



American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

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The American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) Fact Sheet

Overview on Prescription Drug Abuse:

- The number one cause of death in 17 U.S. states is prescription drug abuse, surpassing motor vehicle accidents. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Approximately 30,000 Americans died from an overdose last year, with at least half of these deaths related to the improper use of legal, controlled substances.
- The number of emergency room visits attributable to pharmaceuticals alone is up 97% between 2004 and 2008. (Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
- Every day, on average, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time. (Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
- 1 in 7 teens admit to abusing prescription drugs to get high in the past year. Sixty percent of teens who abused prescription pain relievers did so before the age of 15. (Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
- About 7 million people age 12 years and older used a prescription drug non-medically in 2009, according to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health. That was a 13 percent increase over the previous year. (Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health)
- Fifty-six percent of teens believe that prescription drugs are easier to get than illicit drugs. (Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
- More than 50 million Americans – about one in six – have admitted to abusing prescription drugs. (Source: CBS Evening News)

Chronic Pain:

- Approximately 10 million Americans suffer with chronic, persistent or disabling pain.
- Approximately 116 million Americans experience chronic pain (Source: Institute of Medicine). This is compared to 23.6 million people who suffer from diabetes (Source:

American Diabetes Association), 23.3 million people who suffer from coronary heart disease and stroke (Source: American Heart Association), and 11.7 million people who suffer from cancer (Source: American Cancer Society).

- Chronic pain costs the U.S. approximately \$560 to \$635 billion annually. (Source: Institute of Medicine)
- This estimate combines the incremental cost of health care (\$261 to \$300 billion) and the cost of lost productivity (\$297 to \$336 billion) attributable to pain. (Source: Institute of Medicine)
- The federal Medicare program bears fully one-fourth of U.S. medical expenditures for pain; in 2008, this amounted to at least \$65.3 billion, or 14 percent of all Medicare costs. (Source: Institute of Medicine)
- In total, federal and state programs—including Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), TRICARE, workers' compensation, and others—paid out \$99 billion in 2008 in medical expenditures attributable to pain. (Source: Institute of Medicine)
- When asked about four common types of pain, respondents of a National Institute of Health Statistics survey indicated that low back pain was the most common (27%), followed by severe headache or migraine pain (15%), neck pain (15%) and facial ache or pain (4%). (Source: National Institute of Health Statistics)

Opioids

- Americans, constituting only 4.6% of the world's population, have been consuming 80% of the global opioid supply, and 99% of the global hydrocodone supply, as well as two-thirds of the world's illegal drugs. Retail sales of commonly used opioid medications (including methadone, oxycodone, fentanyl base, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, morphine, meperidine, and codeine) have increased from a total of 50.7 million grams in 1997 to 126.5 million grams in 2007. This is an overall increase of 149% with increases ranging from 222% for morphine, 280% for hydrocodone, 319% for hydromorphone, 525% for fentanyl base, 866% for oxycodone, to 1,293% for methadone. Average sales of opioids per person have increased from 74 milligrams in 1997 to 369 milligrams in 2007, a 402% increase. (Source: Pain Physician 2010: 13:401-435)
- In 2007, opioids were involved in more overdose deaths than heroin and cocaine combined. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Because opioids cause euphoria, they have been associated increasingly with misuse and abuse. Opioids are now widely available in illicit markets in the United States. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- There has been at least a 10-fold increase in the medical use of opioid painkillers during the last 20 years because of a movement toward more aggressive management of pain. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Opioids can be divided into several groups:
 - Medications made directly from opium (naturally occurring opioids such as morphine and codeine)

- Semi-synthetic opioids are created in the laboratory from the above naturally occurring compounds
- Synthetic opioids are compounds completely originated in the laboratory such as fentanyl and methadone
- Opioids . . . have the ability to reduce pain but can also suppress breathing to a fatal degree when taken in excess. Examples of opioids are oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and methadone. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

ASIPP:

- Founded in 1998 by chairman of the board and CEO Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD, ASIPP is a rapidly growing not-for-profit organization that supports the needs of physicians who practice Interventional Pain Management across the country.
- ASIPP is headquartered in Paducah, KY and currently has 4,500 national members.
- ASIPP's mission is to promote the development and practice of safe, high quality, cost-effective interventional pain management techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of pain and related disorders, and to ensure patient access to these interventions.
- Since its inception, ASIPP has had a substantial impact on the practice of interventional pain management, resulting in an impressive list of major achievements.
- From 2000 to 2005, ASIPP successfully tried and obtained final passage of The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER), which provides and improves patient access to quality care, and protects patients and physicians from the deleterious effects of controlled substance misuse, abuse and trafficking.

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