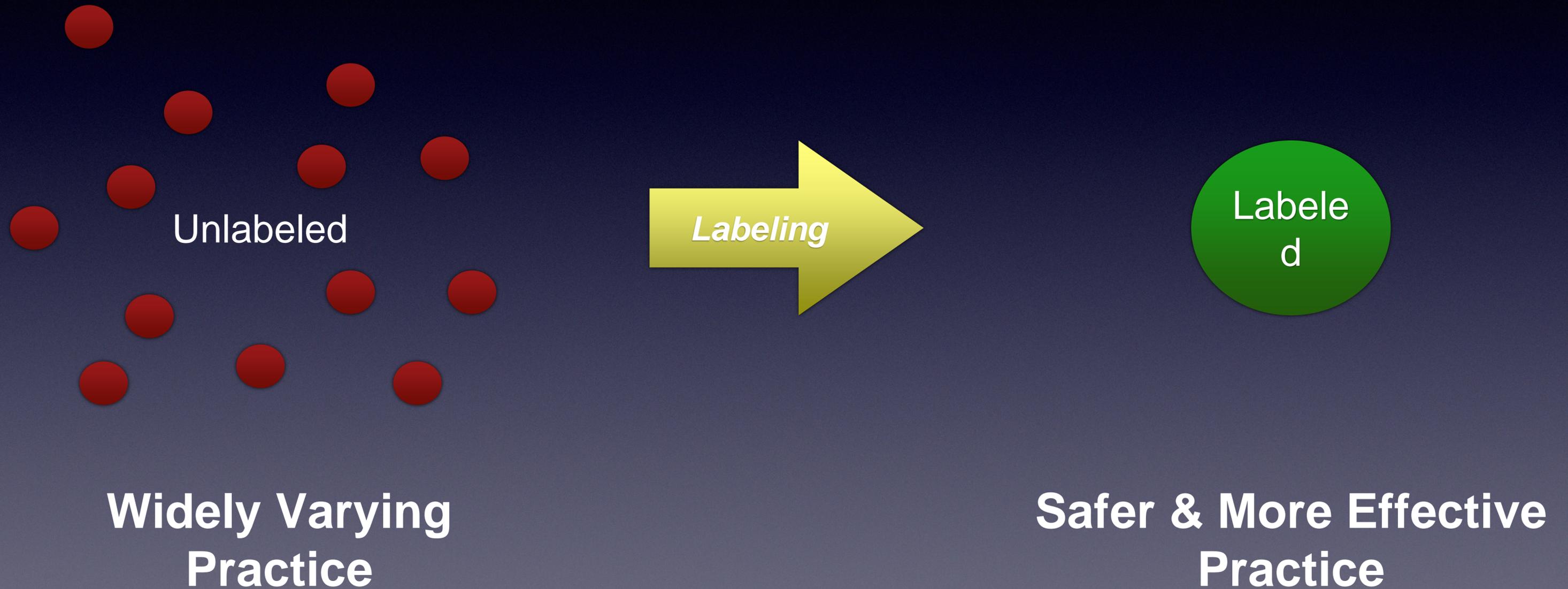
- We serve 2 vulnerable populations of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults at risk of:
  - Group 1: Taking opioids in a prohibited & harmful manner
  - Group 2: Enduring inadequately relieved severe pain

**To serve both of these groups,  
we need a clear-sighted, balanced, and forthright  
policy response.**

# Labeling as Evidence Based Guidance



# Labeling to Improve Clinical Practice



# Labeling as a Confirmation & Constraint on Clinical Practice



**Use is  
Appropriate**

**Rx**



**Use is  
Inappropriate**

# Oxycontin Labeling: Confirmation & Constraints

OXYCONTIN is indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate in:

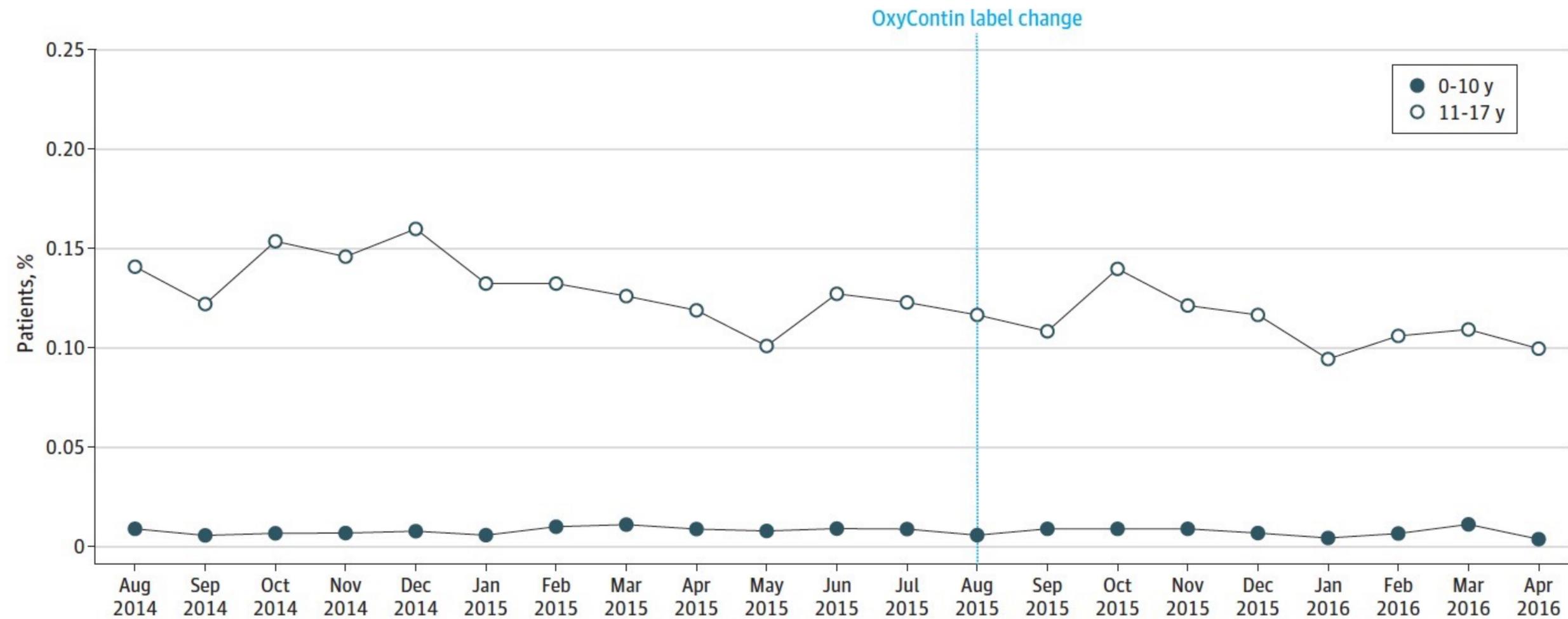
- Adults; and
- Opioid-tolerant pediatric patients 11 years of age and older who are already receiving and tolerate a minimum daily opioid dose of at least 20 mg oxycodone orally or its equivalent.

## Limitations of Use

- Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with extended-release opioid formulations [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*], reserve OXYCONTIN for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics or immediate-release opioids) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain.
- OXYCONTIN is not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic.

# Recent Finding Underscoring “Constraint” Effect

Figure 2. Percentage of Oxycodone Extended-Release Prescriptions Dispensed to Pediatric Patients From Retail Pharmacies, August 2014-April 2016



Data were extracted in August 2016.<sup>6</sup>

What are some of the ethical insights and implications of the focus on labeling as a response to the opioid epidemic?

# Pieces of the Opioid Epidemic Solution: Policy and Clinical Practice

<b>Science</b>	Drug Development	Drug Studies	Non-Drug Studies
<b>Clinical Practice</b>	<b>Medication Labeling</b>	Non-Opioid Alternatives	Quality Improvement & Payment
<b>Illicit Sources</b>	Over Prescribers	Excessive Amounts Prescribed	Home Medicine Cabinets
<b>Addiction Treatment</b>	Prevention & Screening	Access to Levels of Treatment	Harm Reduction

# Ethical Framework for Pediatric Opioid Policy

- Aspects of the situation
- Detection of problems
- Deliberation
  - At the level of individual patients
  - At the level of populations of persons
  - At the level of having to synthesize these different levels
- Conclusion

# Aspects of the Situation

## Patients & Persons

- Pediatric patients in pain
- Pediatric patients at risk of misuse
- Adolescents at risk of misuse

## Multiple Levels

- Individual patients
- Populations of persons

## Interacting Systems

- Health care
- Insurance and payment
- Police & drug enforcement
- FDA

## Importance of Knowledge

- To weigh individual risks/benefits
- To weigh population-level impact

# Detection of Problems

## Individual Patients

- Risk of suffering due to pain
- Risk of subsequent misuse

## Patient vs Population

- Patient in pain without opioid
- Persons accessing opioid & misusing

## Interacting Systems

- Blame game focused on pills, not on coordinated solutions to misuse problem
- Pediatric misuse deaths prompt narrow focus on pediatric opioid restrictions
- Insufficient payment for non-opioid pain management induces “quick fix” pill-based responses

## Problems of Knowledge / Thinking

- Risk of use-induced misuse
- Not thinking of the interacting systems
- Individual vs population tradeoffs

# Deliberation #1

Trading off Entirely at the INDIVIDUAL level

Patient's risk of pain

VS

Patient's risk of subsequent misuse

# Individual Level

			Treatment Options		
			No treatment	???	Opioid treatment
???	???	???			
	???	???			
	???	???			
	???	???			

# Individual Level

**Ethics job #1**

***Clarify the goals that patients are pursuing via treatment***

		Treatment Options		
		No treatment	???	Opioid treatment
<b>GOALS</b>	Reduce pain in short term	???		
	Reduce pain in long term			
	Avoid opioid side effects			
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse			

**Ethics job #2**  
**Clarify the**  
**value weights**  
**that**  
**patients place**  
**on goals**

# Individual Level

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	???	Opioid treatment
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term				
	Reduce pain in long term				
	Avoid opioid side effects				
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse				

# Individual Level

**Ethics job #3**  
***Make sure all valid options are being considered***

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	<b>Non-opioid treatment</b>	Opioid treatment
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term				
	Reduce pain in long term				
	Avoid opioid side effects				
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse				

# Patient with acute pain

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term	+++			
	Reduce pain in long term	0			
	Avoid opioid side effects	+			
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse	+++			

# Patient with chronic pain

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term	++			
	Reduce pain in long term	+++			
	Avoid opioid side effects	++			
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse	+++			

# Patient with advanced cancer pain

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term	+++			
	Reduce pain in long term	++			
	Avoid opioid side effects	+			
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse	+			

# Individual Level

The patient largely determines this

Patient & doctor decide upon this

## Treatment Options

No treatment

Non-opioid treatment

Opioid treatment

Preference Weights

### GOALS

Reduce pain in short term

Reduce pain in long term

Avoid opioid side effects

Minimize risk of opioid misuse

Patient & doctor deliberate regarding how well different options are likely to accomplish important goals

# Individual Level

**What does the FDA do at the individual level?**

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	<b>Opioid treatment</b>
GOALS	Reduce pain in short term				
	Reduce pain in long term				
	Avoid opioid side effects				
	Minimize risk of opioid misuse				

The FDA serves (among other things) as an authoritative clearing house of the data that informs this part of the deliberation, namely the likelihood that a specific treatment will achieve a specific goal via **LABELING**

# Deliberation #2

Impact at **POPULATION** level

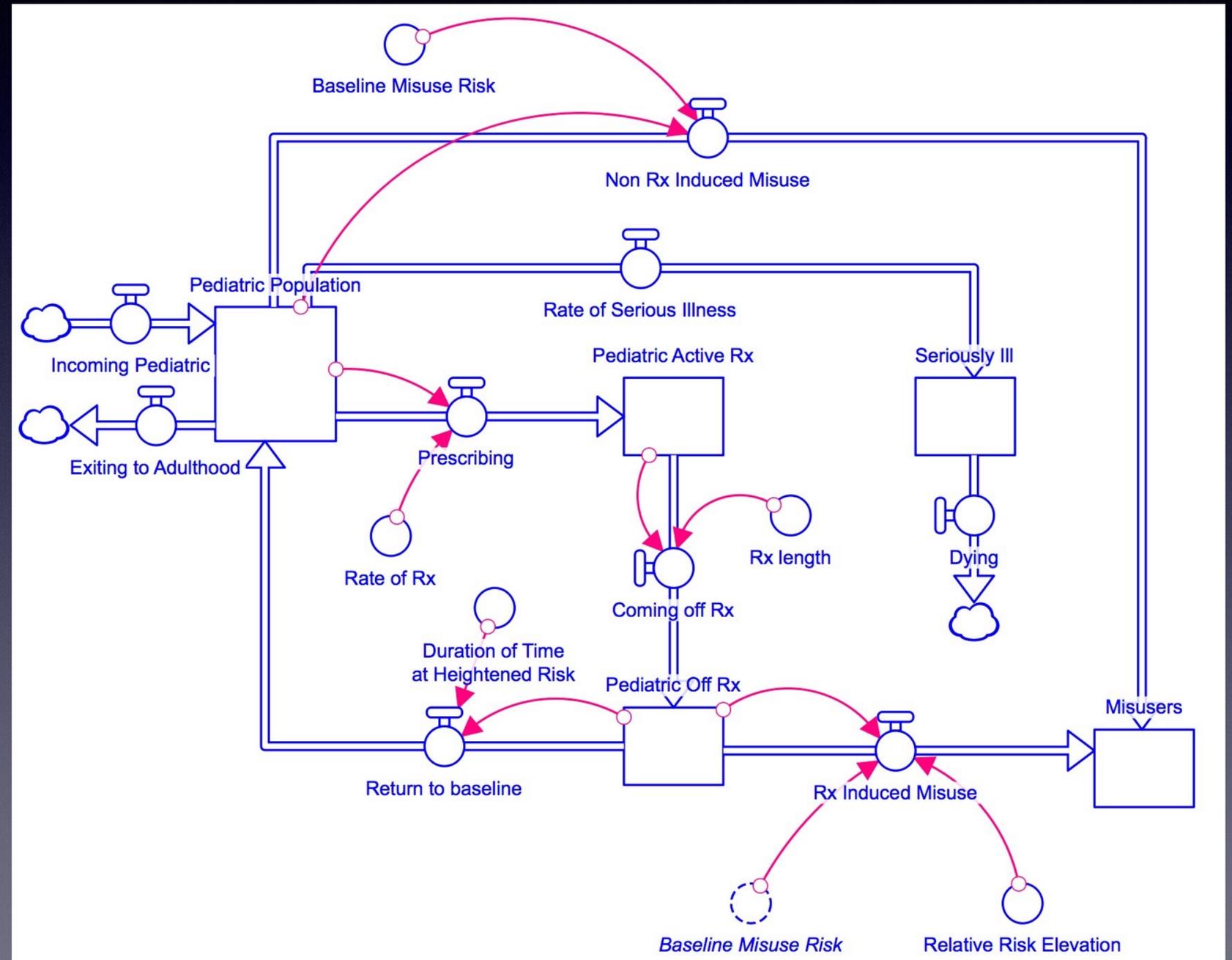
Numbers of Misusers

Amount of Opioid Diversion

# Population Level

## Opioid Misusers

Simple Model:  
Incomplete & Inaccurate,  
but Hopefully Enlightening



# Population Level

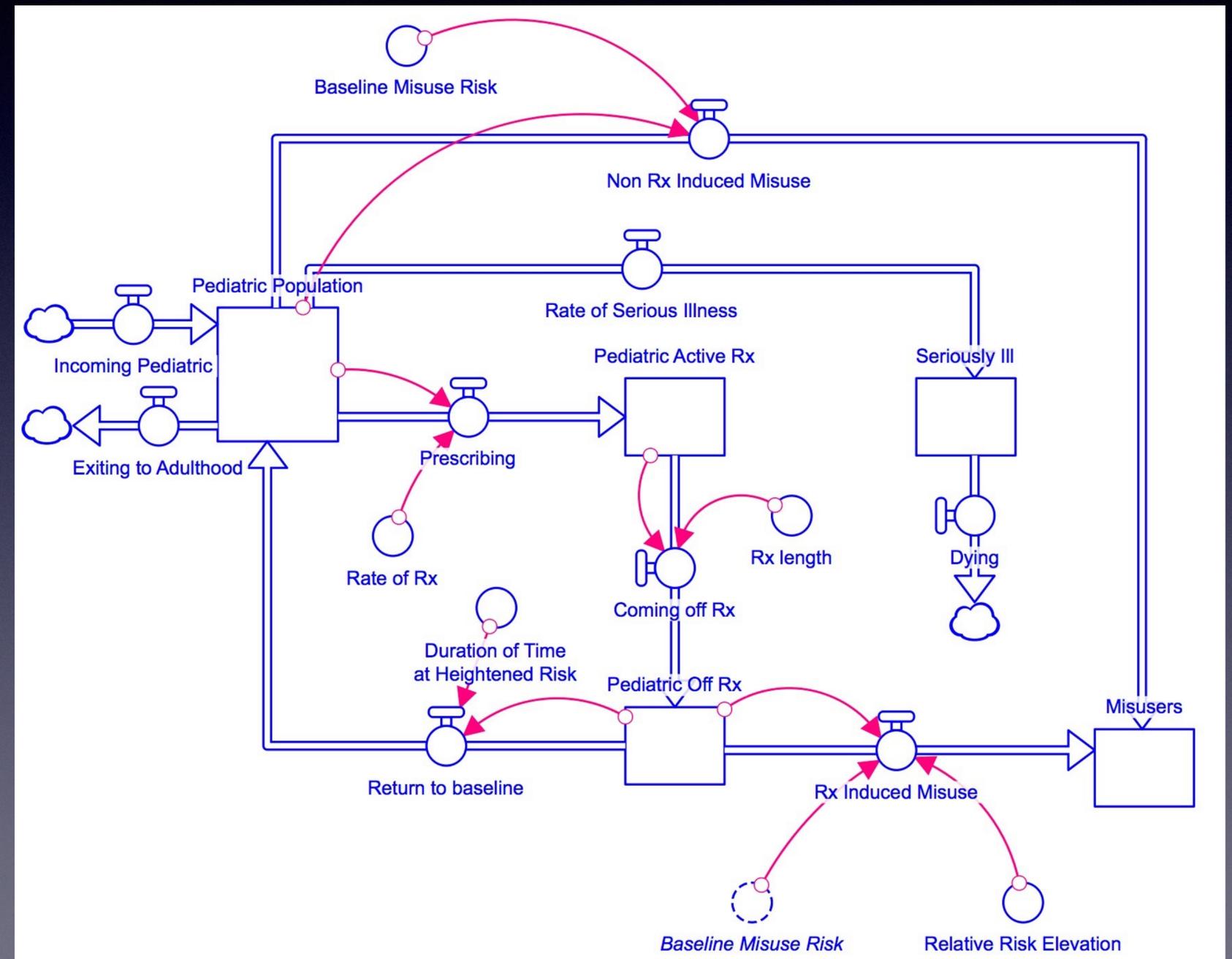
Baseline Misuse Risk: 0.09

## Opioid Misusers

Simple Model:  
Incomplete & Inaccurate,  
but Hopefully Enlightening

Relative Risk Elevation: 1.33

Miech et al.  
Prescription Opioids in Adolescence and Future Opioid Misuse (2015)  
[www.pediatrics.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2015-1364](http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2015-1364)



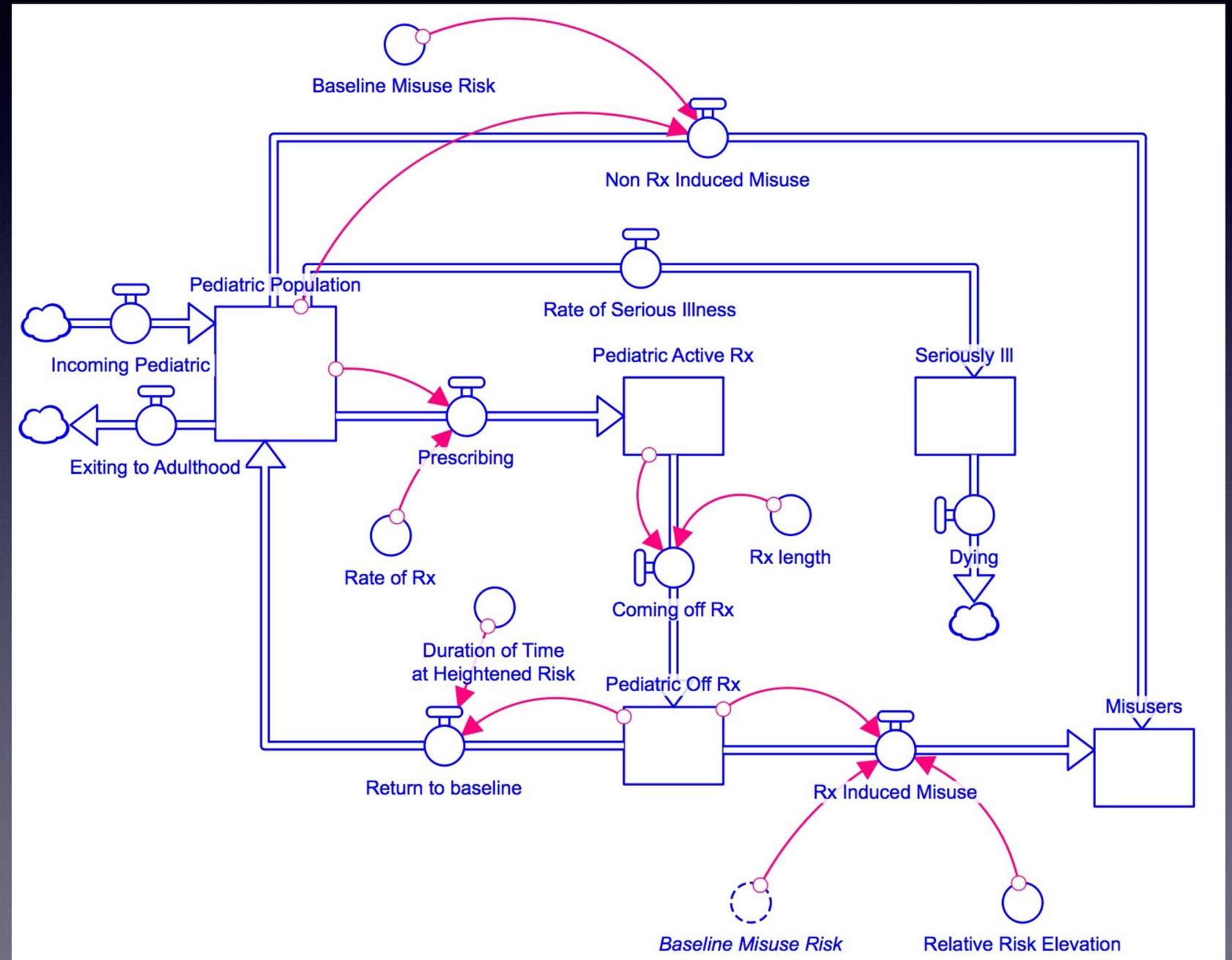
# Population Level

Baseline Misuse Risk: 0.09

Lifetime opioid use by 12th grade  
 Question: "On how many occasions (if any) have you taken narcotics other than heroin on your own; that is, without a doctor telling you to take them?" Note: question includes an extensive list of example prescription opioids that is updated from year to year.

None	0.91 (0.0035)
1-2	0.041 (0.0025)
3-5	0.018 (0.0016)
6-9	0.010 (0.0012)
10-19	0.010 (0.0011)
20-39	0.005 (0.0008)
40+	0.006 (0.0008)

Relative Risk Elevation: 1.33



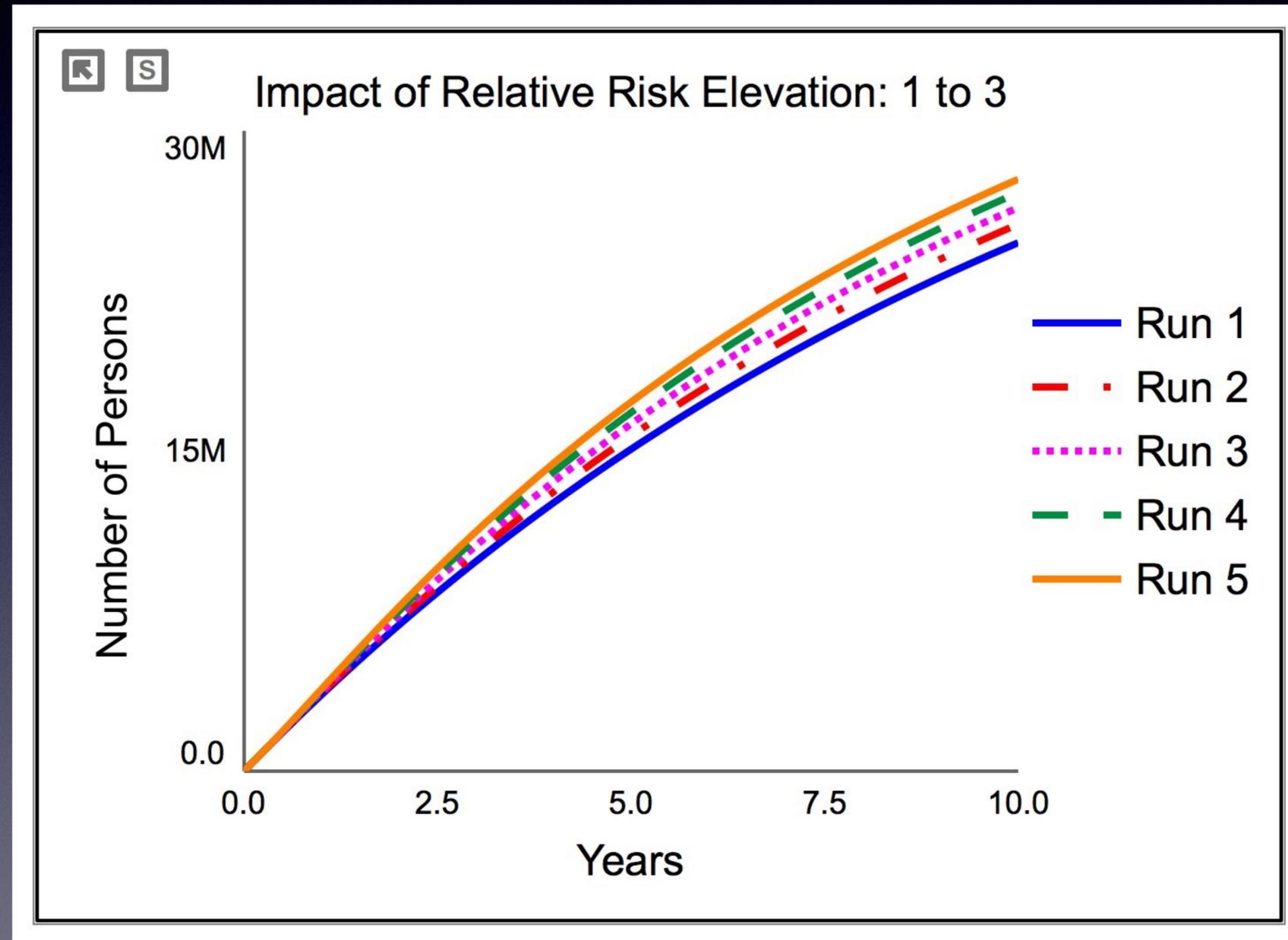
# Population Level

Baseline  
Population  
Risk

0.09

Marginal Risk  
Elevation  
Due to Rx Use

Run 1	1
Run 2	1.5
Run 3	2
Run 4	2.5
Run 5	4



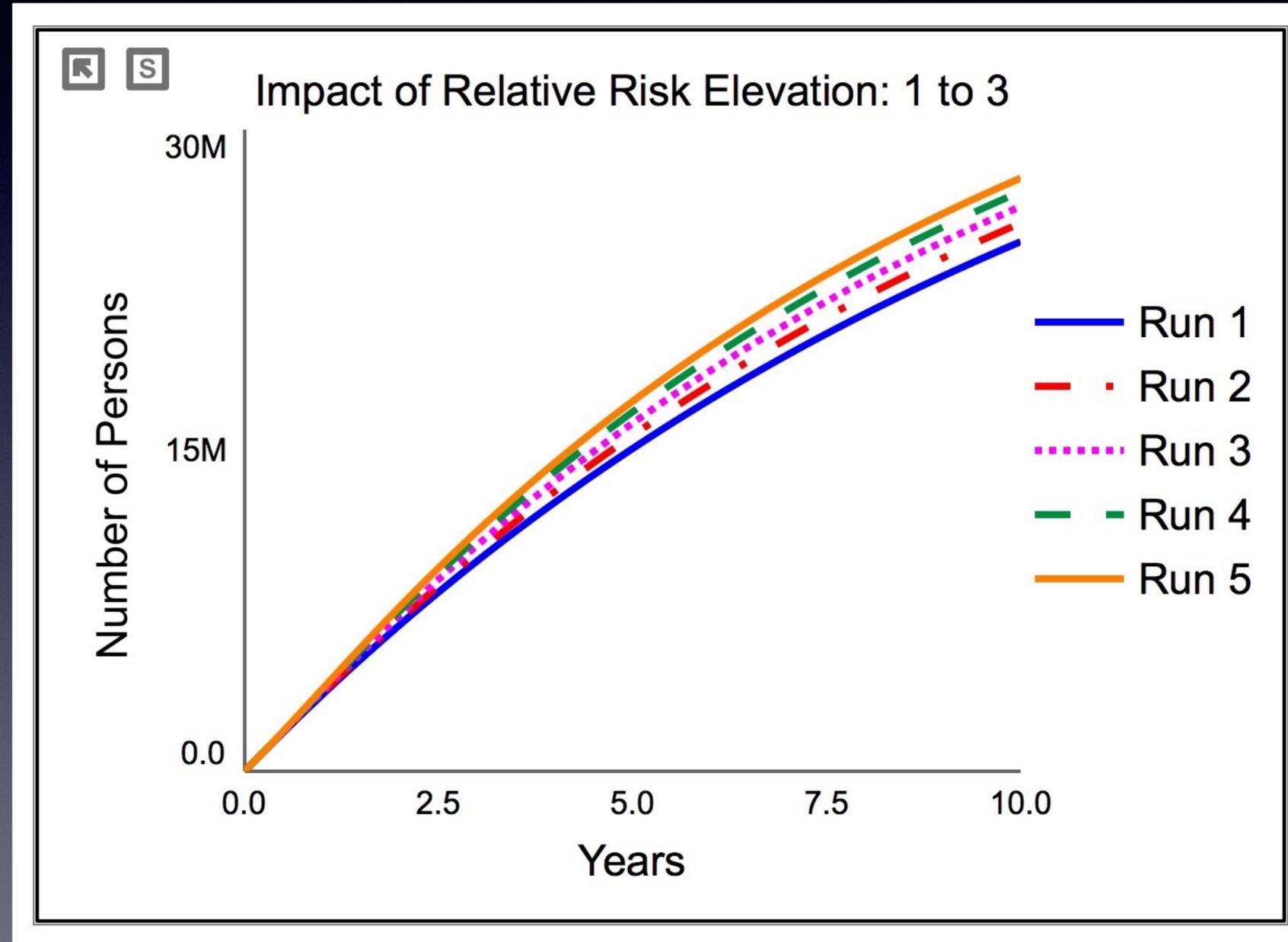
# Population Level

Baseline  
Population  
Risk

0.09



*This risk affects the entire 44M population of adolescents*



Marginal Risk  
Elevation  
Due to Rx Use

Run 1	1
Run 2	1.5
Run 3	2
Run 4	2.5
Run 5	4

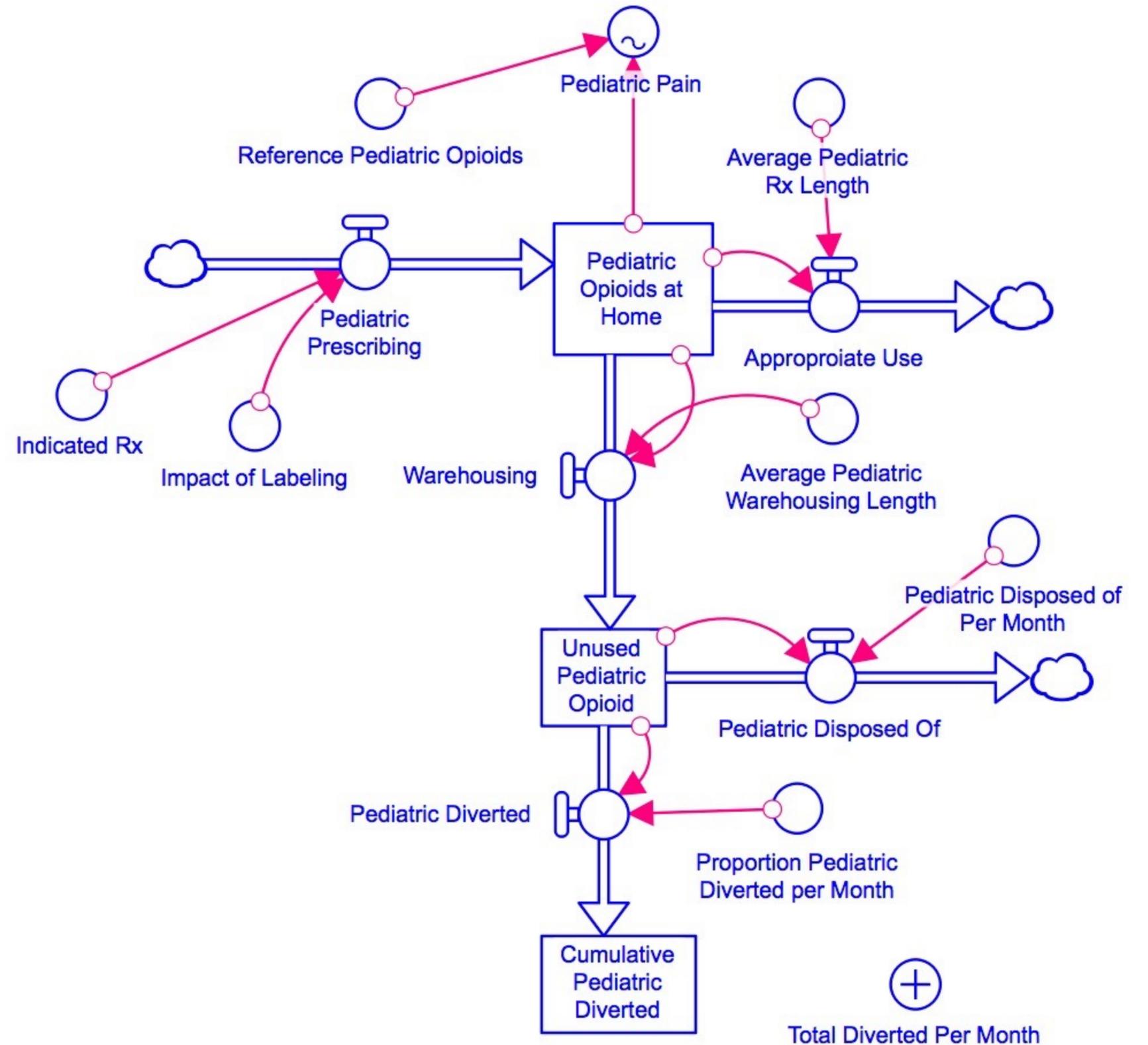


*This risk affects the 15% of population treated for pain with an opioid*

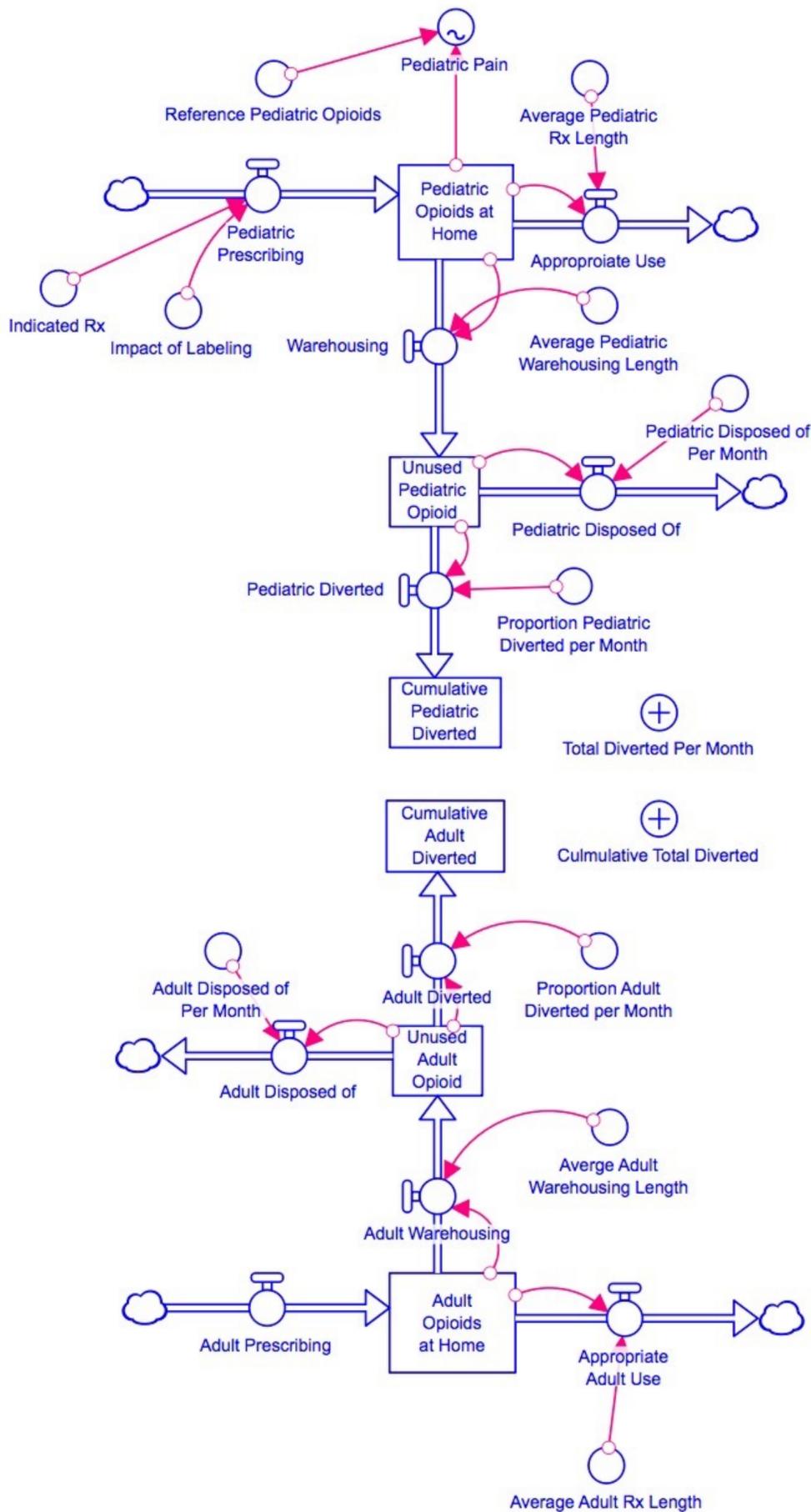
# Population Level

## Opioid Pill Diversion

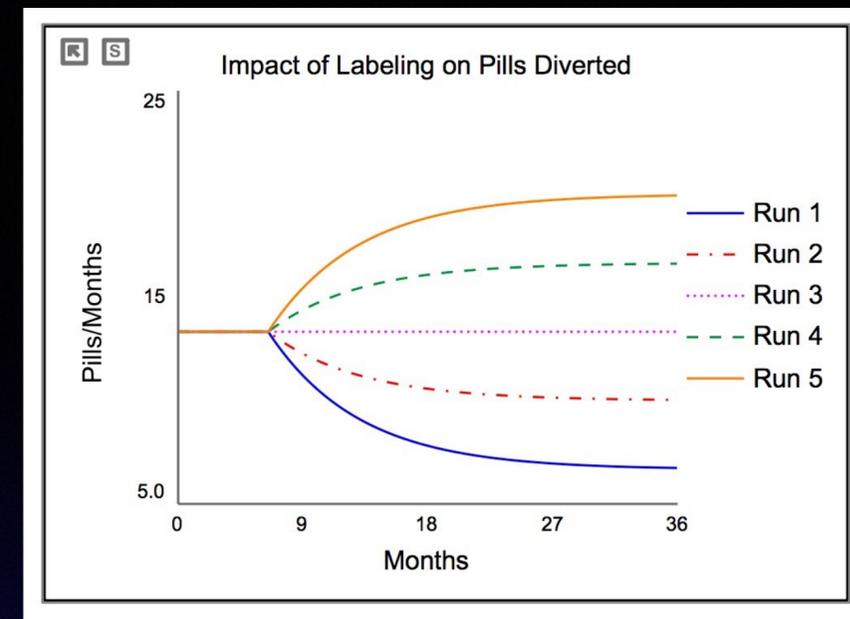
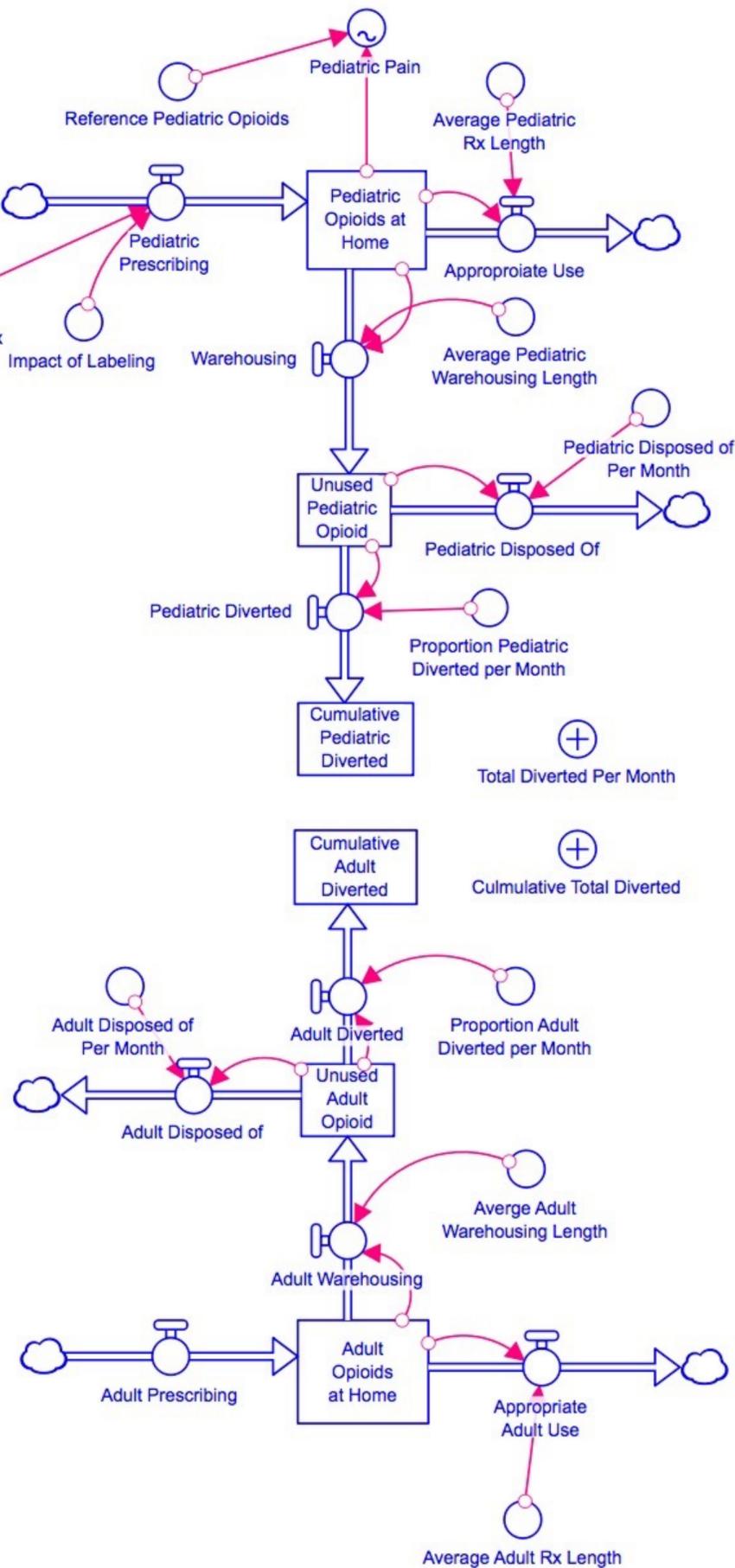
Simple Model:  
Incomplete & Inaccurate,  
but Hopefully Enlightening



# Population Level



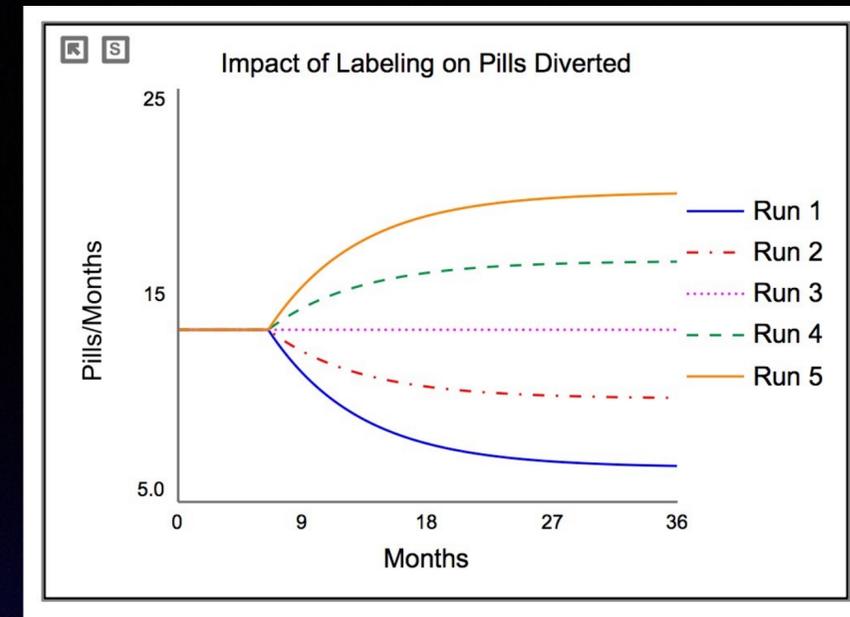
# Population Level



Run 1 = 0.5  
 Run 2 = 0.75  
 Run 3 = 1  
 Run 4 = 1.25  
 Run 5 = 1.5

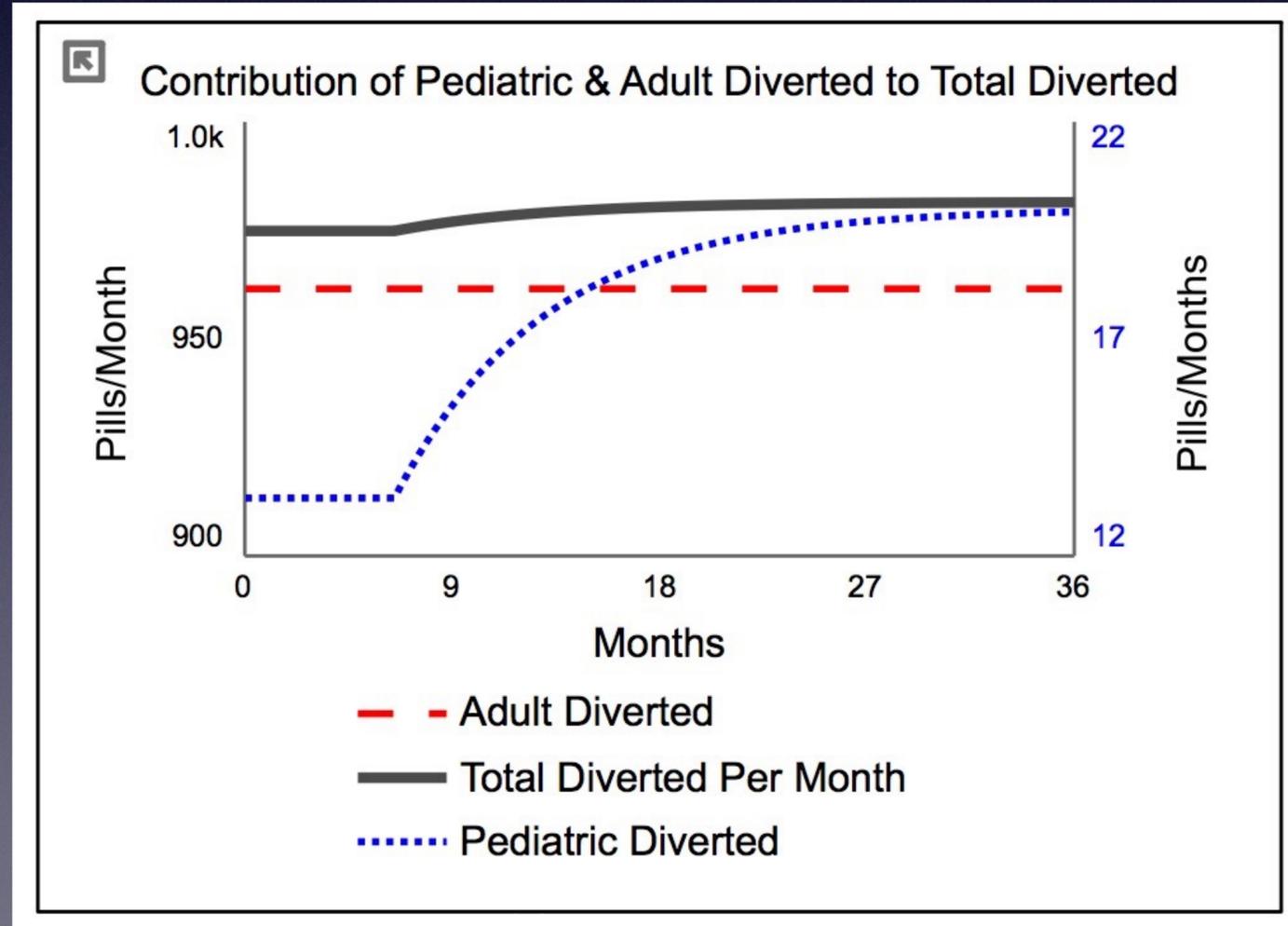
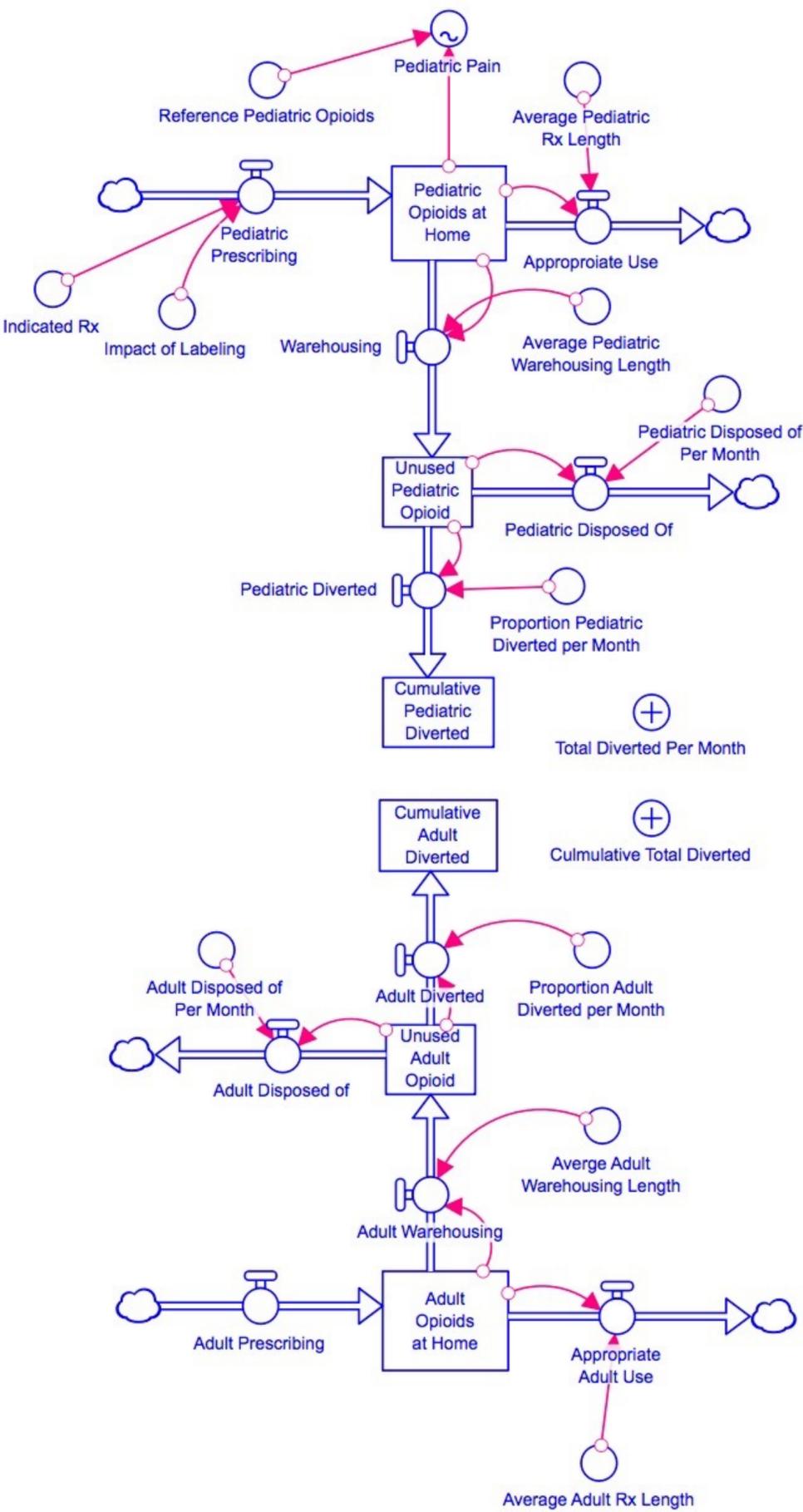
Different estimates of the impact of labeling on decreasing or increasing amount of opioid pills dispensed

# Population Level



- Run 1 = 0.5
- Run 2 = 0.75
- Run 3 = 1
- Run 4 = 1.25
- Run 5 = 1.5

Different estimates of the impact of labeling on decreasing or increasing amount of opioid pills dispensed



# Deliberation #3

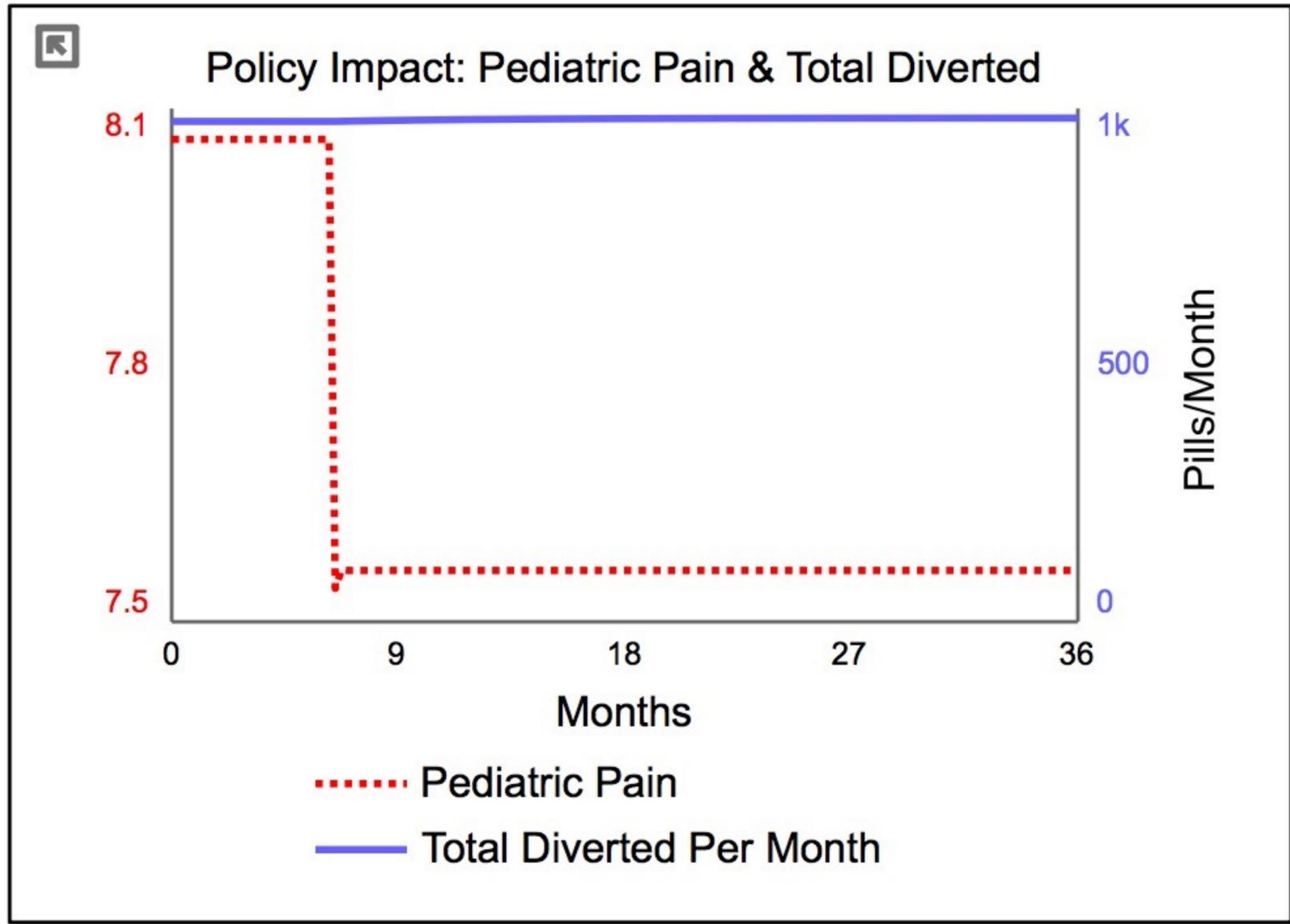
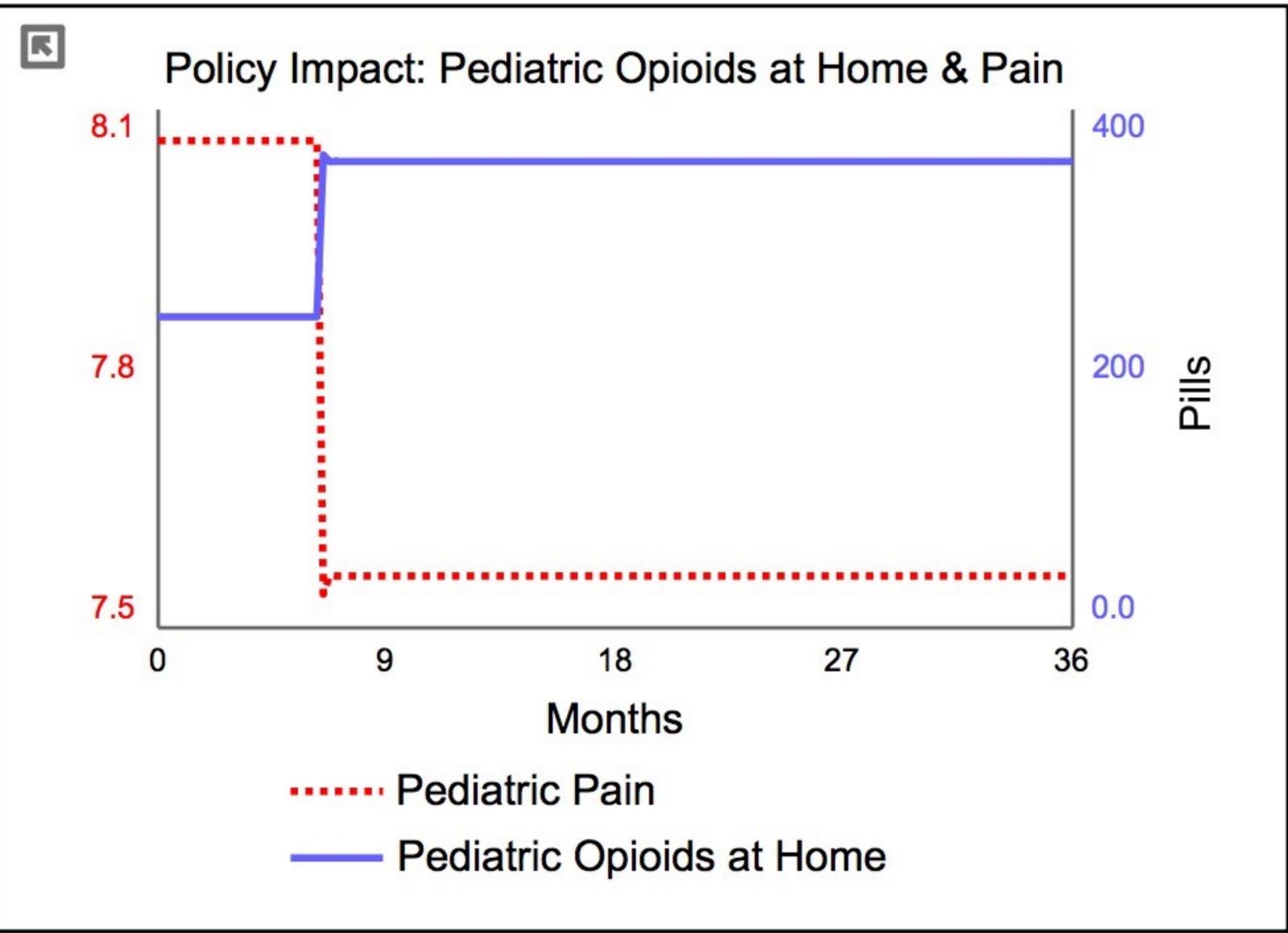
Trading off *Between* the INDIVIDUAL vs POPULATION level

Potential BENEFITS to INDIVIDUAL patients

VS

Potential HARMS to POPULATIONS

# Individual vs Population



# Individual vs Population

*Role for the FDA?  
And for labeling?*

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
GOALS ???	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Reduce pain	???	 <p>What platform to advocate for best pain management practices?</p>		
	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Avoid misuse	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Curb epidemic	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Reduce deaths	???			

What platform to advocate for best pain management practices?

What data & modeling informs the population analysis?

# Individual vs Population

*Role for the FDA?  
And for labeling?*

		Preference Weights	Treatment Options		
			No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
GOALS ???	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Reduce pain	???	<p><b>LABELING</b></p> <p>Labeling should be focused on individual level considerations and guidance</p>		
	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Avoid misuse	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Curb epidemic	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Reduce deaths	???			

# Individual vs Population

		Treatment Options			
		Preference Weights	No treatment	Non-opioid treatment	Opioid treatment
<b>GOALS</b> ???	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Reduce pain	???	<b>LABELING</b> Labeling should be focused on individual level considerations and guidance		
	<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b> Avoid misuse	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Curb epidemic	???			
	<b>POPULATION:</b> Reduce deaths	???			

# Conclusions

- **Narrow Depictions of the Situation and Problems are Ethically Problematic (*Truthfulness*)**
  - The ethical framework for considering pediatric opioid policy should start with a full depiction of the current situation, identifying the various problems that are driving the opioid epidemic

# Conclusions

- **Simplistic Thinking at the Population Level is Ethically Problematic (*Truthfulness*)**
  - While the individual deliberation of the pros and cons of opioid therapy for severe pain is demanding, the deliberation regarding population level implications is orders of magnitude more complicated and less certain
  - The pursuit of beneficence and non-maleficence is still important, yet we need to remain aware of our uncertainty about which actions optimize these goals

# Conclusions

- **Solving Population Level Problems on the Backs of Vulnerable Individuals Is Ethically Problematic (*Justice*)**
  - The needs of children in severe pain cannot be lost in efforts to restrict access to opioids in order to curb the opioid epidemic (efforts that are likely to have a small impact anyway)

# Conclusions

- **Expanding the purpose of labeling beyond individual-level guidance to include population-level considerations erodes patient autonomy**
  - Labeling should be exclusively focused on providing the highest level of individual-level guidance regarding effective and safe practice

Thank you

# The Challenges of Conducting Opioid Clinical Trials In Pediatrics

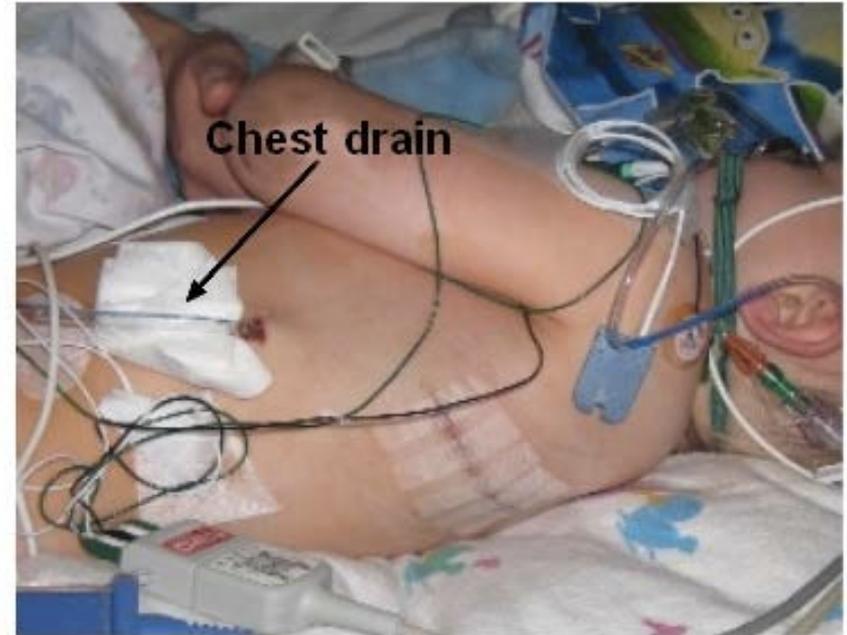
Steven J. Weisman, MD  
Jane B. Pettit Chair in Pain Management  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI

# Objectives

- ▶ Review challenges of selecting and enrolling patients to participate in opioid trials
- ▶ Discuss model trial designs for opioid trials
- ▶ Discuss the inherent risks of investigators conducting opioid trials in children

# Why Is This Important?

3.5 kg baby born with a large left congenital pulmonary adenomatous malformation who underwent lateral thoracotomy for resection. Pain was initially managed with a thoracic epidural catheter. The endotracheal tube was removed and the baby is ready to begin oral analgesia. What is the safe and effective dose of oxycodone to administer to this baby, who is already receiving acetaminophen and ketorolac (off-label) and has pain scores of 8/10?



Why do we not have sound scientific data on the efficacy and safety of opioid analgesics in pediatric patients?

# Analgesics Approved For Kids(US)

## Acetaminophen, Aspirin, NSAIDs

- ▶ Oral APAP (birth–adult)
- ▶ IV APAP (>2 y)
- ▶ ASA
- ▶ Ibuprofen (≥ 6 m)

## JIA indication (not pain per se)

- ▶ Celecoxib
- ▶ Diflunisal
- ▶ Etodolac XL
- ▶ Indomethacin
- ▶ Ketorolac
- ▶ Mefenamic acid
- ▶ Meloxicam
- ▶ Naproxen
- ▶ Oxaprozin
- ▶ Tolmetin
- ▶ [Rofecoxib was on the list]

## Opioids

- ▶ Fentanyl transdermal (≥2 y)
- ▶ OxyContin (>11 y)
- ▶ Fentanyl citrate injection
- ▶ Buprenorphine injection
- ▶ Meperidine

## Combination Products

- ▶ Codeine/APAP (≥ 3 y)
- ▶ Hydrocodone/APAP (≥2 y)
- ▶ Oxycodone/Ibuprofen
- ▶ Pentazocine/APAP
- ▶ Dihydrocodeine/ASA/Caffeine
- ▶ Codeine/ASA/Butalbital/Caffeine
- ▶ Pentazocine/Naloxone
- ▶ Carisoprodol/ASA/Codeine
- ▶ Butalbital/APAP
- ▶ Butalbital/APAP/Caffeine

# Children As Special Populations

- ▶ Neonates / Infants



- ▶ Children / Adolescents



- ▶ Patients with developmental delay / cognitive impairment



- ▶ Pregnancy / Breast feeding women



# Population Challenges

- ▶ Critically ill patients



- ▶ Violence injured



- ▶ Substance abusing patients



- ▶ Immigrants/non-native speaking families



# What Children Can We Study For Acute Pain Trials?

## 2012 Surgery Data from all HCUP States

### All surgeries

		# of cases ambulatory surgery	# of cases inpatient surgery
All surgeries		8,358,909	7,915,119
Age group	<1	68,691	875,887
	1-17	846,400	235,459
	18-44	2,121,529	2,065,708
	45-64	2,791,153	2,191,899
	65-84	2,258,342	2,179,585
	85+	271,817	365,346
	Missing	977	1,235

Ref: HCUP Clinical Classifications Software for Services and Procedures. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). 2012. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs\\_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp). Accessed August 20, 2016

# There Are Very Few Potential Study Patients

2012 Surgical procedures Discharged Hospitalized patients

Age group = <1			Total number of discharges
Rank	CCS principal procedure category and name		
1	115	Circumcision	891,863
5	9	Other OR therapeutic nervous system procedures	4,902
6	99	Other OR gastrointestinal therapeutic procedures	3,477
7	96	Other OR lower GI therapeutic procedures	3,463
9	85	Inguinal and femoral hernia repair	2,995
12	78	Colorectal resection	2,157
13	75	Small bowel resection	1,945
14	112	Other OR therapeutic procedures of urinary tract	1,712
Age group = 1-4			Total number of discharges
Rank	CCS principal procedure category and name		
1	30	Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy	7,165
2	9	Other OR therapeutic nervous system procedures	3,715
3	80	Appendectomy	3,655
4	148	Other fracture and dislocation procedure	3,610
5	33	Other OR therapeutic procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx	3,507
6	112	Other OR therapeutic procedures of urinary tract	3,310

Discharge diagnoses from the HCUPnet database survey of inpatient discharge diagnoses. **Candidate procedures for acute pain trials are highlighted.**

Ref: HCUP Clinical Classifications Software for Services and Procedures. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). 2012. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs\\_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp). Accessed 08/20/16.

# There Are Very Few Potential Study Patients

2012 Surgical Procedures Ambulatory Surgery patients

Age group = <1			Total number of discharges
Rank	CCS all-listed procedure category and name		
1	23	Myringotomy	26,402
2	118	Other OR therapeutic procedures, male genital	12,937
3	115	Circumcision	7,175
4	85	Inguinal and femoral hernia repair	7,062
5	109	Procedures on the urethra	2,835
6	33	Other OR therapeutic procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx	2,687
Age group = 1-17			Total number of discharges
Rank	CCS all-listed procedure category and name		
1	30	Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy	263,797
2	23	Myringotomy	201,556
3	118	Other OR therapeutic procedures, male genital	38,870
4	33	Other OR therapeutic procedures on nose, mouth and pharynx	31,269
5	160	Other therapeutic procedures on muscles and tendons	30,702
6	161	Other OR therapeutic procedures on bone	30,131
7	85	Inguinal and femoral hernia repair	27,306

Discharge diagnoses from the HCUPnet database survey of inpatient discharge diagnoses. **Candidate procedures for acute pain trials are highlighted.**

Ref: HCUP Clinical Classifications Software for Services and Procedures. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). 2012. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs\\_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs_svcsproc/ccssvcproc.jsp). Accessed August 20, 2016.

# Study Recruitment: PRN–Pain

## (Pediatric Research Network for Pain)

- ▶ Alberta Children’s Hosp
- ▶ British Columbia Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Atlanta
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Boston
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Colorado
- ▶ Children’s Hosp LA
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Minnesota
- ▶ Children’s Hosp of Eastern Ontario
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Philadelphia
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Seattle
- ▶ Children’s Hosp St. Louis
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Stanford University
- ▶ Children’s Hosp Wisconsin
- ▶ Children’s Med Ctr Dallas
- ▶ Children’s Mercy Hosp
- ▶ Children’s National Med Ctr
- ▶ Cincinnati Children’s Med Ctr
- ▶ Connecticut Children’s Med Ctr
- ▶ Duke Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Hosp for Sick Children
- ▶ IWK Health Centre
- ▶ Johns Hopkins Children’s Ctr
- ▶ Kosair Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Lurie Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Mattel Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Mayo Clinic
- ▶ Phoenix Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Riley Hosp for Children
- ▶ Shriners Hosp for Children Portland
- ▶ St. Jude’s Children’s Hosp
- ▶ Texas Children’s Hosp

# Chronic Pain in Adults

**Table 2. Organization of Chronic Pain Disorders to Be Included in the AAPT\***

---

Peripheral and central nervous systems

Peripheral neuropathic pain

Central neuropathic pain

Musculoskeletal pain system

Osteoarthritis

Other arthritides (eg, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, connective tissue diseases)

Musculoskeletal low back pain

Myofascial pain, chronic widespread pain, and fibromyalgia

Other predominantly musculoskeletal pain

Orofacial and head pain system

Headache disorders\*

Temporomandibular disorders

Other orofacial pain

Visceral, pelvic, and urogenital pain

Visceral pain: abdominal, pelvic, and urogenital pain

Disease-associated pains not classified elsewhere (eg, pain associated with active cancer, with sickle cell disease, or with Lyme disease)

---

\*AAPT will not develop diagnostic criteria for headache condition, because the ICHD-2 already exists and provides an evidence-based classification that is highly consistent with the AAPT template.

Fillingim, et al **The Journal of Pain, Vol 15, No 3 (March), 2014: pp 241-249**  
(ACTION–American Pain Soc. Pain Taxonomy)

# Chronic Pain In Children

2732

S. King et al./PAIN<sup>®</sup> 152 (2011) 2729–2738

**Table 2**  
Summary of prevalence rates by pain type.

Pain type	Prevalence range	Median quality criteria met	Age differences	Sex differences	Psychosocial/demographic factors associated with increased prevalence
Headache	8–82.9%	9	Older > younger	Girls > boys	Presence of anxiety and depression; low self-esteem (girls only); positive family history of headache; low SES (conflicting findings)
Abdominal pain	3.8–53.4%	8	Younger > older	Girls > boys	SES (conflicting findings); emotional symptoms; school stress
Back pain	13.5–24%	7	Older > younger	Girls > boys	Emotional symptoms (conflicting findings); relation between back pain and sociodemographic/psychosocial factors is unclear
Musculoskeletal/limb pain	3.9–40%	7	Older > younger	Girls > boys	Feeling sad (girls only)
Multiple pains	3.6–48.8%	8	Unclear	Girls > boys	Chronic health problems; frequent change of residence; frequent television watching; poor school performance; fewer interactions with peers
Other/general pain	5–88%	8	Unclear – possible age × sex interaction	Girls > boys	Poor self-rated health; feeling low or irritable; bad temper; feeling nervous

SES, socioeconomic status.

## Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin New Clinic Patients:

500/year

30% Headache

20% Recurrent Abdominal Pain

24% Back/generalized pain

15% Miscellaneous pain problems

6% Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

5% Cancer Pain/Sickle Cell Pain

# Proposed Dimensions Pain Taxonomy

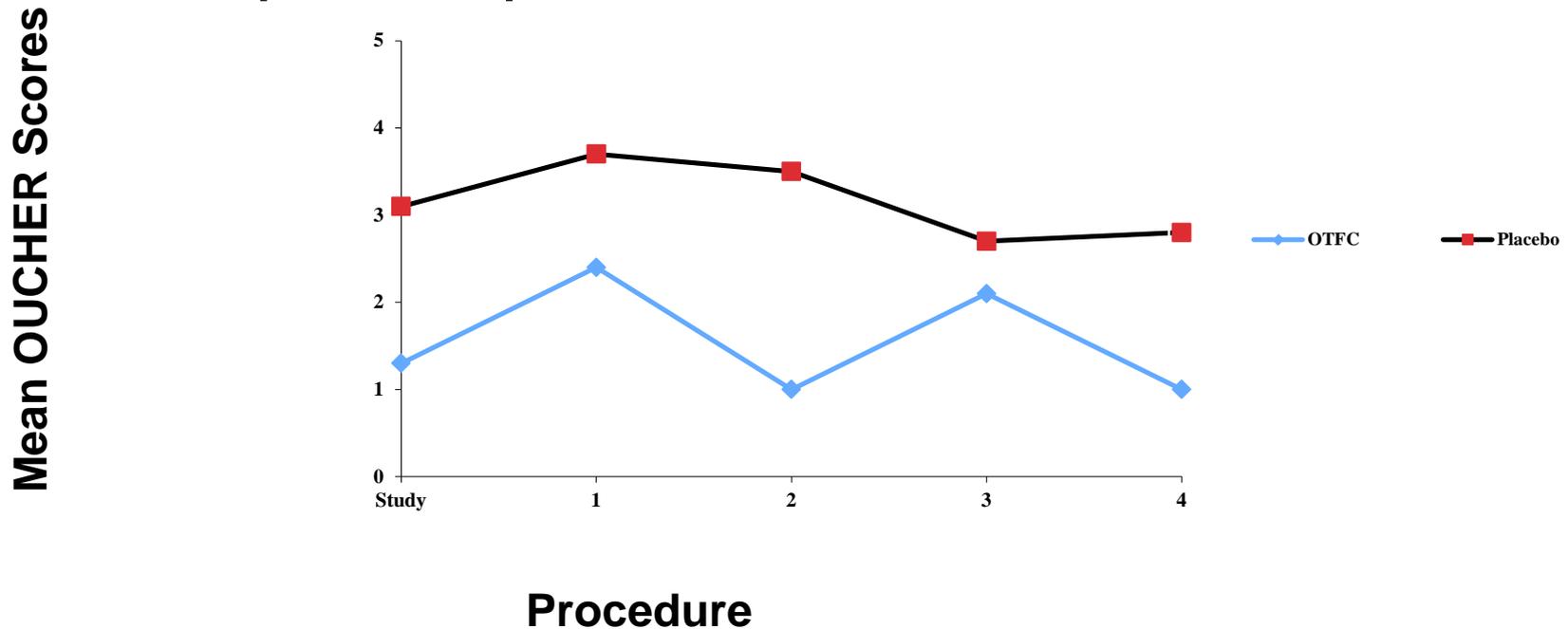
## ▶ Dimension 1: Event or Core Criteria

- Children < 8 yrs cannot offer self-report as means to define pain type; Acute v. Chronic
  - Acute illness (appendicitis, strep throat)
  - Trauma (penetrating, burn, fracture)
  - Surgery (T & A, hernia)
  - Procedures (needles, biopsy)
  - Disease (Cancer, infection, arthritis, Sickle Cell)
  - Treatment-related (ChemoTx, RadiationTx, Mab therapy)
  - Ischemic pain (Compartment syndromes)

Filligim, RB, et al The ACTION–American Pain Society Pain Taxonomy J of Pain 2014;15: 241–249 (Analgesic, Anesthetic, and Addiction Clinical Trials Translations Innovations Opportunities and Networks (ACTION))

# Dimension 2: Host/Risk Factors

- ▶ Susceptible populations may have altered acute pain responses (neonates/premies)
- ▶ Prior pain experience



Weisman S.J., et al. The Consequences of Inadequate Analgesia During Painful Procedures in Children. Arch Pediatr Adol Med

152:147-149, 1998.

## Dimension 3: Pain Quality

- ▶ In children, this is not considered an acute pain domain (PedIMMPACT J of Pain, 2008)
- ▶ Impossible to characterize in many of these special populations (language, ICU, developmental delay)

## Dimension 4: Environmental Context

- ▶ Acute/chronic associated with cancer treatment
- ▶ Acute pain with injuries from violence
- ▶ Immigrant/refugee population with acute injuries

# Dimension 5: Pathophysiology

- ▶ Largely similar across populations
- ▶ Pathophysiology does not necessarily result in pain in pediatric population (ie Diabetic neuropathy)
  - Neonates (Anand and Hickey, NEJM, 1992)
  - Elderly Hip Fractures (Morrison, et al Pain, 2003)

# Dimension 6: Impact (Function)

- ▶ Children have quite variable baseline functional (developmental) levels
- ▶ Emotional responses may be immeasurable in the extremes of age, in the ICU and may vary by culture and milieu

# Enrollment Challenges: The 6 P's

- ▶ **Parents:** Access for consent; Consent “under the influence”
- ▶ **Physicians:** Pediatric providers continue to underestimate pain from procedures and diseases
- ▶ **Placebos:** Impossible treatment paradigm
- ▶ **Pills:** Formulation of analgesics; PREA
- ▶ **Phlebotomy:** Sampling is challenging in pediatrics
- ▶ **Pretreatment:** Many studies with opioids require long term prior use that is not prevalent in pediatrics

# The Myth of Opioid Use in Children

<b>Diagnostic groups (Opioid use &gt;29days)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Cancer Care</b>	50	37.88
<b>Cardiac: Surgery</b>	24	18.18
<b>NICU with Surgery; No Ventilation</b>	16	12.12
<b>NICU with Ventilation and Surgery</b>	15	11.36
<b>Cardiac: No Surgery</b>	9	6.82
<b>Ventilated and Surgery</b>	9	6.82
<b>Surgery; No Ventilation</b>	5	3.79
<b>Ventilated and No Surgery</b>	3	2.27
<b>NICU with Ventilation; No Surgery</b>	1	0.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	132	1.61 (of all patients)

8,179 unique patients; 3559 (43.5%) received opioids

Walco, Gove, Phillips, Weisman, Submitted

# Completed Chronic Opioid Trials

- ▶ Transdermal Fentanyl (2–16 years):
  - 66 sites; 10 countries
  - 199 patients/173 completed
- ▶ Oxycodone ER (6–16 years):
  - 101 sites; 15 countries (only 44 enrolled)
  - 173 patients/155 completed
  - Permitted enrollment with 5 days exposure
  - 2034 screened for eligibility rate of 8%
  - **4 YEARS!!**
  - Target 40% age 6–11 but only 27/155; 17.4%
  - 89/155 (57.4%) were post-surgical

# Analgesic Clinical Trial Designs

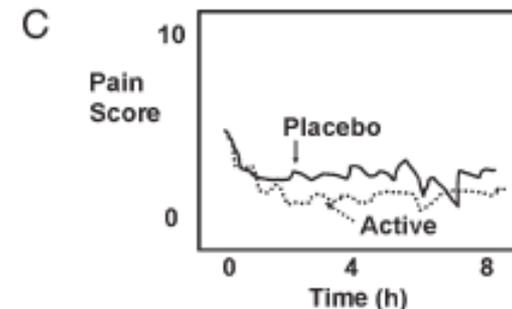
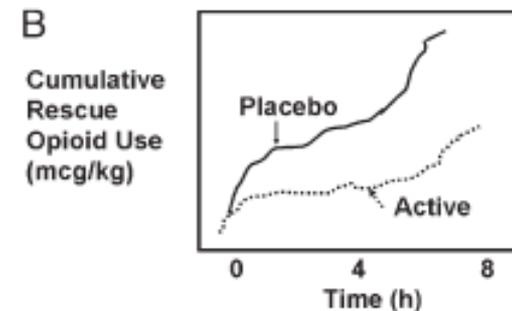
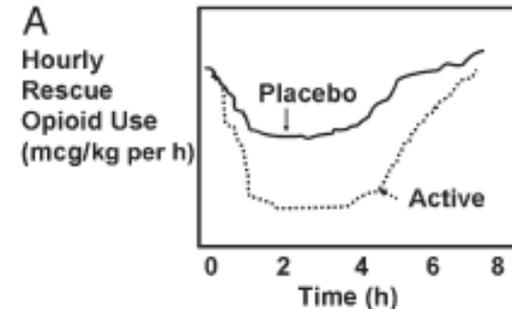
- ▶ **PK, dose response, safety (toxicity): All ages**
- ▶ **Efficacy with known mechanism of action:**
  - < 2 yrs required
  - $\geq$  2 years extrapolate from adult
- ▶ **Efficacy with unknown: required all ages**

Berde, et al Pediatrics 2012; 129:354

Kossowsky, Donado, Berde Anesthesiology 2015; 122:150

# How We Can Conduct Pediatric Trials

- ▶ Immediate-rescue with PCA
- ▶ Addresses ethics of placebo exposure
- ▶ Can be patient or nurse activated, to allow model for young patients
- ▶ NCA use has been extended down to the newborn age
- ▶ Usually requires hospitalization



# Inherent Risk to Investigators

- ▶ Investigators are advising the drug industry with the hope of helping to design scientifically sound studies in children
- ▶ Publicity casts investigators negatively
- ▶ Impugns them and their institutions
- ▶ Results in retreat from participation
- ▶ PRN–Pain group retreated from a plan to study oxycodone for acute pain management in infants 6–24 mo of age

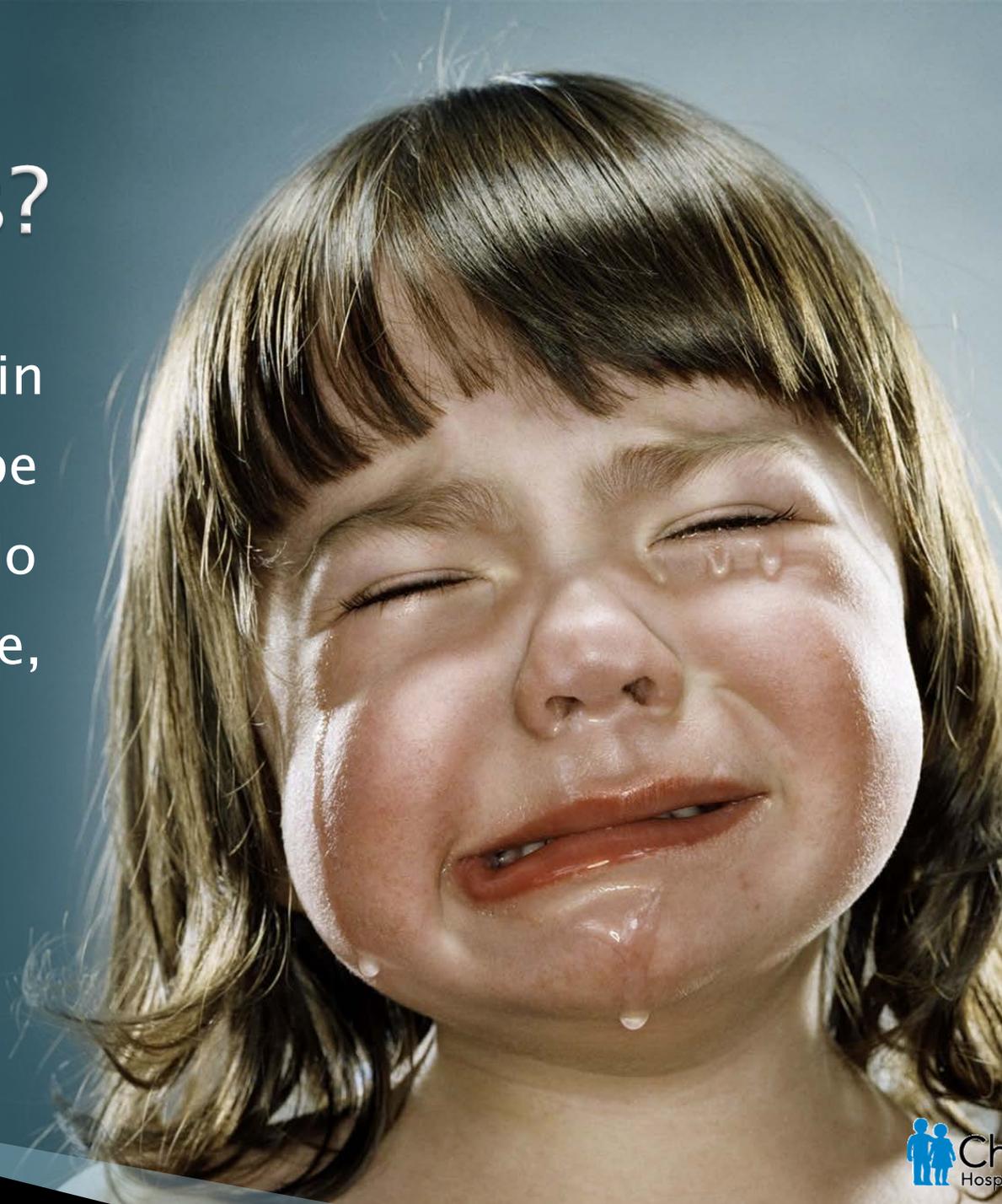
# Conclusions

- ▶ Clinical trials for opioids in pediatrics have significant challenges
- ▶ Patient recruitment is difficult
- ▶ The regulatory environment of the FDA results in challenging study design
- ▶ There are significant costs, without clear sources of funding, for these projects
- ▶ Investigators are sparse and fearful of negative media representation of their work

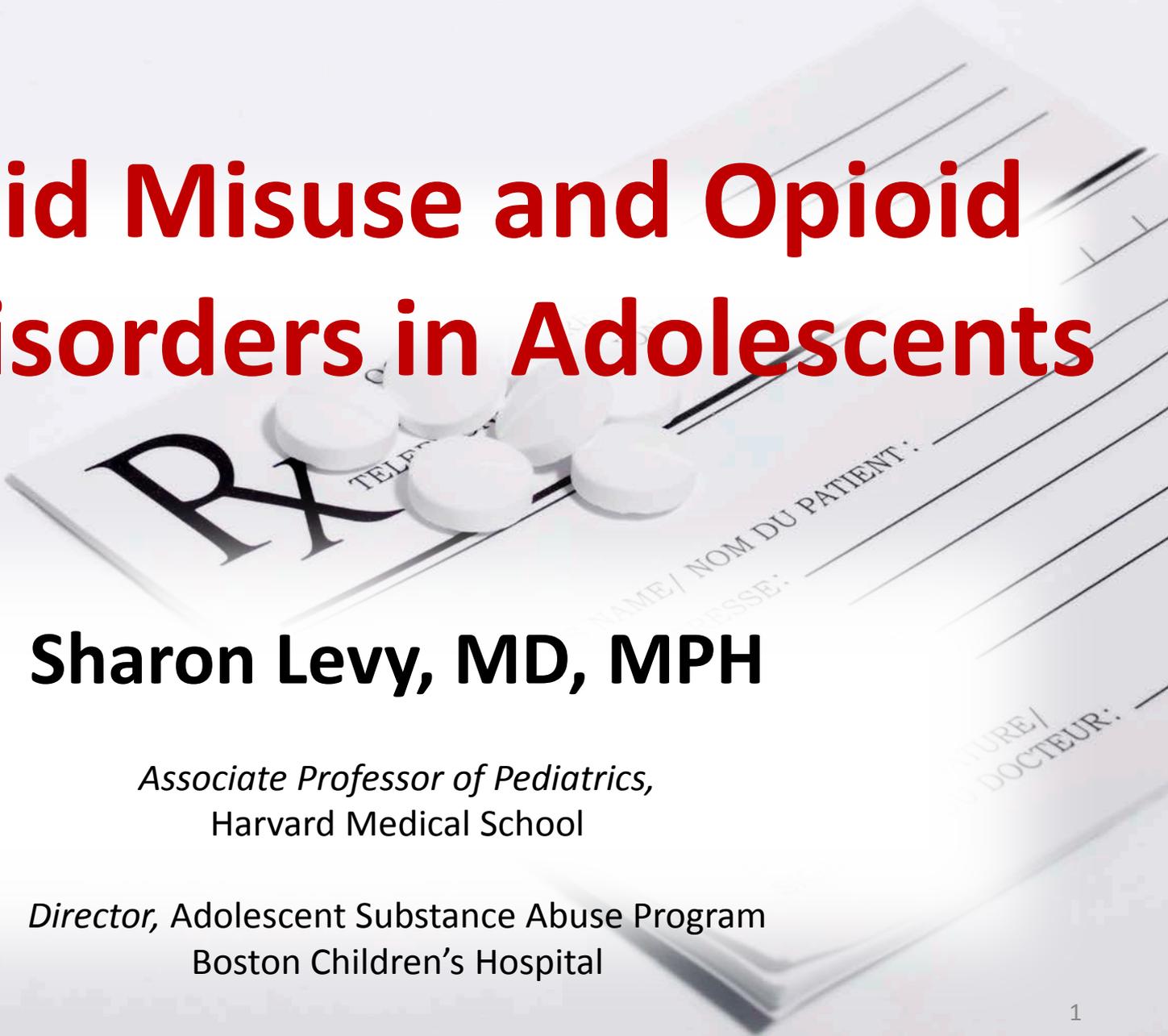
# In The End: Who Suffers?

“If we know that pain  
and suffering can be  
alleviated and we do  
nothing about it, we,  
ourselves, are  
tormentors.”

– Primo Levi



# Opioid Misuse and Opioid Use Disorders in Adolescents

A stack of white, round pills is placed on a prescription form. The form has a large 'RX' symbol and various fields for patient and doctor information. The background is a light, textured surface.

**Sharon Levy, MD, MPH**

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics,  
Harvard Medical School*

*Director, Adolescent Substance Abuse Program  
Boston Children's Hospital*

# Disclosures

I, Sharon Levy, have no relevant financial or commercial relationships to disclose.

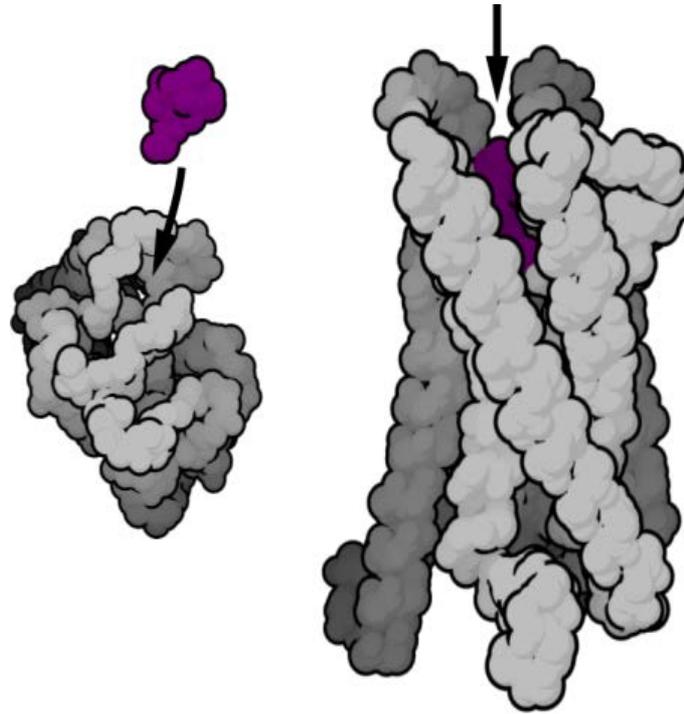


# Opiates

# Opioids

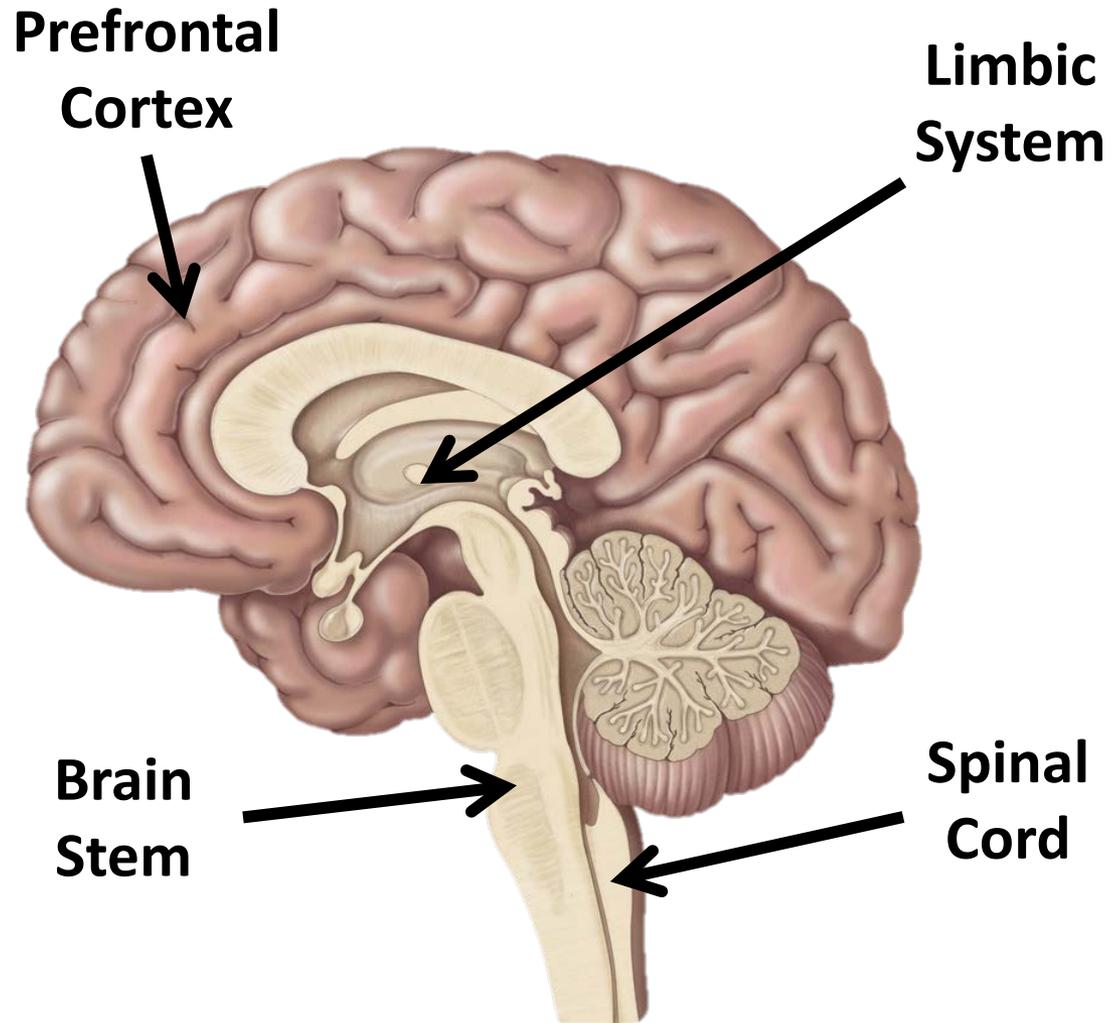


# Opioid pharmacology



Opioid  $\mu$ -receptor and agonist

# Opioid neurobiology







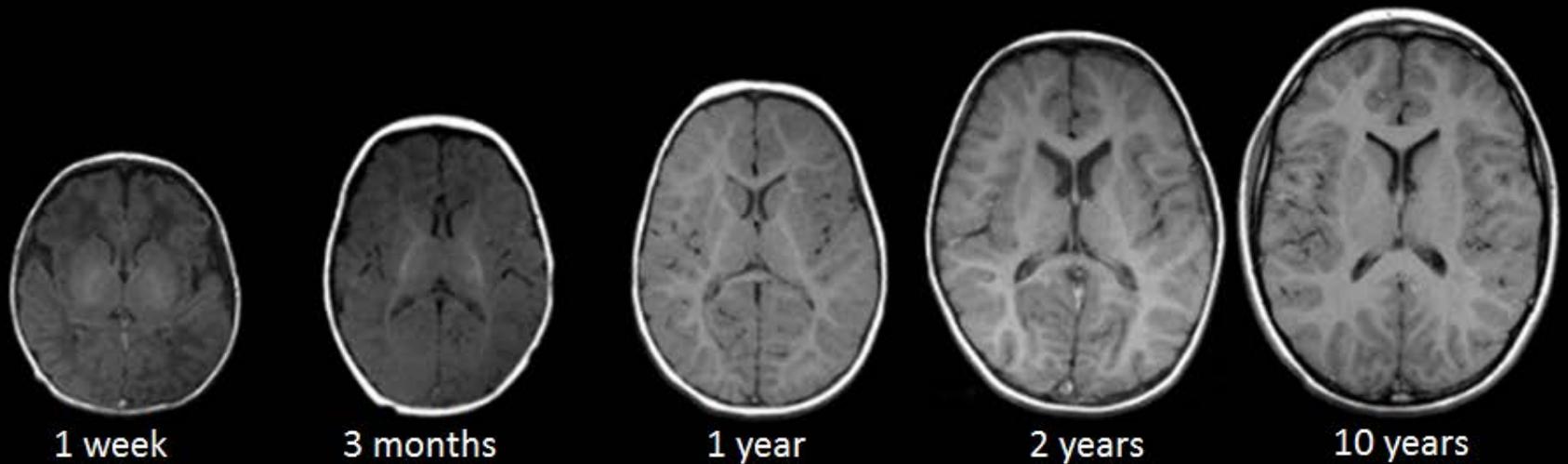
# ADDICTION

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# Adolescents are **developmentally primed** to use drugs



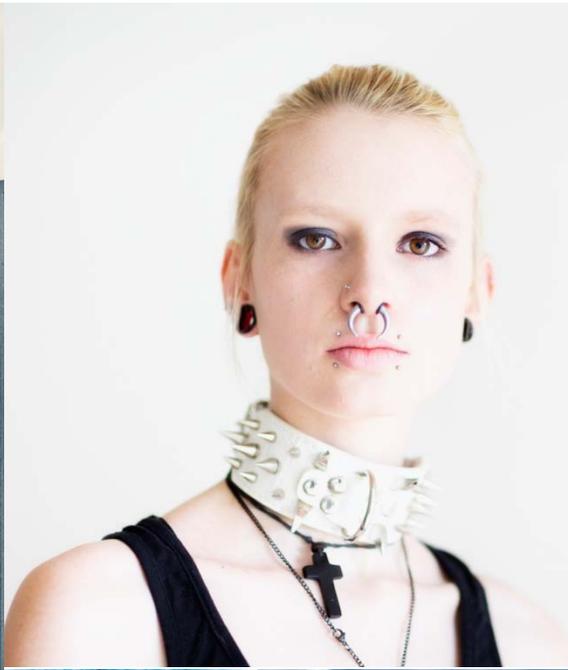
# Brain weight by age

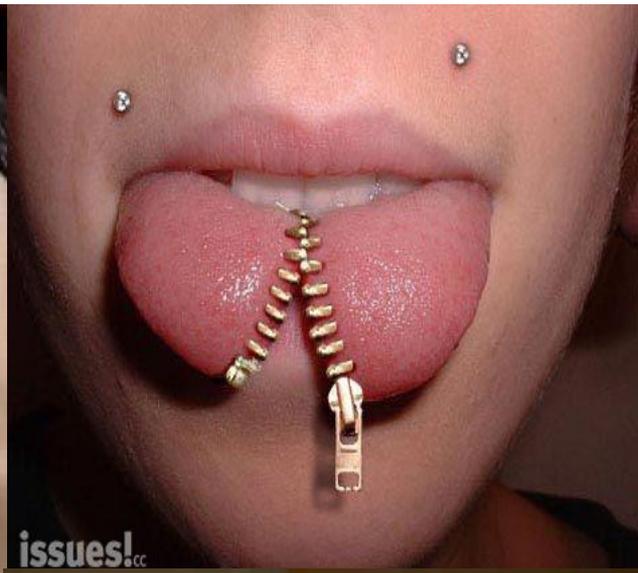


MRI scans of human brain development

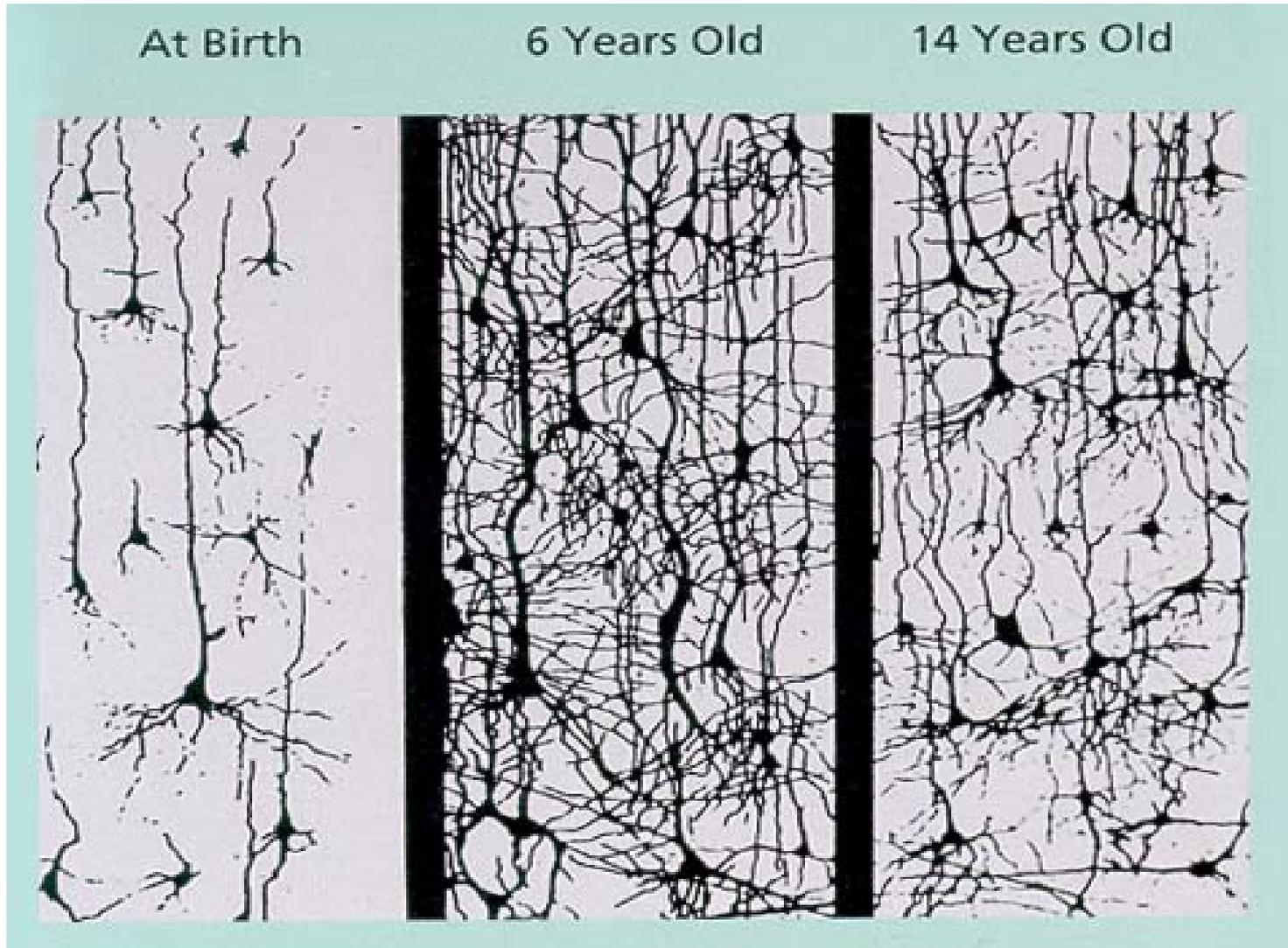
T1W

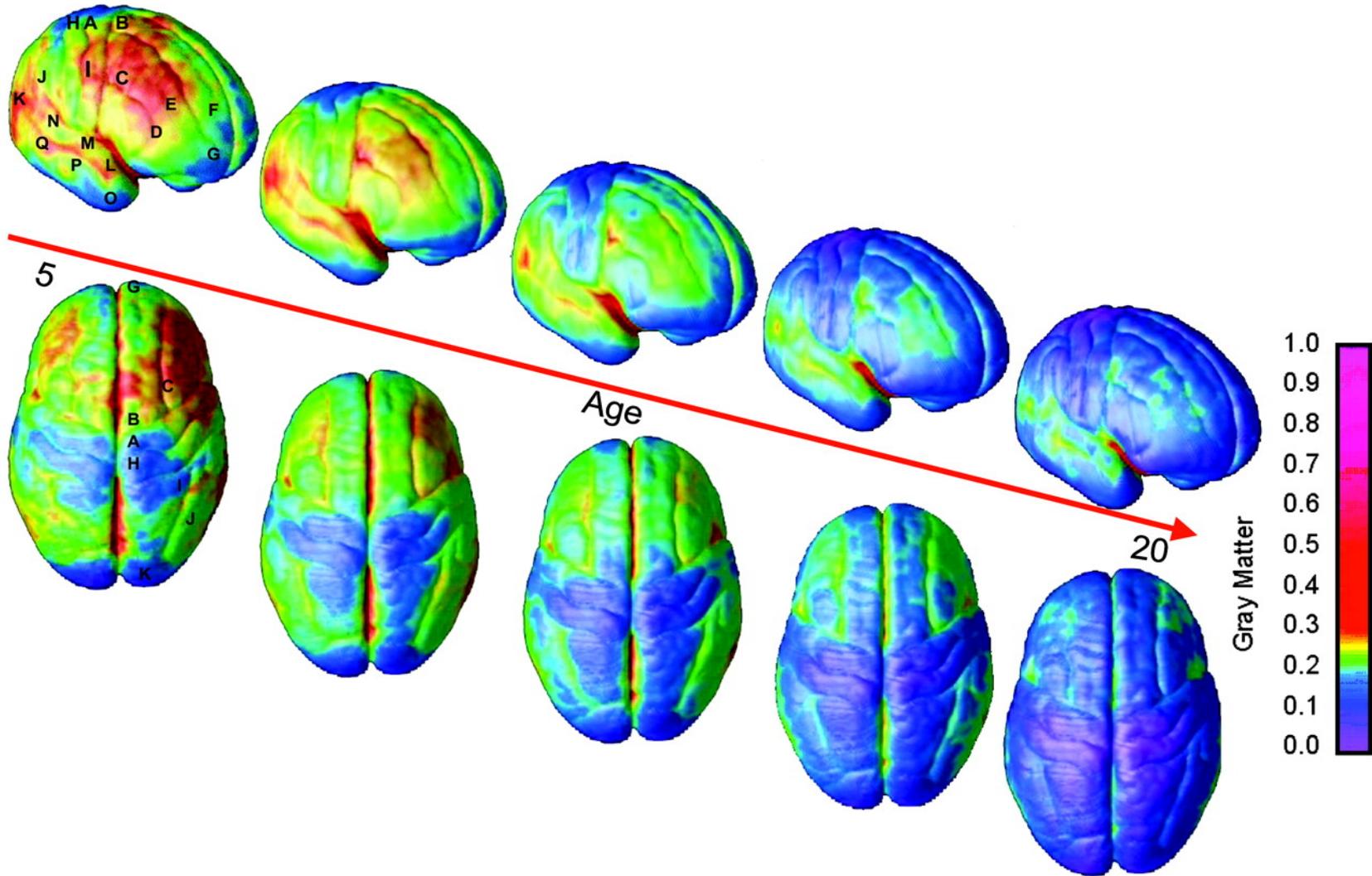






# Neuron growth in brain development

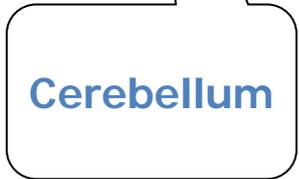
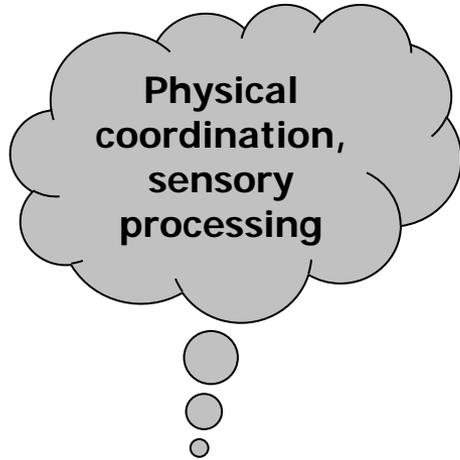




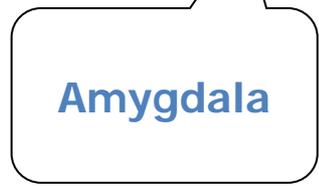
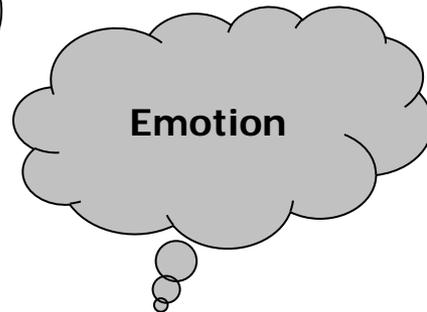
Source: Copyright (2004) National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A  
 Gogtay et al. PNAS. 2004;101(21):8174-8179. Retrieved on February 17, 2015 from  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC419576/figure/fig3/>  
 Permission received from PNAS



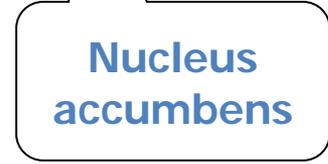
Toddler milestones:  
balance, walking,  
coordination



Preschool milestones:  
emotional regulation

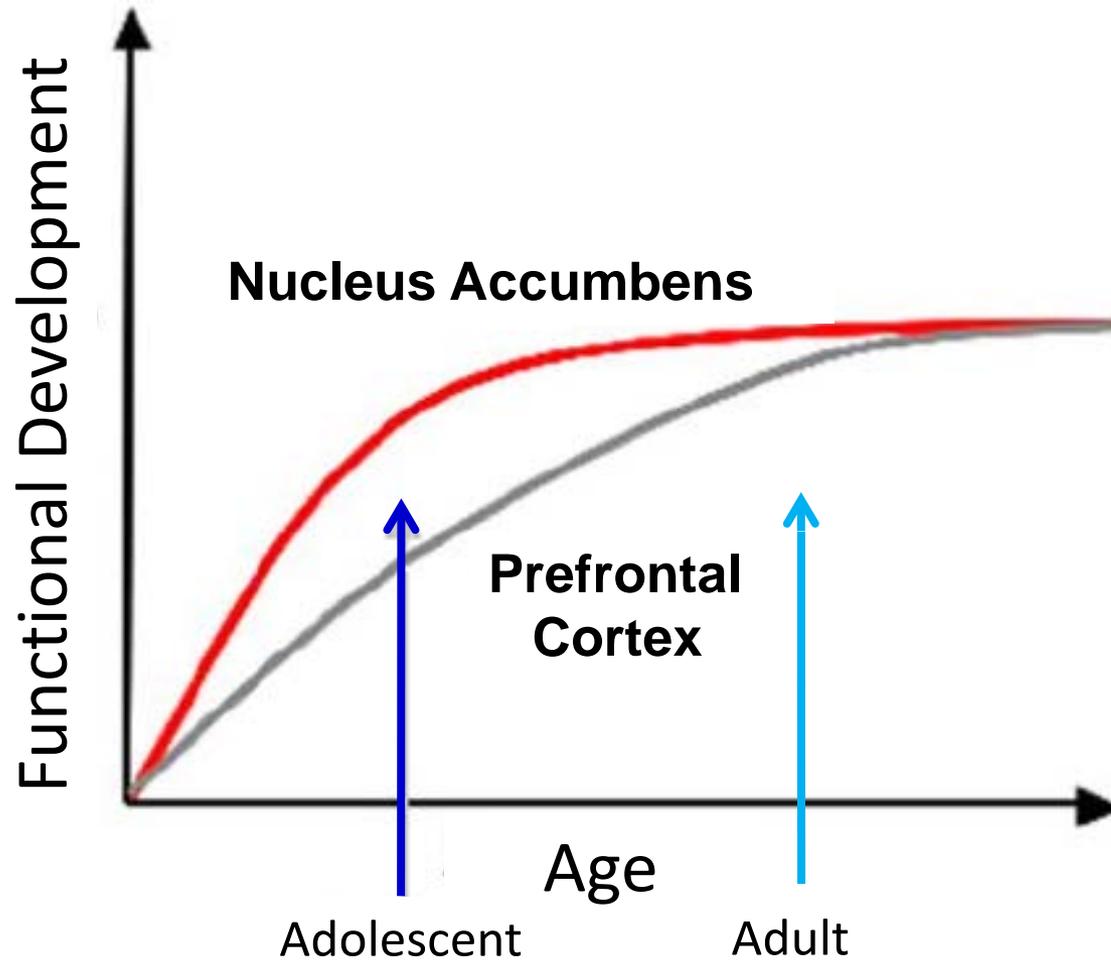


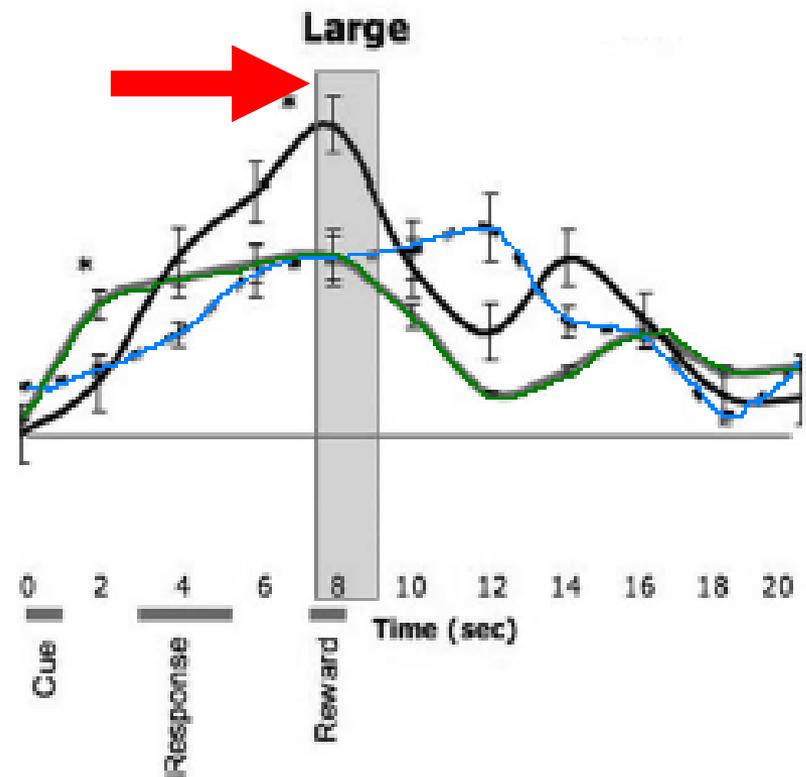
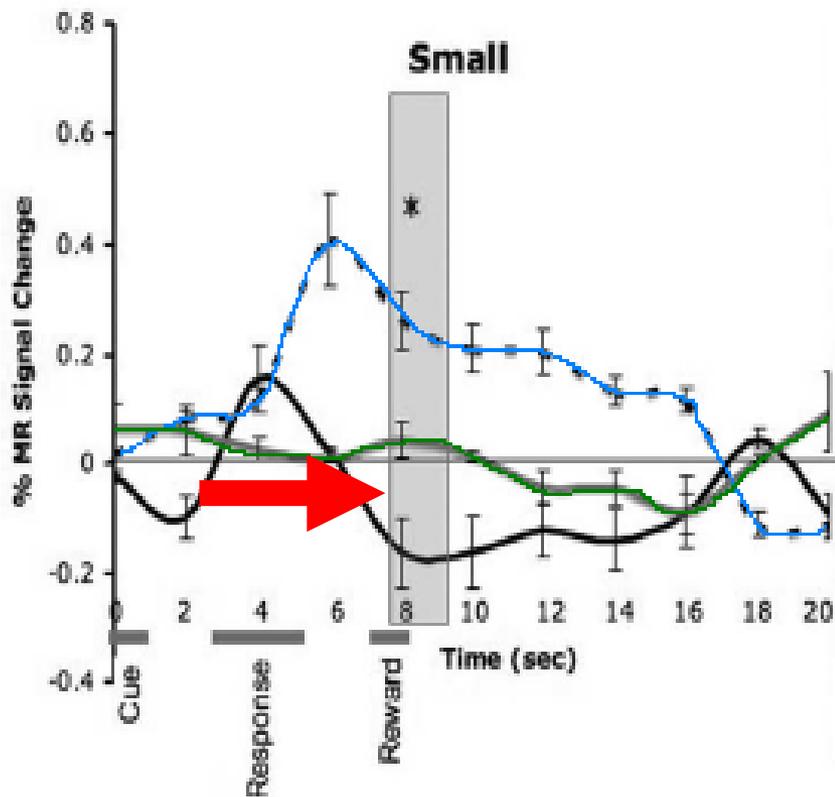
School age  
milestones:  
achievement



Adolescent  
milestones:  
impulse control







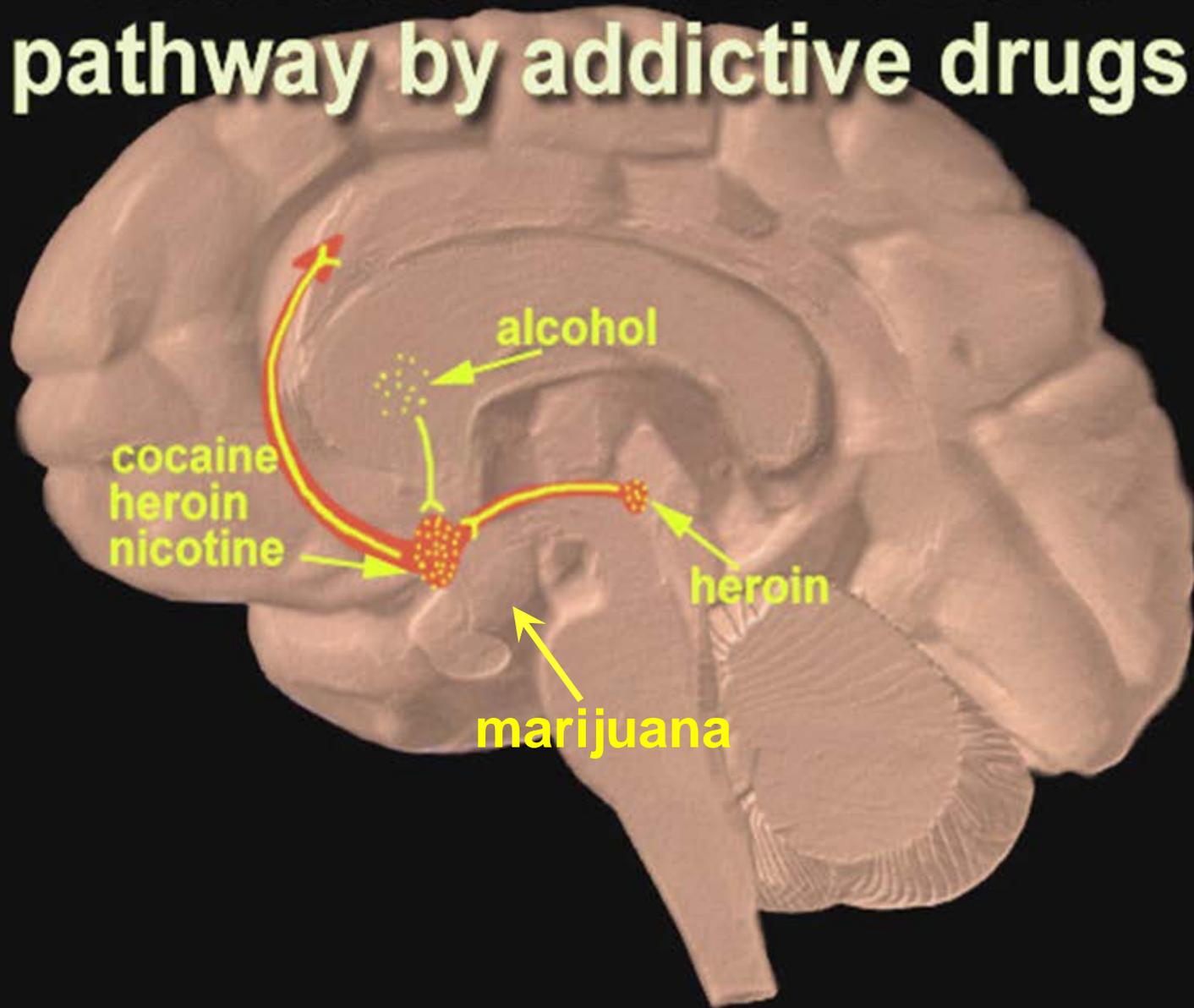
Children, ages 7-11

Teens, ages 13-17

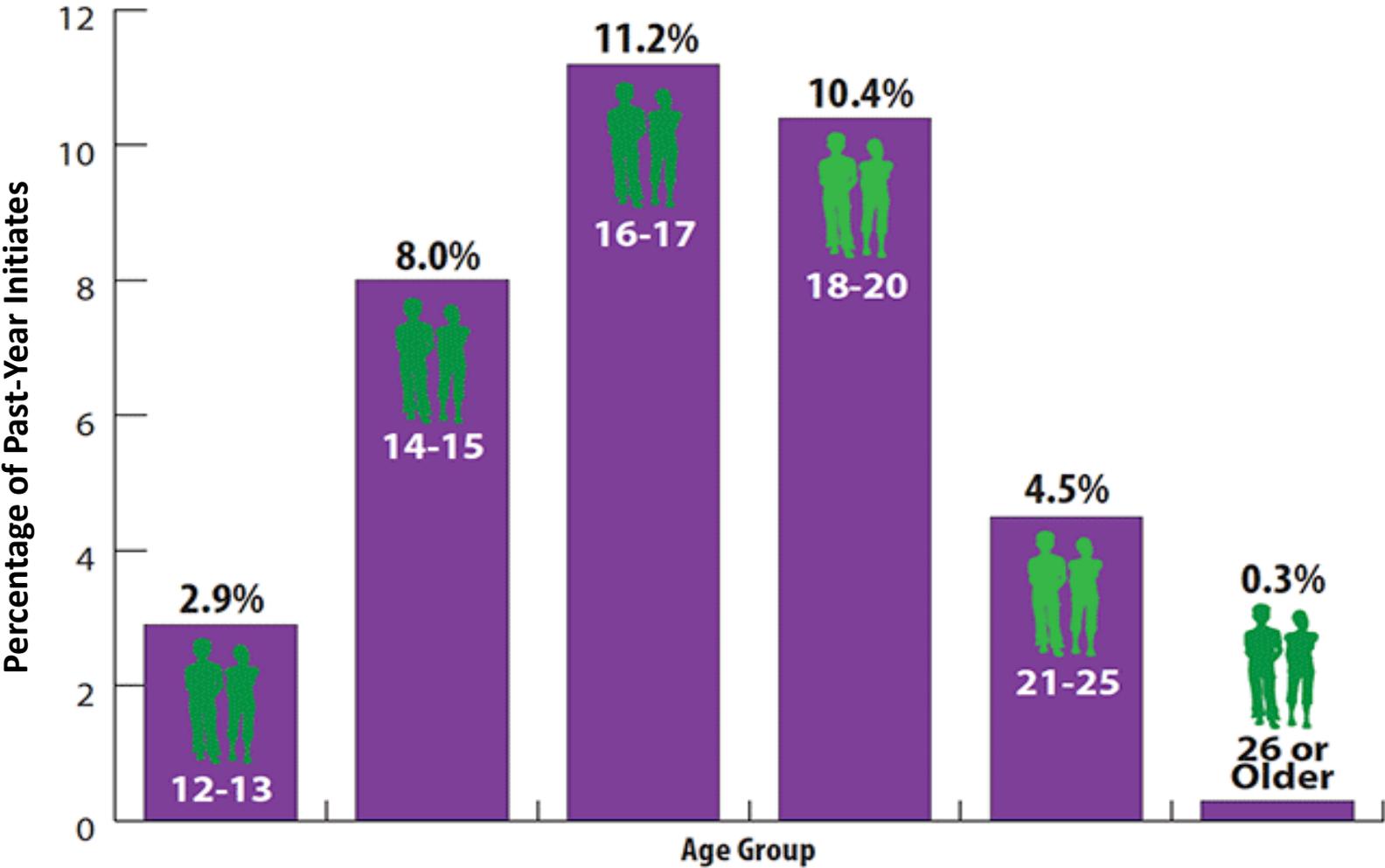
Adults, ages 23-29

Adriana Galvan et al. J. Neurosci. 2006;26:6885-6892

# Activation of the reward pathway by addictive drugs



# Most drug use starts in adolescence

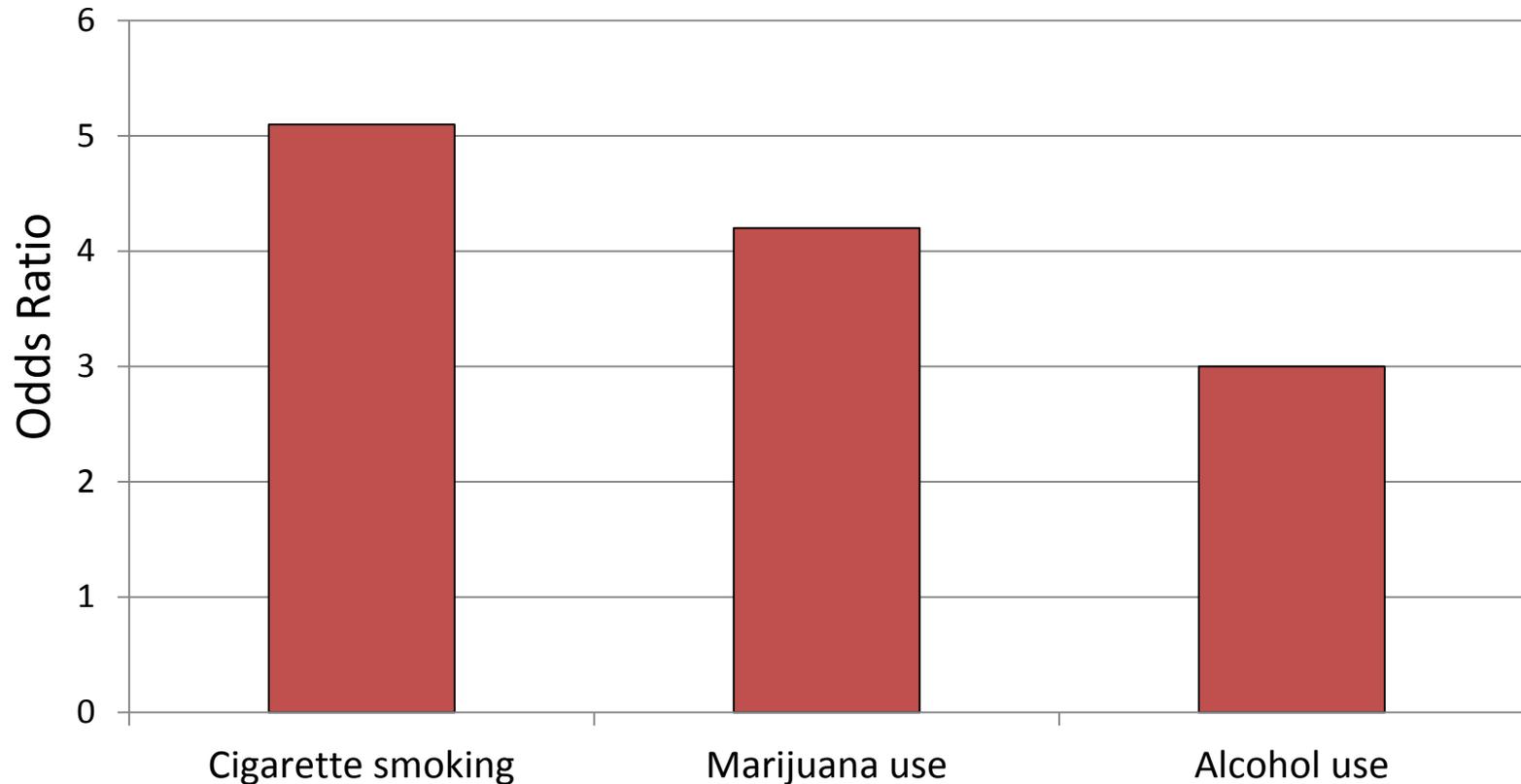


Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2011 and 2012.

# Gateway to opioid misuse



## Odds of Prescription Opioid Misuse as a Function of Other Substance Use Behaviors



Adolescents are **developmentally vulnerable** to develop substance use disorders



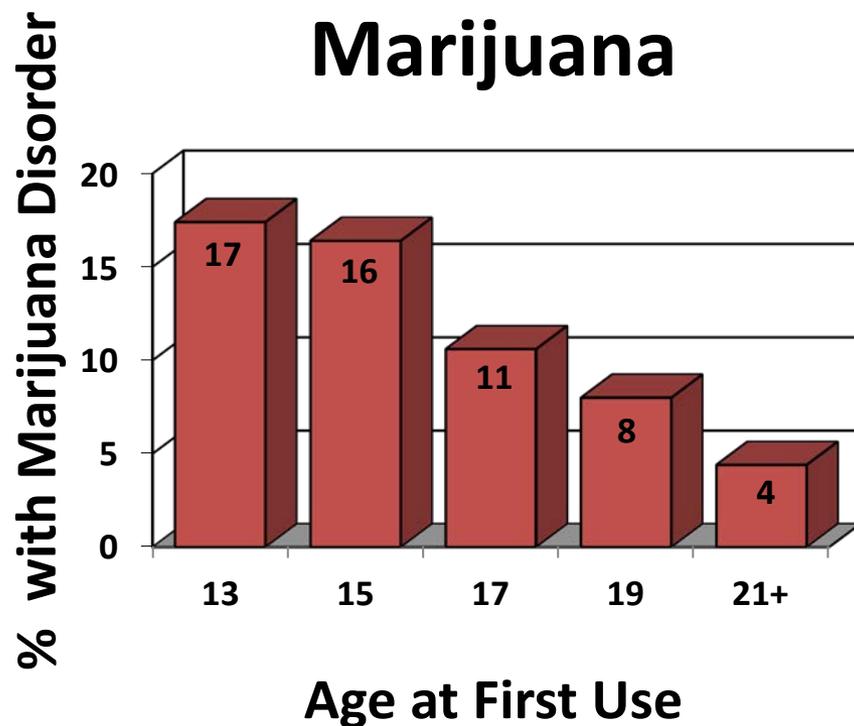
## Younger age\*



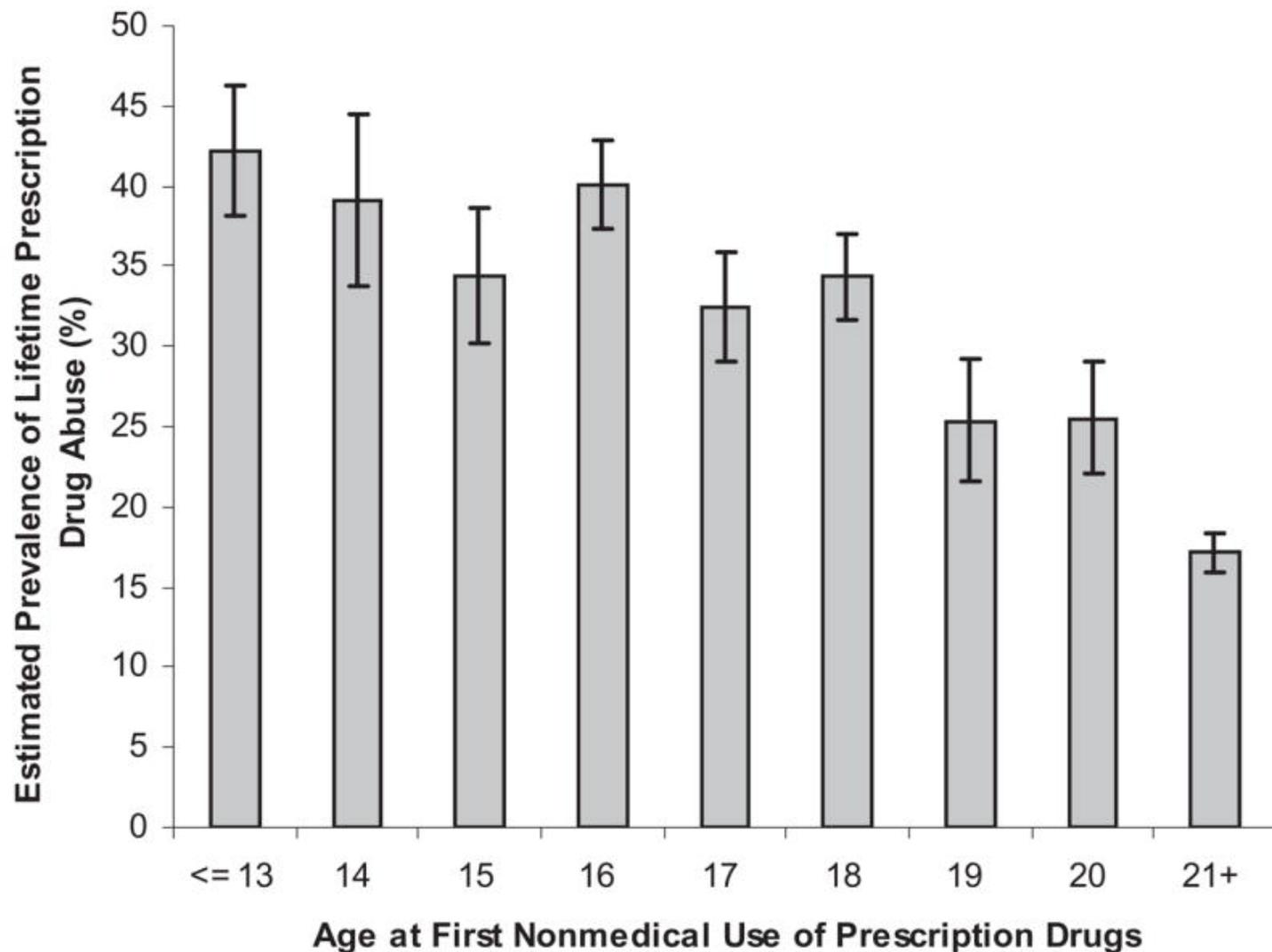
\*AOR decreases by 5% each year  
that non-medical use is delayed  
(after one year, **AOR: 0.95**  
with 95% CI 0.94-0.97)



# Age at first use and later risk



# Age of onset of non-medical use of prescription drugs



## Younger age\*



**Exposure to  
marijuana**  
**AOR: 3.67**  
(95% CI 1.02-13.14)



**Cigarette smoking**  
**AOR: 2.2**  
(95% CI 1.3-3.5)

\*AOR decreases by 5% each year  
that non-medical use is delayed  
(after one year, **AOR: 0.95**  
with 95% CI 0.94-0.97)

# Tobacco and opioids

PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY AND DRUG SAFETY 2011; 20: 90–98

Published online 1 December 2010 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/pds.2066

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ORIGINAL REPORT

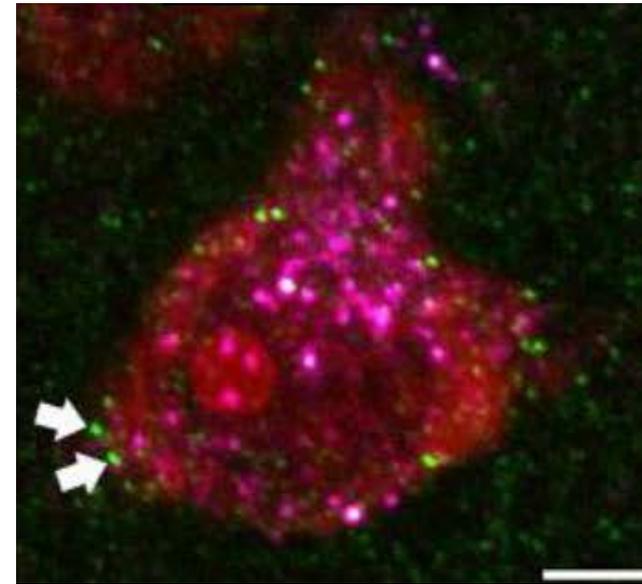
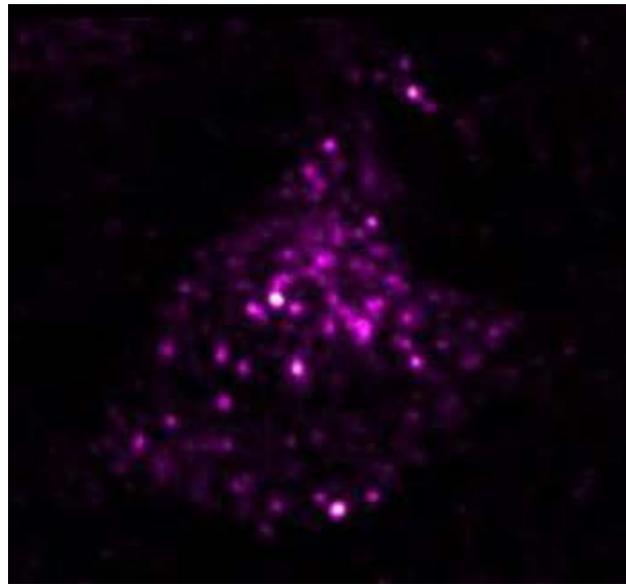
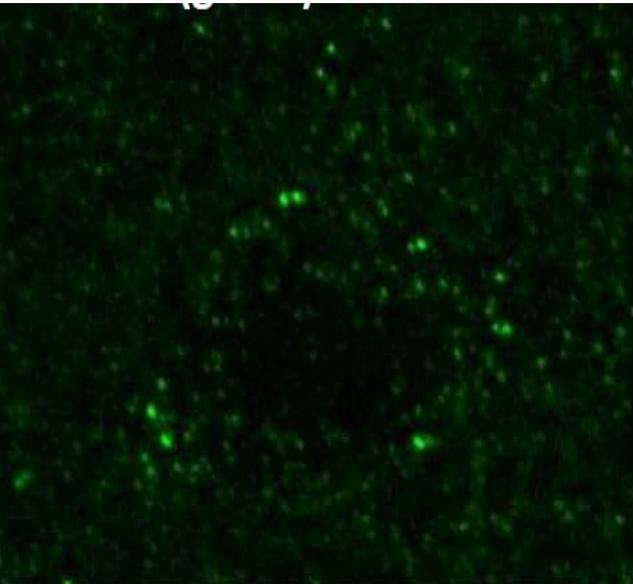
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The association between smoking and subsequent repeated use of prescribed opioids among adolescents and young adults—a population-based cohort study

Tomas Log<sup>1\*</sup>, Ingeborg Hartz<sup>2,3</sup>, Marte Handal<sup>3</sup>, Aage Tverdal<sup>3</sup>, Kari Furu<sup>1,3</sup> and Svetlana Skurtveit<sup>3,4</sup>

“Daily smoking [of tobacco] at 15-16 years of age was associated with increased risk of incident repeated use of prescribed opioids later in life. **Our study suggests that smoking dependence in adolescents may predict longer lasting and/or higher levels of opioid use.**”

# Marijuana and opioids



**Cannabinoid  
Receptors**

**Opioid  
Receptors**

**BOTH**

## Younger age\*



## Exposure to marijuana

**AOR: 3.67**

(95% CI 1.02-13.14)



## Recreational use

**AOR: 3.42**

(95% CI 1.45-8.07)



## Unprescribed pain relief

**AOR: 1.8**

(95% CI 1.20-2.60)



## Cigarette smoking

**AOR: 2.2**

(95% CI 1.3-3.5)



## Prescribed pain relief

**AOR: 1.33**

(95% CI 1.04-1.70)

\*AOR decreases by 5% each year that non-medical use is delayed (after one year, **AOR: 0.95** with 95% CI 0.94-0.97)



**Major depression,  
anxiety disorder, or  
panic disorder**

Opioid use **OR: 4.43**  
(95% CI 3.64-5.38)

**Familial alcohol  
problem/drug use**

Hard drug abuse/dependence

**OR: 7.89-7.92**

**PTSD**

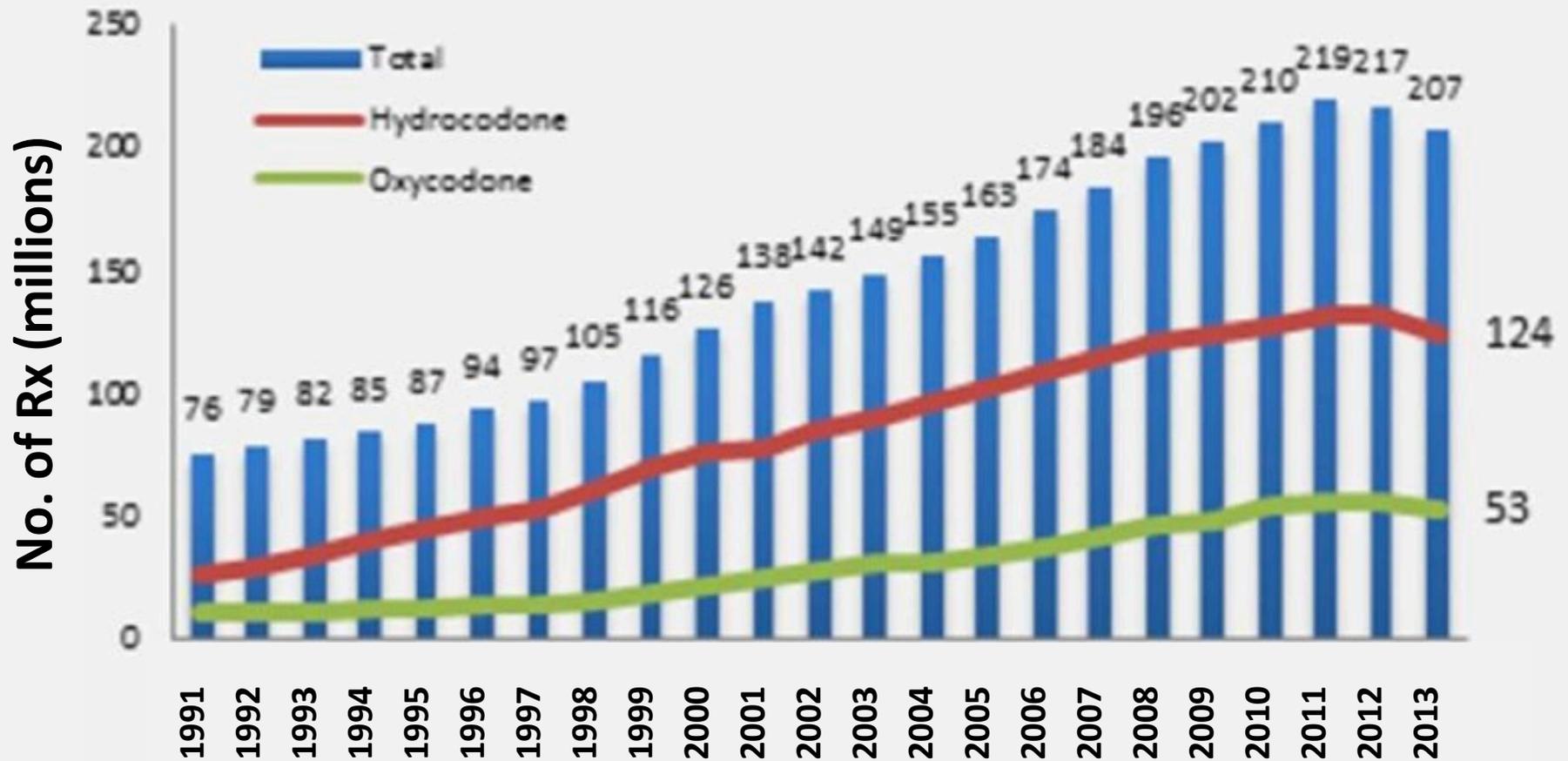
Hard drug abuse/dependence

**OR: 8.68**

# ACCESS TO OPIOIDS

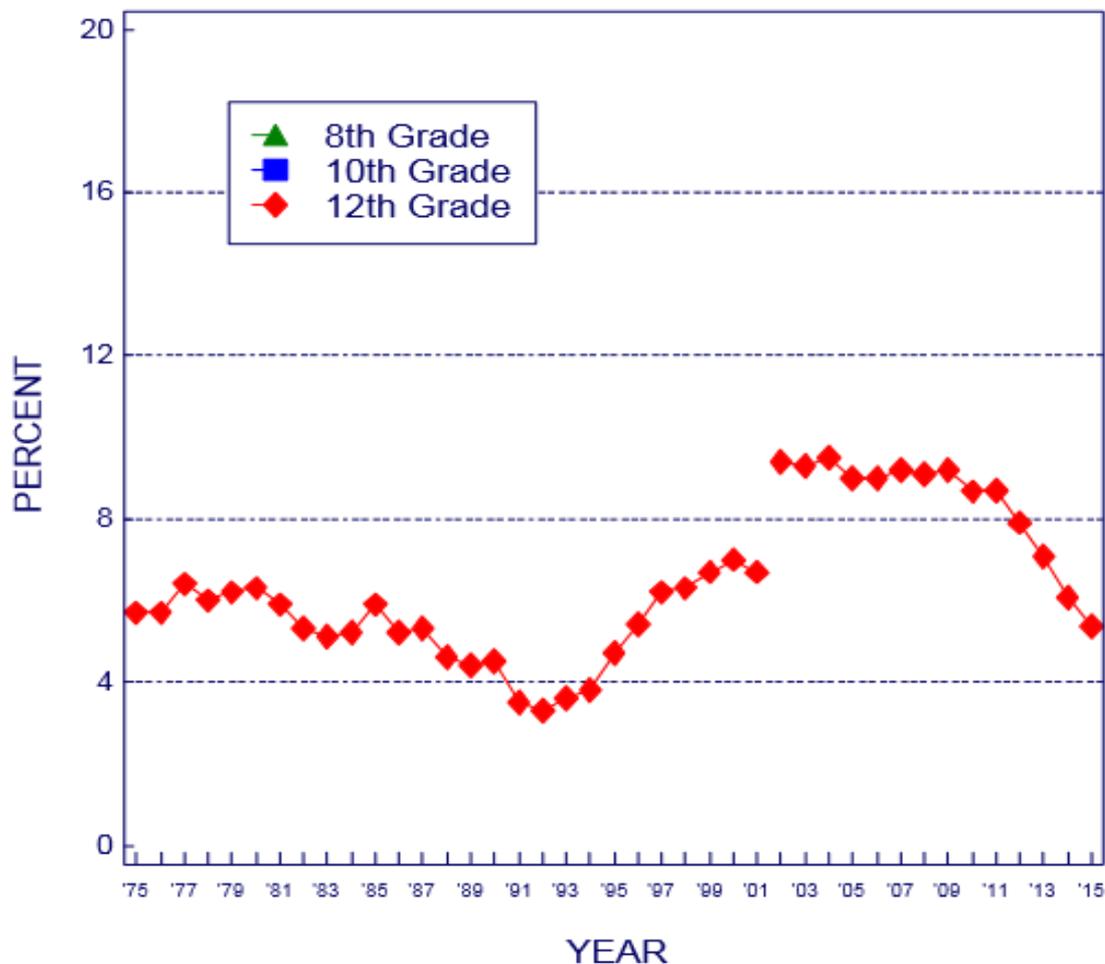
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# Increase in opiate Rx, 1991-2013

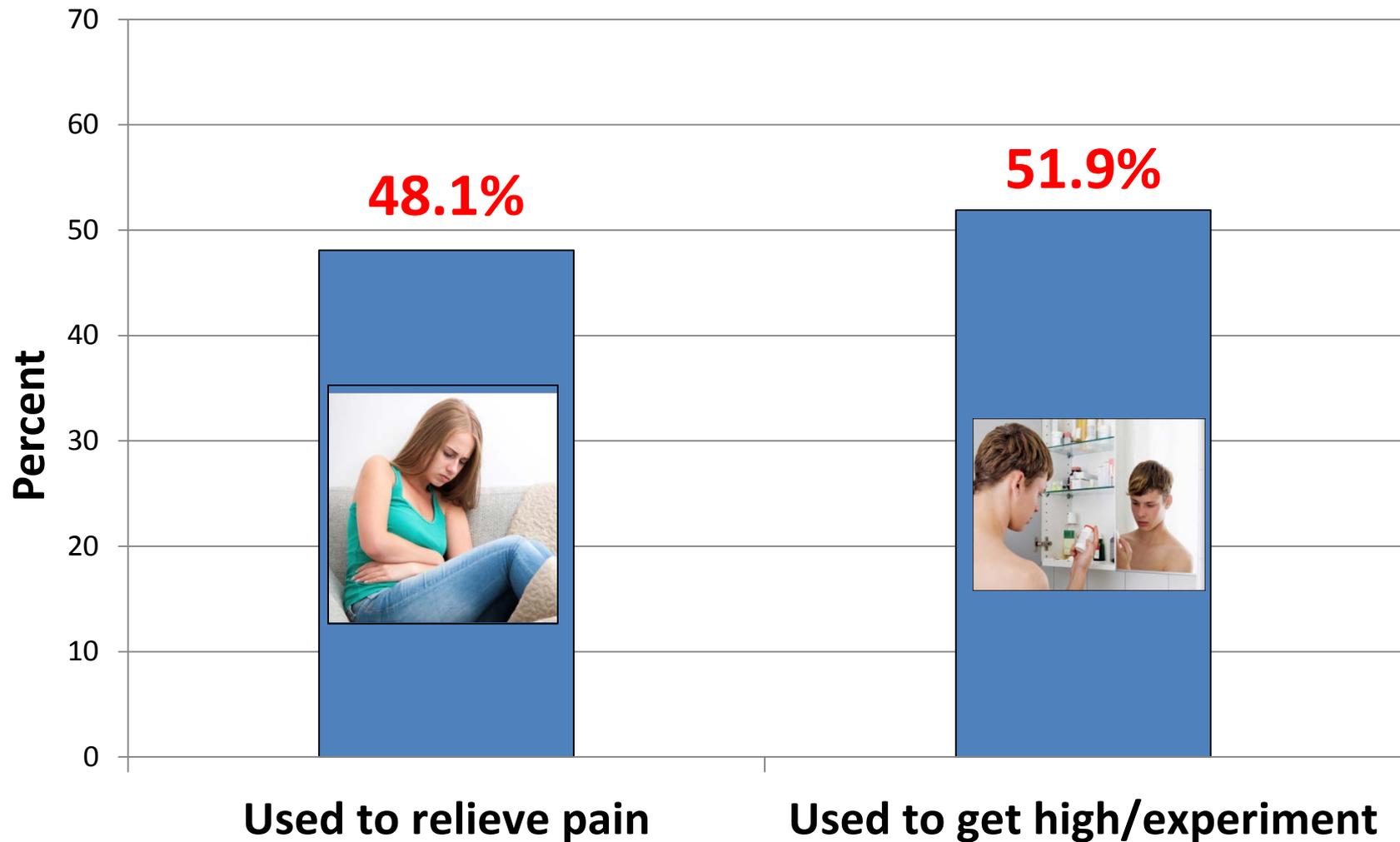


# Rates of opioid misuse by 12<sup>th</sup> graders

**Use of Narcotics other than Heroin**  
**% who used any narcotics other than heroin**  
**in last 12 months\***

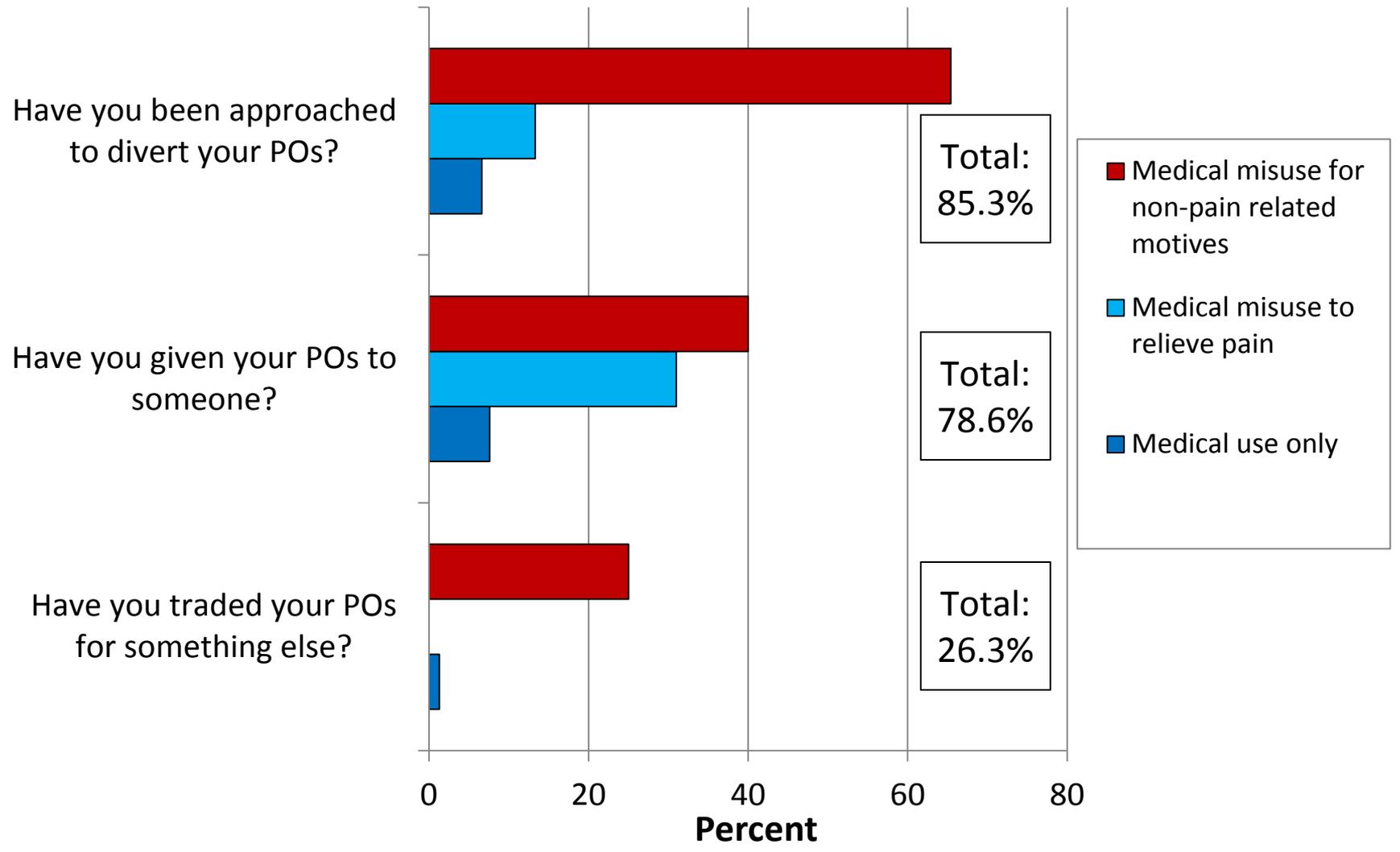


# Motivations for opioid misuse



Easy to get from medicine cabinet	62%
Available everywhere	52%
Not illegal	51%
Easy to get through other people's prescription	50%
Can claim you have a prescription if caught	49%
Cheap	43%
Safer to use than illegal drugs	35%
Less shame attached to using	33%
Easy to purchase over the Internet	32%
Fewer side effects than street drugs	32%
Parents don't care as much if you get caught	21%

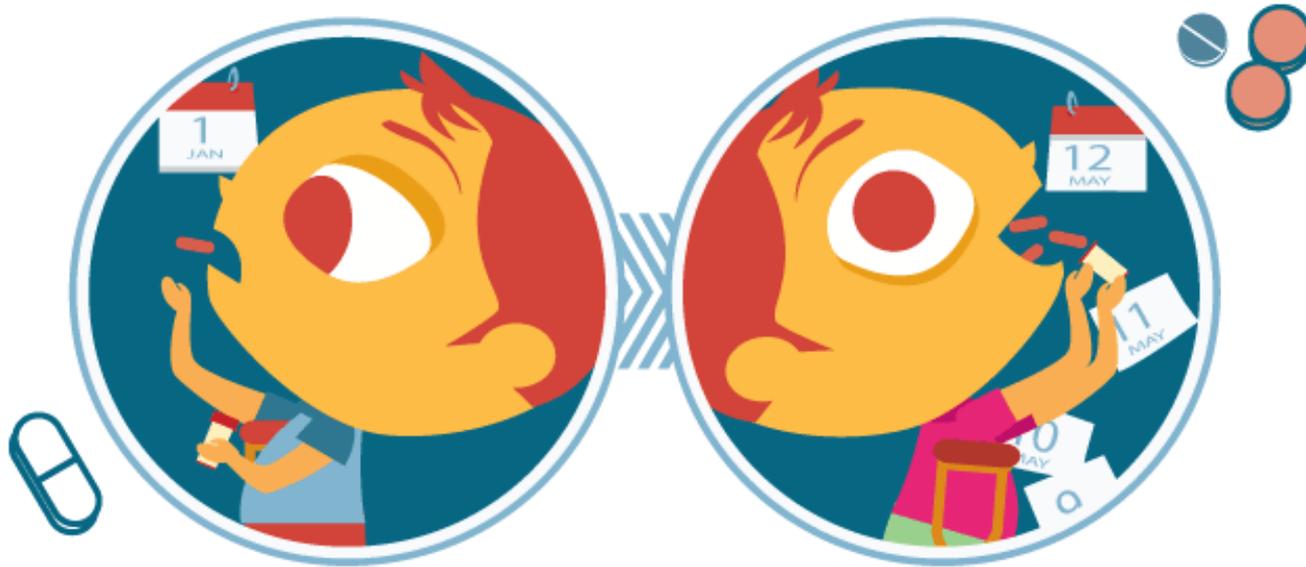
# Diversion Behaviors as a Function of Motives for Misuse of Prescription Opioids (POs)



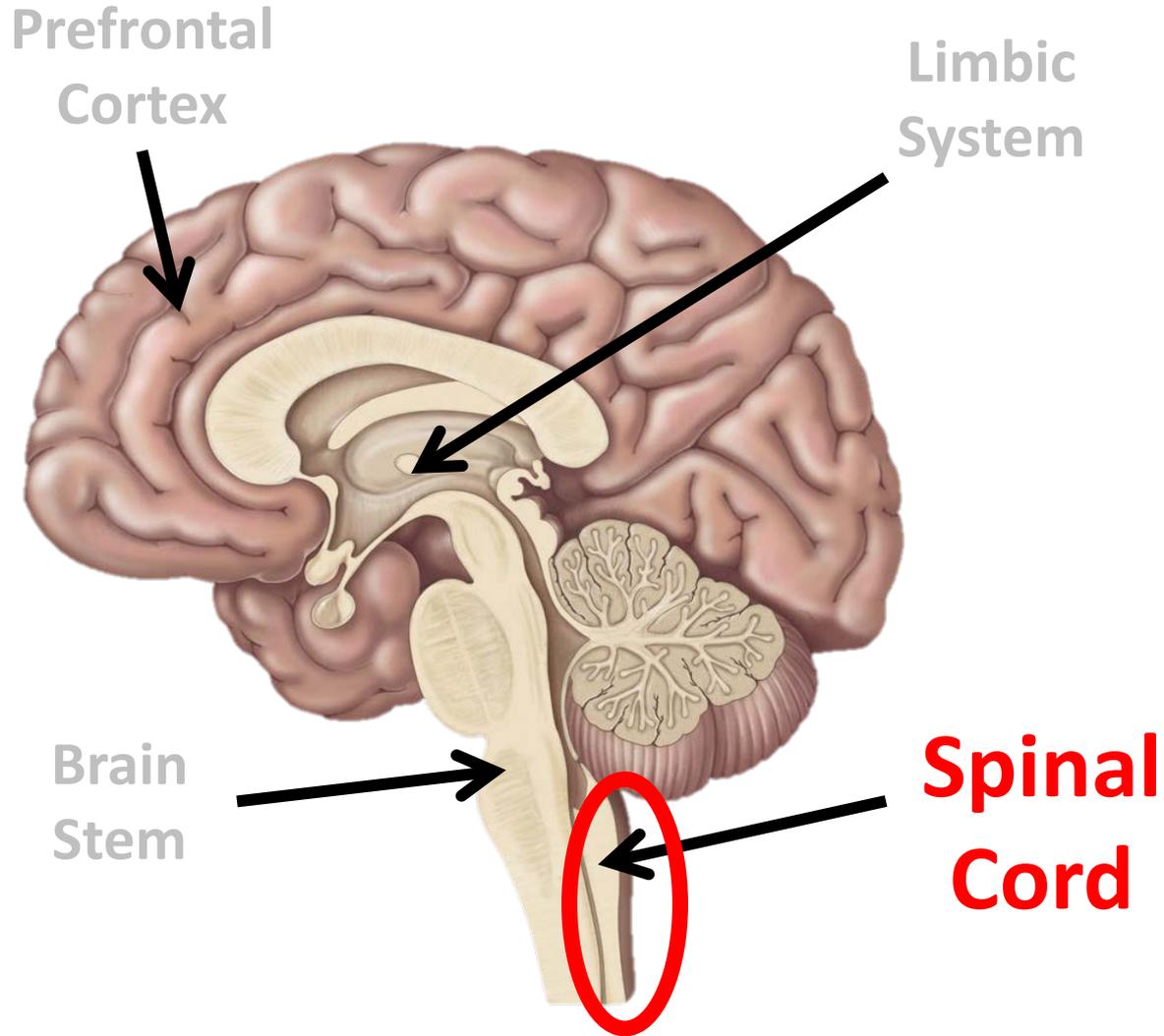
# RECOMMENDATIONS

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# There is no such thing as a “safe” dose



# Keep it in the spinal cord



# Side effect profiles

directed to do so by your  
medication to treat the  
mouth. If you get the n  
doctor if your condition  
**SIDE EFFECTS:**  
Burning, itching, irritation,  
or worsen, notify your doc  
ffects. Many people using  
ne, extreme/unusual  
ply

# Proper assessment is critical

- Drug use?
- Mental illness?
- Family history?



# Patient and parent education

**Do you  
understand  
these risks?**



# SUMMARY

---

# Kids are vulnerable to drug use and addiction



# The medicine cabinet *is* the problem



# The opioid reservoir



84.2%

of opioids obtained by adolescents  
were given by or taken from a  
family member or peer

# Take precautions

- Prescribe appropriately
- Assess risk
- Keep doses small
- Keep course of treatment short



# Educate EVERY adolescent and parent



# Acknowledgements

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Paul Hammerness, MD

Andrew MacGinnitie, MD, PhD

Jonathan Gaffin, MD

# Changes in prescribing controlled meds to adolescents, 1994-2007

