Prescription Drug Abuse Profile: TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Region 1

Tennessee has the 8th highest drug overdose mortality rate in the country, increasing 250 percent from 2001 to 2010.\(^1\) Five percent of the state’s 12 and older population reported non-medical use of prescription pain relievers (PPR) in 2010-2011.\(^2\)

**TREATMENT**

In 2013 two-thirds of pregnant women who received intensive outpatient treatment reported prescription opioids as the primary substance of abuse. One hundred percent of pregnant women in residential rehabilitation were being treated for prescription opioid abuse. The following figure indicates the percentage of treatment admissions by primary substance of abuse for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) Planning Region 1.\(^3\)

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ADMISSIONS**\(^4\)

According to the Tennessee Hospital Discharge Data System, ED admissions for drug overdose rose from 457 in 2003 to 678 in 2012. These data indicate hospital ED utilization for drug overdose in Region 1, but do not reference county or state of residence.
MORTALITY

The figure below indicates the increase in accidental overdose deaths in Tennessee and Region 1 from 2002 to 2011. We can see that since 2009 our region has surpassed the state average.6

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME5

NAS is a cluster of symptoms exhibited by newborn infants that have been exposed to opiates in utero. These can include seizures, irritability, poor feeding, and trembling.

OPIOID PRESCRIBING RATES7

Prescription rates for controlled substances have increased across Tennessee and the U.S. over the last two decades.

OPR dispensation in Tennessee remains the 2nd highest in the nation, with rates in Region 1 greater than 1.4 prescriptions for each person in all counties.