



White Paper Summary on

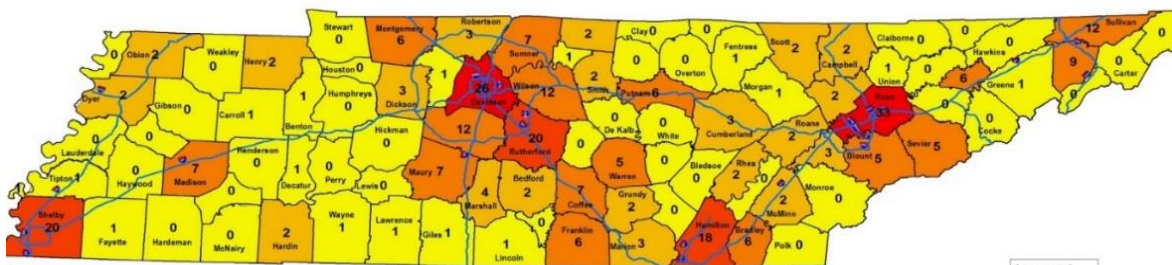
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

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 percent from 2012-2013), rates remain high for both overdose deaths (1,166 cases in 2013) and neonatal abstinence syndrome (921 cases in 2013). 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:

- Regulation of Pain Management Clinics
- The Intractable Pain Act
- Lack of a Good Samaritan law to prevent overdose deaths



Tennessee Pain Clinics per County 297 Total Pain Clinics in Tennessee as of August, 2014



TOP 5 COUNTIES	
COUNTY	# Clinics
KNOX	33
DAVIDSON	26
RUTHERFORD	20
SHELBY	20
HAMILTON	18



Source - Tennessee Department of Health

Recommended Changes

- Strengthen regulations on Pain Management Clinics
- Advocate for the repeal of the Intractable Pain Act of 2001
- Advocate for the passage of a Good Samaritan Law to limit criminal charges to those who call for help for an overdose