

A **Comprehensive City** Approach to Opiate Addiction.

Jill Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Initiatives
Drug Policy Alliance
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**We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.**

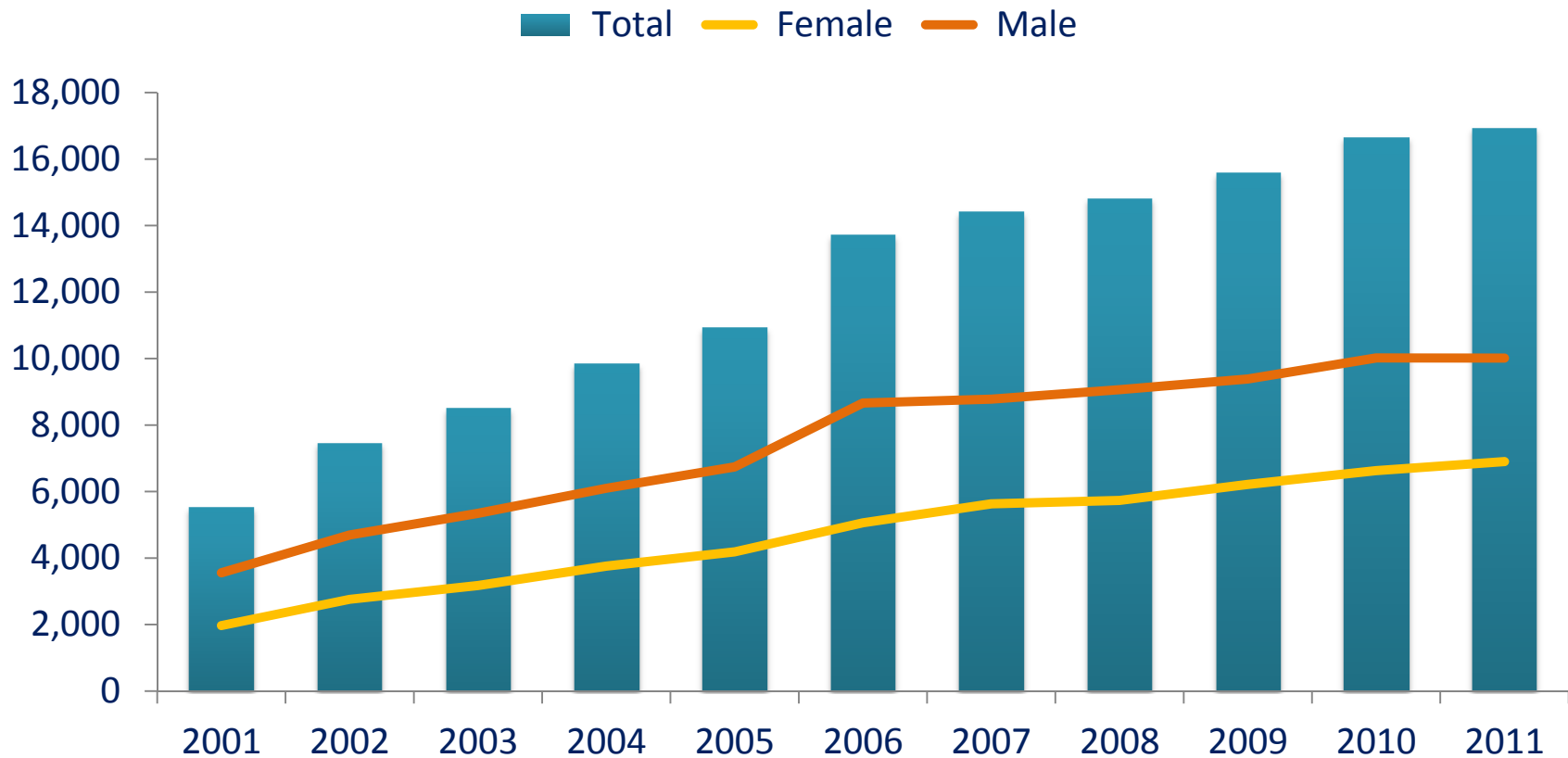


Opioid use growing national issue

- Opioid prescriptions tripled from 1991 to 2011, to over *200 million*.
- Opioid overdoses tripled from 2001 to 2011.
- Heroin use, which had leveled off, has been increasing as access to prescription opioids has declined

National Overdose Deaths

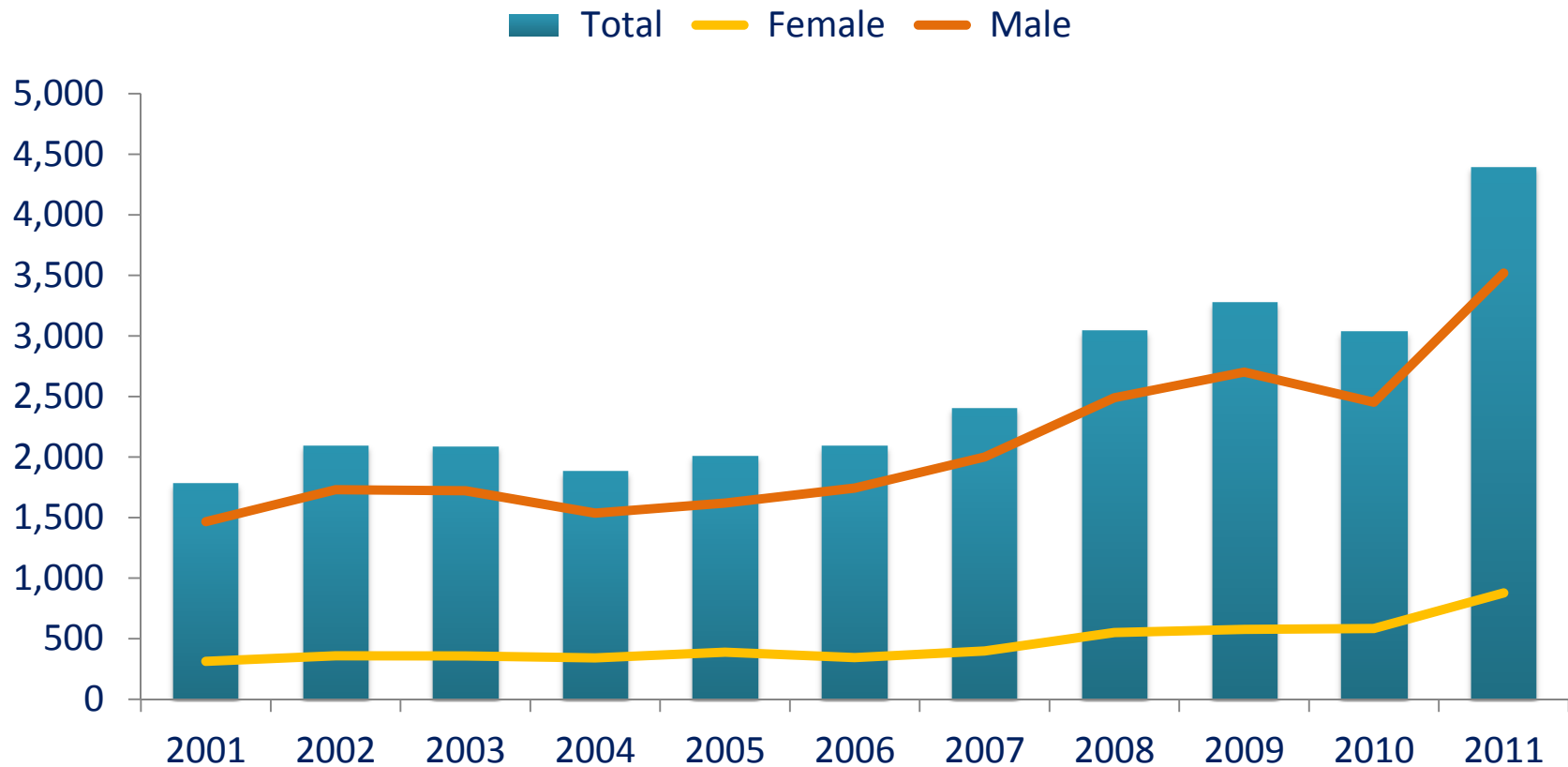
Number of Deaths from Prescription Drugs



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

National Overdose Deaths

Number of Deaths from Heroin



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder



How did we get here?

- Use of prescription opioids to treat chronic non-malignant pain (CNMP) relatively new and still controversial
- 1990: “The Tragedy of Needless Pain” - Scientific American
- 1996: Purdue Pharma began manufacturing oxycodone as Oxycontin
- 1999: Pain as the fifth vital sign – Veterans Health Administration
- 2001: Oxycontin is best-selling narcotic pain reliever in US.




Responses at the state level

- Louisiana: raised penalty for selling heroin to 50 years
- Vermont: increased funding for treatment
- All 50 states now have prescription drug monitoring databases
- 22 states and DC have passed 911/Good Samaritan laws
- 30 states and DC have some kind of naloxone access law



Local responses

- Largely uncoordinated, different agencies operating in siloes
Example: NYC syringe exchange
- Perpetrators, defendants, clients, patients
- Coordinated, comprehensive response is needed
- Public health approach



Broad consensus: drug use should be treated as a health issue, not a criminal justice issue.

“The United States must address our drug problem as a public health issue, not just a criminal justice issue.” Gil Kerlikowske, former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

“Shifting the problem of drug abuse and addiction from the legal (or moral) sphere to that of science and medicine, where it properly belongs, is a crucial step toward successfully tackling the problem.” Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

“We can’t arrest our way out of the drug problem.” Jim Pugel, former Seattle Police Chief



What does that actually mean?

- Less reliance on the cj system to deal with the problem – stop arresting people for drug use
- More treatment, not in the criminal justice system
- Harm reduction approach
- Different models of treatment, not just abstinence-based (12 step)
- Housing and other services can be “treatment”
- Police carry naloxone, don’t arrest at the scene of an overdose
- Marijuana lowest law enforcement priority



CJ => PH = A PARADIGM SHIFT

You are part of a national movement!



Thank you!

Jill Harris, Drug Policy Alliance

jharris@drugpolicy.org

Twitter: @harrisjill

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