

Lessons from Opana[®] ER: Policy, Behavior, and Reality

Janetta L. Iwanicki, MD Scientific Director of Research and Surveillance Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center

- Opana ER and its complicated history
- Policy changes and interventions
- Effects of policy on behavior and trends
- Lessons learned



2

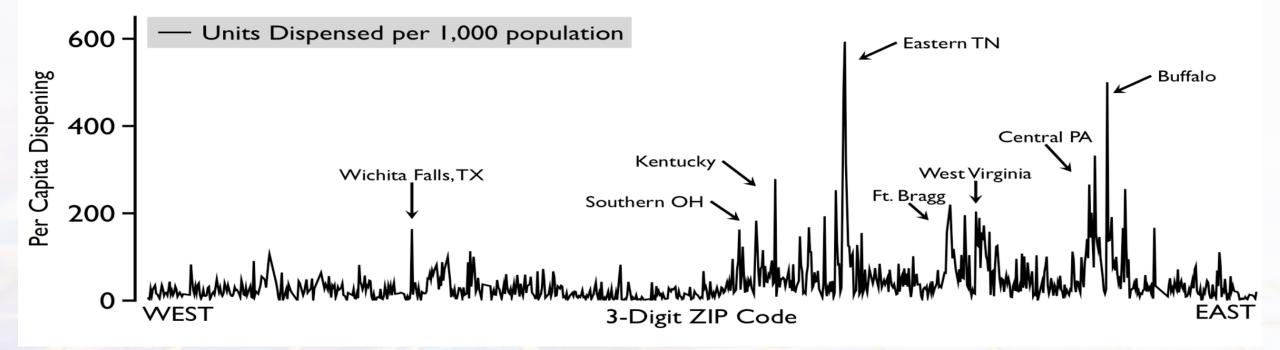
Opana ER

- Extended-release oxymorphone
- Oxymorphone developed in Germany 1914
- Patented 1955
- Opana ER formulation Initially approved in 2006
- Indications: moderate to severe pain requiring around-theclock treatment
- Geographic distribution





Opana ER: Geographic distribution and heterogeneity

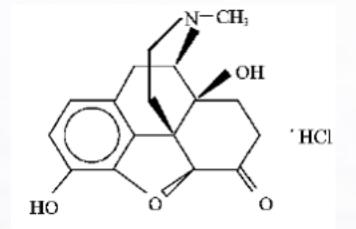


Time: 2009q3 – 2016q4 Source: IQVIA N: 360,432,541 units dispensed Analysis unit: 3-digit ZIP Metric: cumulative population-adjusted rate



Oxymorphone

- Poor oral bioavailability
 - 10x more potent intravenously than orally
- Leads to unusual behaviors
 - Single 40mg pill = split into quarters
 - Each quarter = 2-4 users
 - Single pill leads to 8-16 doses intravenously
 - Each dose 50-75 MME



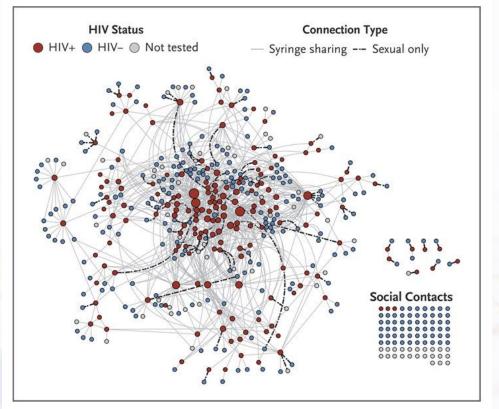


Oxymorphone

- Poor oral bioavailability
 - 10x more potent intravenously than orally
- Leads to unusual behaviors
 - Drug sharing
 - Unsafe injection practices
- Complications
 - -HIV
 - Hepatitis C



Syringe-Sharing Network of Persons with Newly Diagnosed HIV Infection.





Opana ER: Interventions and Policy Changes

- 2011: Reformulation approved
 - Released in 2012
 - Tamper resistant, but did not achieve ADF labeling
- Concern for transition from intranasal to intravenous abuse

Outbreaks associated with oxymorphone





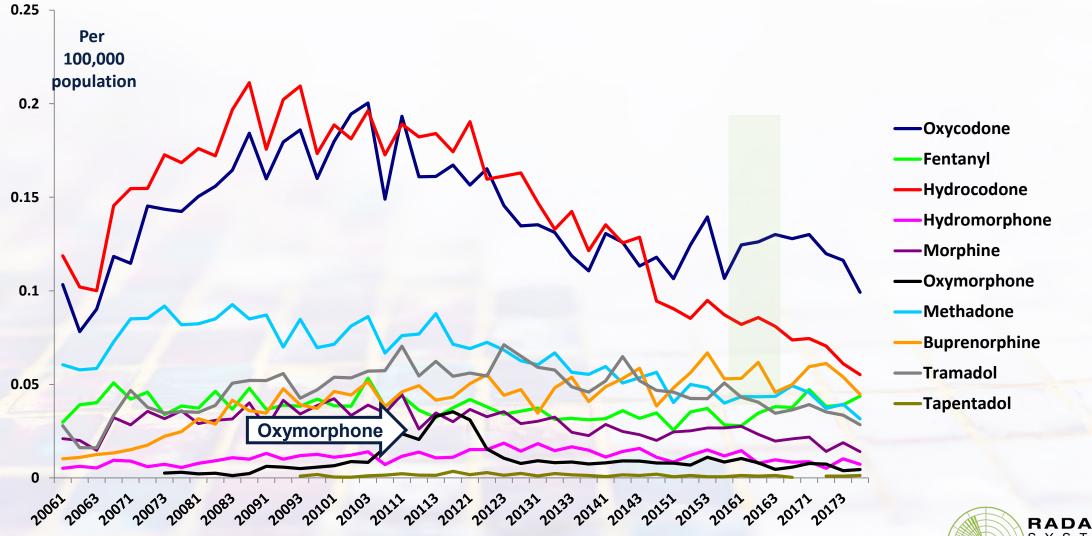
Opana ER: Interventions and Policy Changes

- March 2017:
 - FDA meeting
 - 18-8 vote, benefits no longer outweigh risks
- June 2017:
 - Recommended to be removed from market
- July 2017:
 - Opana ER removed
 - No change to generic forms or IR



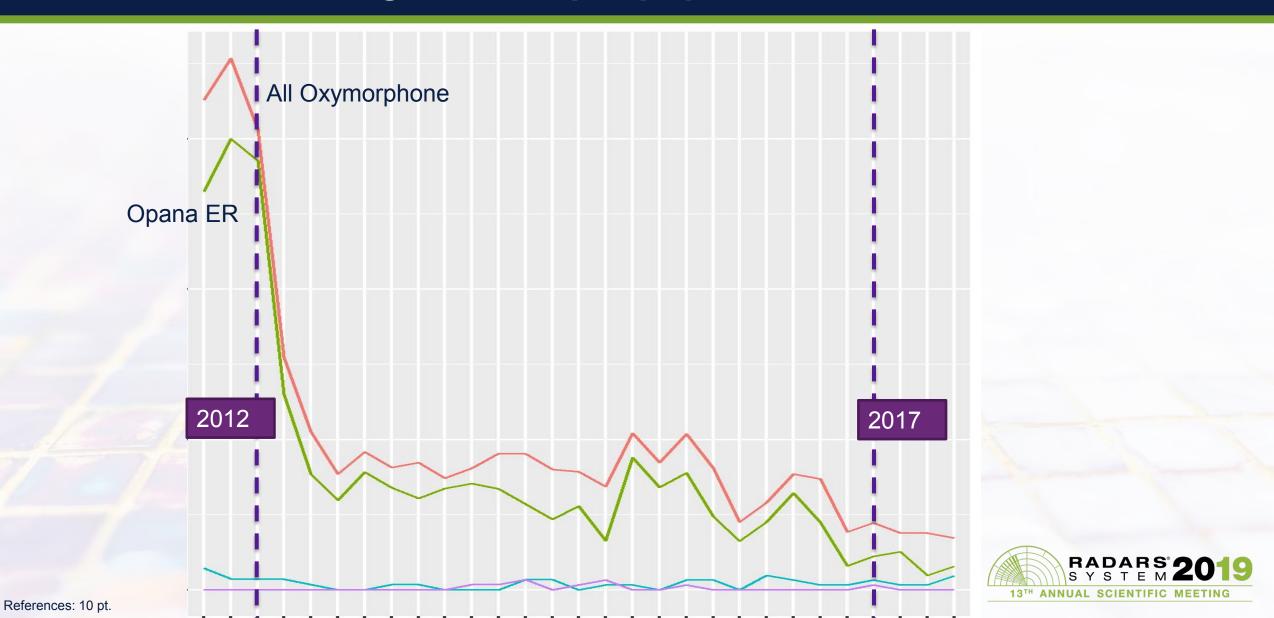


Oxymorphone: Big picture Poison Center Program

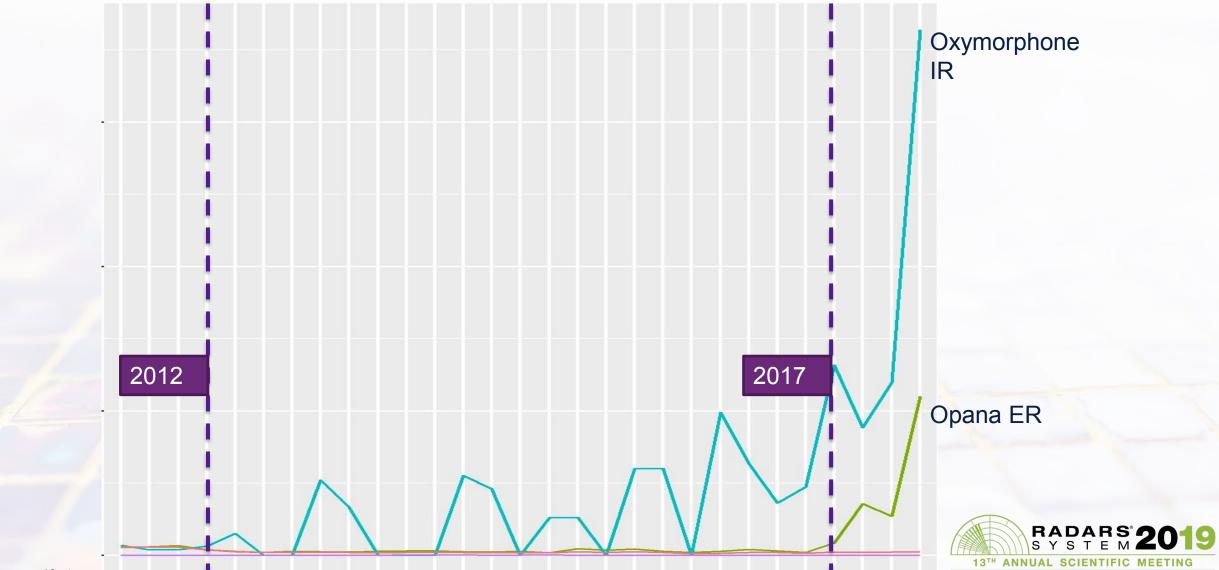


RADARS[®]2019 SYSTEM[®]2019 13[™] ANNUAl[®]SCIENTIFIC MEETING

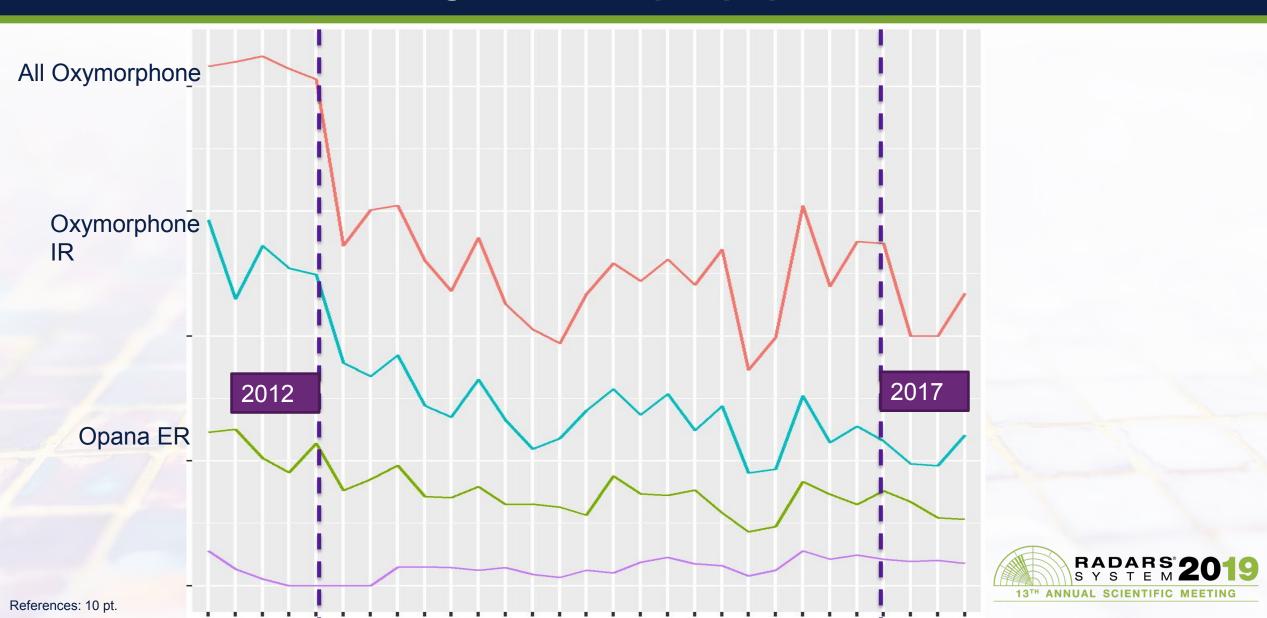
Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Poison Center Program, rate per population



Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Poison Center Program, rate per prescriptions



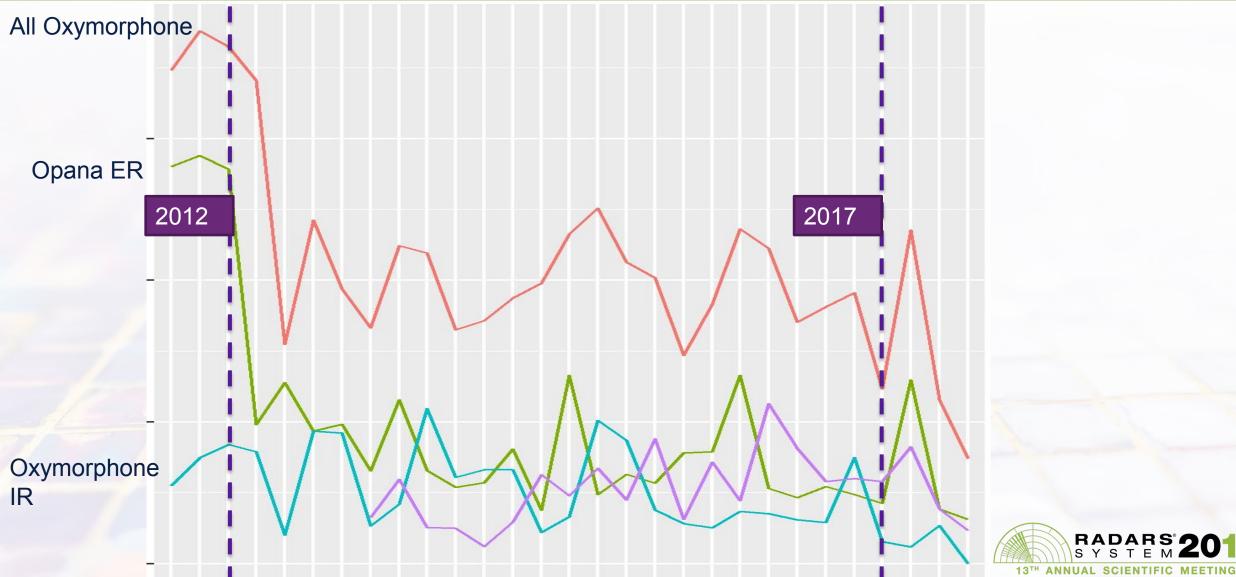
Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Treatment Center Programs, rate per population



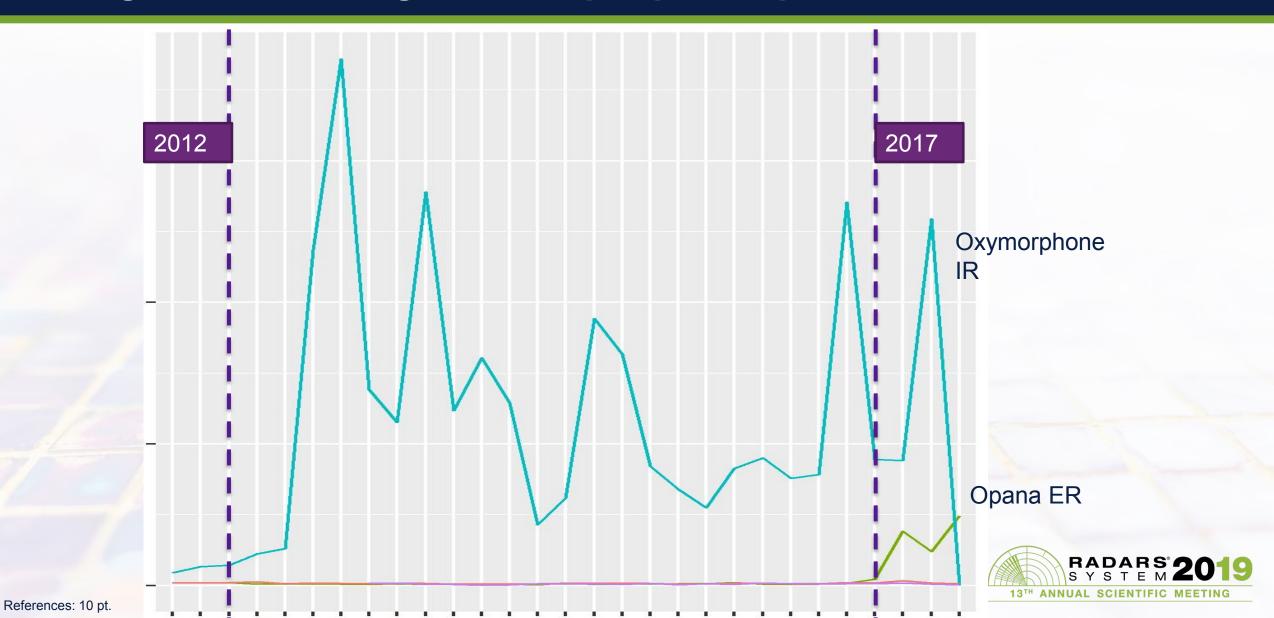
Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Treatment Center Programs, rate per prescriptions



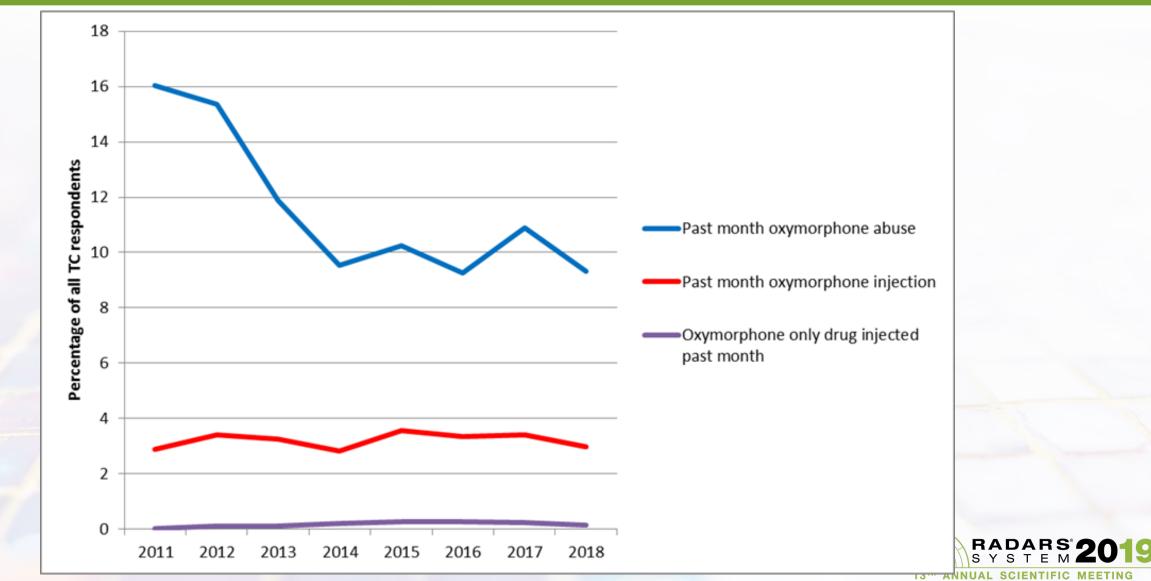
Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Drug Diversion Program, rate per population



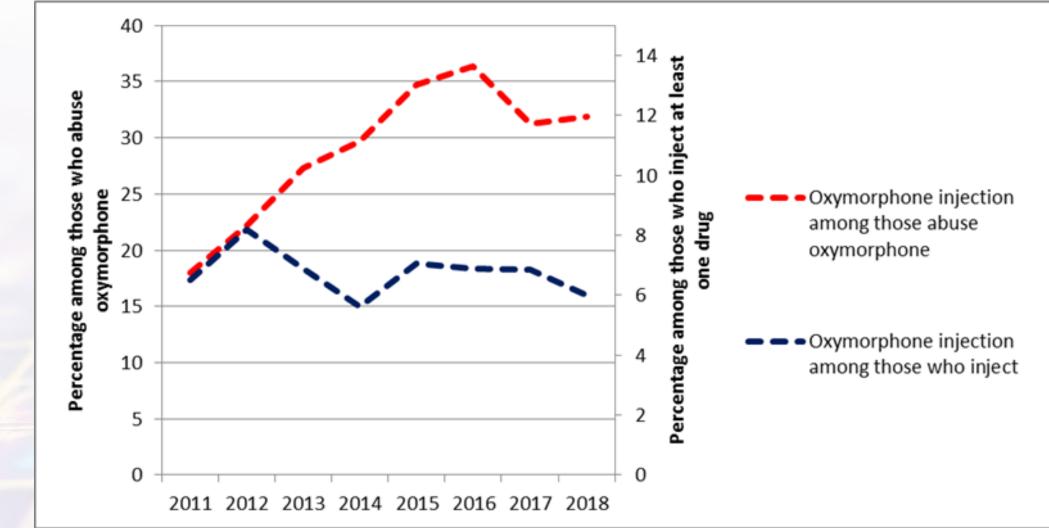
Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Drug Diversion Program, rate per prescriptions



Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Did injection behavior change?

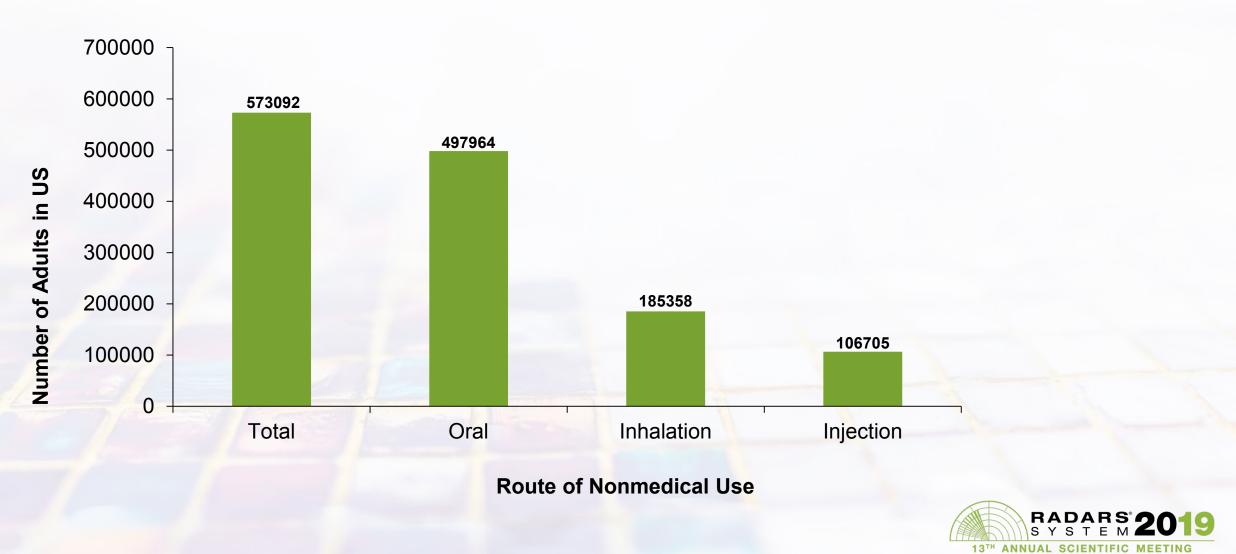


Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Did injection behavior change?





Opana ER: Effects of Policy on Behavior and Trends Did injection behavior change? NMURx data



Conclusions

- Oxymorphone as a molecule lends itself to dangerous behaviors
 - Low oral bioavailablity, high intravenous potency
 - Sharing behaviors are common
- Policy changes and interventions with Opana ER are a good first step
 BUT do not seem to have impacted injection use as much as desired
- To see a significant impact, would likely need to take a step further
 - Is it worth considering removing all oxymorphone?
- Lessons learned



19

Questions?

Janetta.lwanicki@RMPDC.org

