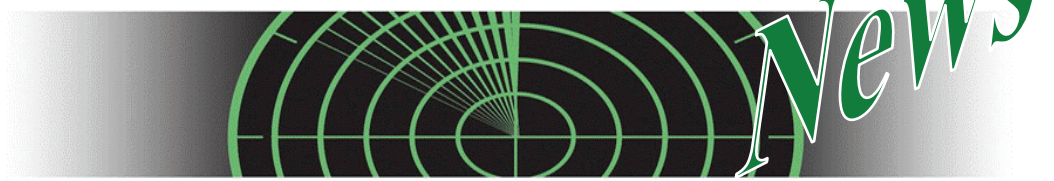


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# RADARS<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM



Researched Abuse, Diversion, and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS<sup>®</sup>) System

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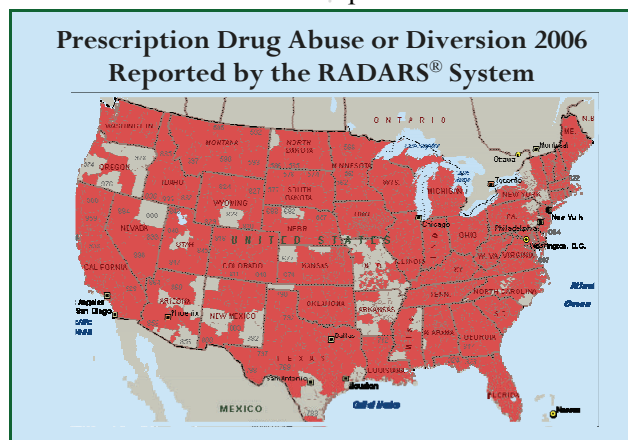
## RADARS System Releases U.S. Data on Prescription Drug Abuse, Misuse and Diversion

**R**ADARS System data show that prescription drug abuse affects every state in the nation and is more intense in suburban and rural areas than in inner cities of the United States. These data also indicate that the apparent magnitude of the problem varies across regions, with the highest pockets of abuse, misuse and diversion occurring in the Appalachian Region and the Northeast.

RADARS System data found that 93 percent of reporting three-digit ZIP codes reported at least one case of prescription drug abuse, misuse or diversion in 2006. These data indicate that the common perception that prescription drug abuse occurs primarily in the inner-city, similar to illegal drugs such as heroin, may be incorrect and this can have important public health implications regarding the prevention and treatment of those abusing prescription drugs.

“Prescription drug abuse, including the use of opioids, is widespread,” said Richard C. Dart, Executive Director of the RADARS System. “This is a public health problem that transcends socioeconomic classes and neighborhoods.”

RADARS System data indicate that all prescription opioid products are abused and diverted, however, the rate and extent is different for various products or formulations. While products with higher sales tend to have more abuse because they are more widely available, abuse of every monitored opioid product was reported in 2006.



The data was collected from four signal detection systems which cover different and unique populations. Each signal detection system show similar geographic trends developing across the nation.

The RADARS System is an early warning system providing timely data collection and reporting, and geographic location specific to the three-digit ZIP code. It is used by researchers and manufacturers to study newly approved drugs and those products already on the market.

As the problem of prescription drug abuse continues to evolve, it is important to have the tools to effectively evaluate risk-benefit ratios and monitor certain drugs.

### Four Signal Detection Systems: Four Unique Views

#### Law Enforcement

Data on prescription drug seizures by prescription drug diversion units and regulatory agencies.

#### Key Informants

Data on dependent or addicted patients reported by health-care professionals providing treatment.

#### Poison Centers

Includes data on acute, chronic and acute-on-chronic exposures for all ages and geographic regions

#### Opioid Treatment

Data directly from dependent or addicted patients seeking treatment at methadone maintenance programs.

## Senate Approves Drug Monitoring Bill

The Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2007 was passed in the Senate by a 93 to 1 vote. This bill increases the amount of user fees paid by pharmaceutical companies by hundreds of millions of dollars. The fees collected will be used to speed up the process for new drug approvals and will increase the FDA's drug monitoring staff.

The bill would allow the FDA to more closely monitor a drug's safety after FDA approval to make changes to drug labels, monitor and regulate drug advertising and place limits on the distribution and prescribing practices for prescription medications. The bill also authorizes the FDA to impose fines of up to \$2 million for companies who fail to monitor the risks of new drugs in the years following FDA approval or that fail to comply with FDA recommendations.

The FDA will establish a system to track adverse events and will have scientists to analyze data and identify signals that indicate serious risks associated with certain drug products. Monitoring the abuse, misuse and diversion of prescription drugs in the postmarket setting will allow pharmaceutical companies to track potential risks as they develop over time which will allow manufacturers to respond to these events by developing risk evaluation and mitigation strategies.

Previously, evaluating the benefits and risks associated with a product was required before the product was released on the market. However, this new legislation forces the risk-benefit analysis and monitoring to be an ongoing effort.

The bill will now move onto the House of Representatives where approval is anticipated as early as July 2007.

## RADARS System Researchers Present

*at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Meeting*

Researchers with the RADARS System will travel to Quebec City, Quebec to give a presentation titled, *Description of buprenorphine, methadone, hydrocodone and oxycodone abuse and diversion rates using RADARS® System data*, at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual College on Problems of Drug Dependence Meeting. The presentation will be given Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, and will provide an overview of current prescription drug abuse rates using Unique Recipients of a Dispensed Drug (URDD) rates. Using URDD rates, researchers are able to analyze prescription drug abuse in relation to a drug's availability in a community as opposed to using only census data (population rates).

"Using two denominators is essential for truly understanding prescription drug abuse trends. Using cen-

sus or population data we get a picture of how an entire community is being affected. When we use URDD rates we can see how prescription drug abuse relates to therapeutic use and prescribing practices which is also important in understanding prescription drug abuse," said Richard C. Dart, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director of the RADARS System.

In addition to the oral presentation, RADARS System researchers will present a poster which will compare prescription drug abuse trends in urban areas to those in rural areas. This poster is titled, *Prescription Opioid Abuse in Urban Versus Rural Areas Using RADARS System Data*.

For a complete listing of abstracts and presentations, please visit [www.radars.org](http://www.radars.org).



### Did You Know?

The RADARS System has at least one signal detection system active in 854 of 930 total three-digit ZIP codes in the nation; this accounts for 92 percent of all U.S. ZIP codes.

## RADARS System Appoints New Business Manager

**E**lise Bailey, M.S.P.H., has been appointed the new Business Manager of the RADARS System. In this new position, Bailey will be responsible for all operational and business functions of the RADARS System. She will continue to coordinate the data collection and reporting across all signal detection systems as well as assume responsibility for the business development of the RADARS System.

“We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced employee and we look forward to continuing development of the RADARS System,” said Rich-

ard C. Dart, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director of the RADARS System. “As the RADARS System continues to expand, Elise’s contributions and thorough knowledge of the System will be an invaluable asset to everyone involved.”

Bailey has been an employee of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center for four years and most recently, served as the Research Projects Coordinator of the RADARS System. Bailey will take over the business operations of the RADARS System immediately.

## Recent Publications & Events

### *Using RADARS System Data*

- Campagna EJ, Bailey JE, Parrino M, Rosenblum A, Dart RC. Prescription Opioid Abuse in Urban Versus Rural Areas Using RADARS System Data. 69<sup>th</sup> Annual College on Problems of Drug Dependence Meeting. Poster Presentation. June 16, 2007.
- Cram LM, Bailey JE, Dart RC. Description of buprenorphine, methadone, hydrocodone and oxycodone abuse and diversion rates using RADARS<sup>®</sup> System data. Oral Presentation. 69<sup>th</sup> Annual College on Problems of Drug Dependence Meeting. Poster Presentation and Oral Presentation. June 20, 2007.

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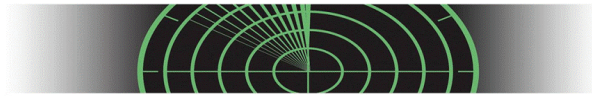
**WWW.RADARS.ORG**



### *Did You Know?*

A summation of the RADARS System First Annual Scientific Meeting: New Developments in Prescription Drug Abuse Research is available at [www.radars.org](http://www.radars.org). The document includes key discussion points made by speakers and participants at the meeting.

**RADARS**<sup>®</sup>  
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## RADARS System Mission Statement

The RADARS System provides timely and geographically-specific data to the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory agencies, policymakers and medical/public health officials to aid in understanding trends in the abuse, misuse, and diversion of prescription drugs in the United States.

## RMPDC and Denver Health

The RADARS System is a governmental non-profit operation of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC), an agency of Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA). The RMPDC has been in operation for 50 years, making it one of the oldest poison control centers in the nation. DHHA is the safety net hospital for the City and County of Denver. DHHA is the Rocky Mountain region's academic Level I trauma center and includes Denver Public Health, Denver's 911 emergency medical response system, nine family health centers, 12 school-based clinics, NurseLine, correctional care, Denver CARES, the Denver Health Medical Plan, and the Rocky Mountain Center for Medical Response to Terrorism, Mass Casualties and Epidemics.

