

Background

Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act

The *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* seeks to improve the health and safety of Islanders by promoting appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices for narcotics and other controlled substances, identifying and reducing the abuse, misuse and diversion of these drugs, and reducing the risk of addiction and death from the abuse or misuse of these drugs.

The legislation:

- Enables the Ministry to collect, use and disclose information, including personal information and personal health information, that relates to the prescribing and dispensing of prescription narcotics and other monitored drugs* in Prince Edward Island.
- Requires prescribers to record specified information on prescriptions for monitored drugs.
- Requires dispensers to keep a record of specified information with respect to prescriptions for monitored drugs and to ensure that any identity verification requirements set out in the regulations are met prior to dispensing a monitored drug.
- Requires prescribers, dispensers and operators of pharmacies to disclose information related to prescriptions for monitored drugs to the Ministry as directed by the Ministry.
- Allows the Minister or the executive officer to disclose information related to prescriptions for monitored drugs to prescribers, dispensers and operators of pharmacies in specific circumstances.
- Allows the Minister power to report concerns to the regulatory bodies and to lay complaints.
- Creates offences and establishes penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

*“Monitored drug” means a controlled drug or substance as defined under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) and any other drug that is designated by the regulations.

Methadone Management Treatment Program

Government recognized that there was an unacceptable wait list in the Methadone Management Treatment Program and commissioned a study to identify opportunities to significantly improve program delivery. Improved screening methods and wait list management measures were immediately implemented, and this led to a direct reduction in the wait lists. In 2012 prior to the release of the report there were 180 clients in the program and 175 people on the wait list. There are now 226 people in the program, and the wait list has been reduced to 59 clients.

However, the Minister recognizes that wait times for some clients are still unacceptably long. Therefore, there has been a commitment to further reduce the wait list by increasing capacity

within the system, diversifying the sites where this treatment program is delivered, and streamlining administrative processes. Health PEI is in the process of prioritizing additional program improvements and developing implementation plans for these items.

In the coming year Government will:

- Increase Methadone Management Treatment Program staff
- Increase capacity to do methadone inductions on an outpatient basis - e.g. in the recovery homes and through outpatient sites
- Provide further education on Methadone to staff in recovery homes to support inductions in that setting
- Create and formalize a policy for managing “low threshold” methadone clients whose needs may be met through a less intensive intervention
- Improve management of provincial wait list and access to induction by reviewing and revising induction criteria
- Create formal agreement between Addiction Services and external physicians prescribing methadone
- Improve procedures around urine screening for methadone clients in Summerside
- Improve the client-centred care approach by increasing capacity at PCH for chart storage; relooking at philosophy of care; identifying a long term/continuing care/aftercare strategy for those who may benefit from such a program

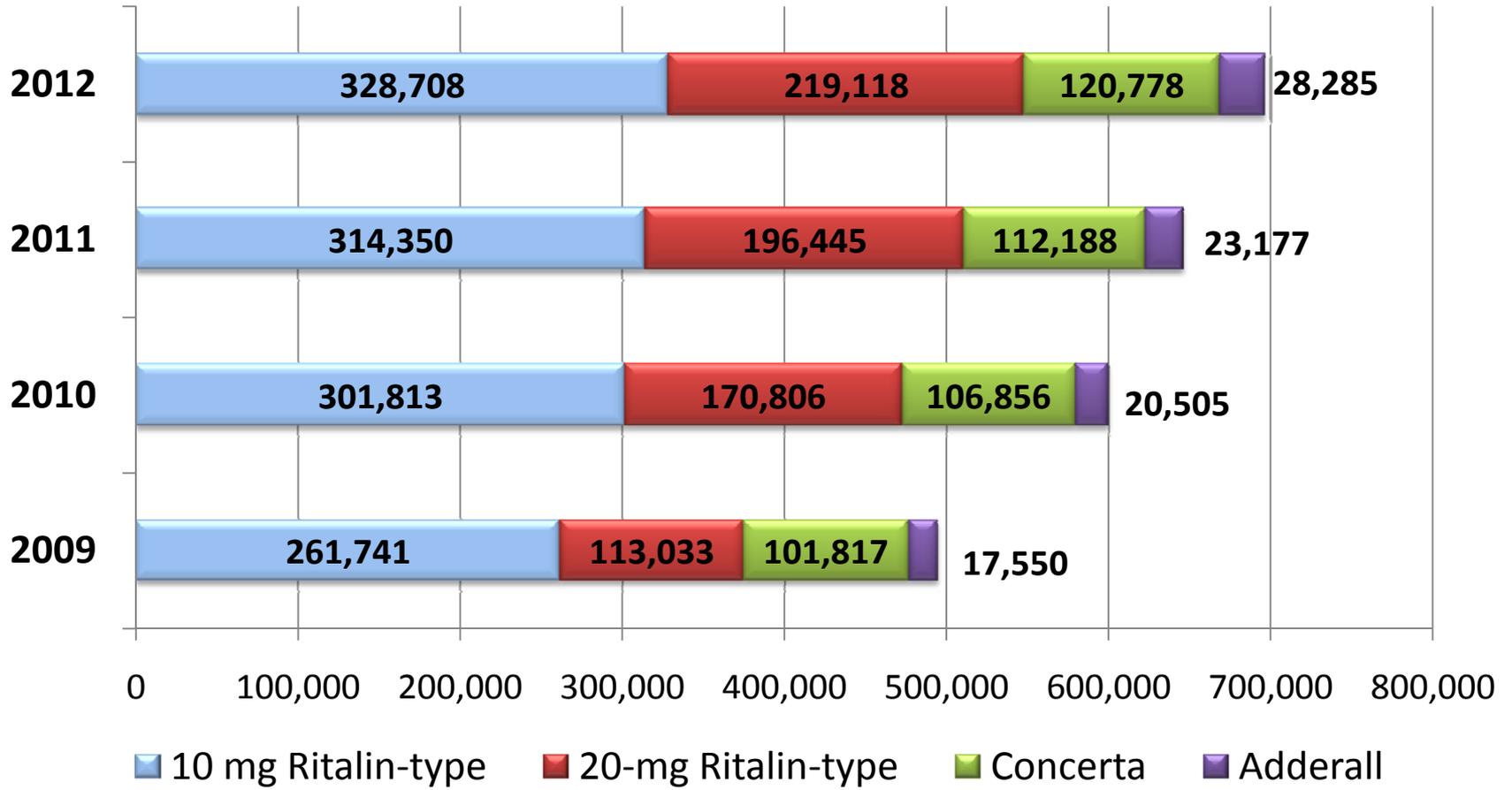
Taken together, these actions will increase program capacity and reduce wait lists for treatment

**Prescribing Trends in PEI
Opioids and Stimulants, 2009-2012**

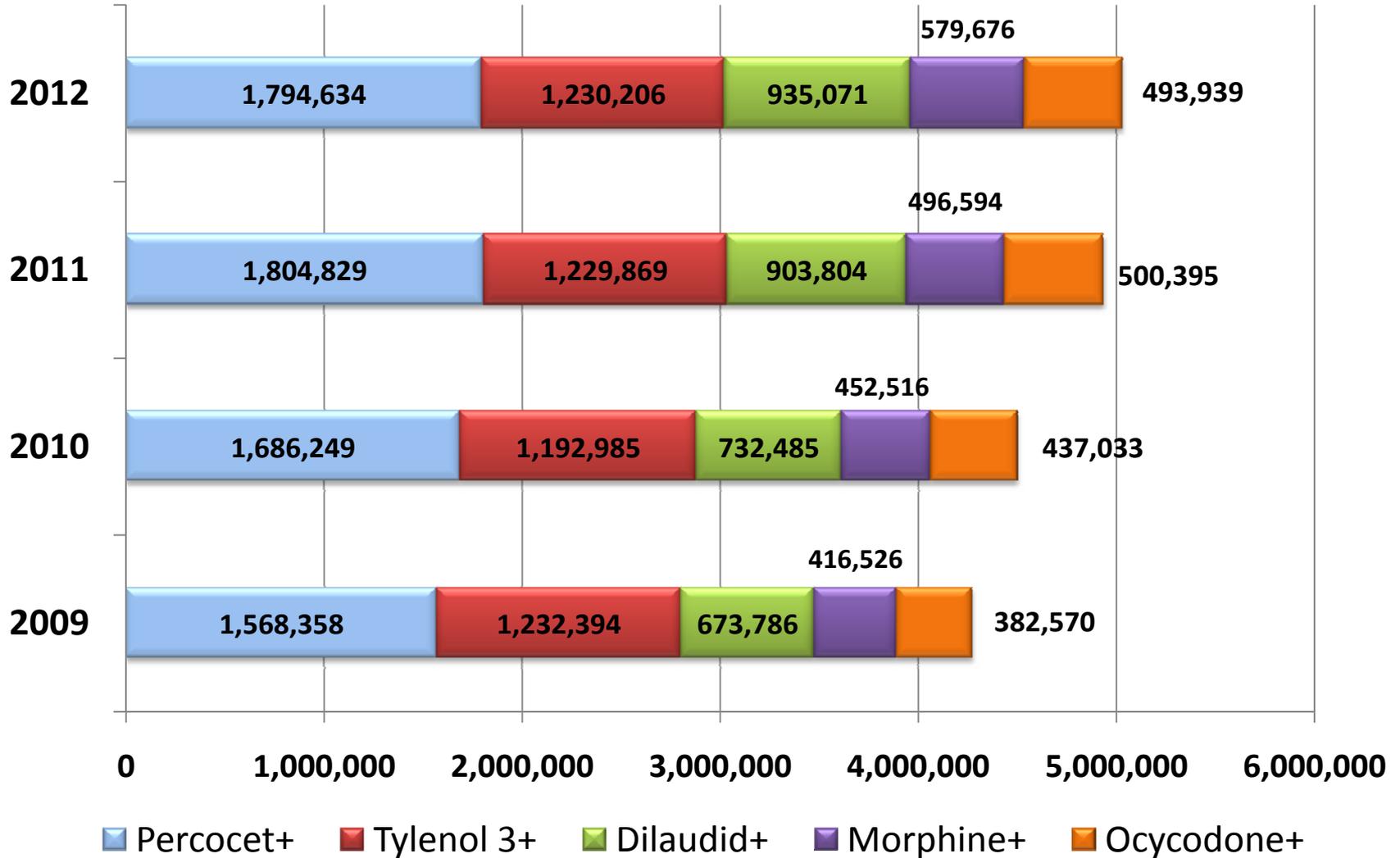
Prescription Drug Trends 2009-2012

	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Increase
Stimulants					
Pms-methylphenidate 10 mg	87834	109233	110590	102203	16.4%
Ritalin + other generics 10 mg	113,531	128,461	134,455	148,921	31.2%
Sandoz-methylphenidate SR 20 mg	11,174	49,395	64,582	73,523	558.0%
Ritalin + other generics 20 mg	60,418	78,674	88,980	102,401	69.5%
Concerta + generics 36 mg	60,376	64,119	69,305	77,584	28.5%
Concerta + generics 54 mg	41,441	42,737	42,883	43,194	4.2%
Adderall 30 mg	17,550	20,505	23,177	28,285	61.2%
Total	392,324	493,124	533,972	576,111	46.8%
Opioids					
Percocet + generics	1,568,358	1,686,249	1,804,829	1,794,634	14.4%
Tylenol 3 + generics	1,232,394	1,192,985	1,229,869	1,230,206	-0.2%
Dilaudid + generics	673,786	732,485	903,804	935,071	38.8%
Morphine + generics	416,526	452,516	496,594	579,676	39.2%
Oxycodone + generics	382,570	437,033	500,395	493,939	29.1%
Total	4,273,634	4,501,268	4,935,491	5,033,526	17.8%

Trends in Stimulant Tablet Prescriptions



Trends in Opioid Tablet Prescriptions



% Increase in Number of Opioid Tablets Prescribed 2009-12

