

# Drug Diversion Program: “Write-In Drugs”

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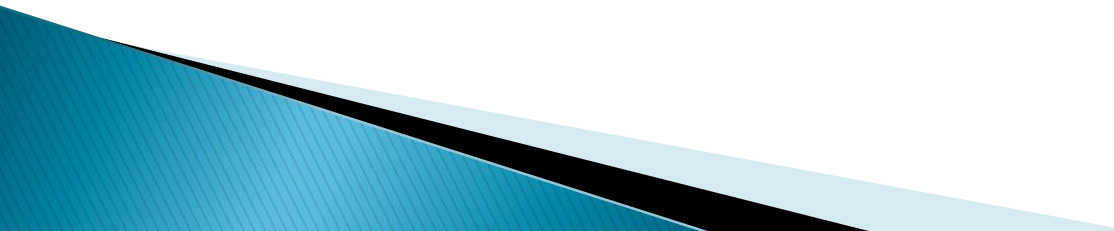
Nova Southeastern University

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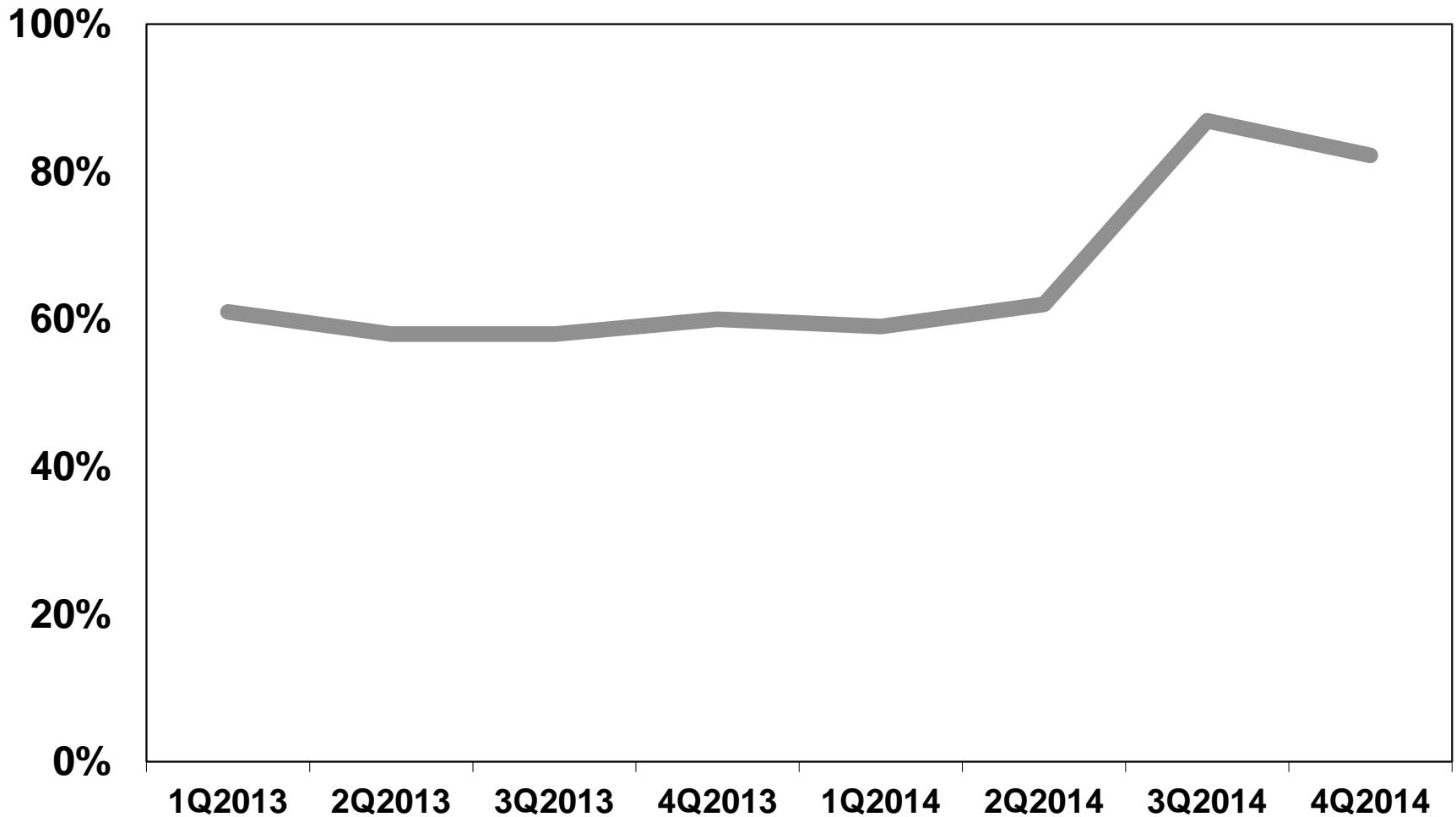
# Purpose

- ❑ What is the universe of diverted prescription drugs beyond the target opioids and stimulants?
- ❑ Are any of interest for possible surveillance efforts?

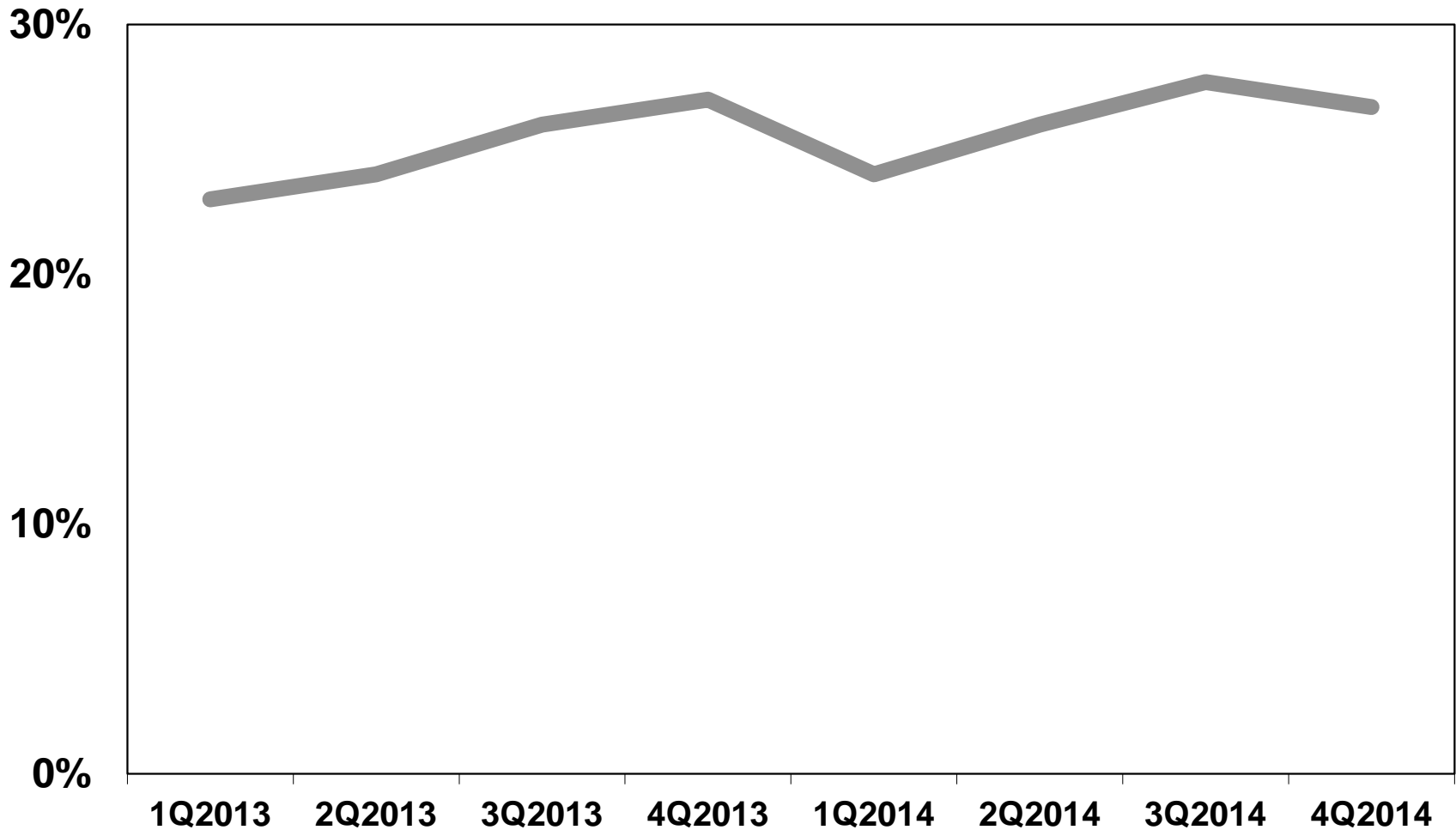
# Methods

- ▶ Write-in drugs are reported on the main DD questionnaire and have been captured since 2002.
  - ▶ We examined data on write-in drugs for the 8 quarters of 2013–2014.
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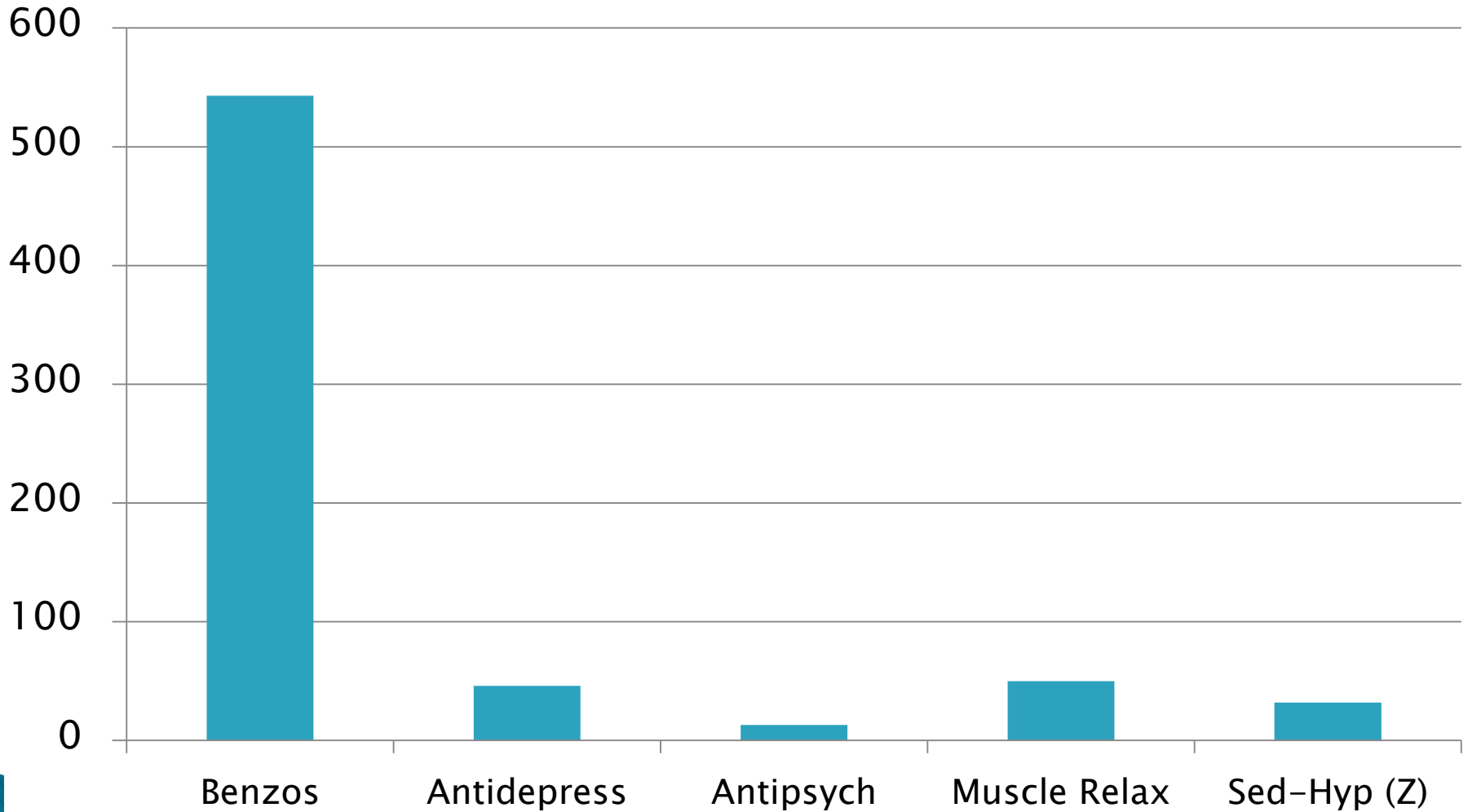
# Percent of Responding Sites with a Write-in



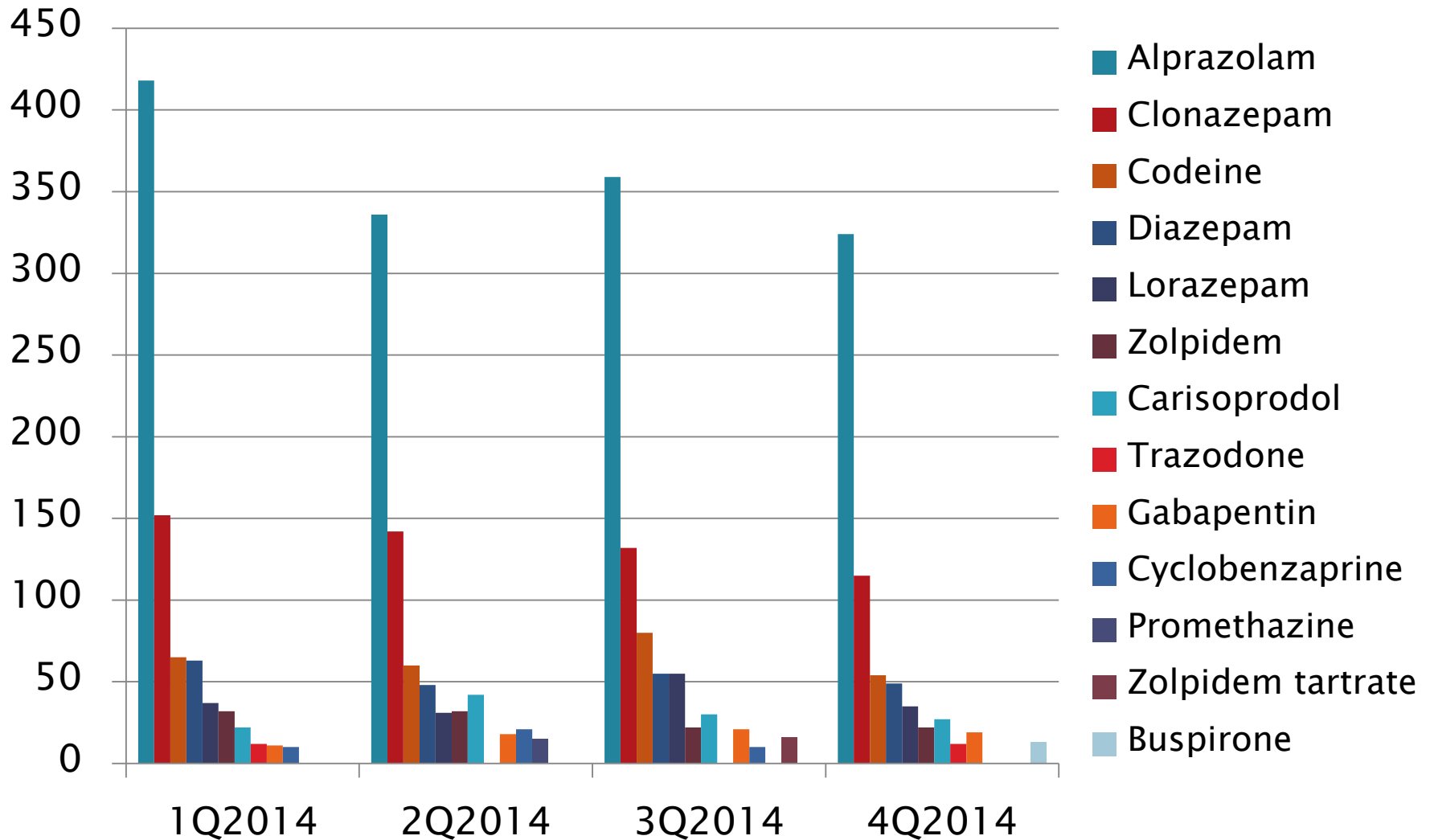
# Write-in drugs: Percent of total mentions



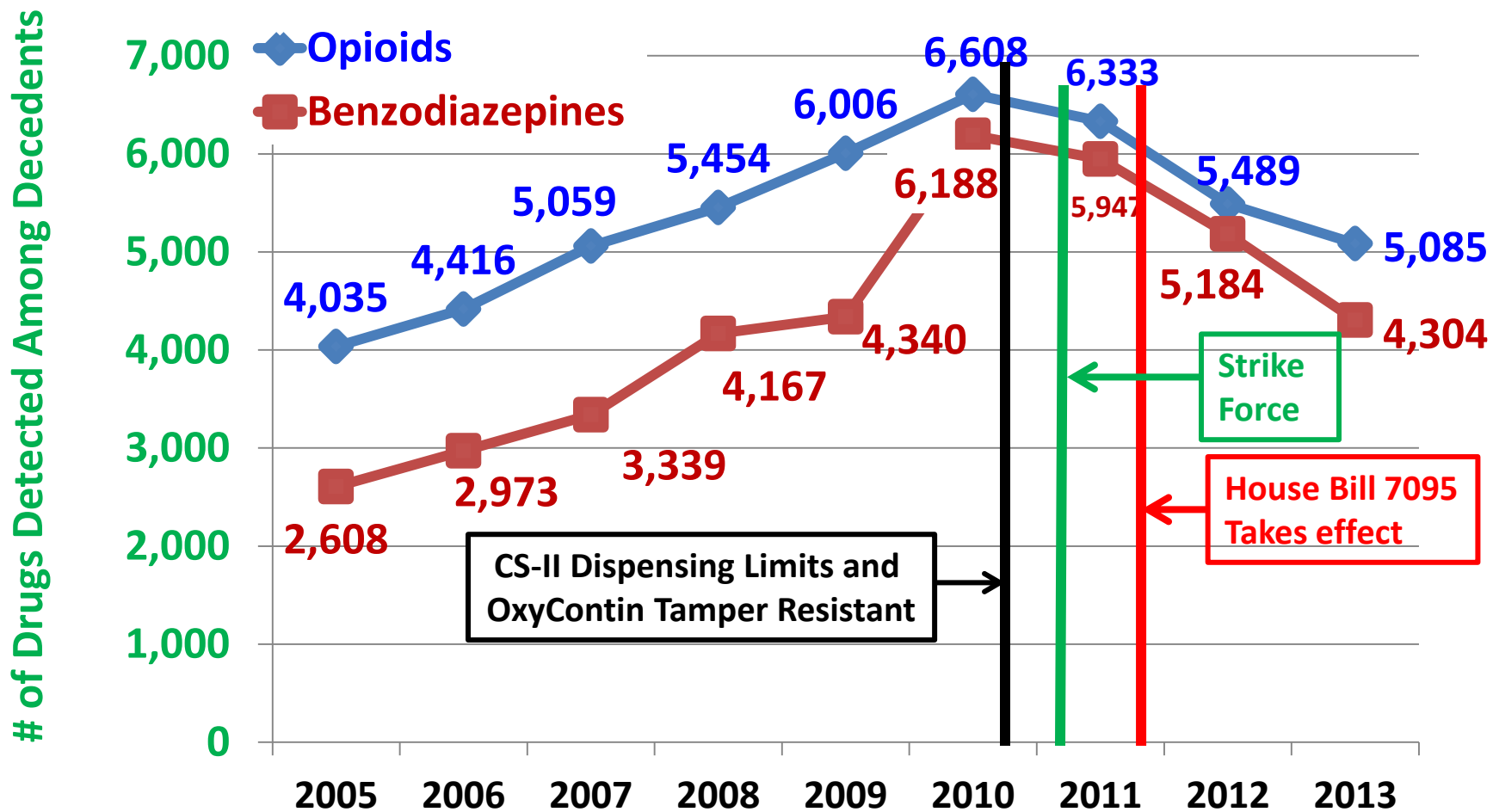
# 4Q2014 Write-in mentions



# Top Ten Write-in Drug Mentions



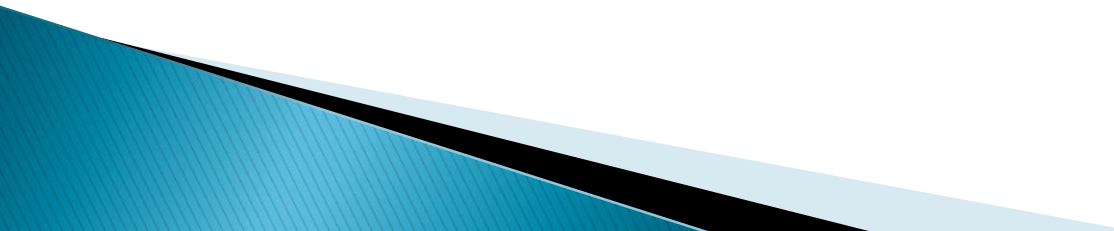
# Number of Nonmedical Rx Opioids and Benzodiazepine Reports Detected among Decedents in Florida 2005 – 2013



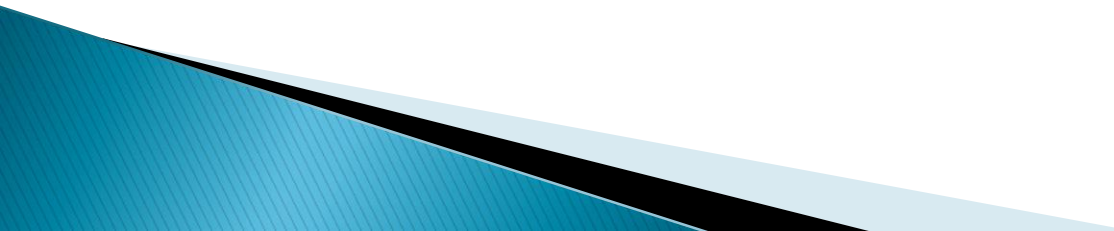
Source: FDLE – *Drugs Identified In Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners*  
Jan 2005 - Dec 2013 Reports



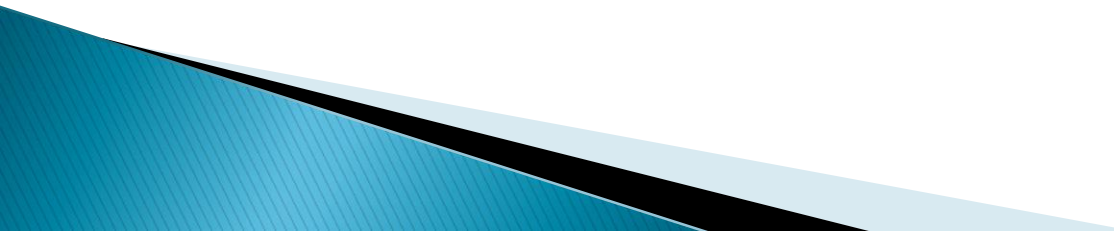
# Conclusions

- ▶ Spontaneous reports of “write-in” drugs are prevalent among Drug Diversion reporters.
  - ▶ The diversion of these drugs is likely under-reported, given that they are not specifically queried. Even so, many match or exceed our target drugs in terms of mentions.
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# Conclusions

- ▶ Benzodiazepines do not register high rates for primary treatment admission or cause of death.
  - ▶ However, benzodiazepines are among the most frequently diverted and abused medications, and in combination with other drugs are implicated in a majority of drug-related health emergencies.
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# ARV Medication Diversion

- ▶ The diversion of antiretroviral (ARV) medications used for the treatment and prevention of HIV has been reported by Drug Diversion investigators in seven states.
  - ▶ Street markets for ARVs are primarily supplied by pill brokers who bargain with indigent patients for sealed bottles of the most-used medications.
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# ARV Medication Diversion

- ▶ Sale and trading by patients leads to non-adherence.
- ▶ Non-adherence by patients AND non-prescribed use by HIV-negative persons for prevention increase the likelihood of treatment/prevention failure, disease transmission, and transmission of resistant virus.
- ▶ ARV diversion – perhaps uniquely – presents a serious public health challenge to the control of an infectious disease.

# Thank you

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