

# RADARS<sup>®</sup>

S Y S T E M

<b>Title:</b>	Tapentadol abuse: the first 18 months
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## Abstract:

**Purpose:** Prescription opioid analgesics play an important role in the management of moderate to severe pain. An unintended consequence of these agents is the nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers. In 2008, nonmedical use of pain relievers among persons aged 12 years or older was second only to marijuana in the U.S. We describe the rates of abuse, misuse, and diversion of tapentadol immediate release [Nucynta®, CII], for the 18 months following launch in 2009.

**Method:** The Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS®) System measures rates of abuse, misuse and diversion throughout the U.S. Data from the Drug Diversion, Survey of Key Informants (SKIP), Poison Center, and Opioid Treatment Programs were analyzed to compare rates for tapentadol with other opioid analgesics from June 2009 through December 2010, utilizing both per 100,000 population (POP) and per 1000 Unique Recipients of Dispensed Drug (URDD) as denominators.

**Results:** Based on data from the SKIP program from June 2009 to December 2010, nonmedical use rates for tapentadol fluctuated between 0 and 0.572 per 1000 people who filled a prescription (URDD) and 0 and 0.015 per 100,000 population (POP), reflecting nonsignificant changes over time ( $P=.816$  and  $P=.867$ , respectively). Data from Poison Centers, Outpatient Treatment Programs, and Drug Diversion programs also showed similar nonsignificant trends in population and exposure rates (all  $P$ -values  $>.05$ ) during the observation period.

**Conclusions:** Since product launch, rates of abuse, misuse, and diversion of Nucynta have been low; however, continued monitoring of trends in the data are warranted.