Prescription Drug Overdose Death:

What Impact will Florida HB 7095 have on this Epidemic?

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Abstract

Prescription drug abuse and death from accidental overdose is the second leading cause of unintentional injury and death, following directly behind motor vehicle injuries. This rate has more than doubled to over 27,000 deaths per year in the last ten years. Seventeen states cited prescription drug overdose as the number one cause of accidental deaths, and in Florida in 2010, 2,710 people, an average of seven per day, died predominantly as a result of opioid overdose (pain pills).


There are some omissions in this law if it is going to effectively curtail prescription drug overdose. First, there is no provision to improve or insure appropriate knowledge or training of prescribers. Second, although a mandate for a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) exists, there is no funding in place to support PDMP. House Bill 7095 is a first step in the right direction, but Florida’s lawmakers need to include education and prevention in order to stem the tide of this epidemic.