



2017 NC State Health Director's Conference

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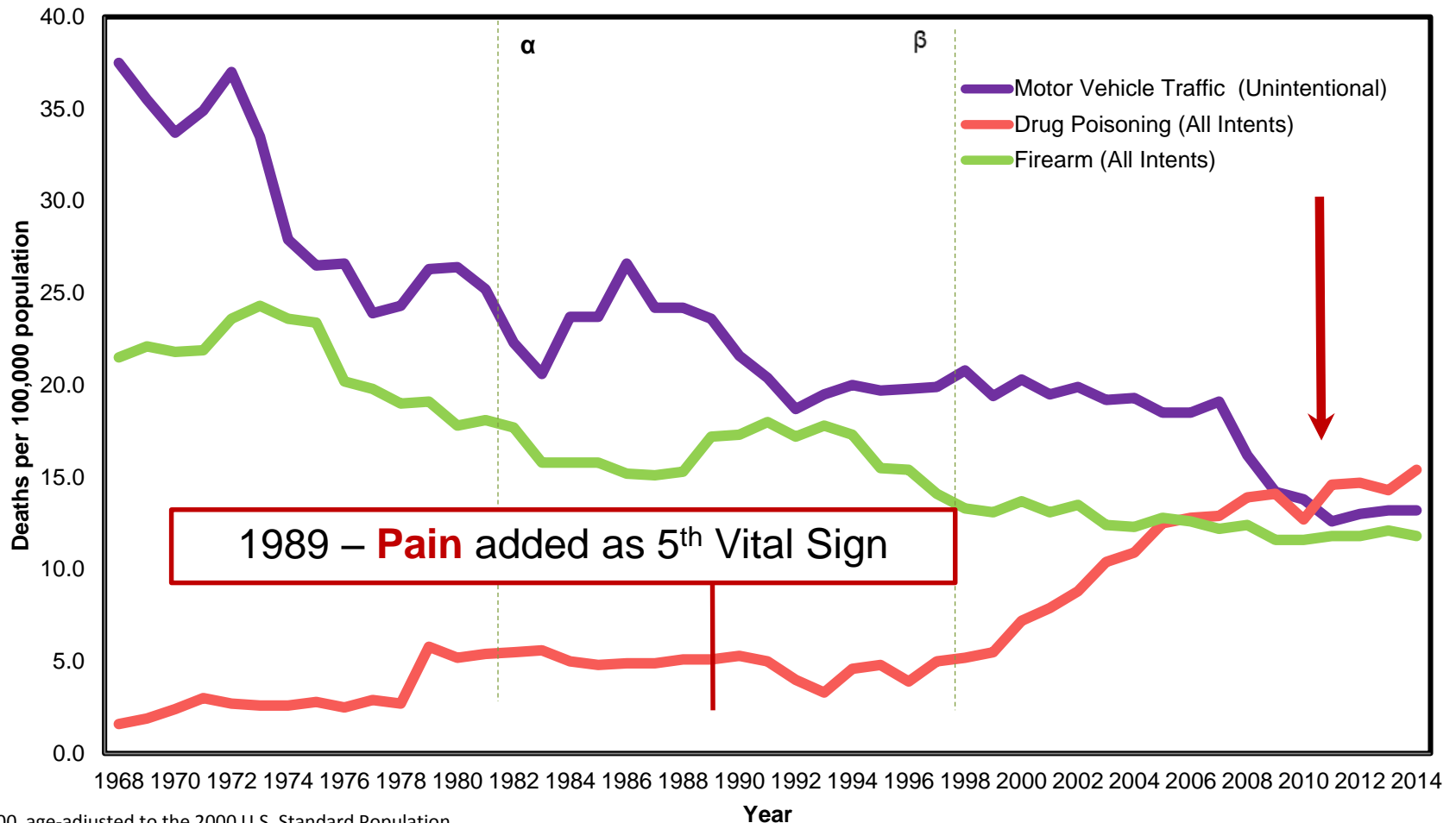


**NC's Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone:
Working with Partners to Lead Change**



The Problem: Opioid Overdose

Death Rates* for Three Selected Causes of Injury, North Carolina, 1968-2014



*Per 100,00, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population
 α - Transition from ICD-8 to ICD-9
 β - Transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10

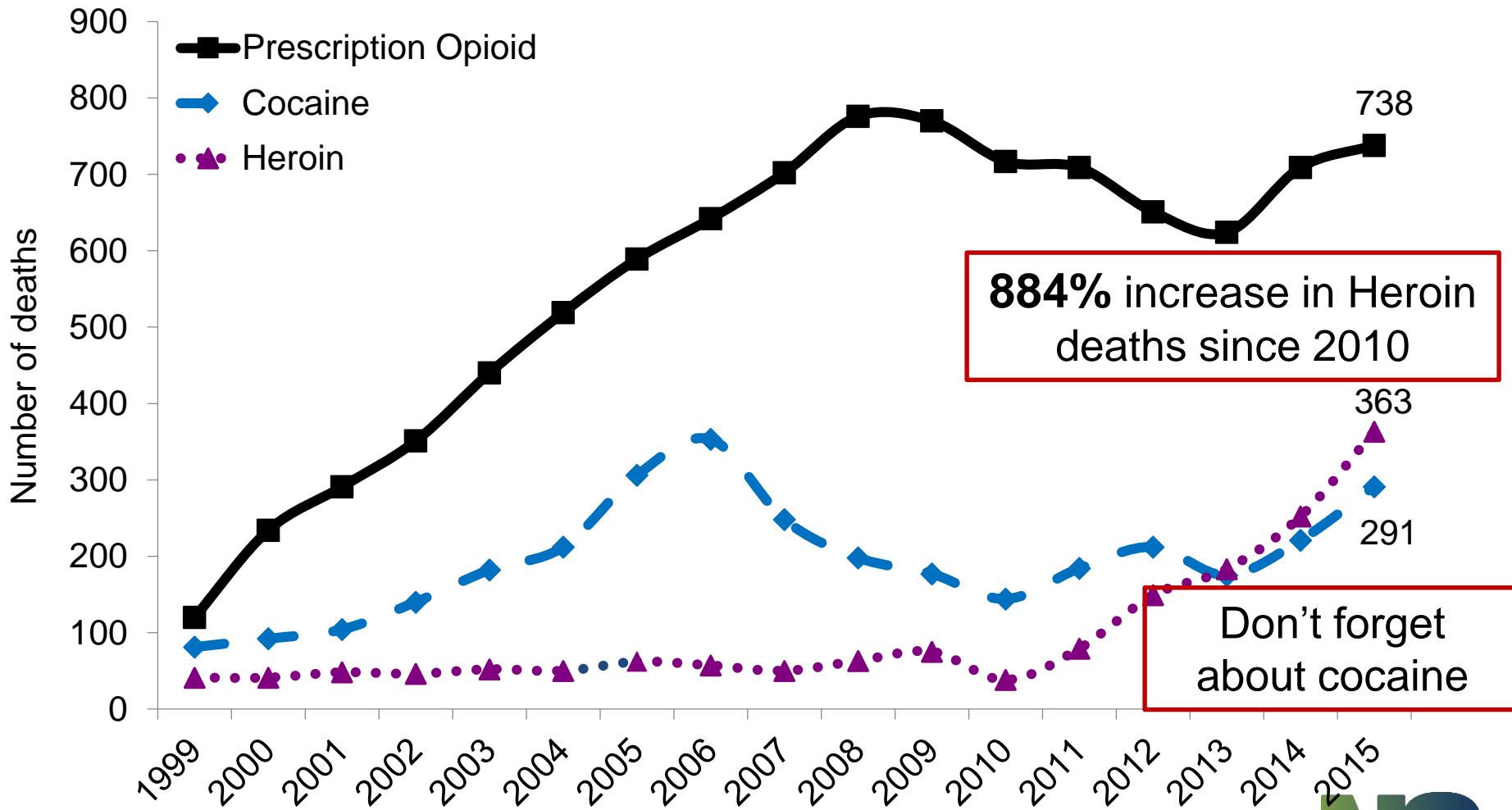
National Vital Statistics System, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>, multiple cause dataset
 Source: Death files, 1968-2014, CDC WONDER
 Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

North Carolina
 Injury & Violence
 PREVENTION Branch



Substances Contributing to Medication or Drug Overdose Deaths

North Carolina Residents, 1999-2015



884% increase in Heroin deaths since 2010

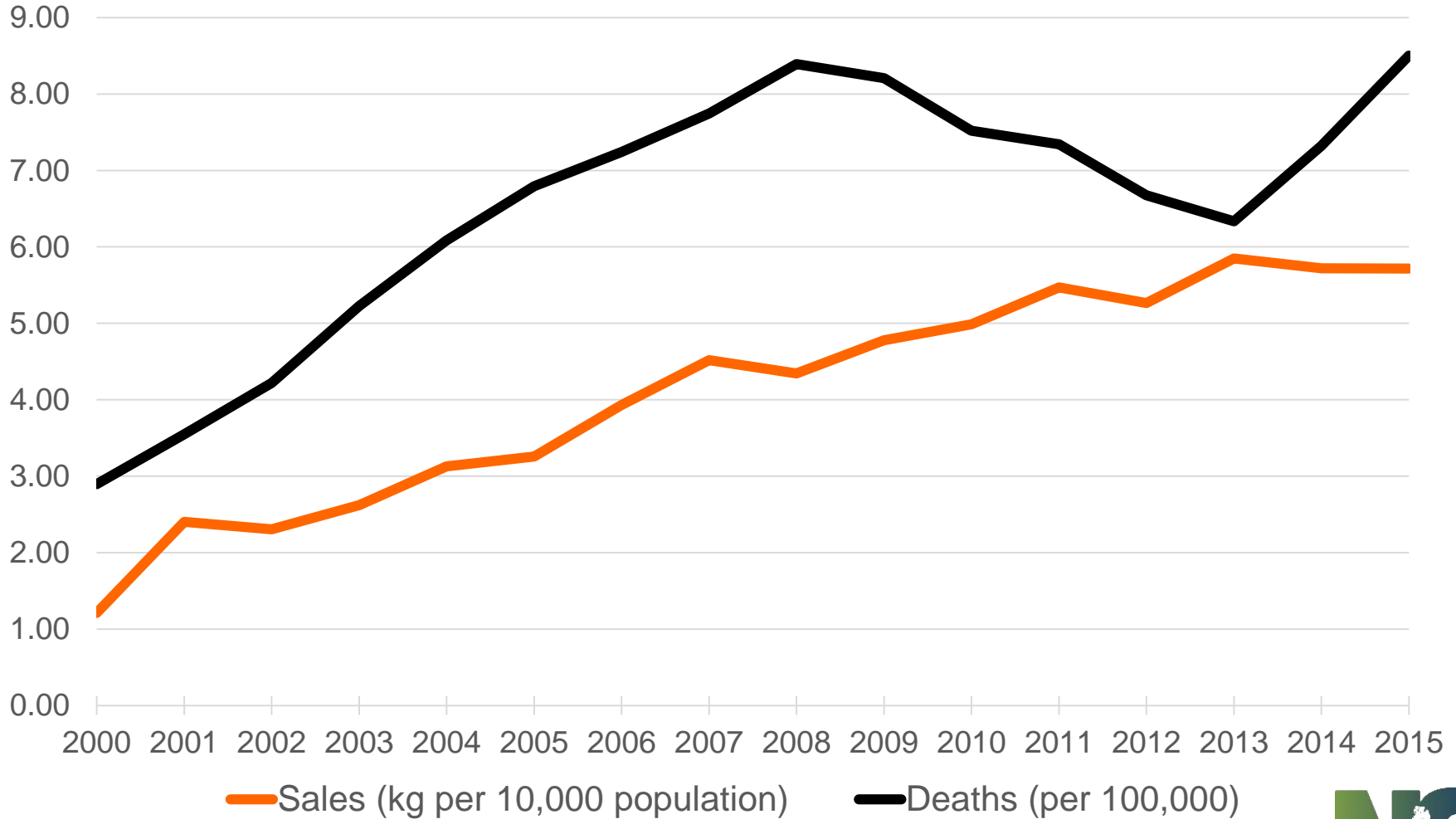
Don't forget about cocaine

Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2015
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit



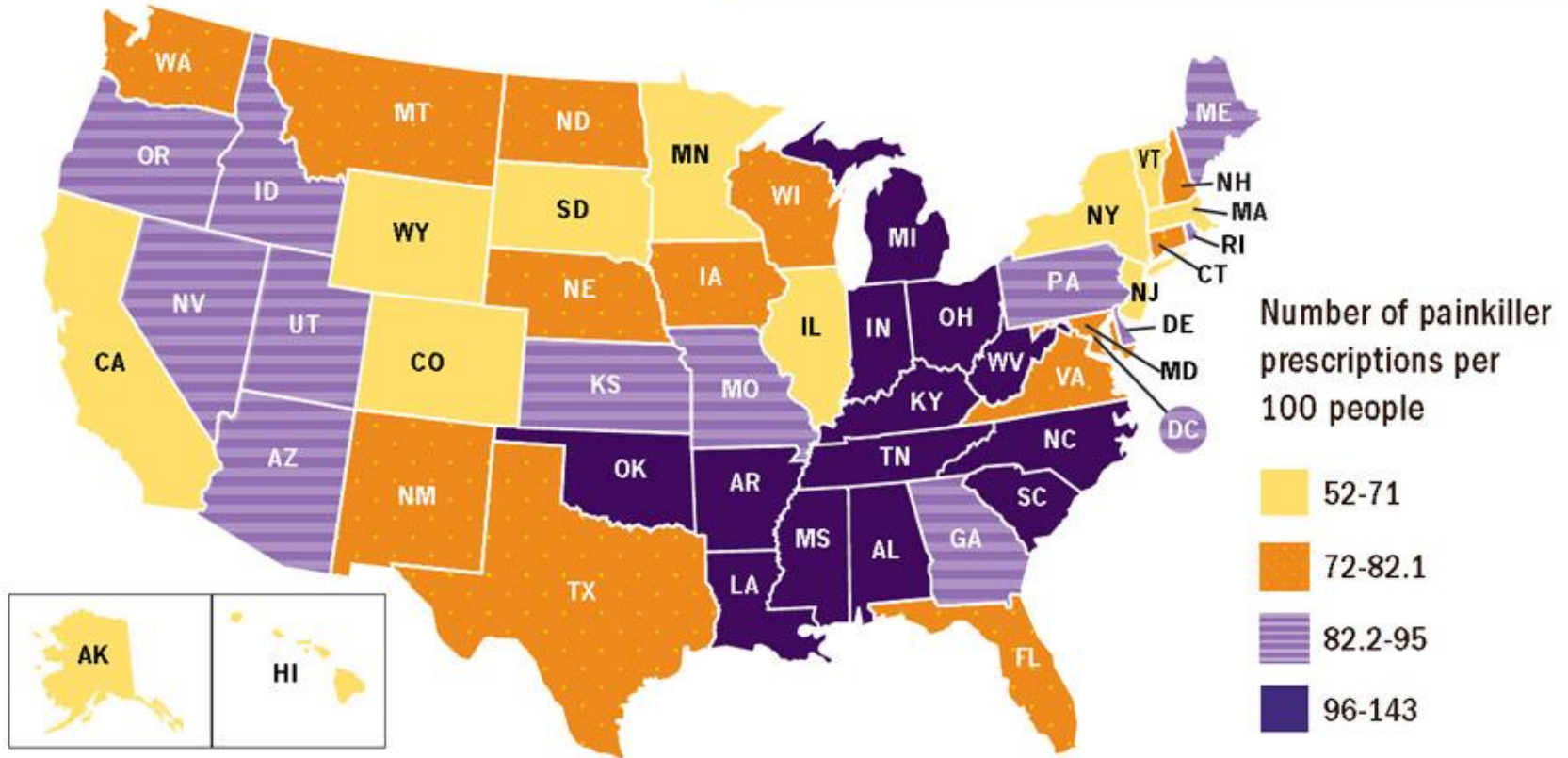
Prescription Opioid Analgesic Sales vs. Deaths

North Carolina, 2000 - 2015



Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2000-2015. DEA ARCOs data, North Carolina, 2000-2015. Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

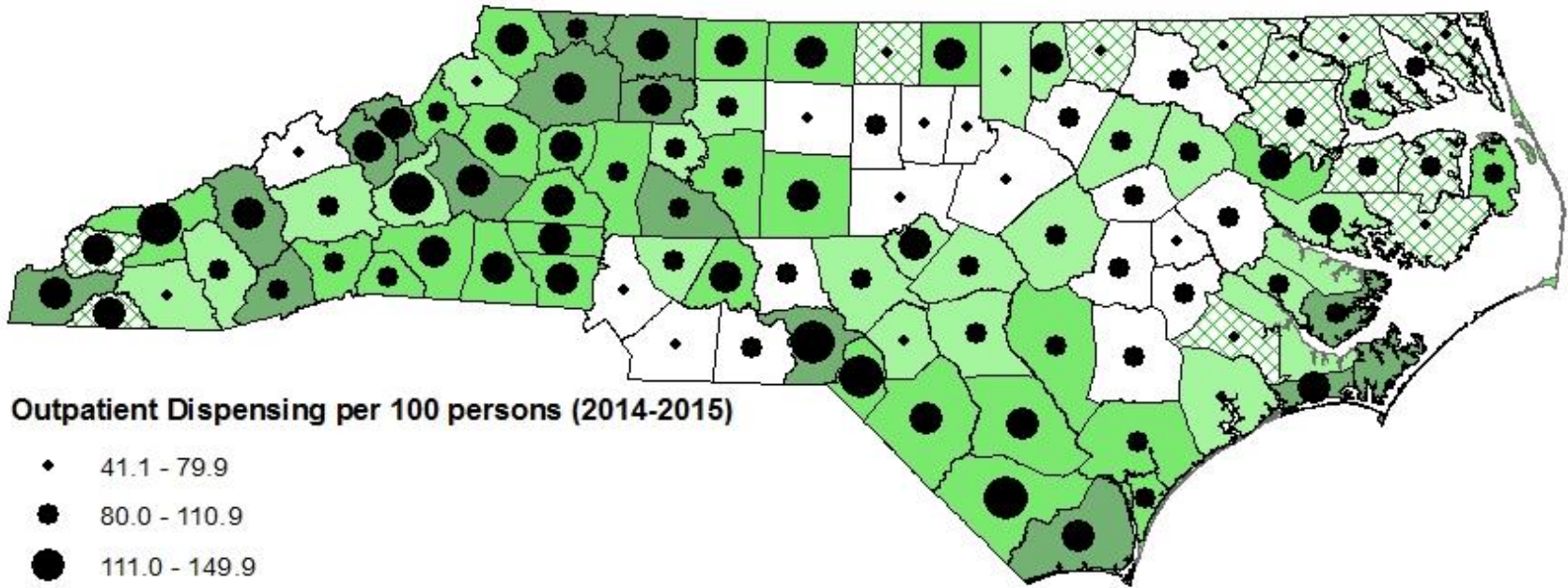
Some states have more painkiller prescriptions per person than others.



SOURCE: IMS, National Prescription Audit (NPA™), 2012.

Unintentional/Undetermined Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Rates & Outpatient Prescriptions Dispensed for Opioids Rates

North Carolina Residents, 2011-2015



Outpatient Dispensing per 100 persons (2014-2015)

- 41.1 - 79.9
- 80.0 - 110.9
- 111.0 - 149.9
- 150.0 +

Overdose Rates per 100,000 persons (2011-2015)

- 0 - 4
- 5 - 7
- 8 - 11
- 12+
- ▨ Rate not calculated <5 deaths

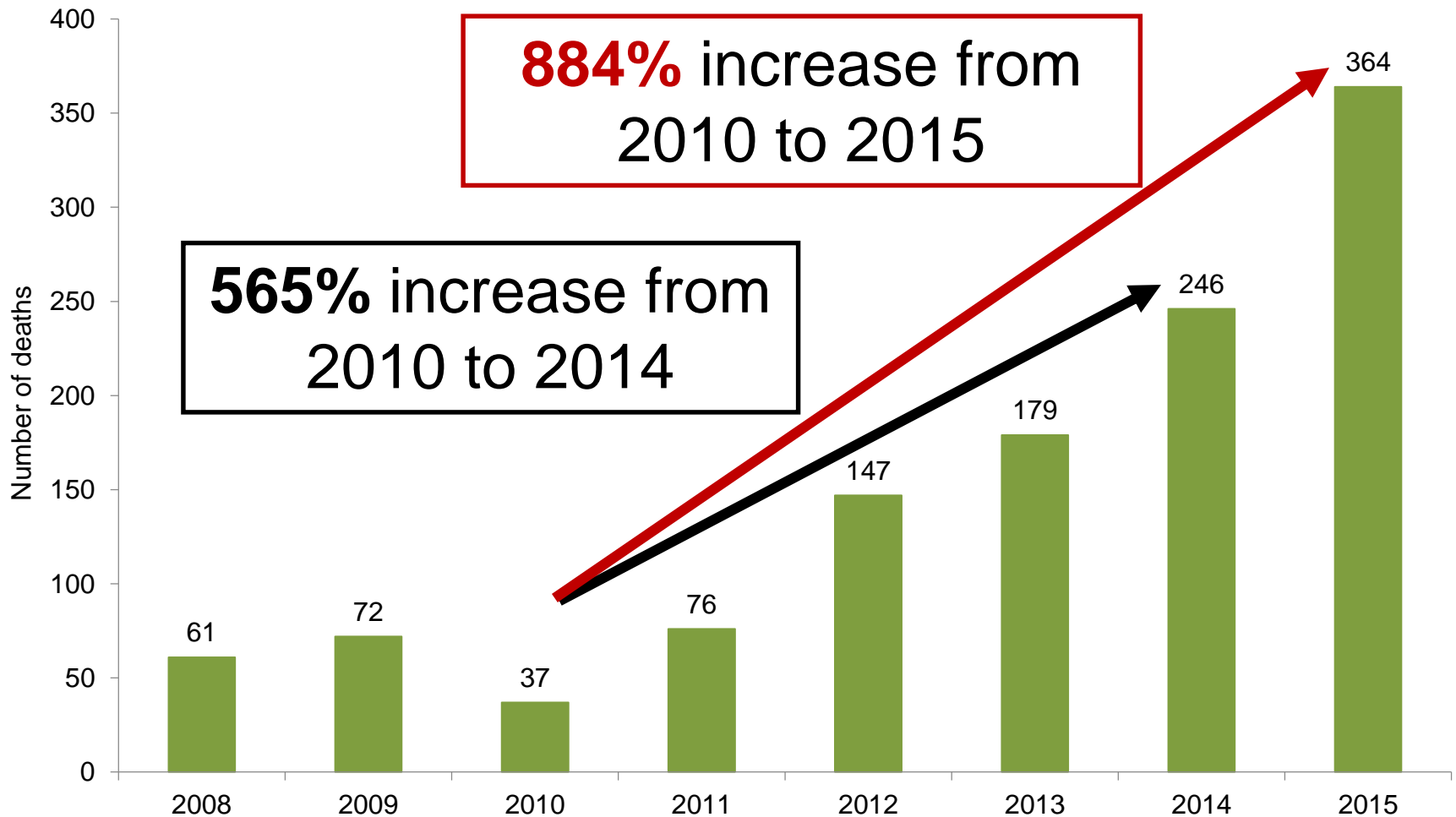
Average mortality rate: 6.4 per 100,000 persons

Average dispensing rate: 89.4 per 100 persons

*Data: Mortality - State Center for Health Statistics, NC Division of Public Health, 2011-2015
 Population - National Center for Health Statistics, 2011-2015
 Opioid Dispensing - Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2014-2015

Heroin Deaths

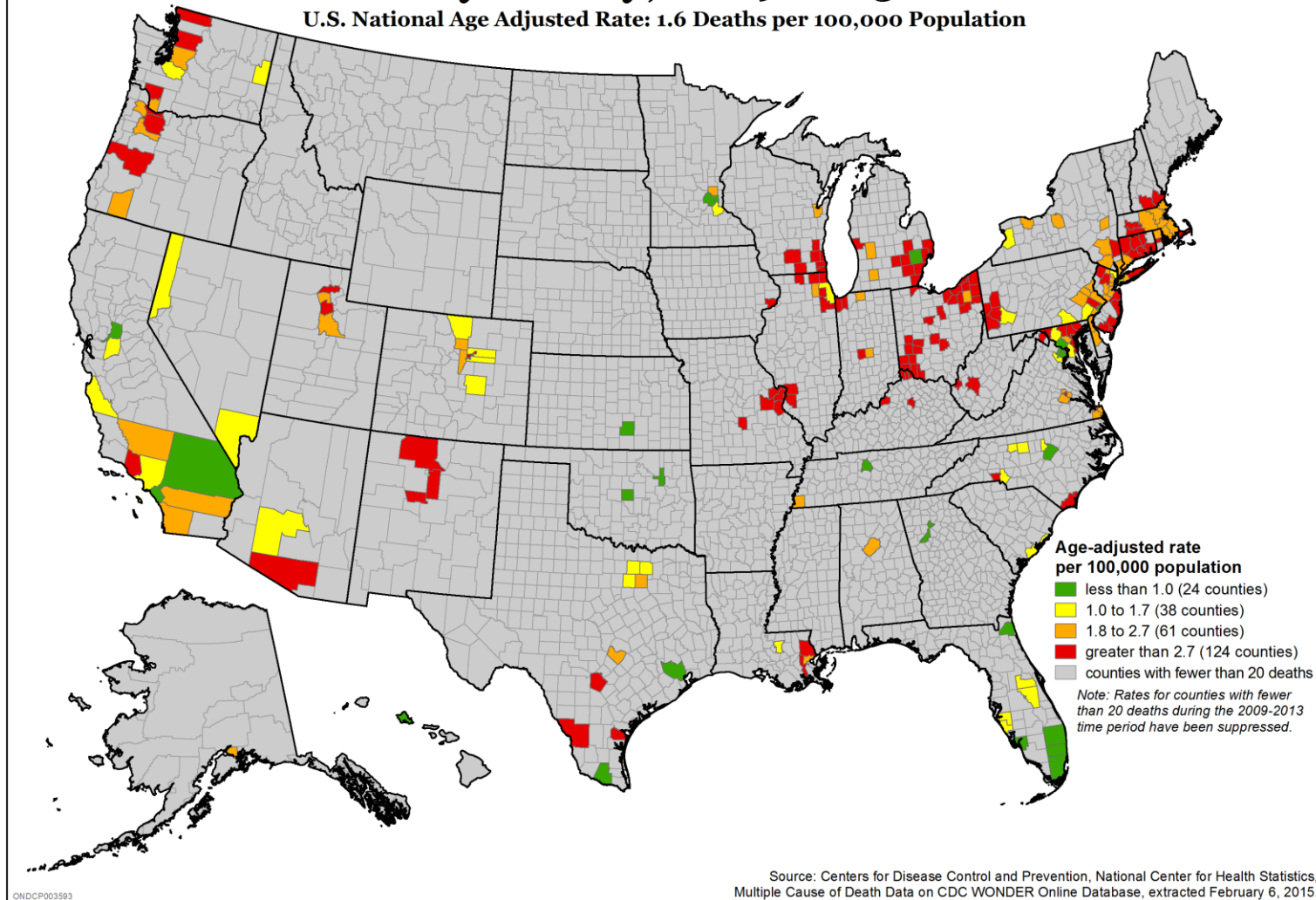
North Carolina Residents, 2008-2015



Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2008-2015
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving Heroin by County, 2009-2013

U.S. National Age Adjusted Rate: 1.6 Deaths per 100,000 Population

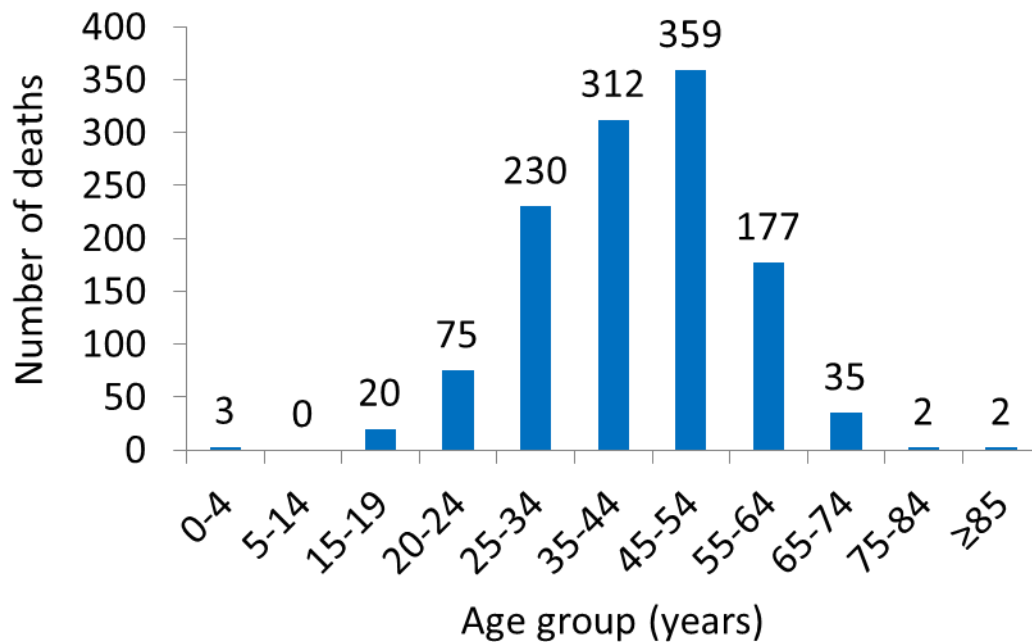


North Carolina
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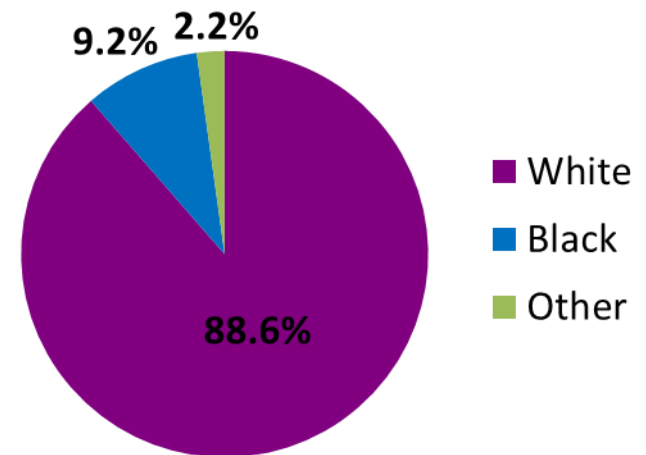
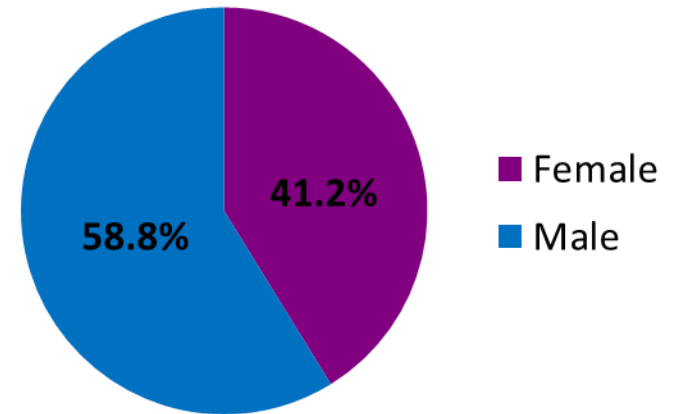


Demographics of Medication or Drug Overdose Deaths

North Carolina Residents, 2015



N=1,251



One Response: Naloxone Access

CDC Vital Signs, July 2015

Responding to the Heroin Epidemic



PREVENT People From Starting Heroin

Reduce prescription opioid painkiller abuse.

Improve opioid painkiller prescribing practices and identify high-risk individuals early.



REDUCE Heroin Addiction

Ensure access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Treat people addicted to heroin or prescription opioid painkillers with MAT which combines the use of medications (methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) with counseling and behavioral therapies.



REVERSE Heroin Overdose

Expand the use of naloxone.

Use naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time.

SOURCE: CDC Vital signs, July 2015

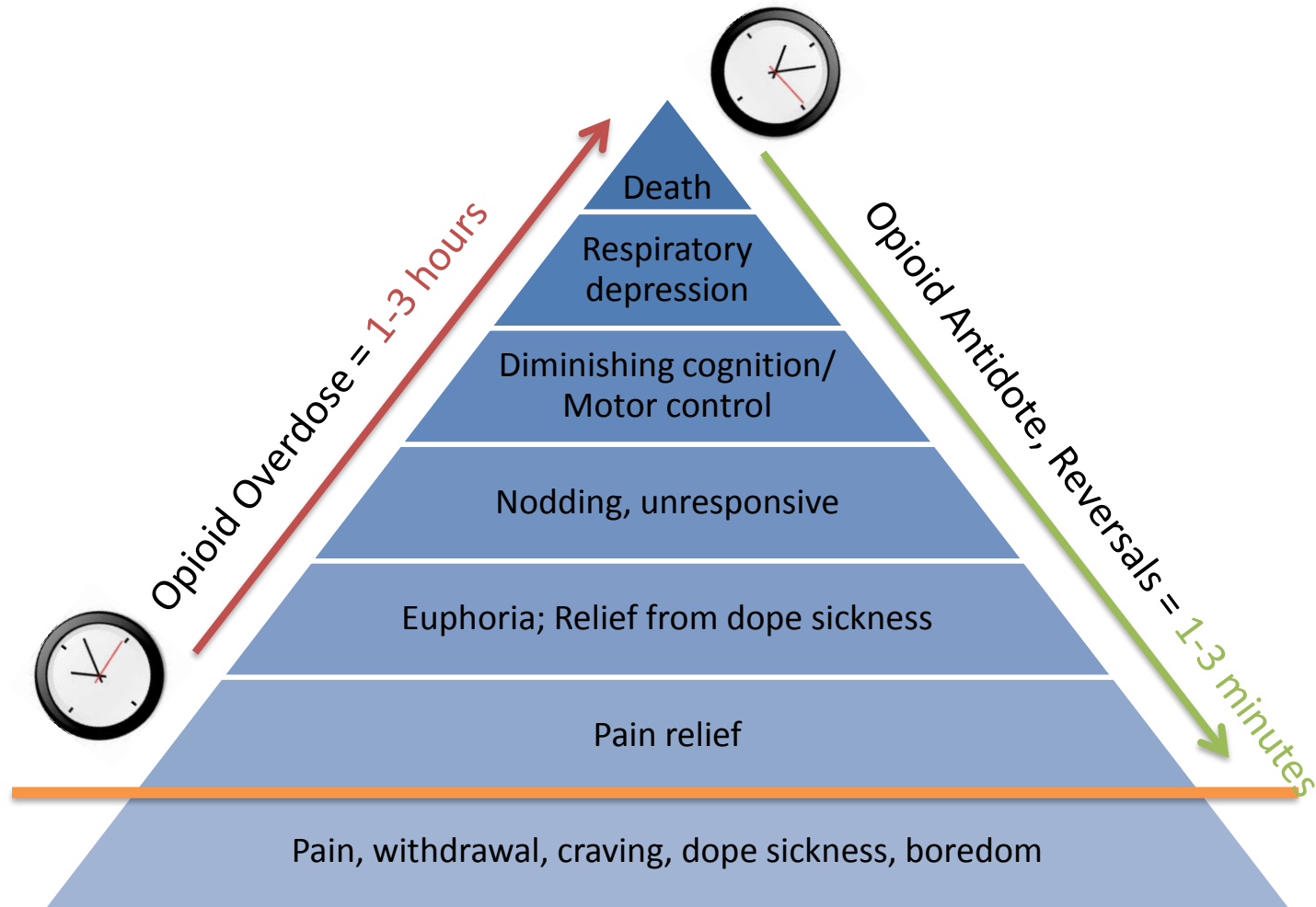
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Naloxone

- Naloxone (Narcan[®], Evzio[®])
 - A prescription medication used to treat an opioid overdose
 - Works by reversing the effects of opioids by temporarily binding to the same brain receptors as opioids
 - Safe medication; few side effects other than putting people into immediate withdrawal from opioids
 - Can be administered intra-nasally or intra-muscularly





2013 Good Samaritan Law

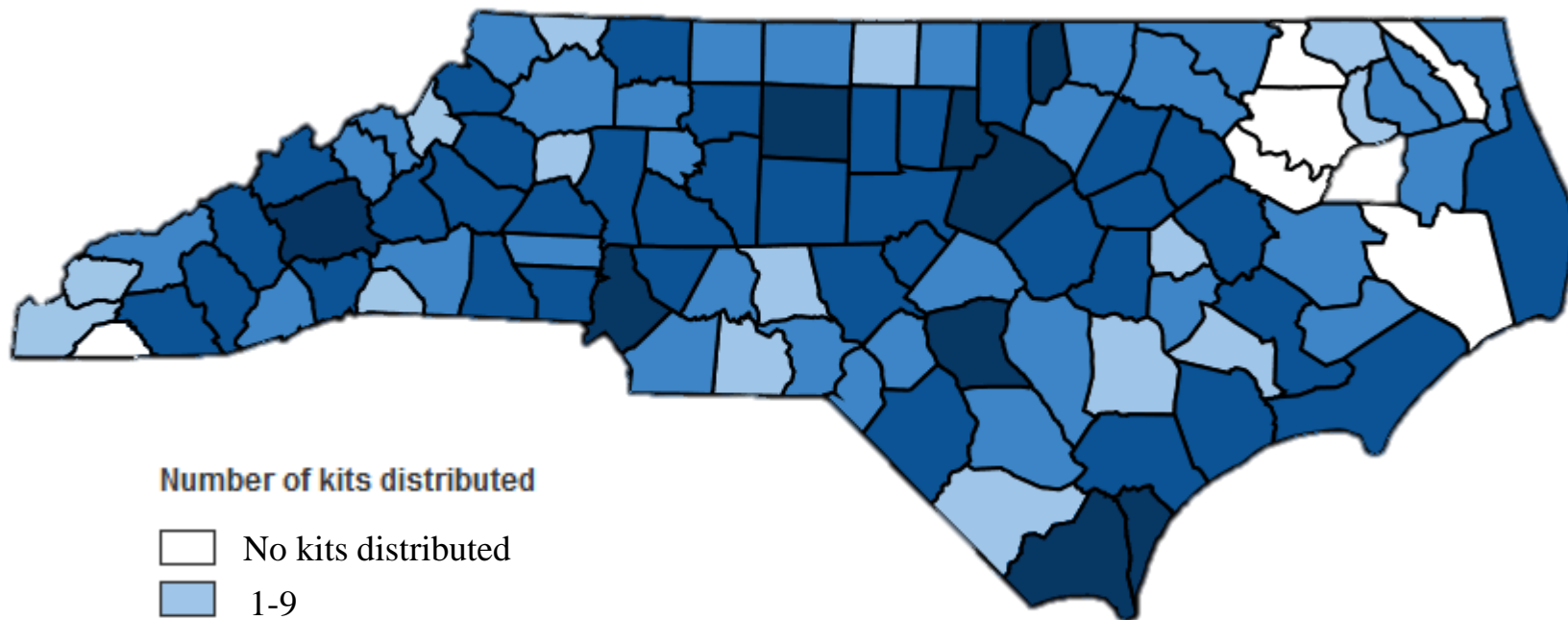
- In 2013, legislature passed the Good Samaritan law
 - Provided immunity for possession of small amount of drugs for people seeking help for an overdose
 - Provided civil and criminal immunity for persons who administer naloxone to someone experiencing an overdose
 - Allowed health care practitioners to prescribe naloxone by standing order and allowed 3rd party prescribing (to friends and relatives of people at risk of an overdose)

“A practitioner acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care may directly or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to (i) a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or (ii) a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.”



Number of Naloxone Kits Distributed by the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by County

8/1/2013 – 12/31/2016 (39,451 total kits distributed)



Number of kits distributed

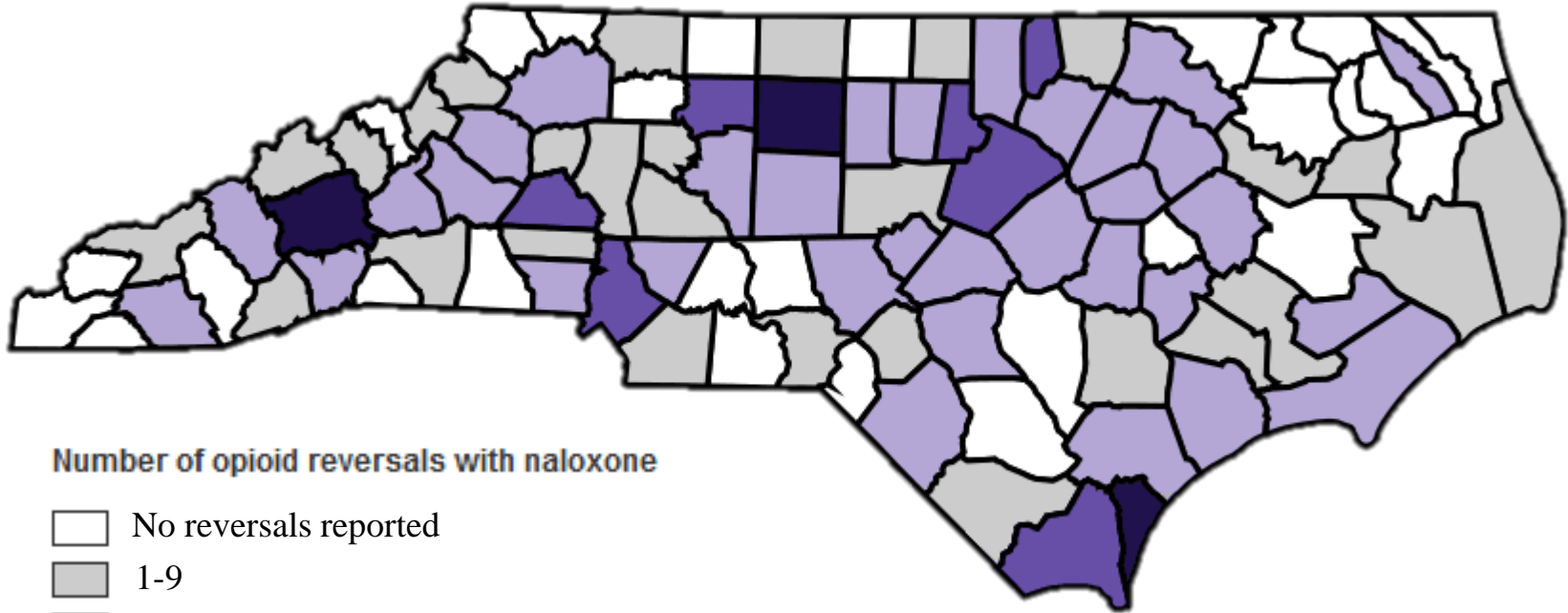
- No kits distributed
- 1-9
- 10-99
- 100-999
- 1000-6877

2 kits distributed in an unknown location in North Carolina.

Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, January 2017
 Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported by the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by County

8/1/2013 - 12/31/2016 (5,456 total reversals reported)



Number of opioid reversals with naloxone

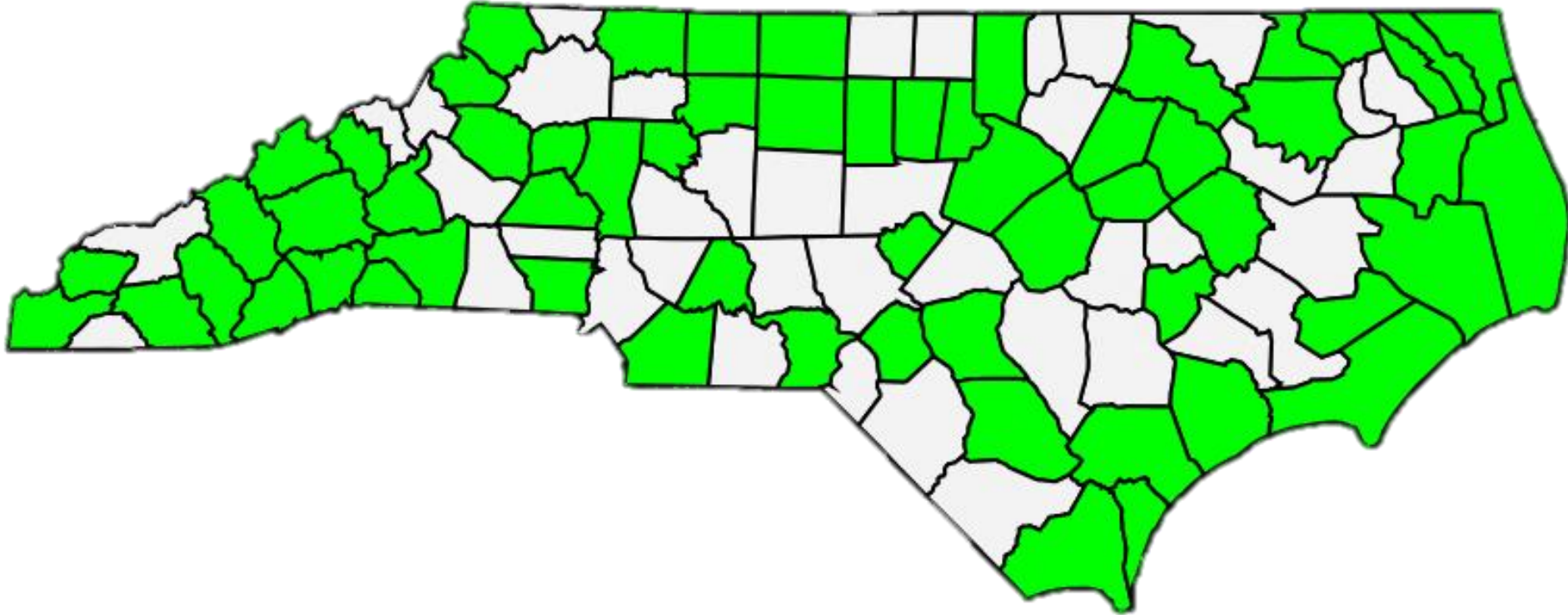
- No reversals reported
- 1-9
- 10-99
- 100-499
- 500-1360

17 reversals in an unknown location in North Carolina and 81 reversals using NCHRC kits in other states reported to NCHRC.

Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, January 2017
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Counties with Law Enforcement Carrying Naloxone

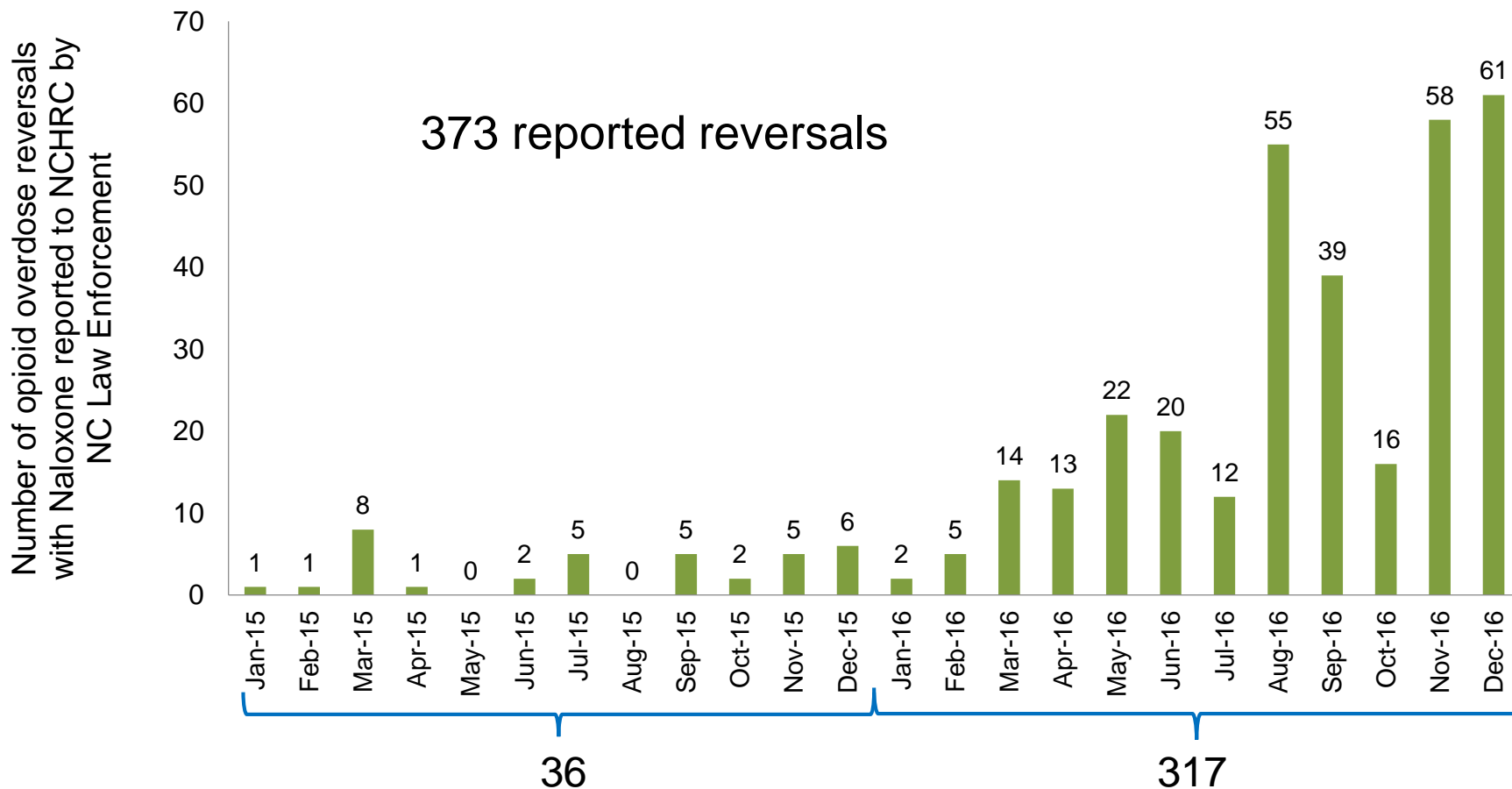
As of December 31, 2016 (60 Counties, 136 Agencies)



Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, January 2017
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported by NC Law Enforcement by Date

1/1/2015 - 12/31/2016

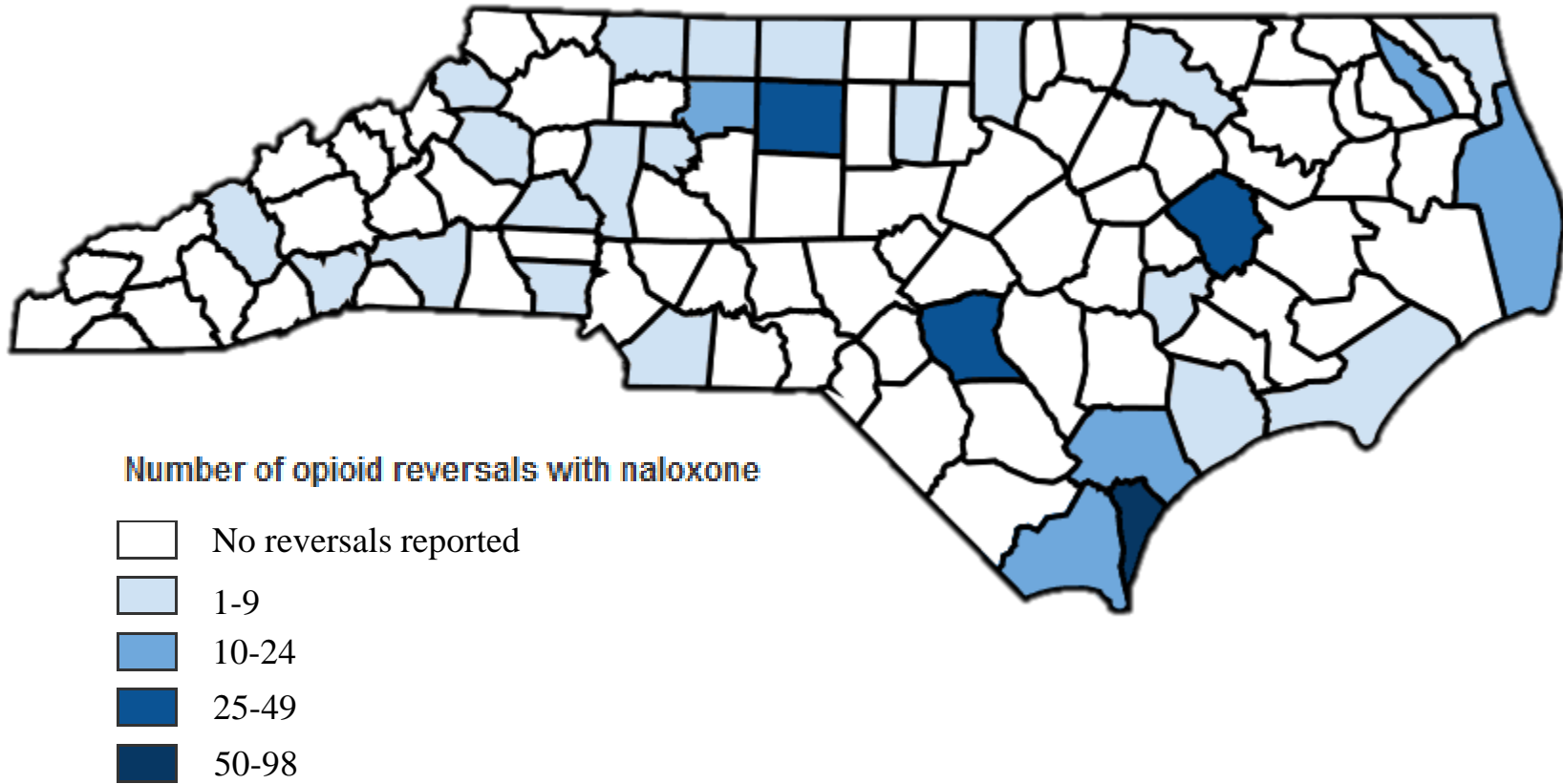


20 reported reversals with unknown date

Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, January 2017
 Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Number of Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported by NC Law Enforcement by Date

1/1/2015 - 12/31/2016 (373 total reversals reported)



Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, January 2017
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Statewide Standing Order Initiative

- **Fall 2015: NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch(IVBP) received Prevention for States grant from CDC**
 - A 4-year grant to work on prescription drug overdose prevention
- **IVPB had been investigating possibility of statewide standing order for naloxone by State Health Director under the Good Samaritan law**
- **October 2015: Pennsylvania’s Physician General signed statewide standing order**
- **December 2015: Maryland’s Deputy Secretary for state health department signed statewide standing order**



What about North Carolina?

- **Injury and Violence Prevention Branch approached State Health Director Dr. Randall Williams about creating a Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone**
- **Dr. Williams indicated need to consult partners**
 - NC Medical Board
 - NC Medical Society
 - NC Pharmacy Board
- **After talking with partners, decided to seek legislative change to specifically allow State Health Director to issue a statewide standing order**



Legislative Maneuvering

- Working with DHHS legislative liaisons
- Trying to find way to introduce legislation in the short session
- Dealing with concerns regarding cost neutrality from Medicaid
 - Decision to exclude Evzio (auto-injector version) from standing order
- Committee hearings in House and Senate
 - Dr. Williams served as effective champion of the bill
 - Legislators very receptive to bill on a bi-partisan basis



Advanced Preparation for the Passage of the Bill

- **Wrote draft standing order and shared with multiple partners to get feedback**
 - NC Medical Board
 - NC Medical Society
 - NC Pharmacy Board
 - NC Retail Merchants Association
 - All major pharmacy chains
 - Community pharmacies representatives
 - NC Division of Medical Assistance
 - Community Care of NC
- **Pharmacies praised simplicity of standing order compared to those in other states; greatly appreciated ability to give input**



Creation of NaloxoneSaves.org Website

- Working on very tight deadline (one month); needed to have website up and running as soon as law effective
- NC Injury Prevention Research Center helped design website
- Created FAQs document
- Created searchable map with plan to populate with pharmacies dispensing under the standing order
- Had a call organized by NC Retail Merchants Association with pharmacy chains and community pharmacy representatives to explain website and the process of “signing up” to dispense under the standing order, and to get feedback before website was “official”



www.NaloxoneSaves.Org

NaloxoneSaves.Org

Providing information to pharmacies and
the public about North Carolina's
statewide standing order for naloxone



FOR NALOXONE DISPENSERS

My pharmacy wants to
participate in the standing
order



NALOXONE USER SURVEY

I recently used
naloxone



GENERAL INFORMATION

I am looking for more
information about
naloxone

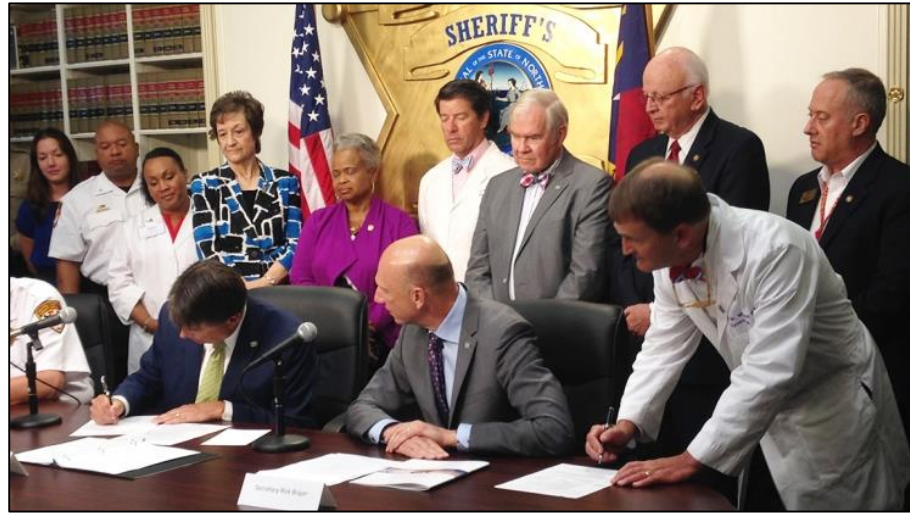


Spreading the Word to Pharmacies in Advance of the Law's Passage

- **Urgent messages to pharmacies and pharmacists to be prepared for the statewide standing order**
 - Determine whether they intended to dispense under the standing order
 - Put in place any internal protocols they desired for standing order
 - Order naloxone and have it in stock
- **Worked NC Pharmacy Board and NC Retail Merchants Association to get the word out quickly**
- **Gave DPH attorney email to all NC pharmacists for help with questions**



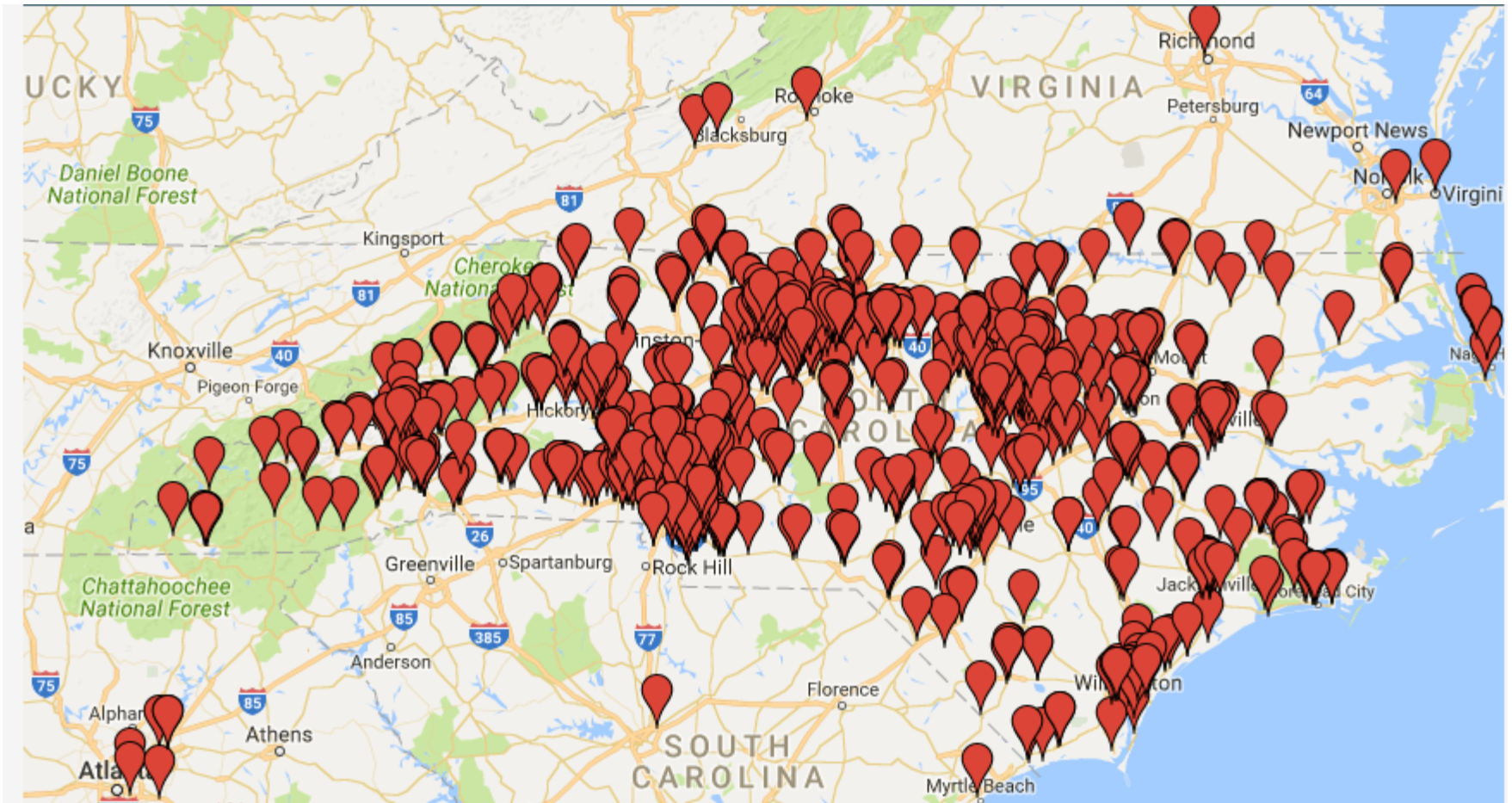
June 20, 2016: Gov. McCrory signed legislation authorizing State Health Director to issue statewide standing order for naloxone and standing order signed by Dr. Randall Williams immediately afterward



Authorizes any pharmacist practicing in the state and licensed by the N.C. Board of Pharmacy to dispense naloxone to:

- **A person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose**
- **A family member or friend of a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.**
- **A person in the position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.**

NaloxoneSaves.Org

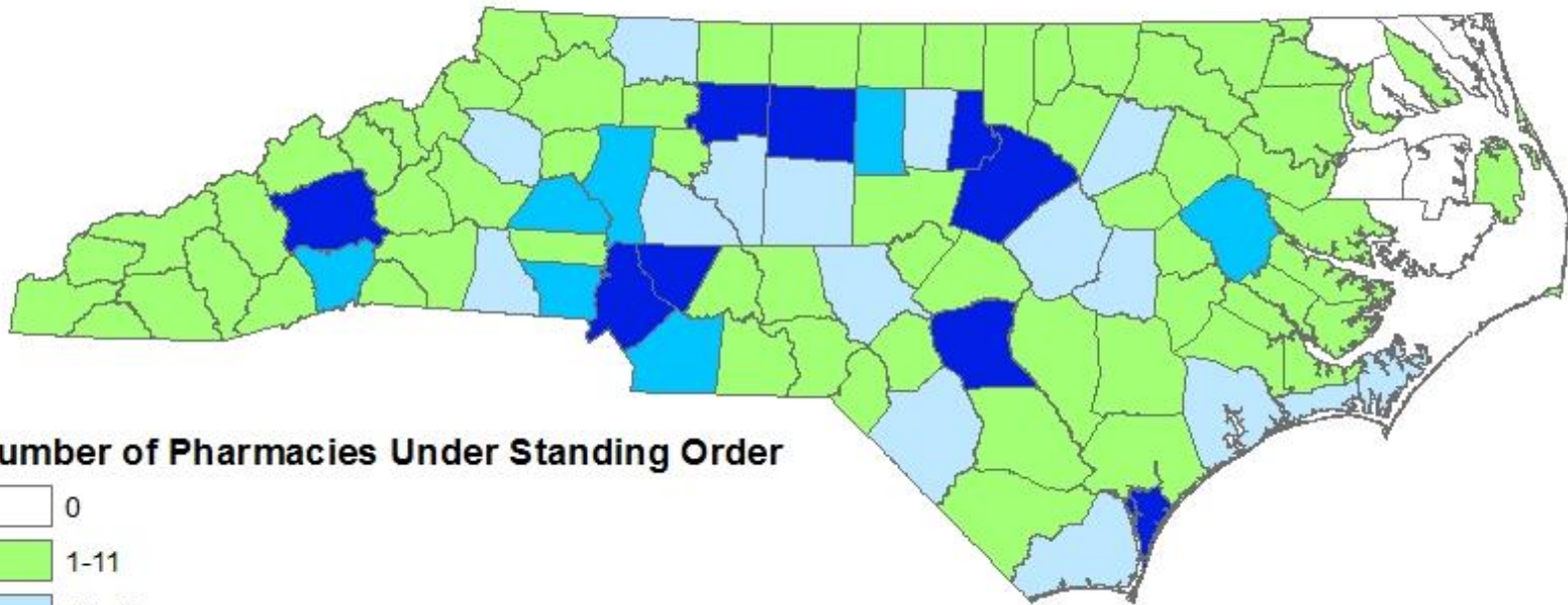


1,300+ NC Pharmacies operating under standing order listed on the website. More added each week.

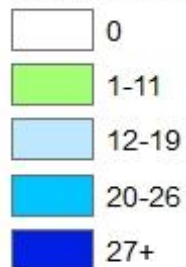


Number of Pharmacies Selling Naloxone Under Standing Order by County, Sept 2016

1,330 Pharmacies in the state selling naloxone



Number of Pharmacies Under Standing Order



About **60%** of retail pharmacies in NC
Most of the large chains

Post Script

- **Multiple chains and independent pharmacies dispensing by standing order**
 - CVS, Rite-Aid, Harris Teeter, Walgreen's, Kroger, Ingles, others
- **Have not run into implementation hurdles**
- **Standing order being used by law enforcement in some locations to obtain naloxone**
- **Need for evaluation of law**
 - UNC Injury Prevention Research Center working with UNC School of Pharmacy to conduct a survey of NC pharmacies about the standing order
 - Need to determine how much naloxone has been dispensed under the standing order



NC Counties with Local Health Department Standing Order/Protocol for Naloxone

- Alexander
- Cabarrus
- Davidson
- Duplin
- Durham
- Forsyth
- Hoke
- Johnston
- Lenoir
- Madison
- Orange
- Pender
- Pitt
- Union
- Wake
- Wilkes
- Others?



NC Syringe Exchange Programs (SEP)

- Bill passed July 11, 2016 to legalize syringe exchanges (Three weeks after standing order bill signed)
- Any governmental or nongovernmental organization can start a SEP
- Legal protections: No employee, volunteer or participant of the syringe exchange can be charged with possession of syringes or other injection supplies, or with residual amounts of controlled substances in them, obtained from or returned to a syringe exchange
- NC Safer Syringe Initiative of the Division of Public Health

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/north-carolina-safer-syringe-initiative>



