



Title:	Chewing then swallowing in self-reported non-medical opioid use by college students as reported by the Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance System
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Abstract:

Aims: To evaluate differences between college students self reporting non-medical use of prescription opioids who swallow opioids whole or chew then swallow.

Methods: College students completed an online questionnaire in August 2009 for the RADARS System College Survey Program, and were sampled equally from 4 US regions. Respondents answered questions about non-medical prescription opioid use and completed a standardized substance abuse screening instrument (DAST-10). DAST-10 scores and the reported number of past month non-medical opioid use days were calculated as outcome indicators of non-medical use.

Results: Of 2066 survey participants, 124 (6%) indicated only swallowing, only chewing or both routes in the past 30 days of one or more opioid drugs. Of those, 102 (84%) reported swallowing whole and 22 reported chewing then swallowing. Independent samples Mann-Whitney U tests indicated significantly higher DAST-10 scores ($p=.001$) and past-month opioid non-medical use days ($p=.003$) for those who chewed then swallowed.

Conclusions: Between group differences on the DAST-10 and past-month opioid non-medical use days suggest that further exploration into chewing/swallowing behaviors are needed as chewing/swallowing may be an important indicator of a progression toward abuse tendencies and increased monthly non-medical opioid use.

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