DATA:
Delaware’s Prescription Monitoring Program

Buena Vista State Conference Center
September 10, 2014
Problem – Prescription Drug Epidemic

• Prescription Drug Abuse - the use of a medication without a prescription, in a way other than prescribed, or for specific experiences or feelings.

• Drug overdoses have increased 118% from 1999-2011.

• 40,000 drug overdose deaths per year
  ▫ Half from prescription drugs.

• 1.4 Million yearly emergency department visits related to prescription drug use.
Delaware Prescription Monitoring Program (DE PMP)

- Collects information from pharmacies and prescribers on all controlled substance (Schedules II-V) prescriptions.
  - Ex: OxyContin, Ritalin, Adderall, morphine, Xanax, etc
  - All Delaware licensed dispensers required to report controlled substance dispensing to PMP as of March 15, 2012
DE PMP Update

• 2013 Professional Mental Health counselors and Chemical Dependency counselors were given access to PMP database. Provide better client referral and treatment plans.

• Jan 1st, 2014- Mandatory PMP registration of all holders of a controlled substances registration.

• PMP Interconnect- sharing PMP data with neighboring states.

• Collaborative relationship for PMP research with UD’s CDHS.
Previous Literature - NMPDU

- Geographically
  - Rural Areas
  - College Campuses
- Populations
  - Adolescents
  - College Students
  - Probationer/Incarcerated
  - Pharmacists
- Specific Drugs
  - Oxycontin, Ritalin, Adderall
Delaware Census Tract Map
Previous Literature – Gaps

• Existing studies use self-reported data rather than official counts of NMPDU.

• At the neighborhood level, there is little research on the intersection of crime, poverty, income, race, and health indicators with patterns of nonmedical prescription drug use.
Research Questions

• How is prescription drug use patterned across neighborhoods?

• More specifically, how are prescription drug patterns related to neighborhood demographics and disadvantage, health and healthcare status, crime and disorder?
Research Purpose/Objectives

• Linking census tract data to DE PMP data via geocoding.

• Link Delaware “Big Data” (DELJIS, DHIN, US Census) sources to include Delaware PMP data.

• Investigate social trends and variations over time.

• Identify geographical areas for intervention.
Geocoding and Census Tracts

• Geocoding – coding the Earth by providing geographic reference information that can be used for computer mapping.

• Census Tracts – small, neighborhood level subdivisions measured in each decennial census.
  ▫ Smaller than zip codes, larger than census blocks
  ▫ Census Tracts: 2,500 – 8000 people
Methodology

• Geocoding data by census tract

• 140,000 (approximate) monthly prescriptions

• Merging DE PMP data with Census tract data:
  ▫ Ex: Median Income, Percent Impoverished, Race
Project’s Significance and Impact

• State
  ▫ Identify and combat Schedule II-V controlled drug use and abuse in Delaware
  ▫ Improve policy decisions related to prescription drug abuse on a neighborhood level

• National
  ▫ A model for State’s linking PMP and neighborhood level factors.
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