

RADARS[®]

S Y S T E M

Title:	Predictors of moderate, substantial or severe problems associated with drug abuse in college students reporting recent non-medical opioid use
Authors:	Davis J, Buchholtz C, Wheat A, Bucher Bartelson B, Dart RC
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Abstract:

Aims: The RADARS[®] System College Survey Program (CS) provides an opportunity to evaluate predictors of increased abuse related problems as measured by the DAST-10. This research sought to evaluate risk factors of high DAST-10 scores associated with misuse and abuse of opioids in a population of college students.

Methods: 7892 college students sampled equally from 4 regions in the US completed an online questionnaire as part of CS (3Q2009, 4Q2009, 1Q2010, and 3Q2010). Respondents included in the analysis indicated non-medical opioid use within the past 3 months and completed a substance abuse screening instrument (DAST-10). DAST-10 scores were categorized as Low (DAST-10 None (1) & Low(2)) and High (DAST-10 Moderate(3-5), Substantial(6-8), Severe(9-10)). Potential risk factors for High DAST-10 scores were use of extended release (ER) opioids, methadone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, multiple opioids, tobacco and alcohol. Additional covariates for gender, race/ethnicity and age were also included. Multiple logistic regression was used to assess associations between DAST-10 groups and the risk factors using a backward elimination selection procedure.

Results: 697 (8.8%) reported opioid drug use and completed the DAST-10. Covariates associated with High DAST-10 scores included male gender OR = 2.00 (95% CI: 1.41, 2.86); tobacco use OR = 1.86 (95% CI: 1.28, 2.71); ER use OR=1.65 (95% CI: 1.003, 2.93); hydromorphone use OR = 2.35 (95% CI: 1.32, 4.03); methadone use OR=1.93 (1.17, 3.23); and “multi-drug” use OR = 2.36 (95% CI: 1.42, 3.95).

Conclusions: ER opioids are associated with a 65% increased risk of High DAST-10, even after accounting for “multi-drug”, hydromorphone and methadone use.

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