

The Prescription for Safe Kids and Clean Water

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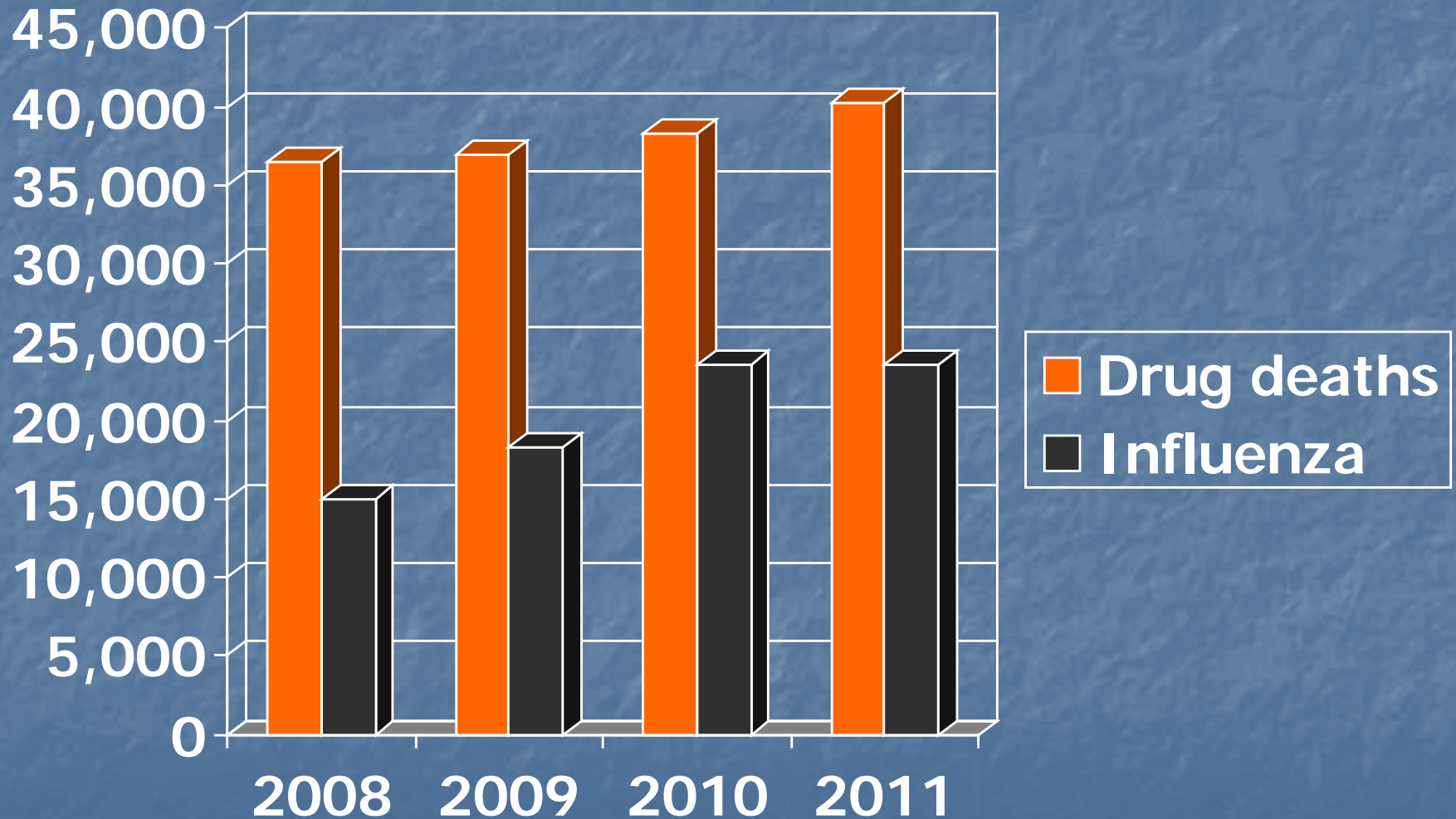
Awtumn Minnema, 2 years old



Awtumn Minnema

- Ingested her grandfathers anti-psychotic drugs
- Found dead the next day
- Grand Rapids, MI 11/15/2010
- **Toxicology Report Shows Toddler Likely Died of Accidental Prescription Drug Overdose...Chicago Tribune.**

Total Deaths 2008-2011



Prescription Drug Abuse

- 60% of deaths are from opioid pain relievers
- 3-4 Vicodin pills=2 weeks of Heroin
- 500,000 ED visits due to abuse/misuse of prescription drugs
- Enough to medicate every adult for 1 month

Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey (YAS)

- 11% of Ottawa county youth have tried prescription drugs for the "high"
- Almost 25% of those tried it before age 13!
- Almost 20% of Ottawa County youth do not perceive a threat from occasionally using prescription drugs for the "high" they cause

What happens when drugs enter the environment

- Endocrine disruption

Endocrine system regulates growth and maturity of animals

- Male fish exhibiting "feminization"
- Antibiotic resistant bacteria
- No treatment

Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria: Natural Selection at Work



What about here

- USGS study 1998-2005, Michigan only
- Sampled statewide
- As expected, large rivers at end of their watershed showed majority of contaminants
- Grand River at Eastmanville- 9 of 10 samples had pharmaceuticals- 2 met/exceeded RL
- Kalamazoo River at New Richmond- 7 of 11 samples had pharmaceuticals- 2 met/exceeded RL

How do we fix it?



Ottawa County's Approach

- Identified stakeholders and brought to table
- Approach needs to focus on immediate results-collection programs
- And long term solutions-changing mindsets and practices

Partners

- Holland BPW
- Local pharmacies
- Sheriffs Department
- Ottawa Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OSAP)
- Community volunteers
- Hope College
- Grand Valley State University
- Local police departments

Outreach by Partners

- Advertising at local businesses
- Bag stuffers to be added to prescription bags at area pharmacies
- Distribute Medication logs
- Outreach to school age children
- Billboards
- Talk Sooner app-talksooner.org

Are We Successful?

- Collected approximately 5000 pounds of drugs for disposal since Fall 2010
- YAS results show abuse is declining from prior to our program
- Age of abuse is slowly going up
- Those that perceive it as "risky" is up from 2007 levels

How we disposed of it



Questions?

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