

Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance System



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#### Did You Know?

Prescription drugs were reported in 33% of opiate rehab admissions in 2009, an increase of 25% from 1999. Cocainerelated admissions decreased from 14% to 9%, with substance classes alcohol, opiates and marijuana responsible for 81% of admissions.

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http://www.samhsa.gov

# Dr. Jody Green Named Director of Research Administration for RMPDC and RADARS® System

Jody Green, PhD is now the Director of Research Administration at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC). Dr. Green received both her PhD in Applied Statistics & Research Methods and Masters of Psychology at the University of Northern Colorado. She has been with RMPDC for 9 years, most recently serving as Assistant then Associate Research Director since 2005. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing (Research) at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, School of Nursing, Dr. Green serves on the CDC Prevention of Overdoses and Treatment Errors in Children Taskforce (PROTECT). She was elected to the board of the Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) in 2010. Dr. Green obtained certification as a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) and as a LEAN Blackbelt. For the past three years, Dr. Green has co-authored the Annual Report of the



American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System (NPDS) as well as over 50 manuscripts and abstracts throughout her career.

Dr. Green's role is pivotal in guiding the direction of RMPDC and the services that it provides. RMPDC is staffed with over 50 scientists, physicians and researchers with expertise in toxicology, pharmacology, medical toxicology, emergency medicine, internal medicine, occupational medicine, research methodology, applied statistics, data management, clinical trials and surveillance systems. RMPDC continues to conduct scientific research in drug development, drug safety, public health and medical information.

For the past 50 years, RMPDC's staff has lead comprehensive scientific research in multiple clinical fields. The organization remains one of the world's foremost authorities in: acetaminophen and analgesics, poisoning research and treatment, public health, prescription drug monitoring, toxicology continuing medical education development and dissemination and disaster preparedness and response. RMPDC has helped pharmaceutical drug companies gain approval for various drugs which treat envenomation, radiation exposure and drug overdose such as: Crofab<sup>®</sup>, Digifab<sup>®</sup> Antizol®, Acetadote®, Radiogardase® and Cyanokit®. Additionally, clients frequently seek the expertise at RMPDC when faced with regulatory challenges or FDA activities, including preparation and presentation at Advisory Committee meetings.

Dr. Green has worked diligently with regulatory agencies and has been instrumental in developing services offered by RMPDC and RADARS System. Her vision for RMPDC is to be an industry leader in providing customized scientific design, critical data analysis, expert interpretation and application, and regulatory guidance in response to client needs.



## **RADARS System Prescription Drug Street Price Initiative**

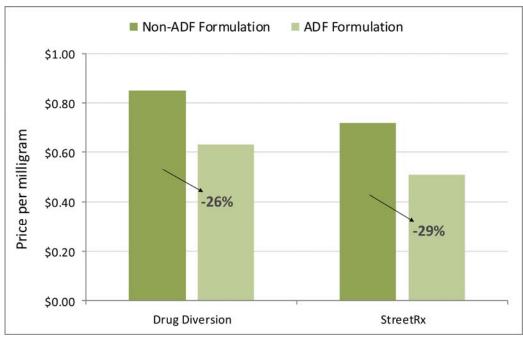
The street price of prescription drugs is a topic of broad social interest and is a good example of market dynamics. Street price data provide corroboration of informants' stories, an understanding of the nature of drug markets, difference in tracking between drugs, and evaluation of the impact of interdiction and policy. Broader questions about drug use patterns can be addressed using street price data, and FDA advisors have specifically requested street price data to inform decision-making. There are few published studies on drug prices, and fewer with epidemiological data.

The RADARS System has undertaken a new initiative to collect data on street price of prescription drugs. The initiative has two independent, but complementary, components. The Street Price Questionnaire (SPQ) was initiated in the 1st quarter 2010 as a component of the RADARS System Drug Diversion Program. Law enforcement reporters (n=125) were selected based on consistency of reporting, level of diversion activity in the area, and geographic distribution. They collect data on class and brand specific drug prices on a quarterly basis.

The second component of the street price initiative is StreetRx. StreetRx is a crowdsourcing web-based interface that collects data on the street price of prescription drugs. The data can be accessed in various formats including Google Map output. Security measures are in place, preventing excessive identical submissions and use of fake drug names; visual drug verification is requested at the time of data entry.

An example of the application of street price is impact evaluation of the introduction of abuse deterrent formulations (ADF) to the prescription opioid market. There are four general approaches in ADF technology: physical, agonist/antagonist, prodrug, and aversive agent. Street price is not just a function of drug but also where a person is in the addiction pathway. At three basic phases price varies; generally people are willing to pay more when in throes of addiction.

Early data suggest street prices for prescription opioids reported in the RADARS System Drug Diversion Program and StreetRx system are similar. Furthermore, both show observed price decreases of 26-29% between original and ADF formulations of some drugs. The nature of the deterrence approach (physical barrier, agonist/antagonist, and prodrug) may contribute to the price difference between non-ADF and ADF formulations.



# RADARS System Hosts Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting: Abuse Deterrent Formulations of Prescription Drugs

The Fifth Annual RADARS System Scientific Meeting, *Abuse Deterrent Formulations of Prescription Drugs*, took place on Thursday, April 28, 2011, in Bethesda, MD, marking the ninth anniversary of the RADARS System. Over eighty attendees participated, including researchers and representatives from pharmaceutical and regulatory agencies. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to address and discuss the challenges of abuse deterrent formulation assessment.

Dr. Richard C. Dart, M.D., Ph.D, RADARS System Executive Director, provided an overview of 2010 RADARS System data as well as a presentation of baseline RADARS System data on abuse deterrent formulation assessment.

Leading authorities on abuse deterrent formulations and experts in public health and policy served as speakers at the meeting. Below is the list of guest speakers and their presentation topics.

- Tom McLellan, Ph.D., Director of the Penn Center for Substance Abuse Solutions, presented *Pain Management, Prescription Overdose, and Physician Responsibility.*
- Nabarun Dasgupta, M.P.H., Researcher at University of North Carolina, presented *Abuse Deterrent Formulations Case Studies: Three Examples of Street Price Analyses.*
- David Brown, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A., Senior Director of Epidemiology at Pfizer, presented *Abuse Deterrent Formulations of Prescription Drugs Industry Perspective*.
- Paul Coplan, Sc.D., M.B.A., Executive Director of Risk Management & Epidemiology at Purdue Pharma L.P., presented Assessing the Impact of Abuse of Reformulated OxyContin®
- Edgar Adams, Sc.D., Executive Director of Epidemiology at Covance, presented Abuse/ Tamper Resistant Formulations –
  Is this the Answer?
- Nathaniel Katz, M.D. M.S., President of Analgesic Solutions, presented Proving Abuse Deterrence.

A full meeting summary and PDF versions of all presentations can be found on our website: www.radars.org.



Paul Coplan, Sc.D., M.B.A., Executive Director of Risk Management & Epidemiology at Purdue Pharma L.P addresses the audience during the Industry Perspective Roundtable at the RADARS System Annual Meeting. Seated at the table from left to right are Sidney Schnoll, M.D., Ph.D, David Brown, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A., and Edgar Adams, Sc.D.

#### **Recent RADARS System Publications and Presentations**

 Green JL, Dart RC, Bartelson BB. Buprenorphine abuse in the United States: Comparison to methadone using five surveillance programs simultaneously. European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists. Dubrovnik, Croatia. May, 2011.

### **Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

- American Psychological Association, August 4-7, 2011. Washington, District of Columbia.
- CDC Public Health Information Network, August 21-24, 2011. Atlanta, Georgia.
- National Service Coordinators Conference, August 28-31, 2011. Orlando, Florida.
- Society of Otorhinolaryngology Head-Neck Nurses, September 9-13, 2011. San Francisco, California.
- College of American Pathologists, September 11-14, 2011. Grapevine, Texas.
- National Association of EMS Educators, September 13-18, 2011. Reno, Nevada.
- American Academy of Family Physicians, September 14-17, 2011 Orlando, Florida.
- International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management, August 14-17, 2011. Chicago, Illinois.
- National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners, September 14-17, 2011. Washington, District of Columbia.
- Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, September 17-20, 2011. Chicago, Illinois.
- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, September 18-22, 2011. Denver, Colorado.
- Arrowhead Publishers, September 20-21, 2011. San Francisco, California.
- Association of Academic Health Centers, September 22-24, 2011. Chicago, Illinois.
- NIDA Clinical Trials Network, September 26-28, 2011. Bethesda, Maryland.
- International Medical Interpreters Association, September, 30-October 2. Boston, Massachusetts.

#### Did You Know?

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneidermann is working to enhance the state's Prescription **Drug Monitoring Program** (PDMP)? Schneidermann is proposing the Internet System for Tracking Over Prescribing Act (I-STOP). This bill expands on the proposal made by Michael Cusick (D-Staten Island) and would amend the New York State Public Health Law to establish an online, real-time prescribing database. Forty-three states have PDMPs, and a proposal is being considered by Congress to create a national-scale tracking system.

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### **RADARS System Mission Statement**

The RADARS System provides timely, product specific and geographically-precise 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.

# Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center and Denver Health and Hospital Authority

The RADARS System is a governmental nonprofit operation of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC), an agency of Denver Health (DH). The RMPDC has been in operation for more than 50 years, making it one of the oldest poison control centers in the nation. DH is the safety net hospital for the City and County of Denver and 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.







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