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Number of Maryland Deaths Caused by Methadone Intoxication Continues to Increase; Majority Are Due to Methadone Only

The number of deaths in Maryland caused by methadone intoxication increased more than 25% from 2005 to 2006, according to data from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). *After nearly doubling between 2002 and 2003, the number of Maryland deaths due to a lethal dose of methadone recently increased again, from 141 deaths in 2005 to 179 deaths in 2006. The majority (59%) of the 2006 methadone deaths were due to a lethal dose of methadone only; 41% were due to methadone combined with other drugs.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data provided by the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, March 2007. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani at erin@cesar.umd.edu.