Drug Diversion Program: “Write-In Drugs”

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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.
Percent of Responding Sites with a Write-in
Write-in drugs: Percent of total mentions

![Graph showing the percentage of write-in drugs over time from 1Q2013 to 4Q2014. The percentage remains relatively stable with slight fluctuations.](chart.png)
4Q2014 Write-in mentions

- Benzos: 500
- Antidepress: 30
- Antipsych: 10
- Muscle Relax: 40
- Sed-Hyp (Z): 20

The bar chart shows the number of write-in mentions for different categories of medications in 4Q2014.
Top Ten Write-in Drug Mentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>1Q2014</th>
<th>2Q2014</th>
<th>3Q2014</th>
<th>4Q2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alprazolam</td>
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<td>Clonazepam</td>
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<td>Codeine</td>
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<td>Diazepam</td>
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<td>Lorazepam</td>
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<td>Zolpidem</td>
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<td>Carisoprodol</td>
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<td>Trazodone</td>
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<td>Gabapentin</td>
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<td>Cyclobenzaprine</td>
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<td>Promethazine</td>
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<td>Zolpidem tartrate</td>
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<td>Buspirone</td>
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</table>
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.
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.
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.
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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