



White Paper Summary on

Prescription Drug Abuse

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee ranks 2nd in the nation per capita for prescription opiate abuse. Although, we are starting to see our rate of growth decline (.03 per cent from 2012-2013), rates remain high for both overdose deaths (1,263 cases in 2014) and neonatal abstinence syndrome (972 cases in 2014). According to reports from the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database, there was an overall decline in Medical Morphine Equivalents by 10 percent in 2014, which demonstrates a change in overall prescribing. For several years the Tennessee General Assembly has passed laws to assist in reducing the impact of this epidemic. Efforts should continue to be refined and outcomes tracked to see what strategies are producing the most positive outcomes. Areas that continue to be of concern are:

- Continuation of the Prescription Safety Act of 2012
- Greater access to Naloxone to prevent overdose deaths
- Establish incinerators in the 3 grand divisions to dispose of collected medications

Number of Registrants in CSMD, 2010 - 2014

Year	Registrants	Change (%)
2010	13,182	-
2011	15,323	16.2
2012	22,192	44.8
2013	34,802	56.8
2014	38,871	11.7
2015 (as of July 31)	41,650	9.8



Since the Prescription Safety Act of 2012, Tennessee has seen a significant increase in registrants from 15,323 in 2011 to 41,650 as of July 31, 2015. The Tennessee Department of Health is also reporting a 10 percent decrease in Milligram Morphine Equivalents (MME) being reported to the database. This means we are beginning to see a change in prescribing patterns for controlled substances in the state. These numbers demonstrate the effectiveness in using the CSMD as a tool to monitor and assure patient safety. It most certainly needs to continue beyond the sunset date of June 30, 2016.